



EAST NEWS

NEW MAN IN HOT SEAT



Chris Edwards has been elected Chairman of the Eastern Regional Committee. Chris, who lives and sails out of Tollesbury, Essex, was vice-Chairman for two years. He continues his role as RYA East Environmental Co-ordinator.

South-East region club officers' seminar at Chipstead SC on Saturday, February 25, features RYA big guns. For details see page 3.

Giles makes final of Young Sailor of the Year Award.



Story Page 4



Hannah goes for Beijing gold

Story page 7.

RYA announces new name for Team GBR, new child protection policy, and new voucher marketing scheme.

Stories page 8.

CRUISING - THE FUTURE

The RYA Eastern Region cruising conference is being held at the Anglia Ruskin University at Chelmsford, on Saturday 18 February, 2006.

Entitled CRUISING – THE FUTURE, it features top speakers from the world of electronics and chart and pilot publishing, as well as the editor of a national cruising magazine, and takes a look at practical cruise planning and getting disabled people cruising. There are also sessions on the environment and how the RYA can help get you afloat. RYA Chief Executive Rod Carr, OBE, will round off the conference.

RESERVE YOUR PLACE TODAY

Tickets £25 each, including lunch and refreshments, available from Peter Woods, Treasurer, RYA East, 1 Wellington Road, Maldon, Essex CM9 6HL; tel: 01621 853015; or email him on pwandsw@btopen-world.com

DON'T MISS IT

For more details see page 2

CRUISING CONFERENCE LOOKS TO THE FUTURE

The RYA East bi-annual Cruising Conference, at the Anglia Ruskin University, Chelmsford on Saturday, February 18, has attracted a bevy of top line speakers. Titled Cruising - The Future, speakers will be forecasting developments and changes to our sport over the next five to ten years.

The conference will explore the growth of electronic equipment and navigation aids, and the latest developments in cartography, while special guest speaker John Goode, Editor of Sailing Today magazine, himself an eminently practical sailor, will warn against losing the old skills and reminding delegates that the name of the game is enjoyment.

How long some of our favourite watering holes and quiet creeks will be open to us is the core of Chris Edward's presentation on coastal protection. Never more so than now has the leisure sailor needed a public voice, and RYA Cruising Manager Stuart Carruthers will spell out the important role RYA is playing in safeguarding our rights and freedoms.

One of our favourite cruising grounds is the Thames Estuary and the lower reaches of the Thames itself. Hundreds of us criss-cross this complicated piece of waterway every season. Capt Roy Stanbrook isn't just the assistant harbour master for the Port of London Authority - he's a committed cruising yachtsman and sympathetic to many of our challenges when navigating the swatchways and deeps. With massive container port developments now a certainty, more commercial traffic plus more wind farms, navigation through the estuary could become a major operation.

Blind Yachtmaster Ken Knowles will be calling for greater participation for the disabled, and East Coast yachtsman John Wilson will introduce us to the joys of cruising in the Baltic. It will then be up to RYA Chief Executive Rod Carr to send us all home fired up with enthusiasm.

Following the sudden death before Christmas of previous chairman Peter Catton, Chris Edwards will open the conference and then hand over to RYA Council Member Terry Corner to run the meeting.

Programme

- 0900** — **Registration**
- 0930** — **Welcome Chris Edwards, Regional Chairman**
- 0945** — **Cruising and the RYA, Stuart Carruthers, RYA Cruising Manager**
- 10.15** — **Sailing and the Environment, Chris Edwards, Regional Environmental Co-ordinator, RYA**
- 10.50** — **QUESTIONS**
- 11.00** — **Coffee break**
- 11.20** — **Electronic Navigation — be all or end all? Garth Cooper for Precision Navigation Ltd.**
- 12.00** — **Pilotage for Yachtsmen, Willie Wilson, Imray Charts**
- 12.40** — **LUNCH**
- 13.45** — **Managing the Thames Estuary, Capt Roy Stanbrook, PLA**
- 14.30** — **Cruising — the Future, John Goode, Editor, Sailing Today**
- 15.00** — **Blind cruising on the East Coast, Ken Knowles, VI RYA Yachtmaster**
- 15.20** — **Tea break**
- 15.50** — **Cruising in the Baltic, John Wilson.**
- 16.20** — **Cruising — where to now? Rod Carr, OBE, Chief Executive, RYA.**
- 16.30** — **Close. (Approximate)**

This programme could be subject to change on the day.

