



Recognising outstanding contributions within our sport

A blue-tinted photograph of several people on a sailboat deck, engaged in various tasks. One person in the foreground is wearing a life vest and appears to be handling equipment. The background shows other crew members and parts of the boat's rigging.

RYA Volunteer Awards 2013



Congratulations



"The generosity and dedication of this year's RYA Volunteer Award winners is simply astounding.

Each one of you listed in this booklet has been nominated by your fellow volunteers, club members and other members of the boating community in appreciation of a contribution which has exceeded all expectations.

You give your time, commitment and expertise tirelessly year in, year out. You, our army of volunteers, are inspiring generations and creating a lasting legacy. Without you, our sports would be immeasurably poorer.

I have had the opportunity to meet many volunteers around the UK and it is undoubtedly one of the most enjoyable aspects of my job. You are an inspiration to us all and it is my pleasure to recognise and celebrate your work through these Awards."

Sarah Presdee



RYA Award 2013 – National

David Darbyshire



David has served the RYA tirelessly for a number of years, much of it at the highest level. During this period he has unstintingly given his time, his sound advice and his unswerving desire to do

his best for the Association.

He led the volunteer effort in relation to the passage of the Marine and Coastal Access Bill which received Royal Assent in 2009. His drive, determination and scrupulous attention to detail have undoubtedly improved the standing of the RYA within the wider recreational boating community.

David was appointed as a member of the RYA Cruising Committee in 2004 and served on it until 2006 when it merged with the Legal and Government Affairs Committee (CGAC). He was then elected as Chair of the new CGAC. As its first chairman, David was pivotal in merging the various workstreams of the two committees to represent the RYA's recreational boating interests more effectively and to maximise its lobbying activity.

David served as CGAG Chairman for five years, retiring in January 2012 at the end of his tenure. He also sat as chair of the RYA Audit Committee until November 2012, when he decided it was time for him to retire from RYA duties and devote his time to family, personal study and to his passion for sailing.

Pat Dodd



Pat was involved with RYA Sailability from 2002 when she served on the board of Trustees until 2012. She became Chair of the board in 2007.

Running a charity is often a challenging

commitment. The time consuming art of fund raising, balancing priorities, keeping volunteers and staff motivated and focussed and making sure that the funds raised are put to best use, all place heavy demands on the Chair of a board of trustees. Over the years Pat has demonstrated that she possesses all the necessary skills. Her qualities of patience, forbearance, dogged determination, tact, sheer good-naturedness, and her willingness to commit endless amounts of time to the charity, have made her a most respected leader.

It is not possible to please all of those with an interest in the work of a charity all of the time. The trick is to settle on a strategy, be ready to explain it to those who wish to know and then put it into action. Pat Dodd has been at the heart of Sailability for over ten years and has exercised her powers of persuasion and charming good nature to lead it throughout this time.

Nick Harrison



Nick Harrison made his name as a sailor competing in the Laser class and has won the Laser Masters Worlds, European and National Championships, in addition to the Albacore World and National Championships.

As a long-standing member of Stokes Bay Sailing Club, Nick has quietly supported the Olympic campaigns of many recent GBR sailing medallists, in addition to taking an active role in the development of youth sailing at Stokes Bay. Nick can be found every weekend co-ordinating and supporting the sailing sessions, which have introduced hundreds of children to the sport of sail racing.

Since the early 1990's Nick has supported Iain Percy and funded his sail development programme for 2000. He handed over the day-to-day running of his business in order to focus fully on helping Iain Percy and Andrew Simpson with their 2012 Olympic campaign, all in a voluntary capacity.

As a sailing nation, it is the likes of Nick who can help make the difference. From inspiration to support and guidance, Team GBR and sailing around the UK have benefitted from Nick's help in one way or another, for over 30 years.

In the words of Andrew and Iain themselves 'Nick has an infectious enthusiasm for sailing and the support he has offered us goes much further than just coaching. He bought us a container to store our equipment in and the overall contribution he has made to us goes way beyond what we could have wished for. He is a legend.'

Colin Jenkins



During the 1990's whilst acting as results manager at Mumbles Yacht Club, Colin quickly recognised the limitations of the then computer results programmes, and set about improving them.

It soon became apparent to him that nothing short of a new system would suffice. He went on to develop and distribute the results programme 'Sailwave' as freeware available to all without charge and in doing so brought national and international benefit to the sailing community.

An important feature of Sailwave, is the users forum which provides feedback and influences the ongoing development of the software. This group is now worldwide in its spread and boasts over 2000 members.

Colin has also made a direct, personal contribution to RYA events and technical administration. He has been instrumental in helping the RYA develop its Portsmouth Yardstick Scheme over the past six years, making major modifications to Sailwave to help the RYA collect and collate race results and has more recently made additional modifications to support the National Handicap for Cruisers.

Colin's work has always been in a voluntary capacity, and his drive and enthusiasm to help the sport of sailing and the RYA have been greatly appreciated.



RYA Award 2013 – Regional

Martin Broom, MBE



Sadly, Martin passed away last month.

Martin was a great sailor who, in his late seventies was still racing competitively and still winning. However, Martin will

be remembered in Broads history as a tireless worker and his record for contributing to the administration and well-being of boating is without equal.

His greatest contribution has been as a member of the Broads Authority and as Chair of its Navigation Committee from 1988 to 2011. He was first appointed to the body when it was in its infancy and he helped steer it through the difficult negotiations which led to the first Broads Act in 1988. He has also been the RYA representative on the various bodies controlling the port of Great Yarmouth.

Martin's achievements are all the more remarkable given that he undertook these roles at a time when he was also Chairman and CEO of Broom Boats and at one point Chairman of the National Boat Show.

Martin was a wise, unassuming, committed and long term contributor to the well-being of the Norfolk and Suffolk Broads.

