

Trading Standards Olympic efforts helping sailors

Officers from Cambridgeshire County Council Trading Standards laboratory continue their work in testing weighing and measuring equipment, including equipment designed for use at the Olympic and Paralympics Games.

The Laboratory work includes calibrating equipment such as test weights, some of which are then used to check weigh ingredients for doughnut making, to testing weighing machine scales, some of which then accurately aid the balance of gliders, ensuring safe flying and to testing tyre pressure gauges for accuracy surveys carried out on behalf of classic car magazines.

One of the more unusual calibrations carried out this year was for a set of Crane Scales used for weighing boats.

These scales were tested for Mr John Figgures, an International Measurer of the International Sailing Federation (ISAF). The scales were to be used to confirm the weight of sailing dinghies being raced at all levels from Olympics and Paralympics, to National regattas.



The testing ensures that sailors compete fairly and that their craft meet the minimum weight requirement for the class they're competing in. There are various classes of competition including the Olympics and Paralympics.

Already this year, the scales have been used at Lake Garda, Italy, for the Access European Championships, at Weymouth for Sail for Gold 2011, at The International Association For Disabled Sailing (IFDS) World Championships (which is the Test Event for the 2012 Olympics) and at Frensham Pond, Farnham, Surrey, for the Access Class Association UK National Championships.

The Access Class Association UK (ACA) aims to make sailing accessible for all in the UK and there are various classes of Access Dinghies including one called the Access Skud 18, being a paralympic class.

Access Dinghies were designed to appeal to the huge majority of the world's population who would love to have a go at sailing, but find it too difficult or uninviting to do so.

Whether as a recreation, a competitive sport or a therapeutic activity; the Access Dinghy design features allow total novices of any ability to sail with little or no tuition, nearly regardless of the conditions.

Around the world, Access Dinghies are introducing whole new communities to sailing. Apart from the development of revolutionary sailing craft and supportive equipment - Access Dinghy Sailing System (ADSS) also fosters the formation and development of the innovative "accessible sailing" network throughout the world.



This is the cause that the ACA (UK) has taken up, in a nutshell, Sailing for all (who want to) regardless of their physical, intellectual, emotional or financial status.