

## IN THIS ISSUE

Welcome aboard the autumn issue of *starboard* which will be the last edition of the year.

**EDITOR'S NOTE**  
THE ORIGINAL EDITION OF THIS ISSUE CONTAINED AN ARTICLE ON THE RYA SCOTLAND SPRING REGATTA. ALTHOUGH THIS WAS PRINTED IN GOOD FAITH IT HAS PROVED TO BE AHEAD OF ITS TIME BY AT LEAST TWELVE MONTHS SO HAS HAD TO BE WITHDRAWN.

In this issue you will find the usual mix of the serious and the not so serious. The serious side being an article which attempts to unravel the vagaries of the PVG scheme whilst on the not so side is a little fairy story just for the festive season though some of you may see it as a bit of a morality tale.



Further on we take a look back at the second half of the Traveller season and some of the issues raised.

The Chairman also looks to the future in his regular column of thoughts, and we hope some of you will heed his message.

For the first time we have produced a Christmas card (two actually). Details on how you can get them are on page 9.



That's me done! So before I take a break to recharge the muse I'd like to wish you all the best for the festive season and hope you continue to enjoy the read.

Remember "time flies like an arrow but fruit flies like a banana"!!

Slainte!

Gary Phillips  
Editor

Course	
In This Issue	1
Chairman's Thoughts	2
What We Do!	2
PVG or not PVG?	3
Santa Claus	3
Early Finish	4
Photography	6
Instructor's Tale	7
Odd Photos	8
Xmas Cards	9
Dates For Your Diary	9
Got Something To Say?	9
Membership	9

## THE CHAIRMAN'S THOUGHTS

### WORKING FOR YOU



Some wise man once referred to the best laid plans of mice and men.

When I sat down to engage the one remaining brain cell and prepare this column of thoughts I didn't realise that each time I had a thought the editor would ask me to expand it into a full article. The first two thoughts went that way so I'd better crack on while he's not looking.

In April this year we issued our first ever Strategic Plan to cover the period 2011 to 2013. The plan covers all aspects of our work. So it might seem strange that before the end of the first year we are already thinking beyond 2013 and our work in the longer term.

The most important requirement is to have funding available because without funds we cannot deliver our core programme. We are currently working on identifying ways of securing funding streams as part of the next version of our plan which will take us up to 2016. We will then have our plan in line with that of RYA Scotland. To start the ball rolling we will be sitting down with RYA Scotland at about the same time as this edition of starboard hits the streets or the Ethernet!

We still have to get our message across and breakdown barriers to participation. To assist with that we have been invited to participate in RYA Scotland's "Big Weekend" conference and workshops to be held at Largs at the end of February. We will be holding a daily workshop and will also have a static display. There will also be a display in the marina of different types of boat approved for use by sailors with a disability.

Besides this we will still be delivering our programme of regattas and experience days across Scotland.

We are going to be very busy working for you but remember these events cannot be achieved without everyone helping. So it will be very much a case of YOU HELP US TO HELP YOU.



Well that's the end of my final column of 2011. All that is left is for me is to thank you all for your support and to wish you on behalf of Sailability Scotland a very merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Aye!

Merrick

### THIS IS WHAT WE DO!



Smile!

## PVG OR NOT PVG?

On 28 February 2011, the Scottish Government introduced the Protecting Vulnerable Groups (PVG) Scheme, a new membership scheme to replace and improve upon the existing disclosure arrangements for people who work with vulnerable groups. Originally, the scheme, which is administered by the Central Registered Body in Scotland (CRBS) for Disclosure Scotland, was thought to exclude sporting activities but a case history involving Visually Impaired bowlers in its own documentation contradicted that intent.

This led to the question that as sailing is open to a broad range of disabilities which tasks undertaken by "Sailability Volunteers" could be classed as "Regulated Work". On its web site, the Scottish Government defines Regulated Works as "..... the type of work in which a post holder is responsible for the Welfare of a child or protected adult, or where there is a level of trust between the worker and the child or protected adult. IT IS INTENDED TO EXCLUDE POSITIONS WHERE THERE IS NO POSSIBILITY FOR CONTACT OR TRUST, OR WHERE CONTACT IS ONLY FLEETING".

Working together with RYA Scotland and, in particular, Jackie Reid (Human Resources Manager) at the RYA we helped produce a list of role descriptions and tasks which was sent to the CRBS.

