

KEEPING EASTERN REGION SAILORS INFORMED



All action at Grafham. See page 4 for report on Olympic qualifier and first sighting of the new RS:X Olympic surfboard in competition in the region.

HA'PENNY PIER PRICES

Yachts visiting Harwich and looking to berth at the town's Halfpenny Pier can moor free from 0900 hrs to 1600 hrs, daily from April 14 to October 8. Yachts mooring outside these hours will be charged as follows: up to 5 metres £5.00, over 5 metres and up to 10 metres £10.00, over 10 metres and up to 15 metres £15.00, over 15 metres and up to 20 metres £20.00, over 20 metres £30.00.

TRAINING BOATS SALE

Suffolk Water Sports Association is selling its current fleet of 12 Optimists plus a Gull two-man dinghy and four Toppers, all based at Alton Water, near Ipswich.

Prices are: 10 Optimists by Topper International @ £475 each; two Optimists by Warehouses Ltd @ £425 each; four Toppers, sun worn purple decks @ £600 each, and one two-man Gull dinghy (about 12ft 6 in) @ £750.

Details from Duty manager, Alton Water Centre on 01473 326408.

CLUB GOES WIFI

Royal Norfolk and Suffolk YC at Lowestoft has installed wireless broadband for members and visitors. The club is a popular first stop for a lot of Dutch yachtsmen visiting each summer and they are used to the service over there.

DINGHY SHOW BREAKS RECORDS – TWO EAST CLUBS ACHIEVE VOLVO CHAMPION CLUB STATUS

(full report page two)



Pictured above are Leigh-on-Sea Sailing Club's John Alani, Tim Wright, Steve Tubby and Doug Rivers with Olympic silver medallist Joe Glanfield (centre).

And below, Burnham Sailing Club's John Paul, John Hardy and John Crisp pictured with Joe Glanfield (centre).

They were receiving the Volvo Champion Club recognition plaques.



EAST REGION TOPPER COACH IS TOPS

This year's Dinghy Sailing Show (March 4/5) at London's Alexandra Palace attracted 11,459 people compared to 10,793 in 2005. More families than ever took advantage of the 'children go free' offer on the final day with an impressive 41 per cent increase in the number of visitors on Sunday.

In all 1,427 children visited the show on Sunday – nearly double last year's figure indicating that children are keener than ever to get involved in sailing.

Jenny Curry, RYA Dinghy Sailing Show Manager said: "The show has been a great success. Bucking the trend shown at recent boat shows, we had more visitors than ever before and the response from all exhibitors and visitors has been fantastic. From committed dinghy racers to complete novices, all were able to find out anything they wanted to know about sailing, whether it was from the coaching area, listening to talks on the main stage or from speaking to one of the many exhibitors."

The only boating show in the world dedicated solely to dinghies, it attracted over 200 exhibitors from all over the UK attending, including over 100 different classes of boat, plus many clubs, class associations, chandlers and equipment manufacturers. The show marks the beginning of the new season for racing and cruising dinghy sailors.

Britain's best instructors, coaches and trainers were recognised at the RYA Coach and Instructor of the Year Awards at the Show. The Awards mark out those who have shown outstanding commitment, skill and hard work in training others.

Skandia Team GBR's Sonar class coach Mark Rushall was unveiled as Squad Coach of the Year for his work with Paralympic sailors John Robertson, Hannah Stodel and Stephen Thomas, the reigning IFDS World Disabled Sailing Champions who recently retained their world title in Perth, Australia. Mark has also worked within the RYA youth programme with the 29er and 420 squads.

James Brown of Wickham Bishops, Essex, was the popular recipient of the RYA Under 21 Coach of the Year award for his work with Topper and Optimist sailors - some of them in the national squads and competing internationally. Amongst his charges



With less than seven years to go before the 2012 Olympic Games, the RYA launched a new nationwide youth awareness campaign at the Dinghy Sailing Show. Two 2012 Olympic hopefuls, Gemma Farrell and Rachel Larman, (front) along with 2005 Young Sailor of the Year, Sam Coombs (rear right), joined children to celebrate the launch of 'OnBoard', by attempting to set a new record to get as many children on board a dinghy as possible – in this case 30!

OnBoard is just one of the RYA's new sailing and windsurfing programmes to attract a new generation of children into boating. Breaking through traditional sail route barriers, OnBoard introduces sailing and windsurfing to youngsters by bringing secondary schools and sailing clubs together directly, for the first time.

are Burnham-based Ollie Gozzett of the junior Optimist squad and his brother Harry.

