

## KEEPING EASTERN REGION SAILORS INFORMED



**RYA President**, HRH The Princess Royal spent several happy hours meeting the sailing folk of Tollesbury, earlier this month. She was helping Tollesbury SC celebrate its 70 years, unveiled a plaque at Tollesbury Cruising Club and toured the marina; she spent time also inspecting the smack Sunbeam from stem to stern and surprised everyone with her detailed knowledge of such an old craft. She also visited The Granary, recently featured in BBC TV2's Restoration Village programme. One of her hosts was regional chairman Chris Edwards whose home in Tollesbury overlooks the harbour and salt flats.

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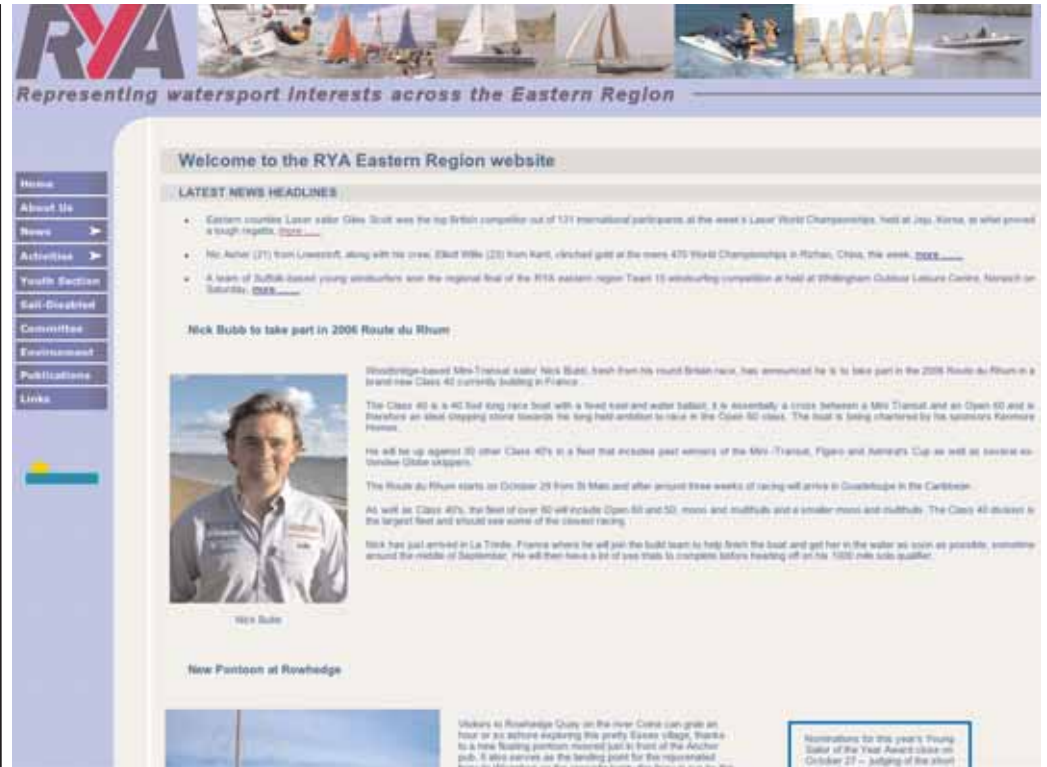
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## NEW REGIONAL WEBSITE GOES ON-LINE

**IT'S UP AND IT'S RUNNING...** Thanks to Gerry Askham, our new regional webmaster, we now have a new and very professional looking website [www.ryaeast.org](http://www.ryaeast.org). It's still a bit bare but the structure and style is there. We'll be adding news at regular intervals, expanding the information and widening the scope of links as well.

Regional Communicator Garth Cooper commented: "In this fast moving world it does behove us to make as full use of modern information technology as possible. Most clubs now have their own websites, and many of them are very good too. As a region we lagged behind, now we're hoping to be able to bring you the news from the region, and the news that affects the region, a great deal faster. As we build the site there will be more technical information of practical daily use to clubs and individual sailors.

"[www.ryaeast.org](http://www.ryaeast.org) is the gateway to regional information. We hope that clubs will add links to the new site on their websites. Any news items which are particularly relevant can be copied for their own websites or newsletters. We are continuing to publish RYA East News quarterly because doing so on a monthly basis was far too expensive," he added.

