

Oulton Week 2009

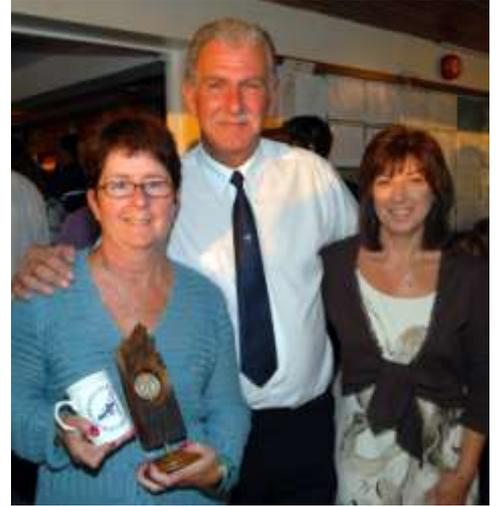


We are delighted to be able to report on the success of our sailors during the races of WOBYC Oulton Week.

Several members were out on the water during the week and as the picture shows our boats were soon mixing it with the other competitors. The Lowestoft Journal carried the results of the weeks races on the sports pages under "Sailing –Oulton Regatta" and it was good to see the Access Class dinghies were mentioned in every report.

We are now very much part of the sailing scene at WOBYC and at the annual prize giving evening the Club Commodore Phil Plant warmly welcomed Waveney Sailability members and said how pleased he was to see our sailors competing in the weeks races.

The overall winner of the Access Class races was Debbie Morton and Phil Plant and his wife Dee presented her with the Castlebay Trophy, the first time the trophy had been awarded since it was donated to the Charity. The results of the weekly races organised by our Senior RYA Instructor Bryan Riley will be reported in full at the end of the season. Bryan and the other instructors are delighted to see more members taking part in the weekly races.



Debbie Morton (left) receives the Castlebay Trophy from WOBYC Commodore Phil Plant and his wife Dee

As reported in the Summer Edition we have a second trophy known as the East Point Trophy and the Trustees hope to be able to award this during the annual Christmas party to be held, as usual, at St Marks Church Hall, on Saturday 19th December. Tickets are limited due to fire regulation and are being sold on a first come basis, Sally Green has the details

Plans are in place for the Castlebay trophy to be engraved and Debbie and other trophy winners will receive a small porcelain keepsake bearing their name and the year of their success.

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Important dates - see page 3

Waveney Sailability just keeps on growing.

This summer has seen us grow even faster than at any time since we first launched our boats at Oulton Broad. Its hard to believe that only four years ago—23rd August 2004— we started sailing with four Access dinghies and since that time we have accumulated assets worth over £100,000.

With 12 Access dinghies, two safety boats, a recovery system, a two boat road trailer, hoists and slings, a Squib, life jackets and sailing suits and our own Boathouse plus various tools and other items of equipment our future is secure. While the main period of capital expenditure is at an end there will always be ways that we can improve the service we offer to our sailors and new equipment may be added to the list of special adaption's that Sawford Marine produce for Access dinghies.

The number of disabled people sailing has increased dramatically this year. In 2007 we had 35 disabled members and the total number of sailings was 401. By the 12th September this year we had 89 registered disabled members and the total number of sailings was just under 800. Each week around 45 sailors take to the water and one week we managed to get 58 people into boats. While it would be nice to increase the size of the fleet to meet the growing demand it can only be done with an appropriate increase in safety boat cover and the number of RYA instructors in attendance on sailing days. We would also need more helpers to launch and recover the fleet and our overheads would increase due to additional insurance, river tolls, repairs, and subscriptions.

The introduction of the Assessment forms has been well received and at the end of the season we hope to report on the total number of members who have achieved Bronze, Silver and Gold awards. If members would like to discuss their own achievements with one of the Instructors please ask Sally Green to make the arrangements.

Royal Visit to Mark the 150th year of the Royal Norfolk & Suffolk Yacht Club, and big sail past.

A report by Richard Morling.

The Royal Norfolk & Suffolk Yacht Club is celebrating its 150th Anniversary and Waveney Sailability has been involved in two events to mark this achievement.