James said: "I was really surprised to hear I'd won - I was supposed to have been coaching today! I've learnt so much from Bruce Bonar, the High Performance Manager for the East, and Nick Skinner - they've really taught me a lot - and it's great to be able to put that into practice and see the youngsters coming through."

Two sailing clubs in the Eastern Region were awarded prestigious Volvo RYA Champion Club status at the Show. The Burnham Sailing Club and Leigh-on-Sea Sailing Club (Essex), along with East Midlands' Cransley Sailing Club (nr Kettering, Northants), have had their commitment towards the development of youth sail racing recognised with these awards. The presentations were made by Olympic silver medallist Joe Glanfield.

Tim Wright, Commodore, Leigh-on-Sea Sailing Club said: "We're delighted to have been awarded Volvo RYA Champion Club status - it's testament to the hard work and dedication

in striving to raise standards for our youth sailors. It's superb to see the youngsters keep on turning up at the club, and this will really make a difference when we look to recruit.

John Hardy, Rear Commodore, Burnham Sailing Club, added: "It's brilliant - it's a fantastic step forward, and will hopefully set us apart by showing that we're a club that's continually committed to, and focused on, developing future talents within the sport."

Launched in 1997, there are now 137 sailing clubs in the scheme, which recognises those clubs with a commitment to youth sailing and racing coaching, and aims to encourage young sailors and windsurfers at grass roots level to learn to compete and provide them with the skills to enjoy a lifetime within the sport.

In addition, the scheme aims to increase the medal haul of RYA Team GBR and Skandia Team GBR at international regattas in order to build upon the recent successes at the Sydney and Athens Olympic Games.

BROWN BACKS OLYMPIC BID WITH £300M CASH



The RYA has welcomed the Chancellor's statement that there is more funding for training for the 2012 Olympics. In a joint statement with the British Olympic Association and UK Sport, the RYA said that sailing was Great Britain's most successful Olympic sport, and Britain was the most successful sailing nation in Olympic history.

Rod Carr, OBE, RYA CEO, had previously expressed concern at the lack of commitment towards additional funding in December's pre-budget statement. He welcomed the promise of a further £200M - £300M of public money and £100M in sponsorship from the private sector, committed to delivering success at the London 2012 Olympic Games.



"This financial support is brilliant news, and we're relieved and delighted the Government has recognised the longer-term and wider benefits that the 2012 Olympic opportunity brings about by committing to these additional resources," explained Rod Carr.

"This will give Team GB a real chance to come fourth in the medal table for 2012, although I'm intrigued to know how the extra £100M from sponsorship will be raised, given the commercial limitations brought about by the new Olympic Bill."

RYA Performance Director John Derbyshire added: "This announcement of additional funding will enable more younger sailors to move through the performance programme, to challenge for places in 2012 and enhance British sailing's medal prospects."

LADIES-ONLY CHAMPIONSHIP PROMISES COMPETITIVE SAILING

The RYA Women's Dinghy Championship is back for 2006! Scheduled to take place on 20-21 May at Hayling Island Sailing Club this year's event is expected to be bigger, better and more competitive than ever.

Sponsored by Dinghy Sailing Magazine, the RYA Women's Dinghy Championship will be held at Hayling Island for the first time and is open to any mono-hull centreboard dinghy with a PY Handicap between 1238 (RS Feva XL) and 781 (RS800).

With five races scheduled (three on the Saturday and two on the Sunday), competitors will be able to mix it with some of the UK's top female dinghy racers or simply enjoy the atmosphere

and have a laugh. The race management team is headed by International Race Officer Roger Palmer, to ensure the highest quality racing.

A top RYA coach will give on-the-water advice, followed by a debrief, a review of video footage shot each day and a question time in the evening. After a hard day's racing competitors will be able to unwind at a Hawaiian themed BBQ and disco in the clubhouse.

Racing is strictly girls only, but the party afterwards is open to family and friends. There will be lots of prizes up for grabs, including RYA trophies and subscriptions to Dinghy Sailing Magazine.

Event organiser, Lucy Burn commented: "This is the perfect opportunity for the girls to kick the lads out of the boat and have a weekend of competitive racing and a load of fun!"

"We've taken a fresh approach to the event this year and have chosen a new date and venue, as well as injected some much needed enthusiasm into its organisation. There has been a lot of interest already so I'm really excited about it - and yes, I will be taking part too!"