To get your club's news onto the new website contact Garth Cooper, RYA East Communicator on [garthword@btinternet.com](mailto:garthword@btinternet.com).

# WALDRINGFIELD SAILORS ARE WORLD CHAMPIONS

It's been a pretty hectic last few weeks for members of Waldringfield SC, resulting in them bringing home a number of national championships and showing the flag abroad with good effect as well.

Alan Krailing and Ed Mardle (pictured) are the new 2006 Lark National Champions and Robert Deaves is 2006 OK National Champion.

In addition Hamish Stone and Aaron Woolf were second in the Cadet Worlds on Lake Balaton in Hungary earlier in the month, while fellow Cadet crew of Seb Balch and Emma Knott were second in the Promotional Regatta (74 boats) which ran alongside the World Championships (81 boats).



## NICK BUBB TO RACE ROUTE du RHUM

Woodbridge-based Mini-Transat sailor Nick Bubb, fresh from his round Britain race, has announced he is to take part in the 2006 Route du Rhum in a brand new Class 40 currently building in France.

The Class 40 is a 40 foot long race boat with a fixed keel and water ballast, it is essentially a cross between a Mini Transat and an Open 60 and is therefore an ideal stepping stone towards his long held ambition to race in the Open 60 class. The boat is being chartered by his sponsors Kenmore Homes.

He will be up against 30 other Class 40s in a fleet that includes past winners of the Mini-Transat, Figaro and Admiral's Cup as well as several ex-Vendee Globe skippers.

The Route du Rhum starts on October 29 from St Malo and after around three weeks of racing will arrive in Guadeloupe in the Caribbean.

As well as Class 40s, the fleet of over 80 will include Open 60 and 50, mono and multihulls and a smaller mono and multihulls. The Class 40 division is the largest fleet and should see some of the closest racing.

Nick has just arrived in La Trinite, France where he will join the build team to help finish the boat and get her in the water as soon as possible, sometime around the middle of September. He will then have a lot of sea trials to complete before heading off on his 1000 mile solo qualifier.

## Waveney Fleet Expands

Waveney Sailability, which was formed a year ago and already has a fleet of seven Access dinghies and a Squib has been given another Access 303 dinghy by the Broads Authority.

Nigel Dark, Administrator of the Authority's Sustainable Development Fund, presented the dinghy to club secretary Kevin Taylor at Waveney Sailability's headquarters at Waveney and Oulton Broad Yacht Club.

The dinghy, which bears the Broads Authority's dragonfly logo and has been named 'Tom-Breezer', the Suffolk name for dragonfly, will bring Waveney Sailability's all Access fleet to eight. Others have been provided by local Rotary Clubs - while the Squib was donated privately. Another dinghy is to be donated shortly.

Waveney Sailability's £6,750 grant came from the Broads Authority's Sustainable Development Fund, which is provided by the Government.

It is intended to make Waveney Sailability as self-sufficient as possible, and has provided funding for RYA training for 10 assistant instructors and rescue boat operators as well as

promotional leaflets and a website.

Secretary Kevin Taylor, who was one of the people who started the club a year ago, said: "The Broads Authority's funding is absolutely brilliant. The club is really taking off. The boats are in constant use every week. We never have a boat standing around doing nothing."

The dinghies, which cost £3,500 each, carry lead in their centreplates so they don't capsize, they are operated by a joy stick, have a high boom to give plenty of headroom and deckchair type seating. There is room for an RYA trained instructor to sit beside the helmsman for hands-on training.

The club has about 45 members with disabilities, who come from the Lowestoft, Great Yarmouth and Norwich areas and who, for £50 a year, can book a sail for half an hour every Tuesday afternoon.

Twenty able bodied volunteers and RYA instructors from the Oulton Broad Watersports Centre run the sessions.

For information about Waveney Sailability ring secretary Kevin Taylor on 01502 475228, mobile: 0771 2248044 or email kevin-taylor@lineone.net .

Up River Yacht Club, based on the River Crouch at Hullbridge, is celebrating its 70th Anniversary this year. The club is hosting two days of dinghy races around Olympic-style courses on 7th and 8th October. The series was held for the first time last year, and proved so successful that it has now become an Open Event. Contact John Hutchinson through the club website at [www.upriver.org](http://www.upriver.org) .



