

The logo for the Royal Yachting Association (RYA) is displayed in a bold, white, sans-serif font. The letters 'R' and 'Y' are connected, and the 'A' is also connected to the 'Y'. The logo is centered on a dark blue background with a subtle, textured pattern of water ripples.

RYA

Volunteer Awards

2021

**RECOGNISING OUTSTANDING
CONTRIBUTIONS WITHIN OUR SPORT**



Congratulations and a huge thank you



“ For the past 9 years I have been privileged to be part of and witness the annual RYA Volunteer Award Ceremony and each year the contribution from all recipients is simply outstanding.

This year is no different. Each one of you listed in this booklet has been nominated by your fellow volunteers, club members and members of the boating community in appreciation of your dedication which has exceeded expectations.

We understand that this year has been extremely challenging, and we have been grateful to see activity restarting and people getting back afloat, none of which would be possible without the support and expertise of volunteers. It is my pleasure to acknowledge and celebrate your work through these awards. Thank you. ”

DAVE STRAIN, INTERIM CEO

RYA HONORARY LIFE MEMBERSHIP 2021



Honorary Life Membership is the Association's highest award. It is presented to those individuals who have made an extraordinary and unique contribution to the RYA and to the sport.



RICHARD LANGFORD OBE

RYA Council/RYA Foundation

Richard joined the RYA Council as Chairman of the Windsurfing Committee in 1995. He was elected as Honorary Treasurer in 1999, became Deputy Chairman of Council in 2004 and went on to serve as Chairman from 2007 to 2011. He was then appointed as Chairman of the Trustees of the RYA Foundation. He became Treasurer as the World Class Programme was coming into full effect, bringing considerable funding into the Association's Olympic effort. This placed a significant strain on the financial management of the RYA, at the same time other financial challenges needed addressing. Richard managed these challenges, and by the end of his term as Treasurer, the Association's turnover had increased from £7m to £11m and net assets had grown from £1.5m to £2.5m.

When he became Deputy Chairman, the Association was able to invest in developing the sport by funding the OnBoard programme. As Chairman, he oversaw crucial strategic initiatives including the purchase of the buildings at Portland and the introduction of the RYA Community Awards.

In 2012 he accepted the challenge of building a new RYA Foundation to offer boating to those with disadvantages and disabilities. He restored the finances of RYA Sailability, recruited younger trustees and built a strategic plan, leaving behind him a revitalised organisation.

Richard's wise advice, warm and unflustered personal style in the face of adversity, and especially his support and consideration for the Association's staff have been much appreciated. Richard will retire at the end of this year and he leaves the organisation vastly different from the one he joined. Focused on serving the interests of its members, and promoting all aspects of the sport, it has been recognised by other national governing bodies and the Sports Councils as a leader in the sector. A fitting tribute to the contribution he has made.



RYA AWARD 2021 – NATIONAL



RYA Awards are presented to outstanding individuals for their commitment and services to boating and the RYA at a national level.

ROB CAGE

UKLA



Rob has been instrumental in leading the UKLA (formerly UK Laser Class Association) over the last four years, through a very challenging period, initially as Vice Chair and now Chair. He has transformed the Committee, rewriting the constitution and updating the website and electronic media. He has been influential in rekindling strong relationships between the association and the RYA, LaserPerformance, and other organisations.

His open, inclusive style has created an environment where a broad base of volunteers readily supports UKLA events. The committee is now motivated to drive forward positive initiatives to re-engage with the grass roots membership and increase participation in sailing, while maintaining the achievements of the high-performance end of the class. He has led several initiatives to help club sailors, including UKLA-led club training. While Covid-19 severely impacted racing throughout 2020, he nevertheless led a hugely successful UKLA National Championship.

Rob's outstanding leadership and effort over the past four years has resulted in the class's continued success. 2021 has seen its 50th anniversary and thanks to him, the foundations are set for the next 50 years.

JOHN SCOTT

RYA Board



John served with distinction for six years on the RYA Board, retiring at the 2020 AGM. He was the unanimous choice of the directors when an interim Chair was required in 2018, and the normal four-year term was extended by two years to allow him to manage the recruitment and induction of the new Chair. He subsequently also took up the Senior Independent Director role.

His knowledge of professional level sport and the pathway to performance has been honed from a lifetime of personal sailing and supporting his children through to Olympic gold. He has a unique understanding of what is required at amateur and professional levels. This, partnered with long-standing sports governance tenure, is a potent mix.

John's wise counsel and tremendous commitment have been invaluable to the Board. He shows kindness, wisdom and willingness to help other team members through his mentorship. He makes time for people, pushing his arguments with passion, but always cordially and with respect. He also volunteers as a Director of the Weymouth and Portland National Sailing Academy.

RICHARD THOMPSON

RYA Racing Rules Committee



Richard was first appointed to the RYA Racing Rules Committee in 1998 and became Vice Chair in 2002. He has led the Committee's Submissions Sub-Team and was appointed onto the ISAF Racing Rules Committee in 2005. Since then, he has been the key contact in the rules submission process, as well as serving as the Principal Official of the UK Team Racing Association for over ten years.

Responsible for organising the National Team Racing Championships for many years for the Prince Philip Trophy, and chaired both the Team Racing Working Party (since 2009) and the Racing Rules Working Party (since 2013) of World Sailing, stepping down only this year. He has also supported and shown exceptional commitment to team racing, volunteering at many school, university and club team racing events as an umpire.

Richard has attended nearly 200 RYA committee meetings in London, always demonstrating diligence and attention to detail. His contribution has had a significant impact on the sport of sailing, both nationally and internationally.

RYA AWARD 2021 – REGIONAL



RYA Awards are presented to outstanding individuals for their commitment and services to boating and the RYA at a regional level.

MIKE BUTTERFIELD

RYA Cymru Wales



Mike has volunteered for over 50 years ago and has been involved with the Welsh Yachting Association (now RYA Cymru Wales) since 1973. Initially as the Anglesey representative on the Management committee, he has served continuously on the Board and currently holds the position of Chair. He is also RYA Race Management Co-ordinator for North Wales.