For more information, NOR and entry forms contact Lucy Burn at the RYA (lucy.burn@rya.org.uk or 02380 604168) or go to the Hayling Island Sailing Club website at www.hisc.co.uk

SECURE FUTURE FOR SAILABILITY

The future of RYA Sailability has been secured following a management deal with the RYA, which is taking over the total administration of the charity, including the employment of staff.

The move was formally agreed at the RYA Council meeting, on 15th March and all changes will be effective from 1st April 2006.

Sailability will continue to be managed by Debbie Blatchford, who will now have support from all RYA departments.

The core costs of running the Charity, the employment of staff and the administration, will be reduced to a minimal level, leaving Sailability staff to concentrate on generating funds and grant making, without the need to raise substantial sums to fund the Charity's administration costs. It should mean more money raised for projects and centres.

Rod Carr OBE, RYA Chief Executive said: "RYA Sailability plays a crucial part in ensuring the needs of disabled sailors are addressed. We

are delighted to be able to offer RYA Sailability the help they need to continue their vital work and look forward to developing our well established partnership."

RYA Sailability supports over 200 recognised sites for disabled sailing throughout the UK, used by more than 15,000 disabled sailors.

Over 10 per cent of the UK population are disabled and at least 60,000 of these would take up sailing if given the opportunity.



CLOSE RACING AT GRAFHAM WATER OLYMPIC TRIALS

Grafham Water Sailing Club played host to the RYA Olympic Classes Spring Series' second event this month; it was the first domestic test of the new RS:X Olympic windsurf board.

Winner of the recent Rolex Miami Olympic Classes Regatta, Bryony Shaw mastered average wind speeds of between 11 and 16 knots over the weekend to dominate the six race series.

Luke Patience and Chris Grube topped the 470 leaderboard to extend their strong start to the season. While Lucy Macgregor – the newly unveiled bowman for Shirley Robertson's Beijing campaign – was the highest placed female helm in the 470 fleet, sailing with David Steel to finish in fifth place.

Skandia Team GBR transitional squad sailors Dave Evans and Rick Peacock came out on top in the 49er event, while Hugh Styles and Tom Peel won in the Tornado fleet.

With 24 boats competing, the Finn class saw the biggest turnout of the weekend, with Roundhill SC's Chris Brittle coming out on top with eight points and three race wins. Skandia Team GBR's Ed Wright and Mark Andrews finished in second and third places.

The third and final event in the RYA Olympic Classes Spring Series will take place at Hayling Island Sailing Club from 6-7 May. For full results from Grafham, visit http://www.grafham.org/olympic_06.htm.



Front page: The new RS:X board fleet lines up for the start.

Right Top: The 420 fleet in close battle order.

Right bottom: A 49er takes off in the breeze.

(Pictures by Mike Shaw/Fotoboot).



ANY MORE MIRROR 16s STILL AROUND?

Barrie Skeltcher, Slaughden SC writes: "I am restoring my old Mirror 16, No 64, and would like to learn if there are any other Mirror 16 boats still sailing. Better still are there any still racing?"

I won the Mirror 16 nationals three times back in the 1970s in No 64, *Puff*. She has now been restored by Upson's yard and I am putting the finishing touches to her. The class, the largest of the Mirror dinghy range, did not catch on like the Mirror 11 mainly because the sailing schools preferred the more robust Wayfarer. The M16 had a sealed bilge for buoyancy and when water got in, it started to rot. I think most have now met this sad fate."

If anyone can help, contact Barrie Skeltcher at barrie_skeltcher@hotmail.com.



NEW TRIAL MEMBERSHIP DEAL FROM OGA EAST

The East Coast Area of the Old Gaffers Association (OGA) is offering anyone with an interest in gaff rig (or classic Bermudan) a free trial membership period at any time during the year, with nothing to pay until the following January.

They will receive all the benefits of full membership, including free copies of the quarterly Gaffers Log magazine and local Eastcoaster newsletter, as well as discounted entry fees at all East Coast OGA events. At the end of the

season they will be invited to become permanent members; however, if they do not wish to continue, they will owe nothing.

Anyone interested should contact Mike Robertson on 01473 327115.

So far OGA has failed to get the many gaffers in the Broads area interested in joining the organisation. A kick-off meeting last summer provoked little interest and they are planning instead to organise an event for trailer sailers in the area, there's an

active nationwide trailer sailer section in OGA. Details from Mike Robertson (tel 01473 327115 or mrobertson2@anglianwater.com).

