

The end of another successful season



Our precious assets go into winter storage in the new Rotary Boathouse, all under one roof despite the additions during the year.



WITH 12 Access dinghies and their launching trolleys, two safety boats and their trailers, our new gear truck, a large quantity of sailing suits and life jackets we could not be sure that it would all fit into the new building. However we had a least 12 different opinions on how we could get what looked like a quart into the proverbial pint pot.

New storage racks for the dinghies gave us more space than in 2008 as we were able to stack them 3 high. However we also had to find space for the new safety dory and its trailer while leaving access to the two engines in order that we can have them serviced before the start of the 2010 sailing season.

We managed to get the dory and its trailer into the boathouse but we still had 12 launching trolleys 12 dagger boards and the truck to fit into the limited space available. Many suggestions were put forward and the truck was the only remaining item. It needed to be stored under cover and at one point it seemed it would have to be taken away from Oulton Broad and stored in a garage or shed.

As we were on the point of accepting defeat various tools were brought into use and with the clothes rail and sides removed the two pieces of this important asset were safely under cover and the doors would close. After a final check to make sure that all the volunteers had managed to get out from behind the boats and equipment we were able to close and lock the doors.

The boathouse is well insulated and provides secure and dry storage for all our assets. The large picture shows the team offering advice on the logistical problems that we faced as we reached the end of the

stack of items that need to go into covered storage ready for winter. The smaller picture - top right - shows just how much ingenuity was needed to complete the task. As usual we had plenty of helpers for the final day of activity for 2009.

With the end of the 2009 sailing season we have an opportunity to reflect on our achievements. Membership has expanded to 100 with 61 individual members and 39 corporate places for groups and organisations that bring a set number of sailors to each sailing session. Over the 24 weeks of sailing we managed 1045 individual sailing sessions, an average of 44 per week.

There were many high points during 2009 and it is difficult to pick one event that stands out from all the others. However the opening of the Rotary Boathouse by Geoff Holt, who has made such a large contribution to the development of RYA Sailability, is a day we will never forget. The boathouse was our most ambitious and most expensive project to date. The final cost was just over £23,000 but if the time and materials given with out charge is taken into account the total would be closer to £40,000.

The generosity of local and national companies has given us a superb building that will provide excellent storage conditions for many years to come. We have a 50 year lease on the site and although we will write off the cost over the period of the lease the building will last much longer.

During the WOBYC Oulton Week 2009 we managed to get more of our members onto the water and it was good to take part in the prize giving when the Club Commodore Phil Plant welcomed us to the Clubhouse and made us all feel part of the Oulton Broad sailing scene. More recognition came later when we were

invited to take part in the 150th year celebrations of the Royal Norfolk & Suffolk Yacht Club.

Our members sailed Access dinghies on Lake Lothing when a large variety of craft took part in a "sail past" as Sir Timothy Colman took the salute. This was followed by the visit to the RN&SYC of HRH The Princess Royal when she spent a day in the town. Chairman Richard was presented to The Princess and in turn introduced her to Chris Addison and Steve Simms.

During the year we improved some of our boats by modifying the seating arrangements and making the hammock seats more user friendly. With the help of Asda we were able to add electronic controls to one of the Access 303's.

Our friends and regular supporters, the Rotary Club of Southwold & District made another generous contribution by the provision of a second safety boat. The Club had provided caravan holidays to needy families for many years but it was becoming increasingly difficult to fill the van for every week of the season.

Having agreed to sell the caravan the Club wanted to use the proceeds to help the local community and approached us. With their sponsorship we were able to purchase a new Rigiflex Dory complete with Yamaha engine and launching trolley. Named after a Southwold lifeboat *Alfred Corry II* was soon in use providing safety cover on sailing days and avoiding the need to hire in craft to support our safety RIB.

New life jackets with increased buoyancy were sponsored by Mrs Kate Moore the widow of a life long friend of our treasurer and editor David Collins.

[More on page 2](#)

The end of another successful season (cont from page 1)

As usual we managed to operate without any paid help due to the wonderful band of supporters who are always on hand to make a success of all that we do. We don't always get it 100% right but please remember we are all volunteers and give up many, many hours of our time to keep Waveney Sailability operating.

One similar centre, not too far away, has to pay for many of its instructors, and need to raise around £75,000 each year to cover the cost. Clearly such costs are well out of our reach.

There were many more notable events in 2009 and we could fill this edition with the details. However we have reported on many of them in earlier editions. If you helped us in 2009 we are extremely grateful and hope to see you again in 2010.