Always available to help with all aspects of club and association administration and governance, he has also provided invaluable assistance with race management, and in particular racing documentation. He has supported many local, national and international events over the years, and continues to volunteer as an International Race Officer, International Umpire and International Judge. He supports the RYA Environment and Sustainability programme by advising on planning and strategic implementation of Welsh Government policies, and is a trustee of All Afloat, the charity partner to RYA Cymru Wales.

Mike's passion for, and dedication to, the sport and his knowledge of all things legal and boating have been of great value to the Board throughout the many years he has dedicated to it.



RYA FAMILY AWARD 2021



The RYA Family Award is presented to a family group 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.



JO, KEITH, FFION & JAC BAILEY

Port Dinorwic Sailing Club (Clwb Hwyllo Y Felinheli)

Jo and Keith joined Port Dinorwic Sailing Club (PDSC) (Clwb Hwyllo Y Felinheli) in 2002.

Jo has been involved in the training programme and the Committee, served as the club's first female commodore in 2015-16 and is currently Chief Instructor and Welfare Officer. She was instrumental in setting up the 'Pirates' programme in 2013 when her children, Ffion and Jac, were little; they were amongst the first cohort of juniors who are now

Assistant Instructors. She went on to develop youth training, attracting many families to the club. She has represented PDSC at RYA conferences and regional committee meetings.

Keith, a very experienced sailor and Offshore Cruising Instructor, frequently mans the safety boat, is ever-present during club social events and leads on working parties.



Ffion (15) and Jac (13), both went through the

Pirates system and have continued to race at the club for a number of years. In 2019, Ffion finished in the top ten at the Tera Pro World Championships, while Jac won the RS Tera Sport World Championships in Sweden. They were set to go to the 2020 World Championships in South Africa before the pandemic struck. Both enjoy taking people out for a sail and offering advice during the club's Friday night open sailing sessions. They

are keen participants in all club working parties and Ffion is also a youth representative on the club committee.



Jo and Jac both offer volunteer support to the Conway Centre disabled group, running on-the-water sessions in the evenings, and the whole family participates in club events, including eSailing. They also showed great kindness and support to a club member who needed assistance during the 2020 lockdown. As a family, they are leading figures in the life of the club.

FRANCIS ELKIN AWARD 2021



The Francis Elkin Award is presented each year in recognition of making a significant contribution in time, effort and personal endeavour to enable people with disabilities to become involved in sailing.

GERRY CAMPBELL

able2sail SCIO



Gerry is a founding trustee of able2sail where she held the position of Chairperson for 15 years. Through her stewardship, the charity developed from a small group of volunteers providing weekend sailing opportunities aboard a chartered yacht to an operation which is supported by over 60 volunteers, and a fleet of dinghies and its own specially commissioned yacht. It offers a comprehensive programme of sailing for disabled communities and families.

Gerry has worked tirelessly over the years, fulfilling roles as diverse as crew member, event organiser, fundraiser and trustee. With a professional background in the education of young

people with disabilities, she has always ensured that the charity retains an unwavering focus on its core aim of enabling people with disabilities to participate in sailing. Her enthusiasm is infectious and, through her role as an RYA Sailability Disability Awareness Trainer, she has played an important part in providing the next generation of volunteers with the skills necessary to support sailors with disabilities.

The success of the charity's Youth Forum project stands as a particular testament to Gerry's contribution. Her support of this project has enabled young people with disabilities to participate in a range of RYA training courses and sailing activities, including the Special Olympic World Games in Abu Dhabi.

Whilst she recently retired as Chair, she still supports the work of able2sail through her role as Client Co-ordinator, where she will continue to act as the lead point of contact between able2sail and the community.

Gerry embodies the greatest qualities of a volunteer, bringing an inspiring level of dedication and passion to the role. The impact which she has had on the lives of disabled young people and adults cannot be overstated, working behind the scenes and always putting others first.



Francis Elkin was a former Chairman of the 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.

RYA HONOR PRESTON AWARD 2021



The Honor Preston Award is presented each year to an individual who has made a significant contribution in time, effort, and personal endeavour to increase the inclusivity of boating, in particular, although not limited to, female participation.

CARLA, LADY STANLEY OF ALDERLEY

RYA Racing Committee



Carla has been sailing since she was two years-old, firstly with her parents in the family's Enterprise and then Cadets through her school years. At university, she was one of the first female team racers and a driving force in female team racing. At Bowmoor Sailing Club, she and her husband Richard ran an active junior section, open meetings and RYA area championships, as their three daughters grew up. She served on the International Optimist Class Association UK committee, becoming a Squad Selector and Chair of Selectors. As her girls moved into 420s, Carla became Chair of the UK class for two years and also served as Vice President (Europe) and Treasurer of the International

Optimist Dinghy Association. She was a team leader on several occasions and excelled in getting numerous sailors, boats and RIBs to various international events.

Carla joined the RYA Youth Racing Committee, completing two terms before becoming Chair for four years. She set a target to achieve gender equality, which she succeeded in doing in both the Racing and Youth Racing Committees, while wider equality issues were vastly improved across a host of other RYA committees with her gentle persuasion. Her mediation skills and expertise, which she practised for the Equalities and Human Rights Commission, were very helpful on more than one occasion during her tenure.

Her contribution to the 470 race team at the 2012 Olympics was invaluable, and she was an early adopter of Twitter to receive results and updates to shore.

Carla is a true ambassador for the sport, striving for progressive improvements. For over 20 years she has stood for fairness, with high standards and expectations of both herself and others and a direct, no-nonsense style which always evokes much respect.



NIGEL AUSTIN

Cransley Sailing Club



Nigel has been an active committee member at Cransley Sailing Club for over 30 years, raising funds to upgrade the club house and buy club boats and stand-up paddleboards. He was Sailing Principal for several years when his encouragement allowed the youth section to grow in strength and confidence. Currently Commodore, he is negotiating the club's lease and leads from the front to get jobs done.

During 2020 he made sure that members could attend the club to sail in a Covid-secure way during restrictions. He also introduced stand-up paddleboards, increasing membership dramatically, and he encouraged paddleboarders to try sailing. Keen to support sailors with disabilities, he has obtained a grant to build a wheelchair accessible toilet and changing room.

Nothing is too much trouble for Nigel, and he will always give time to help someone, both on and off the water. His drive and can-do attitude were never more needed than in 2020 when everyone was struggling with their mental health – he is the glue that keeps the club together.

