

Dinghy fleet is now 12.

On Wednesday 16th July Steve Sawford and his father Ron arrived in Oulton Broad with another three Access 303 dinghies.

The three new boats, all sponsored by supporters, have taken our fleet to 12 plus the squib. Barrie and Wendy Hunt of The Marine Safety Centre Limited presented a cheque for £4,000 to our chairman Richard Morling at the AGM and this has been used to purchase “*Spirit of Denise*” named in memory of a young relation who died recently.

The Broads Authority Sustainable Development Fund sponsored the other two new boats taking the Funds contribution to three boats. The latest additions carry the names “*Bishybarnybee*” and “*Whirlygig*”

Late last year the members of the Broads Authority Sustainable Development Fund visited the WOBYC on a very wet Tuesday but our sailing members were out on the water as the rain came down in torrents. Soon after the visit we were invited to apply for a grant and the Fund agreed to meet the cost of the two new dinghies and to pay for our new Life Jackets and sailing suits.

With a fleet of 12 access dinghies we hope to arrange more races and funds have already been donated for trophies. Brian Riley, who has served on the committee for several years, has agreed to teach racing rules and tactics and to set the courses. We hope to build on our experience and if the racing is successful we could consider taking boats to other Access events using the road trailer donated by Inner Wheel.

All the new boats are sponsored.



Barrie Hunt arrived just as Sawford Marine started to unload and help rig the new boats and the picture shows Barrie (left) helping Vince Meadows line up the new arrivals. Other directors and helpers are in the background.

Steve Sawford Marine

All our Access dinghies have been supplied by Steve Sawford Marine (SSM) Limited of Kettering, Northants

Steve has been a great help to us and although many of the dinghies are being moulded outside the UK, very often in Asia, our three new boats were built in Loddington as there was a delay in deliveries. While he was in Oulton Broad Steve carried out some minor repairs to some of the existing boats and advised on small modifications to improve the seating arrangements in some dinghies.

Steve Sawford Marine is a small family company that has been entrusted with the UK manufacture

and supply of the Access range of dinghies by the owner of the design Chris Mitchell.

Steve and his company set up and developed the *Access Association (ACA/UK)* and continue to support the Association through its sales of Access dinghies.

We talked to Steve when he visited Oulton Broad and he told us that he produces around 50 Access dinghies each year and so far over 300 have been sold. The Access class has become one of the fastest growing classes in the UK mainly due to the involvement of RIBI (Rotary in the UK).

With its unique launching and wheelchair users transfer systems, and its ease of use the boats enable all those who can sit to sail and compete on equal terms with all other sailors.



Steve Sawford mixes the colours and makes small repairs to some of the original fleet.

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Getting to know you.

This new feature is our way of introducing new and existing members to those who help to keep Waveney Sailability running and expanding. In each edition we will include the picture of several helpers together with a brief account of their background.

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Tamsin was born in Plymouth and being in a seaside town soon became interested in boats, she started sailing when she was 8 and has continued to increase her skills over the last 15 years.

She came to East Anglia when she became a student at the UEA studying for a history degree. She now lives in Norwich with her partner Phillip and sails with him at WOBYC and the Great Yarmouth Sailing Club. Tamsin became a senior RYA dinghy instructor in 2007; she is also an advanced instructor and a powerboat instructor. Working as a temporary communications assistant for the Norfolk Constabulary she applied to become a trainee Police Officer and recently received confirmation that she has been accepted.

Tamsin will continue to work with us and we wish her well in her new career.

Rotary National President Calls

On Thursday 7th August the National President of Rotary, Ian Thomson, visited Waveney Sailability and met the Directors and some of the sailing members. Although Thursday is not our usual sailing day the District Governor of Rotary Peter Harris wanted to show local Rotary clubs working in the community and asked us if we could arrange a visit. In view of the success of the Club the directors agreed to host the event and

Nanna Lay, the Junior Vice President of the Rotary Club

of Lowestoft East Point, provided an excellent buffet lunch. The National President and the District Governor who were welcomed to the WOBYC by the Commodore were taken for a sail in an Access 303 before visiting the storage compound to see the site for the new boatshed.



Rotary President enjoys a drink with sailing members, David Brooke and John Goodwin.

Asda offer financial support.

Following a brief discussion with the manager of the local Asda store I was able to persuade him to visit us to see the members using our Access dinghies. As a sailor and a sailing instructor Dave Lennox was interested in the boats and arrived at the WOBYC on the day the Rotary President's party were our guests.