On 23rd September HRH The Princess Royal was in Lowestoft to open the new Fire Station, visit the RN&SYC and tour the SLP Yard. We received an official invitation to attend the RN&SYC event and three of our Access dinghies were taken to the yacht basin.

Following a busy sailing day on Tuesday 22nd September, we took the 3 boats, Freedom, Hoohah, and Spirit of Denise to the Club on the Inner Wheel trailer where they were hoisted into the water by the Commodore Roger Knights and the masts and keels were set. The boats were then towed round to the pontoon.

In good time the next day we arrived at the yacht club, our sailors, Keith Ferridge, Bob McCartney, and Steve Sims with instructors Bob Sabberton, Jackie Soards and Chris Addison. It was agreed that Keith and Bob and Bob and Jackie would sail around the yacht basin (Bob did his best to bump into some of the motor cruisers moored there) and that Steve and Chris remained tied up at the pontoon. I was given the position of standing on the pontoon by our boat Freedom, the rest of our party were able to view proceedings from a boat close by.



HRH The Princess Royal with Chairman Richard Morling, and Commodore Roger Knights talks to Steve Sims and Chris Addison.

At 12.15pm the Princess escorted by Roger Knights came down to the pontoon to inspect other boats. The BOD's, Squibs with Bryan and Jenny Riley, members of the rescue crew, the Honda Formula 4 powerboat, sailing and motor cruisers and then our Access dinghy and its crew. On being introduced to Chris the Princess told him that he did not need to stand up and heard about the role of the instructor. Steve explained how he had first come to Waveney Sailability and how much it had meant to him to be able to come along each week and sail. I gave a resume as to how our Club had been formed and the growth we had made over 4 years, to our current fleet of 12 boats and the squib, and that we had just opened our new Boathouse, with the help of Geoff Holt. To which the Princess told us that she had met him the week before and taken a look around his new boat in which he intends to sail across the Atlantic.

I was also able to give the Lady in Waiting a copy of our DVD

The Right to Sail. The Princess is Patron of RYA Sailability and was very interested in our Club. She then returned to the clubhouse for a light buffet lunch, following which she was introduced to members of the RN&SYC.

The Princess met Tommy Knott, renowned RNLI Coxswain and Jamie Campbell who presented her with a copy of his book on the Clubs 150 year history. A cheque for £1,000 was then presented to the Princess being a donation to Waveney Sailability. A smaller and bankable cheque was later passed to me. We all considered this to be a most enjoyable day.

As reported later in this edition the weather and sea conditions were perfect for sailing and with the appropriate safety cover our Access 303's ventured onto the North Sea for the first time.

Richard Morling
Chairman



A very useful contribution from the RN&SYC (top) and our team on the pontoon L to R Keith, Bob, Jackie, Chris, Steve, Bryan, Bob and Richard.

Success for one of our members.
We are pleased to report that one of our members has just completed an epic coast to coast journey in an off road wheel chair—well done Martyn Symonds.

Geoff Holt latest

Geoff will soon be starting his next challenge, check out the details at www.timesonline.co.uk and track his journey on www.personalatatlantic.com
All at Waveney Sailability wish Geoff good luck, a fair wind, and a safe passage.

Getting to know you



Renate Dyer

Born in Stetin Germany in 1937 Renate had a guest house in Lowestoft for 13 years and for a time ran a restaurant and tea rooms in Seaton Devon. She also did some work as an in store promoter of food for the German Food Centre based in London.

Renate has 3 sons, 1 daughter, 4 grand children and 4 great grand children. She was introduced to Waveney Sailability by a friend at the Friendship Club and immediately loved the experience.

She has told us that she gets more out of her involvement than she puts in. "Everyone is so friendly and happy, to see the pleasure on the sailors faces when they can sail is immeasurable. I so look forward to every Tuesday and helping where I can, and talk and talk!! It would be nice if we could meet in the winter months perhaps once a month for afternoon tea"



Tony Robinson

Tony ,who joined us as an Assistant Instructor in 2006, was born in Manchester in 1942. It was a chance visit to our stall at the 2006 Lowestoft Boat show that first attracted him to Waveney Sailability.

Brought up in Manchester Tony first met his wife Carole while they were both sixth formers. When Carole had completed her teacher training course they married in 1965.

