

Another sailing season draws to a close



WITH THE END of the 2010 sailing season in sight we enjoyed some late sunshine and, as the above picture shows, our Access dinghies were in constant use.

With the help of our booking secretary, Sally Green and other regular helpers, the boats did not spend much time moored to the pontoons at WOBYC. Some new members joined in the weekly sailing activities after the usual two trial sailing sessions, although some old members were unable to return for 2010, they are still in touch with us and will receive a copy of this Newsletter, we hope they will be back for the 2011 season.

Racing was a regular feature of each week's sailing sessions and once again some of our members were active during Oulton Week albeit that the weather was not at its best. However, as reported elsewhere in this edition, there were some successes for our members who were determined to sail despite the difficult conditions.



Late afternoon in Autumn and the race is on!!!

During races, the sailing skills of those involved are really put to the test. Most weeks the course is set, and drawn out on the board. Our Senior Instructor Bryan Riley is always happy to discuss the details with the members before they go out on the water. The results of Spring, Summer and Autumn series are reported on page 6. During the Annual Christmas party at St Marks Church Hall, Bridge Road, Oulton Broad, on Saturday 18th December the sailing trophies and prizes will be presented - [advert on page 2](#)

On Tuesday 21st September we were pleased to welcome our local MP Peter Aldous who made a surprise visit to WOBYC. After chatting to various members, officers, and helpers Peter was taken out onto the Broad in one of the Access 303's by Waveney Sailability director and, RYA Instructor, Chris Addison.

Peter Aldous has promised to visit us again and offered to give any help he can to further the work of this Charity. I will send him a copy of this edition of Newsability and all future editions. We look forward to seeing him again in 2011.

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Local MP Peter Aldous talking to sailors and helpers before taking to the water in an Access 303 - opposite.

Moving our expanding stock of lifejackets and sailing suits from the Rotary Boathouse to the WOBYC Clubhouse is not an easy task, the pathways are uneven and in some place quite narrow; it also requires considerable effort to pull the trolley with a full load. During the winter we will investigate the possibility of adding a small electric motor to make the task easier. However Jim came up with a temporary answer when he used his own transport system to tow the equipment from the boathouse to WOBYC. As the picture shows our Chairman Richard Morling made sure the journey was completed without any mishaps!!



Once again, and with the help of our friends, helpers and members, we were able to *fly the flag* at the Great Yarmouth Maritime Festival. The Mayor of Great Yarmouth visited our stand.- [Picture page 6](#)

As usual we had plenty of support, there was considerable interest in the boats from those who visited the stand and we gained some new members.



We were pleased to accept the invitation from RN&SYC to take part in the Lothingland Regatta held on Sunday 12th September 2010.- continued below



As the photographs by our Chairman, Richard Morling, show our three Access 303's were towed through Mutford Lock with several other boats from WOBYC including Vince Meadows in his squib. Our boats were soon involved in the sailing and all those who took part really enjoyed the day.

Christmas Events

Annual Christmas Party and Presentation of Sailing Trophies and Prizes

Saturday 18th December
at
St Marks Church Hall, Bridge Road, Oulton Broad

Tickets £5 - numbers limited due to fire regulations
Contact Sally Green 01502 566533

Carol Service
at
St Mark's Church, Bridge Road, Oulton Broad.
on
Tuesday 7th December
7.00 pm
organised by the
Rotary Club of Lowestoft East Point

A service of Lessons and Carols followed by refreshments in the hall.

All are welcome to hear some of our members read the traditional lessons of Christmas



Shoppers' support brings in extra funds



THE ORIGINAL FACTORY SHOP at Wrentham has provided an excellent financial boost to our funds.

At the request of the shop we agreed to work in partnership to set up a display and operate a raffle; all promoting the work of Waveney Sailability while raising money to help with our running costs. Several members and officers spent time at the shop and in July we received a cheque for

£795. The picture shows Chairman Richard Morling and member Steve Sims with some of the staff. We are very grateful to the store manager, Christina Rushworth, and her colleagues for all their hard work on our behalf.

The store group operate a "Make a Difference In your Community" scheme and we were lucky enough to be selected for the current year. A big thank you to all who helped with this fund raising project.