Not surprisingly he was impressed by the standard of sailing and the Access dinghies, had he not been returning to work he would have taken a sail to see just how versatile the boats can be. As Dave was aware of the need to get our boatshed completed he was particularly interested in how the Charity fund at the local store could help the project.

I have to admit that while I was hoping to get some indication of the level of support that Asda could give the project I did not expect Dave and his colleague to hand over a cheque for £1,000 **and** to promise a further £1,000 when the boatshed is complete and the unisex disabled toilet facility is installed.

This latest donation and others from the Suffolk Foundation the

Adnams Charity and the Geoffrey Watling Charity, have made a real difference. I have been able to recommend a start on the project and at the back of the storage area the base is ready for the construction stage to begin. Editor.



The Asda cheque is presented to Kevin.

Out of the Ground

As mentioned in the previous story our plans for the new Rotary Boatshed have moved forward thanks to the generous support of local companies, charities, individuals and Rotary Clubs. In early August work commenced on the concrete base and despite some small problems with vandalism the concrete base has been completed. The materials for the shed are on order and work is expected to start in mid September with the building being ready for winter storage by late Autumn.



The base is laid by Ley Plant.

The building will be constructed in wood to match the adjacent boatshed used by the Rowing Club and will have a tile roof.

Maintenance facilities and adequate hanging and drying space for sailing gear and life jackets will be included in the new building.

Getting ready to race

There is news of some success by members during the recent Oulton Week events organised by the WOBYC. We have received reports that some of our members were involved in the racing on at least two of the days of the regatta and were able to put up a good show with money prizes being received. Well done to all those who represented Waveney Sailability and proved that our club and the Access dinghies are a force to be recognised at Oulton Broad.

As we want to develop more competitions at the weekly sailing sessions this edition comes with a pull out and keep guide to the "Points of Sailing" an essential reference paper if you want to compete in yacht racing. We have also included a copy of the Yachtsman's Fer Netic Alphabet. As Kevin claims that he has already committed the details to memory you may want to test him out the next time you are sailing at WOBYC!!!

Riding the High Seas – Keeping you safe !

One of our regular helpers – Jackie Soards has reported on her attendance at the RYA powerboat course.

It all started at the Royal Norfolk and Suffolk Yacht Club on Thursday 6th July 2008 a bright and breezy day that would involve theory and practical instruction. Jackie was accompanied by Hilary and Keith and after instruction in the training room the group was soon out on the open sea. Jackie had started the day wondering "what to wear" but once at sea she says "it was more like riding a horse than sitting in a boat. Sitting, that was my first mistake! we had been warned to keep the weight on our feet and hold tight" As the course instructor David Schonhut was driving and needed to show his students how to get over the harbour bar he opened up the two

huge 60hp Yamaha 2 stroke engines.

Even though Jackie says she was jarred from "top to bottom" or from bottom to top, to be more precise" she was able to have a go at the wheel and perfect her skills.

After a long hard day when the salad lunch on the terrace had to be weighted down to stop it blowing away Jackie was still keen to complete the course and returned again on the Friday when the weather was more gentle.

The second day included some radio work before Jackie "took us out to sea again, we followed the course we had set and then had great fun going round in circles at speed trying to avoid cavitation, the boat whizzing around almost on its side at times" The trainees had to practice recovering a dummy from the water and were expected to be able to "manoeuvre backwards, forwards, sideways, doing whatever we were instructed to do".

After two days Jackie and the other trainees have that vital piece of paper that tells them and our sailors that if there is a problem we have the right people with the appropriate skills to make sure that we can deal quickly and efficiently with the situation.

Adrian Hood, who has developed a keen interest in swimming, especially as part of a sail in the Access 2.3, can go out onto Oulton Broad with the certain knowledge that our safety boat drivers can get him out of the water if he decides that his swim is over.

Many congratulations to Jackie Soards, Hilary Turrell and Keith Shuttleworth for their hard work on the course and at the weekly sailing sessions.

Spirit of Denise

The weather was dull but it could not dull the joy of the family of Wendy and Barrie Hunt of the Marine Safety Centre Limited when the Rev Marilyn Zipfel dedicated and blessed *Spirit of Denise*.

The new Access 303 dinghy was dedicated to the memory of Denise Baker who also enjoyed sailing although she suffered from Spina Bifida. As the new boat left the quayside at WOBYC a large group of swans gave her a fitting escort towards the dark rain laden sky over Oulton Broad.



Did the swans plan their arrival? The group, one of the largest seen at Oulton Broad, provided a dignified and appropriate escort for "Spirit of Denise".

