



Recognising outstanding contributions within our sport

A blue-tinted photograph of a sailing team on the deck of a boat. Several crew members are visible, some wearing safety gear like life jackets and helmets. They appear to be working together, possibly preparing for a race or a maneuver. The background shows the rigging and sails of the boat.

# RYA Volunteer Awards 2012



# 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.*

*For me one of the most memorable aspects of London 2012 was the role the Gamesmakers played in showcasing volunteers to the nation. There is no doubt that this army of volunteers made the Games.*

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

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

*Sarah Presdon*

# Family Award 2012

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

The RYA Family Award is presented for the very first time to the Langford family, Richard, Irene and their son Edward. All three are members of Rutland Sailing Club and play an active role within the club, in addition to supporting the work of the RYA at a national level and at events.



Edward & Richard Langford

## Richard Langford

Richard has served the Royal Yachting Association for 20 years, much of it at the highest level.

**1995** Chairman of the newly formed Windsurfing Committee  
Joined RYA Council & Central Finance Committee

**1999 – 2004** Honorary Treasurer of RYA

**2004 – 2007** RYA Deputy Chairman

**2007 – 2011** RYA Chairman

During this time he has unstintingly given his time, his sound advice and his unwavering desire to do his best for the Association.

As Deputy Chairman and then Chairman of Council, Richard was fully involved in all of the significant changes and developments that have taken place within the organisation. He has been the steady central presence as Chairman, using his sense of fair play and an open approach to influence and direct affairs. He has been a great advocate for the RYA's governance system of volunteer-led committees overseeing the work of a staff who are empowered to get on and manage the business. His concern for the welfare of the staff has been a constant thread throughout his RYA service.

Over the years, Richard has also served as an RYA National Judge and a Race Officer. Richard can often be found on the water as a race official at club events and is a keen supporter of Team 15.



Richard & Irene Langford

## Irene Langford

Irene is a founder member of Rutland Sailing Club's thriving 'Ladies that Launch' group and has recently become the proud owner of a Laser. As well as enjoying the sailing, social and culinary delights of this group, Irene supports Richard afloat on the umpire's boat for many of the team racing events that the club is involved in. It is in these areas that the Langford's presence and experience have benefitted the club hugely.

Outside of her contributions to Rutland Sailing Club Irene has also volunteered her time for a number of years at international racing events, including running 'Bridge' at the Sail for Gold Regatta's and the recent Olympic sailing events that took place at Weymouth.



Edward Langford

## Edward Langford

Edward started sailing at a very young age, and joined Rutland SC on one of their summer sailing courses. Edward sailed competitively for Oakham School as part of their team racing squad and then qualified as an RYA Dinghy Instructor. He has worked for both the sailing school at Rutland SC and for Rutland Watersports. Always keen to give something back Edward can be seen regularly coaching the squad and sharing his passion for sailing and racing. Edward is passionate about sailing, instructing and the sport as a whole; he is as comfortable in a RIB providing safety cover as in a boat instructing beginners. When not studying at Southampton University Edward can often be seen crewing his RS800 at the club and at national events. He also volunteers his time at many national and international events, including this year's Olympics.



# RYA Awards 2012

## Neal Hill



Neal has been the Secretary of the North East Region for more than 15 years. Practical as well as professional Neal has been a huge support to all the Chairmen he has worked with over

the years. He has been instrumental in obtaining speakers and venues for the regions conferences, a challenging, but invaluable role. He has always represented the RYA positively when visiting clubs and organisations and is keen to support the RYA at conferences across Europe. Neal never misses the opportunity to explain how much the RYA can do for the individual and club alike. He is also the region's coastal protection officer, a job he takes very seriously. As well as his role on the committee Neal has also been involved with the RYA's Green Blue initiative and the Offshore and Coastal Consultative Panel.

## Bob Lowe



Bob has worked tirelessly on behalf of sailing in Wales for over 20 years. He devotes his time freely to helping others as a club volunteer. Bob is currently the Rear Commodore and

Chairman of events at Pwllheli Sailing Club and is one of the main driving forces behind the new Academy building that will open to the public in 2014. He has been at the heart of the development, working with Gwynedd Council and Welsh Government Officials to secure the multi-million pound investment.

As well as being an active volunteer Bob has been a committee and board member at the Welsh Yachting Association since 1994. He has held a range of positions, including Vice Chairman, Chairman and Honorary Treasurer and was Chairman at a time when the WYA went through a process of modernisation which involved considerable time and commitment. Bob's involvement in the WYA continues and he was elected as a director at the regions AGM in November 2011.

## Victor Rolfe



Victor has been actively involved in the South West Region for over 17 years and has worked tirelessly for the RYA and Sailability in that time. He is always keen to increase access to the water for everyone,

regardless of age or ability and has worked hard to promote disabled sailing within the area. Victor has been actively involved in setting up 17 Sailability sites across the region. Whilst doing this he has shown a generosity of spirit and an ability to encourage and inspire others. Due to his dedication and that of others around him, the South West region now has a strong Sailability network and this is a legacy that will continue to impact positively on the region long after he has retired.

Described as 'a delight to work with' Victor seldom misses a regional committee meeting, where his contributions are always meaningful and valuable.

## Hazel Twiname



Hazel acted at the Chairman of the Eric Twiname Trust for many years and is now the Trust's patron. The Trust assists in the organisation and provision of facilities to enable and encourage

young people in full time education at schools or universities in the UK to sail or race. One of the Trust's criteria is that as many people as possible should benefit from a donation. The administration of the Twiname Trust is complex, requiring a delicate assessment of the many applications for grants in order to match them with the inevitable limited funds available and, in this respect Hazel's wise and compassionate opinion has been paramount.

