

RYA EAST NEWS

SAM JOINS THE ELITE

Felixstowe sailor Sam Honour (14) winner of the Eastern Region heat of the Young Sailor of the Year Award was first up to receive his trophy from last year's Raymarine YJA Yachtsman of the Year, the new Class 1 Offshore Powerboat World Champion, Steve Curtis.

Sam was one of thirteen youngsters from all over Britain who won awards, presented at this year's London boat show.

Sam, who also received a new trolley-mounted kit bag and jacket, has Asperger Syndrome and was the only disabled sailor in the line up. A member of the Woolverstone Project he was supported by his mum Janice and dad Brian and fellow wheelchair sailor Ron Hollington and his wife Joyce.

It was a fun-packed day for the youngster, which included a photo-shoot and sailing a Pico dinghy on the indoor activity pool, a look round the Royal Navy Type-23 frigate *HMS Sutherland* as well as meeting fellow sailing champions – Sam found them easy to communicate with, something



Sam Honour (14) was a worthy winner of the Eastern Region Young Sailor of the Year Award

which sailing has helped him do with confidence. By the end of the day his parents were exhausted, but Sam was still goggle-eyed. "It's been a great day. I'll never forget it," he said.

The overall Young Sailor of the Year Award itself went to Nick Thompson (18) the youngest male sailor in the RYA Olympic Development Squad. A Laser champion he won the same award in 1999 and was recently nominated BBC South Young Sportsman of the Year.

He's expected to do well at the Beijing Olympics.

The Yachtsman of the Year award, went to the gold medal winning Olympic sailing team of Ben Ainslie (Gold in the Finn Class), Shirley Robinson, Sarah Ayton and Sarah Webb (Gold in the women's Yngling Keel-boat Class), Nick Rogers and Joe Glanfield (Silver in the 470 Class), Chris Draper and Simon Hiscocks (Bronze in the 49er Class), and Norfolk-born Nick Dempsey (Bronze in the Mistral Windsurfing Class).



Sadly we say goodbye to the Eastern Region's windsurfing guru, Stu Meese, who has resigned to take up a post in sunny Antigua. Stu was at the forefront of popularising and growing competitive windsurfing in the region.

Stu held the posts of RYA regional windsurfing coach and T-15 co-ordinator.

Stu and Annie will be much missed and we wish them well in the future.

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HONDA YOUTH RIB CHAMPIONSHIP VENUE

Paxton Lakes Sailing Club is the venue for this year's Eastern Region final of the Honda Youth RIB Championship on Saturday, July 2nd. The club is at Haul Road, Little Paxton, Huntingdon, Cambs.



DINGHY SHOW HAS SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE

The RYA Dinghy Sailing Show 2005 is bigger than ever, packed with new exhibitors, live events and activities.

Running over the weekend of the 5th and 6th March at Alexandra Palace, London, the Show is the only one of its kind in the UK and has something for everyone, from committed dinghy racers and cruisers to complete novices.

Over a hundred sailing clubs and class associations are taking part alongside chandlers, boat builders and equipment manufacturers.

The live stage area in Hall 2 hosts a packed programme starting with the 'Learning to Sail' presentation, which covers the absolute basics as well as a run down of what to see and do at the show if you are a dinghy sailing novice or first time visitor.

Other features include tricks of the trade from boat refurbishment expert Pete Vincent as he focuses on wooden boat repairs, capsizing for fun and go faster tactics. There will be tips on what to wear

and how to choose the right kit for the weather.

Competitors will battle it out in the virtual skipper finals and rounding off the day RYA Olympic Manager Stephen Park takes visitors through the ups and downs of the Olympic campaign in a behind the scenes exclusive.

In the Coaching Area racing gurus will be divulging top tips to experts and beginners covering tactics, regatta preparation, teamwork and rigging and tuning. This informal clinic will run throughout the day and give visitors the opportunity to ask the coaches specific questions.

