



Access Dinghy Telltales

Official Newsletter of the Access Dinghy Foundation

July, 1999

Volume 1, Issue 1



PATRON of the Access Dinghy Foundation: The Governor General of Australia,
His Excellency the Honorable Sir William Deane.

WANTED - A sponsor for this newsletter. If your company would like to assist provide a high quality, informative, international newsletter to encourage people of all abilities enjoy sailing, then this space could be yours. Contact the Foundation for further information regarding the benefits the Foundation can offer a newsletter sponsor.

The Access Dinghy Foundation (ADF)

Access Dinghy Sailing Systems Pty Ltd (ADSS) recently formed an incorporated association called the Access Dinghy Foundation. The Mission Statement of ADF is:

To promote sailing for everyone, regardless of disability, financial status and age.

The Foundation will promote accessible sailing throughout the world, supporting clubs and organisations following the *sailing for everyone* philosophy. Also, the Foundation is excited to announce that in the near future, funds will be available to assist disabled sailors with travel and accommodation expenses to attend authorised Access Dinghy regattas.

Guidelines and application forms are currently being formulated and it is anticipated that funds will become available sometime during 2000. The next edition of this newsletter will contain further information and guidance regarding applications.

Access Dinghies are the ideal means to introduce non-sailors into the sport of sailing – especially those with a disability and it has long been our aim to provide sailing opportunities to all people regardless of their ability.

It is hoped that funds from the Foundation will go some way towards assisting sailors wishing to attend Access Dinghy Championships who would be unable to do so, due to financial restraints.

The Foundation will also provide information and support to organisations wishing to form community based accessible sailing clubs to benefit all members of their local community.



Sir William Deane presenting Ame Barnbrook of Narooma, NSW with a gold medal at the 1999 Access Championships in Canberra.

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Governor-General is Patron of the Foundation

The Governor-General of Australia, His Excellency the Honourable Sir William Deane, AC, KBE, has granted his personal patronage to the Access Dinghy Foundation. Sir William wishes the Foundation well for the future.

For the past two years Sir William and Lady Deane have presented the trophies at the Australian Access Dinghy championships. The



competitors value His Excellency’s attendance.

This year Sir William arrived by police launch where he observed the final event – the Top Gun race.

The Trustees of Access Dinghy Foundation are very appreciative of Sir William’s support and look forward to his patronage in the future.

Win – Win – Win

One lucky competitor in the UK National Access Championships will win a trip to Australia to compete in the Australian Access Championships to be held in Canberra in February, 2000.

SEE PAGE 3 FOR MORE DETAILS

Editorial

Welcome to the first issue of the official newsletter of the Access Dinghy Foundation (ADF) - "Access Dinghy Telltales".

We anticipate that this publication will become an informal international forum for anyone with an interest in Access Dinghy sailing and we encourage you to send articles of interest. The newsletter will be distributed in July, November and March. *Telltales* can also be downloaded from www.accessdinghy.org.

Here is your chance to have a say - let us know your ideas, send photos, tell others of your experiences. We would like to hear from sailors, family and friends, sailing clubs, schools, disability organisations etc.

Send your articles to ADF – our address is on page 4, or better still, send us an email. We hope you enjoy this newsletter.

Jackie Kay

The 'sailing for everyone' concept comes of age

Access Dinghies grew out of the need to rethink entry level sailing, to simplify everything, to return to the basics. In today's world of seemingly unlimited choice we need to encourage people into a new activity, but instead we threaten them with confusing rules and jargon, and then reward them with a dunking.

The real barrier to getting people on the water is the traditional back to front tiller steering arrangement, coupled with the need to co-ordinate body movement to prevent a capsize. Our solution is the Access Keelboats which uses ballasted centerboards and joystick steering.

The Access Dinghy System includes 4 models of boat, servo assist electrics and attachments, mobile pontoons, davits, hoists and transferring aids, shore shuttles and keel cars for moving equipment on shore, and several trailer models for transporting a mix of boats, pontoons and safety craft. The whole system is very mobile and can take sailing to wherever there are people in need.

This is a revolution in itself, and like

every revolutionary movement there is always resistance. For us this came from the attitudes of the sailing fraternity who didn't see the need for accessible sailing craft at their club, and who probably had a layer of fear of mixing with the level of disability we seem to attract, and are dealing with every day.

Now, sailing clubs and yachting associations alike have identified the potential benefits to supporting community based sailing groups. Sailing can indeed be affordable, safe and fun and include people of all levels of experience – especially those with disabilities.

