TELLTALES

sailing for everyone FOUNDATION INC.

Sailing 4 Everyone Foundation

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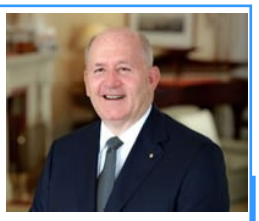
Welcome to the S4E Newsletter

Hansa Worlds Edition

Our Patron



His Excellency General the Honourable Sir Peter Cosgrove AK MC (Retired), Governor-General of the Commonwealth of Australia

Gold Hansa Award

By Chris Mitchell

At Medemblik the NED Organising Committee approached me with a suggestion we introduce a new award to commemorate what I saw as the vision for Hansa Sailing, and they wanted my name on it. A vision like that isn't necessarily easy to define as it starts off as a very hazy image, just a fuzzy glow of an idea, accompanied by a sense of excitement, which draws you along. As new doors open more possibilities are revealed, and what's fantastic is it evolves to be much better, bigger and brighter than you originally imagined.

What started off 30 years ago as an idea for a little boat with a ballast keel, a seat and joystick steering to introduce Asian's to sailing, becomes a boat for disabled people who like its features, features which turn out to create a thing of Universal Design, which turns out to be the key to Inclusion and the possibility of sailing for everyone.

The rationale for Inclusion is people with a disability are generally just like everyone else, except they have some sort of mobility, sensory, learning or integration difficulty. These guys usually operate in the community just like everyone else, they go to school, or work, and have able bodied family and friends. So why do we so often presume that the best way is a segregated disabled sailing program, instead of going the other way, which is to broaden our programs to include the family and friends of disabled people, and everyone else who may show an interest in sailing our little boats.

Behind this is the principle that every individual should be given an equal opportunity to grow and evolve within themselves. So maybe we should not presume anything about anyone, because extraordinary things can and do happen every day in our little boats. That's why we like to see everyone, including profoundly disabled people given the opportunity to sail on their own, to control their own ship, to race in it and see how they go against even able bods. Unexpected things happen on a race course, which cause spontaneous decision making, which opens doors to new insights.

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In This Issue

● Para World Sailing news ●2016 Hansa Worlds conclude ● Rehab patients take to the water
● Preview of 2018 Hansa Worlds ● Push your Boats out … and more

Inclusion Index

GOLD—INCLUSIVE. Intentionally designed to be inclusive. Open to anyone/everyone using Universal Design equipment and governed by Universal rules which the vast majority can understand and comply with. The equipment levels the playing field which empowers people and encourages individuality. Ideal if there is provision for those who cannot participate independently to be chaperoned. Gold Inclusive sparkles most where everyone becomes a sailor with lessening emphasis on difference/disability.

LILAC—INTEGRATED. Open to everyone, but accommodates disabled people with modified/adapted equipment. Examples are modified craft with sail area reduced for the safety of disabled, modified rules for disabled people, or additional seating to accommodate a disabled crew member on a yacht.

BLUE—EXCLUSIVE. Open to everyone, if you are good enough to gain entry. Includes elite mainstream competition like the Olympics. Conventional equipment may only be usable by able bodied people, so its therefore inadvertently discriminatory.

JADE—OPEN POSITIVE SEGREGATION. Supports individuality, supports competition, only disabled people, but all disability can participate. Discriminates against not-yet disabled people.

GREEN—EXCLUSIVE POSITIVE SEGREGATION. Supports individuality. Includes elite disabled competition like the Paralympics and world championships dominated by supported national teams. Competitors require classification. In Paralympic sailing's case not all physical disability, or intellectual disability is accepted. Discriminates against able bodied people.

RED—BENEVOLENT POSITIVE SEGREGATION. Open only to disabled people, maybe even those with a specific disability, Individuality is not encouraged, most participants are chaperoned. Examples are Special Olympics activities, the many benevolent Sailability programs which offer therapeutic sailing to clients, as against sailors. Also missionary approach.

Gold Hansa Award (continued)

So in Medemblik we decided the new award should be for "Excellence in Inclusive sailing", to be presented to an individual, a club, a national team or a national program who best demonstrate the spirit of inclusion in their personal, their team or national effort and bring that to our biennial Worlds.