During her time as Chairman, Hazel encouraged the trustees to develop the Trust into a more focused group that devotes more of its resources to 'grass roots' sailing and to assist youngsters on that all important first step on the sailing competition ladder. Under her leadership they have more than doubled the money spent on sailing since 1996.

# RYA Awards 2012

## David Vass



David has been a member of various RYA Scotland committees for over 15 years. During this time he has progressed from being a member of the Coastwatcher network, onto the Cruising

and General Purpose Committee; and has been Chairman of this committee since 2005.

David is dedicated and professional. He is level headed, consistent, and critically, able to differentiate between the role to be played by the RYA and that of other parties. This clarity of purpose and thinking, both as a member and as chairman, has fostered a committee renowned for high value, balanced and informed opinions. This reputation has subsequently seen RYA Scotland go from being consulted as part of some processes to being actively sought for advice prior to legislation or policy development and the inclusion of RYA Scotland within the Marine Licensing system.

His mentoring and advice have been of great value and insight to other committee members and he can be relied upon as a voice of reason and sound judgement.

## Michael Wigley



Michael was first elected to Council as a personal member representative in 1998. He was invited to join the Central Finance Committee in 1999 and has served continuously on Council and the

Finance Committee until 2011. In 2004 Michael was elected Honorary Treasurer by RYA members in 2004, a role he continued to serve until the post was abolished under the governance restructure that took effect at the AGM in 2011.

As one of the Officers of the RYA, Michael chaired two of the most important projects in the Association's recent history: the building of Portland House in 2009 and the Governance Review Working Party in 2011. Portland House is the single largest investment that the RYA has ever made and it was designed, built and delivered on time and to budget. It has been used to great effect by Team GBR as their training base for the Olympics and Paralympics, and the building stands as a splendid legacy for the Association from the 2012 Games. The governance review – which culminated in the adoption of completely revised company Articles at the AGM in 2011 – involved a fundamental re-think of how the Association should be governed and managed in the 21st century.

Michael has given his advice, his time and his personal commitment to the Association in an entirely unstinting way.





# 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 Martyn Collis

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.

## Martyn Collis

Martyn is passionate about improving the opportunities for people with special needs to take part in sport. Having worked in special education throughout his career, he brings a wealth of knowledge about what works and how to make it happen. This has been reflected in the impact he has had in Birmingham and the West Midlands.

Although Martyn is supported by Sailability he has always given over and above his responsibilities to make a difference; volunteering large amounts of his weekends, evenings and holidays to accompany Sailability sailors on trips and to run events.

He established the Birmingham Special Sailing Association in 2004, raising thousands of pounds to buy Access dinghies and pontoons and to subsidise the cost of regular coaching sessions. He is also on the committee of the Enterprise Sailing Trust which ensures special schools are on their agenda. Martyn was also influential in establishing the only Royal Naval Combined Cadet Force section to be based at a special school.

His excellent ability to form relationships with partners has helped increase participation for people with disabilities. He spots opportunities and seizes them all. In a sport where the expense of specialist equipment can be a barrier to participation, Martyn works tirelessly to ensure this is never an issue by accessing grants and additional funding.



# RYA Community Awards 2012

## Lifetime Commitment

### Frank Avery

Seasalter Sailing Club



Frank joined Seasalter Sailing Club in 1958 and has been actively involved in the clubs committees almost since he started at the club.

Frank was a key person leading the rebuilding of the clubhouse in 1979, and his efforts have ensured the club still exists today. Membership numbers almost doubled at that time and has continued to hold fast in more difficult times with a loyal membership. When a Development plan for the Club was called for in the late 1990's it was Frank who undertook the task to create and publish the first 5 year plan for the Seasalters SC. This plan continues to be a firm base on which the club continue to build on for the future.

Despite resigning from active service to the club, Frank remains the Club President and holds Honorary Life membership. He continues to offer his help and advice on any club matters which arise and his mantra of 'Sail safely and enjoy every moment' is one that everyone on the committee and at the club can get behind.

### Peter Bayliss

Hykeham Sailing Club



Peter has been a member of Hykeham Sailing Club for around 30 years. An influential, sensible and respected member of the committee for many years, Peter has been involved in most club

activities, including the on-going relationship with the RYA Regional Committee.

A keen racer for most of his adult life Peter was often to be found at the front of a competitive racing team. He continued to race in RAF teams while he was posted in the Middle and Far East; although he will admit he prefers colder waters to warm seas.

Peter has on more than one occasion been invited to be the clubs Commodore but declined mainly because he feels he is of more service to the club in his present role as Training Officer and Bosun. He can be found at the club more days than not and his great and continuing contribution cannot be underestimated.

### Geoffrey Benson

Bolton Sailing Club



Geoff has been an active member of Bolton Sailing Club since 1971 and has held a number of roles within the club during that time. From Bosun, to Instructor and Club President, Geoff has

committed his time and effort consistently and without complaint.

He developed the clubs Gp14 Fleet in the period of his Captaincy and this continues to be a large vibrant fleet. He also supports all the OnBoard and Sailability events that the club hosts throughout the year. He volunteers a full week of his time to help with Special School Week. His manner and attitude is perfect and the children take to him very easily.

A dependable presence within the club, Geoff's role as Secretary and as a member of the General Committee for the past 15 years has been extremely important, steering the club in the right direction and on hand to offer counsel to all the past Club Commodores.

