

# RYA EAST NEWS

## REGION'S CASH AND TRAINING IN SAFE HANDS AS NEW MEN JOIN THE REGIONAL COMMITTEE

**THERE** are two new faces on the Regional Committee; Peter Woods is the new regional treasurer and Terry Corner joins as the new chairman of the Regional Training Panel.

Peter (60), who is a retired bank manager, takes over from the late Barry Naylor who died suddenly earlier this Summer. Apart from riding shotgun on regional finances Peter works part time for the Essex Ambulance Service as a driver.

Presenting the accounts for the past year at last month's



**Peter Woods, regional treasurer**

annual general meeting of the RYA regional committee he paid tribute to the way Barry had simplified the accounts,

recovered debts and balanced the books.

Married with three daughters, Peter and his wife Sue sail a Sadler 32 on the East Coast and near continent.

A member of Maldon Little Ship Club for 49 of the 50 years he's been sailing, he represents the BACSPA group of clubs on the Blackwater and Colne rivers on the regional committee.

"I've always championed the cause of the cruising yachtsman," he said. "I believe we must resist this insidious trend by government and civil servants to dictate what, when and where we shall sail."

### TRAINING

Terry Corner, commodore of Royal Harwich Yacht Club, has taken over from Chris Edwards as chairman of the regional Training Panel. He was also confirmed as an ex-officio member of the Regional Committee at the annual meeting – held at RHYC.

Chris Edwards, who is also the regional vice-chairman, stood down to spend more time in his role as Regional Environmental Co-ordinator.

Terry, who has a commercial powerboat



**Terry Corner (left) takes over chairmanship of the regional training panel from regional vice-chairman Chris Edwards.**

and sail yachtmaster certificate and is a registered shorebased instructor, paid tribute to Chris' hard work in developing the role of the training panel over the past two years.

Terry retired as the international services manager for BT, and has been commodore of RHYC for nearly a year.

He first started sailing with the club in Fireflies, spent several years running the club's support boats, was the club's first bosun before moving up to flag rank, and now sails a Canadian designed Nonsuch cat-rigged cruiser. A member of the RNR for 30 years he took part in this year's D-Day commemoration celebrations in Normandy.

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## OLYMPIC ROUNDUP

# BRITISH SAILORS ARE THE BEST IN THE WORLD

**LOCAL** hero Nick Dempsey won the first ever Olympic medal for British windsurfing. Since the inception of windsurfing in the Olympics at Los Angeles in 1984, no British windsurfer has finished on the podium.

Nick's bronze medal was Britain's fourth sailing medal. It was all the more notable as windsurfing isn't this region's strongest discipline.

Norwich-born Nick, sailing in the Mistral Class, had the seemingly insurmountable task of having to make up ten places on the Greek sailor, and local hero, Nikolaos Kaklamanakis, to move up from fourth place to clinch a medal in the final windsurf race of the Olympic regatta.

He rounded the first mark in the lead and managed to keep hold of it until the finish. The gold medal was won by Gal Fridman, the first ever Olympic gold medal for Israel on the water.

Nick commented: "It is the first time in four years that I have felt a sense of achievement. I have done everything I could and it is not just about winning a medal but the sense of achievement in the fact that I have prepared as well as I have and could not have done more. I think that is one thing that I got from Sarah [Ayton, his fiancée], the hours and focus that she has put into her campaign has inspired me. She also gave me her lucky horseshoe that her Grandad polished, and I think that is what did it for me today."

Sarah winner of the gold medal in the Yngling class added: "I am



**Nick Dempsey**

thrilled for him, and the fact that he won his last race is fantastic as you always remember your last race. I am really pleased that he sailed so well, and I think it was definitely the lucky horseshoe that helped. I just told him to go out there, sail his best and pray!"

49er sailors Chris Draper and Simon Hiscocks made it to the bronze medal, racking up Britain's fifth sailing medal and repeating the team's performance in Sydney and again crowning Great Britain as the most successful sailing nation for the second Olympics in a row.

The Ukrainian pair of Rodion Luka and George Leonchuck, won the silver, while the Spanish pairing of Iker Martinez and Xavier Fernandez sailed a fantastic series over the sixteen races, scoring just three results outside the top ten, to win the gold medal.

