



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 structure.

RYA Volunteer Awards 2011

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 and left a lasting legacy.

You have given your time, commitment, and expertise without thought of recognition or reward. Without you, our respective sports would be immeasurably poorer.

Over the past two years I have had the opportunity to meet many volunteers around the U.K. and it is has undoubtedly been 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.



RYA Awards 2011

Chris Basten



As Welsh Yachting Association (WYA) Chairman for the past four years, Chris has overseen and contributed directly to the day-to-day management of the organisation. Chris

has served on regional committees, training committees and helped organise club conferences and clinics. He was a hands-on Chairman who has made a significant contribution whilst running and managing his own business.

As an enthusiastic regional coach in the mid 90's and early 2000's he helped numerous clubs in south and west Wales develop their club training and development plans. As a club volunteer, he was instrumental in securing Cardiff Bay Yacht Club's future in the Bay and led on their Lottery application that secured a significant grant enabling the club to build the excellent facilities it now has.

In November 2011 Chris comes to the end of his term as Chairman of the WYA. Chris has served on WYA Committees for over 15 years and leaves a lasting legacy. Under his Chairmanship the WYA has been able to secure more funding from Sport Wales than in any time in its history and is recognised as a well-run National Governing Body that has contributed consistently to Sport Wales and Welsh Assembly Government targets. Chris is never afraid to roll up his sleeves and get involved, he has an extensive knowledge of the sport and a sense of humour that keeps everyone on their toes!

Philip Chorley



Philip, known as Pip to his friends, has had strong links with the sailing community since the early 1970's, starting in 1971 at the Welsh Yachting Association. From the 1990's Pip has been

involved in a number of RYA committees, as well as Council. His expertise impacted on committees ranging from motorboating, cruising, planning, sailing and training. He joined the South West Region Committee in 1992 and has served since that time with great dedication and commitment, despite some health issues. He enthusiastically represented the South West Regions interests at Council meetings and also gave excellent feedback to the Regional Committee.

As well as his tireless work on the various RYA committees, Pip has also been active in a number of sailing clubs, and is currently the Vice President of Dartmouth Yacht Club. Pip has maintained his enthusiasm for the sport over the years, and, despite his mature age, continues to outperform many a younger man.



RYA Awards 2011

David Darling



David has been an active and valued member of the sailing community in the North East for over 40 years. From the early 1960's at Tynemouth Sailing Club David has been committed to training

and encouraging people to take part in the sport he loves. David was a founder member of Derwent Reservoir Sailing Club in the 1970's and had various roles within the club; he was especially involved with junior training.

As a qualified dinghy and powerboat instructor for the past 24 years, David has used his qualifications to benefit sailing wherever he has been in the region. Helped and supported by his wife Barbara, David has been actively involved in organising a wide variety of local and regional events for sailors of all ages. His wide overview of sailing within the region, and beyond, enables him to give a valuable opinion on most aspects of sport sailing.

Chris Edwards



Chris joined the RYA Eastern Region Committee in 2000 having previously been involved in the committee at his own sailing club, Tollesbury Cruising Club. At this time he also became

chairman of Blackwater and Colne Sailing Protection Association (BACSPA), a role he still holds today. BACSPA is an organisation that acts as a forum for RYA affiliated clubs in the Eastern region and aims to protect sailing, and boating interests generally, on the Colne and Blackwater river estuaries.

In 2006, Chris stepped in as the RYA Eastern Committee Chairman, a role he carried out with his usual hard work and dedication until 2010. He was a respected member of the RYA Council and was not afraid to stand up and give his views honestly, or to put in extra work behind the scenes when necessary.

In 2001 Chris took on the role of Regional Environmental Coordinator, in this position he has impacted greatly, not only on the environmental policies and programmes in the East, but also these have served as a model nationally. His opinion and expertise are respected and sought after at consultations and reviews, and it is this aspect of his work that makes him so especially deserving of a national award.

Nina & George Sawyer



George and Nina have been involved with powerboat racing for over 40 years. During that time they have been unstintingly supportive of the sport and all the people involved.

In 1978 George became the chairman of the Essex Hydroplane Racing Club; a position he still holds. Nina took the role of secretary, and since that time they have held the club together with great personal effort and hard work. As members of the club they have provided support and organisation for numerous events at the club's own venues and further afield. They always provide a warm welcome both in their own home for meetings and also in their campervan at events. George has also participated in the racing; in 1990 he won the prestigious 'K7 Gold Star' for achieving 100mph on Lake Windermere. With Nina's constant support George has also been involved in a number of committees within the RYA, freely giving his time and energy supporting and promoting the sport.



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 Hugh de Las Casas

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.

Hugh de Las Casas

Hugh is dedicated to sailing and has a keen interest in encouraging young people and those with disabilities to get on the water and improve their skills.

Hugh has been involved in the Woolverstone Project since 1999 when he approached the trustees offering his help with their sail training programme. Since then Hugh has bought his skills and enthusiasm to the training programme, reshaping and developing it for those with disabilities. Due very largely to his instructing, organisational and personal skills, the project grew fast from the date he joined; he was also influential in the project receiving Centre of Excellence recognition.

Hugh has not only invested his time instructing, he has also become the project's primary fundraiser, successfully accessing funding which has helped the project continue its work. Through his dedication and hard work he has encouraged some highly skilled instructors to become regulars on the teaching staff and has attracted others as volunteers. He has also forged a beneficial link with the local Rotary club which has led to new equipment and volunteers for the project.

During Hugh's time working with the Woolverstone Project he has also found the time and energy to introduce a very successful, structured youth training programme at Aldeburgh Yacht Club, increasing the number of young people taking part in courses at the club.

