



## ***Eastern Regional Committee***

Minutes of the meeting of 11 March 2017 held at Haven Ports Yacht Club by kind permission of the Commodore.

### Decisions:

FMSC to prepare a paper for the September meeting on the future use and composition of the region's training fleets.

Results of inter-committee SWOT analysis.

### Present

Richard Card, Chairman; NSBA (RC)  
Doug MacEwen, Deputy Chairman; CAYF (DM)  
Peter Woods, Reg Hon Treasurer (PW1)  
Chris Edwards, Reg Hon Sec (CE)  
Garth Cooper, Reg Sec/HYR (GC)  
Claire Bain, NSSA (CB)  
Dave Bain, Beds and Cambs ASA (DB)  
Robbie Bell, RDO (RB)  
Bob Calver, ERPEC (BC)  
Alice Davies, BaCASA (AD)  
Ben Falat, Chmn FMSC (BF)  
John Hancock, AYCSS/Interclub (JH)  
Holly Hancock, RComm (HH)  
Sara Hopkinson, HASA (SH)  
Brenda Read, Chmn HASA (BR)  
Ken Wickham, CAYF (KW)

### Apologies:

John Crisp, ANRC (JC1)  
Jane Ellison, Regional Sailability (JE)  
Alan Francis, HWEIW (AF)  
Graham Louth, RRA (GL)  
Geoff Parrish, GOBA (GP)  
Peter Saxton, RRMA (PS)  
Adrian Tebbutt, NWNSA (TW)  
Tim Wood, CNPR (TW)  
Paul Wren, HPM (PW2)  
Graham Louth RRRRA (GL)

### Absent:

Jonathan Coone, RNSA (JC2)

### Welcome:

The Chairman welcomed everyone, and introduced new members Holly Hancock (R Comm), Sara Hopkinson (HASA) and Garth Cooper (Reg Sec Designate). Apologies were read.

Correspondence: None received.

1. Minutes of the meeting of 3 December 2016 and matters arising  
There were no alterations to the minutes, which the Chairman then signed as a true record.
2. Matters Arising  
None.
3. Finance Report

Speaking to his report the Treasurer said people invited to meetings at Hamble by headquarters staff had been told to collect their travelling expenses from the regional kitty. It was agreed that regional officers called to Hamble for meetings should have their expenses reimbursed by Hamble. The Chairman would take this up with Hamble.  
Action RC

It was agreed that a group consisting of the members of the Fleets Management Sub-Committee plus the Chairman, Deputy Chairman and Secretary of ERC, should produce a paper for the ERC relating to the future role of the ERC fleets, their target usage and whether the mix of boats should be changed.  
Action BF

The RDO commented that while grateful for the financial assistance the Region had given him in recent years he was not making an application for financial help at this stage.

4. Report of Council received, no comments.

5. Chairman's Report

Key points:

Chairman (RC) reported on the ERC Officer's meeting in January: It was agreed to hold this year's Affiliates Conference again at The Royal Hospital School; date to be announced. It was likely that the clinics would be dropped as they had been poorly attended last time.

Deputy Chairman (DM) is heading the development of the four-year ERC Strategic Plan due to come into operation in September. Once RYA funding and governance rules had been agreed the plan would be circulated for discussion and ratification at the September meeting.

In future committee agendas will be circulated to all members prior to the meeting for them to make additions of subjects their LSA feels should be brought to the committee's attention.

Chairman reported that he had been in tele-conference with other regional chairmen and the chairman and deputy chairman of the RYA to review strategic planning matters, including KPIs and Sport England's newly introduced governance of sport. Chairman has been appointed to a national working party to explore these issues further.

Chairman and Chairman of the FMSC (BF) had visited Birch Hall Adventures and had signed the memorandum of understanding for management of the regional training fleets with director, Alex Phillips.

6. Communicator's Report

The Regional Communicator Holly Hancock (HH) introduced herself to members and asked that they should contact her with any newsworthy items for her to develop into Press stories. She will send out a monthly email to LSA representatives seeking story leads.

7. ERPEC Reports attached.

8. Reports from local associations:

ANRC – nothing to report.

AYCSS – nothing to report.

BaCASSA – Maldon SC queried health and safety information provided by Training Department and questioned why Hamble had no dedicated H&S officer.

B&CAA – Dave Bain has agreed to take on representing and revitalising the Beds and Cambs area association. He outlined his scheme commenting that the association was in effect a "virtual association". Report attached.

CAYF – report attached.

HASA – report attached. BR added that the new of the legal ruling against the retention of the steel mesh fence along the front of Mistley Quay was good news for yachtsmen and general visitors alike.

GOBA – nothing to report.

H&WEIW – nothing to report.

NSBA – Nothing of regional or national significance to report..

NWNSA – The annual Norfolk Week Regatta will run from 5 August to 12 August 2017. The week kicks off at 1500 hrs on 5th August. Nothing else to report.

RNSA – no report received.

NSSA – Report attached.

9. Reports from FMSC Chairman; RDO: Reports attached.

10. Specialist reports:

Race Management Training - no report.

Zone HPM – report attached.

Sailability – no report.

HYR – GC reported that the Regional Final would be held at Paxton Lakes SC on Saturday, 20th May 2017. It would be a single event this year. He was already investigating suitable sites for area heats next year to widen the appeal of the competition. He urged all LSAs to get behind the event.

11. Regional Action Plan:

Deputy Chairman (DM) presented a paper on the progress of implementing the regional action plan. He also conducted a SWOT analysis among members of the committee. The results will be released shortly.

Action DM

12. Matters for the RYA Council Meeting on 22nd March 2017.

Chairman reported that the principal item for discussion was getting more youngsters to join regional committees. The committee agreed there was a need to encourage younger people to become involved in its work. Views that commanded support were as follows:

Initiatives to recruit young people should be preceded by a consideration of why they might want to be involved, and why the Committee might want them.

Particularly at the younger end of the scale it might be more fruitful to involve youngsters in projects rather than conventional committee work, although there was some support for a 'youth replica Committee' along the lines of the increasingly common 'youth Parliaments'.

Youngsters can feel inhibited if they are on their own in a group of older people. Steps need to be taken to recruit a suitable number of them, and each should be buddied with an older, experienced member. Proper induction and training must be provided.

Youngsters would be encouraged to get involved if that involvement was recognised (and used on a CV), e.g. by a certificate or T-shirt after a period of service, or, more substantially, by an award such as a Duke of Edinburgh's, GNVQ or Joint Sports Leadership Award (available for those 15-25).

Whatever solution was found it was important to give youngsters a role.

A Youth Champion on each Regional Committee would be a useful way to attract other youngsters.

Action RC

Chairman also reported that there would be another 'young person item' on the agenda: a presentation about getting more disadvantaged youngsters into sailing

Action RC

13. Secretary's report:

Secretary (CE) thanked the committee for their support and help during his term of office. He was retiring to Edinburgh to be nearer his daughters and grandson. Garth Cooper was elected unopposed.