Also in the Coaching Area, David Ritchie, National Sailing Coach, and Grahame Forshaw, Royal Navy Coach, will be running regular slots looking at the very basics of setting up modern boats for different wind strengths and conditions.

These sessions are intended for relative newcomers to the sport, or those buying a new boat.

During the show the Holt Blow Boat Challenge, GRP and wooden boat repairs, remote control racing on the model boat pool, 'label-the-rigging', jargon busting and see how fast you can get a wet suit on in Ready Wet Go!, will be going on.



CLUB CONFERENCE – WHAT'S ON

Legislation Update including the new Licensing Act and the Disability Discrimination Act, and how they affect clubs.

Results of the Dinghy Entrapment Survey

Use of safety boats.

Risk Assessment for clubs.

Sail Smart coaching days and how to enthuse volunteers.

Improve club racing and access the new Race Development Group.

Benefits of the new Race Charter.

TICKET HOT LINE 0845 345 0424

Tickets for adults are £10.00 (£9.00 in advance) and children are £5.00 (£3.50 in advance). Kids go free on Sunday and for all the latest information and advance ticket reservations visit www.dinghysailingshow.org.uk.

GOVERNMENT IGNORES CLUBS ON DRINK LAWS . . .

BOATING and sailing clubs face having to close their bars in the face of heavy-handed blanket proposals by Government to tackle alcohol related crime, disorder and public nuisance.

The Government has been accused of completely ignoring concerns, raised in the consultation on the proposed Licensing Act 2003 by sailing and yacht clubs, as well as other sports clubs, that the proposed increases to the license fee rates will have damaging effects on grassroots sports.

Edmund Whelan, RYA Legal Manager stated: "The RYA is bitterly disappointed with the

Government's lack of considered thinking when putting the new license fee regime together. We will be, along with other sports bodies, pressing the Government to reconsider its decision."

The new licensing fee regime will treat non-profit making clubs in the same manner as commercial, profit making, high street pubs and clubs by determining the fee on the basis of the non-domestic rateable value of the premises.

Rod Carr, RYA CEO said: "This approach totally ignores the fact that a club's premises is largely comprised of sailing facilities for club members, such as boat storage, jetties and sea

frontage, with no relevance to selling alcohol."

In its response to the Government consultation the RYA stated that it believed the approach was 'flawed, and would result in the small sports clubs (where little or no drink problems are recorded) subsidising the big commercial drinking establishments where the real problems arise'

The RYA supports the view of the Central Council of Physical Recreation that 'if the Government is serious about increasing participation in physical activity and achieving sporting excellence, it must stop crippling grassroots sport with extra costs and bureaucracy'.

NEWS BRIEFS



SIMON Jinks (above) is the new RYA Chief Cruising Instructor. He is replacing Penny Haire.

Simon will administer, promote and develop the RYA's training scheme for yachtsmen in both the UK and overseas. He's also responsible for raising the standards of safety training both afloat and ashore. A Yachtmaster instructor examiner, for both sail and motor boats, he's been teaching sailing in everything from dinghies to yachts for over 20 years.

Simon is also the author of a number of RYA books, his latest being the recent RYA Motor Cruising Handbook.

...BUT BACKS DOWN ON ACCIDENT REPORTING

The Government has backed down in the face of strong lobbying by yachting associations and is to review the imposition of regulations which would have forced recreational craft as small as a sailing dinghy to report incidents or accidents or face a fine of up to £5000.

The new regulations were due to come into force this May as a result of EC directives.

RYA East vice-Chairman, Chris Edwards said: "I understand from the coastguard that the policy is now under review and we can expect revised regulations to be announced in early May. In the meantime everyone should use common-sense."

The Government has admitted to gold-plating the Directive and to not properly consulting yachting or safety organisation.

The new regulations are expected to relieve vessels under 15m in length of having to file accident or incident reports.

