



Access Dinghy Telltales

Official Newsletter of the Access Dinghy Foundation

March, 2006



PATRON: Governor General of the Commonwealth of Australia,
His Excellency Major General Michael Jeffery AC CVO MC (Retd)

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ACCESS DINGHY WINS 2006 AUSTRALIAN SPORTS AWARD

Access Dinghy Sailing Systems was awarded the Business Innovation prize for their revolutionary SKUD18 (Skiff – Universal Design) sailboat at the 26th Australian Sports Awards held in Sydney on 22 February.

Contact Access Dinghy
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At a gala presentation ceremony for the Australian Sports Awards, Access Dinghy Sailing Systems was awarded the Business Innovation prize for their revolutionary SKUD18 sailboat. Conceived and developed by Access Dinghy Sailing Systems' principal Chris Mitchell, with design collaboration from renowned Australian skiff designer Julian Bethwaite, the 5.8 metre long SKUD18 is a lead-assisted skiff with asymmetrical spinnaker and hi-tech rig.



Chris Mitchell receiving Business Innovation Award

The Access SKUD18 was selected in December 2005 by the International Association for Disabled Sailing as the new two-person class for the Beijing Paralympic Sailing competition.

The SKUD18 is the latest in the range of Access sailboats developed by Mitchell. The first of the fleet, the easy to sail Access 2.3 which is now sailed in over 15 countries, was recently elevated to the status of 'International Class' by the International Sailing Federation (ISAF).

On January 27, Federal Minister for Sport, Senator the Honourable Rod Kemp, officially launched the SKUD and opened the largest regatta in Australia

for sailors with disabilities. The ceremony was staged at Victoria Harbour in Melbourne Docklands, venue for the Melbourne Stopover for the Volvo Ocean Race (see page 4)

Access Dinghy was supported with its project by the Australian Government through its business unit AusIndustry with an innovation grant to develop the SKUD18.

AusIndustry delivers a range of more than 30 business products, including innovation grants, tax and duty concessions, small business services, and support for industry competitiveness worth nearly \$2 billion each year to about 10,000 small and large businesses.

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"Proud Supporters and official supplier to Access Dinghies"



SPECIAL OLYMPICS & SAILABILITY A Unique Relationship



During January and February Special Olympics Australia and Sailability Australia established a relationship that will benefit athletes with Intellectual Disabilities throughout Australia.

Currently in Australia Special Olympics delivers participation and competition pathways in ten sports, Aquatics, Athletics, Basketball, Bocci, Bowling, Golf, Gymnastics, Soccer, Softball, Tennis, and are developing the sports of cricket, winter sports and equestrian.

With Sailability activities in Australia already providing Sailing to between 1,000 and 2,000 sailors with intellectual disabilities, discussions have resulted in a groundbreaking relationship whereby Sailability will officially deliver Sailing on behalf of Special Olympics Australia.

The benefits are high to all parties involved, with the key winners being athletes with Intellectual Disabilities. Sailors now have a clear pathway to represent their country at World Games competition, as well as the opportunity to experience the existing sports already offered by SOA. Special Olympics athletes from all sports will be encouraged to experience the joys that sailing can offer.

Pending notification from Special Olympics Inter-

national regarding allocation for team quotas for SOA to participate in the Sailing competitions at the World Summer Games being held in Shanghai in 2007, an Australian selection regatta is being planned at Lake Tuggeranong in ACT, November 18-19 2006.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Special Olympics Australia

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Sailability Australia

Terry Peek—terrypeek@bigpond.com



Sailors from Special Unit of Kandos High School, central NSW

SO, let's get this boat afloat Ann Monaghan—National Manager, Sport & Training



Special Olympics Australia is very excited about the partnership with Sailability. Both organisations have the same goals to provide opportunities for children and adults with an intellectual disability. In coming together we increase pathways, prospects, awareness and achievements. We welcome the chance to expand Sailing to the athletes in Special Olympics Australia and an opportunity for Sailability members to try our range of sports, along with athlete initiatives like the Athlete Leadership Program (ALP).