14. AOB. None.

15. Dates of the next two meetings were agreed for **Saturday 9 September and Saturday 2 December (AGM), both at HPYC and starting at 1000 hrs.**

The meeting closed at 12.50 hrs and was followed by a presentation to Chris Edwards in recognition of his long service to RYA East.

Garth Cooper, ERC secretary 15 March 2017

## **ERC1703 RYA Eastern Region – Financial Report R01**

### **Administration Costs**

Administration costs are covered by RYA HQ. We put in an estimated budget (2017/18 £2500) and make payments as and when necessary largely for travel costs incurred whilst undertaking RYA East commitments.

### **Protected (Fleet) Fund**

At the time that Eastern Region became assimilated we had a several fleets of dinghies and a considerable credit balance. This balance is held by HQ and is credited with fleet hire income and has deducted from it fleet costs such as the Bosun's honorarium of £500 pa.

This fund is ours to do with as we please subject, of course, to committee prior approval. Hence in 2014 we agreed to support our RDO by having £5000 transferred to his training budget. Like transfers were also made in 2015 and in the current financial year.

The fund now stands at around £21,000. The dinghy fleets are probably worth in the region of £15,000 making the financial situation appear quite healthy however the fleets are ageing and our new Bosun has yet to carry out a full inspection to determine what, if anything, needs to be spent to continue to maintain the fleets in a satisfactory condition (none are new) - purchase dates range from 2009 – 2014.

Fleet income has dropped over the past few years and this year it is just below £4000.

Taking into account upkeep costs and the Bosun's Honorarium we are not likely to exceed an annual surplus of £2500.

If this assumption is correct and we continue to support our RDO at the same level as before our fund would be halved in 4 years and the fleets are likely to be in a very poor state with leaving us with insufficient funds to buy replacements – this option is clearly not acceptable if we are to keep the fleets.

We need to decide whether or not to maintain a training fleet. I think that we should, in which case we need to be sure that we have the right mix of boats. I assume that the fleets have all gone to Birch Hall and that we are awaiting a report on the condition of the dinghies. Unless Alex has any strong views to the contrary I suggest that we leave things as they are for this year, allow Alex to bed in and formulate a longer term plan for discussion at the September meeting by which time 2017 income/hirings will be known. PW 12/01/17

## **REPORT OF MEETING OF THE RYA COUNCIL ON WEDNESDAY 7 DECEMBER 2016**

I attended a two-and-a-half hour meeting of Council on 7 December. I apologise for the delay in circulating this report. The delay has been due to circumstances beyond my control.

The principal matters on the agenda were as follows.

### **Regional Profiles**

Steve Gibbon, former Chairman, North East Region, and David Dale, Chairman, Midland Region, gave a presentation on the working methods and activities of the North East and Midlands Regions following the regional boundary changes.

Both Regions have largely moved away from traditional committee meetings towards regular electronic communications, the appointment of small groups able to deliver specific projects, and the use of local experts. The importance of operating as an integrated team with the regional staff was stressed.

Both regions are working to support the concept that a competency based model of governance is more likely to attract volunteers. Both are also working to increase the diversity of their volunteer teams.

Communication continues to be one of the main challenges faced by the Regions. Steve Gibbon commented on the importance of being able to tailor e-newsletters, etc., to each region in order to stimulate local interest and participation. More high quality volunteers are also required. David Dale noted that the statistics support the benefits of locally generated news stories and would like to have the means to increase output. He also suggested that there is a need to strengthen the regional volunteer model through a system of rewards and by building up relationships with clubs.

The presentations were then followed by a request for suggestions of ways in which the Regions can further add value to the RYA but the pros and cons of these suggestions, which were markedly disparate, were not debated.

### **Diversity**

The pre-meeting indication was that this item was to focus on increasing the number of women in sailing and their participation in Clubs, a matter which we discussed at the last ERC meeting. Instead, a discussion paper on increasing female representation on regional committees was tabled by Beverley Lawrence Beech, a Personal Member. Feedback from the discussions conducted at each table, followed by a general discussion, included:

- Think about the language used when attempting to recruit.
- Use members of the particular group you are trying to recruit to recruit others.
- Provide mentoring in order to help new recruits integrate.

Potential actions included:

- Offer a definition of the regional volunteer teams' activities.
- Ask clubs for the demographic of their committees .
- Bring together women in a region to formulate a plan for increased representation .

Following a discussion on the possibility of introducing targets or quotas, it was suggested that a competency based model would be more apposite, i.e. recruitment of the right person for the job.

The President commented that the Riding for the Disabled Association (RDA) had experienced the opposite problem whereby most volunteers tend to be women. However, potential recruits were often concerned that they did not know enough about horses to offer their services. The RDA had had to address the issue by ensuring that recruits were aware that the key criterion was the wish to help disabled people to access riding. She suggested that potential volunteer members should be assured that a knowledge of boating is not critical, that their service would still be of value both to themselves and their community and that diversity is a source of strength.

[Post-meeting note: Beverley Beech is writing a report which will cover women in sailing and in clubs. I gave her a report of our discussion after the Council meeting. She has told me that she is finding it very useful in writing her report. I understand that the report will go to Council.]

### **World Sailing Annual Conference Update**

Sarah Treseder gave a presentation on the recent World Sailing Conference and the action plan that had been agreed for the future of Paralympic sailing. Sarah reported that a new WS President (Kim Andersen of Denmark) had been elected and seven new Vice-Presidents, three of whom were female.

Reinstating sailing as a Paralympic sport depends on a minimum of 32 nations spread across a minimum of three continents to be proven to be participating in para sailing in 2017. Sarah Treseder stated that the RYA's action plan for supporting the reinstatement of sailing as a Paralympic sport is "D.R.I.V.E.":

Delivery partners:

Engage with clubs, classes, charities, donors, funding bodies, disability groups and educational establishments.

Racing and regattas:

Encourage inclusive club-level and grassroots racing; develop a new, younger cohort of potential Paralympians; ensure that training is provided locally and at weekends; support GBR sailors to enter international events; support international attendees at GBR events.

Information:

It will be important to keep the U.K. disabled sailing community well informed of progress in Paralympic reinstatement through social media, etc., and to ensure that physical and online communications are accessible to all. Gathering data for submission to the IPC will be essential.

Volunteers:

As funding is curtailed, it is imperative that volunteers working with disabled sailors remain engaged, that training is provided and that Race Officials, Measurers and Classifiers are retained.

Equipment:

The main focus during 2017-18 will be on the 2.4mR but support will be given to a broad range of other classes in the U.K. to encourage grassroots participation.

Sarah added that the RYA's action plan includes:

- Overcoming the funding challenge.
- Focusing on a younger cohort of sailors for 2024 .
- Committing to support smaller national sailing authorities through 2017-18.

In respect of the likelihood of being able to engage 32 countries in three continents, Sarah said that a 'buddy' system would be organised through World Sailing whereby nations with a stronger Paralympic sailing background would help those with less developed programmes.

### **Regional Terms of Reference**

I indicated at our last ERC meeting that I thought that Council might agree to amendments to the proposals (made by the Board) for changes to Regional Committee's terms of reference, which amendments would make the proposals acceptable to ERC and some other Regional Committees. I am pleased to say that when Council agreed to the proposals it did so subject to the amendments to which I referred at our last meeting. Thus, Council approved the following four recommendations subject to the amendments outlined below each one:

- (1) The officers within each regional volunteer team should be elected by the Member Organisations within their respective geographic areas.

