

July 2012

New Forest & District Sailability – Two New Boats Launched

New Forest and District Sailability (“NFDS”) were delighted that Geoff Holt, MBE, was able to attend NFDS at Spinnaker Lake, Ringwood, recently to launch two new boats to be sailed by people with disabilities. He was helped in the launch by NFDS volunteer members who had suggested the names of the boats.

Carolyne Chapman (pictured right) suggested the name “Blyth Spirit” for the new two man Access 303 dinghy – to reflect the long standing support and effort of the NFDS chairman, Eric Blyth. The Access 303 is the “workhorse” of NFDS and is used to take most of the disabled sailors for training or to experience the pleasure of sailing.



Jaine Logan (pictured right) suggested the name “Jubilee” for the 2.4m boat. This is a boat for disabled sailors with more sailing experience and skills. It can be sailed either with a conventional tiller and ropes, or by means of foot steering etc. This gives people with different disabilities the opportunity to sail this type of boat.



The Access 303 boats cost around £6,000 to put on the water and NFDS is aiming to replace one such boat a year. NFDS chairman, Eric Blyth, said “We are grateful to everyone who donates money to us. We have been able to fund replacement Access 303’s for each of the last 3 years and are now raising cash to fund a new boat in 2013.”

Both classes of boats take part in local and national sailing races for the disabled. Eric commented "On the water, disabled people can hold their own with other sailors. It is always satisfying to see those with disabilities joining in the races and coming back to shore having enjoyed themselves whether they have won or lost. It makes the work of raising cash and getting disabled people on the water very worthwhile."

Picture below shows from left to right: Eric Blyth, Chairman of NFDS Geoff Holt MBE; volunteers and disabled sailor members of NFDS.



For more details or to volunteer, please contact Eric Blyth on 02380 867438, or visit the NFDS website www.newforestsailability.co.uk.

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