



RUTLAND SAILABILITY



Members' News Letter

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www.rutland-sailability.org

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Happy New Year Everyone,

Once again it has reached that time of the year when the Membership Secretary puts on his official hat and holds out his hand and says "Please renew your subscription for the coming year."

The Trustees have agreed that membership fees for 2009 should be kept at the same level as 2008.

Membership fees are as follows: Sailing Membership - £45, Non Sailing Membership - £15, Full Membership of R.S.C. - £15, Junior Membership under 17 - £15, Family - £90.

AND STILL, WITHOUT DOUBT, THE BEST VALUE IN THE COUNTRY

Completed Renewal Forms, together with the appropriate fee, should be handed to Sailability Reception or the Membership Secretary, who will be more than happy to receive them.

NOTE:- When completing the Renewal Form would ALL members please ensure that the section relating to Next of Kin/Contact Name and Emergency Tel.No. is filled in This is a requirement by Rutland Sailing Club.

If for you are unable to download the attached Renewal Form, or you failed to receive one with your copy of the News Letter, copies of it are available at Sailability Reception...so please ask for one the next time you sign in.

Alan Naylor, Membership Secretary.

11, Fernie Close, Oadby Leicester LE2 4SJ

Winter Programme continued

March 5th

Members Forum - Another chance to bring your questions to the Trustees.

Disability Awareness The second of the awareness days. If you haven't already done so, sign on with Barry to book your place.

March 12th

Bats - A talk, and more, by Jenny Harris.

March 19th Journey Through South America A travellers tale from Andrew Hunter.

March 26th

80 Degrees North-sailing off Svalbard - A must for all you intrepid sailors. An illustrated talk by

Denis Kenyon. So you think it gets cold on Rutland Water?

First Aid Course. to be held on Thursday 16th April. 9.30am in the Training Room. Please sign the clipboard in Reception or telephone me on 01832 280351 if you wish to take this course. Numbers are limited to 12.

Meet Penny Wake

I have lived in Rutland since the late 70s being a mother of three plus two stepchildren. For several years I had a small antique/bric-a-brac shop in Uppingham as a diversion from household chores and my husband enjoyed sailing in his Kinsman boat on Rutland Water.

Life altered dramatically in 1989 when my husband was diagnosed with Motor Neurone Disease. During his illness we quickly learnt the problems associated with life in a wheelchair, amongst other activities sailing was no longer a hobby he could enjoy.

In view of our experiences it was decided that we would form a Trust on his death with the chief aim being to improve leisure facilities for the disabled. The Trust came into being during 1993 and it was not long after this that I became aware that funding was required for the 'World Disabled Sailing Championships' due to take place at Rutland Water in 1994. Nothing could have suited the remit of our Trust better and was also for a sporting activity that had been so enjoyed by my late husband.

It was at this time that Rutland Sailing Club was beginning to make the premises and the water accessible to people with disabilities. Rutland Sailability was in its infancy with a membership of 15 and in need of financial support. Ian Harrison, our President, wrote to me in May 1995 saying 'To be completely impertinent £1,000 would give the group a tremendous start'. How could I refuse!

This was only the beginning of our association and the Trust has over the years funded various improvements, in 1997 the purchase of six access dinghies and more recently the rescue boat.

Personally I am no sailor! Many years ago taken aboard a yacht in the Caribbean for the holiday of a lifetime with my husband, we cruised out of the harbour, the wind hit us and he jumped to put the sail up shouting to me 'Hold her into the wind'. My reply: 'What does that mean!!'

Disability awareness

In February and March I will be holding two one day training sessions covering Disability Awareness. These are the same courses as those which were held in the past two winters.

The course is designed to help all our members understand disability and how best to help each other get the most out of Sailability. As such it is designed to suit all our members.

The sessions will be run on Thurs 19th Feb. and Thurs 5th March. Each one will start at 10.30am and go through until 4.00pm. Please be prepared for this length of time as I have been requested to cover the whole programme in one day. We do not have enough time in the winter programme to allow two days for each course.

If you wish to attend one of these sessions, please advise me asap, either personally, or by phone 01778 422609 or by email

barry.parsisson@btinternet.com

If there are people who would like a course to be set up for a Saturday please advise me and if there is sufficient interest one can be arranged.

Please note that this will also be run from 10.00am to 4.30pm.

Barry Parsisson

The Royal Visit

The morning of 2nd December 2008 dawned bright and dry, a great relief to all of us who had been at the Clubhouse the previous day when it was dull, damp and absolutely freezing cold. By the time we left a whole team of helpers had transformed the building with brightly polished floors, glowing Christmas trees, bright displays and decorative poinsettias everywhere. Outside the boats were lined up on the grass and sparklingly clean.