### Mike Benson

Toward Sailing Club



Mike joined Towards Sailing Club in 1978, a year after moving to the area. He was quickly recognised as an asset to the club and became treasurer in 1980.

Except for a brief stint in other roles within the club, Mike has been treasurer for 27 years. In this position Mike has ensured that the club's finances have remained healthy and has effectively managed the club funds. He is at the forefront of the fundraising and grant applications which help to ensure the boats are kept up to scratch, that the safety boats are fully equipped and safety crews are fully trained.

Highly thought of within the club and in the local community, Mike's approachable personality means his opinion and advice is often sought by club members, young and old.



## Nicholas Blore

### Gresford Sailing Club



Joining Gresford Sailing Club in the late 1970's as a junior crew member, Nick is now in charge of junior and adult training, as well as acting as Bosun. Due to Nick's hard work and kind nature the

junior training evening is extremely popular; many youngsters have gone on to sail not only at the club but also at national and international level.

Nick's enthusiasm to introduce the sport to new people has also helped bring new members into the adult training programme. He is cheerfully willing to help any member, whether they have a rigging enquiry or need a boat repair.

As Bosun Nick maintains the club's fleet and has also taken it upon himself to ensure the club premises are in good repair. As well as the regular working parties that he helps to organise, he can often be found down at the club doing any odd jobs that arise.

## John Broadbent

### Scaling Dam Sailing Club



John has held the role of Training Principle since he joined Scaling Dam Sailing Club in 1990. He has been the driving force behind the club achieving Volvo Championship Club status and the strong

cohort of instructors he has developed also allows the club to run open days, support Sailability events and to continue to expand the junior sailing activity.

John is a consistent presence at the clubs ever popular sailing courses for both adults and juniors and, together with his wife Val, he also undertakes all the background organisation for the courses. Although the individual instructors receive the accolades they deserve from their students, John is always in the background, getting on with what needs to be done in a quiet, enthusiastic and reliable manner which the members and instructors at the club have come to rely on.

## Tamasin Cole

### BTYC Sailsports



Tamasin has been an active member of BTYC Sailsports for over 16 years. She has held important roles on the committee since 1995 and has acted as Training Officer since 2000.

Through significant personal effort she has extended the range and breadth of training and has improved the 'professionalism' of the clubs training, despite the fact that everyone within the club is a volunteer.

During the peak training season she is present nearly every Thursday evening, meeting potential new members, supporting the Senior Instructor and encouraging all the instructors and trainees. She works tirelessly off season as well, arranging courses and ensuring the club keeps its momentum even when they can't get out on the water. Her input means that the club has a tremendous volunteer ethos with people at every level of capability helping out in any way they can, from social events to sailing instruction.

## Geoffrey Coxe

### Frampton on Severn Sailing Club



Geoff has had a positive influence on sailing in the South West region for over 30 years, consistently giving his time and effort to training and supporting budding sailors in the area. In the early

1980's Geoff became Senior Instructor and then Training Principle at Frampton on Severn Sailing Club. His passion for sailing and teaching has positively impacted on the club; he always strives to achieve high standards and never fails to pass his enthusiasm onto his volunteer instructors and other club members.

Geoff's ability to organise sailing tuition at club level and to develop novice sailors into instructors has shaped the development of the club into what it is today. Due to his hard work and dedication Frampton is now able to put over 100 people of all ages through the RYA training scheme using only volunteers.

His personal commitment to help a young man with cerebral palsy to achieve his RYA Level 2 and his Duke of Edinburgh Award is testament to his selfless dedication and contribution to the sport.





## John Crosswaite

Tamar River Sailing Club



About 17 years ago John started teaching a few children of Tamar River Sailing Club members to sail in some rather tired Toppers. John's enthusiasm meant he wanted to do more so he put himself through

an RYA Instructors course in order to gain his powerboat and instructor qualifications. This achieved, he set about recruiting and training new volunteers to expand and improve the clubs teaching activities.

In the following years John has worked tirelessly for the clubs cadets. Not only teaching and inspiring volunteers but also taking on maintenance and fundraising to ensure the clubs fleets have grown considerably and are always kept in great condition.

John has also encouraged the parents of his cadets to take to the water, meaning the club has a growing adult section as well as a thriving junior section. His commitment to the club is unerring and his 'can-do' attitude is an inspiration to all the club members.

## Dudley Davies

Erith Yacht Club



Dudley joined Erith Yacht Club in 1974 and he has been an active member of the club ever since. In the early 1990's Dudley became involved with delivering training at the club including a long

stint as the club's Chief Instructor. Although he has now retired from that role he continues to help with the training at the club, and his expertise on the river is appreciated by all the club members new and old.

Erith Yacht Club has had links with YMCA Thamesmead for many years, and this relationship has been strengthened by Dudley. He has not only helped with the teaching at the YMCA he has also reached out to the local community to encourage those who would not usually consider sailing to give it a go through the YMCA's holiday programme.

Dudley also acted as manager for the Bexley London Youth Sailing team at the London Youth Games, and under his guidance the team has always fared well.

## John Dowling

Isle of Man Yacht Club



John joined the Isle of Man Yacht Club as an instructor in 1991 and has been teaching consistently since then. He took on the role of Chief Dinghy Instructor in 2003 and is now more committed than

ever to this role. John is always willing to take 'new recruits' out for a sail in either his Wayfarer or Cruiser for a taster session, and invariably returns with a new club member and training recruit.

John is an excellent instructor who communicates well with his pupils and their families. Always approachable, he is on hand to answer any queries trainees may have. As well as his role of Chief Instructor, John also acts as dinghy Bosun when the need arises.