**Agreed**, *subject to a proviso that, where a region has an Area Representative structure, the Area Representatives may elect the officers.*

- (2) The Standing Members in each regional volunteer team should have standard terms of office of three years, subject to a maximum of two (or, in exceptional circumstances, three) consecutive terms of office.

**Agreed**

- (3) Each regional volunteer team should comprise between seven and twelve members in total, including its officers.

**Agreed**, *subject to the substitution of "sixteen" for "twelve".*

- (4) Each regional volunteer team should hold an annual meeting to which all of the Member Organisations within their respective geographic areas are invited.

**Agreed**, *with the observation that such an annual meeting should be held at a meeting in the region which attracts as many organisation members as possible. This could be the Affiliate Conference or a similar event that might be planned by the regional volunteer team.*

One thing which remains to be resolved in respect of (1), as amended, is whether each area association should require its representative to vote according to the will of that association. I would appreciate your views by e-mail, since the issue may be raised with Regional Committee chairmen before our next ERC meeting.

Another issue discussed was the term 'Regional Volunteer Team (RVT)', a highly controversial term which appeared by way of replacement of 'Regional Committee' in a new version of the Regional Operating Guide approved by Council in March. Back in March concerns were alleviated because promises had been made that Regions could customise the Guides. Subsequently, it transpired that customisation in respect of title might not be permissible. This alarmed me and a number of other Regional Chairmen and as a result a compromise deal was struck with Vernon Harten-Ash, Deputy Chairman of the RYA and Chairman of Council. It was agreed that, although the term 'regional volunteer team' should be the official, internal title, e.g. for the purposes of terms of reference and RYA policy documents, each Regional entity would be allowed to 'trade under' a name of its choice: So, for example, the North West regional volunteer team could call itself the 'RYA North West Regional Team', and the Eastern regional volunteer team could call itself 'Eastern Regional Committee'. Under this compromise agreement the Regional letterhead would be the trading name but there would be a footnote to the effect, e.g., that 'the RYA East Regional Committee is an RYA regional volunteer team'. This compromise was proposed to Council and agreed by it.

## **ERC Chairman's Report**

### **Meeting of Council**

I have already circulated my report on the meeting of Council which I attended in London on 7 December.

### **Officers' Meeting**

There was an ERC officers' meeting in Ipswich on 20 January. The principal items were:

*Review of the Affiliated Clubs Conference on 30 October* It was agreed that, thanks to Robbie Bell's efforts, the Conference had been an excellent event which was well received. It was also agreed that this year's Conference should be at the same venue. In terms of the programme Robbie will consider the balance between reinforcing messages and breaking new ground, since there will always be new and repeat attendees. It was thought that a Saturday would be better than a Sunday. It was agreed that speakers should be asked to repeat questions so that all can hear what has been asked. Robbie is to reassess the Clinics which were not well attended. They will probably be dropped. It was considered that the Clubs who most needed the Conference material did not apply to attend.

*Consideration of how to go about devising the ERC Strategic Plan for the four years commencing September 2017* It was noted that the ERC Plan is dependent on the contents of the RYA's Strategic Plan which is not expected before some time in March. Doug MacEwen is to head up the development of an outline structure to be agreed with me and Robbie, and then circulated to the whole Committee by googlemail for comment and agreement. The structure can then be given content when the RYA's Plan is known. It was noted that the RYA's Plan will be dependent on Sport England's funding decisions and will be influenced by the new Code for Sports Governance, issued by UK Sport and Sport England, which comes into force in April.

*Analysis of volunteer members competencies and skills* The chart (SEE END OF REPORT) was updated and discussed. It shows that ERC has some weakness in a couple of areas but generally the volunteer membership can cover most requirements with at least two volunteer members with good or excellent skills/knowledge. The strength of the Committee overall is, of course, enhanced by the skills/competences of the regional staff and specialist advisers, neither of which groups was included in the audit.

*Recognition of volunteers* It was agreed that volunteers on the Committee need some outward recognition of their importance. Noting that the regional staff already have RYA name badges, it was agreed that volunteers should also have name badges. Doug MacEwen was tasked with exploring sources and costs for high quality plastic or metal badges.

The discussion under the above heading ranged wider than the above heading in two ways. First, it was suggested that there would be benefits in having an annual meal for the Committee (after a suitable meeting). Second, it was agreed that, in future the draft agenda for ERC meetings would be circulated to members for them to suggest items to be added.

*Fleet Management Draft Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)* After discussion a form of words was agreed for submission to ERC via googlemail for ERC's approval. The form of words (ie the MoU) is based on BF's documents prepared in discussion with Alex Phillips, the other party, and amendments suggested mainly by me. As you will recall, the draft Fleet Management MoU was subsequently circulated to ERC members by googlemail and approved by them.

### **Coldham Hall SC Annual Dinner and Prizegiving**

On 21 January, I attended the above event as principal guest, having been invited in my capacity as ERC Chairman. In my after dinner speech I took the opportunity to promote the Eastern Region's work.

### **New member induction meetings**

I had induction meetings with Holly Hancock and Garth Cooper on 13 February and 16 respectively. I am grateful to Brenda Read for having an induction meeting with our third new member, Sara Hopkinson, in late February.

## **NSBA committee meeting**

Ben Falat and I are both members of the NSBA General Purposes Committee. We attended a meeting of that committee on 20 February. I am circulating a NSBA report at the same time as the present report.

## **Meeting with Regional staff**

I had a useful meeting with the Regional staff at Grafham Water SC on 21 February at which the principal item of discussion centred round Sport England's funding announcement in respect of the next four years, a matter of central importance to ERC's strategic planning for the four years commencing September 2017. Funding for sailing (ie the RYA) has been cut by 25%. Some sports, eg netball and rugby union, have fared better but some, eg canoeing and rowing, have had much deeper cuts. The amount awarded is split between participation/core activity (RDO/SDO work), youth talent (HPM work) and Sailability (DDO) work). The effect regionally is not yet known, and this means, of course, that the regional staff cannot currently plan - especially on the participation/core activity side- because they do not know what they can support. In addition, they have not received their KPIs from HQ at the time of writing. The situation is clearly a developing one and I leave further details for Robbie Bell, Jane Ellison and Paul Wren to deal with and update in their reports.

Other items discussed will feature in Robbie's report.

## **Regional Chairmen's Teleconference**

All the Regional Chairmen plus Vernon Harten-Ash (Deputy Chairman of the RYA and Chairman of Council) and Dave Williamson (Chairman of the RYA) participated in a teleconference in the early evening on the same day as my visit to Grafham Water. The agenda covered various matters relating to the strategic planning process, including the use of KPIs, the impact of the UK Sport/Sport England's 'New Governance Code for Sport' (in force from 1 April and must be complied with otherwise no funding) and - of course - the effect of Sport England's funding announcement. I have been put on a working party to explore further some of the issues. It was recognised that, while the parts of regional plans relating to the work of the RDOs/SDOs, HPMs and DDOs will be centrally driven, other parts of regional plans will be determined by each region subject to any KPIs emanating from the 'New Governance Code' or from any other requirements made by Sport England. There was general agreement that one (or some) of these would relate to diversity.

