

AllAboard! Watersports



Despite the season drawing to a close, AllAboard has remained very busy this month. We have welcomed mainstream colleges and schools, youths attending holiday club, multiple groups with learning disabilities and physical disabilities and have had individuals from disengaged backgrounds work closely with Steve Evans and Chris Queree to learn new boat building/maintenance skills.

SCHOOLS: This month we had *Air Balloon School* bring 90 children in one day, to enjoy the fun of raft building. These students worked together to build their rafts according to the design they previously created at school. It was great to see this number of children from deprived areas who had not previously had an opportunity such as this to access the water. This day obviously could not have been done with our fantastic instructors, Hannah H, Sarah & Jess, and volunteers, Jenny and Emma.



Our instructors have been teaching students from Writhlington School to sail, many of whom come from deprived or challenging backgrounds. This school runs the Royal Navy Cadet Scheme to provide new and exciting opportunities to their students, so it has been great to work closely with them and we will look forward to seeing them next season. Feedback has been hugely positive so many thanks to instructors, Tilly and Hannah, for delivering such successful sessions.

COLLEGES & UNIVERSITIES: This month AllAboard welcomed back our Horizon's group (a life skills course for individuals with learning disabilities) from South Bristol Skills Academy and a new Horizon's group from Ashley Down City of Bristol College; to learn canoeing. We also have had approximately 60 students



from South Gloucester College learn to sail, row and canoe weekly for the last 6 weeks.



Additionally, UWE and Bristol University (who brought 46 students for the first two weeks!) have been learning new sailing or canoeing skills each week. So it has been a very busy time for students lately.

HOLIDAY CLUB: Luckily with the weather being relatively mild we have continued to have a good turn-out during October Holiday Club. We had a lot of new and younger sailors join us in this club, so it was great to see our regulars show the ropes to our novice sailors.

BOSON: Chris Queree, our seasonal boson, has worked hard to repair and maintain our boats, equipment and the premises. Chris decided that this was to be his last season as boson, so we would like to say a **huge** 'thank-you' Chris for all of his hard work and time.

Steve Evans & Chris Queree have also been working closely with individuals from disengaged backgrounds to train them in boat building/repairs/maintenance skills. It is fantastic that they have been able to work with another of our beneficiary groups, and support them in obtaining new skills and opportunities.

[Race Squad on Saturday Mornings](#)

By Chris Queree

People have asked what we do and why it is important. Here are some answers.

Instructors of sailing watch out for people in holiday clubs sailing who show any skill. We then invite them to turn up on Saturday morning to develop those skills and become better sailors. One of our current students was recommended from the scouts.

Paul Deane started off the initiative and from that base he got the centre recognised as a Champion Club with the RYA. He also encouraged many to attend local and regional coaching sessions and some of those students have gone on to complete in World Championships in Fevas and 29ers. Others have developed their skills as instructors and have worked with us very successfully and moved on to their University squads.

At the present time we have a good collection of 12-15 year olds who turn up when they can, usually about 10 of them, and do not care about weather or temperature. We work right through the winter.



Each week we concentrate upon a particular skill, students then try to improve their technique on that skill and we conclude with some races integrating that skill into the courses we set. The sessions must be fun, they keep turning up!

After the session a debrief takes place to highlight good performance. A weekly newsletter goes out to all to inform those who did not manage to attend what they missed and keep the parents informed of what happens. Good feedback on the newsletter comes from parents who enjoy finding out what the young people got up to. After all, have you ever tried to ask the simple question “ What did you do at school today?”



The coaching team are all members of Baltic Wharf Sailing Club and because we work as a team we never need to miss a Saturday session. Among the current coaches we count three members qualified as Race Coaches Level 2 with the RYA. One of us is in the top 10 in the country with their class. Two are ex University Team racers. All are qualified as Safety Boat drivers.

The current crop of students will be providing the centre with good instructors in the future and we hope that more will be able to progress in Regional and National Squads.

We believe that sailing is fun. Competitive sailing is more fun. We also believe that our centre should not forget that although we introduce many hundreds to water sports it is important to also show people that developed skills can lead to success in their sport and the opportunity to progress to International Sport and future coaches to keep our sport growing.