Hugh's conscientious hard work for the Woolverstone Project has earned him the well-deserved respect and trust of all those involved in the project and also other Sailability sites in the region.



RYA Community Awards 2011

Lifetime Commitment

Tony Ayers

Torpoint Mosquito Sailing Club,
Combined Cadet Force HQ, Portsmouth



Tony has been a leading light and pillar of the sailing community in the South West for most of his life. A brilliant and inspiring instructor he has sustained an unstinting commitment to encourage all those

he comes in contact with to take up sailing or power boating. His enthusiasm for boating activity coupled with the use of local facilities has resulted in a multitude of youngsters and adults being introduced to the joys of boating.

Over the years Tony has given an immense amount of time voluntarily and has been at the forefront of developing and examining local Royal Navy RYA courses. His attention to detail and desire to make boating activity safe and enjoyable has marked him out as a key influence and an expert in the RYA training subject matter. Always willing to give his free time and energy to run evening courses and other activities, Tony never says 'no'. A positive 'can do' character, no challenge is too great and Tony will move heaven and earth to provide any assistance. His love of all activities afloat reflects his strong desire to see that others have the opportunity to experience what he has enjoyed during his lifetime.

Rosemary Beeson

Burnham Sailing Club



Sadly Rosemary passed away in July of this year.

Rosemary had been a calm and constant presence at the club since the 1970's. During her time at the club she fulfilled

a number of roles; she became the first female flag officer and also held the positions of Rear Commodore and Vice Commodore. Her amazing ability with numbers meant she excelled in the role of Treasurer since 1978, quietly and consistently guiding the club to financial profitability every year.

Rosemary was always on hand for Wednesday evening race night at Burnham Sailing Club, calculating the handicaps manually until she helped computerise the system; even then she still insisted on checking all the results by hand. The club's General Committee did not appreciate the extent of Rosemary's contribution to the club until deteriorating health meant she had to relinquish her role and it took three other volunteers to continue the work she used to do.

As well as her duties as club treasurer Rosemary also dedicated her time as secretary of the Burnham Joint Clubs Committee and also had an active role in administrating Burnham Week.

She will be sorely missed by all at the club where she will be fondly remembered.

Vivien Brookes

Worcestershire Schools Sailing and
Canoeing Association



Vivien joined her local club as the parent of a young member over 20 years ago. Since that time she has been actively involved in the committee and has worked selflessly for the benefit of the club

and all its members. She was the club secretary for many years, working meticulously in every detail and was instrumental in applying for, and gaining, many grants. As well as her duties as club secretary, Vivien is also influential on club sailing, ensuring everyone had the chance to succeed and helping to organise national regatta details, as well as attending them. As a result of her enthusiasm the committee has been steered to achieve high awards and regatta results.

Viv also sits on the National School Sailing Association (NSSA) Sailing Committee which is responsible for delivering the five NSSA sailing events during the year - this is no small feat and takes a lot of hard work.

Vivien is currently the WSSCA Chair, and continues to give her time and energy to the club.

Ray Buksh

Bury Lake Young Mariners



Ray first started going to Bury Lake Young Mariners (BLYM) when he retired over 15 years ago. He is now 83 and still an active member of the organisation. He has never stopped learning new skills and

taking on more responsibility. He is not afraid to get his hands dirty and seems to get as much pleasure taking apart an engine to solve a particular problem as organising and teaching on powerboat courses.

Ray wears a number of 'hats' at BLYM. He is a member of a group of volunteers that give up two days a week to help maintain the organisations sailing fleet of over 100 dinghies and six powerboats as well as the buildings the organisation occupies. He is assistant bosun, a role that takes account of his skill in boat repairs. Ray became a powerboat instructor in 1998, three years later he became the organisations chief instructor, a position he still holds.

Due to Ray's commitment to the charity, he was invited to be a Trustee in 1996 and continues to help manage and provide leadership to the organisation in that role. He is a great ambassador for BLYM and he has provided a safe environment for many young people to experience the thrills of learning to sail and drive powerboats.



Derek Burchell

International Topper Class Association



For many years Derek was Topper Class Training Officer. Whilst in this post he developed regional class training prior to RYA junior squad system. He was an outstanding junior Topper coach for several

years, dealing brilliantly with youngsters of all abilities at all levels. He has been an RYA coach and assessor since 1998; the vast majority of his coaching since that time has been on a voluntary basis. His love of the sport and commitment to the class has ensured he has passed on his skills to as many people as he can.

From 2001 Derek took on the role of Regional Coach for the Eastern Region. He set about reorganising the training in the region by evolution rather than revolution. He managed to gently change the culture of training in the region whilst keeping most of the existing people on board. As Regional Coach Derek invested a huge amount of time and energy into ensuring standards across the region were more consistent. He had a major impact on the way dinghy training was organised in the East, gradually modernising the organisation of inspectors and encouraging a better structure of training and moderating during instructor training.

Peter Burry

Civil Service Sailing Association



Peter has been a prominent and consistent influence on the Civil Service Sailing Association (CSSA). From the 1980's onwards, Peter has done a magnificent job in developing the CSSA

training facility; this includes putting in much of his own time running courses, all as an unpaid volunteer. He has travelled the length and breadth of the country to deliver courses and as CSSA Principal has insured all training delivered is of the highest standard. As a member of the CSSA General Committee, Peter brings a vast amount of wisdom to the table, not only his practical experience gained over many years, but also formidable technical ability.