A truly dedicated club member, John gives his valuable time each year to ensure the clubs dinghy fleet are in 'tip top' condition and to introduce newcomers to a sport for which he is an ambassador.

## Leslie Downing

Slaughden Sailing Club



Leslie has been a committed member of Slaughden Sailing Club for over 30 years, for most of this time she has served on the Management Committee of the club in various roles. She

currently holds the position of Training Centre Principle, in this role she goes over and above the basic 'job description' and is often to be found giving additional one to one tuition to members in order to provide them with an opportunity to gain confidence, improve their skills, or simply enjoy being afloat.

She has organised out-reach programmes to local schools and schools in disadvantaged areas to encourage young people to try sailing at no cost to themselves. She is also deeply involved with the Woolverstone Project which provides sailing opportunities and tuition to those with disabilities.

A real 'people person' Leslie always makes an effort to get to know new members and their families. An exceptional volunteer, Leslie says she dedicates so much time and effort simply because she "just enjoys sailing."



## Jack Francis

### Burton Sailing Club



Jack started the sail training at Burton Sailing Club in 1976 and ran it single handed for many years. He continues to work as a volunteer instructor and over the years it is estimated that he has

trained over 2,500 students; from youngsters just starting out in the sport to national champions and crews hoping to get a place in the Olympic squad.

During his 35 years at the club Jack has almost singlehandedly created the clubs training section, he organised all the courses, advertising, training of instructors and the purchasing and repair of the clubs dinghies.

His exceptional commitment and dedication to dinghy and powerboat training has been important for the development of Burton Sailing Club and also for the many students and instructors who have been coached and encouraged by him. Many of the clubs long standing members are sailing today because of Jacks enthusiasm and encouragement.

## Peter Hadfield

### Chester Sailing and Canoeing Club



Peter has been a member of Chester Sailing and Canoeing Club for at least 20 years and for the whole of that time he has devoted himself to the encouragement and training of others

learning to sail.

Peter has served on the Committee for virtually his whole time with the club, taking on the responsible roles of Club Secretary, Vice Commodore, and Commodore. Peter was part of a team that secured funding to improve the clubs facilities and also acted as architect and project manager free of charge for the programme of improvements.

Since relinquishing the role of Commodore, Peter has come back re-energised in his position as Senior Instructor and Principle. He puts a tremendous amount of effort into organising new courses, taster sessions, and race training pathways and trains club members young and old.

## Janet Hart

### Red Wharf Bay Sailing and Watersports Club



Janet has given continual service to Red Wharf Bay Sailing and Watersports Club as Social Secretary since 1995. During this time she has developed the clubs social programme which now includes

beach BBQs, sports day, clubhouse evening meals, formal dinners and many more impromptu events which encourage the non-sailing family members to get involved and helps to generate a friendly and inclusive atmosphere within the club.

As a former Cat sailor, Janet relates well to the needs of the clubs sailors and in her own clever way moulds social activities around them, always paying attention to every last detail.

RWBSWC is most active during the school holidays and as Janet is a full time teacher, this means she devotes a considerable amount of her free time to club activities. A constant support to commodores past and present, Janet has been a vital contributor to the life and success of the club.

## Michael Hill

### East Antrim Boat Club



Mike took up sailing in the 1960's as he thought it looked 'rather good fun'; having built his own boat he has been sailing eagerly ever since. Michael's enthusiasm for the sport seems almost

boundless and he is equally passionate about helping other people get into the sport.

Mike has participated in the clubs committee for many years in various roles; he has also acted as a race official and in this role has been integral to the success of so many of the clubs events over the years. Always keen to roll up his sleeves and get stuck in he does not care what time of year it is, he is out on the water come rain, shine or cold!

Mike puts his heart and soul into everything he does and sailing is no exception. Held in high regard at his own club and others in the area Mike, is an inspiration to many.



## Keith Hiscock

### Crawley Mariners Yacht Club



Keith has dedicated his time to Crawley Mariners Yacht Club for over 30 years. He has held a number of important roles on the clubs committee and has had a significant influence on many

aspects of the clubs development, including their training programme.

Keith has managed all training at the club since the early 1980's, initially creating a solid foundation of training practices which paved the way for the club to become an RYA Recognised Training Centre (RTC). He has maintained the high standards of tuition and enjoyment at the club; he has developed the clubs safety policies and ensures that all the necessary checks and procedures are in place to guarantee the clubs continued success as an RTC.

Still a keen sailor himself, Keith often sails with a young crew, passing on his valuable knowledge and helping many sailors learn racing and spinnaker skills at the front of his boat.

## Tony Hotchkiss

### South Staffordshire Sailing Club



Tony has been a valuable member of South Staffs Sailing Club for over 20 years and has always been available in some capacity to provide guidance and inspiration to others;

whether this is through his roles as Fleet and Sailing Captains, as Race Coach or as Commodore.

Tony has dedicated a significant part of his life to sailing having spent 24 years with South Staffs and many years with Midland Sailing Club prior to that. Having started out himself at 14, Tony still shows enthusiasm when coaching the youngsters of today and has been rewarded by seeing many of his trainees getting to the Zone squads. He has also recently introduced the OnBoard programme to the club and is working tirelessly to ensure it is successful.

Dedicated to sailing in the region at large Tony has been a member of the RYA Regional Committee since 2002 and has also more recently become a County Representative, looking after the interests of Shropshire's sailing clubs.

## Mollie Howes

### Norfolk and Suffolk Boating Association



Mollie has devoted 50 years to the support and management of sailing and racing on the Broads. An active member of a number of sailing clubs in the Broads, Mollie has a wealth of knowledge

about the waters she sails in and is an indefatigable defender of the rights of the ordinary boater on the broads.