## WON BY A WHISKER AT BEDS AND CAMBS REGATTA

**This year's** RYA Eastern Region Beds and Cambs Regatta proved a challenge for the teams as the wind shifts and variable wind strength tested their ingenuity in setting the traditional trapezoidal courses. However, the 75 competitors from 13 of the Association's clubs enjoyed competitive sailing in the sunshine with a force 2-3 breeze in the three race format.

The Fast fleet of thirty three boats contained Kestrels, Laser 1s, Laser 2000, National 12, Lark, Fireball, RS 200 plus two Flying Fifteens and a menagerie of single-handers. At the end of three close races, with two to count, the Laser 2000 of Mike and Anne St Paer (who won in 2005 in a Flying

Fifteen) won this year's trophy by the slimmest margin by winning the last race after a tie with the RS 400 of Chris Larr and Jamie Morgan, each boat counting a first and second. Five different classes filled the top five places.

The Slow Fleet of 42 boats was dominated by the Laser Radials filling four of the top six places overall. Once again the top two contenders were tied on points with David Ashworth taking the trophy by winning the last race from fellow Radial sailor Ralph Bonfield.

Last year's winner Mike Clarke (Solo) settled for third place overall. Four Challenger trimarans from Grafham Water Sailability took part with David Campbell their top boat in seventh place.



**Eastern counties** Laser sailor **Giles Scott** was the top British competitor out of 131 international participants at this week's Laser World Championships, held at Jeju, Korea, at what proved a tough regatta, thanks to a typhoon.

Giles, who is a member of Skandia Team GBR, is the 2005 Volvo Youth Sailing ISAF World Champion, lives in Huntingdon, and sails on Grafham Water, Cambs. Fickle winds, choppy waves, and the presence of Typhoon Shanshan meant that only seven races were completed in the unstable conditions.

Giles had a strong start to the event in his favoured big-breeze conditions and posted an impressive three first place finishes in the seven race series, yet the 19 year-old was unable to maintain his form through the event which was ultimately won by Australian sailor, Michael Blackburn.

Giles entered the final race in third overall with a slim lead over the nearest competitors, but a bad start compounded by becoming becalmed on the last run pushed him down to 29th, leaving him with an aggregated seventh place overall for regatta.

European Champion and recent winner of the Qingdao Olympic Test event, Paul Goodison was also competing in the event; ranked number one in the world, he ended the event just behind Giles in eighth overall.

Also flying the Skandia Team GBR flag were brothers Mark and Stephen Powell and Mark Howard, all finishing deep in the fleet.

Complete results can be found on [www.laserinternational.org/W2006/Results/results\\_index.htm](http://www.laserinternational.org/W2006/Results/results_index.htm) .

## RIVER HOOLIGANS GET COME-UPPANCE

**Anti-Social** Behaviour Orders (ASBO) will be slapped on jet skiers and powerboat hooligans who are making residents' lives and those of visiting yachtsmen "a misery" at Felixstowe Ferry at the mouth of the river Deben. And apart from upsetting the residents, there are growing fears that there will be a major accident involving innocent passing yachts.

Suffolk Coastal District Council has launched a crackdown on those acting irresponsibly after the local authority, police, and Deben Watch received numerous complaints from nearby residents and other water users over the summer.

Following previous problems in the Felixstowe Ferry area, jet skiers and powerboat drivers were asked to keep at least 200 metres offshore, and south of the Martello Tower, to avoid potential accidents with swimmers and to minimise the disturbance to local residents.



**Clean sailors...** (l to r) Rod Carr MBE, CE RYA, Jon Eads, Managing Director of MDL Marinas, Dick Durham, Features Editor of *Yachting Monthly* on the Green Blue stand at Southampton Boat Show, who were all challenged by Mike Golding (right) to become cleaner sailors and more aware of the environment in which they sailed. Jon will drive his motor boat with more care; Rod will pump his bilges via a filter and Dick will stop throwing even the banana skins overboard!

# WIPEOUTS ARE CHAMPS AGAIN



A team of Suffolk-based young windsurfers won the regional final of the RYA eastern region Team 15 windsurfing competition at held at Whitlingham Outdoor Leisure Centre, Norwich on Saturday. This is the second time in a row the team has won this event.