Arthur Houston



As a member of RYA Council and of the Cruising Committee, Arthur has supported the work of both the RYA and RYA Scotland (RYAS) since the 1980's.

He was general editor

of Clyde Cruising Club Sailing Directions from 1980, when they were adopted as a guide to anchorages by the Crown Estates in Scotland. He recently became assistant editor, and the Directions continue to be used as an important part of navigational information for those cruising in Scottish waters.

Arthur was co-author of the Scottish version of the RYA book *'Round the Red Tape'*, published in the 1980's, which gave guidance to the sailing community on legal matters affecting them.

He has owned various types of cruising boats and has cruised extensively around Scotland over the last 40 years with his wife and three sons.

His advice and guidance to RYAS has always been wise and sound and has been recognised as such by the various committees he has worked with for over 30 years.

Arthur's commitment, to whatever job he was dealing with has been total and he has never taken on a job unless he could give 100%. As a result he has contributed in a lasting way for the benefit of our sport.

Oliver Lynas



Oliver has held a number of positions within Royal Ulster Yacht Club since 1994 as Honorary Treasurer, Rear Commodore and more recently as Vice Commodore.

One of the many highlights of his tenure was the club presentation of the Lipton Trophy in New Zealand during the Americas Cup; an event he was pivotal in planning and leading.

Oliver has the ability to not only provide enormous personal input to anything he is involved in but also to lead by example and motivate others.

In October 2004, shortly after his retirement from a successful career in banking, Oliver was elected Honorary Treasurer and a Director of RYA Northern Ireland. He brought his professional knowledge and experience to set in place robust financial procedures and audit arrangements.

Oliver's professional knowledge, skills, understanding of the running of sailing clubs, active interest in sailing, commitment to the task in hand, and last but not least, his good people skills have all been important factors in his successful and significant contribution to RYA Northern Ireland as Honorary Treasurer and Director.

David Wheldon



David is an immensely influential individual in the North East region, where he has served for many years. He is currently Regional Treasurer, having stepped down after a five year stint as Chairman in 2012, which was preceded

by five years as Vice Chair, and a previous two terms on the committee.

Since 1966, David has been a mainstay in the organisational running and management of the North East Cruiser Racing Association (NECRA) and is the current Chairman. Along with other clubs, David has developed a measurement rule that is not only used by all the clubs in the North East but has been adopted elsewhere too.

David has been a long serving and important figure in the development of Sunderland Yacht Club. Over the past 37 years he has chaired the sailing committee on numerous occasions, served as Rear and Vice Commodore and also held the post of Commodore during the redevelopment and relocation of the club to new premises.

He remains a current member of both the sailing committee and general committee. He is a great ambassador for sailing in the North East.



The Francis Elkin Award

The Francis Elkin Award is given each year to an individual who has made a significant contribution in time, effort and personal endeavour in enabling people with disabilities to become involved in sailing.



**The Francis Elkin Trophy
is awarded this year
to William Smith**

William Smith

William (Bill) has given a lifetime of dedication to encouraging both youngsters and adults to take up sailing. He is a pioneer in the development of facilities for disabled people and a leader in taking blind and visually impaired people out on the water.

Bill, together with Michael Spear started the East Coast Blind Cruise in 1993, and in 1997 founded the East Anglian Sailing Trust (EAST) along with Kevin Curtis. Bill remains an active Trustee of EAST, and has been responsible for developing the charity from its early days with one keelboat, to its current level of activity with 12 keelboats, ten or more RYA qualified instructors and over 350 members. EAST is recognised as the Sailability Centre of Excellence for the Eastern region, an RYA training centre and is part of the RYA OnBoard programme.

A notable achievement has been Bill's ability to raise over £250,000 from a long list of donors and sponsors to enable these developments to take place. Quite simply, without Bill's input, leadership and continuing involvement, EAST would not exist.

His infectious enthusiasm makes it hard to say no, especially when he quietly sidles up to you at the club bar or an event, and he says 'Hello old chap, wonder if you could just...' You always say yes.

Francis Elkin was a former Chair of RYA Council and a Trustee of Sailability from its inception in 1995 until he passed away in 2001. He worked tirelessly for Sailability and committed his time and energy to ensuring the charity was successful. The Francis Elkin Award was created in his memory.



RYA Family Award 2013

The RYA Family Award, introduced for the first time in 2012, is awarded to a family group who are deserving of recognition for the impact they have made both as individuals and collectively. Their contribution supports the aims of the RYA at club, national or international level, and as a result benefits our sport.

The RYA Family Award is presented to the Drake family; Tony, Amanda and their children Francesca, Jonathan and Isabella. All are members of Sandwich Bay Sailing and Waterski Club and play an active role within the club, often on the water manning the rescue boat, taking part in the racing and generally keeping the club running.



Tony Drake

Tony has been a member and supporter of the club since 1978, and is always willing to lead and help with any project or assist any member with their boat or equipment. Since 1990 he has been a committee member and principle rescue boat driver. As bosun since 2000 he is responsible for the maintenance of the rescue craft, trailers, marks, ground tackle and the club house.



Amanda Drake

From 1996 Amanda was House Chair, organising catering and facilities for weekly meetings and open events, before handing over the reins to her daughter, Francesca in 2006. Amanda continues to play a huge part in club life providing support and assistance to her family and club members alike.



Francesca Pierson

A member of the club since 1998, Francesca has been a committee member and House Chair since 2006 when she took over from her Mum. In 2010 she took on additional responsibility as Membership Secretary. Francesca can also take credit for introducing a non sailor to the club, teaching him to sail, marrying him and encouraging him to become the Rear Commodore Sailing.