The RYA took legal action last Autumn to obtain a judicial review of the merchant Shipping (Vessel Traffic Monitoring and reporting Requirements) Regulations 2004.

That action has been 'left on the table' to be reactivated if the government reneges, delays or attempts to take a boat owner to court for an alleged breach of the regulations.

LIFEJACKET DANGER

CREWSAVER has issued a safety notice regarding automatic lifejackets fitted with a United Moulders Mk. 3 automatic operating head and purchased before 1998.

It has been found that over time, in exceptional circumstances, the repeated over-tightening of the CO2 gas cylinder may cause wear within the moulding of the operating head. This can result in gas escaping when the jacket is inflated, which means that lifejackets fitted with this operating head as detailed above, may need a minor modification to ensure their continued safe operation.

Further information is available at www.crewsaver.co.uk/mk3 or contact Crewsaver by telephone on 02392 528621 or email sales@crewsaver.co.uk.

'**Racing Yacht Safety**' is a CD guide to essential safety information for keelboat racing owners and crew alike, ensuring that they are up to speed with the latest safety rules and regulations for racing all sizes and types of sailing boat.

The production of this CD is part of the RYA's ongoing commitment towards safety afloat and is available free of charge to race boat owners and skippers from the RYA. Email the Technical Department of the RYA at technical@rya.org.uk to obtain a copy.

GOVERNMENT MONEY FOR BOATING GREEN INITIATIVE

THE Government's countryside and environmental department DEFRA has given a grant of £402,062 spread over three years for a new joint RYA/BMF educational project, which aims to raise awareness and promote good environmental practice within coastal and inland waters by industry and boating public alike.

Called The Green Blue it proposes to tackle a huge array of issues, highlighting the dependence of boating activities on a high quality environment and commissioning research where

NEW SYMBOL WILL DENOTE GOOD PRACTICE

gaps in understanding exist.

Areas that The Green Blue proposes to cover include waste management, oil spills, cleaning and maintenance, antifouling and marine paints.

Elliot Morley, Minister for the Environment, said: "I am pleased to be supporting so many



diverse and innovative projects such as the BMF's and RYA's new initiative, The Green Blue. We recognise the value of engaging with communities and businesses at the grass roots level".

Dr. Sally Banham, Assistant Director, British Marine Federation, said: "Involving our members

and key sponsors, for whom there are exciting opportunities, will ensure industry's role in delivering sustainable development is recognised. Marinas will have an exciting role to play, as they are key locations where the boating public and the boating industry come together".

Rod Carr, RYA Chief Executive, added: "Everyone who goes boating appreciates a healthy environment.

"We all have an important role to play and we are already working on a host of exciting initiatives with the BMF"

FIRE RAVAGES FAMOUS MALDON QUAY CLUB HOUSE

WELL known East Coast watering hole, Maldon Little Ship Club suffered a major fire back in January. It appears all the club officers were attending the presentation of the RYA Communications Awards the London Boat Show when they got a call that the club was on fire!

The cause is believed to have been an electrical fault at the back of the bar.

Fortunately, there were two people in the club preparing the food for an RNLI supper that night when the fire alarm sounded. The fire damage was relatively slight but most of the damage was due to smoke and water.

Club vice-commodore Ian Jeffries said: "We were very lucky that none of our training equipment, memorabilia

or trophies were damaged. We were able to relocate the GMDSS course, which was scheduled for 9am the following day, to a local village hall.

"Almost immediately we had offers of help from other local sailing clubs to relocate our winter social events, notably Maldon Yacht Club and Blackwater Sailing Club. As a result we have been able to continue with our social events at BSC. The RYA formal courses which run on three evenings each week were re-located to a classroom at a local school and they suffered no disruption."

Cost of damage to the largely timber waterfront building is put around £50,000. A grand 'Phoenix' party is planned when the clubhouse reopens in May.

The fire is thought to have started in electrical equipment behind the bar (right) and burnt through the ceiling into the dining room above (below).