RICHARD BOWER

Olton Mere Sailing Club



Richard has volunteered at Olton Mere Sailing Club for over 20 years. He has played an integral role as a Senior Instructor, teaching people of all ages to sail, both through the RYA recognised training centre and by running ad-hoc training sessions when he is available. More recently, he has taken on the additional responsibility of the club's fleet of training and safety boats.

Bringing a wealth of experience from his previous roles at other watersports centres, he readily shares his knowledge to ensure that operating procedures and sailing equipment are maintained to the highest standard. During the pandemic he upgraded the safety boat to ensure it complied with restrictions and stepped into the role of Safety Officer.

Richard is a great motivator in sailing and also stand-up paddleboarding, which has become increasingly popular at the club thanks to his good example and help. A true ambassador to grassroots sailing, he has supported others through the past, difficult year, despite his own work concerns, going the extra mile for sailors, paddlers and the club.

LEO BRIDGER

King George V Reservoir Sailing Club



Leo has been a valuable member of King George V Reservoir Sailing Club for almost 40 years, serving on Council three times, always assuming the roles that require hard graft, commitment and effort. He quietly and consistently undertakes all manner of 'behind the scenes' maintenance tasks which keep the club going, without seeking recognition or reward.

He has saved the club thousands of pounds by completing works to the pontoons and roofs, organising waste removal, isolating a mains water leak, and cleaning and fixing rescue boat engines. During the lockdown he single-handedly replaced all the changing room doors, repaired toilets, improved shower plumbing and undertook much-needed repairs to the club house changing block.

Leo is a first-class sailor, happy to share his extensive knowledge with novice and youth sailors, and he often forgoes his own sailing in order to cover rescue or race officer duties. He can be relied upon to step up and help at a moment's notice. Capable of turning his hand to anything, he always ensures the general safety of all at the club.

ALAN BRUNNING

Eyott Sailing Club



Alan has served on the committee of Eyott Sailing Club in many different capacities for over 27 years. As Commodore, he worked tirelessly for two years to negotiate a lease renewal with the local authority as well as running a membership recruitment drive to ensure the club's long-term future.

He maintains the club's equipment, fully servicing and maintaining the outboard motors for two safety boats and is a highly skilled woodworker who supports other club members with their own boat repairs. He also helped the local Air Cadets to build a Heron dinghy and was instrumental in allowing local youth groups to learn to sail at the club. He is equally generous on the water, delighting in introducing new people to the joys of sailing, and will even sacrifice an opportunity to win a race to enable a new member to crew for him.

Alan's natural leadership qualities engender a sense of trust and his enthusiasm and unstinting work have brought the joy of sailing into the lives of countless people over the years.



CHARLES COOPER

Guernsey Yacht Club



Charles has been an active member of Guernsey Yacht Club for over 50 years. He continued to sail his Finn at an age when others had given up sailing or moved to more comfortable boats and there are many trophies in the club engraved with his name. He has always encouraged the club's junior members, long after his own children had moved on from junior sailing.

Unable to sail in recent years, he qualified as an RYA Race Officer and has assisted at large events in the UK, mentored other club members and remained the only Regional Race Officer in the Channel Islands, until he stood down at the end of 2020. His knowledge of race management, the racing rules and sailing event management have been invaluable to the club and he has encouraged other sailors to follow this path.

Charles' level of interest and attention to detail was the glue that held the club's sailing events together. He earned the respect of competitors and the gratitude of the Sailing Committee and the club as a whole.

RICHARD CURTIS

Plymouth & Devon Schools Sailing Association



Richard first volunteered to help with school sailing activity weeks at Plymouth & Devon Schools Sailing Association (PDSSA) over 20 years ago. An experienced dinghy sailor, he was extremely popular amongst the youngsters in his charge. He is also highly skilled in the upkeep of marine craft and engines and takes the lead in maintenance sessions and running repairs.

He was instrumental in starting up PDSSA Sailability and, as Sailability Officer, has gradually grown it, helping the association to acquire a Drascombe Longboat, a 5m RIB that can accommodate a wheelchair and an electrically assisted hoist. He has built up close ties with a local group for physically and mentally disabled people and a limbless ex-service association and conducts regular weekly sessions afloat with people from both organisations, with excellent results.

Unflappable, with a great sense of humour, Richard has helped everyone who wants to learn and get on the water and goes to great lengths to cater for every need. He is a highly valued volunteer who has given many hours of his time each year to help disabled sailors spend time enjoying experiences afloat.

ROBIN EBSWORTH

Bembridge Sailing Club



Robin has been a member of Bembridge Sailing Club for 30 years and was the Honorary Secretary of the Bembridge Redwing Class from 2007 to 2013. As a Director of Redwing Quay Ltd he has contributed significantly to ensuring that this unique facility has been maintained for the benefit of the class.

Always happy to help anyone wanting to sail a Redwing or an Illusion, his friendly nature and eagerness to assist others is legendary; nothing is too much trouble. He regularly volunteers as a Race Officer and, at 82, continues to be in the thick of it on the race course, regardless of the conditions. He is also heavily involved with the RNLI on the Isle of Wight.

Robin has brought a whole generation of sailors along, not only with his seamanship skills but also his patience in training them to use the crane safely. His friendly manner and sailing skills encourage others to follow his example, helping to keep Bembridge Redwings a thriving class of iconic yachts that enhance the Solent wherever they go.

DES GEORGE

Dovey Yacht Club/Clwb Hwyllo Dyfi



Des has been a dynamic member of Dovey Yacht Club for well over 20 years. A longstanding Committee member and Director, he has been Commodore for the past three years, and also Treasurer, modernising the club's systems. During the pandemic, he ran the club almost singlehandedly; fulfilling the roles of Treasurer, Bosun, Bar Steward and Sailing Secretary, he kept it both covid-safe and financially secure, ensuring that all members had an excellent summer of sailing despite the restrictions.

As a Senior Dinghy Instructor he is always keen for children to learn to sail independently, and over the years has built up the number of club Toppers, upgrading them to the highest racing standards and personally maintaining them. He was also instrumental in upgrading and increasing the number of club safety boats, renegotiating leases and developing the club as an RYA recognised training centre.

Known as 'Mr Aberdovey', Des is the heart of the club, approachable and friendly, demonstrating drive, efficiency, friendliness and a willingness to carry out whatever needs to be done.