The first arrivals were there early on Tuesday morning and the weeks of planning started to fall into place. The buggies were out on car park duties and the police and their sniffer dogs kept us well entertained doing an important job in a relaxed manner. Members started to arrive and I think everyone looked appropriately smart and comfortable in Sailability wear and sailing gear. The Press arrived, people were photographed and interviewed and the time passed quickly. Then a voice in my ear said "The helicopter has just left Lincolnshire" and suddenly it was all

systems go. I joined our guests –the High Sheriff (Mr. Thomas Cooper), the Chairman of Rutland County Council with his wife (Mr. and Mrs. Peter Ind) and the chief executive of Rutland County Council (Mrs Helen Briggs), and we had just lined ourselves up at the greeting point when 4 official cars and 5 motor bikes swept through the gates *8 minutes early*.

Her Royal Highness The Princess Royal emerged from her car smiling, chatting and eager to see all that we had to show her. It's a feeling that is hard to describe. Through everything that you have read and seen you feel you know her but suddenly everything that is happening around you fades into the background as this very important person becomes your complete focus for the next 90 minutes. I was so impressed by her. She moved along the boat display, talking to the Fleet Captains and showing the depth of her knowledge about Sailability boats.

After moving indoors and accepting a posy from Danielle, the Princess moved among our members talking and listening all the time, smiling and showing great interest in their sailing, their lives and what had brought them to Rutland Sailability. I kept thinking we would be running out of time but when I looked round and saw all those security people all relaxed and smiling, I knew the visit was going well.

And so it did right to the end. The plaque was unveiled, tea was taken while we had a personal conversation and then she was off. As the Princess left she made complimentary remarks about how the club has developed to meet the needs of all its members and wished us luck in the future.

For me this was an experience to be remembered. The organisation involved a lot of work by many people and I met many more really lovely people involved in the organising and security of such events.

Thank you to everyone involved in any way, but especially to Eileen for her photographic record of a day to be remembered.

Trisha McNair

What Trisha didn't tell you is that she received a very complimentary letter from the Lord Lieutenant thanking her for doing a difficult task so well. And another report. As it was such a memorable day I thought it merited two articles.

Princess Anne's Visit

This is very odd. It's a Tuesday, I am wearing a clean sweatshirt and my gold watch, Gwyndra is wearing something smart and her perfume - and we're on our way to the sailing club! As we drive down the lane there are thousands of "no parking"

cones and two policemen with a sniffer dog. At the gate we are greeted by a friend who I nearly didn't recognize because he was wearing strange clothes - Gwyndra says it is called "a shirt and tie". We have to park miles away from our normal spot but are offered a ride on the buggy past the array of gleaming Sailability boats to the ramp which is festooned with very posh banners. Inside the clubhouse is even more strange. All the tables have disappeared, but the decorated Christmas tree and pots of bright red poinsettias look very attractive.

Everybody moves to their allocated group, we receive our final reminder to call her "jam as in mam" (or is it the other way round?) and the tension rises even more as we see the royal helicopter landing nearby.

The clubhouse falls silent, and all eyes turn towards the entrance door as Trish escorts the royal party towards our group.

And then everything changes. We all breathe a sigh of relief as we realise that Princess Anne is a very knowledgeable sailor and just wants to talk to us like any other sailor would on their first visit to Rutland Sailability. How do you manage to get in to the 2.3 if you can't stand? How long have you been sailing? Is it scary in the Skud? What was it like racing in the French Nationals?

All of a sudden Princess Anne has gone but when she got home I can imagine that she wrote in her diary:- "Today I made some fascinating new friends at a very well organised sailing club called Rutland Sailability. Must tell mummy about it."

Chris Emmet

And another special gathering

When we were having our Christmas lunch in December I felt how very lucky we are to have such wonderful friends gathering together once more after the wonderful visit by HRH Princess Anne. Once again the awards were well deserved especially John Morley receiving one from us, *the Wooden Spoon*, after his splendid Award earlier in December, ours just keeping his feet on the ground [sorry John only joking].

The entertainment was absolutely brilliant. Caroline choreographed so well the performance of it all and we even sang carols.

Bryan and Geoff started the singing of The Twelve days of Christmas which was composed of sailing lyrics for our club.

Kate, John, Malcolm, Eileen, Charley, Clare, Gill and Cliff sang wonderfully loud and Simon was exceptional with his 4 Liberties.

Then we had the pleasure of PANTO, well the song 'If I were not on the Stage' Eileen a saucy Sailor, Charley was a cheeky Windsurfer, Kate on

the Safety boat looking for the Longboat, John an Instructor with all the gear! Malcolm a Tin shaker, words fail me but who would refuse the lovely LADY, he was so complete with balloons and a little black dress, lastly Clare who would like to be a Doctor with a huge syringe {baler}. It was so funny to see them all gyrating about in what could be very suggestive actions but it depends on our minds!!.

So a BIG WELL DONE to the Entertainment group I think you were exceptionally GOOD
Linda Pattinson

Awards 2008: Presidents -Trophy Anne & Gordon Harle, Challenger Trophy – Diana Faulks, Colin Johnson Trophy – Mike Shewen, Best Improver – John Roberts, Wooden Spoon – John Morley. Thursday Race Series – 1st Clare Andrew, joint 2nd – Mike Shewen/Joyce Smith, 3rd Chris Emmet, 1st Crew – Ian McNair

RYA award for John Morley

The prestigious Francis Elkin Trophy has been awarded by the RYA to our own John Morley. This award is given each year to an individual who has made a significant contribution in time, effort and personal endeavour in enabling people with disabilities to become involved in sailing. The following are excerpts from the citation: John has made a major contribution to the sport. He is universally respected, both in the UK and overseas and his advice, which is based on a lifetime of sailing, is always sound and in the best interests of others. It is difficult to identify an individual who has contributed more to foster the growth of the Sailability movement.

