



EAST NEWS

WINDFARM GO AHEAD

Britain's biggest windfarm to date has been given the official go-ahead by the government. Energy giant Powergen will start work on constructing the 30-
pylon windfarm on the Scroby Sands, two miles offshore from the Norfolk village of Caister, near great Yarmouth, in September.

The work will take until the autumn of 2004 and the thirty 60 metre high turbines will supply intermittent energy for up to 41,000 homes. Powergen has an option to add another eight turbines to the site on completion. Two other similar sized wind-farms are planned, four miles off Cromer, on the North Norfolk coast and three miles off Clacton, Essex on the Gunfleet Sands.

Altogether a further 16 wind-farms are planned for the seas round Britain, and the Crown Estates, which nominally owns the seabed around our coasts is calling for suggestions for sites for a second tranche of wind-farms – possibly further out to sea.

Following government support for renewable energy generation by wind and wave power a further £60M has been made available in grant aid for such projects. The growth of windfarms in this country comes at a time when the Danes, long pioneers of the technology are decommissioning sites as uneconomical.

Commenting on the announcement, RYA Eastern Region vice-Chairman and Environmental Co-ordinator, Chris Edwards said: "Regrettably, unlike the other planned wind farms in the area, Cromer and Gunfleet Sands,



***EASTERN
REGION***

***SUPPORTING
THE SAILORS
OF
TOMORROW***

WATCH OUT FOR THESE NEW DECALS THAT SHOW RYA EASTERN REGION'S COMMITMENT TO TRAINING TOMORROW'S SAILORS. THEY WILL BE CARRIED ON THE HIRE FLEET BOATS AND TRAILERS.

we have not been given the opportunity to study the details of this site and make representations.

"The reported tower height of only 60 metres gives us serious concern. At that tower height the clearance between the rotor tip and the sea will not be sufficient to clear the mast of the average yacht. Any yacht getting into difficulties and being driven into the farm array would almost certainly collide with a blade tip and lose its mast.

"As sailors we are not against this, or any other offshore wind farm, but we do have real concerns about navigational safety for leisure craft, particularly yachts. We are working hard to ensure our views are fully understood by both the developer and government departments."

(In the next issue of RYA EAST NEWS, Regional Environmental Co-ordinator, Chris Edwards writes about progress on monitoring these potentially hazardous developments).

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BEWARE SNOOPERS

The Maritime and Coastguard Agency (MCA) wants to listen in on our telephone calls, intercept our emails and have access to our itemised telephone bills. MCA is just the latest government agency to jump on the snooping bandwagon and in this case claims it needs to monitor the calls of boating folk to protect public safety and detect crime afloat.

The "Access to communications data – respecting privacy and protecting the public from crime" is a consultation document recently launched by the Home Secretary.

The paper is supposed to be stimulating public debate on public authorities – mainly bodies such as district councils, the police and county authorities – being included in the provisions of the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000. Bodies such as the MCA have jumped on the bandwagon.

MCA claims that it needs the legal authority to snoop – it says only under very controlled circumstances – so that selected officers have the power to investigate sub-

scriber details for telephone and email accounts and itemised telephone bills. In addition, says the organisation, it needs access – for search and rescue purposes only – to the cell identification for a mobile telephone in use by a caller in difficulties.

The Coastguard already has access through the cellphone ISP's to equipment that will triangulate within a five mile 'cocked hat' an emergency call from a cell net phone. The system is slow but could be speeded up.

MCA claims it will not have authority to intercept the contents of communications.

Chief Executive Maurice Storey commented: "MCA is firmly committed to preventing loss of life at sea. We are seeking to be included in the new Order so that our emergency response and enforcement procedures are transparent, proportionate and, in accordance with best practice. We would only wish to impose on an individual where there is a clear risk to the safety of that person."

Honda RYA Youth RIB Championship

The Honda RYA Youth RIB Championship 2003, supported by Avon and Indespension Trailers, is about to kick off – the final, at this year's Southampton Boat Show will be on September 13th.

The Eastern Region heat is at Stewartby Water Sports Club, Bedfordshire on July 12.

This year's competition looks to be full of action as clubs battle it out for the top prize of an Avon 450 RIB fitted with a Honda 40hp 4-stroke outboard on an Indespension trailer.