As Principal of CSSA and also Chief Instructor he has played a vital role in both direct instruction, and, overall control over many years, thus playing a key part in the progression of many novices, from Competent Crew through to Yachtmaster Offshore and beyond. He is very helpful and communicates effectively to sailors of all levels, whether they are novices just starting out, or old hands who may just need reminding of certain techniques.

William Carruthers

Bassenthwaite Sailing Club



William has been a member of Bassenthwaite Sailing Club for over 40 years, 30 of which he has been heavily involved with the organisation of the club. During this time

William has taken on a number of roles. From sitting on the club's committee in 1980, he then took on the role of Treasurer on three separate occasions totalling 16 years; he was also Vice Commodore, with the specific responsibility of organising and running the annual regatta week. As Commodore, William successfully led all aspects of the sailing club's activities, including negotiating the club's lease for use of the lake. William is now the club's Webmaster, a role that came about due to William's initiative in 2002, when he created the website for the club from scratch. He continues to update and maintain the site and has also bought the club up-to-date by creating a Twitter account on its behalf.

William is a quiet and unassuming character who has over many years taken both a leading and background role in all sailing club activities. He has unselfishly given so much to the club that he loves and has never actively sought recognition or reward.

John Cass

Downs Sailing Club



John has been a key member of Downs Sailing Club for many years. He has always been an active and enthusiastic volunteer, taking on practical projects such as maintaining the safety

boats and also committing his time and energy to the organisational side, sitting on the club's committee. He took on the position of Commodore in the mid 1990's and led the club through the application process to secure a lottery grant which allowed the club to greatly improve its facilities. John currently sits on both the Sailing Committee and the Training Committee, either one would require a big commitment; John manages to contribute to both.

Since the sailing club became a RYA training centre, John has become one of the club's regular instructors in both sail and powerboats. He is always willing to help out with training programmes for adults or children, and has volunteered to take the lead role on many occasions.

John is one of those quiet people who just gets on and does what needs doing. Downs Sailing club would not have the high quality facilities and equipment, or be able to run such successful courses, races and events without the hard work and dedication of John and people like him.



Clive Church

Cookham Reach Sailing Club



Clive has been a member of Cookham Reach Sailing Club for over 20 years, and has always been generous with the time and energy he puts into the club. He ensures the smooth running and development of the club, whether this

involved the routine maintenance and upkeep of the clubhouse or the development of the club's facilities, Clive has been a constant presence. His work not only helps to retain current members but also attracts new recruits to the sailing scene. Clive has always been the man to turn to for reliable maintenance skills and advice no matter what the task involves. He approaches every task with a well thought out plan and has the skills to take on any engineering or building related job.

As well as his practical contributions, Clive has also helped with the running of the club. He was Vice Commodore in the mid-1990s, going on to be Commodore for three years, at a time when the club was turning 50. Clive was a key coordinator and organiser for the celebratory events that marked that milestone. From 2001 to 2010 Clive was the club's bosun, and was entirely responsible for the club's boats, as well as all other equipment on the site.

He does all this with a constant smile on his face; he is unfailingly cheerful.

Peggy Dorothy

Hamble River Sailing Club



As a young girl, Peggy became Hamble River Sailing Club (HRSC) cadet club champion and raced her National 12 from the club. She left the sailing club for a time but went back about 15 years ago

and immediately started to set up a Cadet section. Since then Peggy has worked tirelessly for the benefit of the club and its members, her energy and enthusiasm is impossible to match. She has held a number of roles within the club, including four fantastic years as club Commodore which were packed with events and activities, together with new, improved club facilities. She continues to organise club open days and events, as well as sailing groups for people of all ages, charity events, children's activities, training courses and more.

She is passionate about getting people out on the water and has ensured that everyone, whether they come from a sailing background or not, has the opportunity to try sailing and also to build their confidence and skills through a supportive club structure. When she is not running sessions at the club she can be found offering practical help keeping the RIBs running smoothly, or working to secure sponsorship and funding for the club.

She was a key player in setting up HRSC as an RYA Training Centre and in its first year it delivered successful courses on all levels. She has an uncanny ability to get people to volunteer for tasks without them realising it, and is always on hand to answer any question.

John Edwards

South Staffordshire Sailing Club



John has been a continuous member of South Staffordshire Sailing Club since the 1960's. He has been an influential driver behind the success of the club, volunteering for positions on the management

team from a very early time in his membership. From the Sailing Committee and General Committee, to Commodore and, latterly, as Honorary Treasurer for 24 years (and still counting) John has been a dependable character to rely on with a very steady hand on club finances. During this time he has overseen several major financial projects, including buying land and renovating the clubhouse. The fact these projects were completed within budget is a testament to his close control and the considerable time he spent on each of them. His tenure as Honorary Treasurer is a remarkable achievement and his voluntary continuation in this role is appreciated by all at the club.

In addition to his management roles John was also appointed an RYA instructor in 1978 enabling him to pass on the skills of sailing to many of the clubs current members.

Although John retired from regular active sailing some years ago he has continued to devote his free time to the Clubs financial management and he and his wife, Suzanne, can also regularly be found in the club's galley ensuring it is adequately stocked and cleaned and that the whole building is maintained to a very high standard. He is a major reason why the club has been so successful for nearly 60 years.

Stan Evans

Christchurch Sailing Club



Stan has been a constant and important presence at Christchurch Sailing Club for over 40 years. Since the mid 1980's Stan has acted as the winter bosun, a role which includes

maintaining and repairing the club's boats and equipment. He has immense energy and always gets things done, inspiring a team to cheerfully carry out any tasks that are required.