## **Visit to Birch Hall Adventures**

Ben Falat and I visited Alex Phillips, Director of Birch Hall Adventures at Kirby-le-Soken, where the ERC fleets are housed and maintained, on 22 March. While we were there we inspected the fleets and the memorandum of understanding between ERC and Birch Hall Adventures was signed on behalf of both parties.

## **Workshop on making the most of open days and tasters**

I represented the volunteer members of ERC at the above titled workshop at the Norfolk Broads YC on 28 February. The workshop attracted some 30 representatives from Clubs, mainly but not exclusively from the Broads area. It was an excellent workshop, presented by Robbie Bell ably assisted by Holly Hancock and Paul Wren.

## **Broads Authority Selection Panel**

Today I completed a two-day stint on a Broads Authority selection panel for an appointment to its Navigation Committee. It was quite exhausting work!

Richard Card  
**Chairman, Eastern Region Committee**

1 March 2017

**ERC Volunteers' Competencies and Skills Audit Analysis 2016**  
**170123**

17 Responses

Competency/Skill	Knowledge					Comment	Check
	None	Little	Workin g	Good	Expert		
Coastal yacht cruising	2	2	2	7	4		17
Offshore yacht cruising	6	2	4	2	3		17
Motor/powerboat sea cruising	9		5	2	1		17
Inland water yacht cruising	9	2	2	3	1		17
Inland water motor cruising	9	2	4	2			17
Dinghy cruising	7	3	3	4			17
Honda Youth RIB	12	1	3		1		17
Yacht racing	4	5	2	5	1		17
Dinghy racing	1	3	4	7	2		17
Racing rules, judging	6	3	6	1	2		17
Race management	5	2	1	7	1		17
Handicap and rating systems	5	5	4	3			17
RYA training schemes	6	3	2	5	1	Yachtmaster PB2, Race Mgt	17
Other training schemes	12	1		4		eg VHF,H&S, Club sailing, Single handed,	17
Disabled Sailing	10	5	1	1			17
Planning and environmental regulation relevant to boating	5	3	3	5	1		17
Marketing and PR	6	3	4	2	2		17
Electronic communications and IT	1	3	7	5	1		17

Training and education	3	6	2	4	2		17
Sponsorship and relevant commercial activities	7	3	4	3			17
Finance and accounts	1	5	5	4	2		17
Presentations and public speaking	2		3	9	3		17
Legal experience	8	2	5	2			17
Other Competencies and Skills	6		2	7	2	eg Personnel, Admin, Organisation, Engineering, Risk Assessment, Motivation, Facilities Mgt Insurance	17

**Knowledge 0=none, 1=little, 2=working, 3=good, 4=expert**

**ERC Coverage**  
(4 or more)

Expertise

Acceptable Level

**Shortfall Concern**

### **Regional communicator's report for meeting 11.03.17**

I had a handover period with Mike Haigh during December and took over as Regional Communicator for the East Region in January. I look forward to meeting the committee at the March meeting. I attended a meeting with all Regional Communicators in Hamble in February to discuss our aims and priorities for the year, and met with Richard Card later in the month as an introduction to the Regional Committee.

Since then I have been promoting RYA activities in the Region through:

- press releases
- regional web site [News | Eastern | Regions | RYA](#) - this information is also posted or linked on the region's own website [News](#) at Hon Sec's discretion
- Facebook [RYA East | Facebook](#)
- Twitter [RYA East \(@ryaeast\) | Twitter](#)

Events Mike & I have covered since the last meeting include:

- Volunteer awards
- JMST awards
- Return of workplace challenge events in 2017
- Club development opportunities in the East

- Marconi Sailing Club donating £13,000 to charity

...plus items on Facebook and Twitter including:

- Regional Youth Champion Winner
- Dinghy Show
- Sailability volunteer awards
- Nacra duo Saxton and Groves to part ways
- Instructor Training Day
- Club Development Workshops
- YJA Yachtsman of the Year
- Rio Sailors in New Year's Honours
- Member offers London Boat Show
- Push the Boat Out sign up
- RYA Member offers
- BBC Unsung Hero
- Race Management/racing rules opportunities

...and more – you can see it all at the links above.

Events of particular interest in the coming year, where I would welcome information from clubs, centres and committee members, are:

- What clubs and centres are going to do in 2017, particularly on any of the following RYA schemes:

- (5) Push the Boat Out
- (6) Open days/try sailing days if not part of Push the Boat Out
- (7) Start sailing and start racing programmes
- (8) Start racing and go racing programmes
- (9) Try Sailing events
- (10) University sailing projects
- (11) Corporate sailing projects
- (12) New RYA training, OnBoard, Sailability centres
- (13) Grant successes
- (14) Sailability events
- (15) OnBoard
- (16) Honda Youth Rib
- (17) Champion Clubs
- (18) Volunteer Awards
- (19) Youth champions
- (20) Zone championships - regional successes
- (21) Club of the Year Award
- (22) Anything of regional interest with an RYA angle

If your club/centre or a club/centre you know of is involved in any of the above, or other events which are of regional interest and have some RYA angle, please send some information to [holly.hancock@rya.org.uk](mailto:holly.hancock@rya.org.uk) and I will be pleased to promote. Items only need to be brief, 2-4 paragraphs, with highlights, It doesn't need to be polished, jottings about the highlights are fine, also a quote from someone involved (which adds human interest to releases, 2-4 lines is enough), and a 1MB minimum photograph. The press won't use lower resolution photographs.

Please see below "Make the most of your regional communicator", which tells you what I can

(and can't) do. I would encourage you to please read it (it's only one page long), share it with your club/centre contacts and make use of it. I can do pre-event publicity and post-event reports. Most of the information I currently receive comes from our regional RDO/SDOs and it would be good please to get more input from committee members. We are doing some good things in the region, so let's promote them.

Finally I would encourage committee members to follow the Facebook and Twitter feeds above and let me have anything they feel suitable to go on there.

### **Make the most of your RYA Regional Communicator**

#### **What your Regional Communicator can promote**

Your Regional Communicator can help your club to boost your profile-they're interested in anything which is to do with participation and celebrating achievement.

Your RC will be able to distribute a press release if your story is related to an RYA programme or initiative such as:

- OnBoard, Volunteer of the Year Awards, Club of the Year and Push the Boat Out
- Open days/taster sessions which are open to the general public
- People stories-the media love human interest stories and these can inspire other people to get involved in the sport
- Grants including Inspired Faculties and small grants

RCs will make sure these stories sit on the RYA regional websites and are promoted through the RYA social media channels

Top tip: a genuine news story is always more likely to get picked up and used by local media than simply an 'advert' for something people need to pay for so always look for a newsworthy angle. Your RC can help you to do this.