The Championship follows the same format as last year in which youngsters firstly compete within their club for the chance to go through to the regional final, with the regional winners progressing to the national final.

Competitors are split into two age ranges: 8-12 and 13-16 in which they have to beat the clock completing individual time trials

with boat handling skill drills.

The RYA's event director, Andrew Norton, said: "It is great to see kids all over the country competing in the RIBs and this year we've had an unprecedented number of entries already.

"There are some very talented youngsters out there and this gives them a chance to show us what they can do.

"For kids between the ages of eight and sixteen this is the perfect time for them to be introduced to powerboating.

"The Honda RYA Youth RIB Championship provides them with a safe, well structured competition for them to hone their skills.

"Although it's a competition it's open to everyone in the clubs within the age groups. Even kids who have not tried powerboating take part and have fun."

FREE STRING

RYA Development Squad sailors are to receive a year's worth of free rope from Marlow Ropes.

Among them paralympic sailor and previous Young Sailor of the Year winner Hannah Stodel (17, Essex) who signed contracts at this year's RYA Sailboat and Windsurf Show at Alexander Palace.

She was one of a number nominated by the RYA for their encouraging performance at the International Federation for Disabled Sailing World Championships 2002, where she finished ninth. She hopes to go to the World Championships in Athens this September and to be selected to compete at the 2004 Paralympics.

COMMUNITY AWARDS UPDATE

As we reported in the last issue of RYA EAST NEWS, Community Awards nominations are again being invited for this year. To remind you, RYA Chief Executive Rod Carr should receive nominations for the RYA Community Awards 2003 by Friday, May 30th. Personal members, clubs, classes, regions, training centres and coaches can send in nominations.

An award can be made for a single outstanding achievement, act of bravery or good sportsmanship or to someone who is considered to have significantly contributed to the sport.

This year's winners and guests will be invited to a special lunch and presentation ceremony being held prior to the Association's AGM in London, in October.

Application forms can be downloaded from the RYA website. For further information call Ann Chewins on 023 8062 7421.

The East Coast's latest boat show, the Norfolk Boat and Marine Equipment Show is at Norwich Sports Village on May 3, 4 and 5. Contact County Exhibitions on 01493 600192..

BLACKWATER NAUGHTIES

One Sunday lunchtime at the end of February, Thames Coastguard was inundated with 999 emergency calls reporting the sighting of several red distress flares in the Lawling Creek, Maylandsea (Blackwater estuary) area.

A search of the creeks and marshes by coastguards and West Mersea lifeboat showed the flares were being fired from a bonfire party, close ashore.

An irate Coastguard spokesman said: "We will continue to prosecute offenders in the future if they misuse this distress alerting procedure. Firing a distress flare when you are not in distress is no different from making a hoax 999 call".

Time-expired distress flares, which degrade with age and can become dangerous, can be delivered to your nearest Coastguard station, who will arrange for safe disposal.

Recently the MRCA successfully prosecuted Medway yachtsman Harold Smith for illegally firing-off redundant flares.

MOBILE LIFESAVER

A man out walking his dog along the riverside at Brandy Hole Yacht Club, on the River Crouch, shows the hidden dangers of enjoying our muddy, wild and empty East Coast coastline.

Bradwell Coastguard, with units from Essex Fire and Rescue Service, both Burnham lifeboats, the Essex air ambulance and a rescue helicopter from RAF Wattisham, were all involved in rescuing him when he got trapped in the mud on a rising tide while in turn trying to rescue his dog.

He was only saved because he carried a mobile telephone, otherwise, as there was no one else around, he would either have died of cold or drowned. (The dog, which had chased a wading bird, eventually got itself out!).

LOVE NEST

Edward the Eighth is reputed to have enjoyed Wallace Simpson's charms on the Norfolk Broads in a 65-foot motor cruiser called the Doris. Originally built at

Brookes in 1931 she was reputed to be the most luxurious yacht on the Broads and was owned by Charlie Chaplain and George Formby. Now latest owner Richard Orme has started a five-year restoration of the grand old lady.

