

Red Devils Parachute into Bristol Harbour

By Richard Price and Amy Belgium



At the start it was touch and go with the weather, was it actually going to go ahead? Midday we received a text from Rich saying, it's on :)

Well that was it, we're all as excited like a kids in a sweet shop.

5:30 pm and the Red Devil's are in the centre!! All of us staring at them like they're some sort of celebrities!



6:30 pm we are watching and waiting patiently for the plane to fly over, their team lead Nathan who was in our boat receives radio contact "5,4,3,2,1 go go go" all of us sat with heads in the sky counting and watching these men jumping from the plane thinking is this actually for real and we're doing this?!

All 5 land safely in the water so it's go go go for us!

All 5 in our boats safe and unharmed within 3.5 minutes! Great job

guys.

The crowd up on-board the S.S. Great Britain roaring, the people shouting and cheering

What an experience!

The adrenaline still rushing through our veins as we head back towards the centre with the Red Devil's in our boats!! Yes in our boats would you believe it!

With several hand shakes and lots of “thank you “ from them of course, oh and a few from us) we all went our separate ways. I think it's safe to say it's going to be one we will all remember, for us as well as them and we all look forward to doing it again, may we get the opportunity.



Our Chief Powerboat Instructor, Richard Price, put together a great team to deliver safety boat cover for this event and help the parachute jumpers out of the water. This was certainly one for the books, which required great skill from our staff. Well done to everyone involved!

Visit our Youtube channel or follow this link to watch the Red Devils parachute –

[https://www.youtube.com/edit?o=U&video_id= oCQEgmFtF8](https://www.youtube.com/edit?o=U&video_id=oCQEgmFtF8)

All-Aboard 's Fun Day – 3rd September



On 3rd August, instructors, volunteers and their friends and family came down to the centre to enjoy a Fun Day where they could have some activities on the water, and help Blaire fundraise for 'Funding Neuro'. The idea was to offer an opportunity for all staff to bring down their family and friends, try out different watersports they had always wanted to try, and have a good time. Our CSAF over 55 + rowers also joined in with the fun.

Thanks to the generous donations made on the day, All-Aboard helped to raise £687.65, helping Blaire to raise a total of over £4,100.

The day could not have occurred without the generosity of the instructors and volunteers who volunteered their time to help deliver the day. Thank-you to all who came and help make a fantastic day.

September's Highlights

After-school club: With the start of a new academic year our after-school clubs are back up and running on Mondays, Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays. You will be able to book online up until previous working day at www.allaboardwatersports.co.uk.

Please note that any drop-ins will not be able to go out on the water unless there are spaces free. Due to the instructor: student ratio set by the RYA, for your child's safety we will not go over our limit.

Tuesday Sailability club for youths with additional needs will continue to run until the end of October as a drop-in session/as normal.



New Booking system: Our website is now mobile and tablet friendly allowing you to book onto great sessions while you are on the go!

We also have a new booking system. This means that you can have your own login so that your information will be remembered. You will be prompted to login or set up a new account when you book. You will also be able to book for multiple events and dates and soon will also be able to purchase merchandise and books which will be ready for you when you arrive to your session.

We hope that this new system will be an easier experience for you, though we do appreciate that there may be a few initial teething problems, so please do not hesitate to call **0117 962 0801** if you would like some assistance.

New staff:

One of our Administrators Sam Fawcett, left her post at All-Aboard to pursue a career in teaching. We are pleased to announce that her position has been filled by our Finance Officer, Sarah Harding. Sarah will continue to be the Finance Officer on Tuesdays and Thursdays and act as the Administrator on Fridays. As the season is coming to an end, our office will no longer be open on Saturdays until the new season starts again in April next year.



Sarah Harding



Sonya McMillan

We also welcomed Sonya McMillan, our new Watersports Activities Manager, earlier this month. Sonya has already been on the water, and has dived head first into her new role with great energy and passion. Before her recent travels Sonya has worked in the prison service and Groundwork Bristol. She has extensive experience of working in the charity sector and has successfully managed multiple and complex projects and teams. She came to All-Aboard to pursue her passion of helping others and bring her skills to help build All-Aboard. Welcome Sonya!

Launching of our New Pioneer!: Many of you may have noticed that we now have a grey pioneer. You may remember from our June 2017 Newsletter, that a member of Chew Valley Sailing Club, David Bowers made an incredible donation of £10,000 to fund the purchase. The engine was funded by Andy Holmes, formerly of “Wet n Windy”, who has supported All-aboard (previously known as WESSA) for decades; and who now attends our Sailability and CSAF sessions.



David Bowers officially launched our new pioneer, naming it 'Andiamo', (which means “Let’s Go” in Italian!) With the increasing demand for delivering accessible watersports sessions, this boat will be invaluable to our Centre. Particularly as the layout of the consul makes this boat perfect for us to start delivering powerability sessions. Powerability (a new RYA initiative) involves teaching individuals with disabilities (i.e. wheelchair users) to drive an accessible powerboat. Thank-you David and Andy for your generous donations!