Stan's passion for the club extends to its long history; the club was formed in 1874. In 2000 Stan published a history of the club at his own expense, which he had painstakingly compiled over the years. He is also responsible for maintaining the clubs archives, which is a considerable task bearing in mind the club's extensive past.

Inspired by the beauty and drama of sailing, Stan has also started an art club for members, which operates through the winter and has progressed enough to exhibit on a regular basis.

It is Stan's hard work that has enabled the sailing activity at the club to take place efficiently, on schedule and without interruption over many years.



John Friend

RYA North West Region



John has been an active member of the sailing community for many years. His passion for the sport lead him to join the North West Regional Committee in the early 1980's, taking on various roles including Officer

and Chairman; he continued to be involved until 2010. From the late 1990's to 2003, John chaired both the RYA Yacht Racing Divisional Committee and the Racing Committee, serving and leading the committees through a period of unprecedented change and success. He oversaw the introduction of radical changes to coaching at all levels and was always on hand to offer support to coaches as the new structure developed. As well as his other commitments John was also an active member of the RYA Council.

John's commitment has also been shown at his own club, Elton Sailing Club, where he continues to sail. He is actively involved with the club's committee and has also served as Commodore.

Jim Hartshorne

Loch Tummel Sailing Club



Jim has been a member of his club since the 1970s. He has served as a flag officer for many years, cheerfully undertaking all the duties that entailed. Jim is a committed club member, the sort

of person without whom a club could not function. Always willing, always able and frequently unbidden, Jim quietly takes on the very necessary background tasks that are required to maintain the fabric of the club.

Over the years the club has developed and flourished, hosting sizable events whilst at the same time fostering a happy, family oriented atmosphere. All this could not take place without functioning services; showers and clean water, safe jetties and mown grass. Jim has successfully addressed all these issues over the years, using his engineering background to good effect, and is always ready to provide technical backup. Recently he has also researched and implemented projects in line with the RYA Green Blue initiative.

Jim has also been a very active and successful sailor who misses very few weekends and has won several trophies over the years. His enthusiasm is infectious, he just wants to see people on the water enjoying themselves and is always ready to welcome and encourage new members and visitors to the club.

Ann Heather

Wilsonian Sailing Club



For over 20 years Ann has been encouraging others to get on the water and experience the joy of sailing at Wilsonian Sailing Club. She has played an active role in a number of events and projects for the club. Since 1992

she has been the chief organiser of the club's Junior Week, ensuring it is well prepared beforehand and also that everything runs smoothly during the event. She also works as the lead organiser of the dinghy regatta that Wilsonian Sailing Club runs on behalf of the Medway Yachting Association. This involves ensuring all management areas are covered, from safety to race management and catering. This is a huge undertaking but Ann takes it all in her stride.

Ann has been Vice-Commodore, Rear- Commodore and Commodore in her time at the club. During this time she completed the fundraising and building of a clubhouse extension, and also helped the club achieve Volvo Championship status.

Her influence has created a fantastic and supportive environment for club sailors of all ages, as well as a great place to host events.

What makes Ann all the more remarkable, is that she has provided all this support and has never had any desire to step into a boat!

Chris Joyner

Lyme Regis Sea School and Sailing Club



Chris is one of the most active and important members of the sailing club and probably one of the best known. He has introduced hundreds of people to sailing and helped train them in all aspects of the sport. He

has facilitated the learning and the sailing of many people directly through advice, personal support and boat hire, and indirectly through servicing and maintaining club and sea school's equipment.

He is a source of amazing wisdom for the committees of both organisations, for their members, and for many other people and organisations involved with the sea in Lyme Regis and beyond.

Although he is not paid, Chris can be found working in the club, dinghy park or somewhere in the vicinity of the harbour at Lyme most days of the week, throughout the year.

He is passionate and knowledgeable about the sea, sailing, racing and teaching and manages to impart this knowledge without ever being intimidating. In fact, he succeeds in making people feel good about themselves and their achievements at every stage of the learning process. Many young people have been given enormous confidence by working with Chris and they talk about him with unreserved respect.



Michael Kneale

Isle of Man Yacht Club



Michael has been a member of the club since a toddler; his father and mother having played a significant role at the club in the 1960s and 70s. Michael is currently serving

his second term as Commodore and it was very appropriate that he was at the helm for the club's centenary in 2010.

Michael is an inspiration to the world of sailing in the Isle of Man. His knowledge of the local waters and tides is second to none and he is always ready to give help and advice to all those wanting to learn.

Michael is a man of his word, if he says he will do something it gets done. The hours of work he has contributed each year can't be measured, however Michael never expects anything in return, the fact that the sport of sailing benefits from his efforts is all the reward Michael would ever expect.

Jeffery Manning

Henley Sailing Club



Since the late 1979s Jeff has been a committee member in every possible role; Flag Officer, Commodore, and now Hon Secretary for the last 13 years, providing invaluable support to recent Commodores.

That represents 32 years of continuous service to the club; an amazing achievement.

Jeff continues to be an active sailor, encouraging new and old members alike into river sailing and sharing his extensive knowledge.

Henley is one of the oldest club's in the country and Jeff is passionate about the club's history. He carefully archives all the old photos, records and documents and is extremely knowledgeable about its history.

Jeff is willing to tackle any tasks that will benefit the club, ranging from dealing with intricacies of the local authority licensing rules, to stripping down the diesel engine of the club's elderly launch. He is loyal, completely committed to the club, incredibly hard working and well regarded by all the club's members. The smooth running of the club and its committees is due in large part to his on-going efforts and enthusiasm.