For Chris Draper it was a fantastic achievement at his first Olympic Games and for Simon Hiscocks, his second Olympic medal, adding to the silver medal he won in Sydney.

Simon said: "We are happy to have won a medal. It has been a long, hard event and we have come away from it with something."



**Top: 470 girls Christina Bassadone and Katherine Hopson**  
**Below: Star sailors Iain Percy and Steve Mitchell**



## SAM AIMS FOR OLYMPICS

**SUFFOLK** sailor Sam Carter (21) is aiming for an Olympic team place by being one of the first of 800 young athletes to get new Government funding to help him compete at the highest level, backed by the Talented Athlete Scholarship Scheme (TASS), getting underway this autumn.

Sam, who is studying geography at Southampton University, has been one of the strongest sailors at his age over the last few years. In 2001 he won the Young Sailor of the Year Award and in 2000 won the Cadet Class World Championships.

As a TASS scholar, (young people aged from 18 to 25 and in higher or further education), Sam will receive sporting services worth £3,000 a year, including paying for coaching, sports science, equipment, physiotherapy and the use of training facilities. Bursaries, worth £1,000, go to teenagers still in education or in first jobs.

The initiative is designed to make it easier for young people to continue their sporting careers after leaving school, instead of seeing raw talent go to waste. TASS is getting an initial £3m over two years from the Treasury.

Sam is now sailing in the 470 Class and is aiming to get into the Olympic Development Sailing Squad.

## PARALYMPIC ROUND UP

## ATHENS A TRIAL RUN FOR BEIJING

**THE 2004** Paralympic Games closed with Team GB sailors finishing on a high and scoring some of their best results of the event.

Brightlingsea girl Hannah Stodel, with fellow crew Stephen Thomas gave skipper John Robertson a third place in the final race of the event in the **Sonar** class, which resulted in them finishing in sixth place overall, just behind the Australian team.

She and the others will soon be back in the boat and training hard for the next Paralympics in Beijing.

John Robertson commented: "It was a tough week and our scores were really up and down. We are disappointed as we hoped to medal at this event but in the end I think we tried too hard and the nerves got the better of us. We will now enjoy a little bit of time off and all of us are keen

to get back in a boat at the beginning of next year and start training for Beijing."

Allan Smith scored his best result of the week on the final day in the **2.4mR** class. A second place saw him finish the event in eighth place overall.

Paralympic Sailing Team Leader and RYA Team GBR Sonar coach Mark Barron commented: "It has been a really tricky week and we are disappointed that we didn't medal as we did everything we could with regards to preparation in the build-up to the Games.

"I think in the end it was down to experience and it was both teams first time at the Paralympic Games, hopefully it has been a great learning experience and I know the Sonar team has certainly got their sights on Beijing," he declared.



**Right: Allan Smith, who came eighth in the single-handed 2.4mR class. Above, working hard at the front of the fleet.**



**Local girl Hannah Stodel with Sonar team mates John Robertson (seated) and Stephen Thomas**



**Mark Barron, the Sonar coach in the RIB, has an on-the-water race debrief with the GBR crew.**

## PARALYMPIC RESULTS

### Sonar

GOLD: Dror Cohen, Arnon Efrati, Benni Vexler, ISR 19 pts

SILVER: Udo Hessels, Macel Van De Veen, Mischa Rossen, NED 28 pts

BRONZE: John Ross-Duggan, Jean Paul Creignon, Bradley Johnson, USA 37 pts

6, John Robertson, Stephen Thomas, Hannah Stodel GBR 49 pts

### 2.4mR

GOLD: Damien Seguin, FRA 21 pts

SILVER: Thomas Brown, USA 22 pts

BRONZE: Thierry Schmitter, NED 25 pts

8, Allan Smith GBR 54 pts

## RAYMARINE YOUNG SAILOR OF THE YEAR AWARD

## SAM GETS REGIONAL ENDORSEMENT

**IPSWICH** disabled sailor Sam Honour has been nominated by the RYA East regional committee as its candidate for the Raymarine Young Sailor of the Year Award.