Anglia Ruskin University (Formerly Anglia Polytechnic University)

How to get there by road

Virtually all roads lead to Parkway. Coming from the Army and Navy roundabout there are signs to University and Rivermead Campus, off to the right from the second roundabout. At the second roundabout you can turn right into Victoria Road and then left into New Street and at the roundabout at the top, turn right into Hoffman's Way. At the top of Parkway you can turn right into Rectory Lane and at the roundabout junction with New Street go straight on into Hoffman's Way.

Parking Facilities

There is limited parking at Rivermead Campus. The main car park entrance is on Hoffman's Way, which is off the roundabout at the junction of New Street and Rectory Lane. Once in the car park please follow the steward's instructions.

By Train

Leave Chelmsford Station and walk down Victoria Road with the railway to your left, and left into New Street. Rivermead Campus is at the far end on the right, a total of three-quarters of a mile.

SPENDING OVERRUN COULD HIT EAST COAST SEA DEFENCE WORK

Early in January the Government announced a £25M overspend on sea and flood defence at Scarborough in Yorkshire. Fears are growing that this money will be recovered by reducing amounts spent on saving parts of Norfolk, Suffolk and Essex from inundation.

The spectre of Cambridge-on-Sea, or Norwich becoming a coastal port, raised its head when campaigners demanded assurances from the Department of the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) that the overspend would not lead to cutbacks further down the coast.

Government officials played down the impact of the overspend on the nation's coastal defence budget of some £570M. The Scarborough project, to build 2km of sea and wave walls around bays which suffer erosion and landslides, was to cost £28m, with three quarters of it coming from Defra. It ended up costing £53m, largely due to local council incompetence in managing the project.

Already a scheme to repair Cromer's seawalls and groynes at a cost of £8M has been put on ice because of a freeze on spending, as the funding pot could be over-committed. Some £47M has been earmarked for capital projects on East Coast sea defence work.

It is understood that Defra 'experts' believe few if any East

Coast flood hot spots would achieve anything like the number of points to warrant further investment in sea defence. Cromer only just scraped the necessary minimum of 19 points - at the second time of trying for cash aid.

Defra has written to all coastal councils saying schemes are on hold because they fear pressure from projects in the pipeline mean they could find themselves over-committed by next autumn. They are also taking a fresh look at the priority system and don't want to prejudice the outcome.

They also claim that Government funding of projects to reduce flood and coastal erosion risks are at a record high, having risen from £310m to £570m over the last 10 years, and that next year's grants are already taken up!

Basically what could happen is that the Lincs Fens, Cambs Fens and Norfolk Fens could go under water.

Cambridge may be isolated but certainly will become a port, as will Norwich, Colchester, and Chelmsford. Also in danger is most of the North Norfolk coast, most of East Norfolk including the Broads, and a lot of the coastal strip of Suffolk. A very large part of coastal and most of SE Essex are also at risk.

Unfortunately all this new water is unlikely to be much good for sailing on, and we'll lose vast areas of beautiful wildlife habitat (below).



HOW TO SUCCEED

RYA SOUTH EAST REGION SEMINAR

SATURDAY 25 FEBRUARY 2006

ALL-DAY SEMINAR FOR CLUB OFFICERS

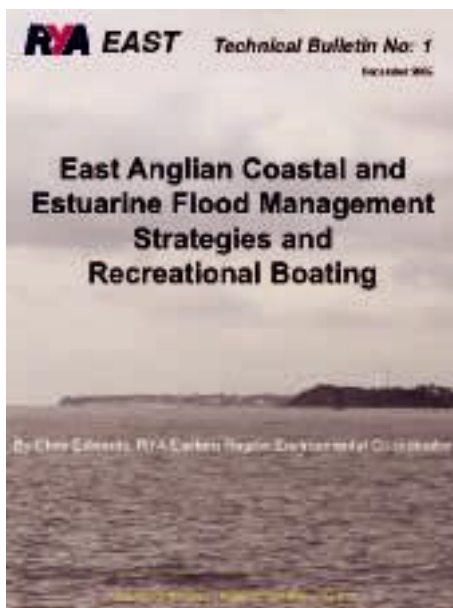
VENUE: CHIPSTEAD SC (just off junction 5 of the M25)