Alton Water Wipeouts, whose home water is Alton Reservoir at Stutton, near Ipswich won all four rounds of the competition, despite some tough competition from teams from Peterborough, Grafham, and Norwich.

They will be representing the region at the National Team 15 Windsurfing Championships at Rutland Water on October 7. Prior to that event, a majority of the youngsters will be competing in the RYA East Zone Championship at West Mersea, Essex, on Saturday and Sunday, September 29 and 30.

The Norwich event was the largest this season under the direction of newly appointed East Zone Team 15 Windsurf Coach Graham Colam; 27 competitors took part, with Norwich Force 8, which only formed as a T-15 club at the beginning of this season, fielding the largest team with 10 sailors. The largest fleet was the 4.5m class with nine competitors.

The conditions were perfect for the event, with wall-to-wall sunshine and a cross shore wind of Force 2 in the morning building to Force 3 to 4 in the afternoon.

Bryony Bennett Lloyd (11) sailing her

first-ever Team 15 event for host club Norwich Force 8 won the 3.5m class – her elder brother Tom won the biggest-rigged Open 6.8 fleet. Tom writes a regular column under the pseudonym ‘Young Gun’ in Windsurf Magazine.

Dean Taylor (11) sailing for Alton Water Wipeouts won the 4.5m class. Dean commutes from his home in Milton, Cambridge to training on the near-Ipswich lake. He only took up windsurfing two years ago, following in the footsteps (or board pads) of eldest brother Ryan who is an ex-zone squad member and is now an RYA Windsurf Coach, and elder brother Liam, who won the Bic Techno 6.8m restricted class.

Liam (14) has been sailing for Grafham Water-based Team Jonti for four years, three of them as a Team 15 competitor. He plans to go into the zone squad this season and will compete at the zone championship.

The winner of the 5.5m class was James Tweedle (14) sailing for Team Jonti. He lives in Stevenage, Herts and has been windsurfing for two years. He started this season in the 3.5m and changed up to the larger rigged 5.5m only recently. This was his first-ever competitive sail in this class.

Commenting on the resurgence of youth windsurfing in the region this year, East Zone Team 15 coach Graham Colam said: “I am delighted at the progress all these youngsters are making. It’s no easy matter to master the skills –

## The winners; Alton Water Wipeouts with coach Ian Haywood.

just keeping their balance is a major challenge, and then having to judge wind direction and speed on top, makes this a challenging sport. The key to enjoying it is having fun.

“Not every one can be a winner but a lot of them gained in experience during this competition. But without a doubt Liam Taylor was the outstanding competitor of the year.” he added.

Among those to do well were Oliver Leigh (13) sailing for Jonti; he lives in Saversey, Cambs, and had his first experience of Team 15 competition scoring second in two of the five races held in the 3.5m fleet. Another first-timer to make his mark was Carl Spence-Jones who got a second place in the last race of the day in the 5.5m fleet. Other first-time Team 15 eventers were Chris Dakin (13) from Frettenham, Norfolk, sailing for Norwich Force 8 in the 3.5's; Kate Vavasour (11) also from Norwich; Helena Fletcher (11) from Norwich, and Felicity Armstrong (14) from Wrenningham, Norfolk.

Final teams scores were; Alton Water Wipeouts 154 points, Norwich Force 8 second with 342; Lakeside Loafers (Peterborough) third with 369 points; jonti (Grafham Water) fourth with 396 points and Tallington (also near Peterborough) fifth with 512 points.

# NIC IS 470 WORLD CHAMPION

**Nic Asher** (21) from Lowestoft, along with his crew, Elliott Willis (23) from Kent, clinched gold at the recent mens' 470 World Championships in Rizhao, China, and in doing so they became the first Britons since 1988 to win the world title in the Olympic double-handed class.

They won from a fleet of 87 boats, which included defending World Champions Nathan Wilmot and Malcolm Page of Australia, and Skandia Team GBR's own Nick Rogers and Joe Glanfield, who won silver at the Athens Games in 2004..

Nic and Elliott previously took the bronze medal in the class at the recent Olympic Test Event in Qingdao, China, behind Nick Rogers and Joe Glanfield, who themselves were silver medallists at the 2005 Worlds in San Francisco earlier in the year.