Jonathan Drake

A member of the club since 2000, Jonathan is currently Bosun's Assistant and Head Gardener. He became rescue boat crew in 2008 and recently became a rescue boat driver and as such assists with managing the safety fleet at regattas, including European events and is in charge of racing marks.



Isabella Drake

Isabella been a member of the club since 2002, and is a robust supporter of the family in running the club. She actively encourages youngsters of the same age to take up sailing and water skiing, and assists her mum and sister in the catering and cleaning of the club.



The Drake Family

The dedication and commitment of each of the five members of the Drake family shines through.

RYA Community Awards 2013

Lifetime Commitment

Peter Bradshaw

Schools & Youth Sailing & Canoeing Association



For almost 20 years Peter has supported youth sailing both on and off the water through his involvement with Lymm High School Sailing Club and the Schools and Youth Sailing and Canoeing

Association (SYSCA).

Since the early 1990s Peter has given practical help at training sessions and club events; in 2001 / 2002 he gained radio, powerboat and safety boat qualifications and became an Assistant Dinghy Instructor in order to use these skills to promote participation and promulgate the benefits of sailing to young people. Peter runs weekly sailing sessions, uses his own boat for training sessions and organises an annual sailing weekend for club members. From towing boats to joining in working parties or manning the safety boat, Peter is committed to encouraging young sailors and has worked hard to dispel the myths of the exclusivity of sailing.

Peter has also been SYSCA Treasurer since 2002 and in 2010 also took on the role of SYSCA Membership Secretary. Through a period of Local Government funding cuts, Lymm High School Sailing Club and SYSCA have continued to remain solvent and to thrive.

Derek Bunting

Hollowell Sailing Club



Derek has given exemplary service to Hollowell Sailing Club for more than 40 years. Although Derek rarely sails now, he is an intuitive and experienced sailor whose love of sailing

manifests itself in his desire to see others thrive and enjoy everything the sport has to offer. He has a particular affinity with young, energetic sailors and his enthusiasm and positive outlook have allowed him to pass on his expertise to many youngsters whilst his gentle manner has soothed many a nervous beginner onto the water.

Derek was also a leading member of Naseby Sailing Club and helped to steer it through a period of change and eventual closure whilst successfully maintaining the motivation and enthusiasm of many members and easing their transfer to Hollowell SC. As well as continuing to provide much valued advice and guidance with respect to club management, his expert knowledge and practical construction skills have greatly benefited the club.

Derek has helped to build a community at Hollowell SC and is a wonderful example of how personal commitment and effort can make a difference and have such a positive impact on people's lives.

Mike Chappell

Bassenthwaite Sailing Club



Mike has been a true ambassador of sailing for the past 25 years. As well as representing Bassenthwaite Sailing Club in numerous regional and national sailing events he has served as Rear, Vice

and Commodore between 2003 and 2008. He was unanimously elected trustee of the club in 2011.

Mike has also devoted his time as Mirror Fleet Captain since 1983. His enthusiasm in this role never wavers and the continued success of the Mirror fleet at Bassenthwaite SC is testament to his commitment and hard work. Mike's vision for the future of the club and the sport of sailing has focused on training; he was a crucial part of the team that achieved RYA Training Centre and Champion Club status.

Mike is a 'willing horse'. He leads by example and is a doer – always the first to offer help and advice and is invariably the first to arrive and the last to leave the club. He has influenced on-water safety by encouraging members and staff to enhance their powerboat and safety boat skills and keeps the membership and community up to date with his public relations expertise.

Tim Davies

Chelmarsh Sailing Club



Taking up his first official position as GP Fleet Captain with Chelmarsh Sailing Club in 1989, Tim has gone on to quietly devote many hours to the club at all levels; acting as bar secretary,

maintaining the club's buildings and grounds, repairing and maintaining the club boats and training fleets plus a hundred other tasks which keep the club running effectively on a day-to-day basis.

A qualified dinghy instructor and senior instructor with a wide experience in race management, Tim's expertise is often called upon as duty officer during open meetings and club racing – a duty he takes a greater share than anyone. His broad knowledge of the racing rules and in particular, the arbitration and protest procedures, means he is always ready to help deal with disputes and issues that arise on the water with his calm, analytical approach.

Tim's commitment to the club organisation and sailing is paramount. He is always positive and keeps the future of the club to the fore, whether it be welcoming new members or encouraging the longer standing members to keep afloat. He never hesitates to lend a hand with projects, large or small.



Phil England

Tamesis Club



Phil's association with Tamesis Club dates back to 1956 when he was first appointed in a professional capacity as architect, a role which he undertook on a voluntary basis. Since then, he has been

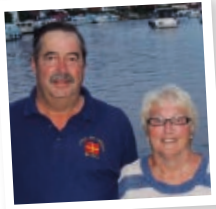
responsible for the design and implementation of a string of sympathetic improvements and developments, over a considerable number of years. Today he is very much involved in the Wednesday club steering a group of retired volunteers to carry out a range of maintenance tasks making the club a much envied sailing facility.

But it hasn't been all work and no play. Phil has been an active Merlin Rocket and National 18 sailor and for over 50 years, he has also run the Cadet Squadron fleet parties, making sure that the club is enjoyed by all.

Now in his eighties and less able to sail, Phil continues to give unstintingly of his time and was unanimously elected club captain in appreciation of this. As a well-respected 'father figure' he is a font of knowledge and is always ready to extend his wise counsel on some of the trickier issues which inevitably arise when sharing a river with many other users.

Colin and Pam Facey

Horning Sailing Club



If a job needs doing, large or small, Colin and Pam will get it done. Ex Commodore Colin and his wife Pam have been selflessly devoting their time to Horning Sailing Club since 1989. One minute they can be

found organising the club's 75th anniversary and the next scrubbing boat hulls.