CHART CORRECTIONS

Chart 1183 ENGLAND, East Coast, Approaches to Thames Estuary; North Foreland Eastwards
Depths; traffic separation scheme; submarine cables; wrecks; sand-waves; source data; legend: *Insert* block A, showing depths, traffic separation scheme, submarine cables and wrecks, centered on: (a) 51°24'4N, 1°51'7E.
Insert block B, showing amendments to Source Data, centered on: 51°24'0N, 0°36'0E.
Substitute the accompanying note, SANDWAVES, for existing note, centered on: 51°49'3N, 0°48'2E.
Delete legend, Continued in Inset in S. border at longitude 1°30'E.
[Blocks are available on the UKHO website <http://www.ukho.gov.uk/>]

Chart BA 1607 ENGLAND, East Coast. Thames Estuary. Fishermen's Gat and Black Deep. Inner Fisherman port-hand light-buoy, 51°36'1N, 001°19'9E, changed to Q.R.
Black Deep number 10 light-buoy, 51°34'7N, 001°15'6E, changed to Fl(3)R.10s.

NEW BUOYS FOR TREACHEROUS BAR

New marks have been laid off the notorious River Deben entrance following a Trinity House survey on 24 January 2003. It showed that the old marked channel had shoaled considerably and was drying at low water, while a new deeper and wider channel was emerging to the East.

The changes to the buoys are as follows: -

- The Woodbridge Bar buoy has been moved 965 metres to posi-

tion latitude 51°58'87N, longitude 01°23'50E and has been renamed **Mid Knolls**.

- The Martello Spit buoy is moved 635 metres to position latitude 51°58'70N, longitude 01°23'72E and renamed **East Knolls**.

- The Woodbridge Haven buoy has been moved 860 metres to position latitude 51°58'54N, longitude 01°24'25E and remains **Woodbridge Haven**.

If in doubt give Felixstowe Ferry Harbour Master and pilot John White a call on 01394 270106 or 07803 476621, or by VHF on Channel 8 (call sign 'Odd Times').

Thanks to Woodbridge Cruising Club which has further information on the state of the bar. The southern entrance now dries at low water and there is only 0.6m at low water in the new more easterly entrance that has been buoyed. The club also warns that there is a drying patch smack in the middle. On the club website (<http://www.woodbridgecruisingclub.co.uk/NoticeBoard.html>) you'll find some recent photographs and suggested waypoints and track bearing for entering.

DISABLED TRAINING

A Sailability awareness training course was held at the Levington base of E.A.S.T. on April 5 and 6. The course was an opportunity for sailing people to find out more about different types of disablement and how to work with them. The aim was to remove the fear barrier of working with disabled people and increase their confidence in disabled people's abilities.

An advanced course is being held at UKSA on **June 22 and 23** for people who want to go on and become awareness trainers themselves.

NEW HPMs

Simon Wergan is the new RYA Youth Squads Manager and **Duncan Truswell** is the new National Junior Squads Manager.

Both are promotions, Simon from Southern Zone HPM and Duncan from the South West. A new HPM will be appointed to cover the combined South and South West Zones. **Colin Murray** is now responsible for the East and South East Zones.

Bedford Rotary Supports Sailability

Bedford Rotary Club recently donated £2,000 to Grafham Water Sailability, towards completion of a new slipway and jetty that will also incorporate a hoist to assist sailors in and out of the two Access dinghies that have also been donated to the club. Last year the Rotary Club donated an Access dinghy to GWS.

This year's donation was raised from a concert staged by Bedford Rotary and organised by Jim Hibbert, Commodore of Grafham Water SC. Jim is a keen musician who has worked with the East Beds Concert Band for the last 30 years. He has inspired and encouraged many young people to become good musicians in his role as conductor of the band and each year organises an annual concert supporting Bedford Rotary Club.

He asked that the proceeds from the band's 30th anniversary Rotarian concert should be donated to Grafham Water Sailability.

This summer children from Ridgeway School, Bedford and Isebrook School, Kettering



Marcia Carpenter holding the cheque for £2,000, with Jim Hibbert, Commodore GWSC and Bob Panton of Bedford Rotary Club

will be encouraged to discover the wonderful sport of sailing, using the Access dinghies.

Details of Grafham Water Sailability from Marcia Carpenter on 01480 468821 or Judi Figgures 01480 434011.

NEW VIDEO SHOWS HOW

A new training video, *Better Sailing* has been launched by RYA. It is the second in the series of innovative new training videos that reflect the changing face of sailing in the UK.