- 10.00 Keynote address – Eddie Ramsden, RYA Chairman
- 10.30 Legal issues – the law affecting clubs – current and future issues, Edmund Whelan, RYA Legal Affairs Manager
- 11.00 Planning issues – changes to the planning system; shoreline, flood and coastal management plans, Susie Tomson, RYA Planning and Environmental Officer
- 11.30 Coffee
- 12.00 Making your publicity work, John Bagnall, RYA Marketing Manager
- 12.30 Panel session
- 13.00 Lunch
- 14.15 Meet your region – an opportunity to meet and question members of the regional committee and discuss the regional chairman's report
- 14.45 Getting help and recruits – regional development officers, Onboard, volunteering, club development, Jon White, RYA Sports Development Manager
- 15.30 Getting the resources – planning and funding, Paddy Herlih, Sport England
- 16.15 Tea and conclusion

Cost: only £10 including lunch

Bookings to: Paul Rayner, Church Farm Barn. Tudeley, Tonbridge Kent TN11 0NZ
Tel: 01732 364115 Email: paul.rayner@freeuk.com

Eastern Region club officers welcome to come along.



Bulletin spells out the dangers.

SAILING HEROES WIN YOUNG SAILOR OF THE YEAR AWARD

The three young sailors, Craig Paul (17) from Duror and a sailor at the Lochaber Yacht Club, Sam Coombs (15) from Clevedon and a member of Clevedon Sailing Club and James Hopson (16) from Wrexham and a member of the Shotwick Lake Sailing Club, won the 2006 Young Sailor of the Year Award for an act of outstanding bravery.

HRH The Princess Royal, President of the RYA, made the awards at IPC Media Marine Awards at Old Billingsgate.

Sailing at the Scottish 29er Championships on Loch Lomond in September, the three boys rescued Nell Hardie from certain death while out sailing their 29ers after the race. Nell was sailing with Craig Paul when their boat capsized, trapping her underneath with the trapeze wire wrapped round her neck, and strangling her.

During the incident, the boys kept their heads, remained calm and handled the situation efficiently, managing to bring Nell safely back to shore and resuscitate her, before she was taken to hospital. If the boys had not acted so promptly Nell would have suffered severe trauma and probably died.

The award was made "for an amazing act of bravery and seamanship – showing courage, resilience, physical and mental strength".

The YSoY Award recognises British sporting excellence in power or sail and acknowledges achievements, such as breaking a world record, a phenomenal win, overcoming adversity, or showing exceptional bravery and courage.

Finalists for Raymarine Young Sailor of the Year were Giles Scott (18) from Cambridgeshire, a single-handed dinghy racer in the Laser Class and James Rusden and Erin Clark, for winning the 2005 Cadet Under 18 World Championships.

The Raymarine Young Sailor of the Year title holders were joined by the other RYA Regional winners at the London Boat Show on Saturday 7 January 2006 for the regional Young Sailor of the Year presentations. All 13 RYA regional winners are nominated for Raymarine Young Sailor of the Year Award.



Top: Nell Hardie once more trusts her life to (L to R) Craig Paul, Sam Coombs and James Hopson.

Bottom: Giles Scott receives his trophy as a finalist in the YSoY Award from Olympic Gold Medalist Shirley Robertson.

BATHSIDE BAY CONTAINER PORT TO GET MINISTERIAL APPROVAL

The Bathside Bay, Harwich container port development has been given the go-ahead. Government ministers indicated just before Christmas they were "minded" to approve the plans.

Owners of the existing container port at Felixstowe and more recently the Harwich International Port ferry terminal on the Stour, Hutchison Ports (UK) are proposing a £300M scheme to construct 1,400 metres of deep-water quay capable of handling the largest container ships in the world, between the up-river ferry terminal and Harwich Town Quay. There would be 11 ship-to-shore gantry cranes.

The scheme is expected to create up to 700 much-needed jobs locally and generate over £50M a year for the local economy. Harwich is an employment black spot.