Mike has the task of trying to get the new area off the ground so any gaffer owner interested should call him.

East Coast OGA has had to cancel the rally to Southwold this summer and has replaced it with a smacks and gaffers rally and race at Pin Mill on the Orwell, on July 8.

JUDI'S PASSION AIDS DISABLED SAILORS

Judi Figures is a bright, friendly 60-year old who is passionate about sailing. In 1966 she suffered a spinal injury from which she did not recover and eventually contracted Multiple Sclerosis. This did not deter her from pursuing her childhood passion of sailing. Today she is the guiding light behind one of the most flourishing RYA Sailability groups in the country.

Twelve years ago Judi, by then a wheel chair user, went along to her local sailing club at Grafham Water, near Huntingdon, to explore the practicalities of sailing there. The challenge of 40 steps to get to Grafham Water SC's clubhouse was too much. Undeterred she approached Cambridgeshire County Council, which owns the Grafham Water Centre adjacent to the sailing club and got permission to use its facilities; and in 1993 Grafham Water Sailability group was founded with one member - Judi Figures and her Challenger Trimaran.

For two years Judi was practically a lone sailor. However, interest grew steadily, and now there are 36 disabled members who sail every week with 26 helpers on hand. A group of special needs children and adults use the club on a weekly basis which adds to the numbers. The club now has 10 Challenger Trimarans, nine owned by the club and one aptly named *Silver Lining* - available for anyone's use. Two 303 Access sailing dinghies were purchased by Kimbolton and Bedford Rotary Clubs, while Grafham Water SC bought a large RIB as a safety boat and Anglian Water (which owns the reservoir) donated a Drascombe Long Boat to complete the fleet.

In 1996 Huntingdon Round Table bought the first new Challenger and John Major, the local MP at the time, launched it. Help from eight local Rotary clubs has proved invaluable, with two volunteers helping at each sailing session. The volunteers are organised by ex master mariner, Robin Gumbrell, the volunteer waterfront manager.

"We bend the boats and he mends them" Judi added. "We have had to raise an awful lot of money because without waterborne adapted facilities it is very difficult to use the boats.



There was no slipway to launch the Challengers or jetty for the Access 303s. Fundraising and begging raised £42,000 from national charities but there was absolutely no borrowing."

Much of what Judi does is possible thanks to Beau her 4-year-old Golden Retriever. Trained by 'Dogs for the Disabled' he picks up everything around the house. Fortunately she can still drive and gets her wheel chair onto the car roof by means of a mechanical lifting arm.

Judi recently joined Grafham Water Sailing Club so she can sail throughout the winter in her recently acquired Martin 16 *Crusade*. This is a two-man keelboat which she races in open handicap classes every weekend with a regular crew. She's also a member of the Paralympic training squad for the new two-man UD18 keel boat - Judi's skills and knowledge are essential for the squad, as women must form part of the crew. She'll be taking part in this year's first Challenger Internationals at Rutland Water this summer, and is hopping over to Canada to participate in the Mobility Cup in her Martin 16. Judi has been a competitor in this seven-day regatta twice already.

"The success of Grafham Water Sailability Group is due in a great part to the many non-disabled people who have decided that disabled sailors are worth backing. A great team was created. We all love sailing and the freedom it offers".

For more information about Grafham Water Sailability visit www.grafhamsailability.fsnet.co.uk and visit RYA Sailability at www.rya-sailability.org.

Kevin's Paralympic experience will help 2012 hopefuls

A new top-flight race training programme for disabled sailors to prepare for the 2012 London Paralympic Games started at the beginning of March on the Orwell. One of the instructors is twice Gold medal winner Kevin Curtis (pictured).

The disabled sailing charity East Anglian Sailing Trust (E.A.S.T.) launched the first two-year phase of a six-year project, EAST VISION 2012.



With support from the RYA and members of local sailing club Haven Ports, E.A.S.T. has raised the funds to put a fleet of five Squib Keelboats into race trim and to provide a programme of fitness and theoretical training from top flight RYA race coaches.

Integrating with the Squib racing fleet at Haven Ports Yacht Club this first phase will identify disabled sailors who, with intensive race coaching and lots of time on the water, could have the potential to be considered for places in the GBR Paralympic sailing team.

YOU CALL THAT LUCKY?