Better Sailing follows on from the first video *Start Sailing*, but focuses on more advanced sailing techniques. Covering spin-nakers, racing and performance sailing, Olympic gold medallist Shirley Robertson MBE and Olympic coach Rob Andrews help a couple take their sailing skills up a level.

They complement the publications, *Start Sailing – Beginners Handbook (G3)* and *Dinghy Sailing – Advanced Handbook (G12)* and will enable those learning how to sail to combine the formats that suit them best.

DIFFABILITY NOT DISABILITY

says campaigner

Julia Peel is a 29-years-old Cambridge stroke victim who has set herself the challenge of sailing round Britain with four other disabled people increasing awareness of what disabled people can achieve, as a European Year of the Disabled project.

She caught the sailing bug following a week spent on a tall ship and another when she went to Gosport to get her competent crew qualification. This summer she expects to broaden her sailing experience with Northampton Sailability Group.

Another of her aims is to change the word disability to diffability. "Changing the word to diffability gives a whole new concept and is much more positive, suggesting people with disabilities just have a different way of doing things, for example, communicating or getting around.

"What I am proposing is to sail around the UK promoting diffability and stroke awareness (and disabilities in general) with four other people with disabilities and a skipper.

"I also want to stop at various ports throughout the UK and see how accessible they are for people with disabilities," she explained.

Julia, who has already appeared on GMTV and Anglia TV and debated disability issues on BBC Radio Scotland, Leeds and Cambridge, in two national newspapers and two national magazines, wants to publish the findings of her port disability facilities in a booklet.

Details of the project are on the Sailability website and Julia herself can be contacted on 01223 305848 or via email: julia-peel@camcourt.fsnet.co.uk .



CALLING ALL WINDSURFERS

There will be a Windsurf Level 1 (inland) instructors training at Alton Water on the May 26. If tidal endorsements are required please contact Stu Meese or else the event centre direct.



The new team15 season starts soon with dates for the events below.

May
17th T15 Event 1, Whitecap
Leisure, Willen Lake

June
7th T15 Event 2, Stanborough
Park

July
5th T15 Event 3, Alton Water

September
6th T15 Event 4, Wentworth
Action Sports

Check out the website www.team15.org.uk for Notice of Race, reports and results. With the new sponsors 'onboard' the teams will be the coolest dressed windsurfers on the water with team coloured vests sporting their number and sponsors logos.

A generous donation by the Eastern Region committee of the outdated windsurf fleets to needy T15 clubs, will mean we have FOUR sets of FIVE boards to give to any T15 club experiencing equipment hardships.

Applications should be made by T15 coaches, including their 2002 season T15 report to Stu Meese before the end of April.

Contact: Stu Meese, or Gillian Horne, RYA Windsurfing on 023 8062 7400 or email gillian.horne@rya.org.uk and check out the website www.team15.org.uk

By Stu Meese, Regional Windsurfing Coach

Eastern Zone Junior Windsurfing Squad

With the new entry requirements and equipment classes the competition will be stronger this year. Many of the older members of the team are adjusting to sailing the larger U17 board, the IMCO, and the younger ones are moving up to the U15 board, the ALOHA.

Indicator series for those looking to make the squad this year are T15 events ONE and FOUR and the Zone Championships on June 28 and 29.

Contact Regional Windsurfing Coach, Stu Meese on 01206 230118 or Colin Murray, High Performance Manager for the East on 07909994642 colin.murray@rya.org.uk

If you are returning from last year's winter break then you already know about team15 and what it can do for your sailing and social life but for those who are new to the scene hopefully this will give you some of the answers

Team 15 is about getting out windsurfing, having fun and possibly getting to travel around the zone showing other teams who's the best.

There are 4 inter-club events around the zone this year
17 May at Willen Lake;
7 June at Stanborough Park;
12 July at Alton Water;
6 September at Tallington Lakes.

Freesailors

Don't worry if you don't wish to race, the idea of team15 is to get you out on the water – having fun and getting the best out of your sailing.

Invite a friend – get them onto a beginner course and they will be able to join you whilst you show off your new skills. Let school know what you do and see if your PE dept want to join

in with an after school club

In addition your coach can also help you take part in the Zone Championships on June 28 and 29 at Grafham. It is an open invite event for the whole zone to come along. Based on the team15 equipment you can show off your skills.

RYA Youth and Masters September 28 and 29 at Weymouth is designed for all levels of sailors – a great way to do your first national event with many of your coaches there too.