Sam who is 14 and lives at Kirton, near Ipswich, has Asperger's, a form of autism. Previous local winners have included Royal Hospital School pupil Hannah Stodel (1998) and Waldringfield sailor Sam Carter (2001).

Sam Honour was chosen because he is an instinctive and natural sailor and athlete and has benefited immeasurably from active participation in the sport. He is a member of the Woolverstone Project, which helps disabled people take to the water and learn to sail. Sam is already helping to get other autistic and disabled children to learn to sail.

Sam started recreational sailing six years ago and started racing three years ago. In the first year of racing he came third overall in the Access National Traveller series as crew in an Access 303. These are boats specially designed for disabled people.

In 2003 Sam competed in the International Access Regatta on the French side of Lake Geneva and won the junior/novice single-handed title in an Access 2.3. He also came third (as crew) in both the Access Travellers Series and the UK National Championships in an Access 303. This year he moved from crew to helm and came third in the UK National Access Championships

and second in the Access National Traveller Series. Sam also passed his Level 2 powerboat course this year and intends to follow this with a safety boat course and an instructor course when he is old enough – he's already helping out with the many groups of disabled children that visit the Woolverstone Project, both as a shore party and giving disabled children and sometimes adults the sailing experience

Sam represents the Eastern Region at Disability Sport England swimming galas.

In 2003 he won a bronze medal for the 100m freestyle within his disability category. This year he won two bronze medals for the 100m freestyle and the 50m backstroke. Now he's working towards becoming a swimming pool life-guard.

Peter Catton, Chairman, RYA East, said: "The Eastern Regional Association is delighted to nominate Sam Honour as its candidate for the 2004 – Raymarine Young Sailor of the Year Award. What he has achieved, and what he is doing to help other young disabled sailors learn and enjoy about sailing, is exactly within the spirit of this award.

"From having never sat in a boat six years ago to winning international trophies over the past 18 months says a lot for his dedication and hard work. He is an example to a lot of other youngsters and is a good ambassador for disabled sailing."



Sam and his dad Brian at the Alton Water headquarters of The Woolverstone Project.

## 40 CELEBRATE 40



**HERTFORDSHIRE** and Bedfordshire may be landlocked counties but enthusiastic sailors in the area still find a way to get on the water. For forty years sailors at the North Herts and East Beds Sailing Club have sailed at the Blue Lagoon and last month they celebrated the club's 40th anniversary by getting 40 boats on the water at once.

The Blue Lagoon has rarely seen so many boats, as sailors aged from 6 to 75 deftly avoided one another on the water. Congestion at the jetty also became a real problem when tea was served and the sailors joined the guests for celebrations on shore.

Most classes of sailing dinghies were represented and crews ranged from families sailing together to young children sailing Optimist dinghies on their own. The club may be approaching middle-age, but the sailors on the water were a complete cross-section of ages and abilities.

Visitors included the Mayor of Arlesey and even some of the club's founding members from 1964 (some of whom are still sailing at the club). The Commodore, Jack Ginn, opened proceedings and announced that preparations are already underway for 2014 when 50 boats will be on the water!

# RECORDS BROKEN ON EAST COAST'S TALL SHIP

## WALDRINGFIELD

yachtsman Paul (Ruffy) Ruffles and I recently realised one of life's ambitions – we sailed the last sailing trawler still operating – and helped set a record for the miles travelled in a season and the number of passengers carried.

A regular sight in East Coast waters, the Lowestoft based *Excelsior* carried a record 800 passengers a total of 6,400 miles this year!

*Excelsior* had just returned from a trip to Holland where she had been taking youth leaders on a fact finding cruise as part of the new scheme to encourage school children in the Continental ports she visits to come aboard and sail a 'tall ship'. On the way back she hit such rough weather that she broke her bowsprit in the heavy seas!

Paul and I were guests of the *Excelsior* Trust for a run up the coast to view the Scroby Sands wind farm and in the rising F7 sou'westerly and with all sail set she tramped along at 7.6 knots, which for a vessel 77 feet long (105 feet with the bowsprit) and weighing 102 tonnes deadweight, was exhilarating. I most certainly wouldn't have wanted to take my own 34-footer out in those conditions, but *Excelsior* thrived on it and was safe and solid as rock.