It is to encourage inclusion that our boats are of Universal Design, an essential element if you want a level playing field, and why our Class events are Open to everyone, and although Medemblik 2016 was for me the best I've seen, it's a little sad that we have so few able bodied people actually participating in the racing.

What this award is looking for is a group or program with a philosophy which promotes Inclusion, and Sailability Switzerland, who run extensive disability service programs, but also sailing for mainstream schools using their 16 boats is the standout this year.

We will have a Postcard from Switzerland in an upcoming issue.

Para World Sailing equipment evaluations

Para World Sailing have held two equipment evaluations, with the aim of choosing two new classes to increase participation in disabled sailing. .

The evaluations—in Italy and Medemblik— allowed sailors the opportunity to sail and comment on the five boats under consideration. The Hansa 303 and Liberty were two of these boats, along with the Weta & Windrider trimarans and the RS Venture.

The main focus of the evaluations will be to choose equipment and formats that can increase participation in developed and emerging nations so that a stronger grass roots program is available to disabled athletes world-wide, which will lead to higher participation at the elite level.

More about the evaluations is available on the World Sailing website www.sailing.org and you can provide feedback about the boats being evaluated via this link.

Skirting the issue of water ingress

Hansa Sailing have added to their boat accessories range with a skirt designed to stop water ingress into the Hansa 303 Wide or Breeze.

The skirt, which was unveiled at the recent Hansa Worlds, is made from high strength canvas. It is attached by removable clips to the gunnel of the boat. It has an elastic strap at the stern which allows sailors to enter and exit the boat without the need to remove it. The design can be retro-fitted to the gunnel of any 303 and is shaped to stay clear of the mast, sheet ropes and tracks.

The waterproof fabric allows the sailor to stay drier when the boat is heeling and in heavier conditions.

The skirt can be used when the boat is being sailed single or two handed and can be quickly and easily removed when it is not required.

For more information regarding the 303 skirt, contact Hansa Sailing at admin@hansasailing.com

Hansa Sailing sponsors new inclusion award

Hansa Sailing are sponsoring the Excellence in Inclusion Award in the Shoalhaven Business Chamber Awards.

The award will recognise a local New South Wales individual or business that addresses the needs of a diverse community, including seniors and people with disability.

Businesses cannot directly enter this Award. Instead, every business that enters the 16 ‘direct entry’ categories will answer a question about inclusion and have the chance to win this Award.

The presentation of awards will be held on Friday 26th August.

As part of Hansa Sailing’s sponsorship of the award, Shoalhaven Business Council spoke to Chris Mitchell about inclusion and Universal Design.

You can read more about this award and Chris’s comments on our website www.s4e.org or via this link.

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The 2016 Hansa World Championships

The 2016 Hansa World & International Championships have been held in Medemblik.

The combined championships attracted 124 competitors and 92 entries from 16 nations sailing in an inclusive, mixed abilities fleet. Sailors from a broad mix of nations - Malaysia, Poland, New Zealand, Switzerland and Australia – carried off the silverware.

The opening ceremony was 'interrupted', by the arrival of Abel Tasman who reminded the audience that he (and other Dutch sailors) had previously discovered, explored or colonised most of the countries that the competitors came from. The event was officially declared open when the International Hansa Class flag was raised and a canon was fired by Chris Molesworth from the UK—the first competitor to register for the event. With the festivities over, the sailors prepared for racing.

In the Hansa 2.3 division, the fleet included three sailors from Greece, competing in their first Hansa event. There was no catching the sailor from Malaysia however—also competing in his first Hansa event—Al Mustakim Martin had a perfect scorecard across the regatta, winning all 10 races. Following him home were two sailors from Portugal, Fernando Pinto and Luisa Graca.

Conditions varied across the week, with warm sunshine giving way to chilly conditions. Some sailors found the short chop of the sea state a challenge to their normal conditions, whilst others revelled in it. Competitors were under the watchful eye of the boats' designer Chris Mitchell, who revelled in seeing his vision of inclusive sailing play out in front of him.

Twenty sailors took to the waters in the Hansa 303 singles division, with many also backing up in the doubles event. One of those sailors was Australian Chris Symonds, who took an early lead by winning 3 of the first 4 races.