NEW BODY TO PROMOTE DEAF SAILING

DEAF Sailing UK is a new RYA recognised charity that aims to get more deaf people into sailing. Launched at the London Corinthians Sailing Club in Hammersmith last October, with Jonathan Gibbons as chairman and Andrew Buoy as secretary, Tina Lannin as treasurer, and committee members Fiona Robertson, Simon Terry, Mike Mason, Melanie Clark, Andrew Taylor and Mike Aston.

Deaf Sailing UK aims to promote sailing and other water sports by working alongside RYA Sailability. Development and training will be the main focus.

Email to news@deaf-sailing.org.uk to enroll for their newsletter. For details contact Mike Aston, PR and Events Co-ordinator on mike.aston@deafsailing.org.uk.

WINDSURFERS should enter now for the annual RYA Easter Youth Race Training Camp being held at Calshot, Southampton from the evening of Monday 28th March to Friday 1st April.

The camp is the perfect opportunity for any windsurfer under 19 years of age to receive race coaching from High Level National Coaches.

This will assist in improving all-important racing skills in time for the forthcoming season. Sailors should have some experience of competition and should be comfortable sailing unassisted on open water.

The camps are open to all sailors under 19 including Formula sailors – however they should also take a light wind alternative board.

The Calshot Easter camp costs £160 and which includes all accommodation, food, coaching, and supervision. Entry forms from Christine Burdett-Clark on christine.bclark@rya.org.uk or telephone 023 80 604 197.

DINGHY sailors and coaches have an opportunity to access the best coaching and sailing experts in the country with a series of workshops and on-the-water coaching in their own boats. The 2005 Sail Smart Coaching Days, formerly the RYA's Topmark coaching scheme, have been announced.

The events are being held at Whitstable YC on February 26th; Queen Mary's SC on March 19th and at Grafham Water Sailing Centre also on March 19.

The events include workshops on boat handling and performance, on the water, perfecting boat preparation, race tactics, and in-boat communications. Leading coaches including Ian Cligan, the National Laser Radial coach; Peter Bentley, the Olympic technical manager, Mark Rushall, RYA Head Racing Coach, Grahame Forshaw, the Royal Navy's head coach and 420 coach James Grant will be running sessions.

For further information and application forms look at www.rya.org.uk/racing/coaches or email Jessica Mapplebeck on jessica.mapplebeck@rya.org.uk or phone 02380604167 or Fax 02380604290.

A club racing coach course is being held at

Alton Water Sports Centre on **16/17 April 2005**. The tutor is Richard Watson. For further information and application forms look at www.rya.org.uk/racing/coaches or email Bruce Bonar or Jenny Campbell-James.

One of the important dates for young dinghy sailors will be the Zone Championships on October 1st and 2nd, 2005 at Burnham on Crouch. The Zone Championship has been combined with the winter regatta and moved from the end of June to the first weekend in October. This will become an annual event at the beginning of October.

Explaining the change RYA East High Performance Manager, Bruce Bonar said: "We want to make the events as great as we can and will have some really top class coaches at the events to do an evening talk and debrief. The Zone Championships will be a key event for selection into next winter's zone squads."

THE British leisure marine industry grew by 8.5 per cent last year, increasing its turnover to a total of £1,994 million, according to the latest British Marine Federation (BMF) statistics published at this week's London Boat Show.

In six consecutive years of growth from 1999 to 2004, the revenue of the UK leisure marine industry has grown by 57 per cent.

Exports have increased by 5.6 per cent bringing in £839 million to the UK economy, representing 42 per cent of

total revenue for the sector in 2004.

The BMF is forecasting further growth this year of 3.3 per cent which would take total industry revenues to over £2 billion for the first time. The industry employs approximately 30,000 people.