Paul, who normally sails a Beneteau 34 (he's a past commodore of Waldringfield SC) commented that it was an experience not to be missed.

This year the ship underwent a major internal refit making the accommodation below



more comfortable. She has berths for five crew and 12 guests. Trips range from a day sail such as ours to long weekends visiting well known East Coast watering holes to longer trips to the South West, Holland, Scandinavia, the Channel islands, and next year Ireland for the Tall Ships race, which will be from Cork to Corunna in Northern Spain.

*Excelsior* is one of 50 specially maintained vessels, which are recognised by the National Maritime Museum as the core of our historic ships heritage, alongside such other famous names as *Cutty Sark*, *SS Great Britain*, and *HMS Victory*.

She'll be ashore at the Trust's own yard on Lake Lothing, Lowestoft for winter maintenance

and back in business before the end of March. It costs the best part of £100,000 a year to run the Trust's activities, which now includes the full renovation of the *City of Edinboro*' a 200-year-old Hull sailing trawler (it'll cost nearly half a million for this project alone).

A major feature of *Excelsior*'s operation is her work getting youngsters afloat. Ian Russell, the managing trustee told me the Trust is making a major push with schools and education departments to get more youngsters afloat.

"We've found that youngsters who've never been sailing before benefit enormously from trips on *Excelsior*. For some it's proved a life changing experience, they've learnt new skills, the

**Top: Excelsior under full sail as she left Harwich on one of her trips out of the Orwell earlier in the season. Below: Paul Ruffles at the helm of Excelsior. Excelsior's skipper Bill Ewen (beard) and first mate Nick Easterbrook (middle) and David Hastings, Trust Governor, take a breather.**

**Be a Friend of the Excelsior for £20 a year; or become a Governor at £70 a year and get occasional free trips. Details from The Excelsior Trust, Harbour Road, Oulton Broad, Lowestoft, Suffolk, NR32 3LY. Tel: 01508 585302.**

quiet, timid one's are often brought out of themselves and the the brash one's often get levelled down.

"We can offer a mixture of physical education, history, travel, a wealth of physics, maths and geometry, geography too and also importantly citizenship. The youngsters have to pull their weight and work as a team. They do everything, from preparing the vessel for the trip to working her, doing the cleaning, cooking, and navigation."

Trips on the *Excelsior* can also count towards Duke of Edinburgh Awards.

For details of the 2005 programme of day sails, weekends and longer cruises, contact The Excelsior Trust on 01508 585302 or email them on [excelsior@excelsiortrust.freeserve.co.uk](mailto:excelsior@excelsiortrust.freeserve.co.uk)

## TEN YEAR PROGRAMME WILL BRING 1/2 MILLION YOUNGSTERS TO SAILING

**ONBOARD**, the grass-roots programme developed by the RYA to get young people into sailing, was launched on 14 September at Southampton Boat Show by RYA President HRH The Princess Royal and Olympic medallists Sarah Ayton and Nick Dempsey.

Onboard is a nationwide programme that's making it easier for young people to go sailing and get involved in local sailing activities. In developing the programme the RYA looked at existing entry routes into sailing and, through consultation with a broad cross section of youth sailing providers, looked at the successful examples of young people's participation that are currently being run across the country.

From this the programme framework was developed and subsequently tested through two pilot schemes.

Onboard is a long term programme coordinated by the RYA, supported by the British Marine Federation and industry and delivered locally by RYA training centres and clubs.

The programme focuses on increasing non-family entry routes into sailing through closer links with schools' sports activities. This will give more young people the opportunity to get out on the water.

The development of activities specifically for young people offering a variety of sailing for all skills and abilities, will help to encourage regular participation.

Increases in the number of young people sailing will also work to encourage families as a whole out onto the water



The new RYA Onboard logo

and into sailing centres and clubs.

The two pilot schemes carried out in the UK have been an outstanding success and Onboard is now becoming a reality, first in the South West and North and over the next 10 years, all over the UK. Over this period the programme aims to introduce a minimum of 500,000 children to sailing in the UK.

