



## NEWS RELEASE

December 10th, 2007

FAO: News editor

### GRANTS BOOST ACCESS TO SAILING IN NW LONDON

Volunteer-run sailing club BTYC Sailsports, based at the Welsh Harp reservoir in Brent, has won grants of £150,000 to fund clubhouse extension and refurbishment.

New facilities for people with disabilities are planned, as well as a dedicated training area and larger changing rooms. The development will boost the club's well-recognised Royal Yachting Association and RYA Sailability training and racing activities.

BTYC funds are supported by grants from Sport England, the Veolia Environmental Trust, the London Marathon Charitable Trust, the Foundation for Sport and the Arts, the Michael Davies Charitable Settlement, and the Edward Harvist Trust, with architecture donated by member Steven Adams.

Additional grants of £15,000, from Awards for All and the Milly Apthorp Trust, will improve access across the wider Welsh Harp Sailing Association harbour area.

15-year-old member David Morse, recently selected for the 2012 pre-Paralympics sail training squad, is enthusiastic: "I have trouble walking and the new, level, entrance and accessible changing space will make it so much easier for me to concentrate on my sailing."

Mike Green, leader of Barnet's London Academy school sailing programme adds: "Till now it's been hard fitting school needs around club activities. With a proper training area, we'll all benefit."

For Commodore James Stafford this is the culmination of seven years' chairmanship: "A huge increase in club activity over the last few years has strained our facilities. The expansion and redevelopment will help us enormously to do what we do best – get people from all backgrounds into sailing, and offer them challenging and exciting opportunities within the sport."

The building will be formally opened in March, and the press will be invited.

The club's 2008 training season starts in early April.

*ends*



## Notes for Editors

**BTYC Sailsports** is a volunteer-run open-membership sailing and windsurfing club. It is a Royal Yachting Association Training Centre for both sports with impressive beginner and improver training schemes. It runs a regionally successful dinghy racing programme.

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*[www.btycsailsports.org.uk](http://www.btycsailsports.org.uk)*

*Robin Imray (07960 356 713)*

**Welsh Harp Sailing Association (WHSA)** is the umbrella body representing all sailing interests on the reservoir. It manages common resources including the boat park and harbour area.

*Contact – Brian Turgoose (chairman) (020 8904 6662)*

**RYA Sailability** is the official charity of sailing and windsurfing's national governing body, the Royal Yachting Association, and provides opportunities for people with disabilities to experience the enjoyment and challenges of sailing.

*Contact – Joanna Mawby (07789 991 603)*

*[www.rya.org.uk/Sailability/](http://www.rya.org.uk/Sailability/)*

**Sport England** is the Government agency responsible for advising, investing in and promoting community sport to create an active nation. It distributes Lottery funds in support of these aims.

**The Veolia Environmental Trust** supports a wide range of community and environmental projects throughout the UK with money from the Landfill Communities Fund.

**The London Marathon Charitable Trust** uses profits from the annual event to support recreational projects in the capital.

**The Foundation for Sport and the Arts** channels money originally donated by Littlewoods and other football pools companies to a wide range of sporting and artistic causes.

**The Michael Davies Charitable Settlement** is endowed by the architectural and masterplanning practice Rogers Stirk Harbour and Partners. Mike Davies is a senior director of MDCS, chair of their charity trustees and a member of BTYC.

**The Edward Harvist Trust**, established in 1610, supports voluntary organisations in Brent, Barnet, Camden, Harrow and the City of London. In Brent, its funds are managed by Brent Council.

**Awards for All** gives sums of up to £10,000 for people to take part in art, sport, heritage and community activities, and projects that promote education, the environment and health in the local community.

**The Milly Apthorp Charitable Trust** provides charitable funds for individuals (particularly those on low incomes) and voluntary organisations offering services in the London Borough of Barnet.