Special Olympics is an international nonprofit organisation dedicated to empowering individuals with intellectual disabilities to become physically fit, productive and respected members of society through sports training and competition. It provides children and adults

with intellectual disabilities year-round training and competition in 26 Olympic-type summer and winter sports. The global Special Olympics movement got its start on 20 July 1968, when the First International Special Olympics Games were held at Soldier Field, Chicago, Illinois, USA. But the concept of Special Olympics was born much earlier, when Eunice Kennedy Shriver (sister of President Kennedy) started a day camp for people with intellectual disabilities at her home in 1962. Today Special Olympics currently serves more than 2.25 million persons with intellectual disabilities in more than 200 Programs in more than 150 countries.

For further information please visit our website www.specialolympics.com.au www.specialolympics.org or phone 1300 225 762



ACCESSIBLE SAILING FOR INDIA

Dipak Pradipak—President Elect Sailability India



Editor: Thanks to the generosity of Sailability Pittwater, the Access Dinghy Foundation, Action Kayaks and Canoe Sports, 2 x 2.3 Access, 1 x 303 Access and 4 x sea kayaks were delivered to Hyderabad India during January where the first branch of Sailability India is being established. Maersk Australia Pty Ltd continued their magnificent sponsorship of Access Dinghy Foundation, providing the container to Chennai for no charge. In early May, Sailability Pittwater volunteer Allan Jones will return for his second visit to India to advise Dipak and his team on the use of Access Dinghies and help where possible, with the establishment of a national Sailability organization in India.

The Sunday sail was in beginners air. Light and fluky. And the summer heat had set in. But everyone came with their wives and children and were with us for a few hours. In a relaxed mood under



Theory Class prior to sailing

the trees waiting for their turn or sailing the boats. They were helped by a team of volunteers from the Corps of Artillery Sailing Club, where the boats are moored. Thank you Girish, Yakoob and Kaushal !

We learnt a lot about the prospective candidates for the FESPIC Games in Kuala Lumpur. That Rishab, aged 16 and with Downs Syndrome is an excellent Gold medal swimmer at national level; that 8

year old Jayalakshmi, also with the same problem, was weak in one hand so she used both hands on the joy stick. That Fatima has not only her Polio to contend with but also unusual allergies. Major AK Singh phoned in from Lucknow expressing his willingness to participate in the FESPIC Games and practice in the Access 303. His extensive dinghy sailing experience in single handers like the OK Dinghy and the Laser would come in useful as well as his one legged experiences on the yacht *Trishna*.

These four make up the team and have a lot of training to do but have the time to do it, till November, and the equipment to train in (thanks Australia). The Notice of Race for FESPIC Games in Malaysia in November this year was studied closely by all as was the Constitution of Sailability India. A strategic plan of preparation was worked out keeping the competitors' special needs in mind.

Now to secure the blessings of Yachting Association of India, our Member National Authority to ISAF, to acknowledge our Constitution. I am sure the YAI, as the apex body of the sport in India, would encourage our objectives spelt out in our Constitution.



BAADS

ACCESS DINGHY PROGRAM

Dan Leininger, Vice Commadore BAADS

Director of Operations, Treasure Island Sailing Center



The Bay Area Association of Disabled Sailors (BAADS), located in San Francisco, California, has begun training Instructors to teach sailing in it's newly acquired "fleet" of Access Dinghies. BAADS has plans to start a Summer Sailing Program to offer lessons to disabled and disadvantaged San Francisco Bay Area youth.



Herb Meyer and Dylan of BAADS

Timing, some luck, and a lot of hard work went in to making this a reality for BAADS. San Francisco has been redeveloping the waterfront area around South Beach Harbor—home to BAADS and it's sponsoring yacht club, the South Beach Yacht Club (SBYC). Under the leadership of former Commodore Herb Meyer, BAADS, the SBYC Board of Directors and the Harbor Manager at South Beach Harbor, Mr. Jim Nybakken, began to lobby hard for a dinghy dock as part of the project—something the harbor did not have. Through collaboration with Chris Mitchell, the dock dimensions were determined, proper racks were obtained, and the dock became a reality.