RYA COMMUNITY AWARDS 2021 LIFETIME COMMITMENT

BRIAN GRUBB

Civil Service Sailing Association



Brian is retiring as Treasurer of the Civil Service Sailing Association after nearly 40 years. During these years he has managed the complex financial affairs of an association with ten divisions throughout England. His clear briefing has allowed informed decisions to be made on the wide range of business conducted and ensured an equitable flow of funds from the association to the clubs.

He has drafted guidance documents that were models of clarity and greatly assisted clubs to manage their finances in a safe and appropriate manner and to render proper accounts. His clear and relevant advice on financial matters has enabled the association to move forward with confidence while making the most of its assets.

Brian has secured leases, allowing the growth of thriving community clubs, and enabled development of the Portsmouth Offshore Group, providing affordable moorings for members on the Solent. It has also sustained the operation of three fully coded club yachts, providing hundreds of cruising berths, and introduced hundreds more to yacht racing. He is patient, methodical and his friendly approach has impressed all who know him.

PETER HOOSON-OWEN

Manx Sailing and Cruising Club



Peter has been a member of the Manx Sailing and Cruising Club since the 1970s. Very much a 'hands-on' person, he has held a number of posts including Club Principal, Rear Commodore, Vice Commodore and Commodore. He has always had an interest in all aspects of sailing on the Isle of Man and represented the club on the Manx Yachting Association.

He is passionate about encouraging youngsters into sailing and was one of the founders of the Manx Youth Sailing Squad in 2008.

A safety boat driver as well as a sailor, he has been involved with numerous events held on the Island and is still always available to man a patrol boat for weekly dinghy sailing, club regattas or training sessions.

Now retired, Peter still sails regularly and loves being involved in everything that's going on, always happy to offer help or advice. He willingly gives up his time at a moment's notice and will turn up to sit in a patrol boat on a cold, wet, windy Sunday morning and still crack jokes.

RYA COMMUNITY AWARDS 2021 LIFETIME COMMITMENT

JOHN KNOPP

Catterick Garrison Sailing Club and Thornton Stewart Sailing Club



John has made an outstanding contribution to sailing throughout his life, sailing from an early age and throughout his time in the Army. Amongst other appointments he was the Secretary for the Army Sailing Association Germany, and Principal of the British Roermond Sailing Club. Since his retirement from the Army, he has given 25 years of absolute dedication to members of the Thornton Stewart Sailing Club and Catterick Garrison Sailing Club.

He has built and maintained the relationship between the two clubs, which not only share the same water, but also the club house, facilities and fleet. As a Senior Instructor, First Aider and Powerboat Instructor and Assessor, he has trained soldiers, families and children. An outstanding role model with boundless energy, he has developed junior instructors, coaching them to improve their skills and motivating them.

Diligent and action-orientated, John uses his wealth of knowledge, experience and connections to support charitable requests to buy new equipment and maintain the existing fleet. He often assists the Bosuns with maintenance when he is not instructing.

JOHN McCANN

Lancashire School Sailing Association



John has been a dedicated and committed member of Lancashire School Sailing Association (LSSA) for more than 45 years. Currently Chair of Trustees, he has held a wide range of posts across the association, having been a driving force in its move to charitable status, and he is central to most of its key relationships.

He is a tireless worker who has secured significant grant funding to support the association. As Project Lead for the LSSA's boathouse development project he has given time, dedication and energy to engage with a wide range of stakeholders, driving the project forward and enabling continued first-class training and development to a growing number of young people.

John has organised and delivered countless sessions as an instructor, and he is committed to providing equitable access to watersports to some of the most diverse, vulnerable and deprived young people within society. His legacy, through the marks he has made on the lives of others, will continue for many years.

STEPHEN NICHOLLS

Mylor Yacht Club



Stephen joined Mylor Yacht Club in 1995, gradually becoming more involved in the club's activities and volunteering whenever things needed to be done. He served on the House and Sailing Committees and was Commodore from 2002-2004 and 2019. He introduced club open days with fun events on the water, while supporting traditional events, including the annual race for Falmouth Oyster Boats in November, and took on a role in the annual club charity pantomime.

He was also Chairman of the Port of Falmouth Sailing Association for five years, co-ordinating the activities of all the clubs in the port and organising a variety of events. Now a trustee of the club, he is a very thorough organiser and Race Officer.

Stephen is a reliable source of information and a good judge of character who would never ask anyone to do something he was not prepared to do himself. His calm, friendly approach, and his view that sailing should be fun for all, afloat and ashore, are reflected in his exceptional commitment to the club.

CDRE DAVID PRESTON OBE (RFA)

Exe Sailing Club



David was a great mentor and supporter of Exe Sailing Club over the past 20 years. He served on the Management Committee and was Commodore from 2014 to 2016. His engineering skills made him an 'on call' mentor for members who needed advice on engine parts and tools, and he kept down club costs by servicing and repairing the club's six RIB engines. He was a key member of the fitout team for club's new Sailability / Committee motorboat.

He was an RYA instructor and took many members through powerboat and engine courses. He was always keen to pass on his considerable knowledge and experience. His natural communication skills made him a popular teacher not just in the classroom but also afloat. He enjoyed sailing and racing his own yacht Maverick and he represented the club on the Lower Exe Moorings Association and the Exe Estuary Management Partnership.

The club benefitted hugely from David's outstanding commitment, knowledge and vision. He always had an eye for what would benefit the club and showed great skill in rallying others to help whenever something needed to get done. He sadly died in July and is greatly missed.

HARRY SAYERS

Draycote Water Sailing Club



Harry was a founder member of Draycote Water Sailing Club in 1969. He acted as GP14 Fleet Captain and served on the Committee in the 1970s, becoming Commodore from 1983-1985 and again in 1996-1998. After this second term he was elected President, a post which he still holds over 20 years later.

His commitment and contribution to the club is summed up by the fact that he has attended every meeting with the landlords during the last 30 years. For him, the role of President is an active duty.

He attends virtually every Committee meeting to listen, provide advice and challenge the committee to consider all aspects of the club and the consequences of decisions.