Mollie served for many years as a committee member of the Norfolk and Suffolk Boating Association (NSBA), which is the umbrella body for boating organisations on the broads. With this position in mind she has attended a large number of the public meetings held by the Broads Authority and Navigation Committee. Her feedback about these meetings to the NSBA and her other clubs has been invaluable and her input to the meetings as a member of the public with a great local knowledge base has been beneficial for all.

A fantastic and committed event's organiser, Mollie has been instrumental in running a number of prestigious on-going events over the years. She is one of those people who do the background work which enables others to have the joy of sailing and racing.

## Bob Hurst

### Swanage Sailing Club



Bob has been the Treasurer of Swanage Sailing Club for many years; he carries out his duties with dedication and commitment despite not being a sailor himself.

He oversaw the building of the original Club house and a later extension, both of which were big projects requiring hours of his time. Over the years Bob's financial advice and expertise has also given the club a sound footing from which to expand.

His contribution has made a lasting difference to the club but in such an unobtrusive and humble way that many of their own members are unaware of just how much time and effort Bob has put into the club.



## Vaughan Jones

Chelmarsh Sailing Club



A member of Chelmarsh Sailing Club for over 30 years, Vaughan has held responsible positions on the clubs Committee for the majority of that time. In each of the roles he has performed, he has used his position and

knowledge to guide and influence the committee wisely.

Vaughan is committed not only to the clubs organisation but also to its sailing, whether out on the water himself or helping others to gain confidence, he is always positive and has the future of Chelmarsh SC at the forefront of his thoughts. He ensures the new young members receive a warm welcome and encourages the longer standing members to keep afloat.

Having served for such a lengthy period he has an intimate knowledge of the clubs history and its management, as such he remains an invaluable source of information and guidance in all matters.

## Andrew Knight

Hill Head Sailing Club



Andrew has been a staunch member of Hill Head Sailing Club since 1988, taking an active interest in all aspects of the club, he has been House Treasurer, Commodore and Chief Power Boat Instructor

amongst other things.

As Chief Power Boat Instructor, Andrew took on the organisation of all power boat courses and staffing. He has increased the profile of power boat drivers at Hill Head and ensured there is a large pool of skilled drivers at the club. Andrew has a quiet manner, offering expertise and knowledge whenever asked. He is willing to assist and advise members on a variety of issues whether relating to sailing or power boating.

He always offers a very professional approach to all aspects of club life, whether this is overseeing the building of a new training room or organising the powerboat training at the club.

## Sheela Lewis

County Antrim Yacht Club



Sheela joined County Antrim Yacht Club in the late 1980's and has had a considerable influence on the club since that time. In 2000 she became the first female Commodore in the clubs long history, since this

time there has continued to be a strong female involvement in the club led by Sheela's example.

Over the past 12 years Sheela has taken on the organisational side of the clubs sailing courses. This involves arranging a large number of instructors and volunteers before the courses, and recording all participants' details after the event, Sheela gives her free time and energy into ensuring this is done efficiently.

Sheela is highly respected within sailing circles across the Province and particularly by the members of CAYC where she continues to be a pro-active committee member and is regarded as a vitally important member of the club.

## Alistair McVean

Aylesbury Sailing Club



During his long membership of the club, in addition to undertaking various flag officer duties including Commodore, Alistair has always put himself forward for any jobs requiring attention.

There is never a job too messy or menial for Alistair, he is always at the forefront, not only supervising but getting his hands dirty too; he won't rest until the job is done.

When the club decided to upgrade their facilities it was Alistair who took on the varied and challenging project. Acting as Project Manager, labourer and chief negotiator throughout the construction, Alistair committed many hours to ensuring the project progressed as smoothly as possible.

Due to his hard work and dedication the building work was completed quickly, to a high standard and mainly using volunteer labour from the club members. Following the completion of the extension and renovation, the club received an award recognising the tremendous volunteer effort in revitalising the club house.



## Dave Metcalf

### Pilkington Sailing Club



Dave has been involved in Pilkington Sailing Club for over 30 years, during which time he has performed many roles and duties. Before the club became a Recognised Training

Centre Pilkington SC ran its own beginners course, teaching around 30 students to sail in dinghies. This course had a very high reputation and was always oversubscribed; due to Dave's teaching a large number of people acquired the skills and enjoyment of sailing.

In 1988 Dave became the clubs Treasurer; this was a critical time when the club faced losing a large proportion of their usual income. Dave negotiated the change and put into place the financial discipline that enabled Pilkington Sailing Club to survive. Because of this strong foundation the club now draws members from all sections of the local community and is well run and financially viable.

Dave continues to be a valued member of the General Committee and freely gives advice from his extensive experience to the Committee and to individual members alike.

## Louis Moulden

### Delph Sailing Club



Louis has been a pivotal and inspiration member of Delph Sailing Club for over 35 years. He has held many roles within the club and has been outstanding at all of them.

Whenever training happens he is there, taking newcomers for their first taste of sailing, teaching the skills of crewing, racing, starting and the myriad of arts that make boats go as fast as Louis' boats do. Always willing to go the extra mile, Louis will put himself out to ensure training suits the needs of the students over his own. He has just retired from his Coaching role at the club after more than 25 years. It is typical of him that he has retained his Senior Instructor qualification as, in his words, "I haven't finished yet".

His influence on so many sailors at the club and in the region can be considered a special contribution. His love of racing, joy in competition and winning, his enthusiasm and high standards have inspired and set the bar high for many people. Youngsters who have gone on to do so much for sailing in all its forms owe him much.