The BAADS Access fleet consists of eight dinghies. Five of the boats that BAADS now owns were demonstration boats that made their way around North America over the past 5 years or so. The remaining three boats were a donation from the Tradewinds Foundation, headed by Fred Hess, which recently

closed it's West Coast operation. The BAADS fleet of Access Dinghies is now the largest fleet on the U.S. West Coast.

The new dinghy program is being coordinated by Herb Meyer, and Greg Williams. Volunteers and a cash donation from American President Lines (APL) will provide on-going support. In addition to it's new dinghy program, BAADS continues it's "Sunday-Sail" program in three keelboats. Commodore Ed Gallagher is very proud of the new programs that BAADS will be able to offer to the community, and has been campaigning in local schools for new students.

South Beach Harbor is located at Pier 40, The Embarcadero in San Francisco—just south of the San Francisco-Oakland Bay Bridge. Please join us if you are ever in the area! www.baads.org





AUSTRALIA'S MINISTER FOR THE ARTS & SPORT, SENATOR ROD KEMP LAUNCHES SKUD18

On February 28, Federal Minister for Sport, Senator the Honourable Rod Kemp, officially launched the Australian-designed yacht for the 2008 Paralympics and opened the largest regatta in Australia for sailors with disabilities. The ceremony was staged at Victoria Harbour in Melbourne Docklands, venue for the Melbourne Stopover for the Volvo Ocean Race.



ABOVE L-R:
Deirdre Schahinger—President, Australian Access Class Assoc
Phil Jones - CEO, Yachting Australia
Senator Kemp
Chris Mitchell
John Burgess - President, Yachting Victoria

BELOW: Chris Mitchell explains the specialised seating concept and servo assist controls to Senator Kemp.



Excerpt from Senator Kemp's speech at Docklands Yacht Club, Melbourne.

"The SKUD18 is a very impressive boat. The technology is remarkable: breath-operated controllers, joysticks that can be operated with various parts of the body and servo assist winches for all actions of the boat. This is yet another fine example of Australian innovation and technology leading the world.

This boat was designed with the help of a R&D grant from Ausindustry, which is the Australian Government's business program delivery division in the Department of Industry, Tourism and Resources. The SKUD18 was one of eight Victorian projects awarded a total of more than \$3.5 million in innovation funding by the Australian Government.

With this boat, Access Dinghy has certainly lived up to the concept of "sailing for everyone" and their mission of helping everyone to enjoy sailing, regardless of age ability, or financial means. And this boat is carrying Australian innovation to the world after being selected as the craft for the new Two Person Sailing Competition at the 2008 Paralympic Games in Beijing.

The Australian Government is also very pleased to support Sailing in Australia with programs and funding that assist in developing our international representatives as well as fostering grass roots participation. This financial year alone, we will provide a package of more than \$3.3 million to Yachting Australia through the Australian Sports Commission.

This funding supports activities such as an Australian Institute of Sport sailing program, international competition and training camps. It is also pleasing to see the sport of sailing, through Yachting Australia, embrace Project CONNECT. Project CONNECT is a national initiative of the Australian Sports Commission. It is a transition program for sport designed specifically to prepare sport for the inclusion of people with a disability at all levels from grass roots to the elite.

I would like to thank all those who have worked tirelessly on the SKUD18 boat for their dedication and their creativity. This is a wonderful success story and it will help people all over the world to enjoy this magnificent sport."

LA VOILE ENSEMBLE

Email: lavoile.ensemble@wanadoo.fr
<http://www.lavoile-ensemble.org/>

On february 4 2006 the **Access Dinghy Class Association** was established in France.
The name "La Voile Ensemble" remains and this new association concerns all Access Classes in France.

President:
Marie-Claude Acker-Frotiee

Vice President:
Arlette Claustre.





YES EUROPE !