Important dates

19/12/09 Christmas Party 7.00pm
Tickets from Sally

20/10/09 Last day of sailing.

27/10/09 Gang wanted to put the boats away -- meet at 1.30pm

Tony dropped out of his university having decided that mechanical engineering wasn't for him and for a time he worked as a bus conductor in Leeds where Carole was teaching.

The arrival of their daughter Nova prompted a move to Southampton where Tony studied naval architecture, and where their son Nicholas was born. The family then moved to Brightlingsea where Tony worked as a naval architect in a small shipyard. The company built small steel vessels up to 120 feet in length, mainly for the Middle East and West Africa, but with occasional home delivery such as RAF launches and ferries for Portsmouth Harbour.

In 1975 Tony and the family moved to the Lowestoft area when he took up a post at Brooke Marine. The family including the new baby, Benjamin, moved to a house in Wrentham where they have lived ever since.

Following the closure of the Brooke Marine Yard in 1987, and with shipbuilding generally in recession, Tony decided on a change of career and completed a one year course at the UEA, qualifying as a maths and science teacher. He then took up a post at Leiston High School where he worked until retiring in 2004. Carole retired two years earlier following 19 years at Pakefield Middle School.

In retirement Tony and Carole have continued to enjoy motor caravanning something they began when the children were little, they now do it in slightly more comfort. They spend a month in France or Italy each spring as well as short breaks in the UK.

Tony and Carole started sailing while still at school and Tony has designed one off small yachts, one of which became the *Memory* class. More than 100 of these have been built and they keep one, bought since retiring, at Woodbridge. An early *Memory* is owned by the harbourmaster at Oulton Broad. His boat, small and black with a bowsprit, can be seen alongside at the yacht station.

Retirement for Tony and Carole has been happily busy, what with the van, the boat, Sailability and a real interest in DIY and furniture making. With their children in Yorkshire, Italy and Rendham they are never short of places to visit.

Tony told us "for the future I would like to see more young people at Sailability. I would like to build another boat and another harpsichord. My first and only harpsichord is in my son Nicks apartment in Cremona, the home city of Stradivarius, another quite well known musical instrument maker" Tony is hoping some of the latter's magic might rub off on the new instrument.

Dave Gentry and Bryan Riley are on page 6

FOR SALE

Elite Travler Frot with charger and basket. S889XLRN Cost £1,000 will sell for £400 - contact Hilary Turrell on Lowestoft 01502 563009.

RN&SYC Sail Past



Our boats on Lake Lothing for the sail past

To mark the 150th year of the Royal Norfolk & Suffolk Yacht Club a special series of races and a "Sail Past" was held on Lake Lothing.

We were asked to take part and a team of volunteers moved three Access 303's to the former Brooke Marine slipway where they were launched ready for use by three of our sailors and three volunteer instructors. The wind was gusty and although the various waterside buildings and structures made for tricky sailing conditions our boats put on a good display. The sail past was made in front of Sir Timothy Colman who was on a large motor cruiser moored near to the grain silo.

Chairman Richard Morling and the Finance Director and Newsability editor joined Sir Timothy and enjoyed drinks and a buffet before watching the sail past. Other members of Waveney Sailability were invited to join in the celebrations and watched the event from another cruiser.

Access dinghies try coastal water sailing



With the RN&SYC support boat *Skylark* in attendance and in perfect sailing conditions for our boats the three Access dinghies that had been at the Club for the visit of HRH the Princes Royal made a brief trip onto the North Sea.

I was able to watch the boats from the safety of *Skylark* and with my camera I captured the very first sail by our disabled members with South Lowestoft and the harbour as a backdrop. The dinghies looked very small as they left the harbour with the latest module at the SLP yard towering over the pier heads.

Bob McCartney, Steve Sims and Keith Ferridge each with their crew, turned south and were soon able to see the Claremont Pier and the splendid terraces that have faced the sea since Sir Morton Peto designed them and many other

New Life jackets - Improved safety

North Sea sail continued-

important buildings that made a major contribution to the development of Lowestoft.