## Ron Parker

### Tops'l Sailcruise



Ron has been the lynch-pin of Tops'l without whom the club would have struggled to have survived the early years. His integrity, energy and skills have ensured the success and continuation of the

club to this day. Ron has been committed to the club for over 33 years, the only member to have served for that length of time. Throughout this time his contribution has been central to the evolution of the organisation.

He has sailed extensively with Tops'l often guiding the crew through difficult and stormy passages, whilst always ensuring the safety of the crew on board. He has also been responsible for the maintenance of the clubs boats for over 30 years. Working with a team of Bosuns, Ron has ensured that the boats are maintained to an extremely high standard. He has encouraged members to join the team, often with no prior experience but a willingness to learn and they have all benefitted from the depth of Ron's extensive technical knowledge.

He has helped many members to achieve a positive sailing experience and has been a mentor to most club members at one time or another.

## Keith Paul

### Weston Sailing Club



Keith has been an active member of Weston Sailing Club since 1956, only six years after the club was formed. He is the clubs Senior Instructor and has taken a major role in leading and running the

RYA dinghy sailing courses at Weston SC. He runs these courses with his wife Pat who handles all the administration. Keith is a very gifted and talented teacher, making learning to sail memorable and fun, his style of teaching is inspirational.

He is an exceptional role model; a 72 year old dinghy sailor who competes regularly at club level and who generally wins races in his Contender regardless of the competition. Keith is affectionately known as 'the Fox' at the club due to his cunning skill at picking the wind shifts, "If you don't know the way to sail up the beat, follow the Fox". His continuing sailing prowess inspires his fellow club members and proves that age is no barrier.



## Bryan Sexton

### Marchwood Yacht Club



2012 is Marchwood Yacht Club's 50th anniversary year and Bryan has been involved since its inception. Since that time the club has expanded, their facilities have improved and Bryan has always

been in the thick of it. Through injury and illness his commitment and involvement has never faltered.

As well as being a founding member Bryan has undertaken many committee positions, and has always been on hand to give help and advice to any individuals that need it. He was instrumental in much of the building and development work that has enabled the club to grow and improve their facilities over the years. He has also built a large number of small craft for others to use which has enabled many people to get out on the water that would not have been able to otherwise.

Bryan's commitment to the club has been unstinting and it is fitting that he should be recognised in this anniversary year.

## Tim Tomlinson

### Middle Nene Sailing Club



Tim has been involved with Middle Nene Sailing Club for over 50 years. Throughout this time he has been a tireless ambassador for sailing at the club and in the region. His efforts have been relentless. He

has held various Flag Officer positions at the club and is currently a highly valued Trustee. Through his tireless personal commitment he has ensured that the club is managed and run effectively, encouraging participation in the sport even in land-locked Northamptonshire.

Tim has spent an inordinate amount of his free time at the club. He has always been willing to pass on his extensive knowledge to others to prepare, repair or improve their boats to get them on the water enjoying and getting the best out of their sailing. Tim is always approachable if you need advice or to get something repaired he is your man, if you broke it Tim could, would and will fix it.

## Russ Towns

### Nottinghamshire County Sailing Club



Russ has been inspiring sailors and windsurfers for many years in the Nottinghamshire area and beyond; he can still be seen taking part in races and showing competitors half his age how it is done.

He has always encouraged those around him to embrace their competitive side and race, as well as sailing for pleasure. This has meant that Notts County SC now has a strong and highly competitive Raceboard fleet. He has also encouraged and been instrumental in getting many sailors and windsurfers to compete at high levels across the country and further afield. His enthusiasm is infectious and he is always approachable, he is well liked by all who meet him and respected across the region.

Russ has given a lifetime of commitment and dedication to sailing and windsurfing. He has been involved in windsurfing for nearly 30 years, almost from its inception in the UK and he is recognised nationally as an ambassador of the sport.

## Michael and Dorothea Willetts

### Himley Hall Sailing Club



Michael and Dorothea were founder members of Himley Hall Sailing Club over 30 years ago and continue to work tirelessly to create, grow and support the club to this day. They have held numerous roles on the clubs Committee over the years, always freely and generously giving their time and energy to help the club at every opportunity. Mike has been the clubs Commodore on more than one occasion and Dorothy is still going strong as the clubs Honorary Secretary after 25 years.

Mike has always been highly competitive on the water, winning numerous trophies over the years, this has not diminished over time and he continues to be the sailor to beat. Dorothy has been the clubs representative to the RYA for many years and they have both travelled to numerous meetings around the region.

The strong involvement in the club has continued down the generations, to their daughters and also their grandchildren, the family legacy will be felt at the club for many years to come.

# RYA Community Awards 2012 Outstanding Contribution

## Paul Burton

### Witham Sailing Club

Paul has been involved with Witham Sailing Club for many years but it has been his impact over the past few years that makes his contribution exceptional.



A number of years ago the Club suffered some difficulties and was in danger of closing;

Paul led the remaining members in devising a club development plan to turn the situation around. He personally led the club in organising open days, recruitment events, kick started the social programme, and ran weekends away at Rutland to bring the clubs together. He also put himself through the Senior Instructor course to enable the club to become a Training Centre, and has also organised the clubs grant applications.

All his efforts and infectious enthusiasm have been felt at the club which is now in a far stronger position than in previous years. The clubs youth fleet is growing and the dinghy park is now overflowing.