Hutchison has also applied for permission to improve the existing single track Felixstowe branch line between Trimley St Mary and Levington. They want to dual a four and a quarter mile section of the branch line, and construct three additional 24-wagon sidings within the existing Ipswich marshalling yard. The aim is to remove up to 500,000 lorries from the roads.

The upgrade of the Felixstowe Branch Line is linked with the proposals, currently with Government, to reconfigure Felixstowe South. The development will see the conversion of the area previously used by P&O North Sea Ferries into a new deep-sea container terminal, to seaward of the existing Trinity Quay development.

Top: Bathside Bay as it is today, with Harwich at the bottom and Parkeston at the top.

Centre: Artist's impression of the Bathside Bay container terminal when finished. At the top of the picture is the ferry terminal at Parkeston Quay, and at the bottom is the proposed deepwater yacht basin adjacent to Harwich and Dovercourt SC.

Bottom: Another representation of the completed project looking N across Harwich Harbour to Shotley Point.



BROADS AUTHORITY MUST SET HIGHER STANDARDS, SAYS REPORT

A £70,000 study into tourism and boating on the Broads by a firm of Cheltenham-based consultants has concluded standards must be raised. It calls for the Broads Tourist Forum (BTF) to take the lead and says the Broads Authority, which will be doing much of the work, should report to the BTF.

Top of the list of improvements is dredging, moorings and more shore-side facilities. The report sets out seven objects to be met over the next five years: brand the area as a national park and the UK's premier inland water space; improve navigation to at least international standards; improve access to the water; provide visitors with an unforgettable experience; encourage inward investment; improve information, and, encourage a reduction in the environmental impact of more visitors.

At a recent open meeting with boating interests on the Broads, the Broads Authority took a pasting over its decision, against the advice of its own navigation committee to raise tolls by 13.5 per cent a year for the next five years. In an often-heated debate the Authority was accused of mis-spending, a recent £1.5M government grant on websites and foot-paths when the money was earmarked for improving navigation.

Boating representatives demanded the Authority should listen to the people who use the waterways, be less authoritarian, deliver the work promised in previous years but not done, ring-fence funds for navigational purposes and adopt a more transparent policy on spending. They were told: "cut the spin!"

Essex Boatyards Ltd has purchased Wallasea Marina. The company's business centre has been moved to the marina, and it is keeping the yard at Paglesham as an 'overflow' area for Wallasea; which is to be run more as a traditional boatyard as opposed to cruiser sales. The yard should have a boat repair facility and welder on site. One crane and a large travel hoist are also being retained.

Still a family-run business the company has also expanded its



Jim Elsom, secretary of Stour SC is urging yachtsmen to keep visiting Mistley Quay at the top of the River Stour, during the coming season. The club and local yachtsmen, supported by the RYA, maintain they have a legal right to use Allen's Quay, the central section of the waterfront at Mistley.

Jim said: "We conducted our own risk assessment of the quay and made 15 suggestions to improve access. This has been described by the HSE as a good way forward. We have also ensured that public access over and public use of the quay are now in the Tendring District Draft Replacement Development Plan.

"As yet, the quay owners have only acknowledged our letters, but we are keeping the pressure up for a meeting to resolve the issue. It may be that the HSE will insist on them replacing ladders on the quay-side at the very least. I think we're winning, but we still urge yachts to continue using the quay next season."

staff. Andy Whitmore is the new yacht sales manager.

The Roach Sailing Association tells us it now manages and maintains its own moorings privately and is now leasing part of the river from the yard for this purpose.

Retired Squadron Leader Mike Townsend (82) had a close shave just before Christmas - out duck hunting in his punt he climbed out to drag the craft ashore just below the river wall and got stuck in the mud, which had liquefied from pumping out a nearby flooded boat lake.

A member of the public out walking spotted him stuck in the mud and raised the alarm. The Coastguard Rescue team from Bradwell, a helicopter from RAF Wattisham and the Essex Fire Brigade, along with the Police and their helicopter and the Ambulance Service with their air ambulance, all attended.

Two Coastguards managed to remove the punt and then dig him out.

More recently, an RAF helicopter rescued three police officers from the mud at Maldon, after they became trapped while attempting to recover a male body lying on the mud and secured by a line to a yacht.