The RYA anticipates that more than 10 per cent will become regular participants.

Rod Carr, RYA Chief Executive, said "Sailing is great fun and gives young people a chance to develop confidence, independence and a real sense of purpose – but we know that it's not always easy to get started.

"Onboard aims to encourage young people to experience the thrills, energy and friendship of sailing by providing an easy route to get on the water and stay there!"

Henri-Lloyd has become the first official partner for Onboard and will supply clothing to instructors and participants in the Onboard programme over the next three years.



**LOUISE NICHOLS** is the RYA's new Communications Manager. Married, she races a Ker32 *Kima-nchee Eve* in the Solent with her brother and offshores on a Formula 28 with her husband. They have a half share in an Elizabethan 30 which they cruise in the Solent, Channel Islands and France. When she can she enjoys a blast in a friend's RIB.

Louise started work as a researcher with London Chamber of Commerce before getting a degree in International Relations at Westminster University. Then she worked as communications officer with International Alert, before moving to a City of London agency handling some blue chip clients in 2001.

## Has YOUR club a story to tell?

**THE** producers of a new BBC TV 13-part series called *Coast*, to be transmitted from June 2005, are casting around for original ideas for inclusion in the programmes, which they will begin shooting later this year.

The programme series is a spin off from the BBC's involvement in the planning of Sea-Britain 2005, and each instalment will be one hour long. SeaBritain 2005 is nationwide celebration of our relationship with the sea, and the Battle of Trafalga and culminates in several major events including a yachting sail past on the Thames, the biggest Fleet Review ever staged and thousands of local events.

The BBC producers say the programmes will be an inspirational mix of human stories and adventures that have shaped our island. Each programme will focus on a particular section of coast. The series, via the experiences of the principal presenter, will journey round the coast, on foot, by sea and by air, stopping to tell stories and meet extraordinary individuals along the way.

Each programme will contain three or four compelling and emotive human stories brought to life through a mix of contemporary story telling and computer imagery that will take the viewer back in time.

The RYA has been asked to help filter the suggestions, so if local clubs or individuals have ideas, send them in outline to John Bagnall, RYA Marketing Manager; email

[john.bagnall@rya.org.uk](mailto:john.bagnall@rya.org.uk)

# CLUB IS 70 YEARS AND STILL GOING STRONG

**ONE** of the East Coast's smallest sailing clubs was 70 years old last month. Stoke Sailing Club, which nestles on the west bank of the River Orwell, between the twin landmarks of the Orwell Bridge and Freston Tower, was formed by a group of Ipswich boat owners on September 18, 1934.

Stoke Sailing Club (SSC), which now has 110 members and boasts a fine self-built clubhouse, had an unpromising start. The original members used to moor their boats alongside the old railway paddle steamer *Norfolk* in New Cut West, at Ipswich, on the staging opposite the Steamboat Tavern. In those days they called themselves, unofficially, the 'New Cut Yacht Club'.

After an inaugural meeting over a pint or two at the Steamboat Tavern in Ipswich docks, Stoke Sailing Club started life in 1934 as the Stoke Bathing Place Sailing Club. When the question of colours came up the bathing huts around the Bathing Place provided inspiration. They were painted white and had corrugated roofs of red oxide. The red and white striped colours fluttering from boats on the Orwell have since become a familiar sight.

A new clubhouse at the Bathing Place was formally opened by the Mayor and Mayoress of Ipswich in 1937, but in 1972 they were forced to move again to make way for the construction of the West Bank Terminal. Undaunted, they took to the water in a floating clubhouse; a lighter with two wooden sheds on top. The sheds were a



**Top: The Stoke Sailing Club clubhouse.**

**Above: David Bryanton, Commodore; Ken Roper, Rear Commodore and President; Bill Bryanton, Vice-Commodore and Tony Hay, Secretary.**

donation from Ipswich Dock Commission as compensation for the loss of the Bathing Place clubhouse.

The lighter was towed to Freston where it remained for a number of years until members were able to buy a piece of land from a local farmer on which to build a permanent clubhouse. The old lighter, still with its sheds intact, became a houseboat at Pin Mill where it remains today.

