

Candidate Statement – Thomas (Tom) Hepburn

I have been a member of Chesil Sailability for over 5 years and have really enjoyed learning to sail and doing all I can to advance my sailing skills. I have found that once I am in a sailing boat my disabilities are irrelevant and I can enjoy all that everyone else enjoys from sailing, and the freedom that comes with it, as I am sure many of our members also feel.

I have also enjoyed learning about all the technical aspects of sailing, such as the physics and science involved and how to get the most out of your boat, and particularly enjoyed the week of tuition that was organised by Hansa UK in October. I find the racing and competitive side of sailability and the Hansa Class to be a wonderful experience and it is great to meet with all the other sailability clubs across the country to see how they do things, and the facilities they have, and what we can break back to our club. I enjoy going off with Phil and the Race Team, representing Chesil Sailability around the country and have been pleased with the successes we have had.

I have been very grateful to the trustees and all the volunteers at Chesil Sailability for the opportunity they have given me to sail and develop my skills. I now feel I am in a position that I can give something back to Chesil Sailability and its members. I am already doing this in a small way by taking other new sailors out as a skipper. Volunteering as a Trustee and working with the other trustees would seem to be a good way of supporting the organisation in helping to plan for the season ahead and future plans for the organisation from the perspective of a keen & competitive sailor, young adult and a disabled member. I feel that I can represent the views of our sailors well and give great input into Chesil Sailability's direction.

Thank you for giving me this opportunity,

~Tom Hepburn