Harry has served the club tirelessly, offering assistance to new Commodores and committees, engaging with junior members to encourage or pass on his experiences and is always willing to stop and talk to new and old members alike. He is a constant source of wisdom and common sense and invaluable in maintaining the club's success.

JAMES STEVENSON

Teign Corinthian Yacht Club



James has been a member of Teign Corinthian Yacht Club for the last 20 years. A retired builder he has maintained the increasingly elderly clubhouse for most of this time.

When a steady increase in female sailors required the provision of more changing space for them, he volunteered to design and build a new club house for only the cost of the materials. He worked closely with planners on several amendments to the design until planning permission was granted for the two-storey building. After the club's intensive and successful fundraising campaign, he demolished the old building in November 2019 and then worked continually throughout the pandemic, mostly alone, isolating within the construction compound. The result is that he has provided an iconic facility with changing spaces for 26 males and 26 females, a dedicated training room, office, clubhouse and a balcony looking over the finest sailing area on the River Teign.

Through his commitment, determination, vision and enormous effort the club opened a clubhouse worthy of the 21st century and that will be enjoyed by many for years to come.

TONY SUTTON

Himley Hall Sailing Club



Tony has worked tirelessly to support Himley Hall Sailing Club for 20 years, serving on the training team and as Secretary, Trustee, Newsletter Editor and Commodore. An excellent hands-on leader, he takes more than his fair share of responsibility, and is always willing to support and help others.

His work with junior sailors is extensive, assisting with all junior intermediate training and practice sessions, working directly with the youngsters, manning the safety boat, and offering advice. He works extremely hard to encourage people to take up sailing, regularly running taster sessions for youth groups, and has established curriculum sailing lessons for local secondary schools. He has kept an extensive archive of club documents and photographs, but he is equally open to new ideas and initiatives, recognising others' contributions, and has helped to rejuvenate the club and raise its profile.

Tony's calm demeanour and sense of humour encourages confidence. He gives generously of his time to support projects, activities and events at the club, as well as continuing to be an active sailor.

MARTIN WARBURTON

South Staffordshire Sailing Club



Martin joined South Staffordshire Sailing Club in 1996 and has made an immeasurable difference to the club behind the scenes and in elected committee positions. Most notably, he was Commodore for the club's 60th anniversary celebrations in 2014. In the same year, he was instrumental in setting up the Kids Adventurous Activities charity, helping disabled and disadvantaged young people experience water-based activities. He remained a trustee, sailing with the youngsters, until its closure in 2020 due to the pandemic.

He created a club development group, leading to the first formal club development plan, which continues to be a working document today. He supports the club in many ways, not least leading the design and implementation of a new website and then a web-based club management package in 2020.

One of the club's most regular sailors and an RYA Dinghy Instructor, Martin teaches Level 1 and 2 courses every year. He has also volunteered as project manager for extensive building and renovation work at the club. He is held in the highest regard by club members and officials alike.

DAVID WHITE

Ulley Sailing Club



David joined Ulley Sailing Club (USC) in 1991 and became Assistant Bosun in 1995, and then Bosun in 1997. The only break in this role was in 2002-2003 when he served as Commodore. His role covers much more than is traditional, including maintenance of the building and grounds and equipment and boats. He now has a team of Assistant Bosuns eager to learn from him.

He assists with training courses and is also heavily involved with youth training. He is excellent at passing on his knowledge. He has seen USC through some difficult times, particularly in 2007 when Ulley's dam burst and the club was closed for three years. He was instrumental in getting the club back up and running.

As the smiling, welcoming face of USC, Dave is always the first to show new members 'the Ulley way'. His work ethic inspires everyone to play a part and each member of this very diverse club has found a friend in him.



NIGEL ASHWORTH

RS:X / iQFoil Class Association



Nigel has worked tirelessly for the RS:X and iQFoil Class for the past five years. When he took over as Chair of the UK RS:X Class he breathed new life into the association. He reconstituted the class and set up an open training programme for all youth sailors, which led to a dramatic increase in the number of those sailing. The class went from being non-existent to an RYA recognised class. As the Olympic windsurfing class moves to foiling, his determined approach has ensured a successful transition.

He spent hours liaising with sailing clubs, coaches and the RYA to get the best for young sailors. He regularly drove RIBs and equipment around the UK and to southern Europe to support sailors in their training and racing programme. In addition, he worked to keep female athletes within the sport – not only as sailors but also as coaches.

Nigel is selfless, determined, principled and relentless; the only way to replace him would be to split what he does between three or four people.

HEIDI BROW & SHELLEY NELSON

Ballyholme Yacht Club



Heidi and Shelley are committed volunteers at Ballyholme Yacht Club (BYC), engaging with club officers, coaches, instructors and parents and guardians to deliver an enormously successful Cadet Dolphin & Shark programme. They are also the driving force behind the in-house Topper performance race training.

Each week throughout the year they put together the event management for their programmes, find parent volunteers, coaches, and on-the-water personnel. The uptake has been truly remarkable; they regularly see 70-80 cadets afloat and under their leadership the number of Cadets at the club has surpassed all previous records. The Topper fleet has increased from two to 34 in the last two years, and their race training programme has resulted in the club's Cadets making up 50% of the RYA(NI) Topper squad and 40% of the RYA(NI) Laser squad.

Heidi and Shelley are both very well-respected and held in high esteem. They have turned the tide on the club's now vibrant Cadet sailing activity and have helped to provide the foundation for its future success.

KEN CURRY

Foyle Sailability



Ken has spent a lifetime volunteering. Always involved in a fundraising event for his birthday, he has raised thousands of pounds over the years. For the past seven years he has worked selflessly as Secretary with Foyle Sailability, making things happen behind the scenes. Generous with his time and always positive, Ken takes care of maintenance, storage, equipment, sailors and volunteers.

His support has been particularly valuable during the pandemic, when he offered Monday night Zoom Sailability training sessions to those who had to shield. These sessions included technical terminology, wind direction and sailing theory, using quizzes and videos, and helped members stay connected throughout lockdowns and get to know each other better.

Making everyone laugh and ensuring safety, Ken instils confidence and positivity. He demonstrates that sailing is an all-ability sport and while some sailors may be different, they are never any less. He is improving people's lives with his encouragement, energy and 'never give up' spirit. He is an excellent friend and role model.