#### **What your RC can't promote**

- Club racing news
- Training courses –Unless the information is included in a genuine RYA-related news story but not just simply plugging a training course
- Driving membership-RCs can help you to get people through your doors initially but once they're there it's up to you to market membership effectively. One of the biggest PR mistakes clubs make is focussing on attracting 'members' in press releases-this can put people off as implies expense and a commitment. We just want them to try to start with!

Top tip: If you are unsure keep your RC up to date with everything on the horizon and you can then decide which banner (RYA or Club) the release will be sent under.

#### **What to do now?**

- 1) Take note of your Regional Communicators details - Holly Hancock [holly.hancock@rya.org.uk](mailto:holly.hancock@rya.org.uk) tel: 07926 396418
- 2) Let them know who your club PR contact is
- 3) Email your RC with key dates and details of events in your club calendar especially open day dates and any launch/opening events

## **ERPEC report for RYA Eastern Committee meeting March 11<sup>th</sup>**

Options for disposal of dredged material for reinstatement of salt marsh This is an exciting initiative mentioned at the last meeting as being undertaken by the Crouch Harbour Authority. Discussions have taken place with Brightlingsea Harbour and Doug McEwan can report in more detail from the CHA point of view.

### **Ipswich new Orwell crossings**

No further information received on the height of the proposed crossing in the vicinity of the current lock.

### **Marine Plans – a brief summary of where we are**

The East Inshore Marine Plan Area has already been published and includes the area of sea stretching from Flamborough Head to Felixstowe, and extends out to the seaward limit of the territorial sea (approximately 12 nautical miles). There is also an offshore East Plan.

The South East Plan is still in preparation and includes the inshore marine plan area only; there is no south east offshore marine plan area. The south east inshore marine plan area covers an area of approximately 1,400 kilometres of coastline stretching from Felixstowe to near Dover, taking in over 3,900 square kilometres of sea.

### **Have your say**

The Marine Management Organisation is asking for feedback on the first outputs of the development of the north east, north west, south east and south west marine plans. So anyone can respond to an online questionnaire here

<https://consult.defra.gov.uk/mmo/marine-planning-iteration-1-engagement-1/consultation/> This questionnaire is open from Friday 3 February to Friday 31 March 2017 and asks for feedback on:

- How you will use the marine plans
- Issues and supporting evidence
- Proposed draft policies
- Proposed new format for marine plans There are also workshops and by the meeting time BC will have attended the Colchester one on March 8<sup>th</sup>. What has emerged from

previous workshops The presenters and MMO staff are always stressing 'MLAs are a different department'. However, many issues have been raised about MLAs such as:-

A better de minimis option – why do small wooden structures to retain saltmarsh need and MLA at vast expense?

Why is the website and search facility for existing MLAs so poor? If, as we did, you want to find out the approved dredging regime for the Orwell, it's very difficult

These questions will be pursued and it is hoped that with a Marine Plan in place the MLA procedure can be streamlined – however this has not happened with the East Plan so we must wait and see.

#### Stour Mussel Beds

This is still a hot topic locally with emails flying around almost daily. An excerpt from the Commodore of the Stour Sailing Club (and his capitals) is as follows.

“AS FAR AS I CAN SEE THAT MEANS THE ORIGINAL DRAFT, DATED 2/1/2014 IS STILL THE ONE IN USE AND THAT NO CHANGES WHATSOEVER HAVE BEEN MADE TO ACCOMMODATE US”

The Commodore is referring to the fact that RYA and sailing clubs asked that there be no crab pots and no marker buoys as described in the draft referred to.

Having double-checked my thinking with Anne Goldsack at Hamble, the original draft is still the only one but that is not because we have been ignored, it's just that DEFRA haven't yet issued a new Management Plan after the first round of consultation. It's c\*\*k up not conspiracy so if anyone can pass this on to local sailors the email traffic might quieten down. Anne is expecting a new Management Plan sometime and seems to have a good working relationship with Peter Scott, the applicant's solicitor.

#### MLAs and consultation documents

Overleaf is a screenshot of the recent activity. If anyone wants details of an individual MLA or consultation, full details are held o Google Drive and can be sent on.

Only one needs further explanation. The Wells Harbour dredge survey consultation was fine with Wells Dayboat Association and Wells Sailing Club who have good relations with the

Harbour Master. However, local sailor Peter Terrington has strongly held views which he thought would be best expressed individually as the two clubs are fine with the survey.

File	Action Date	Complete	Reference
MLA/2016/00478, Dredging the Approach Channel to Lowestoft Harbour	28/2	Sent to Richard and Ben	Dredging np, Ben thinks disposal site needs attention at a later date
L/2013/00221/6 Consultation on Wells harbour dredge 2016 ecological monitoring report	Feb 1st	No official RYA response but Peter Terrington to reply personally	Various emails and Peter Terrington's private observations in google drive file
MLA/2016/00499, Berth 9 Container Yard, Port of Felixstowe		Np says Peter Woods, sent to Brenda	Peter Brenda emails in folder
MLA/2016/00516, New 14" Jetty Gasoline Import Line	Feb 1st	No impact	See form and email to Jo
MLA/2016/00491, Woolverstone Marina Hoist Dock	27/1/17	No problem	Brenda's email
MLA/2016/00482, Hamilton Dock, Lowestoft	26/1/17	No problem	Richard and Ben's emails
MLA/2016/00414, Tollesbury Marina Spring 2017	Jan 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Np says Alice	Alice email in file
MLA/2016/00412, Weybourne - Refurbishment of unlighted Beacon/Support Structure	21 <sup>st</sup> Dec	Richard Card np	No problem see email to Emma

#### ERPEC Report update 8/3/17 for meeting 11/3/17

Two items worth mentioning.

#### Hamford Water Management Group

I attended the last meeting on March 2<sup>nd</sup>. Nothing of significance except a report that the channel at Stone Point is virtually unchanged. But of course, anyone with any sense checks the *East Coast Pilot* website for updates anyway.....

#### MMO Workshop Colchester

The Marine Plan for the South East is progressing as reported. I put down two topics for consideration.

Firstly there needs to be independent and authoritative review of 'scientific data' submitted for MCZs and prohibitions etc. Luckily we don't have anything as contentious as the demand by the Seahorse Trust (a one man band with a very loud voice) who is demanding that anchoring stops in Studland Bay due to eelgrass damage. Independent review suggests that there is no scientific basis for this – in fact the opposite is true - but DEFRA still listen to him.

Secondly I asked that the Marine Plan in its digital form has an intelligent search function so that 'dredging' pulls up policies on dredging and note very appearance of the word. I also asked that it be linked to MLAs concerning dredging so we could search if we needed to check on dumping grounds etc.

## **Stour Mussels**

Just another update as this has given Brenda and HASA another week of emails and correspondence. I had a word with John Brien of Harwich Harbour Authority who was at the meeting. They too are waiting for written confirmation from the applicant that there will be no crab pots and no marker buoys and then they will withdraw their objections. But they are waiting for it to happen.

Much the same as the RYA viewpoint in Anne Goldsack's letter to Mr Gubbins of DEFRA. In a separate call to Anne, she again confirmed my view that lack of an amended management plan does not indicate that we are being ignored, just that it hasn't been drafted yet.

