



Press Release

DYS Event in Double Diamond Year for Local Sailing Club

On Saturday the 22nd of April the second series event in the Derbyshire Youth Sailing calendar is being held at Trent Valley Sailing Club, one of the oldest inland water sailing clubs in the UK. The club is celebrating its' double diamond anniversary in 2006.

All DYS events are suitable for any Derbyshire based sailors under the age of 18 who can at least complete a simple triangular course (the equivalent of Stage 1 or Level 2 RYA). It doesn't matter what type of boat the youngsters sail, these events are open to everyone and a standardised handicapping system is used to take away the differences in boat performance. The event result is taken from the combined best two positions achieved by the sailors in the three races. Competing in the series of events held at all ten Derbyshire Sailing Clubs, the young sailors compete for series prizes that are awarded in October each year.

There is no membership fee to be a member of DYS and no launch fees are charged by the Derbyshire clubs for DYS series events. Pre-event registration, whilst not compulsory, is available through the website at www.dysailing.com. The event entry fee per boat is £7 for single-handers and £9 for double-handers with a £1 reduction off either fee for those who have pre-registered on-line. All fees are paid on the day and once a member of DYS, you can choose to just turn up, pay and race. Competitors should plan to arrive with their own boats and kit by 9:00 am. It couldn't be simpler.

The club is the only river sailing club in Derbyshire and the flow of the river provides an additional dimension to sailing that cannot be achieved on a reservoir. DYS Training Officer, Mike Haynes explains "The River mimics the flow of a tide and teaches the youth sailors how their boat handles differently than when they are sailing on still waters. The current can be strong enough that in light winds it can be difficult to make progress against the flow. We are pleased that Derbyshire Youth sailors will once again have the opportunity to experience sailing on the River and they will also learn about the double diamond and clubhouse centenary celebrations."

The sailing club was formed in 1886 to sail on a borrow pit at Lock Lane, Long Eaton, known locally as 'Trent Lake'. The club moved to its current location a year later, apparently on a bank holiday, following a suggestion that there was better sailing to be had on the River Trent at Trent Lock – just a short 'overland drag' from the borrow pit. The current club house, a well-known local landmark, is also celebrating its' centenary this year.

The sailing club today is far from dwelling in the past though. Current members of the club have embarked upon ambitious plans for the future development of the club. Sailing activities are increasing in popularity and the youth fleet is growing in size. Sailors who began their racing sailing on the waters of the River Trent have progressed to achieve notable successes at championship levels in recent years.

Sailing Secretary, Roger Britton, said "We have an active and enthusiastic membership of all ages who can either use the river as the playground for their sailing activities or just enjoy the surroundings of this unique club. New members are always made welcome and our membership fees are quite modest."

A former official of the club, Mr. F. W. Billson designed a special Trent Valley Class Boat in 1908. The boat is a sizeable racing dinghy of 4.88m (16ft 1in) length and with a single sail of area 18m² (200 ft²). Roger is keen to raise sufficient funds to have a new one constructed and ready to be launched in 2008.

More information on Trent Valley Sailing Club can be found on the club web site at www.trentvalleysc.org

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Notes for Editors: (more on subsequent page)

Trent Valley Sailing Club is situated on an island formed by the river Trent and the Cranfleet canal and is reached from Meadow Lane, Long Eaton. The present clubhouse, a well-known land-mark, was built in 1906 and offers changing rooms, showers, bunk rooms and an impressive clubroom and bar.

When the club celebrated its' centenary of formation twenty years ago, a group of club members wrote a book on the first one hundred years. The archive images and history of sailing activities casts back through the war years and charts a fascinating period in history.



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Members of the club own a variety of dinghies, mostly Merlin Rockets, Lasers, National Twelves and other classes. There are also a number of boats in the club's training fleet, including Otters, Toppers and Optimists. The club has achieved a fine record in competitive dinghy sailing and over the years, members have distinguished themselves at championship level.

The relatively narrow water shared with the many pleasure and working craft on the River Trent makes the sailing activity at TVSC varied and often challenging. The club is located at the junctions of River Trent with the Cranfleet Cut, River Soar and Erewash Canals.

For further information contact Mike Haynes mike@mail4haynes.fsnet.co.uk or 01629 57304 or contacts through web sites below.

Websites for further information on:-

Derbyshire Youth Sailing www.dysailing.com

National Schools Sailing Association www.nssa.org.uk

Trent Valley Sailing Club www.trentvalleysc.org