Pam Marrs

Hayling Island Sailing Club



Pam's involvement with Hayling Island Sailing Club (HISC) began in the 1960s when she joined as a member. Since the early 1980's Pam has had a major influence on the operational organisation of HISC.

She has been involved at all levels, from being an active club racer to spending many hours debating in committee meetings. From race management, to stuffing envelopes and raising funds, Pam is always willing to get involved.

She has dedicated many hours to youth sailing activities at the club, encouraging numerous young people to get out and enjoy the water. She not only organises events but is also an instructor on many of them, having gained her Instructor qualification in the mid-1980s.

She always manages to get others to help willingly with tasks at the club by maintaining a sense of fun and a love of the sport. Whatever tasks she undertakes, Pam will get it done quietly and without a fuss.

Bryan Martyn

Sutton Bingham Sailing Club



Bryan has always supported the sail and power boat training at his club. He is enthusiastic and inspires the students to demonstrate their new skills and become active members of the

club. Across Somerset Bryan has become involved with community groups and schools in promoting sailing to potential young sailors, encouraging them to become active in the sport.

For over 29 years Bryan has committed many hours of his spare time to volunteering. During this time he has conveyed his enthusiasm and passion for sailing to sailors young and old.

Bryan has also been involved with the Somerset Waterways Development Trust. The trust is a group set on conserving, protecting, improving and enjoying Somerset's waterways. Bryan helped the trust become an RYA Training School, guiding them through the process and producing the majority of the necessary documentation. He also acts as the school's training principal on a voluntary basis.

If it had not been for Bryan's freely given expertise and enthusiasm the trust, which has charitable status, would have incurred considerable extra expense.



Harry Loftus Pye

Ogston Sailing Club



Ogston Sailing Club was only three years old when Harry joined. For over 47 years he has worked to develop, improve and maintain all aspects of the club. He has been an active member of the club's

committee, as Commodore in the mid-1970's and elected as the club's President in 2010.

Members have benefitted enormously from his contribution to the growth of club facilities and through these its ability to help others share in the enjoyment of being on the water.

Recently, Harry has used a combination of his technical skills and a friendly, practical hands-on approach to develop the Tuesday club team which maintains the safety boats as well as improving and maintaining the club's buildings, grounds and pontoons. He gets on with people of all ages, and gets satisfaction from helping others enjoy the sport he loves. He is known and admired by everyone at the club.

In the 1970's Harry was involved in setting up the junior fleet to enable young people to begin sailing at the club. He also later became a senior instructor and continues to teach at the 'Learn to Sail' classes, introducing many new members to the joy of sailing.

Peter Simpson

Tamesis Club



Since he joined the club in 1975, Peter has fulfilled many roles including a stint as Commodore. In particular he ran the Cadet section for many years, introducing a great number of

youngsters to the joys of sailing. He has also served as honorary bosun for many years, ensuring that the club's rescue launches are in a fit state to be used for training and the race programme, he also maintains the club's other training boats.

Despite no longer being in charge of the Cadet section, Peter continues to go to each session to help run the launches and is on hand with his wealth of knowledge to offer his help and advice.

As well as Peter's commitments on the club's Management Committee, he continues to race at the club on a regular basis. Peter is a quiet person, but without him and others like him, clubs such as Tamesis would struggle to provide the high level of services and support they do, at prices that make the sport accessible to all.

Ian Smith

Ripon Sailing Club



Ian is one of Ripon Sailing Club's longest serving committee members, having served since 1986, with only a two year break in service during that time. He has undertaken many of the

key roles within the club, including that of Trustee, Sailing Secretary, Membership Secretary, Vice Commodore and Commodore. He also developed, implemented and continues to manage the club's website and other IT based systems; a critical role at a modern club.

Ian is passionate about the club, and about how it can best serve the members. He has the ability to see how small changes made now can positively impact on the club in the future and is willing to 'think outside the box' and challenge preconceptions to get things done.

More recently, Ian has qualified as a Powerboat Instructor and is already putting these skills to good use, developing club members' abilities to effectively drive and operate the safety boats. He has also taken on the role of Race Coach, and is a key member of a working group set up to integrate training, coaching and racing activities within the club.

Ian is committed to his club and also to the sport of sailing in general. His contribution is immeasurable but will continue to be felt at the club and in the region for many years to come.

Gloria Stunnel and Pat Walker

West Wilts Youth Sailing Association



Gloria and Pat have both held positions on the committee at West Wilts Youth Sailing Association (WWYSA) since 1985. Pat has been secretary of the association for over 25 years, during which WWYSA has progressed to become a high quality training centre serving the local community and beyond. She has provided great continuity and at the beginning of each new season her input in terms of new intake, coordination of volunteers, AGM and committee meetings is invaluable.

Gloria has also served on the committee for 25 years, as Treasurer since 1985. She is a key member of the committee and her role is a vital one. She strives to ensure there is financial stability within the organisation, which is especially important and challenging when the club is dependent on grants and donations to keep running.

With Gloria managing the association's funds and Pat coordinating the volunteers, parents and children at the club, WWYSA has gone from strength to strength. The commitment and contribution both of them have made cannot be measured but both can certainly be considered exceptional.



Syd Thomas

Cardiff Bay Yacht Club and RYA Race Management Committee



Syd has worked in Cardiff for many years to organise and run the cruiser racing in the area. He has been a key part of the Army Sailing Association for around 30 years, having run the inter-service racing

since the early 1980's.

Syd has also been a RYA Regional Race Officer since 1994. He has helped run events at a wide variety of venues across the area and his expertise and excellence are always in demand. He acts as the Principal Race Officer for Cardiff Bay Yacht Club (CBYC), running most of the club's events on a weekly basis throughout the year, he also helps Penarth Yacht Club and Cardiff Yacht Club with their off shore events.