Sally reports on another good year

OUR BOOKING secretary and director Sally Green has worked tirelessly



through out the sailing season to keep the boats fully used rather than moored to the pontoons. Its not easy when members are delayed and have to be included in the sailing schedules later than expected. If you had to wait for a boat to become free, please remember we have around 100 sailing members and all the helpers are volunteers who give up many hours of their time to keep Waveney Sailability operating even when the weather tries to prevent us from sailing.

Safety is an important issue and we do all we can to make sure that we operate within the constraints of our insurers

and in line with our safety procedures. Sally reports:

It has been another excellent sailing season with only one cancellation due to bad weather. Both members and helpers have worked really hard to make this another first class season with achievements at Gold, Silver and Bronze levels.

There were around 1,000 sailing sessions during the season with an average of 40 members sailing each week giving us a grand total of about 650 hours on the water, excluding any other events such as Oulton Week, the Lothingland Regatta and visits to other Clubs. These are quite amazing figures as we only sail regularly on Tuesday afternoons.

Waveney Sailability has achieved recognition among the Sailability groups and I would like to say a big Thank you to everyone who has been involved in the booking and operation of the system on Tuesdays.

As we have already said, safety is paramount. We must keep up to date as things change and new regulations are introduced. With this in mind, we have commissioned a new safety review by an expert who has reviewed the risks associated with our activities. His report will be presented to the directors shortly and when it has been considered we will let our members know if we are making any changes to our procedures.

Do you know your Access?

HOW WELL do you know the Access class dinghies that we use?

We have 12 boats, 9 Access 303's and three Access 2.3's. The Class was designed in Australia, specifically for disabled sailors, and they were an instant success. Rotary has helped to increase the number of centres operating Access class dinghies and, with over 1.2 million members in 33,000 clubs world wide, it is not just the UK that has benefited from the support of the largest and most influential service club in the world.

In the UK there are over 55,000 Rotarians and many clubs have helped to set up Sailability centres; many fleets carry the name of the clubs that donated the boat.

There is a Access Class Association, check out their website at:

www.accessclass.org.uk The UK manufacturer is Steve Sawford Marine (SSM Ltd) based at Kettering, Northants. If you look at his website www.sailingforall.com you will find that he produces a wide range of Access dinghies and adaptations that help those with a wide variety of disabilities get out on the water.

When we visited Rutland Water for our fact finding report to local Rotary clubs before setting up Waveney Sailability, it soon became obvious that if you can sit you can sail.

The range of aids that can be fitted to the dinghies is considerable and includes individually tailored systems. One sailor has been very successful in competitions using his mouth and tongue to control his dinghy. The Access Class Association (UK) has its own rules for those who participate in UK Travellers Trophy Events and National Championships, you will find them on the website.

On the Steve Sawford website you will find a picture of Steve Sawford repairing one of our Access dinghies when he delivered some new boats to us. There is a lot to learn about Access dinghies; just try putting "Access Dinghies" in your search engine, it will pass away some winter hours!

Oulton Week Results

Poor weather fails to deter the sailors

SEVERAL OF OUR members took part in the 2010 Oulton Week sailing activities where once again they competed for the Castlebay Trophy.

Although Monday's sailing was cancelled everyone enjoyed themselves, Jenny Riley remarked "how much better they were than last year". The last race was a close run thing with barely 3 seconds separating the first three boats. For the second year running Debbie Morton, crewed by Tony Robinson, took first place.

The full results were as follows:

First - Debbie Morton with Tony Robinson

Second - Alan Harmer with Vic Pennell

Third - Steve Sims with various crew

Forth Ernest Smith with various crew

Fifth - John Goodwin with various crew

Sixth - Pat Morling with Dot Daines.

Congratulations to all and don't forget prizes and trophies will be presented at the annual Christmas Party - see page 2 for details.

Good news in the East

Our friends at The East Anglian Sailing Trust hoping for financial support for new headquarters

WE ARE PLEASED to report that our good friends at EAST have reached the final of this years Big Lottery - Peoples Millions on Anglia TV. This chance to receive £50,000 of funding is great news in a time when major cutbacks are the order of the day for many small charities.