For 20 years, Colin and Pam have 'bedded-down' in the clubhouse to run the prestigious 24-hour, 50 mile Three Rivers Race; an event which takes a huge amount of organisation, from securing sponsorship, organising safety to running results and arranging press coverage. As one of the largest inland races in Europe, over 170 entrants for the 50th anniversary enjoyed the race thanks to Colin and Pam's excellent race management.

Both are also key players in the development and running of the club's RYA training centre. Colin currently holds the position of Chief Powerboat Instructor and Senior Instructor, whilst Pam deals with the organisational and administrative work. Their securement of funding from the Broad's Authority has enabled the club to purchase eight Enterprises to be enjoyed by members and the couple has been instrumental in renovating the lottery funded floating classroom.

Colin and Pam are great characters, the unsung heroes who really care about the future of the club and its young members.

Mike Firth

Datchet Water Sailing Club



Mike's enthusiasm for sailing is infectious. He has been an indefatigable role model for all members of Datchet Water SC where he has single-handedly turned the Flying Fifteen fleet

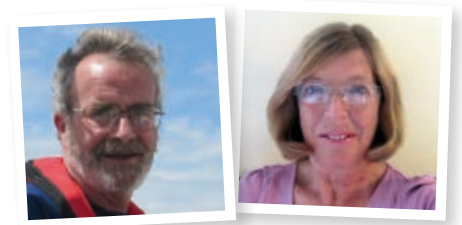
around. Following the generous donation by a club member of a Flying Fifteen, Mike used this 'club boat' as an enticement to get new crews sailing and the fleet and membership has blossomed as a result. He is a true ambassador for the club - always there to 'meet and greet', quickly getting new members involved in club life and participating in racing.

Mike has worked with other fleets across England and Wales to create the Southern Traveller Circuit for the British International Flying Fifteen Association promoting open meetings. As part of Datchet's Management Committee and Council, he has helped apply for Sport England funding to make improvements to the club's changing room facilities and developed a floating pontoon system to aid access to the water on the reservoir. Both projects he then went on to project manage in his effective, professional and diplomatic manner.

As a stalwart member of the club for 35 years he has been awarded the Vice Commodore's Cup, on four separate occasions for his services to sailing.

Guy and Vicky Forkes

St Edmundsbury Sailing and Canoeing Association



Guy and Vicky have made, and continue to make, a huge contribution to sailing in West Suffolk for able-bodied sailors, people with disabilities and for youth groups.

Since joining the fledgling St Edmundsbury Sailing and Canoeing Association (SESCA) - which started life as a tiny second-hand wooden hut on a flooded gravel pit - Guy and Vicky have been involved in every aspect of the club's development.

As Commodore, Guy not only project managed improvements to the club premises which included a purpose-built clubhouse and new jetty with full access and facilities for disabled sailors but, as a builder, worked hands-on to get the job done. Vicky, in equal measure, has devoted her time as Hon Secretary, Membership Secretary and newsletter editor.

Both have dedicated their time, often standing waist deep in cold water for long hours, to make the club the successful RYA training centre it is today - running safety, instructing sailing, training instructors and maintaining boats.

In 2010 Guy and Vicky were instrumental in setting up WASH Sailability which uses the SESA facilities and this has continued to grow with their care, dedication and selfless effort, bringing pleasure to many disabled sailors.



Andy and Lesley Foskett

Staunton Harold Sailing Club



The vision that Andy and Lesley have brought to Staunton Harold Sailing Club over the last two decades has been pivotal in influencing the direction of the club, which has twice been an RYA Club of the Year finalist.

That they have given generously of their time, energy and experience is unquestionable – both have held a variety of committee roles over the years, contributing to every aspect of the day-to-day running and management of the club. In addition, Andy and Lesley instigated the hugely popular junior squad camp training catering for up to 60 sailors on six weekends a year, which not only improved the level of sailing at the club, but helped to integrate many previously non-sailing families.

In his senior instructor role, Rear-Commodore Andy has organised and conducted countless RYA training courses, manages all the various fleets and is a master at juggling the complex club calendar to fit in all club and open sailing meets.

Lesley has worked tirelessly for the club – as Hon Secretary, arranging first aid training and as Vice Commodore. Both have been a big part in the running of the 420 class, in which their own children regularly sailed.

Always great role models, the two still find time to race their Fireball most weekends!

Robert Goldsmith

Chipstead Sailing Club / Heron Dinghy Class Association



Robert has been ensuring Chipstead Sailing Club operates on an 'even keel' since 1976 when he and his family first joined the club. Over

the years he has been greatly supportive of all the club's activities and in 2005 took on the role of Club Treasurer, a role which has involved a substantial and ongoing workload, as well as giving his invaluable support to open meetings and social events.

Alongside his club involvement, Robert enjoys being out on the water sailing his Heron, ably crewed by his wife or daughter, and has been a stalwart of the Heron Class Association since 1985 when he began to look after the class accounts.

He then went on to become Chairman of the National Committee. During this term of office, his restructuring of the committee and delegation of the workload set the modus operandi of the Association for many years to come.

Despite a set back in Robert's health he has continued in his unstinting commitment to both the club and class association and his encouragement to others to take part in national and regional championships, whatever their ability, has been an inspiration to many others, young and old alike.

Richard Grace

Lincoln & District Sailing Association



Richard has given 17 years' exemplary voluntary service to Lincoln & District Sailing Association (LDSA). As Treasurer he has had the difficult task of dealing with the

financial demands of schools and landlord sailing clubs and has managed to walk a straight path between the two, ensuring that the association has a clear financial strategy and security for the immediate future; a task which he undertakes with diligence and good humour.

In addition, Richard has spent many hours, in his roles as Chief Powerboat Instructor and Chief Safety Boat Officer, ensuring safe sailing for scores of school children and giving up hours of his own time to enable others to sail. He both provides safety cover himself and trains others so that new schools very quickly have staff qualified to man the powerboats.