All Regulated Work must be "regular", "involve training" and "be done for an organisation". However, the key criterion that defines a task as Regulated Work is the type of assistance given. Where that is on a one to one basis or tailored to an individual, then roles such as "Sailing Buddy" or "crew" qualify as regulated work. It could also be argued that the hoist operator is also doing regulated work. All hoist operators must in any case hold a current "moving and handling" certificate issued by an appropriate body. Volunteers carrying out these tasks on a regular basis are therefore eligible to join the scheme. Personal and welfare assistance remains the responsibility of the individual's carer and not with the Sailability Volunteer.

Volunteers providing assistance to vulnerable adults that is the same as they would provide to an able bodied person, such as checking equipment, boat launch and recovery are not doing regulated work and are not eligible.

For Charities or organisations whose prime object is to deliver a service to vulnerable groups then the Trustees or Office bearers are said to be undertaking

regulated work as they are responsible inter alia for recruitment and policy. Best practice dictates that one Trustee or Office Bearer should join the scheme.

The PVG scheme is not compulsory nor is it the wish of the RYA to make all eligible volunteers join. It is up to each group to decide whether eligible members join but if that group KNOWINGLY recruits a volunteer who is excluded from working with vulnerable groups then the group could be liable for prosecution.

At the time of writing membership of the scheme is restricted to eligible volunteers who have taken up a position since the commencement of the scheme. Eligible volunteers and existing disclosure holders already in post at 28<sup>th</sup> February 2011 cannot apply until February 2012.

Aren't you glad you have finished reading that lot?

## SANTA CLAUS - REGULATED OR NOT?

Well, both actually!!!

Each year the Big Store engages an individual from "Santas 'r' us" to spend the six weeks running up to Christmas dressed as Santa Claus and operating its grotto. This is classed as part of this individual's "normal duties" and thus constitutes Regulated Work.

Meanwhile Frugal & Son press gang a member of staff. This year they have persuaded old Tompkins from Haberdashery to don the suit and whiskers and man the grotto. Although he is doing the same task this is an ad hoc appointment and not part of his normal duties. Therefore Tompkins is not undertaking Regulated Work!

Our Elfin Safety and Wellbeing expert advises that "Obviously, there are simple practical measures around lines of sight etc with regard to the setting up of Santa's grotto which can help to minimise any (perception of) risk". So that's alright, then?



## AN EARLY FINISH!

In the normal order of things the final traveller of the season takes place after the UK Championships, a sort of Lord Mayor's Show and muck cart scenario. This year the venue for the UKs had to be changed and the only available date just happened to be the same weekend as our last traveller. Luckily we were able to change date without changing venue.



In all fourteen sailors took part in the five events comprising seven sailors in each fleet. Additionally two of the regular buddies Ann Ritchie and Keith Wilson sailed solo at Loch Insh and SOCC respectively.

The series again attracted sailors from England with Graham Hall taking part in three events which he not only won but also won every race!! We were also pleased to welcome Wendy Needham back to SOCC.



Of the fourteen sailors nine competed in the two or more events required to register a valid entry and six went on to complete four or more events and thus will receive a commemorative plaque in recognition of their efforts. The winner was Alex Hodge by a margin of five points ahead of Liz Eaton. How much different it might have been had the owners of the B&B not decided to get the builders in thus causing Liz to miss

Castle Semple. The other prize winners were John McPartlin, Graham Ritchie, Ruth Foley and Paul Noble. Well done to all!

The first two events were covered in the last issue so what happened in the rest?

SOCC was slightly different this year as for the first time the Saturday reception and dinner was replaced by a leisurely late lunch on Sunday. This went down well as not only were we able to have a longer sailing day on Saturday but everyone was able to get their boats packed away before sitting down to lunch.

This year's event was particularly special as we were able to pay respects to the contribution made by the late John Heron by awarding a trophy in his name to the winner of the helpers' race. The trophy was awarded to Elspeth Mann who fittingly belongs to Clyde Cruising Club, Bardowie which was John's old stomping ground. The trophy was presented by the outgoing Provost of North Lanarkshire, Tom Curley.



The main programme of races was dominated by Graham Hall who won all five though he "had to work hard all the way" he said! Behind him came everybody else but not necessarily in the order of finishing apart from those in bronze fleet who regularly followed the solo sailors home. To put it succinctly Graham won and the rest .... didn't!!!

The fleet moved on to Fort William at the end of July. We were given the familiar warm welcome and this was matched by the weather, particularly on Saturday which given a reasonable breeze resulted in some close racing. There was little wind on Sunday which saw the fleet becalmed with Liz Eaton agonisingly short of the finishing line. Not even the tide could help. In the last race one sailor gave up and retired before the start due to a lack of wind. By the time we got the boat de rigged the breeze had filled in nicely!!