It has often been said that the view of Lowestoft from the sea is far better than from the safety of the land. Sir Samuel Morton Peto built the harbour, brought the railways to Oulton Broad and by so doing encouraged the massive growth of the fishing industry. He bought Somerleyton Hall in 1844 and lavishly extended and rebuilt it as a huge mansion. Towards the end of his life Sir Morton got badly into debt and the worry affected his health. The hall was sold to the Crossley family from Halifax, who made carpets, and the present Lord Somerleyton is a descendent of that family.

After about 40 minutes the three dinghies returned safely to the yacht basin and all the crews agreed that it was an experience that they will never forget. I have presented each of them with a CD of my photographs as a memento of the day. (view form the water page 5)

Ed

Rotary members learn about our success.

Around 350 Rotarians from District 1080 were told about the success of Waveney Sailability during the annual District Conference held at Lynford Hall near Thetford over the weekend of 26th - 27th September 2009.

Editor David Collins was allocated 30 minutes to tell the story of our development and prepared a PowerPoint presentation. With the help of Alan O'Neill who made our DVD, *The Right to Sail*, three short clips were added to the presentation.

The theme of the conference was *The Young, Their Future, Our Responsibility* and it was part of the presentation on Waveney Sailability. We have a number of young members who sail regularly and some young helpers who assist our sailors of all ages as well as acting as safety boat support crew.

In the hope that other Rotary clubs will join forces to set up more RYA Sailability centres we have offered to show the PowerPoint presentation to individual Rotary club meetings and give advice and guidance. Rotary has a wonderful record of service to the community and Waveney Sailability was formed to mark the 100th year of the movement; 7 of our dinghies carry the names of the clubs that sponsored them.

The conference was addressed by representatives of Rotary International, Rotary International Britain and Ireland, Inner Wheel and many other organisations that are involved in supporting and helping youth organisations. Waveney Sailability setup our display boards and the stand was manned by Sally Green, Colin McManus, Pat Peters, and David Collins, we sold several copies of our DVD.

The current District Governor, John Samuel has expressed a wish to visit us next spring to see our members using the boats donated by clubs in his district. Since we started in 2005 various local, national and international officers of the Rotary Movement as well as international guests of Rotary have visited us and all have left Oulton Broad with the view that at Waveney Sailability Rotary is following its motto of *Service Above Self* to perfection.



We are delighted to be able to report a generous donation to cover the cost of new life jackets. The family of the late Rev David Moore who was a lifelong friend of our Finance Director and *Editor* donated the funds for this latest addition to our safety equipment.. David Moore attended the old Lowestoft Grammar School, graduated from Cambridge, and spent some years at sea before being ordained. For much of his life he was the Vicar of Kirklevington near Yarm in Cleveland. David his twin sister Ann and their parents lived a Garden House in Carlton Colville and were regular worshippers at Carlton Church where the

the young David Moore first became interested in bell ringing, a hobby that he continued to enjoy throughout his life.

Ever since the first edition of *Newsability* was published copies have been emailed to the Moore family including Jonathan the son of David, and godson of David Collins. As the late David Moore was a former resident of Lowestoft, a seafarer and a friend of our editor his widow Kate and the family wanted to help us in a positive way. Geoff Holt had recommended a larger life jacket for those over a certain weight after his experiences with the 150 jackets and the 4 new units are a very useful and important addition to our stock of safety equipment; they will be in use for many years to come.

As usual our good friends at The Marine Safety Centre Limited were able to source the new jackets and with our logo on one side and , *Challenger* and "275" on the other the jackets were soon in use. Bob McCartney was the first sailor to use one and the picture shows our secretary Kevin Taylor checking the fitting. The new jackets are for heavier people and very disabled people who are unable to turn onto their backs if they fall into the water. The jackets are 275 Newton's compared to 150 Newton's on the other jackets. The advantage of the larger jacket is that not only will they support a larger weight, but a very disabled person would automatically be thrown onto their back should they finish up face down in the water. Please keep these new jackets for those who need them.

We are extremely grateful to Kate Moore and her family for their generous donation, another example of the support that encourages all of us who work for this Charity to give our time and talents to make sure our members can enjoy their sailing with the right safety equipment.