Stephen Read, assistant harbour master at Felixstowe Ferry, and the man who regularly surveys the entrance to the River Deben (above) tells us the East Knoll buoy at the River Deben entrance has been moved to position 51° 58.77N, 01° 23.85E.

HANNAH ON HER WAY TO BEIJING PARALYMPICS

The 2008 Paralympic Games may still be over two years away, but Skandia Team GBR's sailors made their first moves towards qualification for the Games this month, as the IFDS (International Foundation for Disabled Sailing) World Championships get underway in Perth, Australia.

John Robertson, Hannah Stodel and Stephen Thomas – reigning IFDS World Champions in the Sonar class – and, 2.4mR Open world bronze medallist Helena Lucas, spearhead the Skandia Team GBR challenge at the 2006 IFDS Worlds. This is the first of two opportunities for nations to qualify for the 2008 Paralympic sailing event.

Over 70 competitors from 14 nations raced on the Swan River from 19-25 January, and the top seven ranked nations in both the 2.4mR (one-person keelboat) and Sonar (three-person keelboat) will gain qualification for the 2008 Paralympic regatta.

Robertson and his crew will be defending the IFDS World title they captured in Danish waters in September.

Skandia Team GBR's Sonar coach, Mark Rushall, said: "The team have now been here for a week – first priority was to get over time zone effects, unload containers, check and make good any travel damage, and fine-tuning of the boats to prepare for the prevailing conditions. The British team can be found pumping iron each morning, though heavy gym work



Hannah Stodel, Brightonsea sailor.

tails off as the regatta proper approaches.

"The primary goal at these championships is to qualify GBR for places at the Paralympic Games in China: effectively this requires a top seven place at this event for Sonars and 2.4s, though last year's results indicate that the GBR performance squad have their sights set higher than that."

More information on the 2006 IFDS World Championships can be found at <http://www.2006ifdsworlds.com.au>

The first qualifying event for a new two-person keelboat Paralympic event in the UD-18 will take place later in the year.



The RYA SAILSMART ROADSHOW 2006 is being held at Royal Harwich YC, Woolverstone, on 19th March.

Anyone interested in sailing is invited to come to this presentation, it will inspire you at the start of the season. We are also offering coaches the chance to revalidate at this road show.

Programme:

10.00 Arrival and Revalidation - tea and coffee (To revalidate your qualification please bring your log-book, power boat level 2 and a valid first aid certificate when you register)

10.25 Welcome; Bruce Bonar RYA High Performance Manager E & SE
10.30 Workshops;

Those attending will be divided into two groups so they get to hear both speakers:

Adam Bowers - Down wind sailing
Steve Irish - How to win the nationals

Questions

12.45 Lunch and Revalidation

13.45 Workshops

Adam Bowers - Down wind sailing

Steve Irish - How to win the

Nationals

Questions

16.00 Final Address; Bruce Bonar

RYA High Performance Manager E & SE

16.15 Close

Applications to:

Jenny Campbell-James, Tel: 01243 641 175

E-mail:

jenny.campbell-james@rya.org.uk

Address: Church House, Church Farm Lane, Sidlesham, Chichester, West Sussex, PO20 7RE.

COST: £15 (£10 for RYA members)

If you wish to reserve a place please make cheques payable to 'RYA', or pay by credit card by downloading a payment form from www.rya.org.uk/Racing/Coaches. Closing date for applications is one week prior to the event.

Are you up for this new Project?

VISION 2012 is a professionally organised programme of small boat race training for disabled sailors who aspire to gaining places in the GBR sailing team at the London Olympics. It is being set up by the East Anglian Sailing Trust.

Vision 2012 will be a six year programme starting this Spring using the existing training facilities at Suffolk Yacht Harbour in order to increase the capacity and quality of sail boat race training.

The initial two years will identify those disabled competitors who could realistically be considered for team places, in addition to providing regular opportunities for Vision 2012 members to race in small sailboats against both disabled and able bodied competitors.

The first stage will be to modify the existing fleet of five Squib keelboats; cover travel costs of disabled members and volunteers; provide professional race coaching to national standards, and provide appropriate fitness training sessions.

Details from EAST www.e-a-s-t.org.uk

NEW NAME FOR TEAM GBR...PLUS A LOT MORE

Team GBR - the British sailing team preparing for the Olympic Games in Beijing 2008 and London 2012 - has signed long-term savings group Skandia as its first ever title sponsor.