Richard achieves as much as he does because of his selflessness and generosity with his time, knowledge and experience. He is always around, teaching students to rig dinghies, exerting a quiet discipline, encouraging, transporting young children to venues and making sure they are properly equipped.

Always a delight to work with Richard is an absolutely essential ingredient to the continued success of the LDSA. His influence is apparent off the water as well as on it.

Ken Gutteridge

Pilkington Sailing Club



Ken has been encouraging people to take to the water for over 40 years. By running sail training courses each summer, taster sessions for schools and as a

qualified Yachtmaster, skippering yachts offshore as far as the Greek Islands, he has introduced hundreds of people to the pleasures of sailing and inspired many youngsters to join Pilkington Sailing Club.

A dedicated committee member, Ken has served the club's general committee for over three decades. As Commodore he steered the club through its critical transition from a subsidised social club to a self financing club, organising many fund raising activities and social events which have ensured its survival.

A true ambassador for Pilkington SC, Ken is always ready to help out. He is just as willing to welcome new members as he is to organise boat storage, mow and tidy the compound and undertake general cleaning and maintenance tasks around the premises, turning his hand to anything in his good-hearted manner.

Ken, together with his wife Hilda, prove that age is no barrier to racing competitively at club level and successfully race their Enterprise, 'Paper Plane' and are still picking up trophies!



Christopher Halfknight

Worthing Sailing Club



Chris' hard work and diligence in developing the youth training programme at Worthing Sailing Club was instrumental in turning around the fortunes of the club. His foresight and determination led to

the development of the 'Bug Club' for junior sailors aged from eight to 18 which went from strength to strength and every weekend. Come rain or shine, Chris is on hand dedicating his time to teaching children to sail.

Because Chris has integrated the club so well with the adult sailors, many give up their time to lend a hand and new adult sailors are welcome to learn with the children. The knock-on effect has been a wealth of new members buying boats, joining the club and the club now boasts a fleet of dedicated training boats.

Every July, Chris is at the heart of organising the Bug Week Regatta, juggling additional boats, volunteers and equipment, an immense task on top of his role as Club Bosun, where he spends his time maintaining the club RIBs, tractor, buoys and running safety boat courses. He is always on hand to take on the duty of race office at the club's open days in his quiet and unassuming manner.

Chris' passion has meant that many people who would not have considered sailing or had the opportunity, are now enjoying the sport.

Sally Holman

Lyme Regis Sailing Club



Lyme Regis Sailing Club has benefitted from Sally's committed contribution for an incredible 50 years. During that time she has served as Flag Captain, Vice Commodore and

Commodore and set up and run the very impressive Lyme Regis Jubilee Maritime celebrations.

For ten years Sally has worked 'behind the scenes' as the club's secretary, steering it through difficult times to make it the well-managed, viable and active organisation it is today, reducing the burden on other members so that they are able to spend more time sailing.

Perhaps Sally's greatest contribution has been to the youth section where she has taken a central role for over 20 years, devoting her time to establishing systems, developing policies, obtaining funding, recruiting volunteers and instigating RYA and club level coaching for beginner, intermediate and senior levels. The result has been a very well-respected institution that has enabled hundreds of young people to access, enjoy and develop their sailing skills, often to very high regional and national levels.

Sally had done all this on a totally voluntary basis. Such commitment and generosity is all the more remarkable given the time consuming nature of her other civic duties, as a councillor and Mayor of Lyme Regis.

Roy Marrian

Aberdour Boat Club



Roy has been a dedicated member of Aberdour Boat Club since 1975, serving the club committee at all levels from work-party labourer to Commodore and as representative at the Forth Yacht Clubs

Association. As officer in charge of the hired-in mobile crane Roy has performed the voluntary annual lift-out and subsequent relaunch and rig of the club-based cruisers, an impressive feat of management and skill within recreational boating!

As well as being an active sailing and committee member of the club, Roy has acted as Convenor of the Aberdour Pier & Harbour Committee for approximately 40 years, overseeing the management and conservation of the harbour and pier. His commitment to the maintenance of the character and historical significance of the harbour has assisted in the retention of the Victorian charm of the village. Its listing by Historic Scotland as a settlement of historic significance, ensures it continues to be the foremost choice of destination for yachtsmen of small cruising boats and the jewel in the crown of the Fife coast.

Preserving 154-year-old traditions, Roy still finds time to organise the traditional village regatta where young and old enjoy the rowing, raft and yacht races in this tranquil setting.

Dennis Shevelan

Bolton Sailing Club



Dennis joined Bolton Sailing Club some 26 years ago as a keen GP14 sailor and quickly volunteered his services, sitting first on the House Committee and then Sailing Committee. He has been a stalwart

of the General Committee, taking up the office of Club Captain in 1996, an unenviable task allocating Officer of the Day duties and managing club berths.

Since his retirement, Dennis has committed a large amount of his time and energy to the club in a variety of roles. Three mornings a week he can be found in his capacity as joint bosun, helping to maintain not only the club boats but all manner of other tasks around the premises. He continues to support the training and development of young people and novice sailors, regardless of ability and his relaxed and thoughtful approach is greatly appreciated by the various school groups with which he works. Dennis regularly helps out with safety boat duties and his support of all the club's activities; OnBoard, Sailability, Special School Week and Junior camps has been vital in the success of these events.

Now an elder statesman for the club, Dennis can often be found deep in conversation with adults and juniors alike, his gentle manner and positive attitude is appreciated by all.



Ken Southall

Fidlers Ferry Sailing Club



Ken has made an exceptional contribution to youth training for Fidlers Ferry Sailing Club for close to 20 years. His quiet manner, organisational skills and infectious

enthusiasm has created the supportive environment the younger members need to excel and enjoy sailing. As the club is located in fiercely tidal waters, a lot of logistical effort is needed, even before training commences and Ken has been instrumental in getting the juniors 'off-site' to train in calmer waters.