Syd likes to keep his knowledge and skills up-to-date. He always attends regional conferences and also some of the national conferences too. He is Regional Representative for South Wales RORC and has been on the IRC Committee for the last ten years.

Syd has given many years of tireless work to race management in South Wales and for the Army and joint services. He is considered by many to be one of British racing's "unsung heroes".

Mike Tomkins

Bay of Colwyn Sailing Club



Mike has been at Bay of Colwyn Sailing Club for over 30 years. During this time the club has been through some challenging times; however Mike's dedication and commitment has

ensured that the club continues to offer dinghy sailing to its members.

Last year he started a new dinghy series within the bay, which introduced new and younger people into the club. He has worked tirelessly to keep the race management running at the club and runs every race throughout the season. His hard work has ensured that the club is open to newcomers at an accessible level, so anyone can go and try sailing.

Mike works hard to maintain the fabric of the club as well as the club's spirit. He looks after the committee boat, as well as the flags, poles and other club equipment. He never has to be asked to do something - if he sees a problem he gets on and fixes it. He is often found around the club working to repair things no one else has the time to fix or has even noticed needs fixing!

Desmond Topping

Derwent Reservoir Sailing Club



Des has been involved in sailing for most of his life. As a teacher he arranged for pupils within his school to be introduced to sailing and, since retirement, he has taken on more leading roles within the

club. He has been centre principal for ten years and is a long-time member of the club council where his knowledge and advice has been highly valued. He is currently the Vice Commodore.

His main interest and areas of influence have been in the running of RYA courses for all ages which have introduced a large number of people to sailing and had a great impact on the success of the club. He has also successfully encouraged club members to train as instructors in both sail and power boats, which not only enhances their personal skills but enables them to pass on their enthusiasm to other members of the public.

His excellent personal boating knowledge has enabled him to advise on the purchase of new training boats and he also takes a keen interest to ensure they are well maintained and cared for.

Des is dedicated to the club and to sailing in general; the fact he no longer sails has done nothing to diminish his enthusiasm and commitment.

Bishop Michael Whinney

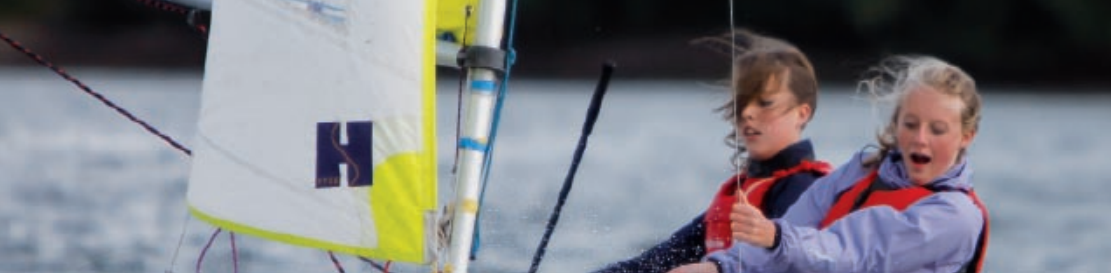
Enterprise Sailing Trust



Bishop Michael was a founding patron of the Enterprise Sailing Trust based in Birmingham, which was established to fund and organise the first round the world trip by school leavers. In the mid-2000's the trust used its

funds to subsidise offshore sailing voyages around the West Coast of Scotland with about 30 disadvantaged secondary school pupils. Around this time Michael felt it was time to pass on the reins to a new generation and helped to form a new committee of sailing enthusiasts from Birmingham schools and youth organisations, whilst he has remained as fundraising officer. This move has given the trust a new lease of life. Recently the trust has enabled a large number of disadvantaged children and those with special educational needs to go sailing.

It has been Bishop Michael's vision and commitment that has kept the trust alive and vibrant and allowed so many young people to experience the thrill and challenge of sailing. With Michael back in the role of Patron, the trust is now expanding into dinghy sailing and trying to establish a sailing apprenticeship as a pathway to employment.



Richard Young

Pevensy Bay Sailing School



Richard has been a volunteer dinghy instructor for many years, predominately working in the East Sussex area since the mid- 1980's.

In 1997 the sailing school he was working at closed down. Instead of accepting defeat at the loss of the facility he immediately helped to set up the Pevensy Bay Sailing School at the Pevensy Bay Sailing Club. He acquired the necessary equipment, much of it at his own expense and arranged to get the boats repaired and maintained over the winter months. With his hard work the new sea school was able to open in time for the 1998 season and also achieved RYA Training Centre status.

Since that time his dedication and commitment has ensured that the sea school continues to thrive. He was the sailing school principal for a number of years and he trained to become a senior instructor. His encouragement for others to train as instructors has provided a continual supply of skilled local instructors which has contributed greatly to the success of the school.



RYA Community Awards 2011 Outstanding Contribution

Russell Armstrong

Isle of Man Yacht Club and Manx Yachting Association



Russell has helped to generate a renewed interest in the Isle of Man Yacht Club since joining in 1997, when he took up residence on the island. Since joining the club he has held various positions

including Commodore and Flag Officer, however his contribution to the club has always gone over and above any required commitment. He is always available to offer his advice and assistance to others on the committee or club members, spending a great deal of time at the club helping out and ensuring visitors feel welcome.

Russell is a perfectionist in all he does and brings these high standards to the yacht club. He has been involved in running three National 18' Championships in Port St Mary, all carried out with precision and accuracy. Russell is totally reliable and never has to be asked to do a task twice, he always gets things done.