These new jackets are part of the constant review of our safety procedures and you will be pleased to learn that during the winter we are taking the opportunity to look at all our policies and procedures with a view to making improvements for you our sailors. We will be looking closely at our Risk Assessments and our Health & Safety Policy. We will need to have regard for the requirements imposed on us by our insurers. We are sure that our members and supporters are aware of the ever changing legislation, so there will inevitably be some tidying up of our arrangements. Full details will be published before the start of the 2010 sailing season.

Marketing Our Sailing Opportunities

Three days in early September were spent publicising Waveney Sailability with the help of a 2.3 Access dinghy and a 303 Access dinghy, the display boards and our new leaflets.

The new leaflets, designed by Glen Manship of Red Hot Media, Waterloo Road Lowestoft, were sponsored by the NHS Small Grants Fund. Friday 4th September was spent at a Visually Impaired Day at Christchurch in Great Yarmouth organised by two of our members Linda Cooper and Penny Cox.



Kevin helps Linda and Penny at the Great Yarmouth VIP day.

Then on Saturday 5th September and Sunday 6th September Waveney Sailability was on display at the Yarmouth Maritime Festival, an annual event that we have supported for the last few years. / cont page 5

Marketing our sailing opportunities—cont

During the two days the Festival attracted over 35,000 visitors. Many people stopped to look at our display and the dinghies and hopefully we will have gained a few more members, volunteers and/or instructors. We certainly gained many favourable comments on our achievements over the past four years. We also gave out over 700 leaflets during the three days. Thanks to all our members who came and spent some time at our display during the three days.



Report and photographs by Colin McManus.

Photographs and Reports

We have an archive of press reports and photographs and other documents that is kept up to date by our Booking Secretary Sally Green - thanks Sally.

I am also pleased to report contributions to the archive by various supporters, it is encouraging to receive comments, photographs and written reports on our activities. Over the last few months we have received contributions from Sam Payne, Sally Green, Penny Cox, Colin McManus, Bob McCartney and Kevin Taylor, if we have missed you from the above please remind us your efforts are greatly appreciated.

Ed.



Safely Home from the North Sea sail by Sally Green was one contribution to the archives.

Our Squib gets more use.

Our Squib is in use when ever we have a sailor with the right experience to take members out for a sail in this larger boat.

The squib takes some time to prepare for sailing particularly after heavy use as a duck sanctuary! Over the winter we will

be reviewing the use of the squib and the maintenance that is necessary to bring the boat back to standard. Our senior RYA Instructor Bryan Riley and his wife Jenny are Squib Champions and were presented to HRH The Princess Royal during her recent visit to the RN&SYC.

The Squib of Brian & Jenny Riley on Lake



Lothing during the RN&SYC Sail Past - a perfect example of this popular class of boat.

Website update

Our website has been running for two years without change and some of the information is out of date.

Accordingly we have asked Glen Man-ship and his team at Red Hot Media, who designed our new leaflets (see report opposite), to redesign our website and add some new facilities. Glen is working on the details and we will be able to see his suggestions shortly. In future the site will include a copy of *Newsability* a diary of events and a Notice Board where we hope to show racing results as well as other information of interest to our members and supporters.

Keep your eye on www.waveneysailability.co.uk it should go live within the next few weeks. Another example of the ways that we are improving our service; we are grateful to the NHS Small Grants Fund who have helped to fund the cost of these changes.

Sea Sailing in an Access 303.

I was very pleased to be asked to help with the transfer of our Access dinghies from Oulton Broad to the RN&SYC ready for the Royal visit on the 23rd September 2009.

We took the boats to the yacht Club on our road trailer and by the time the last one was craned into the water, a nerve wracking manoeuvre, it was dark. The last dinghy, with me aboard, was towed from the crane point around the pontoons to its place in front of the club house. It was mild and still, there was no one else about. The tide was low, it was very dark and quiet; the big yachts were dressed over all and the sky was full of stars. The lights from the club house lit the scene to perfection, it was a sensational experience.

One the big day the helms, Steve Sims, Keith Ferridge and Bob McCartney....

with their trusty crews, Chris Addison, Bob Sabberton and me, arrived and manned the boats. Steve and Chris remained moored so they could be introduced to the Princess whilst Keith and Bob sailed in and out of the pontoons to show off their sailing skills. I think they were playing 'chicken' because they certainly had Bob S and me on edge all of the time fearing a crash into one of the posh yachts.