Says President, Ken Roper: "We fancied a land-based HQ and fortunately our members had all the skills needed to build one ourselves – they were brick-layers, plumbers and electricians. Bill Bryanton, the vice-commodore, did the drawings. We're very proud of what they

achieved. We think the wooden barn-like building, with its black finish, blends in well with the farmland and woodland around it."

The new clubhouse was completed in September 1994.

SSC secretary Tony Hay commented: "This is a popular base for owners of smaller yachts and day fishing boats. We're a small, friendly club. We never set out to be big and from the start we set our membership level at 120.

"The size of the car and dinghy parks also tends to limit the number who can join." Members keep their boats on swinging moorings on either side of the deep-water channel and there is a 26-foot length limit.

**WINNERS** of the Honda RYA Youth RIB Championship 2004 were Paul Magowan (12) from Quoile Yacht Club, Northern Ireland in the 8-12 age group, Charlie Hatfield (15) from the 9th Lymington Sea Scouts in the 13-16 age group.

Both winners went home with an Avon 450 RIB fitted with a Honda 40hp 4-stroke outboard on an Indespension trailer for their club.

The Final took place at the Southampton Boat Show in drizzle and rain, with gusts of up to 38 knots making the manoeuvres difficult. Impressive performances were put in by all competitors, with only seconds separating first, second and third in each group. Paul Magowan completed the course in 1 minute 16.63 seconds and Charlie Hatfield scoring 1 minute 03.66 seconds.

**GRAFHAM** Water SC hosted the inaugural Crewsaver Top Club, supported by the RYA, over the weekend of September 18/19. Top Club is only open to RYA affiliated clubs; each enters a three-boat team with one boat in each group; fast, medium, and slow, over six races each. With one discard, an overall result produced a group winner and the overall results of the three boats from the same club were then added together, the club with the lowest team score being awarded the title Crewsaver Top Club – Parkstone YC from Dorset.

The 31 clubs entered 39 different classes of boat. Prizes included wetsuits, buoyancy aids and spray tops, plus training buoys. The top two clubs also won professional coaching days aimed at regular club sailors and to be held at their clubs. Next year's event will again be held at Grafham.

## EAST COAST CADET SAILORS TO SPEND XMAS IN AUSTRALIA

**WALDRINGFIELD SC** Cadet sailors Stephen Videlo and James Jopling topped the leader board at the recent Cadet Worlds Indicator and as a result will be spending Christmas in Australia, competing in the Cadet Worlds as part of the British Team.

They're also joined by fellow WSC Cadet sailors, Andrew Twinn and his crew Aaron Woolf. Half the team comes from the Eastern Counties and in ranking order, consists of Stephen Videlo and James Jopling, Waldringfield; Tom Makey and Jonathon Kimber, Corinthian Otters and Stone SC (Essex); Jodie Green and Stevie Green, Stone SC, David and Katrina Brewer, Parkstone (Dorset); William Rusden and Mathew Davanzo, Highcliffe, (Hants); Andrew Twinn and Aaron Wolf, Waldringfield, and James Rusden and Sam Muskett, Highcliffe and Royal Lyngington.



**Top: Steven Videlo and James Jopling hard at work.**

**Bottom: The GB Cadet team going to the World's in Australia.**

## CHAMPION CLUBS CONFERENCE

**ROYAL** Harwich YC is hosting a major regional conference for top flight sailing clubs on **November 20.**

Clubs that have attained, or are in the process of attaining RYA Volvo Championship Club status are being urged to attend.

The seminars are a unique opportunity for sailing clubs to get together and share ideas about what works and what doesn't work for them.

This year's seminars will include workshops on child protection; RYA Volunteering strategy, and the RYA on-board initiative

Details from Bruce Bonar, East Zone High Performance Manager, 63, Parker Road, Wittering, Peterborough, PE8 6AR or email: [bruce.bonar@rya.org.uk](mailto:bruce.bonar@rya.org.uk) Tel: 07909 994642.

Or download an application from the RYA website at [www.rya.org.uk](http://www.rya.org.uk)

## WHO'S WHO AT RYA EAST

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