**Zoltan Pegan, Access Dinghy Foundation Trustee
Budapest Hungary**



Amsterdam, December 2004. IFDS held the Yes! Europe (Young Enabled Sailors) conference with the aim of advising the attendees on how to further their country's sailing programs based on the central theme of enabling young people, both disabled and not. It was here that I met Wilfried Klien from Germany and Diego Cukaric from Croatia. They both expressed a desire to get young disabled people in their communities involved in sailing.

The Germans have had strong elite sailors representing their country at each Disabled World Championships and Paralympics but there isn't an organised entry-level structure.



The Croatians have a fantastic coastline along the Adriatic Sea and plenty of fine Mediterranean weather, two important ingredients for any sailor.

I have been entrusted with the care of four Access Dinghies and a trailer. Together, they are Chris Mitchell's "European Mobile Unit", a selection of servo-equipped and non-servo Access 2.3 and 303 dinghies to be used for Come & Try events.

This July, thanks to the efforts of Wilfried Klien we will be conducting a three day event for 12-20 disabled youth in Essen, in the northwestern Ruhr region of Germany. He's organized the all-inclusive "Access Dinghy Event", with accommodation, volunteers, coaches, the works, with the support of the Deutsche Behinderten-Sportjugend (DBSJ) and local sponsors. DBSJ is the youth organization of Deutschen Behindertensportverband (DBS), the National Paralympic Committee of Germany.

Meanwhile, in Pula, Croatia, my other new friend, Diego Cukaric (after his return to competitive sailing in the Sabaudia Cup last October) is getting organized for a similar event with the support of his local sailing club and Rotary.

Me? I'm the lucky guy who gets to travel to these great places and do a little sailing. Have Mobile Unit, will travel.

zpegan@chello.hu



Access Dinghies on Lake Balaton, Hungary in summer 2005

INTERNATIONAL ACCESS CLASS ASSOCIATION

David Staley, Executive Officer



The establishment of the International Access Class Association and its National affiliates is a significant step in bringing Access sailing into the mainstream of the sport. The new Associations will concentrate on the development of the classes and competitive sailing.

Access Dinghies are the boats of choice around the world for accessible sailing programs and for many sailors with a disability. However, the Access Classes have not enjoyed official status within the International sailing community. Now with the formation of the International Access Class Association (IACA) some major steps forward have become possible.

In November 2005, the International Sailing Federation designated the Access 2.3 as an ISAF International Class and the Access 303 as a ISAF Recognised Class. It is anticipated that the Access Liberty will be designated an ISAF Recognised Class before the end of

2006. The real highlight however, is the selection of the latest Access class the UD18 (being commercially released as the SKUD 18) as the new 2-person boat for the Beijing Paralympics.

As you can see, the Access classes have now 'arrived' as part of mainstream sailing. The IACA will be working with National Authorities to establish the series of Access dinghies as a recognized development pathway for sailors with a disability.

All active Access Dinghy sailors are encouraged to join and support their National Access Class Association. Apart from becoming eligible to compete in National and World Access Championships, you will receive direct and regular updates via email. Information can be obtained from the Association's Secretary, Jenny Bell (jenny@accessdinghy.org) or Executive Officer David Staley (david@accessdinghy.org).



AUSTRALIAN & INTERNATIONAL ACCESS CHAMPIONSHIPS



A VOLUNTEER'S VIEW OF THE NATIONALS

By Steve Sampson, South Australia

I recently travelled to Melbourne for the Access Dinghy National Titles with Deirdre and Bob Schahinger (25-29 Jan). These great little boats are 2.3, 303 and the Liberty.

After a nine hour trip to Melbourne, we drove 45 min to the factory at Dandenong to pick up our three Liberty's returned from the Worlds in Italy. The next four days were to be the most rewarding in my 40 something years in this great sport of ours.

Deirdre (now national Access Class president!!) Bob, I and Belinda (one of our sailor's carers) signed on as volunteers working with a host of others - and work we did.