John Clarke, Chief Executive of the British Marine Federation, said at the Show: "The British leisure marine industry is a UK manufacturing success story. For the sixth year running, the sector has shown considerable rates of growth, proving once again that the high quality design and innovative approach of the British leisure marine industry continues to have an enviable reputation around the world."

Keith Wade, Chief Economist at Schroders, added: "This is another strong performance from a UK manufacturing industry. Exports remain very strong and prospects for next year are positive. The fall in the value of the dollar, however, may make 2005 slightly harder for exporters to the important US market."

THE Eastern Region Race Officer Conference is being held at the Royal Harwich Yacht Club at Woolverston on the 26th February starting 1000hrs, main topics will be the rule changes effecting Race Management and the RYA Racing Charter.

Details from Geoff Appleton, RYA Race Management Coordinator, Eastern Region, telephone 01375 373827 or email geoff@gvmeasurers.freeseerve.co.uk.

COUNTRY CELEBRATES LONG LOVE AFFAIR WITH THE SEA

THIS year is the national celebration of the sea; SeaBritain 2005 being built round the theme of Trafalgar 200, the anniversary of the death in battle of arguably Britain's greatest sea hero, Lord Nelson. Norfolk born and bred he ensured his crews came from East Anglian seafaring communities and a number of his ships were built on this coast.

Among the leading events being held in Suffolk is the 2005 Tall Ships race with stop-overs at Felixstowe and Ipswich and again at Lowestoft. Some 90 of the 120 vessels taking part in the Tall Ships Race – which is scheduled to start in Waterford, Ireland, crosses to Cherbourg, and then on to Newcastle via Felixstowe, Lowestoft and Whitby – are expected to congregate in the harbour. This will be the first time Lowestoft has been named as a formal port for the vessels to call in at whilst on passage.

Although it is early days yet, vessels which have declared their intentions of stopping off at Lowestoft include two of the larger Class 'A' vessels, the 48m *Pogoria* from Poland and the 33m *Jean de la Lune* from France, as well as Lowestoft's own historic sailing smack, the *Excelsior*, will visit Lowestoft between 19th and 21st July. They will form the focal point of the SeaBritain 2005 festival of the sea celebrations.

This maritime event, like the Lowestoft Boat Show and Maritime Festival 2005 in May, will further help to put the port and town on the nautical calendar. Orga-

nisers report bookings from exhibitors for indoors, outdoors and for berths for boats on the water in the Waveney dock at LBS are already up on the 2004 boat show.

On Saturday 23rd April, The HMS Ganges Association and Ipswich Borough Council are organising a centenary parade along the waterfront in Ipswich. The parade will celebrate the founding of HMS Ganges as a shore training establishment at Shotley in 1905, and the 60th anniversary of the ending of World War II.

Members of the HMS Ganges Association will lead the parade, and representatives from the Royal Hospital School Old Boys Association, the Royal British Legion, the Royal Naval Association, the Merchant Navy Association, and other ex-service organisations will be parading. A youth section of cadets will parade, lead by the band of the Royal Hospital School.

The Second Sea Lord will attend as well as a Navy warship and a band of the Royal Marines, the Fourth Army Air Corps, and 22 Squadron, Royal Air Force Search and Rescue. Details from Tony Thipthorpe, Chairman, 01702 341968 or email: thipthorpe@btconnect.com.




Top: The youth training ship *Lord Nelson* off Harwich.

Above: Lowestoft's own Tall Ship, the sailing smack *Excelsior* is one of 50 registered heritage vessels in Britain

BOATS AND SKIPPERS NEEDED FOR BLIND SAILING

THE East Anglian Sailing Trust (E.A.S.T.) is organising two weekends and a week-long cruise for blind and visually impaired sailors this summer. The weekends are 13 to 15 May and 16 to 18 September while the week long cruise is from 25 June to 2 July.

Carol Bloyce, the visually impaired sailing co-ordinator said: "Last year we had to disappoint nine VIs due to lack of boats, so we are hoping for better luck this year!"