Christmas Party



AS USUAL the annual Christmas Party was held at St Marks Church Hall and as the picture shows the event was very well supported.

It was an extremely cold evening but inside those who were able to attend enjoyed an excellent evening of fun, food, wine and entertainment. The evening was an opportunity to present some sailing trophies and certificates of achievement to our sailors.

We engaged a "close up magician" who entertained us as we enjoyed a splendid meal and a glass of wine or fruit juice.



How did George Killaspy do that, its Magic !

It was a sad occasion for us as one of our founding Trustees, Kevin Taylor had decided to retire. Chairman Richard Morling thanked him for his enormous contribution to the Charity and presented Kevin with a bottle of wine for him to enjoy as he settles into a period of increased leisure (see page 4 for the Chairman's comments on the retirement).

In addition to the semi professional magician there was some home grown entertainment from Pat Peters and a group of members and as usual Bob McCartney and his band of sing-

ers with excellent accompaniment ,were on hand with a wide selection of sea shanties.

Pat and her team had written a special "Sailability Song" sung to the tune of Tit Willow (G&S "Mikado"). Pat invites you to add or change some of the verses if you can think of more suitable words that sum up our activities or highlights of the year.

The raffle was a success and raised some funds ready for the next sailing season.

As the following pictures show we had a good series of races as well as taking part in Oulton Week. Full details of the results are shown on page 3 but we congratulate all those who received awards and certificates during the evening.



We are grateful to Jenny Riley who presented the prizes and achievement certificates and to those who provided the sailing trophies. The trophy winners received a special coaster designed for us by Lowestoft Porcelain and showing an Access 303 on the front and the year of their success on the back. We hope to continue this arrangement in future years and the 2010 series will start early in the next sailing season. Talk to any of our instructors if you would like to take part. In the spring edition of *Newsability* our senior instructor Bryan Riley will be starting a series on "Sailing an Access Dinghy Quickly" and he is always willing to take you out for some "on the job" advice - just ask.

Obituary

Joe Smith

WE ARE sorry to have to report the death of Joe Smith who died in hospital after his courageous fight with cancer.

Joe will be missed by us all and we send our deepest condolences to his widow Joyce and to all his family. We were delighted to see Joyce at the Christmas party as she said "Joe would have expected her to be there".

The funeral is at the Gorleston Crematorium on Wednesday 30th January 2010 at 2.00 pm.

Rotary walks for Waveney Sailability.

THE ROTARY Club of Great Yarmouth hold a Charity Spring Walk each year to aid various charities.

This year the walk, on Sunday 16th May, will be around Acle with a choice of three walks - 5 miles, 7 miles, or 10 miles. We are delighted to learn that the Club has agreed that Waveney Sailability will be included in the list of favoured charities. With several of our members coming from the Great Yarmouth area this is a most encouraging development and we hope the day will be a great success. Full details will be available in February; if you would like to take part and raise funds for Waveney Sailability Richard Morling, who has enjoyed this walk over a number of years will be able to help.

Rules and Regulations, Compliance, Complaints Procedures, Health and Safety, Insurance, Risk Assessments, Safety Audits, and more!!!

EVEN in the five years that we have been operating the amount of legislation, rules and regulations seem to have multiplied.

There are more and more regulations that Sailability centres must follow and Waveney Sailability cannot escape from this ever increasing tide. Compliance is the buzz word that has invaded industry, the professions and the voluntary sector like a plague. However like all those who are affected by this tide of rules and regulations we have to live in the world as it is, and not as we would like it to be. The Trustees of Waveney Sailability have a statutory duty to comply with all the relevant regulations and to act in a responsible manner. They cannot and will not take any actions or knowingly allow any breach of the regulations., and they will do their utmost to meet all the requirements of our insurers.

For the coming sailing season we will be asking for more information from those who apply for membership. Some is needed in order that we can make sure our sailors are using the correct life jacket or the manufacturers weight limit for each boat is not exceeded. Adherence to the weight limit is also a requirement of our insurers. Accordingly **all** members and helpers will be asked to provide their weight when applying for membership for the 2010 season. We will not be able to allow any person onto the water without a correctly completed application form signed by them or their parent or guardian.

The decision on the use of a life jacket or a dinghy will be made by our RYA Senior Instructor or an Instructor and that decision is final, albeit that individuals can appeal to the Board of Trustees by submitting the basis of the appeal in writing.