EAST's project to transform an old redundant building into a new Waterside Community Centre will provide the Charities growing number of disabled sailors with a new headquarters. EAST will now go head to head on Anglia TV with another worthy project outside of Suffolk and the winner is the one with the highest number of telephone votes. The TV cameras will be filming during November and the broadcast is on Monday 22nd November on Anglia TV between 6.00 and 6.30 pm.

You can help EAST by phoning in your votes from both landlines and mobiles. The cost is 10p from a BT landline but may be higher from other networks. Continued next column

Good news in the EAST continued

The telephone number is not released until the day of the event but if you would like to help just send an email to trustee@e-a-s-t.org.uk with PM in the subject box and you will be sent the number on 22nd November. If you read the Daily Mirror the voting number should be available in the 22nd November edition.

Bill Smith and his colleagues made our members very welcome when they visited Levington Marina for the *Open Weekend in Suffolk* - see report in the previous edition of Newsability.

We send them our good wishes and hope they are successful, it was clear from our visit that they share many of our ideals and have established an excellent centre that can, with some extra funding, become even better.

More Financial Support

OVER THE LAST few months we have received over £2,450 of unexpected donations.

Regular helper Hugh Sims made a sponsored parachute jump at Elough and presented us with all the proceeds, some with Gift Aid declarations. Mary Brooke widow of David requested donations to our funds in lieu of flowers. The family of the late Fred Bowles, a former member of the Lowestoft Rotary Club, also asked for donations to our funds in place of flowers.

We are very grateful to all those who made these contributions and supported Hugh. With the additional funds we have been able to purchase more life jackets and acquire an additional hoist. We had set aside some funds for the hoist but with this extra income we completed the purchase and it was delivered and tested a just before the end of the season.



Oulton Week celebrations - the sun replaced the rain of Monday.

Important information for RYA Instructors and our Sailors

From Jackie Soards

Calling all Instructors and Assistant Instructors

It is important that you stay up to date. Please check your certificates. The First Aid Certificate is valid for 3 years and all Instructor Certificates for 5 years. There will a First Aid Course arranged before the start of the next sailing season. Please let Jackie Soards know if you need to be on it.

We are always looking for volunteers to train as RYA Assistant Instructors or upgrade to full Instructor or Senior Instructor. Sailability will cover the cost in most cases. Please let Jackie know if you are interested.

RYA Volunteer Log Book Scheme

Waveney Sailability has been selected by the RYA to trial a new Volunteer Log Book Scheme. It involves volunteers being given a Log Book and keeping a record of the training they do. Nothing very different to what we do now except it is all recorded in one place and ensures that volunteers do not miss out on training opportunities. There are awards and badges to be achieved if desired, in much the same way as for our sailing members. More details later!

We will miss him

Thanks and Farewell to Colin



AS REPORTED in the 11th edition our fund raising director Colin McManus and his wife Margaret have moved south to be nearer their daughter and her family.

The picture shows Colin being presented with a photograph of the dinghy donated by his Rotary Club - Gorleston. Good luck Colin and thanks for your efforts that raised many thousands of pounds for this Charity. **We urgently need a new fund raiser!!**



The weather stops play!

THE WEATHER on our last day of sailing for 2010 did its best to confirm that winter was just around the corner and we should get our fleet under cover in the Rotary Boathouse.

We had planned to make the last day of sailing the 26th October but we had not expected the weather to work so hard to convince us that we had made the wrong decision. Heavy squally rain and strong winds made sailing difficult.

However it says a lot for our members and helpers that there was a good crowd to take part in the sailing and for the first part of the afternoon our dinghies were out on the Broad

watched over by our two safety boats and the team of Instructors. Regular checks of the wind speed were carried out and, as the picture shows, during the final check before sailing was cancelled for the day, it was necessary to lean into the wind to avoid being blown off the pontoons and into a very cold Oulton Broad. All the dinghies had been reefed but, when it became obvious that the conditions would not improve, we had to admit defeat. As reported below only three days later a team of volunteers put the fleet away in our boathouse.