End of Season Party!: To celebrate our busiest season yet, almost doubling the number of individuals visiting our centre in our busiest month, we held a BBQ for volunteers and instructors. Many received awards including the shed men winning the prestigious “Duck Tape” Award; Jess won the “Mr Bump Award”; Chief Happiness Director” was awarded to Steve Holland; “The Human Megaphone Award” went to Mickey with Lucy winning the “Yackety Yack” award for being the most talkative person in the Centre. However, Nic did warn us that this would be strongly contested next year, now that Sonja has joined us! Anna and Mike shared the “Man Overboard Award” and were awarded armbands. Anna should now be safe to start her RYA1 course later this month!



It was a lovely afternoon with Steve's usual culinary expertise on the BBQ!

Be sure that you don't miss out on next year's party! We will let you know the date in plenty of time!



We would like to thank everyone for their support for All-Aboard. We hope to continue to reach out to those who may not typically have the opportunities to access watersports and deliver fun sessions to an increasing population. We could not function without the hard work and dedication from our volunteers, instructors, staff and parents.

All-Aboard for the Great River Race

By Robin Miller

Rowing 21.6 miles on the Thames with over 320 other boats is perhaps not everyone's idea of a fun day out, but having been part of an All Aboard team in this year's Great River Race I can thoroughly recommend it.

Now in its 30th year, the Great River Race attracts participants from many countries to row from the Isle of Dogs to Richmond-upon-Thames, under 28 bridges and passing some of London's most famous landmarks. Aged from late our late 50s to mid 70s, we started rowing three years ago as part of an All Aboard 55+ project and have been rowing together ever since, usually in a Cornish pilot gig or St Ayles skiff, but for this adventure, we hired a five oar whale boat.



The boat was a replica of a traditional whale boat and was used in the film *In the Heart of the Sea*, which told the true story of the whaling ship *Essex*, which inspired the novel *Moby Dick*.

We camped with hundreds of other rowers near Richmond, and after an evening of socialising and an excellent breakfast served by local scouts, buses were laid on to take us to the start. With participants in fancy dress, hats, bright colours, painted faces and singing, it was already a carnival atmosphere.



After a chaotic start - 320 boats take a lot of organising and it took us some time just to find ours - we set off past the skyscrapers of Canary Wharf towards Tower Bridge, and then the landmarks came thick and fast as we rowed past the Tower of London, HMS Belfast, the Shard, Tate Modern, St Paul's Cathedral, London Eye and Houses of Parliament and then on towards Chelsea and Battersea.

We reached the half way point at Putney. The whale boat was big and heavy, and certainly no racer, but with many of the faster boats having headed off into the distance and a good atmosphere on board, we got into our stride. By now we were getting used to the boat and overtaking other rowers. A big roar went up as we passed Fulham football ground, perhaps not for us, but we pretended it was and it helped our motivation.



Some thunder and a downpour did nothing to dampen the spirits, and with jelly babies and Kit Kat for sustenance, we ticked off the bridges until the last one, Richmond Bridge, came into view and as we rowed under it we were into our last mile. A canon fired as we crossed the finish line and soon we were uncorking a bottle of prosecco and celebrating our achievement.

Thank you to the team for making it such a great weekend - Alison Orton, Sarah Cooke, Vicky Fisher, Mervyn Walters, Sarah Latham and Jenny Ball - and to everyone at All Aboard who helped make it possible. We finished in 3 hours and 36 minutes, which wasn't going to win us any prizes, but was better than we expected. And if we'd gone any faster, it would only have shortened the fun!



[A Volunteers opinion of All-Aboard Watersports](#)

When I was young I was fascinated in how things worked, I would take clocks and watches and re-build them. All those different sized cogs had to be in the right position; if just one part was out of place it couldn't work as a well-oiled machine should.

All-Aboard is a collection of managers, instructors and volunteers. It's a real jumble of parts, but not a well-oiled machine. If you took away any number of its parts, the remaining parts will take up the challenge and the centre keeps running efficiently.

All-Aboard is not driven by a mainspring it's driven by the passion and the hearts of gold of the whole team.

Making All-Aboard better than any Swiss watch.

Anonymous

UPCOMING EVENTS



October Half-term Holiday club

Join in on our last Holiday club in 2017 during the October Half-term holidays!

You can come for the week or the day and do Sailing or Multisports! If you choose Multi-sports you will be given a choice of activities (depending on the weather) which will be out of rowing, sailing, canoeing, raft-building and Stand-up paddle boarding.

Book now! Visit www.allaboardwatersports.co.uk.

Christmas Card Competition

I'm sure the last thing you are currently thinking about is Christmas, but we will be holding another Christmas card competition for the design of our Christmas cards this year.

Throughout October we will start to collect your designs from our school and community groups. The end date of the competition is 8th November and will be on sale from 18th November

You can collect the template to make your card design on from the office if you wish to enter.

RYA First Aid Course – 22nd October, 9.00 – 5.00 pm.

Our RYA 1st Aid courses are a great way to learn CPR, how to treat cuts and injuries in addition to water related conditions, including secondary drowning and hypothermia.

If you would like to book on, please book online by visiting

<http://allaboardwatersports.co.uk/events/rya-first-aid-course/>.

We plan to put on another course on the 3rd December – watch our website for updates.

If you have anything that you would like to be considered to go into the newsletter – please send to admin@allabardwatersport.sc.uk by the 21st of each month.

Check up to date with the latest news by subscribing to our Facebook page!