To find out more contact Carol by email at c.bloyce@btinternet.com, or call her on 01473 724780.

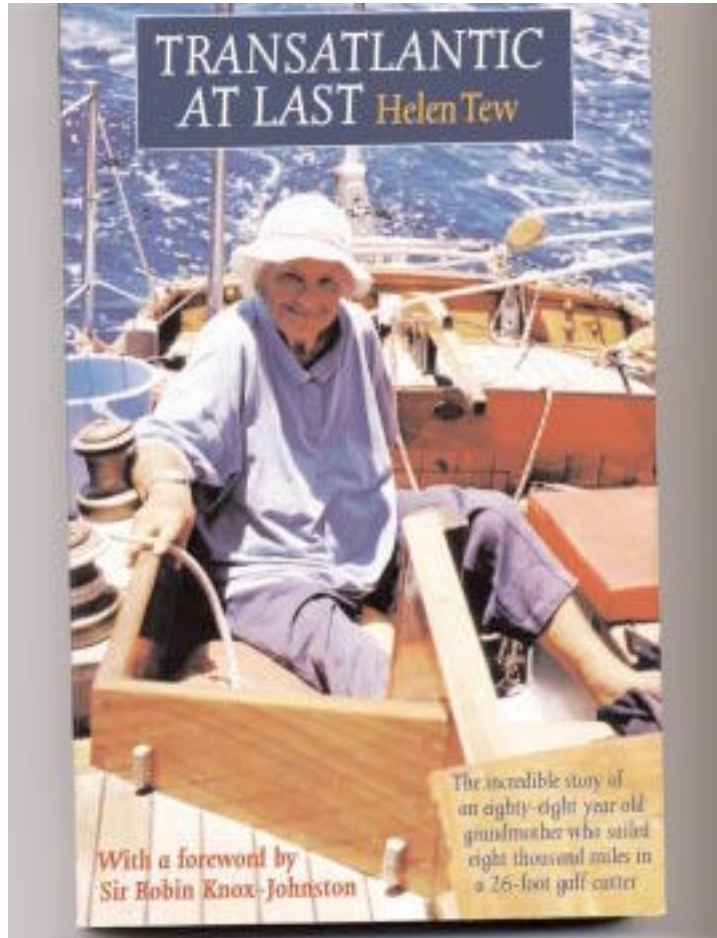
TWO GRAND OLD LADIES GO TO SEA TO FILL A LIFE-LONG DREAM

In 2000 at the age of 88 Helen Tew achieved a life-long ambition, to cross the Atlantic in a small boat – an 8,000 mile round trip. Last Autumn she died aged 92 having just seen the publication of her adventures in her book *Transatlantic At Last*.

It is a poignant epitaph to a remarkable woman. It's also an enjoyable and sometimes quite funny insight into how the sport of sailing has progressed since just after the Great War. Her impact on sailing was recognised in 2001 when she was voted runner-up in the prestigious Yachtsman of the Year Award, coming second to Ellen McArthur and second in the Sunseeker Endeavour Award – the winner that year was the entire Royal Yacht Squadron!

Most of us probably agree that crossing the Atlantic is pretty boring – a good opportunity to catch up on all the reading you haven't been able to do. So Helen delves back into her past to build up the background to her voyage.

Her father, Commander Robert Graham was an early blue-water cruising sailor and when he



broke his promise to take her across the Atlantic in the family yacht, a 30ft gaffer cutter called *Emanuel* – a trip that he recorded in his classic tale *Rough Passage* – but an act so heinous to her she never forgave him for it.

Helen was born in 1912, educated at Cheltenham Ladies College and London University and was a

maths teacher for many years. In 1936 she married naval architect John Tew (instead of playing cricket for Hampshire!) and he designed the 26ft gaff cutter *Mary Helen* in which they sailed to Norway and the Baltic. They had previously sailed round Britain in *Emanuel*.