However please remember our aim is to provide sailing opportunities in a safe environment and to minimise as far as possible the risks associated with the sport of sailing. The Trustees have a duty of care and are fully aware of their responsibilities under the Charities Act and the Companies Act.

Waveney Sailability provides training for its volunteers and will comply with all appropriate legislation. The RYA have recently made Sailability groups aware that "The Governments' new Vetting and Barring Scheme will start operating in July 2010 and will be phased in over five years. Although the new scheme will have a major impact on the recruitment of people working or volunteering with children there was some misleading media coverage in September about people working with vulnerable groups.

All clubs, groups, associations and training centres that organise activities specially for children and young people under 18 and/or adults with disabilities should be aware that this scheme is likely to affect them. But it does not mean that everyone who has contact with children will need to be checked, and does not apply to private arrangements between parents. More information will be published in RYA newsletters and on the website as it becomes available. Visit www.rya.org.uk and click on Information and Advice, Child Protection"

Our volunteers are CRB checked and it now seems more checking and record keeping will become necessary. Our Annual Report and Financial Statements take up 9 sheets of A4 and only 3 cover finance; with the rest being a statement of what we do why and how . If you would like a copy they will be available as a PDF download by the end of April 2010.

Our new website is now live and will be updated regularly with news, the programme and sailing results. Check it out at www.waveneysailability.co.uk and if you have any suggestions for additional information that you feel would help our members please let us know.

World Championships come to Rutland Water.

THE BRUCE WAKE 2010 Access Class World Championships and the SKUD18 Championships are being hosted by Rutland Sailing Club from 4th to 11th June 2010.

Rutland Water, a reservoir for Anglian Water, is one of the largest man-made stretches of water in Europe and is set in some of this countries most attractive countryside. There is over 1215 hectares (3000 acres) of water and Rutland is the longest established Access sailing club in

the UK. It was a visit to Rutland that inspired a group of local Rotarians to set up Waveney Sailability.

We may not be able to compete but if there is sufficient interest we could arrange a visit during one day of the Championships please let us know and we will investigate the possibility of a coach trip.

2010 Sailing Results and Trophy Winners.

AS ALREADY reported our race training sessions are attracting more and more participants, and the weekly racing sessions are very popular.

As page 2 shows we presented trophies at the Christmas party and some members received Certificates of Achievement . The full list is:

SPRING SERIES- Rotaract Cup

- 1st place - C J Head
- 2nd place - Colin Hood
- 3rd place - Debbie Morton

SUMMER SERIES - Pegasus Yachts Trophy

- 1st place - Neil Fowler
- 2nd place - C J Head
- 3rd place - Tony Barks

AUTUMN SERIES - Lowestoft South Rotary Club Trophy

- 1st place - Steve Simms
- 2nd place - John Goodwin
- 3rd place - Tony Barks

BEST SAILOR OF THE YEAR - The East Point Trophy.

- 1st. place - Tony Barks
- 2nd place - Trevor Hammond
- 3rd place - Steve Simms.

OULTON WEEK - The Castlebay Trophy

- 1st place - Debbie Morton
- 2nd place - Tony Barks
- 3rd place - Keith Ferridge

CERTIFICATES PRESENTED

A number of our sailors received certificates for their achievements in sailing and all were related to the *Gold, Silver and Bronze* assessment scheme that we operated during the 2009 sailing season.

Congratulations to the following:

Tony Barks, Rod Cole, Keith Ferridge, C J Head, Adrian Hood, Bob McCartney, Pat Morling, Debbie Morton, John Page, Allen Pettit, Isobel Sait, Steve Simms, Betty Tipper, David G Wright, David J Wright, Trevor Hammond, Andrew Webber, Marcelle Speller, Jim Smith and group member James Heier.

We are also grateful to Joe Bell of the OBWSC who assessed some of our volunteer safety boat drivers free of charge and the following were presented with a Power Boat 1&2 certificate:

Tony Robinson, Chris Addison, Malcolm Brown, John Townsend, John Buckenham and Kevin Taylor.

Many thanks to all those who took part, made it happen and gave their time to help us improve our service.

A great year for Photographs

2009 WAS A YEAR of great photographic opportunities and I like to think I have made the best of it on each occasion. However like most photographers I often think a different view or different composition could have improved the shot.

I haven't counted, but my guess would be in excess of 700 shots taken but then pruned down to perhaps 300. If I was asked to pick one shot that I felt summed up the year it would be the one opposite. Not because the light was perfect, it was difficult, or the shooting point was ideal, it would have been better with the clubhouse in the background.