If you know of any races going on or want any more info about these events email me or ask your coach for a diary page



Stu Meese

of everything racing going on.

Zone Squad

The East Zone Junior Windsurf Squad is made up of the best of the region's team15 sailors who are picked to represent their region. They benefit from 10 days training over the winter and the support of coaches who will help them along the way too success at the various competitions held around the county.

To be selected for this squad you need to attend the indicator events at Willen, Wentworth and the Zone Championships.

The RYA pays for most of the training with a small contribution from you. You get a squad fleece to keep you warm off the water, but you will need to have access (buy/hire/borrow) to a class board and sail (ask your

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RADAR REGS CHANGE

Have you got, or did you get as a Christmas present a radar set for your boat? If you did, be warned. New radio regulations will mean that after 2012 current sets are likely to be obsolete.

As of January this year, radar emission regulations were modified and tightened. Radar sets sold after the first of January 2003 should have been fitted with filters and so comply with the regulations.

So if one you bought has been sitting on the chandler's shelf for several months it may not have the new filters fitted. The changes mean the spectrum space available is narrowing and as a result certain equipment has to be refined to limit transmissions to within the decreasing parameters.

Unfortunately no one seems sure whether or not the adapted radar sets will still work with existing radio navigational aids such as RACONs and safety equipment such as SARTs and RTEs.

Introduction of new non-pulse radar technology by 2012, possibly based on solid-state amplification, may adversely

affect its compatibility with Search and Rescue Transponders (SARTs), RACONs and Radar Target Enhancers (RTEs), all of which operate throughout UK waters and worldwide.

There is considerable confusion about what is going to happen. Currently there is no statutory reason for existing equipment to become obsolete by 2012 as initially thought. As regulations currently stand, leisure boat owners do not have to update their radar equipment until 2012.

Unfortunately, this situation could still change should Government be minded to amend the regulations.

Kathryn Burnett, RYA Cruising Manager commented: "This particular case is complex with potentially far reaching implications. There are a number of issues still to be resolved, but the RYA is committed to ensure that the individual boat owner is not forgotten. This story is far from over."

Confused? Even the mandarins who dreamt up this scheme seem unable to sing from the same hymn sheet.

RYA Sealine Cruise

The RYA Sealine Motor Cruise is bigger than ever this year with up to 40 boats taking in Cherbourg, Carteret and Guernsey with an action packed itinerary running from June 29 to July 5.

The cruise is open to all vessels over 25ft, although boats below this size may be accepted on an individual basis.

Boats will spend their first night in Poole Marina on the June 29 and depart for Cherbourg next day. Boats will depart for Carteret on July 2 and spend a day and night in the marine haven, before leaving for Guernsey on July 3 for two days.

WINDSURFING NEWS

CONTINUED.....

coach) and be committed to travelling around the region to training and events.

2002 Round up

The first full interclub series event was huge, with over 77 sailors taking part. The racing was fun and the weather kind on the most part. Check out the pictures reports and results on the team 15 website

Website

Don't forget you can chat online now to your sailing buddies at www.team15.org.uk which has a message board.

See who's featured in the cool sections and check out the events you went to with the reports and results going live before everybody else gets them.

Race Vests

team15 interclub squads this year will be the coolest dudes on the water with sponsored race vests marking them out as topflight dudes.

Your team colours and your number on your vest will ensure you are noticed pulling of the latest move or being first through the finish line.

CALLING ALL OPPIES

Youngsters who sail Optimist class dinghies can get a day's special coaching plus a day's racing at an Optimist coached open meeting being held at Dabchicks Sailing Club, West Mersea, on May 10 and 11.

The overall goals of this event are to encourage club level sailors to venture onto the open racing circuit and to encourage new or developing flotillas. The event is aimed at those in, or aspiring to, take part in open meetings away from their own club and to join RYA zone squads.

Entries will be limited to a maximum number of 35 boats and crews must be at least nine years old (9th birthday before 31st Dec '03), and members of the International Optimist Class Association (IOCA), have not taken part in another IOCA coached open during the season and are at IOCA grade 2 level, or should be able to sail a triangular course in up to 12 knots of wind.

For details and an application form call Paul Jackson on 01206 386874. Entries must be in by April 20th and the fee is £15.

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