Before their family came along, five sons and a hoard of grand-

children, she and John lived aboard the boat for a time. As the boys grew up they took to racing 420 class dinghies at international level, and often the *Mary Helen* was a sort of British team headquarters afloat.

When John died in 1975 the boat was sold, but in 1999 Helen bought her back again and fitted her out for the epic voyage. She took as crew her eldest son Donald going out by way of Spain, Portugal, Maderia, and Canaries to Antigua.

A leisurely meander through the Caribbean with members of her family joining her, then it was home again via Bermuda, and the Azores.

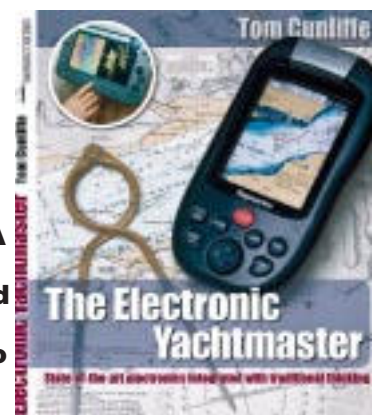
The first lady to win the prestigious Royal Cruising Club Challenge Cup, Helen was at one time president of the 420 class association. She was a walking encyclopaedia of cricket and interested in both drama and the Women's Institute. She cruised quite a bit of the world in small traditional yachts for a staggering total of 81 years!

Transatlantic at Last, by Helen Tew, published by Seafarer Books, Rendlesham, at £11.95.

ELECTRONIC NAVIGATION CD

The Electronic Yachtmaster is a new navigation training DVD, written and presented by writer and yachtmaster examiner Tom Cuncliffe, produced by the RYA and electronic equipment manufacturer Raymarine.

Costing £29.95 and available now through chandlers or from the RYA (0845 345 0372), the DVD shows how the latest electronics play a key role in modern navigation under both power and sail. Shot at sea aboard a classic vessel, it uses state of the art technology to explain how to get the best out modern navigational aids. It also reinforces the need to use traditional chart skills to back up in case of electrical failure.



ALL READY FOR THE NEW SEASON

THE Region's hire fleets of Optimists and Toppers have been completely refurbished and will shortly be available for clubs to hire. New sails, mainsheets, buoyancy bags and tillers are among the items replaced this winter.

Provisional booking of hire fleets is by telephone to Regional Hire Fleets manager John Hancock (**07712 44651**). He will issue a pack containing a blank booking form, report forms and a self invoice. Hirers complete the booking form and send to the Treasurer Peter Woods, who will confirm the booking. There is a limited period for confirming the booking or the fleet goes back into the booking schedule. Peter Woods will confirm the booking.

On receipt of the fleet hirers need to check them thoroughly and if anything is missing or broken, use the report form issued with the preliminary paperwork. It is up to hirers to check everything is in order. After use check again and send forms to Peter Woods.

The next hirer will check the fleet, so it's important that it is checked and everything verified before it leaves. If the gaining club complains, we have to assume the last user is at fault unless the report forms tell us otherwise.

Finally the hirer has a self invoice form in the initial pack, fill it out, write the cheque and post back to Peter Woods.



SUPPORTING THE SAILORS OF TOMORROW

**Above: All hire fleet boats will be badged.
Below: The new Optimist fleet's first outing last year at Wroxham.**



WHO'S WHO AT RYA EAST

Chairman: Peter Catton

Vice-Chairman : Chris Edwards

Secretary: Robin Hill-Sanders

Treasurer: Peter Woods

Regional Coach: Derek Burchell

Chairman Training Panel: Terry Corner

Windsurf Liaison and T15 co-ordinator: Gillian Horne

Sailability Regional Organiser: Fiona Wylie

High Performance Manager: Bruce Bonar

Dinghy Fleet Hire Manager: John Hancock

Environmental Co-ordinator: Chris Edwards

Regional Communicator: Garth Cooper

RYA Council Member: Peter Catton

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01621 816131

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