We are very proud to have formed the Access Dinghy Foundation and are honoured that Neil Anderson, Lou Grindal and Zoltan Pegan have agreed to be Trustees of the Foundation and assist establish our organisation to promote sailing, whatever one's ability. ADF hopes to make a difference to the lives of many sailors who have a disability.

Our motto is

Access Dinghies : sailing for everyone.

Chris Mitchell

Sailing on Cloud Nine – by David Burrell, Sailing for Everyone Victoria

..... I left Canberra on cloud nine knowing there is no way I will ever give up sailing . David



I was born with a rare condition called arthrogyrosis. I am confined to an electric wheelchair all the time. At least I thought I would be, until I discovered Sailability and Access Dinghies. I went along to a come and try day at Lilydale Lake in Melbourne and there I met Chris Mitchell who had designed the dinghies. I was a bit nervous about having a go but once I got into the electric dinghy all my nerves vanished. I felt a marvelous sense of freedom which I had never experienced before. For once I was out of my wheelchair and I never wanted to get back into it. I was hooked on sailing! Of course I had a lot to learn but the motivation was there.

Chris asked me whether I'd like to compete in the 1997 National Championships in Canberra on Lake Burley Griffin and I thought I'd have a go to gain experience. The first heats were held on

the Saturday. You can imagine how excited I was when I even managed to win a race, especially when the electric boat enabled me to compete against able-bodied as well as disabled sailors, something which I didn't think I'd ever be able to do. The next day I couldn't believe it when I found out I'd won a gold medal for the servo assisted boats. Also it was such an honour to have Kay Cottee present the medal - and if that wasn't enough I also won the Greg Mott perpetual trophy. This award meant a great deal to me as I had been inspired by Greg after seeing the video which featured him.

I left Canberra on cloud nine knowing there is no way I will ever give up sailing and that I will always be grateful to Chris for designing such a great little boat which has opened up a whole new life for me.

Access Dinghies sail the World

Access Dinghies went into production in 1995. Since then, over 300 have been built. There are Access Dinghies in all eight States and Territories in Australia. In 1997 six UK Access Dinghies were purchased by Rutland Sailability. Since then, seventy have been purchased by organisations throughout the UK and Ireland. The boats are now manufactured in the UK using Australian components.

Two boats have recently been sent to Canada, purchased by the Ontario Sailing Association and will be used in their Able Sail Program. A demonstration boat has been shipped to Phoenix, Arizona and will be instrumental in the formation of an accessible sailing club. From September 99 come and try sailing days will be conducted at various venues throughout the USA and Canada.

Inaugural UK Access Dinghy Championships

UK NATIONAL ACCESS DINGHY CHAMPIONSHIPS

2nd & 3rd October 1999

Organised by
Rutland Sailability and
Access Dinghy Association UK

To be held at Rutland S.C.

For more details contact
John Morley on
01572 755927

WIN, WIN, WIN A TRIP TO AUSTRALIA

Trustees of the Access Dinghy Foundation are pleased to announce that one competitor in the 1999 UK Access Dinghy Championships will win a trip to the Australian Access Dinghy Championships to be held in Canberra during February 2000.

The prize will include a return airfare from the UK to Australia as well as five nights accommodation in Canberra.

WHY NOT ENTER AND GIVE IT A GO

MORE ABOUT THE UK CHAMPIONSHIPS AND PRIZE . . .

With the primary focus of Access Dinghies being participation, rather than competition, the prize-winner will not necessarily be the fastest or "gun" sailor. The prize will be awarded by the Trustees of the Access Dinghy Foundation to a sailor demonstrating commitment to sailing, outstanding sportsmanship as well as sailing proficiency. Trustees, Chris Mitchell and Jackie Kay, will attend the Championships to make the presentation.

In keeping with Access Dinghy's philosophy of making sailing fun and accessible to everyone, the Access Dinghy UK National Championships will be a celebration of ability – a weekend of camaraderie and fun.

Access Dinghies are the ideal boats to

promote full integration into our sport, as sailors regardless of their level of ability and experience are able to sail on a competitive level, against those who are more able-bodied.

This Championship is an unrestricted event and open to all sailors, able bodied and disabled alike. Competitors will be graded into divisions according to their sailing capabilities and experience. There will be various divisions ensuring that no matter what level of sailing experience, competitors will be competing against sailors of similar sailing ability.

Special starting procedures have been developed and there will be support boats on the water to give assistance to sailors who need it.

Sailors with minimal experience are encouraged to come along and join in the fun.