## Terence Eaglestone

### Wilsonian Sailing Club



Some volunteers have multiple roles within a club, Terry has done one job multiple times! Terry has done safety boat duty during the season from April to December almost every week come rain or shine and has

completed his 500th duty this year. Club members are expected to undertake 24 voluntary duties during this 12 year period, therefore Terry has undertaken the equivalent of 21 member's duties.

Not only does he consistently perform his duty but he also passes on his skills to his crew members in a friendly and informal manner. His crews have undertaken the required courses but it is Terry who then helps them to see how to act in real assistance situations. Terry is a very skilled safety boat driver and it gives all the sailors at the club confidence to know that he is on the water. As necessary he will calmly take control of any situation to ensure the safety of the sailors involved.

## Steve Frecknall

### Belfast Lough Sailability



Steve joined Belfast Lough Sailability (BLS) in the early summer of 2004 and with his previous sailing experience he quickly became a very hard working member of the group. He qualified as

an Instructor in 2007 and became very involved in teaching the many new members to sail. Steven has given up a significant amount of his time to teaching club members to sail new Access Dinghies, which many club members have never sailed before.

An excellent instructor, he is very patient and gets on with people of all ages. Despite coping with his own disability, devoting care and time to his disabled daughter Emma, and various other challenges that have come his way, Steve has dedicated countless hours of work to BLS. Nine years on Steve is still working quietly in the background always doing his best for Belfast Lough, his family and disabled sailing in the Province.

## Andrew Gilles

### Toward Sailing Club



Andrew has been a member of Toward Sailing Club for many years during which he has consistently supported the club in the background as he is not himself a keen sailor. He has

however helped the club to develop by maintaining the club premises in excellent condition, and by continually exercising his considerable abilities as an electrician, plumber and builder to full effect.

Andrews excellent communication skills are put to great use maintaining the clubs website and in his role as one of the clubs social conveners he ensures all members, visitors and guests, both young and old, are made to feel welcome at the club.

Andrew has exceptional rapport with all the club members, especially the younger cadet members. His friendly, caring nature is a great asset to the club.



## Dafydd Griffiths

### Red Wharf Bay Sailing and Watersports Club



Red Wharf Bay is a family sailing and watersports club that runs during the school holidays. Dafydd is the leader of the Junior Sail Training which sees around 60 young people put through the course

every year. He also manages the 20 or so members of the instructor team that help deliver the courses each season. This activity is key to successfully introducing new members to the sport and so ensuring the sustainability of the club.

As well as getting many young people on the water Dafydd has been responsible for introducing an adult sail training scheme to enable members to develop their skills and for some to experience sailing for the first time.

Dafydd is a fantastic ambassador for the club with his great enthusiasm and knowledge. If club members are looking for an answer to any sailing question, from rigging to maintenance, all you hear is "ask Dafydd!"

## Derek Lee

### Pilkington Sailing Club



Pilkington Sailing Club has been running beginners sailing courses for many years but since becoming an RYA Training Centre these courses have gone from strength to strength. Derek was

a driving force in getting the accreditation for the centre and for running many of the courses since. A natural teacher, Derek always makes beginners feel at ease on the water and his presentation skills means his theory lessons are equally engaging.

As well as his instructing duties Derek actively supports the club in lots of other ways. He has been successful in grant applications that have allowed the club to improve their disabled access and to buy boats for juniors and complete novices. Derek also helps with the clubs maintenance and uses his health and safety expertise to ensure that the club operates in a safe manner.

## Michael Pipes

### Hollowell Sailing Club



Mike has been a ready and willing volunteer at Hollowell Sailing Club for many years, holding various positions within the committee but he has been especially influential over the past five years. While

he has put tremendous personal effort into the clubs development, his influence has come from leading, mobilising and motivating a wide number of volunteers to work in a common direction. His strategic vision and energy towards achieving the club's goals has been invaluable.

With Mike at the helm, the club's volunteers have renovated large sections of the clubhouse to create a space that is welcoming for all and he has helped to update much of the equipment and boats to ensure they are safe and fit for purpose. He has also put a great amount of effort into developing the OnBoard section of the club which has increased family memberships as well as getting more young people sailing.

Due to his hard work the club is attracting more new members each year, and getting more people out on the water racing, training and cruising.

## Keven Roberts

### Hykeham Sailability



Keven is the founding Chairman of Hykeham Sailability. Having first been involved in the Sailability group at Rutland, Keven then saw the opening for another such club at Hykeham.

Despite not being a sailor himself he set up the organisation from scratch. To achieve this he has found many tens of thousands of pounds, numerous volunteers and has tirelessly worked to establish what is now a thriving, vibrant group.

Keven always faces problems and issues head on and as a consequence has achieved results which could have taken considerably longer if he had not been at the helm. A man of great energy, he continues to impact positively on the group and through his work he has enabled a new group of disabled sailors to access the freedom and excitement of sailing. Keven is undoubtedly a man who thrives on selflessly helping others without seeking rewards or recognition.





## Dawn Russell

### Holyhead Sailing Club



Holyhead Sailing Club has relied on Dawn for many years, in particular she has helped to develop and manage two key areas of the clubs activities; encouraging young people to take up sailing and managing

and improving the clubs racing opportunities. Dawn has held many roles during her time with the club, from Cadet Class Captain, Sailing Secretary to Commodore. All the roles she has undertaken go to show how the club has depended on her commitment, knowledge and skill to manage these two key activities of the club.

The Young Optimists group have thrived under her leadership; it has been oversubscribed for a long time and has a lengthy waiting list. She has also recently helped develop a plan to re-create a more vibrant cadet group for older children, including getting the necessary boats and qualified instructors. Although she has recently taken a step back from the club she is still involved and is widely respected both at the club and in the wider area.