**Nic Asher (helm) and Elliott Willis (on trapeze) make it look all too easy during their assault on the 470 crown at Rizhao.**



**Nic Asher**

Nic and Elliott's first-ever triumph over their experienced teammates signals that there will be a battle royal for the single British slot in the class for the Beijing 2008 Olympic Games.



**Christina at the helm while Saskia climbs out on the wire to keep the boat upright.**

**Elliott Willis**



Nigel Buckley and Peter Newlands were the last Britons to win the 470 World Championship title in 1988.

"Our coach told us during the week that a British pair hadn't won the Worlds since 1988 – there's nothing like a bit of pressure, is there? But it's brilliant for us

– we're just happy that we've put together a consistent, strong series and it's paid off.

"It was a really shifty venue, so for us it was a case of sailing our own race, and sailing intuitively which I think was the key throughout," commented Nick Asher.

The pair's previous best at the World Championships came in 2005 when they finished sixth.

In the 470 women's fleet, Skandia Team GBR's best performance came from 2005 silver medallists Christina

Bassadone and Saskia Clark, who finished sixth overall.

Saskia (26), right, whose home is in Colchester, is ranked second in the world, and is the energetic one who climbs out on the wire to keep the boat balanced.

She's also the one who analyses their performance as they go along.



# NEW PUBLICATIONS FOR BEGINNERS

The 2006 Southampton Boat Show was the backdrop for the launch of the RYA's book to attract a new generation of children into boating – **Go Cruising: A practical introduction to yachts and motor cruisers** – made its first public appearance during the annual children's party and proved a hit with children and adults alike.

Following the successful 'Go Sailing' and 'Go Sailing Activity Book', 'Go Cruising' is the third book from the RYA's hit children's series. Beautifully illustrated by Claudia Myatt, the book gives seven to 12-year olds their first written insight into cruising.



**Claudia Myatt**

Go Cruising's easy to understand storyboard format makes learning about sailing fun and interesting for children. Each chapter is fully illustrated and contains not only information on safe sailing, but also top tips and advice. Chapters include: What is Cruising; Welcome Aboard!; Set Sail!; Take the Helm!; All At Sea; Sea Sense; Land Ho! and, How Do I Choose A Boat.

Go Cruising author, Claudia Myatt said: "There are lots of books about cruising with children but nothing specifically written with children in mind. Go Cruising will hopefully get children interested in cruising through it's use of lots of colourful interesting illustrations which makes learning about cruising fun. It also uses lots of easy to understand language rather than technical sailing terminology – which can be tricky even for adults."

The book is just one of several initiatives under the RYA Youth Awareness Campaign, which aims to increase general youth participation in sailing.

Also launched was the latest edition

to the Handbook series – **RYA VHF Handbook** – written by Tim Bartlett. Through clear instruction and colourful illustrations, Tim, author of the best-selling RYA Navigation Handbook, navigates this complicated yet highly important subject, making VHF easy to grasp and understand.

Tim believes that by addressing the subject in a straight-forward approach, he has made VHF easy to understand:



**Tim Bartlett**

"The RYA VHF Handbook approaches the subject by breaking it down into easy to understand chapters. In this way it enables the reader to understand how VHF works, whilst also understanding the practical skills needed today to use the technology whilst out on the water," he said.

The book is essential background reading for anyone planning to go to sea and is an ideal accompaniment to the RYA Marine Radio Short Range Certificate Course.

Tim Bartlett is a freelance journalist and regular contributor to several marine magazines. As well as being the author of over a dozen books including RYA Navigation Handbook, he is an RYA Yachtmaster Instructor (Power), Advanced Powerboat Trainer, Diesel Engine Instructor, Radar Trainer, and SRC Instructor Assessor.

Honda 225 Powerboat Racing Champion, Shelley Jory launched **RYA Start Powerboating**, a new exciting book to encourage newcomers to the world of powerboating.

Start Powerboating is an essential guide to those new to the sport and covers the key aspects of powerboating, from basics such as the boat and equipment needed, through to heavy weather

techniques and night navigation.

Author and powerboating expert Jon Mendez, believes that it is this underpinning knowledge that will help newcomers get the most from the sport: "RYA Start Powerboating is packed full of information that every newcomer to powerboating needs to know about. However, by using lots of colourful illustrations and straight-forward talking, the book covers all of these different areas logically."