## **BLACKWATER & COLNE AREA SAILING ASSOCIATION REPORT**

B&CASA met on Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> March at The Nottage, Wivenhoe.

Updates to dredging possibilities at West Mersea and the consultation of the redevelopment of the Hythe at Maldon were received and are still progressing.

Concern from Harlow Blackwater of their siltation has been shelved due to the installation of a new pontoon.

Tim Wood provided a presentation on Autonomous Vessels which included the fact that its implementation is likely to be held up due apportionment of blame in the case of an accident and that it is not likely to be implemented in the near future. Tim also reported that autonomous vessels are currently being used in very remote locations for surveying purposes.

The association discussed the Women on the Water initiative. It has currently been adopted by Brightlingsea Sailing Club, Dabchicks Sailing Club, Blackwater Sailing Club and others.

RYA Fleet Hire – It was explained to those present the fleet hire set up and what is available for use to encourage its use.

Visits by RYA HQ & Regional staff. – The benefits to RYA Affiliated clubs were discussed. Maldon YC queried whether there is an RYA Health & Safety person available. It was agreed to forward this to the next Regional Committee.

Certificated non RYA dinghy training was raised but it was unanimous that the best course of action would be for clubs to become RYA approved training centres.

It was good to see a representative from the Alresford Creek Boat Owners Association who are currently having a revival and are now operating under a co-operative with their newly purchased boatyard.

Alice Davies  
6.03.17

## **Beds and Cambs Report for the meeting on 11<sup>th</sup> March 2017**

The Beds and Cambs Association is no longer meeting as a group and I have been asked to attend RYA Eastern meetings to represent the various clubs in the region. I plan to set up an email group to share information from this meeting and to collect information to report to this

meeting but as this has yet to be set up there is very little to report for this meeting. I can however report on a recent development at Hunts Sailing Club that might be of interest to the committee. Hunts are in the process of introducing an online membership system via the club website. This allows new members to apply for membership and for existing members to renew their membership via the club website. The system can be configured to automatically send email reminders at set times before and after the renewal date and payment for membership can be handled either online or via cheque. So far the feedback from members has been 100% positive, in fact 6 days after the first emails were sent 26% of the membership had renewed, which is approximately twice the renewal rate via the old paper based system. The cost of this system is very low, approximately £30 for the software, in addition to the usual website hosting fees. I am happy to pass on details to anyone who is interested.

Dave Bain 11<sup>th</sup> March 2017

### **Crouch Area Yachting Federation Report (February 2017)**

The Crouch Area Yachting Federation comprises of boating Clubs and organisations in the Crouch and Roach Rivers and includes some non RYA Affiliated Clubs.

#### **Beneficial use of dredging spoil**

Following information at the last ERC meeting, the Crouch Harbourmaster met with the Brightlingsea Harbourmaster and their consultants USAR (A private company that is an offshoot of UEA) The BHC have a project to re establish eroded saltings using dredging spoil, thus gaining an EU grant and avoiding disposal charges because of enhancing environmental conservation. Saltings have a number of beneficial environmental attributes.

On the 19 Jan USAR met with the a group from CHA and toured the rivers Roach and Crouch to see if the CHA could also use dredging spoil from marinas to re establishing saltings that had been lost - with the same benefits. The USAR outline report has just been received but has yet to be discussed by the authority, or with the marinas and a way forward agreed.

#### **Litter pick**

The Crouch Coastal Community Team is keen to promote a "litter pick" on the banks of the Rivers Crouch and Roach **by boat** to enhance the saltings. Provisional dates are 8 April and during Burnham Week. The Mayors of Burnham and South Woodham Ferrers have pledged their support and attendance. They hope CAYF clubs will also support it.

#### **Mike Peyton**

UK's famous yachting cartoonist, died late on Wednesday 25 January, aged 96. Mike was an accomplished sailor living just outside North Fambridge. He was a good friend and staunch supporter of CAYF urging positive action over the Havengore and Potton Bridges to preserve the ancient right of navigation right up until he went into hospital. Coincidentally his friend, Ian Griffiths who was spearheading the Cruising Association concerns with CAYF over the Havengore Bridge also died on the same day.

#### **Port User Group**

The Crouch Harbour Authority is designated with the power to make Harbour Directions via an independent Port User Group. At a PUG meeting on 18 November the following recommendations were made to the CHA which, once endorsed, will have the same requirements as byelaws.

- In 8 knot speed limit areas or where Crouch Harbour Authority "no wash notices" are displayed it shall be an offence to navigate a vessel in such a manner as to cause excessive wash.
  - Where vessels have dinghys/tenders alongside and are engaged in the transfer of personnel, or where small sailing dinghies, kayaks, canoes, sail boarders etc. are underway vessels will navigate at a speed so as not to cause excessive wash or at a speed which may damage the integrity of the foreshore/river bank.

- To make it mandatory for all vessels within the Crouch Harbour to be covered by a valid policy of insurance to include
  - Third Party Liability
  - Wreck Removal.
  - That the CHA will have the right to seek confirmation of such insurance

These recommendations have yet to be endorsed with the Crouch Harbour Authority

#### H.A.S.A. REPORT MARCH 11<sup>TH</sup> 2017

1..Captain Mace from H.H.A. asked if i could find out how many clubs in our area had Defibrillators at their clubs as he would like to include them in the new Harwich Tide Table , the publications has now been sent out and there was 12 clubs involved, i think this was a good idea, but lets hope no one needs them.

2... The Port of Felixstowe has had consent from the MMO to deepen and widen the berths at Trinity 6 and 7 this work is to be carried out in 2017, also work has been carried out on Halfpenny Pier to replace a number of piles and cross beams which have been damaged or have rotted.

3...The Mussel Farm is still ongoing, the last report we had from Peter Scott the solicitor working on behalf of the Osbourne Family who wants the Mussel Farm, did not mention once that there would not be crab pots, so we are still sending our reports to DEFRA , stating NO CRAB POTS or anything else that floats. It is nearly two years since this all started, heaven knows when DEFRA will make a decision.!!

4... IPSWICH barrier is progressing well and should be completed in January 2018, yachtsmen and women still need to take care when approaching the lock gates up at Ipswich as the flow of water coming out of New Cut West at certain times of the tide, will carry you across to the other side of the river.

5...There was some concern over the HARWICH SHELF BOUY being removed for the winter, it was from a Yachtsman on the River Deben, he states that it is potentially a serious hazard to navigation when sailing through Harwich Harbour, his question was, has the RYA ever asked H.H.A. about the possibility of it becoming a permanent mark? As soon as i received this i contacted Captain Mace of H.H.A to ask him about said buoy this was his reply. We remove it for annual maintenance from Nov- Mar as this has the minimum impact on the yachting community , we monitor the situation and if recorded groundings off the "Shelf" increase then we will review the duration that it's off station. I think Captain Mace' reply answers the situation.

6... I am waiting for a reply from the solicitor involved with the Mistly Quay, hopefully i will have one for the meeting in March.

