

NEWSABILITY

The official news letter of Rudyard Sailability
Registered Charity No 1096832



April 2009

Our New Home!

Following our five-year battle with Staffordshire Moorlands District Council, we have now received the good news that we have won our appeal against the council's planning decision. We now have to work against the clock to fund and build a state-of-the-art accessible boathouse.

As soon as the Inspectorate's positive decision arrived work started on the realisation of Rudyard's Sailability's new building. With a time-frame of nine months and approximately £300,000 to raise there wasn't a moment to lose!

A Project Management Committee has been established, led by **Dennis Priebe**, who will also be responsible for grant applications and funding.

Steve Sammons, the Charity's Architect, is to lead the Project which includes design, materials, building regulations and the construction .

James Rushton will manage the Project Accounts.



Anne Morris will act as the Charity's Legal Representative.

Charlotte Atkins MP will act as liaison with British Waterways, the Landowners.

Jackie Griffiths will provide secretarial support.

Negotiations are taking place to set up a lease for the Charity, and grant applications are being submitted. Tenders for building works are being sent out and consultation with all interested parties has commenced.

Donations have already been received with a big thank you going out to our long-standing, faithful sponsors, D&S Pottery and also to a local family, who have been following our case and wanted to contribute to the project.

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Welcome

I'd like to welcome you to our first quarterly newsletter. Rudyard Sailability is committed to giving people the opportunity to get afloat, regardless of their 'disability'. On the water we believe everyone is equal and our members tell us that they enjoy the sense of freedom and independence they feel when on the lake.



Many of you will know that we now have the go-ahead to build our fully-accessible boathouse near to the dam head and it's now full steam ahead to raise the funds and get the building fully planned and built.

We are really excited by the plans and we are all looking forward to moving into the boathouse but before then there is a lot to do. This newsletter will be one of the ways we will keep you informed of developments.

Our main priority this Spring is fundraising. We will be looking for a range of fundraising opportunities to make sure we can pay for the new boathouse, so watch this space for ways you can help us.

Dennis Priebe,
Chair of Trustees

Meet our Trustees

Mr Dennis Priebe - Chair

Dr Richard Hayward - Treasurer

Mrs Jackie Griffiths - Secretary

Mr Craig Houghton -
Membership Secretary

Ms Charlotte Atkins MP - Trustee

Mrs Anne Morris - Trustee

Mr James Rushton - Trustee

Dr A Arshad - Trustee

Mr G Lowe - Trustee

Published by Rudyard Sailability. We have taken every care to ensure the information in Newsability is accurate but we cannot be held responsible for errors or omissions.

If you want to contact us or find out more about Rudyard Sailability, please visit www.rudyardsailability.co.uk. Or contact:

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The restoration of the wash wall and lakeside edgings is planned for the summer and will be carried out by volunteers from the Inland Waterways Association. Piling work for the foundations of the building is scheduled for the autumn, when the water level should have dropped sufficiently. The main work on the building can then be carried out with the planned official opening being in April 2010.

The project represents a massive undertaking in a relatively short space of time, but this will hopefully serve to hone our senses and harness our energies and we believe that with your support and encouragement, together we will be successful.

This first edition of Rudyard Sailability's Newsletter is dedicated the memory of Mike Pomfret, founder of The Macclesfield and Congleton Wheelies Sport Club. A giant of a man, champion of wheelchair users and committed supporter of Rudyard Sailability who will be sadly missed, but never forgotten.



Last year's Dragonboat races attracted 16 teams from local businesses and clubs. Over 200 rowers their friends and family braved torrential rain and floods to take part, but everyone was rewarded with a bright sunny afternoon. Thanks to everyone who helped us raise over £5100 for the charity.



Photo credit: Jon Bartholomew for the Leek Post and Times.

Meet our new trustee (and Chief Instructor!)

As well as giving hundreds of people each year the opportunity to just get on the water, at Rudyard Sailability we are also keen to encourage people of all abilities to take part in structured training. Gary Lowe, who recently became one of our trustees, describes his experience and his involvement with the charity.

Learning to sail didn't come easily! My first recollection was of a very windy Sunday morning on Rudyard in the early 1970's. I was one of a handful of scouts walking the railway shoreline while our scout leader attempted to launch his dinghy from a tree lined leeward shore. After observing several futile attempts we made polite excuses that we needed to get home (wished to live a little longer) and left. In the ensuing years I gained various dinghy sailing experiences in the Lake District, on the Welsh coast and in the USA - though all experimental and lacking structured teaching.

Keen to introduce my two boys to the great outdoors Brenda, my wife, and I decided to join a local sailing club, Redesmere. Proud new owners of a Mirror dinghy we enrolled on a course and have never stopped learning since. We both became involved in teaching children to sail while still learning ourselves, eventually becoming



coastally endorsed instructors and then senior instructors, quickly followed by gaining the Powerboat and First Aid Instructor award, while in our spare time completing the Day Skipper Certificate.

My introduction to Rudyard Sailability was while supporting a work colleague who was developing outrigger canoeing for physically impaired canoeists at Rudyard. Fascinated by the 'unusual' dinghies on the jetty I found out that they were specially built dinghies suitable for people with disabilities. I thought nothing more of it until I received a call from a friend appealing for help with a Sailability group who wished to gain RYA training centre status. As a firm believer in the benefits of sailing I offered my support and so my steep learning curve in Access dinghies began.

As Chief Instructor of Rudyard I run a

training night each Tuesday to help interested volunteers develop their sailing and instructing skills. Training nights will start after Easter when the water gets a little warmer. Please feel free to come along to the centre on a Tuesday once training starts to discuss your needs. You really will be most welcome!

