

Chris Edwards retires



Long serving Eastern Region Committee member Chris Edwards has retired. He is leaving his beloved East Coast to live nearer his family in Edinburgh. Chris, 83, had a long and distinguished career as a naval officer, before making his mark in the world of business.

He joined the Eastern Region Committee as the then BACSPA (now BaCASA) representative in 2000, and set up the role of environmental and planning officer the following year. He served as chairman of the Training Panel, and taking over as chairman in 2006 when Peter Catton tragically died while in office. On serving his term he continued as the region's environmental and planning officer and chairing and guiding the RYA's national Environmental Planning Committee.

He took over the role of regional secretary in 2013.

Apart from his work with the committee he also represented both the region and headquarters on a number of harbour authorities and related organisations, including Harwich, Brightlingsea, Crouch, Lower Thames and Sunk VTS bodies.

A diplomat who called a spade a spade, he fought long and hard against creeping bureaucracy to maintain our freedom to sail and navigate the waters of our region.

At his retirement at the March 2017 regional committee meeting he was presented with a mounted black and white photograph by top East Coast photographer, Den Philips, by regional chairman Richard Card.

Chris was a member of Tollesbury Cruising Club since 1995, served as a flag officer and in 1999/2000 as Commodore. He learnt to sail in Fireflys in the early fifties, and until a couple of years ago was crew and navigator on the Westerly Oceanquest Calidris sailing out of the Blackwater, regularly cruising in the North Sea and Channel.