The event was won by Alex Hodge with Graham Ritchie taking the honours in Bronze. The results for the places were once again put under scrutiny. Despite the guidelines being clear on the matter Lochaber insist on keeping the fleet results separate, i.e. there are two firsts for each race. Unlike another place they do keep the race times so it is easy to decompile the results to produce the true finishing order. Under the Lochaber method Ruth Foley was awarded second in Bronze by a margin of three points over David Whitter, whereas the correct method showed that there was a tie between Ruth and David which should have been broken in David's favour due to his finishing second overall in race 4.



Could we get away without another rules dispute at Loch Earn? Graham Hall once again ventured north, won every race, said how difficult it was and went home with a big trophy! (We definitely need a bigger duck!!!) Behind him solo sailors filled the next three places with Paul Noble splitting the four bronze sailors by finishing seventh overall. In bronze fleet the eventual winner was Jamie Scott despite retiring from the first race as his boat was full of water. I say eventual winner as there was a tie for first place which was broken in favour of Graham Ritchie. Subsequently once the results were analysed back at HQ it was found that the abacus used was infected

with wet rot which had resulted in a case of asymmetric balls. (It is curable!). The scores were recalculated and the tie broken in favour of Jamie.



(Photo: E McPartlin)

Ah well, we tried, but mistakes do happen. There's always next year.



"Eee! That's our Champion."

## LIKE PHOTOGRAPHY?

Nudge, nudge. We like photography. We like people to take photographs of our activities, the travellers, experience days or whatever else we get up to, and send them to us. To be fair we take a lot ourselves and we have had some good contributions. But there can be a problem - too many pictures can look the same particularly with a small fleet. It becomes difficult to pick a good selection for each edition of *starboard*.



Remember events are usually more than just on water. Boats have to be assembled and taken down again. They have to be launched and recovered. There are people involved and prizes to be given. If you are taking photographs at an event then consider the whole picture. Look for the unusual and try and tell the whole story.



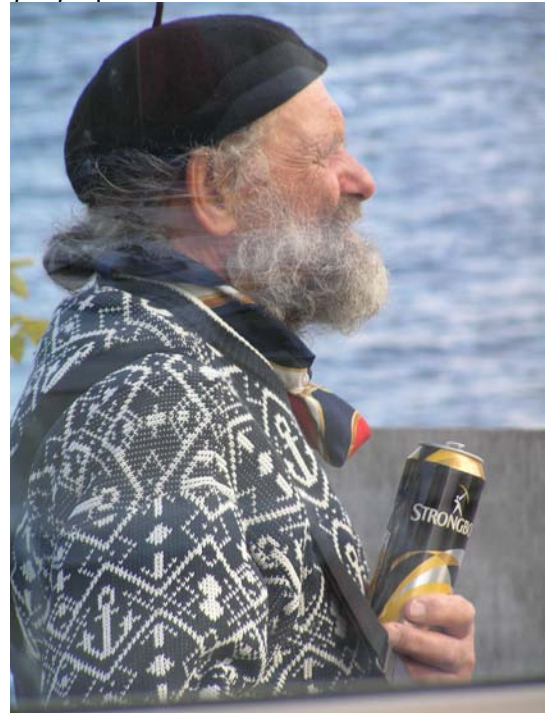
I would just end on a note of caution about on-water photographs. These often provide the best images but have been known to be taken from safety boats. Please remember that unless you have an experienced safety boat crew member aboard or indeed are that crew member then a safety boat with a photographer is not a safety boat and as such is diluting vital cover for the sailors.

We value your contributions.



## A COUPLE OF ODD PHOTOS

They say a picture is worth a thousand words.



## THE INSTRUCTOR'S TALE

Once upon a time there was a lonely prince called Nomait. One day he was sat by the roadside looking sad when along came Squire Waterbucket on his horse. "Why do you look so sad, young prince?" "Well, Squire I'd really like to do something for those less able. There are two old boats on the lake but I don't know what to do. Can you help?" "I'll say! Show me the boats and I'll tell you what I can do".



"They are a bit rough but a bit of new rope and some elbow grease will make them usable. Now while you do that I'll go and inform the people what is going to happen". "You mean put out a poster and handbills". "Nay lad, I'll visit taverns and markets and tell them in person". "On the day I'll bring some people who know what they are doing to help get the villagers on the water". The Prince looked on dumbly.



On the day folk came from far and wide. Some were indeed old and others even older riding on mechanical horses singing songs about wanderlust and small white alpine flowers. The Prince looked on as the Squire introduced himself. His eyes were drawn to a young princess who was hanging on to every word.

The day was so successful that the Squire gathered the good folk together and asked if they wanted this to continue. They said they did but some were not keen on being on a committee. In the end the Prince and the Princess together with a quiet and sensible goodwife from a neighbouring hamlet agreed to run the group.