TONY DALTON

Yorkshire Dales Sailing Club



Tony joined Yorkshire Dales Sailing Club ten years ago. Quick to learn and very resourceful, he was soon volunteering for safety boat duties and helping to maintain the powerboats and vehicles used to tow RIBs. His expertise and dedication were quickly recognised, and he joined the Committee, becoming Bosun.

He has been instrumental in sorting out the club's heating and water systems, and has stripped down engines, put new buoys on the water, sourced and installed a weather station with links to the club website and webcams, and much more. In 2020 he took on the onerous role of club Covid Officer, researching and interpreting the copious and ever-changing Government guidelines, helping to formulate club policy, sourcing cleaning materials and protective equipment and developing Covid-safe protocols. During lockdowns he also oversaw the refurbishment of the changing rooms.

Always positive and constructive, Tony has earned enormous respect from the committee and other members. He has increasingly contributed to the club's development with his wise judgement, thorough and meticulous approach and amazing work ethic.

CHARLOTTE DAVIES

South Staffordshire Sailing Club



Charlotte and her family joined South Staffordshire Sailing Club in 2001. Not an active sailor, she took on the management of the galley, which is open 52 weeks of the year. She found volunteers to fill the duty roster, stepping in herself at short notice whenever needed, and ensured that hot food was available in the coldest weather.

After ten years, she became Lady Commodore, supporting her husband Mike as Commodore, but in 2014 she returned to galley management and joined the House Committee. Even during personal difficulties, she steadfastly contributed to running the club house and event catering for numerous social events until standing down at the beginning of 2021.

Charlotte has demonstrated that galley duty is one of the best ways to integrate into the club and has been a familiar and friendly face to many new members. She is selfless, supportive and very capable and the club has been richly rewarded by her dedication and skills.

ELLIE GADES

National Schools Sailing Association



Ellie has volunteered with the National Schools Sailing Association (NSSA) for over ten years and has made a huge impact as Equalities Officer. She identified a large discrepancy between male and female participation. Her goal, using the resources of the NSSA, was to increase female participation from the grass roots up.

In winter 2014-15 she successfully trialled all-girls training with her local team, Oxfordshire, run by female coaches. This saw the team's female participation improve from 29% to 52% in a year, without reducing the number of male participants. This led her to introduce a grant programme for local associations wanting to increase their female participation. She also implemented the Topper Long Term Loan, which, through the NSSA, provides a Topper to disadvantaged young sailors for a year – the most sought-after of its support schemes.

Ellie's commitment to the NSSA and championing of the equality, diversity and inclusion of young people has had a significant positive impact on the young people who sail at NSSA events.

JANE HILL

Starcross Yacht Club



Jane has been a member of Starcross Yacht Club for nine years and the Chair of the junior section for most of that time. In her role, she has managed adult volunteer RYA instructors, helpers and supporters and liaised with the club committee and junior teams.

She has not neglected her own skills, completing her RYA Senior Dinghy Instructor and RYA Safety Boat qualifications, despite covid restrictions. Her enthusiasm is infectious and the club's Junior training sessions are always well supported. She has inspired many young people, some of whom have become very competent sailors, powerboat drivers and dinghy instructors before they have left school. She is also responsible for the club's successful grant application from the Eric Twiname Trust to purchase Optimist dinghies for training.

Jane has been an outstanding volunteer at the club, finding the time to organise sail training, seeing to the needs of the participants, and making sure the club boats are maintained to a good standard.

JOHN AND ELIZABETH MAUNDER

Flushing Sailing Club



John and Elizabeth have been members of Flushing Sailing Club since 1994 and volunteers for the last 15 years. They are an indomitable team, contributing enormously to getting racing reinstated in Falmouth when restrictions eased after the first pandemic lockdown.

John is an accomplished committee vessel skipper, Deputy Race Officer and Race Officer; he served as club Commodore 2017-2020. Elizabeth is an equally accomplished timekeeper and VHF announcer. As Covid restrictions eased, they formed an Ops Room 'bubble' and took care of everything to ensure guidelines were followed and the club house was safe. They started and finished keelboat pursuit races from the club line within Falmouth inner harbour and later moved two-handed operations to their boat, Melkin, to lay bespoke starting lines in the outer harbour.

The couple's 'can do' attitude and contribution also included running a weekend one-design event at St Mawes Sailing Club and the annual three-day championship event for Sunbeams in Falmouth Bay. The impact of their combined efforts is immeasurable, enhancing the club's reputation, encouraging new members and providing uplifting experiences to the community.

WILLIE PATTERSON

Solway Yacht Club



Willie was appointed Cadet Officer of the Solway Yacht Club in 2012. This was at a time when membership had been diminishing, Cadet Week entries were dwindling and no training available. He reversed the decline, helping to reintroduce RYA training, organise multiple off-the-water events and spread enthusiasm widely.

To aid the transition between training and racing he also introduced cadets' race coaching, as well as on-the-water games, treasure hunts and beach parties. As a result, Cadet Week has built up to an over-subscribed, week-long event involving 70 children. He has also been instrumental in developing and running the club's Sailing Scholarship programme, which awards disadvantaged young people a fully funded opportunity to learn to sail, building confidence and self-esteem. During lockdowns, he was one of a team keeping online activities vibrant.

Mentoring the current Cadet Officer, Willie is now Social Secretary and one half of volunteer chef duo, helping to revitalise the club's social life and increase club funds and charity donations. He is a 'Pied Piper' for the cadets and a culinary inspiration.

ANDY PAVEY

Brading Haven Yacht Club



Andy joined Brading Haven Yacht Club in 2014 when he volunteered to join the 'Last of the Summer Wine' group of retired engineers who carry out maintenance work on the club boats and pontoons. Since 2019 he has overseen the group and has kept them motivated via Zoom, despite the disruption of lockdown.

An experienced mechanical engineer and currently Facilities Captain on the Onshore Committee, Andy uses his expertise to help keep the club boats, support boats and committee boats running all year round. He consistently gives significant amounts of his time and expertise to support all areas of the club, helping to manage its limited resources and allow others to enjoy the sport he loves.

Always happy to give support and advice to members, both on the water and ashore, Andy is a positive and motivational volunteer. Any task or job has his full attention, which is vital for keeping the club running. He makes a huge difference, and still finds time on race days to help on a RIB or committee boat.

