

### Ten Years of Sailability

A celebration of ten years of Sailability at Frensham Pond Sailing Club took place at the club on the evening of Friday 29<sup>th</sup> July 2011.



The many guests included the Mayor of Waverley, Cllr Richard Gates, the Mayor of Farnham, Cllr Jill Hargreaves, the Deputy Mayor of Bordon, Cllr Tony Muldoon, as well as representatives of RYA Sailability, local charities, Rotary clubs, sports organisations, donors, supporters and friends of Frensham Pond Sailability.



The guests enjoyed drinks and canapés served in the refurbished club house, where audio/visual and photographic displays of FPS activities and achievements illustrated the impressive progress that has been made since 2001.



A static display of each type of boat in the FPS fleet was arranged on the foreshore.



FPS sailors have also collected an impressive number of trophies from competing with great success in National and International events.



Disabled helms and crews put on a sail-by display watched by a large crowd of shoreside spectators.



As always, the sailors were assisted and the boats were prepared by the loyal and dedicated band of volunteers who make FPS what it is.



*Jenny and Ivor getting ready in "Burge"*

Conditions for the parade of sail were a little challenging given the lack of wind!



*Tessa in "Thomas Coutts" & the Laser Stratos "Nadia" looking for some breeze on the mill pond!*

Following the displays and parade of sail, the formalities were led by the Mayor of Waverley, Cllr

Richard Gates, the Mayor of Farnham, Cllr Jill Hargreaves and RYA Sailability Trustee Peter Gray.



*Cllr Richard Gates, Mayor of Waverley*

Kate Richardson, FPS Chairman and Judith Young, FPSC Commodore thanked everybody for their support over the years.



*Farnham Mayor Cllr Jill Hargreaves, FPSC Commodore Judith Young, RYAS Trustee Peter Gray & FPS Chairman Kate Richardson*



*Cutting the ribbon to enter the next 10 years!*

## FPS – The First Ten Years

Sailing for people with a disability or a long-term illness started at Frensham Pond Sailing Club (FPSC) in 1982, run by Farnham & District Sports Association for the Disabled (FDSAD). Ted Bonner, an FPSC member, was the driving force and over the next few years encouraged many disabled people to find excitement and a new purpose through sailing.



*Construction of Clubhouse Access Ramp 2001*

FDSAD's resounding success clearly demonstrated that Frensham Pond was an ideal place for disability sailing – good land and water access and as safe a location as any water activity could be!

So in 1999, the Club, in conjunction with FDSAD, initiated a major £260k project to make the whole site accessible to disabled sailors, significantly increase the scope of disabled sailing offered, and to maximise the integration of disabled sailors into the Club's activities. In September 2001, Frensham Pond Sailability, a partnership between FPSC and FDSAD, was officially launched. The photos show scenes during construction in 2001.



*Dredging & Construction of Main Sailability Jetty 2001*

From 2001, FPS has expanded dramatically. It now has over 100 members sailing regularly. Since 2001, there have been over 14,000 sailing outings (i.e. 'bottoms on seats'). In 2011 it is expected that 14 different organisations will sail at Frensham, including students from 5 local special schools who sail regularly during the summer school term.



*Construction of Fully Accessible Race Hut 2001*

FPS now has a fleet of 26 boats, including 16 Access dinghies, specially designed for disabled sailing, and the largest fleet of 2.4mR Paralympic class mini-keelboats in the U.K. Site improvements continued to be made through the decade, including a £73k dredging and land reclamation project in 2005, an additional £13k boat launching and recovery jetty in 2007, and a £13k Sailability dressing, shelter and training facility in 2008.



*Construction of New Sailability Jetty 8 2007*

Sailing ranges from cruising around the Pond to full-on competitive racing. Frensham's Access racing team have won open events throughout the U.K. and in Europe, retaining the Ben Ainslie Travellers Trophy for an unprecedented four

consecutive years in 2010. Frensham staged the Access National Championships in 2006 and 2011.



*Jetty 8 Completed 2007*

This has all been made possible by the large band of enthusiastic and very capable volunteer helpers who turn out week after week, and by the generosity and support of local organisations and charities.



*The New Pavilion Opened By Jeremy Hunt MP in 2008*



*Access Nationals 2011 – Getting Ready to Go Racing*

All this has been led and inspired by people such as Chairman Kate Richardson, Sailing Captain Richard Smallwood and above all the man who led Frensham Pond Sailability for the first ten years, Brian Grimwood.



*A Race Start at the 2.4 Open May 2011*



*A Rare Moment of Rest for some of our Loyal Helpers!*

The rewards are there for all to see in the life changing experiences that so many have enjoyed. Long may it continue!



Many thanks to you all for your support over the last 10 years, we could not do it without you! Thanks also to Jim Morley and Brian Grimwood for their contributions to this issue and to Allan Franklin, Wendy Neal-Smith and David Gibbs for the excellent photographs.

*Edited by Peter Etherton*