Docklands Yacht Club which is in a new location did a great job as hosts running the show from a shared shed in the old Victoria dock. The sailors made the regatta, some having mild or acquired disabilities to sailors with most severe, especially the guys and girls with cerebral palsy.

We had a blind sailor who Bob looked after. He did not tell him where to sail but told him where various marks were using the o'clock system and he did the rest very well. The courage and skill displayed on the water was incredible from the beginner classes to the most experienced was very humbling. Some of these guys would kick my butt out there. But whatever the degree of disability, it evaporated on the water.

This was only a brief on what has captured my imagination as a class. Remember, sailing is for everyone. The 2006/2007 Access Nationals will be at Adelaide Sailing Club at Easter 2007.

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Championship host, Docklands Yacht Club provides outstanding facilities for spectator sailing competition in the heart of the Melbourne business district.



RESULTS

International Access 2.3

Div 1	Morgan Staley	Black Rock SC, VIC
Div 2	Robert Eadie	Tasmania
Div 3	Cathy Trotter	S'bility Gold Coast,
Div 4	Mark Thorpe	Lake Wellington YC
2P	Ralph Brunskill	Sailability Belmont

Access 303 (Recognised Class)

Single	Paul Borg	Gippsland Lake YC
2P	Roy Jewell	Docklands YC, VIC

Liberty

Manual	Chris Riordan	Adelaide SC, S.A.
Servo	Dave Cook	Canada

Other Trophies

Team Trophy	Sailability Gold Coast, QLD	
Best Junior	Morgan Staley	Black Rock SC
Best Female	Genevieve Broadbent,	S'bility WA
Servo (Dev 1-7)	Martin Waller	Sugarloaf SC,
Encouragement	Jane Purbrick	Lysterfield SC
Most Improved	Martin Waller	Sugarloaf SC
Hans Hill Volunteer Trophy	Bill Gabriel	Sailability ACT
Maersk Travellers Award	David Cook	Canada
	Bob Bellemy	UK

 MAERSK LINE  MAERSK LOGISTICS

In August 2005 A.P.Moller Maersk acquired P&O Nedlloyd, Access Dinghy Foundation's long-standing, generous sponsor. Maersk Australia and ADF are looking forward to continuing a fruitful relationship, developing accessible sailing throughout the world. Maersk personnel will have opportunities to experience the joys that sailing can give sailors with disabilities.

Right: David Cook (Cookie) of Canada sailing in the Australian International Access Dinghy Championships.





We Gotta Regatta

2005 NORTH AMERICAN ACCESS DINGHY C'SHIPS

Debby Frenkel

Thirty-two sailors of various ages and abilities fled "to" the waters of Lake Avalon, at Sugden Regional Park in Naples, Florida, leaving behind wheelchairs, crutches and their personal assistants to compete against one another in the *We Gotta Regatta*, also 2005's *North American National Access Dinghy Championship (NANADC)*.

The January 13-15, 2006 regatta, rescheduled because of hurricane Wilma, was dedicated to Dell Darby, one of Collier County Sailing Center's own sailors who lost her battle with cancer at the age of 67, on January 11, 2006.

Joshua Seidner, a 15 year old, Ft. Lauderdale sailor recovering from Leukemia, took all first places in the 2.3 Single Fleet during the regatta, which also secured him as the Winner of the 2005 *North American National Access Dinghy Championship*.

Paola Santiago, 10 year old, Naples volunteer was awarded the *NANADC* Encouragement Award. Coaches from the five programs around Florida gathered together with the race committee to decide who deserved this year's award and Paola was voted for unanimously for her assistance off, and especially on the water. Paola sailed with two developmentally disabled sailors in their respective heats of the day, which put her on the water more than any other sailor. She is a new volunteer that has faithfully come to the program to assist and continuously goes above and beyond what is asked of her. .

Sailors came from all over North America. Skip

Doyle, a seasoned sailor with polio, from the Lake Ontario area sailed competitively against Kerry Gruson from Miami in the 303 Fleet and came in first place with three bullets. Paul Callahan, a sailor with quadriplegia, from Newport, Rhode Island also made an appearance.