Brenda Read, Chmn

#### **FLEETS Report**

1. Fleets **Memorandum of Understanding**: This document to identify the mutual expectations between RYA(Eastern Region) and Birch Hall Activities Centre was drafted, agreed by RYA(E) on Googlemail and with its draft already in place between Alex Phillips (Birch Hall) and Ben Falat (Fleets) was finally signed by Richard as Chair of RYA(E) and by Alex as owner of Birch Hall Farm on Wed. 22nd February.

1.(i) The signing took place after Richard and Ben hosted by Alex viewed the fleets on their trailers; Oppies, Toppers and Teras all hulls upturned are presently stored outside (as they always have been) but the 2000s (hulls upright) are indoors within a barn presently used for boat building, boat maintenance and general storage.

1.(ii) Alex proposes to designate a fenced-off area of his farm for outdoor storage.

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2. Transfer of fleets from SESCO to Birch Hall was undertaken adhoc and now there remain two outstanding pieces of hardware:

2.(i) one large storage box containing additional sails, rudders and a variety of spares; with access to larger trailers Alex intends to collect this box at his convenience but soon, and keep it within the same barn identified above since it (*the box*) appears to be somewhat leaky;

2.(ii) the trailer of Sailboards is at Grafham Water Sailing Club, remaining under the previous agreement of full season use at £500 (incl.VAT).

• There is scope for **Events-Kit** used by RDO & presently located at WOBYC, to go to Birch Hall Fleets **Storage**:

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3.

Fleets **Usage and Bookings**: 3.(i) GWSC reports à propos Sailboards, that though there were all sorts of interesting plans afoot for 2016, little of this came good and they wish to have a second 'go' for 2017.

3.(ii) Because Fleets are all focused on the Junior element of sailing, almost all hirers are forced into the same short time-spans dictated by school holidays: for end of July this season there occurred the 'usual' triple-clash of desired bookings;

having undertaken some discussion and negotiation with RYA(South-East)'s holding of Fleets it was possible to ameliorate some elements of the clashes, but what arose was visibility of each other's operations and ensuing firmer wishes to continue liaisons; for two high-usage periods this 2017-season East will be using some of South-East's Teras and vice-versa for Oppies.

Fleets **Future**: 4.(i) Prior to 2016 both 2000s and Sailboards were identified for disposal, however, during 2016 there was a change in policy by RYA(E) to retain the 2000-Fleet specifically for RDO's sailing Taster Sessions;

RDO has still been unable to confirm his tasking and consequently therefore his requirement for the coming season;

While the 'For Sale' notice remained on the WebSite, a very reasonable cash-offer was received and Fleets Chair was directed to refuse this in recognition of the changed policy.

The 2000-trailer was clearly identified (*at #1.(i) above*) as an ungainly, off putting 'beast'. 4.(ii)

Sailboards remain under existing agreement, as at #2.(ii) above with GWSC, pending sale determination at the end of the 2017 season.

4.(iii) With ~£21k sitting in the bank there is scope for new ideas on how best to use this:

- obtaining a team-racing fleet was rejected by committee in 2016;
- there is a surfeit of junior boats so whatever the new direction, one may do well perhaps if this were directed at other age-groups and possibly 'retention' rather than new-entry training ..... open to ideas ?

### **RYA Regional Development Officers Update March 2017**

Regional Development Officer: Robbie Bell Role: to develop regular participation in sailing and windsurfing, and to maintain and improve standards of safety, training and volunteer management at RYA Affiliated clubs and RYA Recognised Training Centres in the East.

Tel: 07747 563 298. Email: [Robbie.bell@rya.org.uk](mailto:Robbie.bell@rya.org.uk) Facebook: [www.facebook.com/RDOeast](http://www.facebook.com/RDOeast)

Twitter: @Robbie\_\_Bell

### **2017 – The Year Ahead.**

#### **Context:**

Sport England has committed to continue to support the RYA to maintain participation in sailing and windsurfing, there will be a focus on working with our core market (Existing clubs/centres/members/sailors). The RYA has been awarded a smaller grant than in the previous cycle, however this provides an opportunity to review how we work and to improve efficiency.

**Aims:** To continue to support the wider club/Training centre network to help them make the most of opportunities to sustain and grow participation. Work closely with clubs that have capacity and a desire to increase participation and membership.

**Objectives:** To ensure all clubs are aware of and can access RYA affiliation services by delivering the Affiliated club Conference to as many club representatives as possible. Support clubs in delivering a high quality trial opportunity and improving retention through the Push the Boat Out programme. Continue to gather intelligence about the club and participation

landscape by getting an 85% census return rate. Work to maximize opportunities for participation and membership growth through the delivery of interventions such as Try Sailing and Workplace challenge.

## **Regional Training Update**

### **Centre Inspections:**

- 100% Allocated and ready for distribution

### **Personal/Professional Development:**

- **Dinghy** – 19<sup>th</sup> November 2016. 6 aspirant coaches attended this development day at Alton Water, delivered by myself. It was very successful and is resulting in one candidate progressing through to coach selection this year, with others likely in future.
- **Powerboat** – 8-9<sup>th</sup> April 2017. 12 people have booked to attend a development weekend in Brightlingsea. Paul Glatzel author of multiple RYA powerboat publications will be leading the weekend with myself. Attendees will have the opportunity to practise and develop their intermediate and advanced handling and navigation skills. **Instructor Training Day:**
  - Taking Place at a combination of Royal Hospital School, Alton Water and Neptune Sailing on the 12<sup>th</sup> March. Currently 111 delegates are booked (20% bigger than last year), these will be supported by 25 staff, volunteer coaches and members of the trade who will deliver a number of ashore and afloat sessions relating to the Small boat schemes.

### **SI Course:**

- The SI course is fully booked. 12 candidates starting on the 25<sup>th</sup> March at Grafham Water Centre. It will take place over two weekends with the second at Felixstowe Ferry SC on the 8 & 9<sup>th</sup> April
- 

## **National Events**

### **RYA Club of the Year:**

- It was fantastic to see Royal Harwich Yacht Club at the RYA Suzuki Dinghy Show as finalists in this year's RYA Club of the Year. Congratulations to Chris Brown (Commodore) and his team

### **Push the Boat Out 2017:**

· Dates for 2016 are 13<sup>th</sup> -21<sup>st</sup> May – 9 consecutive days, the programme will be have the primary aim of getting new people in to the sport. We would like to help clubs ensure they have follow on sessions/membership deals in place to make the most of the opportunity to gain new regular sailors. Registration is open and we currently have 47 providers signed up (A slight increase over last year) and we're in the process of encouraging all of those to submit their event details. More information here [www.rya.org.uk/go/ptbo](http://www.rya.org.uk/go/ptbo)

### **RYA Volunteer Awards:**

· Deadline for this year's nominations is the 4<sup>th</sup> April. Please encourage clubs to put forward their deserving volunteers, there are a huge number out there.

### **RYA Affiliates Conference:**

The Eastern Region event was a positive success with around 100 people attending in total. There will be a 2017 event and the provisional date for this is the 29<sup>th</sup> October at Royal Hospital School, Ipswich Suffolk. The date should be finalised over the coming few weeks.

