



DISABLED SAILORS ASSOCIATION

CHARITY No 1028993 SINCE 1993

REAL sailing for ALL disabilities of ALL ages in wheelchair accessible boats

SHIPWRIGHTS CHARITABLE FUND

Sail training in 2021 had to adapt to the aftermath of the Covid restrictions. A number of options for us have closed down completely and those that are operating are very busy indeed, as were we - our diary being effectively full in the UK and we were understaffed in Spain.

But there seems to be silver linings to most things; I rarely get to sail these days but was 'pressed' in to giving 10 days sailing tuition to Ian (a C5 spinal injury meaning paralysed from the chest down with little use of his hands).

With dinghy sailing closed at almost all UK sailing clubs Ian organised his carers and Spanish flights and accommodation, as per our normal procedures and we were to provide wheelchair accessible transport while he was there. Sadly, the transport failed to materialise but we managed to hire a vehicle that his carer could drive to make his efforts a real success.



Tim, our 'engineer', was also persuaded to help with the training with the youngsters. This year we were forced to focus on the more practical skills and qualifications were sidelined – we will be reintroducing them in 2022. In 2021, we offered sail training, commensurate with the sailor's ability, to just over 200 people. With the cost of training being about £40 per person, per day, the generous donation from the Shipwrights Charitable Fund benefitted about 25 young people in summer 2021.



On the yachting side of activities, Scott Bader was running at near full capacity and due to numbers, ability and experience of our sailors could only really deal with the basics of training and racing. Verity K, because of the travel restrictions was mainly used by local people for 'experience', an essential part of gaining qualifications, because of lack of examiners.

This is Peter and Jon on Verity K, Jon already has some qualifications and Peter has started evening classes, to enable him to take a Day Skipper exam in the Spring.



John, our professional skipper, because of the Covid restrictions and procedures required, captained Scott Bader for the whole season himself, so training had to be relatively simple and with examiners few and far between not much happened in the quite short season with most serious qualification ambitions being postponed to next April although there are a number of people attending evening classes, with our support, to complete the theory part of qualifications.