KEN PORTER

Weymouth & Portland National Sailing Academy



Ken has volunteered at Weymouth & Portland National Sailing Academy (WPNSA), and Chesil Sailability, since 2013. He is known to thousands of competitors in his role as lead operator of the 'Bridge', radio room, providing the vital link between on the water and ashore.

Typically, the first volunteer on site each day, it is not unusual for him also to be the last to leave. His calm, level-headed and diplomatic approach is one of his greatest attributes at the many events hosted at WPNSA, including the Youth Nationals, Olympic Class regattas and RYA Sailability events. He is always fully in tune with the academy's procedures and expectations.

At the heart of the Bridge team, Ken is a reassuring presence, with the ability to keep ahead of incidents, making sure that the entire race management team can maintain awareness of developing situations. His reassuring voice over the PA system is instantly recognisable.

JONATHAN STEVENSON

Blind Sailing UK



Jonathan has volunteered with charity Blind Sailing UK from a young age and works hard to train visually impaired sailors, recognising the potential in everyone. He has competed with Jonny Cormack in the B3 team at World Championships for the last decade, where they have consistently retained their silver title.

He persuaded his local club, South Cerney Sailing Club, to host the 2019 Blind Nationals and offer the charity full membership. Bringing CrossFit into Blind Sailing, he has provided the sailors with access to fitness and nutrition. Throughout lockdown he collaborated daily with other members to ensure the charity was up to date on guidance, involved members with online weekly activities, created a policy for a safe return to the water, and provided some great, safe sailing fun.

Jonathan is a young man who wants to help everyone he meets and is always looking for new ideas. Providing calm words of confidence, he inspires all with his 'can-do' attitude. He has taken the heart of the charity and grown it.

ALAN TODD

Crawley Mariners Yacht Club



Alan has been an active, racing member of Crawley Mariners Yacht Club for many decades. Currently Estate Manager, he oversees regular maintenance work and refurbished the club's floating racing platform.

During the winter of 2019-2020 he volunteered to project manage and helped complete the refurbishment of the club's changing rooms, showers and heating system. He worked closely with a local builder and helped on all areas of the build, from quantities and materials to deliveries. This saved the club a significant amount of money and ensured the best specification at an affordable cost. He also provided up-to-date financial reporting to the Committee and kept everyone fully informed on progress.

Full of enthusiasm and energy, Alan spent many hours on this project and did an outstanding job. The refurbishment was completed on time and on budget, and thanks to him, the club now has excellent changing, showering and toilet facilities as well as a warmer clubhouse and plenty of hot water.

ANNE WAGSTAFF

Horning Sailing Club



Since taking up the role of Club Secretary in 2008, Anne has been the enthusiastic, administrative backbone of Horning Sailing Club. Despite facing challenges, including changes to the constitution of the club and membership issues, Anne has continued to fulfil her own tasks and duties, and many more.

She is often found delivering newsletters and membership paperwork and bulk printing documentation for the club's RYA training centre. She has exceptional organisational skills and supports the work of the Management Committee and some sub-committees, organises member communications and is a constant source of information and history. She also organises the duty rota, which includes accommodating swaps and co-ordinating last-minute substitutes, and she encourages others to help run the club.

Anne is an excellent colleague and has always had the club's best interests as her priority, even during and after a period of ill-health and the loss of her husband, Peter. She is the longest-standing member in an officer role and has supported 13 Commodores.

NICHOLAS WEBBER

Exe Sailing Club



Nicholas has been a member of Exe Sailing Club for 12 years, and a willing volunteer from his first day. He has served as Club Secretary, helping to make the club more forward-thinking, particularly in its commitment to the local community. As an assistant instructor and versatile skipper, he supports both the club's youth sailing and Sailability activities.

He has a natural ability to engage with others and his helpful, supportive attitude engages new and inexperienced members, encouraging them to gain confidence and skills. His unending enthusiasm and commitment to the club and watersports is embedded in every part of club activity. He has formed a 'Silver Sailors' group, enabling senior members to enjoy more leisurely sailing, is a superb ambassador for the Sailability project and an inspiration to new racers.

Nicholas has vision, is naturally inclusive and shows the tenacity required to get things done. His extraordinary combination of strengths has benefited hundreds of people.

STEPHEN WHITE

Cody Sailing Club



Stephen has been a member of Cody Sailing Club for ten years. During this time, he has volunteered in most club officer roles and has been a significant driving force, promoting dinghy cruising within the RYA and the Comet Trio Association. The club has been transformed and now flourishes thanks to his work with RYA training, developing and maintaining the club dinghies and equipment, inspiring and encouraging members at all levels to develop their sailing and designing and managing the club's IT.

Despite the pandemic he has been instrumental in acquiring a more diverse fleet of club boats to inspire all members to get out on the water. He set up Zoom calls and other facilities to help members keep in touch and has saved the club money by using his skills to 'make and mend' equipment.

At the heart of the club, Stephen has been a great source of inspiration and encouragement, drawing on his past experience of sailing at the highest level to help people of all ages and abilities into the sport.

RYA COMMUNITY AWARDS 2021 OUTSTANDING CONTRIBUTION

IAN WHITEHOUSE

Port Dinorwic Sailing Club / Clwb Hwyllo Y Felinheli



Ian has been an invaluable asset at Port Dinorwic Sailing Club / Clwb Hwyllo Y Felinheli since 2008. He joined the committee in 2010, was Commodore in 2013-14 and continues to work behind the scenes to support the club. A very practical person, he was instrumental in the building of the club boat shed, being involved in the planning and the building works. He sound-proofed the club, installed security cameras, is responsible for the boilers, intruder and fire alarms and always joins the club work parties.

When restrictions lifted after the first lockdown, he found a solution to the problem of accessing water without going into the club house by turning on the main stopcock and fitting a water volume limiter. He also oversaw the installation of a winch to enable larger dinghies to be launched and recovered without breaking social distancing guidelines.

Supportive and helpful, Ian does what is needed, willingly and without fuss, sorting out practical matters and getting the job done.



TRISTAN BECKETT

Datchet Water Sailing Club



Tristan joined Datchet Water Sailing Club aged eight. Now 23, he has never stopped smiling and is always on hand to volunteer. He has progressed from Assistant Instructor to Senior Instructor and Power Boat Instructor, running the Youth Group and the This Girl Can group, as well as other courses. He prepares well, leaving nothing to chance, making useful videos or charts to help his students.