As it was Bob and I managed to get hooked up on the mooring buoy of the Honda powerboat and swung into a recess between two yachts, from where the Princess's bodyguards kindly turned us round and pushed us off into the main stream again.

After the Princess had left the jetty Bryan Riley asked us if we would like to go to sea. The answer was a definite yes, Peter Johnston offered *Skylark* as a support boat and after a quick comfort break we cast off and headed out to sea. The very first time Sailability boats had crossed the bar.

It was wonderful, conditions could not have been better; lovely calm water with enough wind to propel us at a reasonable speed. We turned right out of the harbour and followed *Skylark* south along the shoreline. Before we knew it we were a fair way out to sea and past the Claremont Pier. We were having difficulty keeping together, much to the frustration of David Collins. He was trying to photograph us from *Skylark* whilst Rebecca was doing her best to direct us, to no avail. Steve and Chris were way out in front; Keith and Bob S were in the middle, leaving Bob M and me bringing up the rear.

All too soon we were called upon to turn round and make for home. We made it back to harbour without difficulty, but getting back into the yacht basin was not as easy as it looked. However we all made it safely back to base thoroughly exhilarated by the experience. Those of us who sailed around the yacht basin during the Royal visit did not see much of the Princess but we had a fantastic day.

Report by Jackie Soards.

New Contact details.

Richard Morling (Chairman)-01502 572556
waveneysailability1@gmail.com

Kevin Taylor (Secretary) - 01502 475228
waveneysailability2@gmail.com

David Collins (Treasurer) - 01502 564658
Waveneysailability3@gmail.com

Sally Green (Booking secretary)
01502 566533
waveneysailability4@gmail.com

Please use these new email addresses at all times.

Getting to know you - Dave tells all



I was born in Ipswich and spent my early childhood in Claydon, where my father was the village "Bobby".

In the early sixties came promotion to Sergeant, but with it a move to Beccles... (I think Mother thought she was emigrating.) After schooling I joined William Clowes Printers in Beccles to serve an apprenticeship as a Lithographic Colour Printer eventually becoming supervisor of the printing department. Married to Annie, a Day Care Worker at Blyford

.Home for the Elderly in Lowestoft. We have two sons, Liam, an electrician, and Aaron, a plumber, both keen water sports enthusiasts.. (I wonder why?)..We built our own house in Barnby, and still live there today almost 30 years later, Annie still wonders when I will finish the project.

With a dramatic downturn in the printing industry I left printing for a career change into electrical contracting, and my son Liam and I now run Gentry Services Ltd (available for all your electrical needs)

Now.. Sailing! I borrowed a book from the library about 23 years ago *Teach Yourself to Sail* (or similar... I'd better renew it), bought an Enterprise dinghy then dragged Annie (a reluctant crew) and the boat to North Cove to put my new found knowledge into practice...(why North Cove?... cos I figured no-one would see me make a fool of myself.. WRONG!!) Luckily I'd read the chapter on buoyancy aids, sadly skipped the one on centre boards!... probably managed 50 yards though, before the capsized... when she surfaced Annie (a patient girl!) said "well what do we do now?...you've read the book!.. I had no idea. Obviously the answer should have been "I'll book myself on a sailing course... Darling!.

So that started my love of sailing. Since then I've done various courses and became a Dinghy Instructor in 1994. I still get a buzz from teaching adults and children to sail and watching them discover the life long enjoyment that can be had. I still race my Enterprise *Chippa's Delight* generally at Beccles or Rollesby Broad, with my trusty crew of some 15 years, Jackie Soards (who thinks maybe I should read that library book again!)

Now ...Sailability! The embryo of an idea was first put to me by Kevin Taylor some 5 years ago, he knew I taught at the Water Sports Centre and their support was to be crucial. Following his determination and hard work, and with the support of Rotary, the open day eventually came. I was asked if I could attend as a Dinghy Instructor. I was particularly looking forward to it, I had a vision of drifting around the Broad on a barge paying lip service to the sport of sailing, (and disability).. how wrong was I? When I saw the Access Dinghies perform and the real enjoyment that the participants had ... I was hooked!