The sole and exclusive partnership was unveiled at a reception during the London Boat Show and provides vital funding for sailors in the run-up to the Beijing 2008 Olympic Games. The team will be referred to from now on as "Skandia Team GBR 2008"

Great Britain is the world's top Olympic sailing nation, having topped the medal table at the 2000 and 2004 Olympic Games. Sailing is recognised today as one of the UK's most successful sports in terms of medal results and receives significant support from UK Sport through lottery funding.

Rod Carr, OBE, RYA boss, said: "We all recognise the commitment of Skandia to the sport of sailing through their involvement in Skandia Cowes Week and through the ongoing support to the Star sailing team of Iain Percy and Steve Mitchell and we are very much looking forward to winning medals together over the coming years!"

Skandia joins existing partners of Gul International as Clothing Technology Partner, Alfred McAlpine PLC as a Silver Partner, Volvo and Inchcape Fleet Solutions as Official Team Car Suppliers and

Concept 2 as rowing equipment suppliers.

Skandia Team GBR 2008 preparations for Beijing 2008 are already in full swing and an intensive programme of sailing covering both team training camps and regattas takes place during 2006, 2007 and 2008. Last year alone the team won 32 medals at World and European Championships and Grade 1 Olympic regattas.

NEW VOUCHERS...

Launched at the London Boat Show in January, RYA Vouchers make the ideal gift for friends and family or incentive for customers or employees. RYA vouchers are accepted at over 250 locations in the UK and abroad, and enable you to buy RYA Training Courses when and where you like.

Over the coming months, the scheme will be rolled out to cover a wider range of marine businesses, so soon RYA vouchers could be redeemed for anything from chandlery products to a marina stay.

RYA Vouchers went on sale as of 6th January 2006. They can be bought from the RYA by postal order form or telephone, on 0845 345 0400. The product codes for the vouchers are £10 - VCH10, £20 - VCH20, £50 - VCH50, and £100 - VCH100

Go to the RYA website for details of the training centres where vouchers can currently be spent.

RYA Dinghy Sailing Show

The weekend of 4-5 March 2006 marks the start of the dinghy sailing season with the 54th RYA Dinghy Sailing Show at London's Alexandra Palace. It promises to be bigger and better than ever with over 200 exhibitors, including over 100 different classes.

...NEW POLICY

The RYA has updated its child protection policy and guidelines for clubs, class associations and training centres. The principles remain the same but the new guidelines are presented in a clearer format, covering safe recruitment, good practice and handling concerns, and the templates and flow diagrams should be easier to download.

Some new sections have been added, based on experience gained in recent years and of the sort of questions frequently asked. If the organisation has participants under 18, but hasn't a child protection policy, it is strongly recommended that it looks at the guidelines.

As well as protecting young people, and reassuring parents that boating is a safe and responsible sport, the guidelines provide some common sense rules for volunteers or employees to follow. It helps them avoid getting in situations where they could be open to allegations.

For details, contact the RYA's Child Protection Co-ordinator, Jackie Reid, e-mail jackie.reid@rya.org.uk tel. 023 8060 4104.

WHO'S WHO AT RYA EAST

Chairman: Chris Edwards	01621 868834
Vice-Chairman : TBA	
Secretary: Robin Hill-Sanders	01621 816131
Treasurer: Peter Woods	01621 853015
Regional Coach: Derek Burchell	01621 869599
Chairman Training Panel: Terry Corner	01473 730970
Windsurf Liaison and T15 co-ordinator: Gillian Horne	0238060 4194
Sailability Regional Organiser: David Wilding	01223 843769
High Performance Manager: Bruce Bonar	07909 994642
Dinghy Fleet Hire Manager: Martyn Garnsey	01702 206540
Environmental Co-ordinator: Chris Edwards	01621 868834
Regional Communicator: Garth Cooper	01362 699195
RYA Council Members: Chris Edwards and Terry Corner	

**RYA EAST NEWS IS PRODUCED AND EDITED BY RYA EASTERN REGION
COMMUNICATOR GARTH COOPER. CONTACT HIM ON 01362 699195 OR BY
email: garthword@btinternet.com**