Round Britain with Barclays 2017



In July we were very fortunate to be selected by Barclays Bristol as a recipient of their charity outreach programme. We held a nomination process for an individual to win the opportunity to take part in the *Barclays Round Britain* on board the Lord Nelson Tall Ship of the Jubilee Sailing Trust.



(See link for more information on the Jubilee Sailing Trust - <http://jst.org.uk/>)

We are delighted to announce that Monica Roberts was selected to sail from Bristol to Jersey in the world's only accessible tall ship, Lord Nelson, and enjoy the challenge of life as part of the crew for 5 days.

Monica had attended one of our young carer sailing sessions, so I am sure this epic sailing trip is right up her street!

West of England's Celebration of Sport

AllAboard became a runner up for the Wesport 'Try it, Love it, Live it' Award for our work with the school games. On Friday 21st October an estimated 300 people attended to watch Steve Backley OBE host the awards event.

The School Games was much more than just a sports competition between schools. It was a celebration of young people's talent with young people at the heart of the Games. It provided opportunities for young leaders to get involved with the delivery of different sports, and young people also had the chance to perform in opening ceremonies, try their hand at new sports and embrace the cultural element of the Games, as well as excelling on the sports field.



A big thankyou goes to Hannah, Activities Watersports Manager, and Seasonal instructors, Tilly, Hannah H, & Glynn, for their hard work in making this happen and in providing this opportunity to many school children.

[Update on Centre Manger Post](#) **By Tim Stevenson – Chair of Trustee**

Our search for a Centre Business Manager continues. We had received a number of applications and carried out interviews but to date have not appointed anyone. We are now embarking on a second round of advertising and widening the search so hopefully I will have positive news later in the year.

In the meantime, as you all know, activity levels remains strong for the time of year and my thanks and that of the Trustees goes to everyone concerned in continuing the wonderful work of our great charity.

[Charitable Giving Update](#) **By Steve Evans**

This month we have been the recipients of three organisations charitable giving. Henbury Golf Club once again chose us as for the Captains charity. We received a cheque for £6000 towards our charitable aims.

We have also been informed that the staff of Taste Tech a firm in Brislington and MBDA Filton have chosen All-Aboard as their charity of the year for 2017.

If you know of any firm that will consider us as a charity for the coming year we will be pleased to hear from you.

Don't forget, we have charitable giving on our web site. Without the support of many generous individuals and businesses people we would not be able to carry out the watersport activities for the variety of people we have been supporting this year. Thank you to all our supporters.



[Forums](#)

AllAboard has started an open forum. This provides you with the opportunity to come in and ask questions or offer opinions, feedback or comments.

We hope this will improve our communication and relationship with you. As we have had to cancel forums due to a lack of attendance, please email admin@allaboardwatersports.co.uk to register your attendance for future forums. The next forum will be emailed out to you.



AllAboard's Community- Watch out, Lucy's about!



In September we asked for your support in helping one of our Sailability families who were trying to raise money for a new wheelchair for Lucy. Thanks to many of your donations, they were able to reach their goal of £5,000 to purchase a wheelchair which has a motor within the back wheels to reduce effort needed to self-propel and improve independence.

AllAboard's Christmas Card Competition



AllAboard are holding a Christmas Card Competition. The best Christmas themed design which represents AllAboard will be chosen to be AllAboard's 2016 Christmas card. These cards will be sold from the office from 1st December and the top ten designs will be displayed on the notice board during December.



Please ensure your design would fit an A6 card, templates can be collected from the office. We ask all entries to be in by the **18th November**. You can return them to us by email: admin@allaboardwatersports.co.uk , or by post: AllAboard Watersports Centre, Underfall Yard, Cumberland Road, Bristol, BS1 6XG.

UPCOMING EVENTS

RYA Disability Awareness Course, 19th November, 10.00-4.00pm

This a formal RYA course which is designed to support those who work with disabled sailors the various skills, techniques and communication methods required when working during sailability sessions. As AllAboard is a fully accessible centre, we have made it compulsory for all staff, trustees, instructors & volunteers to attend this Disability Awareness Course. If you not attended this course previously or wish to make a private booking please contact the office on **01179290801** to book or see our website <http://allaboardwatersports.co.uk/events/rya-disability-awareness-training/>.