## William Stanton

### Nottinghamshire County Sailing Club



William is Notts County Sailing Clubs Principal and an instructor. His influence and enthusiasm has grown the training section from starting sailing courses, to providing a pathway to the National

squad, but never losing site of the fact that sailing is to be enjoyed regardless of what level you are at. He has added courses in response to learners needs including an improvers course and boat maintenance courses designed to help newcomers gain confidence.

William has a huge enthusiasm for sailing and for passing this passion on to others, this passion also motivates the other instructors to provide excellent tuition. Before every course he can be found making sure everything is right and ready, always with a smile on his face.

William has not only thrown himself into running a successful training centre, but he has enabled those who may not want to race to contribute to the club through training. His ideas have helped the retention of members and provided many with a great reason to continue sailing.

## Steve Troke

### South Staffordshire Sailing Club



Steve has been a valuable member of South Staffs coaching team for many years, for both adults and juniors. His endless enthusiasm even on cold, wet days helps keep everyone motivated all year round.

His 'can do' attitude has been the enabling factor that has allowed the seeds of many an idea or event to come to fruition, with his unstinting energy and support along the way.

Steve is one of a few people at the club who have spent many hours teaching, coaching, fixing boats as well as numerous other things. Whenever there is something going on at the club, Steve is always involved somehow.

Anyone who has gone through some form of instruction at the club, whether it be sailing (or dancing in the winter months!) will confirm the tireless effort put into the club by Steve.

## Derrick Young

### Rutland Sailing Club



Derrick has been a stalwart of Rutland Sailing Club for over 12 years, and has volunteered to undertake both practical and physical tasks for the club in that time. He can be found at the club

nearly every Thursday evening and most weekends, assisting with maintenance, repairs and offering an ear and advice to members.

In 2009 he took on the role of Fleet Captain and this has been a popular appointment at the club. Due to his positive influence the Cruiser fleet is now well run, with an active racing fleet, a steady influx of new members, excellent attendances and interesting talks. Derrick is committed to introducing people to boats and sailing. He is unstintingly enthusiastic and generous with the time he dedicates to the club.

Alongside his commitments to Rutland SC, Derrick is also a lifelong supporter of the RNLI. He has been chairman of the RNLI Leicester branch for 15 years, and has been instrumental in funding six lifeboats.

# RYA Community Awards 2012

## Youth

### David Blakesley

Bury Lake Young Mariners



Dave loves sailing and especially passing on those skills to other young people. His enthusiasm is infectious and he has inspired hundreds of young people to enjoy sailing too. Since the age of 14

when he first gained his instructor certificate he has been actively involved in teaching RYA courses during every school holiday. He has been involved in the Youth, Main and Training Committees at the club for the past five years and as such he has been actively involved in the on-going management of the entire organisation.

Dave always wants to be busy and will turn his hand to the repair and maintenance of any of the clubs extensive fleet, for example during his gap year he took on the upkeep of over 100 dinghies and seven safety boats.

Dave is an excellent example to other young people who frequent BLYM and has been a role model to many other aspiring youngsters who now seek to follow in his footsteps. His chosen career in boat design at Southampton University is undoubtedly influenced by his knowledge and experience he has gained over the years at BLYM.

### Karl Blythe

Belfast Lough Sailability



Karl joined Belfast Lough Sailability about three years ago and from the outset he has impressed club members with his ability and dedication. He is more than happy and always willing to help with any task- no matter

how menial, laborious or boring. He has always wanted to help others get out on the water and not just have fun himself.

Karl's autism spectrum disorder challenges him daily. However he copes brilliantly, particularly with our more vulnerable participants, always ready to give others a word of assurance to make sure they are comfortable and relaxed and enjoying the clubs activities.

He is excellent at IT and has used his skills to bring the the clubs website to life. He continues to manage the website and has also set up a Facebook page, this has helped BLS reach a wider audience and to communicate more effectively with the club members and volunteers that are already at the club.

### Doug Horner

Swanage Sailing Club



Doug set up a coaching programme at Swanage Sailing Club in 2009, and this programme has made a vast difference to the club. The junior members are now more enthused and are getting good results at club

and national level. Doug has also always been willing to help anyone set up and tune their boat before each session which has been beneficial to many members. He has given a huge amount of his own time to develop and build the skills of the junior sailors. He has been an inspiration to these juniors and now many of them provide a serious challenge to the adult racers in the club.

On his own initiative Doug set up winter coaching sessions and is there running the sessions no matter how much snow is falling. He takes time to mentor junior sailors and is a great role model- positive, humorous and dedicated.

Although he is a nationally competitive sailor he has sacrificed his own sailing at times to help young sailors gain experience.

### Adam Kenney

Burton Sailing Club



Adam acts as Burton Sailing Club's Sailing Secretary and over the past two years he has worked hard to promote the club and develop the racing section. Despite a very difficult time when his father

passed away, Adam has remained committed to the club and has been unstinting in dedicating his time to developing the clubs sailing programme. He continues to develop and become more and more involved in the day to day running of the club as a senior committee member. Adam also sits on the Training and Publicity Committees and the fact he is repeatedly voted onto committees by the members shows how highly he is thought of at the club.

Despite numerous other commitments and sailing in a National fleet, Adam is responsible for all the sailing at the club, including the training section, open meetings and the clubs own open days and youth sailing. His energy and enthusiasm are inspirational; a natural leader, he doesn't take any messing around but he is also sensitive and will work with the young ones in a tireless way.



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