The early lead turned out to be a sign of things to come, with Symonds winning 5 of the next 6 races to take out the event by 19 points from SUI sailor Willi Lutz and Pedro Reis, who were equal on 27 points. The best placed female of the fleet was Spain's Jana Mestre Gomez who finished the regatta in 9th place.

The 2016 Hansa World Championships

The second biggest fleet of the Championships was the Hansa 303 doubles, with 25 teams competing.

Seasoned competitors from France made up the bulk of the fleet, with 9 boats on the start line, whilst sailors from another country new to this division—Brazil– made their debut.

This division turned out to be one of the closest of the Championships, with the Swiss and Australian teams neck and neck for the first few races.

Whilst both teams sailed fairly consistently, it was the Swiss team of Patrick Maurer and Christian Hiller who ultimately triumphed over Australia's Chris Symonds and Mike Darby by two points, with the French team of Gilles Guyon and Olivier Ducruix in third place.

The largest fleet of the championships was the Liberty, with 31 competitors from 9 countries taking part. The open division also included 7 sailors sailing full servo.

As with the 2.3 division, it was a relative newcomer who showed the fleet a clean pair of heels. New Zealand's Sarah Dunckley—competing in her second Hansa regatta—was in a close battle early with another newcomer—Malaysia's Azmi Ani

However Sarah skipped away after winning 4 of the last 5 races to beat Ani by 9 points. Fittingly, she was crowned World Champion on her birthday, with the crowd delighting in singing Happy Birthday. Local Dutch sailor Gerard Beens was in third place. Another Dutch sailor, Vera Voorbach finished fourth overall and was the winner of the Servo division.

The SKUD18's had been in action the previous week, with the Para World Championships at the same venue. The newly crowned World Champions, Poland were in a close battle all week with the English team. At the end of some close battles, the Polish team of Monika Gibes and Piotr Cichoki were declared the Champions, by one point from Team GBR—Alexandra Rickham & Niki Birrell—with local sailors Rolf Schrama and Sandra Nap in third place.

The regatta was declared closed, with the 'baton' - in the form of the IHCA flag—passed to the 2.3 Japanese competitor Koji Harada to take back to Japan.

At the presentations, the team from Greece were awarded the Encouragement Award, after their determination to take place in this regatta, despite restrictions and little support in their country. A new award at this event—the Worlds Team Trophy—went to the team from Australia, after their consist results across all divisions saw them triumph over the team from the UK.

Thanks to the organisers, sponsors, volunteers, sailors and supporters for making this event possible.

Results and more photos are available on the website—www.2016hansaworlds.com

Photos by Nicky Mathew, Chris Heil & Shauna Phillips

Hansa Sailing announces new distributor for North America

Hansa Sailing Systems is pleased to announce West Coast Sailing in Portland, Oregon has been appointed the Hansa distributor for North America. The Hansa range of sailboats include the Hansa 2.3, Hansa 303, Liberty and SKUD 18.

In a press release, designer and principal of Hansa Sailing Chris Mitchell says, “We are looking forward to working closely with West Coast Sailing who will service the existing North American Hansa customers as well as open new markets in the region.”

West Coast Sailing is one of the largest dinghy sailing dealerships in the world, selling 350+ sailboats each year, and myriad parts, pieces, apparel, dollies and trailers. With an extensive staff of dinghy sailors, a large warehouse and international logistics capabilities, the company is poised to help new customers discover the water.

"This is a very exciting time for us' said George Yioulos, West Coast Sailing's founder and president. 'As our business has grown larger and larger, we feel it is time to put our effort behind a product that can truly expand the number of people getting on the water.'

WEST COAST SAILING
OWN THE WATER

West Coast Sailing is importing new boats as well as spare parts and accessories for existing users. The company will be showcasing the boats to programs around North America, attending conferences and helping places without sailing see how anyone, regardless of physical ability, can sail. Long term, several key retailers and brand representatives will be appointed to help service customers throughout North America.

West Coast Sailing’s website can be found here—www.westcoastsailing.net/

Embassy donates boats to Brazilian sailing program

The Australian Embassy in Brazil has presented three 303s to a Brazilian program who offer free sailing to disabled sailors—taking to 17 the number of boats they have donated.