A Kent family of four had a recent lucky escape when their Broads hire cruiser became wedged under the Vauxhall Bridge on a rising tide on the River Bure, Great Yarmouth. Gorleston RNLI inshore lifeboat went under the bridge and towed it to a safe mooring; none of the occupants on board were hurt during the incident. The family explained that they been trying to read a bridge height indicator post, when they had been unexpectedly carried under the bridge by a strong flood tide.

LOWESTOFT SAILOR FIRES BROADSIDE AT PLANNERS

Proposals to develop the water-side facilities at both Lowestoft and Great Yarmouth (both employment blackspots) are out for public consultation by a consortium consisting of EEDA, Norfolk County Council, Suffolk County Council, Great Yarmouth Borough Council and Waveney District Council.

The aim is to redevelop about 1500 acres of waterside brown field land, making the waterside the central feature. While agreeing with the overall idea, Richard Jordan, vice-Commodore of Lowestoft Cruising Club, which is based on the northern bank of Lake Lothing, warns that direct access to the sea will be impeded, because of the proposal to install a third river crossing across Lake Lothing to ease traffic congestion in the town

"I've looked at the www.1steast.co.uk web site and agree in principle with the majority of the proposals. However, as a frequent user of the port of Lowestoft, I object most strongly to anything that will further restrict the current right of navigation between Lake Lothing and the open sea. The majority of vessels in the tidal area of Lake Lothing are sea going and therefore unsuitable for navigation on the adjacent Broads, so the designers would be under a serious misappre-



Lake Lothing at Lowestoft, with Lowestoft CC in the foreground and the APB Haven Marina on the South shore.

hension if they think that opening the lake to a broad like environment would be a benefit.

"A lot of local businesses rely on free passage from sea for their livelihoods and anything that restricts this runs the risk of that trade going somewhere more convenient. If a third river crossing were to be built, a tunnel or high-level bridge should be the only considerations."

Lowestoft Haven Marina is celebrating its second birthday with a family open day on Saturday 27th May 2006 from 10 am to 3 pm at the marina. There'll be a boat jumble, RNLI demonstrations, live music, barbecues, boat demonstrations, and brokerage boat display. Contact Marina Manager Sarah Hanna, Tel: 01502 580300 or email: shanna@abports.co.uk , for details.



NEW CHARTLET SHOWS STRICT SPEED LIMITS

Suffolk Coastal District Council has issued a map (above) showing the new compulsory speed limits for the River Deben. Most of the river is now subject to an eight knot limit, with one small section between Bawdsey and Ramsholt where speed boats and jet skis can operate. The entrance and nearby coastal waters are also subject to a 10-knot speed limit.

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: Graham Colam	01733 222119
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



RYA HONDA RIB CHALLENGE 2006



CALLING ALL BUDDING POWER BOAT DRIVERS

HAVE FUN AND WIN YOUR CLUB A 4.5 METRE RIB WITH A 40HP HONDA OUTBOARD ON THE BACK, ALL MOUNTED ON A TOP-OF-THE-RANGE ROAD TRAILER.

THIS YEAR RYA EAST IS ORGANISING TWO EXTRA HEATS FOR THIS FUN CHALLENGE IN ADDITION TO THE REGIONAL FINAL AT PAXTON LAKES ON .

WITH THE HELP OF BENFLEET YACHT CLUB IN THE SOUTH AND ROYAL HARWICH YACHT CLUB IN THE CENTRAL COASTAL AREA, MORE YOUNGSTERS THAN EVER WILL BE ABLE TO COMPETE. Competitors can also go to the final at Paxton Lakes.

THIS IS A FUN COMPETITION, OFFERING A BLEND OF DASH COUPLED WITH BALANCE AND BOAT HANDLING SKILLS. COME ALONG AND HAVE A GO, TOP INSTRUCTORS WILL BE ON HAND TO HELP.



ROYAL HARWICH YC IS HOLDING ITS HEAT AT WOLVERSTONE, NEAR IPSWICH ON SATURDAY, MAY 27, STARTING AT 1100HRS. (Details from Terry Corner on 01473 730970

BENFLEET YC IS HOLDING A TRAINING EVENING ON FRIDAY, APRIL 21, WITH IT'S HEAT ONE EVENING THE FOLLOWING WEEK, DEPENDING ON TIDES. (Details from Martyn Garnsey on 01702 206540)

Katrina Curtis (12) receives her prize for winning the junior class at last year's final at Southampton Boat Show. She sails with Kimbolton School SC. She was the first ever girl and RYA East competitor to win the event.