A club Race Officer and a Safety Coxswain, he has also taken on the role of Event Manager. He served an apprenticeship at the club before gaining full-time work for British Airways. When he was furloughed during the pandemic, he went to the club every day to move pontoons, check the site, and clean RIBs. He also designed a 'virtual club house' to keep members in touch throughout lockdown restrictions.

A sponge for knowledge and always willing to learn new skills, Tristan is not afraid of getting his hands dirty and will go the extra mile to ensure that everyone is happy. He encourages young sailors and is a great ambassador for the club.

RHYS BROMHALL

Neyland Yacht Club



Rhys has volunteered in many roles at Neyland Yacht Club (NYC), including Sailing Captain, Chief Instructor and Principal, leading and inspiring by example. He coaches and acts as Race Officer and safety boat driver at the club and at local and regional events. He has contributed to the development of the Tera Class Association activity in West Wales and he regularly supports parents, drives trailers and collects equipment to take to events.

NYC was the first club in West Wales to resume activity when lockdown restrictions eased, thanks to his hard work ensuring Covid-safe operating procedures, and also went out of his way to support other clubs by sharing his experiences. He has the drive, determination and ambition to take on new challenges and he is conscientious in improving the club as well as attending professional development events.

Rhys is a people person with a strong sense of community and a passion for boating. His personal involvement, drive, commitment and enthusiasm for projects go above and beyond to ensure that participants have a great experience and achieve success.

JOSH DUMBRILL

Croydon Sailing Club



Josh joined Croydon Sailing Club (CSC) aged 12 after learning to sail with the Croydon Youth and Schools Sailing Association (CYSSA) which operates from the same site. His interest in teaching developed and he regularly volunteered at CYSSA at weekends, becoming an RYA Dinghy Instructor. Quick to realise the benefits of unifying the two organisations to co-ordinate sailing for youth, families and adults, he has worked consistently to bring them together.

He was instrumental in putting together a bid for Sport England Tackling Inequalities Funding (TIF) to enable a substantial number of scouts from disadvantaged areas to try sailing and kayaking. He also spent many hours in risk assessment and planning meetings, as well as preparing equipment for the restart of sailing after lockdown, instructing every day during both phases of the TIF programme.

Josh is very generous with his time, skills and knowledge, and his helpful and jovial nature brings everyone together, putting beginners at ease. He is due to qualify as a Senior Instructor and is applying for a naval training programme, while giving every spare hour to teaching young people to sail.

ROSS JOHNSTON

Ballyholme Yacht Club



Ross took on the role of Chief Instructor (Powerboating) at Ballyholme Yacht Club in 2016, aged 19, and has mentored the current staff to deliver outstanding powerboat courses. He also carries out an incredible amount of work behind the scenes, helping to co-ordinate and oversee the upkeep of the powerboats. He has continually demonstrated a highly professional and enthusiastic approach and attention to detail in the promotion of powerboat and safety training.

Currently the club's Web Administrator, he has redesigned the training section of the website to ensure easy access and the co-ordination of activities. He has spent considerable time at the club, creating a bespoke digital training classroom for powerboat and safety boat training as well as managing the training RIBs.

Ross has been recognised for his ability as a professional instructor by the club's RYA Chief Instructor for Motor Cruising and Power. His positive, supportive and friendly attitude makes him a popular figure within the rescue roster. He rarely takes a break and is full of creative ideas and boundless enthusiasm.

RYA COMMUNITY AWARDS 2021 YOUNG VOLUNTEER



THOMAS KNIGHT

Maidenhead Sailing Club



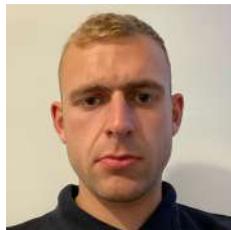
As a junior sailor, Thomas supported the younger members of Maidenhead Sailing Club, and was always willing to take on any jobs that needed doing. As he grew older, he took on more responsibility, passing through the Assistant Instructor pathway. Every day during lockdown, he cycled to the club to check on everything, mowing the lawn and fixing boats and motors.

During the summer of 2020, he was one of a number of young members who acted as Club Facilitators, helping new members and novices to rig boats, find equipment and offer informal coaching. He was so popular and capable that numerous members asked for him specifically to provide them with one-to-one coaching. Now a Dinghy Instructor, he unfailingly supports the club's youth and junior sessions, and acts as Race Officer for many of their regattas.

Thomas is a phenomenal role model for other youth and juniors. His enthusiasm, hard-working ethos, friendly attitude, generosity and kindness are endless. He is a responsible young leader and volunteer who makes people feel good about themselves.

GEORGE PANTER

Ulley Sailing Club



George joined Ulley Sailing Club aged 14 and started sailing as crew. At 17 he began assisting with safety boat training, RYA dinghy courses and youth squad training, as well as the maintenance and servicing of the club's outboard engines, for which he now has sole responsibility. He qualified as a Sailing Instructor at 18, and was voted onto the Management Committee. Having completed additional RYA qualifications he has served as Youth Squad Leader and lead Safety Boat Instructor and is currently Sailing Secretary and Assistant Bosun. He has offered his own RIB to deliver training to members.

Instrumental in the opening of the club when Covid restrictions allowed, he set up a booking system and designed and developed a new website. As an engineering apprentice he has helped with the construction of the disabled access jetty and repairs and maintenance of the club tractor, boats and engines.

George is an approachable, helpful and very practical person who does everything with a smile. He is an excellent role model to younger members; every club needs a George!



The RYA logo is rendered in a bold, white, sans-serif font. The letters 'R' and 'Y' are connected, and the 'A' is also connected to the 'Y'. The logo is set against a dark blue background with a subtle, wavy pattern.

Volunteer Awards

2021

A smaller version of the RYA logo, centered on the page. It features the same bold, white, sans-serif font as the top logo.

RYA

RYA House, Ensign Way
Hamble, Southampton
Hampshire SO31 4YA
United Kingdom

Telephone: +44 (0)23 8060 4100

Fax: +44 (0)23 8060 4299

email: info@rya.org.uk

www.rya.org.uk