The publication is the official course book for both levels of the Power Boat Scheme. Author Jon Mendez is an RYA Yachtmaster Instructor Examiner and a powerboat trainer. He was the RYA Chief Powerboat Instructor. His work has taken him across the world skipping yachts of up to 40 meters and he now runs his own business.

Go Cruising (G42) costs £8.99 and RYA VHF Handbook (G31) costs £11.99, while Start Powerboating (G48) costs £8.99; all are available to order from the RYA website: [www.rya.org.uk/shop](http://www.rya.org.uk/shop) or phone 0845 3450372.



**Jon Mendez**

## EAST ZONE CHAMPIONSHIP

WEST MERSEA, SATURDAY 30  
SEPTEMBER AND SUNDAY  
OCTOBER 1.

Full report and pictures on regional website [www.ryaeast.org](http://www.ryaeast.org)

**GET CONNECTED FOR  
THE RESULTS**

# BRUCE BONAR RESIGNS

## NEWS IN BRIEF

**Bruce Bonar** is resigning as High Performance Manager (HPM) for the combined East and South East Zones. He has been HPM for three years and wants to spend more time at home with his fiancée Gemma after their marriage at the New Year.

An advertisement for a new high performance manager to oversee the development of youth racing in the East and South East Zones, has just gone to Press.

Bruce has spent the last three years in the post bringing young sailors such as Giles Scott, who recently topped the Laser rankings, up through the regional and zone training squad programmes.

He has been responsible for encouraging hundreds of youngsters throughout the Eastern Counties and Kent, Surrey and Sussex into competitive sailing, and working closely with regional and club coaches.

Bruce said: "There are exciting and challenging times ahead and it will be a huge wrench walking away as this is one of the most rewarding jobs I have been fortunate enough to do. I hope to stay involved in the programmes in a much more low key way so won't be completely disappearing."

Between now and the end of November when his contract with the RYA ceases, he'll be kept extremely busy, with two Zone Championships to run, dinghy and windsurf Zone Squads to



select and Zone Squad Programmes for all classes to start.

"My aim is to be able to provide a seamless handover to the new HPM so they can be on the ball right from the very start," he added.

Regional Chairman Chris Edwards said: "Bruce has been instrumental in getting more youngsters than ever into competitive sailing in this region. He has endeared himself to children and parents alike and they will miss him. He has worked 110 per cent for the last three years, not only with the children, but very closely with the Eastern Regional Committee and the Regional Training Panel."

**Mersea** has a new Water Bailiff. He's local diver John Welham, who's a dab hand at cleaning off bottoms while afloat or untangling fouled props and finding lost anchors. His new job will be to patrol the area linking with Maldon River Bailiff Nigel Harmer to the South and Bernie Hetherington, HM at Brighlingsea and the Colne to the North.

**Stephen Read**, assistant HM at Felixstowe Ferry tells us that work on strengthening the crumbling sandstone and clay cliffs at East Lane, Bawdsey, has been going on a-pace. In September 1200 tonnes of Norwegian granite were desposited in a safe holding area just off the beachhead and placed along the cliff base.

The £450,000 project to shore-up East Lane Point, midway between the mouth of the River Deben and the entrance to the River Ore, will save a considerable amount of an estimated 1.2 million acres of coastal plain from inundation. Without it Bawdsey could become an island and Orford would be on the sea beach.

**The Woolverstone** Project has had a new Yamaha 15hp outboard and its controls stolen from the Project's principal rescue RIB at Alton Water near Ipswich. The project gets disabled people afloat in its fleet of Access dinghies and Challenger Trimarans.

Johny Dickinson, MBE, the project director said: "They appear to have got in with the aid of bolt croppers, as padlocks to both the main centre site and our compound were missing. They took the new 15hp Yamaha outboard and did a certain amount of damage to the RIB in getting it off.

"While taking the controls, they dismantled and damaged the steering gear. They did not take the VHF although they removed it to get at the inside fittings of the controls in the console. They also nicked the wetsuits."

Police later found the wetsuits, clearly labelled "Woolverstone Project," during a house raid in Ipswich. Of the outboard, there's no sign, but local feeling is that it was on a lorry to Belgium the same night.