### **Committee Support:**

The ER Committee's support of the SDO's had a positive impact in 2016. Increases in participation were reported by many of the clubs we are helping. Please see my separate document for a detailed update and review.

### **Funding:**

#### **Facilities Grants: Sport England Community Asset fund**

- Clubs can apply for between £15,000 – £50,000
  - Open all year, clubs can submit at any time
  - Projects will need to be very worthwhile- gaining funding is not likely to be easy
  - More info here <https://www.sportengland.org/funding/community-asset-fund/>
- 

### **Funding Continued:**

**Equipment Grants: Sport England Small Grant: Currently under review, these grants may not be around after September.**

What you need to know about Small Grants:

- (23) · Apply for £300 - £10,000 (Does not need to be match funded)
- (24) · Available to constituted clubs/ not for profit organisations
- (25) · Club/Organisation needs appropriate dissolution clause (assets distributed to similar organisation, not members in event of wind-up)
- (26) · You will need a basic 'project document' A development plan will do (I can help with this)
- (27) · Focus on adult participation (bids must be focussed on 14-25 year olds)
- (28) · Best grant for equipment including, dinghies, keelboats, safety boats, windsurfers (it has to be additional equipment, not replacement kit)

**Sailing Development Officers 2017**

This year, due to a tapering Sport England budget the SDO's will have less time available to them, they will continue to support participation development, however they will be working with fewer providers in a more focussed way. Their focus will be related to Push the Boat Out, RYA supported Try Sailing days and Specific Sailing projects.

Cambs, Herts and Beds: Brian Stanbridge [brian.stanbridge@rya.org.uk](mailto:brian.stanbridge@rya.org.uk) Norfolk & North Suffolk: Holly Hancock [holly.hancock@rya.org.uk](mailto:holly.hancock@rya.org.uk)

I will be working with clubs in the South Suffolk and Essex area.

**ER Funding Support – Review 2014/15/16**

**Context;** In 2014 the RYA Eastern Region Training Panel (Fleet management Sub-committee) agreed to endorse my proposal for £5,000 of funding per year for a 3 year period to support participation development work across the Eastern Region. The main committee supported the proposal and agreed to an annual sum of £5,000 to be transferred to the RDO's budget to support the work of Sailing Development Officers (SDO's) across the region. This funding was agreed for a 3 year period on the basis of a satisfactory annual review.

**Review 2014-2016 (Mar 17)** During this 3 year period SDO's were contracted with the aid of ER committee funds to carry out participation work across the region, their primary remit to help clubs to develop a sustainable and active membership and increase frequency of activity. Over the period we have directly supported over 70 clubs. Support has ranged from advice and guidance with regard to developing participation pathway activity, funding application support, instructor training, session delivery and measurement of activity. The following participation figures give a tangible insight in to their impact over the last season across the region. Previous reports include the annual detail for the previous 2 seasons.

I have deliberately not accumulated all of the data in to a 3 year total because our priorities and the recording have differed slightly over that time, however the 2016 key figures are below

2016 – Participation figures relating to KPI's.

· OnBoard Planned first sessions 12,100 - Actual 11, 806 (one month to go) · Start Sailing first sessions 897 – Actual 1,888 · Try Sailing events 595 participants (Target 525) · Try Sailing events retention 110 (no target)

Over the 3 years of the project we have succeeded in giving 6,169 individuals the chance to progress through a series of learn to sail sessions which is a significant achievement, I have no doubt this number would have been lower without the financial support of the committee. Of course there has been a much wider impact than recorded above, with Push the Boat Out and all manner of other interventions, our reach has been significant. The Sailing Development officers have worked hard to support the clubs in a number of different ways and I feel strongly that many clubs are better off having received our direct help, advice and guidance.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Richard and the rest of the ER committee for all of your support over the past 3 years and in particular for investing in the SDO team to undertake the work that has made a difference to so many clubs.

In terms of what the future brings I am endeavouring to continue engaging SDO's to support our network of clubs, but this will take place in a more focussed way and I may well ask for future funding support from the ER committee, however at this stage given that the current landscape is being mapped out as we speak I am utilising my time to understand what opportunities might exist for developing participation and will then start to look at how we make that work.

## **NSSA Report for the meeting on 11<sup>th</sup> March 2017**

### **NSSA Team Racing – 25<sup>th</sup> March**

The NSSA Team Racing will take place at Oxford Sailing Club on Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> March. Cambridgeshire have entered 2 teams.

### **NSSA Inlands – 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> July**

The National Inlands are moving to a new venue this year, Draycote Water Sailing Club. Cambridgeshire are intending to support the event with several sailors.

### **NSSA National Regatta 24<sup>th</sup> – 28<sup>th</sup> July**

The 2017 NSSA Regatta will be held at Grafham Water from 24 to 28<sup>th</sup> July. The event is being organised by Cambridgeshire Schools and Schools Sailing Association in conjunction with Grafham Water Sailing Club and Grafham Water Centre. Planning is well underway and the main focus at the moment is securing sufficient Ribs for the safety fleet. We would be interested to hear about any locally based Ribs that might be available for all or part of the week, either with or without crew. We have already had some success securing sponsorship but we are still actively looking, so any suggestions would be most welcome.

Claire Bain 11<sup>th</sup> March 2017



**Paul Wren, RYA High Performance Manager  
East & South East  
East Region Committee Update**

### **2017 RYA East Zone Championships**

This year the Zone Champs will be hosted by the Royal Harwich Yacht Club over the weekend 23<sup>rd</sup> & 24<sup>th</sup> September 2017.

#### **Classes will be**

- Topper (Main Fleet)
- Optimist (Main Fleet)
- Topper Regatta Fleet
- Optimist Regatta Fleet
- Tera Regatta Fleet

The event is a regional regatta for all sailors under 16 on 31<sup>st</sup> December 2017. This could be a first time big event for club sailors, being the culmination for sailors who have been taking part in club training over the whole season, to be seen as an end goal, giving the young sailors a massive learning experience to help start them along the pathway to success. The event will be supported by Coaches giving advice and help throughout the weekend. Also in attendance will be international judges helping with the racing rules. All the events are run by nationally qualified race officers and supporting staff ensuring the experience is the best possible.

More information will be sent round to all the clubs shortly

### **2016- 2017 Zone Squads**

Zone Squads are coming to an end with only one weekend left for some of the squads. We have done well with the weather. The squads are now selecting there team for the Eric Twiname Championships in May. A great event to see how the sailors have progressed over the winter.



Optimist Land day Bury St Edmonds  
Parents & sailors looking at the  
detail of their boats



Combined optimist training Datchet  
practical models on wind shifts

Our regional young sailors have already been putting there new skills to the test with two Class National events for the Toppers and Optimists happened during February.

### **Level 2 Coaching Courses**

These are still extremely popular and courses are filling up very quickly once they are announced. Any club wishing to hold a course needs to get it in their programme as soon as possible

<http://www.rya.org.uk/coursestraining/coachestrainersinstructors/racecoaches/Pages/default.aspx>

If you have any specific questions please get in touch via the details below

**Paul Wren RYA High Performance Manager East/South East Zones  
E Mail: paul.wren@rya.org.uk Mobile: 07909 994642**