

Chesil Sailability Volunteers Newsletter

Keeping you up to date with your Charity

May/June 2017

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Why am I always in the same role? Can I do a different role?

The trustees are very aware that many members would like to perform another role at our Tuesday evening sessions. It can be frustrating if there appears to be no way to move into a new role.

During the early sessions this season, the trustees have been developing the new role of Duty Officer to lead the sailing sessions. This role is being undertaken by volunteers who bring experience but are also learning in this new role. To make this learning process as easy as possible, we have deliberately placed volunteers, where possible, in roles that they have done before to reduce the the number of decisions required of the new Duty Officers.

The trustees are also developing a standard set of operating procedures for Chesil Sailability, that will not only define each of the roles needed on a Tuesday evening but will contain a set of standards for each role. Part of these operating procedures will be clear pathways for assessment and training for every role. This will take a little time to finalise and we are lucky to have the support of the Andrew Simpson Sailing Foundation and some other help in developing these standards.

Once these documents and policies are in place and the Duty Officers have been formally signed off by the trustees, we will have more flexibility to move volunteers around into other roles. The trustees are hopeful of reaching a position that would allow volunteers to fill a variety of roles at different sessions.

Please bear with us whilst this work is finalised. Without your support in your existing roles, we could not safely run our present sessions. We will update you as soon as we are ready to start the process of skill matching to new roles.



Volunteer Week, "You Make The Difference"

Volunteer Week runs from 1st June to 7th June this year and Chesil Sailability is planning to attract more volunteers:

- 1) please take the opportunity to invite a potential volunteer (or two!) to our Social at 8.00pm, following our AGM which starts at 7.00pm at the Lodmoor Inn. (Please remember that only members can attend the AGM)
- 2) . At the AGM please would you share your thoughts and ideas with us

on how we might encourage volunteers to join us?



We would like to run a Recruitment Drive?

If you know of someone who you think would make a great volunteer please arrange with Jane for your invited friend to visit us in action at the WPNSA on Tuesday 6th June. (This depends on the weather and if we have sufficient volunteers!)

NEWSLETTER

We are still looking for someone to act as the Editor for this Chesil Sailability newsletter and would be delighted to hear from willing volunteers. We are hoping to develop a simple monthly publication that can be read on our website and social media sites. Much of the content will be prepared by trustees but if you have skills in MS Word, Publisher or similar applications, with an hour or two to spare each month

Sailing Sessions.

In addition to the three preparation evening we have now held three sailing sessions, these have been well supported by sailors and volunteers, so far 28 sessions for our sailors and 7 for carers, but we really could do with a few more volunteers, to help things run more smoothly. We particularly need help with **Reception** and **Pontoon Link**.

Everyone has been great about sending in their feedback to help us improve so 'Things can only get Better' *was that a song?*

Designs on a Cabin

The Chesil Cabin is disappearing amongst the other Cabins from PGL and ASSC. They have style we are long grey box. Can anyone come up with a design that includes our logo and the Sailability Logo. It should be on the Cabin by the end of July. Please ask a trustee if you can do this or even know someone who could.

Help Wanted

Whilst the Board of Trustees are responsible to you for the running of your charity, there are a number of other tasks that whilst not directly required by the Charity Commission are now vital to running any Charity smoothly, could you:

Help to manage our Website or social media pages, it only needs a few minutes each day to check that things are running ok, add small updates and keep the conversation going on Facebook and Twitter. These tasks can be shared by a small group of people.

Help us to make the most of the **fundraising ideas** suggested by members, we have a host of good ideas but need someone who could take on the role of coordinating the activity. The more we fundraise for ourselves the easier it is to persuade other donors to support us.

Help us attract **more volunteers**, with more of us the opportunity to switch roles, run more ambitious sailing sessions or grow the race team will be possible without asking too much of some of our stalwarts. With Volunteers week fast approaching please think of people who you could encourage to come along and join us.

Help us attract **more sailors**: If you already sail with us you are probably the best person to help us attract more sailors. You have had the experience and can talk about it first hand. Help Spread the word. We would really like to find one of our sailors who can lead the way for us in attracting more people to enjoy the sailing experience.

FACEBOOK.

Our Private Facebook Group is steadily growing. It is a place where we can update you with details about our events, sailing sessions and social occasions. It can also be used to swap photos from our sessions, ask questions and generally get to know about our charity. 30 people have joined so far and 20 people are yet to accept their invitation to join. Invitations are sent to all paid up members. If you think you have been missed or need some help getting into the group please speak to any of the trustees or a nearby **teenager**.



Meet the volunteer

We have such a wide range of volunteers here at Chesil Sailability with a huge number of skills who give so much to our charity. In this section over the coming months we will profile as many as possible, to show who they are, what roles they take what other interests they have. So watch this space and see what interests we have in common. If you would like to write your profile, before David writes it, send it to volunteers@chesilsailability.org.uk

RYA Instructor

Although the role of Duty Officer appears to be working well the Board of Trustees feel that it would be good practice to have the people who undertake this role mentored and assessed by a RYA qualified instructor. It is important that this person is independent but reports to the board. It takes between one and two years to qualify as a Senior Instructor and we are unlikely to find a person with these qualifications to undertake this work as a volunteer. In addition to assessing the Duty Officers, we will use the instructor to assess skippers and safety boat helms and to help identify volunteers who would like to undertake a different role. Once we find out about our funding bid we will be able to give you more detail about what sessions our Instructor/s will be attending.

Race Team News

The **Chesil Race Team** is:

Phil H with crew Dave A in "**Spirit of Zoe**"

Tim S with crew Janet W in "**Rod Shipley 1**".

The last competition was on 29th April at Whitefriars Sailing Club in the Cotswolds.

A day with light and variable winds, seeing Tim and Janet coming 3rd and Phil and Dave 5th.

The next race day is **Saturday 3rd June** at Northampton.

The team has been practising on a small course laid out in the harbour on Tuesday nights. The sailors out in the other Hansas have joined in these mini-races - sometimes **winning!**- and everyone having fun. Racing is, after all, just sailing with a purpose: going around a set course and trying to sail better than the others; the competition helping you learn to sail better with some friendly rivalry.

We'd love more sailors to join in the racing. The races take place around the country, which can be a problem, but there is a 3 day event at Ringwood on 14-16th July and we hope to be able to take all 4 Hansas if there are sailors who want to join in - even if for just one day. Let us know if you'd like to try it.

Policies and Standards.

The Board of Trustees have been working hard to develop a set of documents to ensure that Chesil Sailability is sustainable for years to come. We would like to achieve the same standards as an RYA approved Sea School for the way in which we support our volunteers and sailors. We are working up a set of standards for each of our roles and guides for all of our equipment. At the moment almost all of our knowledge is passed down by word of mouth and we need to capture it, so we become less dependant on any one individual for the knowledge that they keep in their head.

We have been supported in this effort by Lindsay Frost and Tim Anderson at the Andrew Simpson Foundation and by a number of our Volunteer Champions who have helped to develop the role guides and assessment standards.

We have recently applied to the RYA foundation for some funding to allow us to buy in some senior instructor time to carry out the final review of the documents, conduct assessments of our Duty Officers, Safety Boat Helms and Skippers and to give the Race Team some coaching. We hope to have received the go ahead for this next step by the end of June. Whatever the outcome we will be moving along this path, but the funding will allow us to move faster.

Once this documentation is finished we will make it available on our website for all members to view and for other Sailability Groups to use.

Thank you for everything you do to support your charity.
Chesil Sailability Trustees.