Russell's hard work and support for the club has been beyond the call of duty and his input is appreciated by all who sail from the club.

Mark Burkitt

Ulley Sailing Club



Mark was elected to the position of Vice Commodore at Ulley Sailing Club in 2006. Just six months later a devastating flood meant that the dam of the reservoir the club sails on was damaged. This

led to a great deal of uncertainty and disruption at the club until the repairs on the dam were completed in 2010. Mark was elected to Commodore during these disrupted years in 2008 and worked hard during that time to keep the club together, working closely with the committee. Since the club has been able to return to their water and clubhouse Mark has striven to ensure the successful re-launch of the club.

Mark used the time when the club was closed to gain his Senior Instructor qualification, and also encouraged two others to do the same. These skills have allowed a number of courses and sailing experiences to be run at the club which have directly increased the number of members.

Mark is always willing to pitch in and help, for example not only re-fencing the club's boat park but, also with the assistance of his family, feeding the other volunteers that turned out to help.

As well as his work at the club, Mark manages to attend many RYA regional conferences and events as Ulley SC's representative, offering a positive approach and helping advance the club's activities as well as developing his own personal skills and knowledge.

Richard Gaskell

Westbere Sailing Opportunities



Richard's commitment and dedication to Westbere Sailing Opportunities (WSO) is unparalleled.

WSO is a charity and RYA Sailability centre whose sole purpose

is to give people of all ages and all disabilities a great experience of sailing. He has a major input into every aspect of running WSO, from keeping the Constitution and protocols up-to-date, making sure volunteers are fully trained and compliant, and ensuring the equipment is well cared for and safe for all to use. Richard also makes time to welcome visitors who are interested in the club or in setting up something similar elsewhere.

As well as dedicating his own time to the organisation Richard is always inspiring others to volunteer or offering encouragement to those that already do. He makes all involved in the organisation feel valued. Richard is available day or night for advice or direction and his broad knowledge means he is rarely stumped for an answer.

Richard has a fantastic ability to deal with the immediate, and often urgent, requirements of the organisation but is also superb at seeing the greater picture and planning for the long term. Without his considerable contribution WSO would not exist in its present efficient form and able to give support, pleasure and involvement to the many people of all ages and with such varied disabilities.

Stephen Gibbon

Kielder Water Sailing Club



Kielder Water Sailing club is a thriving family-friendly club with a growing membership. This is in part due to Steve's commitment and contribution to the club over many years.

Steve joined the club in 1995, and since that time he has always encouraged other people to get involved and volunteer for tasks. He has taken on various roles within the club's committee; acting as Commodore between 2007 and 2010. During this time Steve encouraged the club to grow and develop, and cultivated strong links with other local organisations. He also completely refurbished the galley and the clubhouse by himself.

As well as his commitments to the club, Steve sits on the North East Region Committee, and is also a RYA National Coach, delivering courses across the North East and Yorkshire.

Steve has always worked hard to make sure that volunteers are recognised and thanked publicly for all their hard work, yet he has never considered that he should be recognised and rewarded as well.



Martin Lindsay- Hills

Sussex Sailability and Sussex Yacht Club



Martin joined Sussex Sailability about ten years ago as a volunteer and helper. It didn't take him long to get more deeply involved in helping to run the organisation and by 2002 he was made Chairman of the

organisation; a role he still holds.

When Martin took over the group it had a strong foundation but was quite small. Martin's organisational skills and ability to galvanise volunteers has meant that the group has developed rapidly and now contains around 80 people that sail regularly.

Martin, always ably supported by his wife Frances, has taken on the role of fundraiser for the group and has had significant successes. He has made links with local organisations and businesses which have resulted in various grants that have allowed the group to buy new boats and equipment for the group. This has broadened and improved the experience of a large number of disabled sailors and allowed many of them to compete in races and take part in sailing sessions that would otherwise be unavailable to them.

Martin's excellent relationship with Sussex Yacht Club has enabled sailors from the Sailability group to race alongside members of the yacht club, promoting feelings of inclusion and friendly competition between all, regardless of any disability.

John Ling

Upton Warren Sailing Club



Upton Warren Sailing Club has always encouraged racing but for many children and young people immediately being thrown into races with adults was an intimidating prospect.

When John joined the club he introduced Friday night practice sessions, predominately for young people but also open to anyone who is starting their racing career. As a result of the Friday night sessions, the club's junior section was expanded and the club now boasts an active, keen and loyal junior squad.

He is a brilliant motivator and has the respect of the junior squad and other club members. He also sets very high standards and has the enthusiasm and ability to help junior members reach their full potential, which can be seen by their progress at regional and national levels.

As well as fulfilling commitments to the UK Laser Association and his work, John has devoted nearly every Friday night for the last 3 years to the Friday night practice session.

Richard Thisby

Royal Artillery Yacht Club



Richard is committed to training and developing young soldiers into professional and responsible sailors. Although continuing to compete competitively on the civilian offshore circuit, Richard's main

passion is dinghy sailing. His potential was recognised and he was appointed Principle and Centre Manager of Thorney Island Watersports Centre in 2005. At the time the centre was a regimental sailing centre running around 45 courses a year. Richard was tasked with developing it into an Army wide facility. He achieved this in spectacular fashion, with around 1500 service men and women being put through RYA Courses, taster sessions and development camps since his appointment.

Richard is now qualified to teach all of the courses within the dinghy scheme and also the vast majority of shore-based courses. He has not only done a fantastic job developing the staff on the site, but he has also developed the site through a number of fundamental developments within the fleet and facilities.