Ambassador John Richardson made the presentation recently to the Brazilian Federation of Adapted Sailing. Read and see more about the program via this link.

Asia Pacific Champs in 2017 to be held at Geelong, Australia

The IHCA has confirmed that the 2017 Combined Hansa Class Asia Pacific Championships will be held at Royal Yacht Club of Geelong.

The regatta will be held from April 14th to 17th and invited classes are the Hansa 2.3, 303 singles and doubles, Liberty and SKUD18.

These Championships will incorporate the Australian and Victorian Championships.

More information is available on the Australian Hansa Class website—www.ahca.yachting.org.au

Frensham team win Queen’s Award for Voluntary Service

Frensham Pond Sailability has been honoured with the Queen’s Award for Voluntary Service, the highest award a voluntary group can receive in the UK.

Representatives attended a garden party at Buckingham Palace in May where they met Her Majesty The Queen and other winners of this year’s award.

Hiroshima 2018

As the 2016 Hansa Worlds has now concluded, the eyes of the Hansa sailing world have turned to the next World Championships.

The 2018 Hansa Class World and International Championship will be held at Kanon Marina, Hiroshima, Japan from October 12th to 18th, 2018.

A delegation from Japan attended the Medemblik Worlds to see the event for themselves and to issue an invitation to the sailors of the world to join them in Hiroshima in 2018.

A video of the venue and local sailors was shown to sailors at a BBQ in Medemblik, before the Chairman of the Hiroshima Prefectural Sailing Federation, Mr Tsunehiro Yamane, spoke to the audience about the theme of the event – Peace and Sports – and described the venue and the excitement in Hiroshima at hosting this major event. A message from the Foreign Affairs Minister was also read to the crowd.

Chairman Yamane praised the organisers of the 2016 World Championships and hoped to see many of the same faces (and some new ones) in Hiroshima in 2018.

A link to the video, welcoming sailors to Hiroshima is available on the IHCA website—www.hansaclass.org—or via this link.

A letter to sailors was also delivered, which read:

"Welcome to Hiroshima, 2018 Hansa Worlds, Hiroshima October 12—18

A Friendship letter from Hiroshima to everyone who enjoys our great love for the sea, wind and the sport of sailing.

U.S President Barack Obama made his first visit to Hiroshima in May 2016.

The City and it's citizen's with for World Peace drew wide media attention from around the world. It was a historic step for mankind and a better world. Thought sporting events, we can foster greater cross cultural understanding and international Friendship.

Hansa Friends from many countries around the world will gather in Medemblik in The Netherlands to participate in world sailing Championships.

The Hansa Class race competition offers a wonderful chance for international friendship and sportsmanship.

Our new friendship will create many waves to build a more peaceful world.

You are all warmly invited to our 2018 Hansa Worlds 'Peace & Sport' in Hiroshima Japan.

The first time the event is being held in Asia.

We heartily welcome all of you."

Virtual Sailing gets rehab patients on the water

A simulator program— run by Virtual Sailing, in Australia, the US and New Zealand—is aiding patients with spinal cord injuries and unearthing new sailors.

Sailing simulators provide the opportunity for people without knowledge or access to sailing to learn to sail in a controlled, safe environment. Virtual Sailing simulators are unique because they utilize a real sail-boat driven by a computer controlled pneumatic ram to provide heeling.

The University of Melbourne & Royal Talbot Rehabilitation Centre and the Kennedy Krieger Institute, Johns Hopkins Medical School, Baltimore run collaborative clinical trials using the VSail Access version of the simulator. The aims are to show if people with spinal cord injuries and no prior experience of sailing are able to learn to sail in a simulator and transfer successfully to on-water sailing and to measure possible changes in physical and psychological state and re-integration into the community.

Participants have 4-6 simulator sessions lasting about one hour and those with limited upper arm mobility use servo controls. Their performance is assessed using a 10 point scale of different aspects of sailing: reaching, beating, down wind, tacking, gybing and, later in the simulator sessions, sailing round a triangular course with a target of less than 3 min in 12 knots of wind.

In Melbourne, participants have two sessions on the water at Docklands Yacht Club in a Liberty. In the first session they are briefed and sail under the watchful eye of a coach in a chase boat. In the second session they are assessed for their sailing ability and timed around a triangular course using the same 10-point scale as for the simulator sessions.