More to come.....

On the 9th September the members of the Broads Authority Sustainable Development fund will formally hand over their latest contributions to our fleet.

[more in the next edition.](#)

Clare Weller and Alan O'Neill **film our DVD**

Clare Weller of Anglia TV has visited Waveney Sailability to interview those who make the Charity work, provide funds and enjoy a chance to enjoy the sport of sailing.

Alan has spent two full days at Oulton Broad and has visited the Broads Authority at Norwich and Adnams at Southwold. All as part of the research and filming of a promotional DVD that will soon be available for sale to members and supporters and can be used to promote our work to potential supporters. We are very lucky that Alan and Clare are giving their services free, and providing Waveney Sailability with a professionally produced DVD. Without their generous contribution we could not find funds to cover

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the cost of producing this item. More details including the cost, order form, and launch date will be given in the next edition of Newsability.



Clare Weller interviews Jackie Soards while Alan O'Neill, assisted by his daughter Emily records the event.

Vince Meadows

Vince came to Lowestoft as manager of the local Boots the Chemist in London Road North.

A keen sailor and a member of the Rotary Club of Lowestoft he visited Rutland Water as a member of the steering committee who advised on the possible formation of a Sailability centre at Oulton Broad. When the various local Rotary Clubs decided to set up Waveney Sailability to mark the centenary of Rotary International Vince continued to work on the Steering Committee and following the formation of the company and the registering of the Charity he became a director.

Born in Bristol Vince qualified as a pharmacist in 1955 after studying at the school of Pharmacy in Bristol.

He moved to Lowestoft and his home in Oulton Broad in 1977 when he became manager of the Lowestoft branch of Boots. A keen sailor in his squib "Quackers" Vince is a member of the WOBYC and the Royal Norfolk and Suffolk Yacht Club.

Vince met his wife Eileen, when she moved into a room at the family home in Bristol while she was studying at the local maternity hospital. Eileen, who is a retired nurse, and Vince have two children Ian and Sarah and four grand children, all boys.

As a member of the PCC at St Marks, Oulton Broad, Vince has given talks on the development of Waveney Sailability to various local church groups. He has also talked to other local voluntary groups.

During the recent Oulton Week Vince sailed his squib and got a real buzz from seeing a group of our members in Access Dinghies competing in some of the races.

Colin McManus

Colin became a director of Waveney Sailability in 2005 and was soon putting his grant application skills to good use.

Having been closely involved in the fund raising for the Gorleston on Sea Rotary Club bandstand project Colin had the experience to take on the post of Fund Raising director. Since we started fund raising for the new boatshed Colin has been very successful and his efforts have enabled us to start work on the new building. The Adnams Charity has just made a formal presentation of a cheque for £2,000; this was on top of £7,500 from the Geoffrey Whatling Charity and £2,000 from the Suffolk Foundation. Colin has also secured financial support from the Broads Authority Sustainable Development Fund and Suffolk Single Gateway.

With the boatshed project underway Colin is looking at new sources of financial support to help with the day-to-day operating costs.

Colin who has always been a keen sportsman was born in Norwich in 1943 was a PE teacher in Great Yarmouth until he took early retirement. A former county athlete, footballer and cricketer he is a member of the Caldecott Hall Golf Club with a handicap of 14. With a home in Bradwell Colin and his wife Margaret have a daughter – Jennifer – who is a solicitor living in Broadstairs. Charities and service clubs have always played an important part in the life of the McManus family; Margaret is a past area chairman of Ladies

Circle and is currently the Chairman of Nelsons Journey a charity that supports bereaved children.

Colin is a past president of the Rotary Club of Gorleston on Sea he is the current Club secretary, and is a former member of Round Table.

Together with other members of the Rotary Club of Gorleston on Sea Colin is a regular helper on our sailing days. He set up our display boards at Caldecott Hall Golf Club during captain's week 2007 and we received a donation of £1,410 from the Captains Charity fund.

Its your call

This is the third edition of "Newsability" and we hope to publish four copies a year in future, probably one as we get the boats ready for the start of the sailing season. Two during the sailing season, and a final edition to review the sailing successes of our members and give details of any winter events including the Christmas party.

Please tell us what you would like to see in future editions or send us your comments on the way Waveney Sailability is developing, operating or functions during our Tuesday sailing sessions.

I would like to run a "Letters to the editor" section starting with the Autumn edition so please get busy on your keyboards and send contributions to:

collinsdw.gunton@btinternet.com

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