He has been instrumental in cultivating a link between the club and 'Battleback', a charity that works to rehabilitate catastrophically injured servicemen into challenging sports at an able bodied level. Richard has successfully pioneered two courses already and earlier this year managed to secure funding for new boats to further this partnership.

Julie Tomkinson

South Windermere Sailing Club



Julie has been an active member since 1994 and has been involved in running the club for around 12 years. As a teacher, her interest in children, their involvement in the club

and their development has been paramount to her. All the children respect her and respond to her enthusiasm for sailing.

Julie acted as Commodore between 2004 and 2006 and was a different type of leader. She moved the club on from being solely interested in racing to one where everyone could enjoy the sport of sailing, in particular the junior members who flourished in this environment. Julie continues as Junior Sailing Secretary and there is a continual stream of youngsters developing their skills and enthusiasm for the sport under Julie's guidance.

This focus has also benefitted the club. In the mid-1980's there was little junior sailing at the clubs and an aging membership, now there are several junior groups but also an increase in family membership and a more balanced activity schedule. These changes are due in large part to Julie's persistence, selfless enthusiasm and hard work.



Mike Warbrick

South Staffordshire Sailing Club



Mike has been at South Staffordshire Sailing Club for over 20 years. During that time he has acted as Junior Training Champion and Co-ordinator. The club boasts a very successful junior

training programme and the club has significant success on the international stage, none of this would be possible without Mike's input.

Mike is the club's first link for juniors who, with his encouragement and coaching, he gets to a level where the club's racing instructors take over to turn them into dinghy racers of the future. His way of dealing with kids, and their parents, is fantastic, he is a fun and lively character whose enthusiasm and commitment cannot help but be passed on to those he teaches. He is also responsible for ensuring the safety of the children which he does professionally and to a very high standard both on and off the water.

His commitment and time given to this aspect of the club has been key to the successful development of several sailors at local, regional, national and international level events.

William Whiteside

Liverpool Sailing Club



Bill has been passing on his passion for watersports to young people in the Liverpool area for over 60 years. He started developing watersports activities in the area in the 1950's, often with a focus on encouraging local,

underprivileged young people to get involved and take part. He established a charity called Merseyside Youth Challenge Trust (MYCT), an organisation that is supported by hundreds of volunteers as well as those on job seeking initiatives. With his wealth of local expertise he helped Liverpool Sailing Club redevelop after a difficult period and the two organisations now work closely together to provide sailing to anyone in the local area. The club and the trust have a joint charity, 'Youth Afloat', which caters for all youngsters aged between 13 -19 who have an interest in sailing. Bill is often to be found out on the water teaching the youngsters from the club's RIB.

Bill gives his time and energy because he is passionate about sailing and about getting young people out on the water, it would never cross his mind to seek acknowledgement or praise for the hard work and commitment he has shown over so many years, but the positive impact he has on the lives of so many has not gone unnoticed.



RYA Community Awards 2011

Youth

Chris Cook

South Staffordshire Sailing Club



Chris is an inspirational young member of South Staffordshire Sailing Club. He first became involved with the club around four years ago when he started attending as part of a group of students from Westcroft

Special School. Having visited the club with the school and enjoyed all the activities offered Chris began volunteering in his own time to help out in any way possible. He managed to build and establish relationships with many members who subsequently gave their own time to help Chris. As proof of his personal growth and development he has also returned to his old school, first as a voluntary assistant, and now as a paid assistant.

Chris is now a very proficient safety boat driver, and he has started his sailing Instructor training. He is a superb sailor, and is highly sought after as crew. He regularly sails with a top sailor from the club and travels around the Lark and GP14 circuit. He dedicates an extraordinary amount of time and is a willing volunteer offering to help in any activity at the club.

Joe Hunt

Royal Harwich Yacht Club



Joe has been a member of his club since 2000 and has reinvigorated the club's youth section in that time. On his own initiative Joe gained his Senior Instructor qualification in 2006,

he also recommended to the club that the RYA's OnBoard (OB) and Volvo Champion Club (VCC) schemes could help re-launch junior racing at the club. Joe took on the task to prepare all the required documentation and control processes to enable OB and VCC sessions to take place. He gathered together a team of adult helpers to assist on training days.

Through his enthusiasm he has also been able to involve parents that would not normally become involved in junior sailing activities. His drive and passion has encouraged other youngsters to start gaining Instructor and race coach qualifications.

Joe has, on many occasions, sacrificed his own sailing programme to ensure he is on hand at other club events to offer assistance to the junior sailors. He spends many hours outside the training timetable to make sure that all boats and associated equipment are fit for purpose for the next session. A well-respected member of the Committee, Joe is an asset to the club and to youth sailing in the area.

Robin Jones

Lincoln and District Sailing Association



Robin is a cheerful, ebullient and committed young man who excels in all the activities he takes part in. He uses these qualities to support the Lincoln and District Sailing Association

to deliver sailing sessions to children from local schools. At a moments notice he can be called upon to take children sailing or help out with regattas and act as on water safety crew.

Robin shows a maturity beyond his age. He is unassuming but enthusiastic; he encourages young people to sail and have fun on the water, and sets an example which is second to none.

In 2010 Robin led a team to a good placing in the NSSA team championships, using great direction and knowledge encouraging his less experienced team mates to enjoy the racing but to remain competitive.

Robin not only interacts well with other young people but also relates well to adults at their own level and holds his own when having conversations or delivering lectures. By setting a fantastic example to the other young members they are inspired to follow Robin and raise their game too.



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