Downtown Sailing Center in Baltimore provides facilities and assistance in getting participants on the water. Thus far 18 participants in Baltimore and 10 in Melbourne have successfully transferred from sailing simulator to on-water sailing.

In Auckland a simulator located in the Spinal Rehabilitation unit has been used to teach over 100 people how to sail and transfer to on-water sailing. Their star is Jan Apel who had not learned to sail when young, but was able to learn on the ASRU simulator. About 3 years later Jan went on to represent New Zealand as crew in the 2012 London Paralympics in the SKUD18.

To learn more, contact Prof.Norman Saunders at n.saunders@unimelb.edu.au

Para World Sailing Manager appointed

World Sailing, the governing body of the sport of Sailing, has recently announced the appointment of a Para World Sailing Manager.

Massimo Dighe from Italy, a 2012 Paralympian, has been appointed to the role.

Massimo Dighe in a Liberty at the recent Para Worlds evaluation

His job includes; working to getting sailing back into the 2024 Paralympic Games; building relationships with all Para World Sailing stakeholders, acting as the Technical Delegate for the Para World Sailing Championships from 2017 onwards and working to fully integrate Para World Sailing into the Sailing World Cup.

Massimo takes up his role at World Sailing's Southampton headquarters in July.

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Shaking off the cobwebs in the Northern Hemisphere

Foyle Sailability Push the Boat out

Programs are shaking off winter in the Northern Hemisphere, and getting their boats out.

In late May, the UK's annual Push the Boat out event was held and proved very popular.

According to the RYA's website, over 350 sailing clubs and training centres throughout the UK opened their doors to the public for series of 'Come Try' days over a 9 day period.

In London, the London Youth Games—Europe's largest annual sports event— has been held recently, with the finals of the sailing event at Queen Mary Sailing Club. Among the classes were Hansa 303's, with sailors from 9 boroughs ranging in age from 9—18 taking part.

Other Clubs have started their summer programs and held Open days and have shared photos of their Hansa boats to their Facebook pages. Here are a few:

Kinsale Yacht Club's 1st day of the season

DunLaoghaire Sailability Open Day

Quinte Sailability Ontario get their boats ready

Since our last newsletter

Here are a few of the stories that have featured on our website and Facebook page since the last edition of Telltales.

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London program teaching kids to sail.

A program using Hansa 303's at Shadwell Basin Outdoor Activity Centre in East London is giving a growing number of children the opportunity to learn to sail independently. Click here for more.

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Change of date for Bali regatta

A change of date for the regatta for Hansa 2.3 sailors being held in Bali. The event will now take place from **October 12th – 16th** (not as previously advised). Click here for more information.

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Catch up on these stories and more on the s4e website and Facebook page. The entire back catalogue of Telltales—dating back to 1999 - are available to search on our website.

Upcoming Events

August 2016

2016 Rio Paralympic Games Rio de Janiero, Brazil, August 5-21 www.rio2016.com.en/paralympics

Irish Hansa Class & President's Cup Kinsale Yacht Club. August 13-14. www.kyc.ie

UK Multi-Class regatta Rutland Sailing Club. August 6-7. www.hansaclass.org.uk

September 2016

UK Hansa Class Championships Carsington Sailing Club. September 9-11. www.hansaclass.org.uk

Scottish Multiclass regatta Castle Semple. September 9-11. www.race2thegames.org.uk

Italian Hansa Class Championships Desenzano del Garda. September 15-18. www.hansaclass.it

Swiss Hansa Class Championships Segel Club Charm. September 16-18. www.hansaclass.ch

Herb Meyer Regatta BAADS San Francisco. September 24-25. www.baads.org

October 2016

Bali International Disabled Sailing Regatta Serengan Island, Bali. October 12-16 www.balisports.com/foundation/projects/para_sailing

European Disabled Sailing Championship Valencia, Spain. October 24-29. www.europeanchampionshipval.com

November 2016

Pan Pacific Masters Games Gold Coast, Queensland November 5-13. www.mastersgames.com.au

Friendship Cup Canberra, November 26-27. email:sailbilityact@gmail.com

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