However the shot shows that a small group of determined individuals supported by a dedicated team of volunteers can achieve much if they work together. I get a lot of satisfaction from photography, a hobby for almost 60 years, and the pictures I take for Waveney Sailability are some of my favourites after, of course, shots of my four grand children.

If you would like copies of any that appear in Newsability or that you think I may have on file please ask. I can get good quality prints from 4 x 6 up to 16 x 18, starting at 12p and 12 x 18 is only £3.50 or if you want a poster 20 x 30 the cost is £15.50.

I would like to start a photographic competition in 2010 and professional photographer Alan O'Neill, who produced our DVD *The Right to Sail*, has agreed to be the judge. The best shots over a period will appear in *Newsability* and the best shot of the season will receive a mounted and framed 12 x 10, or similar, copy of their photograph. **Ed.**

Important date

The Annual General Meeting of Waveney Sailability will be held at St Marks Church Hall, Bridge Road, Oulton Broad, Lowestoft on Monday 22nd March 2010 commencing at 7.00 pm.

Please put the date in your diary and we look forward to seeing you. Details of the new membership application forms and the reason for the changes will be explained.

New committee

THE TRUSTEES have agreed to introduce a new committee structure that will, over time, see more members involved in the day to day running of the Charity.

The new structure will be three committees working under the board of Trustees. The committees will be; Social - Boats Maintenance & Operations, - and Finance. If you would like to serve on a committee please contact me at waveney_sailability3@gmail.com or 01502 564658.

Kevin Retires.

AFTER 5 busy years our company secretary Kevin Taylor has decided its time to retire although he will continue to help on technical issues and at some sailing sessions.

Kevin was part of the team that visited Rutland Sailability in 2004 to see a Sailability centre in operation. Following that



Access meets cruiser during Oulton Week 2009



visit Kevin joined the steering group that took the project forward and when the company was formed he joined the board and became a director and the Company secretary.

Chairman Richard Morling presented Kevin with a gift to mark his retirement and looking back at his contribution to Waveney Sailability Richard sent us the following :

Kevin Taylor

We were very sorry to hear from Kevin that he wished to resign as Director, Trustee and secretary of Waveney Sailability with effect from 31st December 2009, to enable him to devote more time to his family. He had taken on these positions when we started, for a period of five years, and that time is now up. How time flies!!

Kevin has been the backbone of Sailability during this time, and has guided us through the growing pains, always being there when we had a problem either large or small. If something had to be done, we would often find that Kevin had already taken care of it. He brought to the setting up of Sailability his expertise as a boat builder, which to many of us non-sailors has been invaluable. His understanding of the practical needs has enable us to move forward steadily through the years.

He has understood what has been required by way of our boats, safety boats, life jackets, and other capital equipment. As secretary he has dealt with Waveney District Council on many occasions, first with acquiring the lease for the

compound to store our boats, and then the protracted negotiations in gaining permission to build our boathouse. He then did all the negotiations with builders, suppliers and sponsors to enable us to have this wonderful storage facility for our boats and equipment.

He is leaving us at a time when most of the initial hard work has been done, as we are now looking forward to some consolidation. It does not mean that Kevin will not be missed, he will, although he has offered to continue to give us any technical support that is required. At his suggestion, we have set up a number of committees to run the club; so if you feel able to help on any of these, please see details elsewhere in Newsability. I believe as we go forward, we shall find many jobs that need to be done, we did not have to think about them as Kevin was always there to make sure that nothing was forgotten.

Thank You Kevin for everything that you have done in making Waveney Sailability a facility to be proud of.

Richard Morling
Chairman

Geoff Holt crosses the Atlantic.

CONGRATULATIONS to Geoff Holt who completed his epic Atlantic crossing just before we went to press.

If you want to read all about the journey of this courageous sailor who opened our new Rotary Boathouse last May try www.geoffholt.com. Geoff arrived in Tortola on Thursday 7th January 2010 and the completion of the trip in *Impossible Dream* was reported on BBC radio and TV.

There were also reports by the media from Australia to Russia, USA, Japan, Turkey, the Phillipines and many more. The Blog has some film of the journey including interviews with Geoff who was to end the journey on the very island where he had the accident that left him to face the rest of his life as a quadriplegic.

There must a book to follow this fantastic achievement, his first book *Walking on Water* is still available and is an inspirational read.

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Stop Press

We are pleased to report the appointment of Sally Green as a Director/Trustee.

Sally has made a major contribution to the work of the Charity particularly as booking secretary and as we change our systems her role will become even more important.

Congratulations Sally.