To help them on their way the Squire sought wise counsel from the Bishop who knew a bit about these things and received in return a sheaf of parchment marked with the Bishop's seal. "Take these documents", said the Squire, "for they will show you the way and if you follow them your group will prosper".

"Thank you, Squire", said the Prince and they all lived happily ever after ..... Or did they?



After a promising start it became apparent that the Prince and Princess did not get on. She began to do things her way and gathered about her a coterie who shared her point of view. She stole the Prince's files and called herself "Scribe". She took the key to the secret box and prevented him from getting messages. She even made up her own versions of key documents. The Prince pleaded with the Bishop on a daily basis. He seemed at the end of his wit. All the advice was being ignored. The goodwife was uneasy about the lack of funding as the Squire was expecting his fee. "We must raise taxes", said the Prince. "No", said the Princess, "those who help us in a material way must not pay and that includes me!"



It had been agreed that after a twelvemonth had passed the villagers would meet to see how well they had done. The Bishop provided written advice on how such a gathering should be conducted. The Princess binned it! "I know what I'm doing", she cried to her reflection in the mirror.

On the day the good folk gathered to hear the reports unaware of what was looming. It started well but then came the time for the people to show that they were happy. The Prince had already resigned as Scribe and the Princess was stepping down from the Chair. Replacements were needed. Nobody volunteered.

The Princess stood up. "I appoint he that is known by the name 'Instructor' as Chair. Anybody disagree? No! That's that then I'm aff!"

The Prince tried to protest as the Instructor was away but he was told to button it! Somehow having stood down as Scribe he found himself as Chancellor as the Goodwife had had enough.

The Princess had one parting shot. "Before I go I'd like to talk about dis...." The end was lost as the Prince began ranting like a ranting person! Many of the villagers left before it got ugly. They could stand ranting but drew the line at cats and broken chair legs. Some held the Prince responsible (i.e. by the throat)!



When the Instructor returned he promised Squire Waterbucket that he would make every effort to unite the villagers and make a success of the venture. He felt that some would only return if the Prince was banished from the land. He had done his bit but now was the time to go. Maybe then we might have a happy ending!

Remember that this is a Fairy Story.

It didn't really happen, did it?

## SOME MORE PHOTOS



## CHRISTMAS CARDS

Help support your Charity this Christmas by sending your friends and associates a Christmas Card. Two designs are available featuring the following photographs in a festive setting.



The cards are available from Paul Noble and can be ordered by sending your order details to the editor on [sailability.scotland@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:sailability.scotland@tiscali.co.uk) or by post with remittance to the Edinburgh Office.

The cards cost £3.50 for a pack of 10 plus £1 per order to assist with postage.

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

### RYA SAILABILITY SCOTLAND AGM 2012

The AGM will be held on Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> February 2012 at Clyde Cruising Club, Bardowie.

**RYA SCOTLAND BIG WEEKEND**  
25<sup>th</sup>/26<sup>th</sup> February 2012 - Largs

**RYA SCOTLAND SPRING CHAMPIONSHIP**  
24<sup>th</sup>/25<sup>th</sup> March 2012 - Largs Sailing Club

**SCOTTISH CHALLENGER TRAVELLER SERIES**  
Dates T.B.A.

## GOT SOMETHING TO SAY?

Please contribute to the next newsletter. Share your sailing adventures; write about why sailing is so important to you. Are we getting it right?

Contributions (in Word format) should be submitted to the editor by the copy date shown on this page. Photographs should be supplied in jpeg format.

Articles are submitted on the understanding that *starboard* will be published on the RYA Scotland website ([www.ryascotland.org.uk/sailability](http://www.ryascotland.org.uk/sailability)).

A contribution is accepted on the basis that its author is responsible for the opinions expressed in it and such opinions are not necessarily those of RYA Sailability Scotland.

Articles should be sent to the Editor at [sailability.scotland@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:sailability.scotland@tiscali.co.uk)

## MEMBERSHIP

Membership of RYA Sailability Scotland is open to all properly constituted clubs or groups providing sailing exclusively for people with a disability, any sailing club or group that accepts people who are disabled into membership and any individual who is interested in what we do.

For further details on the benefits of membership and current fees please contact:

*Gary Phillips*  
*Hon Secretary*  
*RYA Sailability Scotland*  
*Caledonia House*  
*1 Redheughs Rigg*  
*Edinburgh EH12 9DQ*

*Tel: 0131 317 7388*  
*Email: [sailability@ryascotland.org.uk](mailto:sailability@ryascotland.org.uk)*  
*[www.ryascotland.org.uk/sailability](http://www.ryascotland.org.uk/sailability)*

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