Many of the young people Ken has trained regularly compete in the club's senior race series and win trophies against very experienced adults. Others have gone on to obtain RYA qualifications to seek a career in sailing.

When not sail training, Ken cheerfully undertakes race officer duties and instructs crews and helms in Officer of the Day duties, responsibilities and race rules. In his role as Boatswain he dedicates his time to working on the boats the club receives as 'hand me downs', making them serviceable and available to young members who wouldn't otherwise have access to boats.

Patience is Ken's trademark; he is always willing to go the extra mile for others, quietly working behind the scenes for the benefit of the club and its members.

Eric Styles

Downs Sailing Club



Eric has given freely of his time, energy and a wide range of skills and expertise to Downs Sailing Club whilst never seeking any recognition or thanks. His 'can do, will do' attitude

inspires everyone around him whether it be for sailing, safety boat, club maintenance or training. Involved in the latter since the 1960s, often Eric can be found taking cadets or nervous adults out on his own boat to teach them finer points of sailing and is happy to do this rather than pursue trophy glory. Members feel safe when he is around. He can foresee problems before they become a danger and he is willing to jump on any boat, in any weather, and bring it safely back to the beach.

Equally, Eric can be spotted rodding the club's drains even before other members are aware there is a problem! Eric helped to build the clubhouse back in the 1960s and has been involved in every renovation and repair since. Recently he has given up two working weeks to gut and install the club's new kitchen and he regularly helps with the maintenance of the winches, safety boats and other club equipment.

Eric's commitment to the club is inspirational and his great and continuing contribution cannot be underestimated.

John Walker

Royal Southern Yacht Club



John's association with the Royal Southern Yacht Club goes back to 1983. He first joined the Motorboat Committee where he played an active role in organising and delivering the

club's offshore powerboat races and motorboat rallies. Taking on the role of Vice Chairman and Secretary he became responsible for the Centenary celebration of motorboat racing - meticulously planning a number of motor cruising rallies to the West Country and French coast.

John's unique, focussed and professional approach to all he has undertaken on behalf of the club led the Sailing Committee to request he take up the Chairmanship of the 175 Group where he worked tirelessly to coordinate the 15 signature events that made up the club's 175th Anniversary celebrations incorporating a summer ball, two royal events, a two-week regatta, plus the British Open Metre regatta. His vigorous pursuit of the fine details produced a programme that was been a revelation to many members.

That the Royal Southern Yacht Club was awarded the *Yachts and Yachting Club of the Year 2012* accolade is largely due to John's efforts and personal commitment to the club, at all levels. Now a member of the Executive Committee he continues to serve the club, recently drafting the club's five-year strategy which will ensure the club continues to prosper.

Allan Williams

Ribble Cruising Club



Allan has put a lifetime's effort into anything 'nautical' in his local area. When a job needs doing he is there and gets on with it. He has worked unstintingly for Ribble Cruising Club (RCC) and the local RNLI

since the late 1970s and in the 1980s he became Chairman of the management committee of three local sea cadet units.

Allan has been heavily involved in the management of the RCC for over 35 years, 15 as Secretary, five as President and nine years as Trustee, during which time he has ensured it has been run effectively and when key issues have threatened club life he has always been there, first into the fray with the RCC burgee on hand. He has maintained a high level of focus with the local MP, local Council and all government agencies, set up to manage maritime affairs along the region's coastline. When Lytham jetty was carried away in a gale and the local council were unable to fund its replacement, Allan was able to arrange a joint effort that saw the rebuild of the jetty, without which the RCC could not launch their dinghies nor the RNLI launch their Inshore Life Boat.

Allan leads from the front and continues to do this, despite now being in his 80s.



Jim Williamson

Sunderland Yacht Club



Jim's first association with Sunderland Yacht Club was spent campaigning his Fireball dinghy with his wife Jean. During his 40 years with the club he has dedicated 30 of them to some form of voluntary management. He quickly became Fireball Fleet Captain and since then, has served as Rear Commodore Sailing and

Commodore. His current role of Vice Commodore means he is responsible for the maintenance and allocation of all club moorings and organising the annual lift in and out of the club's boats using two substantial cranes.

Jim also continues his voluntary work as Sea Scout leader and many of the young people have joined the club becoming active members. When the club lost its senior training instructor Jim stepped into the role, renewing his lapsed qualifications to take up the role.

With a successful career in engineering, Jim has brought his skills to benefit the club, researching and supervising the installation of solar energy, designing the club database to cope with membership, staff and payroll and run an effective information service to members using internet and email.

Jim is a highly respected member and an excellent competitive ambassador for the club.



RYA Community Awards 2013 Outstanding Contribution

Bob Caton

West Lancashire Yacht Club



As a qualified RYA senior dinghy instructor and racing coach, Bob has been active in teaching both adults and juniors to sail and enjoy the sport for over 25 years. A successfully competitive Enterprise

sailor, he joined West Lancashire Yacht Club in 1998 and immediately became involved with junior training, taking over as senior instructor teaching youngsters from the age of four to 16 in fleets of Optimists, Toppers and Mirrors. As an OnBoard sailing instructor, Bob has also introduced many families to sailing who have then become members of the club. This was instrumental in the club winning the RYA OnBoard Club of the Year for the North West Region in 2012.

Bob has a never-ending enthusiasm for sailing and has committed a huge amount of his time sailing. Almost every weekend he can be found instructing, sorting out boat maintenance or coaching the juniors in regular club racing, as well as supporting teams at away events. This means of course, that he has less time for sailing his Enterprise, although he continues as the class association's measurer.