Olympian sails at Rudyard

Sarah Webb, winner of two Olympic gold medals in sailing, visited Rudyard Sailability last Autumn and took the opportunity of getting on the water with Tilly, one of our members.

Sarah and Tilly set sail in Britannia's fingertip-controlled, bright pink dinghy, "Barbie". It was Sarah's first trip out in a Sailability Access dinghy, so it was up to Tilly to show Sarah some of the ropes!

Once back on dry land Sarah presented sisters, Candice and Tilly with their RYA Level 2 Sailing Certificates, and then presented three Sport England Volunteer Certificates for exceptional volunteering to Gary Lowe, Chief Instructor, Clive Heathcote, Volunteer, and our Planning Dream Team who have dedicated so much of their time to securing planning permission for our state-of-the-art boathouse.

Rudyard Sailability is looking forward to welcoming Sarah back to the Club once the new building is completed.

Why Steph and Clive belong to Rudyard Sailability

Steph, my daughter, was born in Pietermaritzburg close to the border with Zululand. After Steph's birth I could sense things were not quite right and we waited a few weeks for test results to discover Steph had Downes Syndrome. One of the lesser symptoms was an inability to regulate body temperature, living in a climate that got into the 40s, Stephs life expectancy was not good. So a few months we took the overnight train to Johannesburg, a plane to Luxemburg, via Nairobi and Cairo for refuelling. Then, another plane to Heathrow and a car journey to Matlock.

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After my four years of civilised living in Africa (biltong, mutton curries, bobottie, Namibian beer) I ended up with a job in darkest North Staffs where the natives live in pot banks subsisting on a diet of oat cakes and Wrights pies.

Steph is fearless about water and loved boats and ships as a child - from little motor boats in Matlock Park to the jet boat in Jersey.



So now the puzzle, what can we do together on a Sunday which we will both enjoy?

One warm summer's day a fair few years ago I decided to take Steph to Rudyard because I had a vague idea you could hire rowing boats. So we did and had a good time. When we got back Fred said go and have a word with Dennis over there who had two or three Access boats at the time and Richard took Steph for a sail. Because Steph had become diabetic I thought she should take some chocolate in case her blood sugars went low. They returned with Steph happy and chocolate everywhere!

So I decided to jump in a boat with Steph and we had our first trip in an Access dinghy. Although they are impossible to capsize you can tip them so far that water comes over the side. You are supposed to sit side by side. Steph soon cottoned on to the fact that when my side was tipping she could leap on top of me to get me wet.

Now, a few years later, we both have a past time we can enjoy and share good times together. We can regularly spend our Sundays in an Access dinghy and Steph decides we should take a picnic and a can of beer to share.

Clive



9th March 2009

Dear Supporter,

Rudyard Sailability would like to thank you sincerely for your support on our journey to gain planning permission for a boat store and accessible changing facility at Rudyard Lake.

The battles along the way have certainly been challenging, but the charity was served by many outstanding members of the community, and it is right to point out that Rudyard Sailability would not have succeeded without this dedicated input.

Your belief in the charity's aims and aspirations has reinforced the foundation for our cause, and given Rudyard Sailability the confidence and conviction to carry on offering sailing experiences to all those who live with disability. Your contribution has played a key part in the successful outcome of the Public Inquiry when the Inspector swiftly upheld Rudyard Sailability's Appeal.

Thanks to you, work has already started on the new project, and we would be grateful for your continued support. We welcome you to work alongside us and help realise Rudyard Sailability's new, fully-accessible building.

We can't do it without you!

Rudyard Sailability

Events for 2009

April

Community Open Evening

Sunday, 19th April 2009 from 4.30 pm – 7 pm at Rudyard Lake Activity Centre

An 'open-house' evening with an opportunity to meet the Trustees, view plans of the new building, raise topics and discuss the way forward.

Everyone is invited to drop in and your comments will be most welcome.

Light refreshments provided.

May

Cauldon College Open Day

Friday, 1st May 2009 from 9am-4pm

Volunteers required to rig boat for outdoor display and man the stand indoors.

A brilliant opportunity to spread 'the word' at this inspirational setting.

A superb lunch is provided.

June

Dragon Boat Race

Saturday, 27th June 2009 from 10 am at Rudyard Lake.

An action-packed, muscle-wrecking, side-splitting, team-building, splash-making, fund-raising Family Day.

July

MS Open Day

Wednesday, 1st July 2009 from 9 am at North Staffs Hotel, opposite Stoke Railway Station

Volunteers required to rig display boat and 'talk the talk' on the Stand. Another great opportunity to make new contacts.

Membership matters

Just a gentle reminder to existing members that their 2009 membership is now due. You should receive a

form very soon, and if you could return your form and dues as soon as possible that would be great.

Anyone wanting to join Rudyard Sailability can download a form on our website – please complete it and return it to the address on the form, along with your cheque.

This year we have kept the membership fees to last year's prices. The fees are:

Adult:	£25.00
Under 18:	£15.00
Family:	£50.00

Can I also take this opportunity on behalf of Rudyard Sailability to thank you for the continuing support you have shown our club.

Craig Houghton
Rudyard Sailability
Membership Secretary

THEY'RE OFF

FAMILY RACE NIGHT AT HOTEL RUDYARD, RUDYARD LAKE

FRIDAY 22ND MAY 2009

FIRST RACE 8PM

Yes folks it's that time of year again – the starting gates have been rolled out and given a good greasing.

The jockeys are into full training and watching every calorie they eat & every ounce they put on.

The horses after a long lay-off since the last outing are champing at the bit & rearing to go.

Come along and have a flutter, it is a fantastic night filled with lots of fun and laughter for all the family. Race card entry, £3 per adult, includes sandwiches and chips at the interval. Children free.

Looking forward to seeing you on the night - Andrea & Les

For any enquiries or information call us on: 01538 360040

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