His early enthusiasm, drive and passion has never diminished. John's total and selfless commitment to Sailability, often to the detriment of his personal interests and sailing, coupled with his inspirational leadership, are a role model to all who meet or work with him. The recognition by the RYA of his contribution over the last decade is richly deserved.

Looking to the next sailing season

This is the time of year when we look back on the past season and consider its plus points and minuses, then resolve to improve in the future. One of the obvious minuses has been the rather poor weather. Not much we can do about that perhaps, but yet during some of those light wind and slightly too strong winded days we could operate the keelboats. We have received an extremely generous offer of a second Kinsman from a RSC member retiring from sailing. This will increase our capacity to extend the sailing season beyond the end of October. It will require more

qualified help in this area. Some changes already taking place are that Bob Glennie will take over as Fleet Captain, freeing Clive to take on a specialist role in looking after all of the electrical control gear in Access, Challenger and soon the Longboat. Other areas where fresh help is required include the Thursday race programme and Special Needs sailing, which at present takes place on Fridays. If anyone would like to become more involved in one of these activities, albeit after additional training, please let Neil Wilkinson or myself know.

The utilisation, particularly of Challengers and 303S, was not very high last year. We would like to see more use of these boats next season. This would mean more sailing for more people or longer turns, either way the greater operating problem is putting large numbers of boats away at the end of the day when handling crews are tired.

As much help as possible is required at this time, particularly in replacing covers as this can be the longest part of the job if there are but few hands. Also to overcome the problem of legibility with boat queuing cards, would you all **please save your 2008 membership cards** and use these to identify your place on the control board in Lens Den.

Wishing you all good sailing in the New Year.

Les Collier

Training database

A training database is being developed to record the training that members have undertaken. The last item to be added to it is those people who are qualified to drive the buggies. If you have been trained to drive the buggies please contact Neil Wilkinson before the end of January via email neilwilkinson.sail@tiscali.co.uk, put your name down on the sheet at the reception on Thursdays or call him on 01780720110.

You didn't send Christmas Cards - Well Done!

You will remember that before Christmas you were invited not to send Christmas in preference to signing the group card placed at reception and donating a small amount of money. Well you'll be pleased to know that lots of you took advantage of this initiative and raised £109.98p. Thanks to all

Santa Fun Run raises over £500

Any child loitering around Burghley House on Sunday December 14th might be forgiven for being confused. Why you may ask? Simply that this was the venue for the annual Santa Fun Run organised by The Rotary Club of Stamford Burghley attended by 358 Santa's all identically dressed in traditional red suit, white beard and

topped off by a red hat. It really was a sea of Santa's and impossible to identify anybody. Local charities were invited to take part and raise money which included R S and so it was that the 'Sailability Breezers' gathered on this cold Sunday morning with a fresh dusting of snow on the ground. Our team consisted of Mike Gallon, Mike Baumber Trish McNair, Joyce Smith, Malcolm, Julia and Jennifer Kirk, John Roberts. John had even transformed his buggy into an impressive Rudolph lookalike. By the end of the morning our team had successfully negotiated the 3 mile course and raised over £500 for Sailability. Well done to everybody who took part in this challenging event raising money for our club.
Malcolm Kirk

Thank you - Tony

Tony Mayhew designed the picture for the Rutland Sailability Christmas Card to our sponsors, this year, just to say a special 'Thank You' for their continuing support.

The photograph has been popular and Tony has generously made copies available to members - where trade has been brisk!! Maybe we do it again in 2009. Many thanks, Tony.

Mike Baumber.

Thank you also Tony for designing and printing the Christmas lunch tickets.

The Way Ahead for Rutland Sailability!

A new folder is now located at RS Reception. It contains minutes of trustees' meetings, our club's plans for the coming year and the current 'Wish List' of items we would like sponsored. If you know of any prospective sponsors, have a word with Mike Baumber or any other trustee.

Mike Baumber

Last sail

On the 27th Nov we had an off shore breeze around 15mph, it was cold & dry. With no other sailors around I had a quick sail in a 2.3 only to find Malcolm Kirk in the other 2.3, perhaps his thinking was the same as mine, this will be the last sail of the season. And what fun it was. Soon back to shore to put more of our fleet to bed for the winter. It's best to do this on a dry day folding the sails back into the sail bags. The masts go on to the rack in the shed. This time of year is a really busy, looking at the condition of the boats, deciding which to send for refurbishing, which launching trolleys require new wheels and which fittings to be replaced. These boats get a lot of wear and tear through the year as they get so much use, long may it continue.

Ian McNair

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