Since then I have met so many marvellous people, helpers, sailors alike. It has become a big part of my life, and now the enthusiasm shown towards the assessment and the racing... (and some who even want to learn the rules!)... it continues to be a pleasure being involved.

What I find so refreshing on a Tuesday, is the attitude displayed by everyone towards disability. It almost becomes a minor hurdle to overcome so that people can enjoy the freedom and excitement of sailing.

Dave Gentry - Instructor.

Bryan Riley a life of sailing

I started sailing with my school metalwork master when I was 12, cycling from Bracondale in Norwich to Costessy pits on a Saturday afternoon. Shortly after this youth club sailing started at Whitlingham, a short cycle ride and I was able to sail four times a week in Enterprise and Wayfarer dinghies. When I was 16 I joined Norwich Frostbite SC in Thorpe and sailed a winter race series in a borrowed youth club Enterprise. In those days Frostbites was a very competitive club and if you committed a rule infringement you had to retire from the race (the two circle penalty had not been invented) I did not finish many races.

Plywood dinghy racing was very popular and lots of people built boats in their living rooms and garages. The next year I had started my engineering apprenticeship and I was able to buy my own ten year old Enterprise number 1066 - *And All That*. With lots of practice I began to improve and within a couple of years I was able to win the Frostbite winter series and I started entering Enterprise

"open meetings" all over the country.

I sailed in my first National Championships in 1970 in Helensburgh on the river Clyde, there were over 200 boats competing and we finished in the mid fifties. In the early seventies there was an inter club Team Racing Championships sponsored by Dunhill the cigar company, clubs entered from all over the country, there were regional competitions and a National final. Each club had a team of three boats (six people) and we sailed all sorts of boats at different clubs in the area. Three boat team racing is a vicious form of the sport which relies very much on using the yacht racing rules to your teams advantage, it taught me a lot about interpreting the rules and being 'mean' on the water. The Frostbite team won the regional final one year and the national final was held in Enterprises on Oulton Broad, unfortunately our luck (or was it skill) had run out by then and we were eliminated in the preliminary rounds, interestingly I am still sailing against people from other clubs who sailed in that event. I continued sailing an Enterprise and bought a new boat which I finished in 1975.

I was Commodore at Frostbites in 1980, by which time Jenny and I were married and living in Kirby Cane and it was time for a change. We decided to buy two Laser single hander dinghies and we raced at Slaughden SC on the river Alde. We had lots of fun racing against each other and at that time we found it easier than sailing together in the same boat. This worked fine until Tim and Emily were born. We brought our Squib (number 73 Brimstone) so we could take the children with us. Initially we sailed the Squib at Slaughden, we strapped a car seat onto the side seats and Emily would go to sleep, whilst Tim asked endless questions. We made a cover to go over the boom and we 'camped' on board as a family on a few occasions



Bryan and Jenny Riley in *Brimstone*

In 1987 we joined Waveney & Oulton Broad YC and raced the Squib in the winter series, we had regular turnouts of twenty boats on a Sunday morning and we learned a lot about sailing on the Broad, although it turned out to be a long 'apprenticeship' perfecting our spinnaker handling. In 1988 we sailed in our first Squib Championships at Weymouth and came seventeenth, the next year it was held at Lowestoft and we were twelfth, but managed to win the last race. In 1990 it was in Belfast and we were lucky enough to win, the first husband and wife team to do so. We were second in 1992 and won again in Torquay in 1993.

We have now sailed in twenty one Squib Championships and have had a lot of fun racing against a super group of people, our objective is always to finish in the top ten, and we were pleased to be eighth from a record entry of one hundred and eight this year. Five years ago the new owners of Fibrenyle decided they no longer needed my advice on how to best manufacture plastic containers and I suddenly had more time on my hands.

At the same time Jenny was Commodore at WOBYC and the local Rotary Clubs were considering setting up Waveney Sailability. As the Secretary of the Yacht Club and a member of Beccles Rotary Club, I became a Sailability committee member and had the opportunity to take some formal RYA teaching qualifications, so I could assist with running the Tuesday Sailability sessions. This has brought a new challenge to my sailing and it has particularly brought me a lot of satisfaction to see Waveney Sailability members taking an active part in Oulton week.

Bryan Riley