Preparing for Winter

ON FRIDAY 29th October, only three days after the weather had shortened the last sailing session, a team of volunteers gathered to pack our fleet and equipment into the Rotary Boathouse ready for winter.

Last autumn we had managed to squeeze what seemed to be a quart into the proverbial pint pot. We managed it in 2009 but did not keep a plan of just how we fitted it into the building. There is a photographic record of the efforts and the final outcome but they were not to hand.

The task was made more difficult by the fact that some dinghies would have to be taken away for repairs after a busy season but would have to be put into the boatshed when the work was completed. Its also necessary to keep the safety boat engines accessible as they will require a service before we start sailing again in 2011.

Step one was to remove all the masts and rigging - easy! (see opposite).

Step two was fitting it all into the space available - not so easy! (see picture bottom right)

As we needed to get some boats out for repairs it was agreed that we would try standing some dinghies on the transom (bow up between the joists) as we could gain valuable space. It worked well and we could use this method again. Our thanks to all who helped, there were some useful and interesting contributions when problems needed solving!



Step one above.

Step two left.

Racing in 2010

AS USUAL WE had three series of races in 2010 - Spring, Summer and Autumn.

Our RYA Senior Instructor Bryan Riley reports:



Sailability sailing sessions usually end with an informal race series and this has led to a dramatic improvement in member's ability at the helm. This year we have raced only in Access 303 dinghies, it is more interesting when all competitors are in the same 'class' of boat and differences in speed are only down to the skill of the crew. To do well you have to learn to sail with a crew member and practice trimming the sails together, decide on the best place to start and then work out the quickest course to the first mark. This would be simple if it were not for eight other crews doing the same and trying to 'put one over on you'. Depending on the weather conditions, we have set a wide variety of courses, designed to make it a challenge to get the best from the boats and have enjoyed very close racing. I am pleased to say that members are now asking which of the 'racing rules of sailing' apply in different circumstances and use them to gain advantage. All of which is paying off because during Oulton Week the standard of sailing had improved dramatically compared to last year, well done everyone and congratulations to the season's winners.

Bryan Riley S.I.



Left - Our stand at the Annual Great Yarmouth Maritime Festival. Regular helper Mike Getvoldsen collected and set up the display boards. As usual the members from Great Yarmouth turned out to man the stand and talk to

members and supporters. The photograph by Jackie Soards shows the Mayor of Great Yarmouth visiting the stand to learn more about our work and hear from some of the people who sail with us.

Spring, Summer and Autumn Series - Results

Spring Series - Rotaract Cup:

1st Tony Barkes. 2nd Steve Sims. 3rd J Head.

Summer Series - Pegasus Yachts Trophy

1st Steve Sims. 2nd Neil Fowler. 3rd Tony. Barkes

Autumn Series - Lowestoft South Rotary Club Trophy

1st Alan Harmer. 2nd Steve Sims. 3rd Debbie Morton.

Best Sailor of the Year - The East Point Trophy

The same rules will be followed this year and our Instructors will announce the winner of the Trophy at the Annual Christmas Party.

As we went to press the Instructors were involved in deep discussions on the matter and expect to reach a final decision within the next few days, and in sufficient time for us to have the winners name added to the Trophy before it is presented. The recipient will, as in 2009, be the individual who, in the opinion of our experts, has shown the greatest improvement in their sailing skills during the year.

Dave Gentry said he is "working hard on the issue" he also said "what a great year we've had for racing. The starts have shown a marked improvement resulting in some close competitive racing. Even a bit of rivalry between helms... but mostly with crews!" He felt that "Oulton Week got off to a slow start" but "our helms made up for the rest of the week with some very close racing." He wanted us to say "a big thank you to all the crews and helpers who made it all run smoothly and a great success".

Christmas Party

Sue Goodwin would welcome your support, we need a good selection of desserts and as usual Raffle prizes will help us cover the costs.

Please let Sue know what you are bringing
Telephone 01502 567996

HELP!!!

WHILE OUR SAILORS are out on the water they have ample time to chat to our Instructors and I understand there are some good stories to tell.

Many have done interesting things or lived in interesting places. These would make good articles for my *Getting to Know You* section. Just give me the facts, I will write it up.

Ed

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