His philosophy that 'kids have fun' on the water and his endless patience have earned him the moniker 'Uncle Bob' and is also an indication of the high regard in which he is held.

Mike Cemm

Swanage Sailing Club



Mike Cemm has been a pillar of Swanage Sailing Club for many years, regularly volunteering up to 30 hours a week to promote sailing. He has been the motivating force behind setting up youth and adult training

programmes and has set up partnerships with schools in the region to make the sport accessible to local children and families on low incomes. Thanks to Mike's efforts, the club has been transformed from one struggling to maintain membership with an aging population, to a vibrant active club with very popular training programmes and active members.

As well as his role in group sail training, Mike has organised various activities such as the 'Sail for Gold' day. You will often find him out on the water giving instruction for power boat courses to build a team of competent support drivers, or working closely with those who wish to hone their race skills. He edits the club's annual sailing handbook and spends many an hour managing the club's Facebook pages as an engagement tool to involve the 18-25 year old members and to encourage short-notice social sailing. As Berthing Officer-In-Charge, Mike works tirelessly rearranging berthing to accommodate an ever growing membership.

Patrick de Peyer

Cowes Sailability Club



Patrick de Peyer has been involved with Cowes Sailability Club (CSC), previously Fishbourne Sailability Club since 2001. During that time he has worked unstintingly in his role as the club's Honorary

Secretary, liaising with the many groups relevant to the club's success; fundraising, recruiting an essential body of excellent volunteers and providing a vital means of communication with members through his editorship of the club newsletter.

Under his strong financial guidance the club has grown steadily, requiring a move into bigger and more functional premises in Cowes. A potentially disruptive move but one that was carried out without any pause to the on-the-water activities, thanks to his solid leadership.

It is noteworthy that the achievements of the club have been recognised by Community Awards, a Queen's Award for Voluntary Services and participation in the Queen's Diamond Jubilee visit to the Island in 2012. These awards are largely due to Patrick's dedication and enthusiasm. He was elected Commodore of the club this year but more importantly, he is considered a friend by almost all of the CSC's disabled sailors who consider him a vital mainstay in their attendance at sailing and social functions.

David Dobson

Regional Coaching and the RYA NE Region Committee



David has been immensely influential to the sport of windsurfing in the North East, and Yorkshire Region, where his depth of knowledge and experience has been key in developing

participation in competitive windsurfing for both individuals and clubs. From 1998 to 2006, David sat on the Regional Committee and while funding was available, he has also found time to produce and publish the North East Windsurf Guide.

For over 11 years David has also been the competition organiser for many extremely successful regional Team15 events and the Zone Championships. As a coach he has ensured that the North East area Team15 is one of the strongest in the UK, both in terms of numbers of participants, and the number of successes in the T15 National finals.

David is still an avid windsurfer himself and his passion for the sport has inspired many to follow in his footsteps. He has been actively involved in numerous instructor conferences, ready to pass on his valuable experience as a trainer by running workshops.

David is a most unassuming character who gets on with things without expecting praise. He has worked tirelessly to promote the sport and his commitment is appreciated by many.



David Franks

Etchells UK Class Association



Joining the Etchells Association's General Committee in 2008 when the UK fleet was at the point of cancelling events, due to a lack of numbers, David stepped in, instigating a campaign

to drive the fleet back to full strength. Today, he has transformed the Etchells racing fleet, not only reenergising the traditional sailors but introducing a complete new generation of young sailors to the class.

In 2011, David initiated the idea of having fully funded keelboats available for under 24 year-olds to skipper and race. He single-handedly pulled together the funding to launch the Etchells RYA Youth trials in 2012 which saw two fully funded boats being made available to two youth teams for the 2012 and 2013 seasons, one of which went on to be 2nd in the British Etchells Championship.

The positive reaction from the young sailors to the class and the racing has been a big part in bringing a new vibrancy to the class in general. David has also been a key driver within the class securing the 2016 World Championships which will be hosted in Weymouth, Dorset.

On a personal level David regularly has a bevy of young sailors on his IRC boat racing competitively in the Solent, hosts an 'open house' or provides accommodation for young sailors.

Rex Hawkins

The Gwennili Trust



The Gwennili Trust was founded to provide yacht sailing opportunities for people with disabilities. Over the years, people of all ages with a wide range of disabilities whether visually impaired, with learning

difficulties or of limited mobility, have enjoyed the thrill of sailing, largely due to the dedication and commitment of Rex.

In his role as Operations Manager for the Trust he has devoted his time; negotiating, implementing and supervising the annual sailing programme for each busy season.

Since 2005, Rex's commitment has greatly widened the Trust's contacts with a significant number of organisations and institutions. His personal devotion to this has entailed many face-to-face meetings, visits and a huge number of emails and telephone calls, resulting in 595 days at sea. This has provided offshore sailing for 2,713 disabled people of whom 409 were wheelchair dependent and training which led to RYA qualifications for 11 Day Skippers and 23 Competent Crew.

Rex himself has been a Mate on many occasions and gained a great understanding of the complex needs of the sailors who charter the boats. In 2008 he skippered his own yacht for Blind Week, hosted by the Royal Cornwall Yacht Club, inspiring the students taking part and passing on his knowledge and experience as a sailor himself.

David Musgrove

Disabled Sailing Association



David founded the Disabled Sailing Association in 2005 with a group of people with disabilities who wanted to share the thrill and freedom of seagoing sailing. Initially David financed the charity

himself but in his role as Chairman he has worked tirelessly to raise awareness and funds for the Association. In November 2007, David's efforts secured lottery funding and the charity was able to buy its third yacht, a new 35ft yacht 'Freedom', adapted for wheelchair users. She was taken across the channel to St Malo and the Channel Islands in 2010, allowing disabled sailors to experience offshore passages and life onboard.