STEVE SAWFORD MARINE

Licensed Access Dinghy
Boatbuilder in the UK

Steve and his team are
happy to discuss your
requirements concerning all
aspects of Access
Dinghy sailing.

Please Call

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Trustees of ADF

The Access Dinghy Foundation is pleased to introduce the Trustees. Contact any of them to obtain information about the Foundation.

Chris Mitchell
Founder, Access Dinghies

Lou Grindal
Access Dinghy Production Manager

Neil Anderson
President, Sailability NSW

Jackie Kay
Sailability Aust. & Access Dinghies

Zoltan Pegan
98 & 99 Aust. Access Champion

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Upcoming Regattas

Oct 99 **UK Access Dinghy C'ships**
2-3 Rutland Sailing Club
Rutland, UK

Nov 99 **NSW Interclub Regatta**
Sailability Dobroyd
Dobroyd Aquatic Club,
Drummoyne, Sydney

Jan 00
8-9 **Sail Melbourne**
Victorian Access C'ships
Ballarat Yacht Club
Ballarat, Victoria

Feb 00
5-6 **Australian Access C'ships**
Venue to be announced
Lake Burley Griffin
Canberra, ACT

April, 00
15-16 **NSW Access C'ships**
Sailability Narooma
Wagonga Inlet
Narooma, NSW

1999 Australian Access Dinghy C'ships

FEBRUARY

Thirty-five Access 2.3 and nine Access 303's, together with seventy sailors came from four States to contest the 4th Australian C'ships. Whilst rivalry in the higher divisions was intense, sailors in all divisions enjoyed the competition, learned a great deal, made some wonderful friends and had a lot of fun. Held in Canberra each year, the regatta is sailed on the beautiful Lake Burley Griffin. Australia's Governor General, and Patron of the Access Dinghy Foundation, Sir William Deane presented 32 trophies.

2.3 CLASS

Division 1	Zoltan Pegan	Sailability Dobroyd NSW
Division 2	Thor Bloomfield	Sailability for Everyone, Victoria
Division 3	Maryanne Ireland	Sailability Belmont, NSW
Division 4	Ame Barnbrook	Sailability Narooma, NSW
Doubles	Stephen Scott/B. Anderson	Sailability Dobroyd, NSW

303 CLASS

Open Division	Wayne Teagle	Sailability Dobroyd, NSW
Doubles	Eino Okkonen/Jane Doran	Sailability Illawarra, NSW

SPECIAL AWARDS

The Greg Mott Memorial Trophy for Servo Assist

Ame Barnbrook Sailability Narooma, NSW

The Horizon Award – 1st on Handicap

Zoltan Pegan Sailability Dobroyd, NSW

Encouragement

Sara Van der Monde Victoria

The Hans Hill Memorial Trophy for a Volunteer

Neil Anderson Sailability NSW

Top Gun 2.3

Peter Mills Sailability Liverpool, NSW

Top Gun 303 – The Ronstan Cup

Zoltan Pegan Sailability Dobroyd, NSW

The Duck

Leslie Christenson Sailability Pittwater, NSW

Teams Trophy

Sailability Pittwater and Sailability Dobroyd

What's in a Name?

The name of this newsletter – "Telltale", is used by other sailing groups throughout the world: Sailability ACT (Australia) and the Nepean Sailing Club (Canada), to name just a couple.

"Telltale" is an inspirational name for a newsletter on sailing.

To our friends in other groups using the name, we thank you for your creative thinking. JK

Oxford Sailability, UK – Stories from Marlborough School

In 1998 Oxford Sailability purchased three Access 2.3 Sailing Dinghies. The following stories are written by the children at Marlborough School.

KATE H. – I love sailing the Access 2.3. I have sailed for a while now but never on my own until we got the Access 2.3. I can go out by myself and I feel quite safe in the boat. I only need one hand to sail the boat. I am very glad that we have got the boats in our sailing club.

JONATHAN W. – I love going sailing because I am able to do it all on my own. I actually can steer the boat on my own with some directions sometimes, but all this makes me happy. The freedom that I get out of it gives me a great feeling of

achievement. Nothing like this has happened to me before. I like it too because I am sharing with my family my experiences and moments that we will treasure forever.

KELLY J. – I have spina bifida. I am in a wheelchair. Now we have these new boats it's a lot more easier because if you move the joystick to the left it goes left and if you move the joystick to the right it goes right.

ARON – I went sailing. I was frightened. I was excited. Only me in the boat. The boat went fast. My trousers got wet. I moved the stick. The sail moved. I liked it.

PHOTO - Aron sailing at Farmoor.