"Our big fear now is that it's a gang who target an area and then come back to pick up the replacement engines that have been fitted by the owners. We are watching our space very carefully," added Johny.

## HOME ALONE

**The skipper's** fallen overboard, been knocked out, fallen down the companionway – we hope not, but do other crew members know how to cope and get themselves, the boat and the skipper back to port?

The Royal Harwich Yacht Club, (RHYC), at Woolverstone, now runs a one day training course aimed at increasing the confidence of the crew, help them not panic, enable them to handle the boat, call for assistance and begin to deal with nautical or medical emergencies as well as set priorities.

The courses are based on a similar programme run by the Cruising Club of America and are undertaken in conjunction with the Suffolk Section of the Cruising Association.

Besides the main issues including stabilising the situation and getting the

boat under control, communicating with other vessels or with land, finding the way to a safe harbour, and recovering a person who has fallen overboard; participants also get a basic knowledge of first aid and resuscitation techniques.

Attendees are offered a further day on board a charter yacht with a professional skipper to practice the manoeuvres talked about.

RHYC Commodore Terry Corner commented: "Our experience is that the attendees have to first overcome a physiological barrier by having to think about the unthinkable. Their partner of x years is incapacitated or missing and they are a long way from home. Once past that many have enjoyed the opportunity to discuss matters with like-minded people. This has fuelled demand for training afloat."

# HIRE FLEETS SHIPSHAPE

The training hire fleets have ended up the season in much better order than in previous years, according to retiring Fleet Hire Manager Martyn Garnsey. He told a recent meeting of the Regional Training Panel that markedly less gear had gone missing and that physical damage to boats, gear and trailers had been greatly reduced.

In previous years whole rigs, spares, buoyancy-bags, -aids, even mainsheets and hull bungs had gone walk-about.

Martyn, a member of Benfleet YC, has handed over the job to fellow club member Laurie Mason (who can be contacted on 01702 292851). For several years Benfleet has stored the fleets and overseen their maintenance on a voluntary basis.

Martyn said the hiring of the fleets was still bedevilled by the greatest demand being in the school holidays. Regional vice-Chairman Fiona Wylie commented that with the appointment of the new Regional Development Officer and the roll out of the OnBoard programme, it should be possible to make greater use of the fleets during school term time as well.

This winter all the road trailers will get a major overhaul and all are being re-weighed with a full load of boats and gear. Clubs who hire the fleets next year will have to ensure their collection drivers have the right driving licence; under new DVLA regulations there are strict weight limits (3.5t for the towing vehicle

and under 750Kg for the loaded trailer, or 3.5t the whole rig) for drivers who passed their road test after 1st January, 1997.

The Training Panel is also to investigate the introduction of a new class of single and double-handed boat. Clubs and coaches are to be canvassed for their ideas.

Following complaints that the RYA does not recognise first aid certificates issued by outside organisations (such as Red Cross and St John's Ambulance) to instructors and helpers on courses, the Panel approached the headquarters training department for a ruling. The RYA recognises HSE approved first-aid certificates, but only if the holder can prove to have gone through the three-yearly re-validation process.

## VHF SILENCE LESSON

**Timely warning** comes from reader Dick Holness, a coastguard auxiliary who sails a Moody 31S often in our waters, he was crossing the Thames Estuary the other day and listening to the VHF traffic from yachts.

"Every muppet who called up asking for a radio check got the same response - 'can I have your international callsign, please, sir/madam?'"

"Some were able to find it. Some simply never answered. One lady got ever so flustered, and was politely told to 'have it ready next time you call, madam'."

"After that, hardly anybody called up! Peace and tranquility....."



This strange looking object is rarely if ever seen – it's the deep water end of Royal Harwich YC's hard. This picture was taken by club member John Glasspool at low water on September 8, the lowest recorded low water level in recent memory.



**If you** spot one these off the East Anglian coast, don't panic, it's an ODAS buoy marking the placement of wave monitoring equipment. This one caused concern as it appears the Environmental Agency had forgotten to tell anyone it was theirs! The buoys mark equipment being placed by an international marine commission studying climate change.

We've been assured that proper NMs will be issued. Visit [www.eastcoast-pilot.com](http://www.eastcoast-pilot.com) for the latest positions.

## WHO'S WHO AT RYA EAST

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RYA Council Members: Chris Edwards and Terry Corner	

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