David, who is himself visually impaired, is also heavily involved in the assessment of volunteers and if not able to do it personally, coordinates their specialised training. His control of the sailing schedule and crew rotas ensure that all get an equal opportunity of crewing the boats in the fleet.

David's leadership skills have cemented invaluable relationships with local yacht clubs and harbour masters and he has forged strong friendships with all volunteers to whom he makes himself available 24/7. From just a handful of disabled people in the early days, David's efforts and perseverance have now had a positive impact providing sailing enjoyment to hundreds of people each year.

Martin Payne

Sutton-in-Ashfield Sailing Club



Martin has been a stalwart of Sutton-in-Ashfield Sailing Club for a number of years, heading up the sailing committee and as Commodore for three successive years from 2008-11. During this

time it was evident that for the club's survival it had to attract new members. Martin took on this task and his commitment to the club has seen membership steadily increase since.

By kick-starting a junior section 'kids' club' Martin introduced sailing on Wednesday evenings and Sunday mornings during the summer. Working closely with the RYA, the club was awarded OnBoard recognition in 2012 and by liaising with local schools, Sea Scouts, Sea Cadets and other groups, membership has continued to grow. Now even parents are taking up sailing.

Open sailing events and regattas, together with personal handicaps and the time-keeping software Martin has introduced, has ensured that competition is keen in the new gold and silver race fleets.

But it is not just out on the water that Martin has made a difference to the club; onshore his commitment has brought about a total revamp of the club's changing rooms and the club now boasts a new hardstanding and car park and Martin continues to turn his hand to any job that needs to be done.



Brian Rennie

Girton Sailing Club



Brian has been an enthusiastic and valuable member of Girton Sailing Club since 2000, serving first as a committee member and then as Commodore from 2007 to 2010. Since 2010,

Brian has taken the role of Secretary and steered the club through some difficult times with his strong management skills and quiet diplomacy. His long experience in the Civil Service has enabled him to assess and resolve problems dispassionately. He has been instrumental in the club nearing its long standing ambition to purchase the beautiful 100 acre lake upon which it is located in North Nottinghamshire. He has dedicated many hours of work, preparing and submitting grant bids, revising development and business plans and other fund raising activities.

Training is at the heart of this family friendly club, which has an active youth squad, but Sailability has also been Brian's special inspiration. He continues to provide support and organise classes in the club's specially designed fleet of Access boats and also helps with the local social services sailing for people with disabilities.

Brian's enthusiasm and commitment to the club is unerring and his 'can-do' attitude has helped make sailing accessible to the local community.



RYA Community Awards 2013

Youth

Russell Dickinson

Pilkington Sailing Club



Russell joined Pilkington Sailing Club, at the age 12, immediately becoming a prominent junior member of the club; participating in a wide range of activities he serves as a positive

example to all other junior members.

Russell undertook his RYA Powerboat Level 2 in 2007. Since then his contribution has been invaluable at training events, either on a safety boat or encouraging other youngsters to progress and to try their hand at racing. As Junior Team Captain, Russell has regularly organised the Southport Junior 12-Hour Race and has been instrumental in rallying the club's juniors to participate in this and RYA OnBoard events.

Russell regularly races himself on a Laser and Feva but it was his father's Enterprise that first kick-started his interest in boat maintenance. Having helped in its restoration, Russell spent two years meticulously restoring an old club Enterprise dinghy built in the 1950s which was then entered in the 2012 West Lancs 24-hour race and has been made available to young crew bringing hours of enjoyment.

Not only has the club benefitted from Russell's efforts in boat maintenance but a generation of junior members are enthused and inspired by him to make a similar contribution, not only in boat maintenance, but in many other club tasks.

Kelly Mayhew

Neyland Yacht Club



Safety boat driver, dinghy instructor, West Wales squad coach, powerboat instructor and club race coach; at the age of 19, Kelly has a considerable number of achievements under her belt, all of which have been

invaluable to Neyland Yacht Club.

Kelly's knowledge, enthusiasm and love of sailing has helped turn around the club's youth participation in the West Wales squad which has grown from none to five in the course of two years. Kelly works well with all young people at Neyland who regard her as a 'fantastic coach' but really excels at working with, and meeting the needs of, sailors with disabilities, two of whom are now sailing with the squad.

As well as committing many hours to coaching and training, Kelly often volunteers to take youngsters to regattas and support them through these events. She regularly provides safety cover and is happy to give up her time to organise racing and training for others. Off the water, Kelly plays an active role on the yacht club committee, organising fund raising and other events, and is more than willing to lend a hand with the duties of the club bosun, helping to maintain and repair the club's dinghies and safety boats. Without Kelly's selfless dedication, Neyland Yacht Club would not produce the high standard of sailors it currently does.

Joe Penhaul Smith

Staunton Harold Sailing Club



Joe has combined his love for sailing, particularly competitive club Laser racing, with a huge amount of volunteering at Staunton Harold Sailing Club. At an age when many of his peers were 'messaging

about on boats', Joe decided to become as qualified as he possibly could - becoming an assistant instructor at the age of 14, a qualified dinghy instructor at 16, a senior instructor and powerboat instructor by 18, before progressing to RYA Level 2 Coach.

Joe is a great role model for younger members of the club as they develop their sailing skills. In his capacity as coach he has taken part in many successful junior squad camp weekends, taking sailors from starting to race, to national level. He is never too busy to stop and chat to someone who would like to learn more and pass on the knowledge he has gained. His friendly face has helped encourage new adult sailors and youngsters alike to take part in the sailing at the Friday night clubs, which has attracted large numbers of new members to the club.

Joe's maturity and capabilities were recognised when he was selected as part of the 2012 Olympic support team as safety boat crew for the RS-X windsurfing. His contribution to the club and wider community has been remarkable.



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