Events like the *We Gotta Regatta* and all-inclusive sailing programs, like the one in Naples offers the opportunity for **ALL** individuals to participate in a sport on an equal playing field regardless of age, ability, challenges or economics.

For more information contact
Debra Frenkel
305-588-2082 dfrenkel2000@yahoo.com

Below: Joshua Seidner of Fort Lauderdale, winner 2.3 division



Sailability Point Piper

A new concept for Sailability - Jackie Kay



Sailability Point Piper (SPP) recently became the 25th branch of Sailability NSW and the 54th branch in Australia. SPP is a new concept for Sailability.

Through the generosity of well-known Sydney yachtsman, Denis O'Neil and son Ned, SPP has been established to provide all members of Sailability with the opportunity of experiencing Sydney Harbour aboard the 48ft motor launch *Expresso* with a skipper and crew being available to provide up to twelve Sailability members enjoyable cruises on Sydney Harbour.

The Royal Motor Yacht Club of NSW, adjoining Denis' jetty has provided wheelchair accessible facilities. Because of traffic and parking difficulties at weekends, Sailability activities are restricted to mid week activities.

All branches of Sailability NSW are offered the opportunity of organising regular activities to utilise the facilities of Sailability Point Piper. Individual regional members of Sailability will also be encouraged to utilise Sailability Point Piper when coming to Sydney for medical consultations, wheelchair appointments etc. Interstate and international Sailability visitors are also most welcome.

With Ned O'Neil at the helm as President, SPP is eager to enrich the lives of members of Sailability, their family, friends, carers and volunteers. For more information contact Jackie

jackiek@sailability.org

48ft. *Expresso*, Sailability Point Piper's flagship





2006 FESPIC GAMES

The biggest sporting event for athletes with disabilities, outside the Paralympic Games.

November 26-30 2006



Upcoming Regattas

2006	
June	
30 & Jul 1, 2	French Access Championships Club Nautique Alpin de Serre-Ponçon Embrun 05200 cnasp@wanadoo.fr lavoile.ensemble@wanadoo.fr
August	
12	Canadian Access Championships Quinte Sailability Trenton, Ontario mjpgower@reach.net
September	
1-3	UK Access Championships Frensham Pond Sailability, Surrey tedbonner@btinternet.com
30–Oct 3	Sabaudia's Cup San Felice Circeo, Latina, Italy info@velaetica.it
November	
18-19	Pending—Australian Special Olympics selection Event Three Lakes Sailing Club Lake Tuggeranong, ACT Australia terry.peek@bigpond.com.au
26-30	FESPIC Games Far East & Sth Pacific Disabled Games Kuala Lumpur, MALAYSIA Contact your NPC
2007	
April	
6-9	Australian Access c'ships Sailability Adelaide Sailing Club Adelaide, South Australia sahobie@bigpond.net.au
September	
7-15	IFDS Disabled World Championship Rochester Yacht Club Rochester, New York USA Keith Burhans—kmbnfofet@aol.com

Sailing has been included for the first time at the FESPIC Games. Entry is open to all sailors with a disability from Asia and Oceania. The classes sailed will be the International 2.3 and Liberty. Each country may send up to 4 sailors. In each class of boat, a team will consist of 1 x female and 1 x male disabled sailor.



- **2 x International 2.3 dinghies** - 1 x female and 1 x male sailor is a team—sailing solo.
- **2 x Liberty boats** - 1 x female and 1 x male sailor is a team—sailing solo.

This format is to encourage more females into sailing. Entries for the Sailing Competition have been received from Australia, China, India, Japan, Malaysia, New Zealand and Singapore.

All boats will be provided free of charge. The 2.3's are being provided by Sailability Singapore and Sailability Malaysia. The 18 x Liberty are provided by the Access Dinghy Foundation and will be shipped from Australia thanks to the generous support of Maersk Australia Pty Ltd.

AUSTRALIA

The Australian Paralympic Committee will coordinate the Australian Team for this event, with Yachting Australia being responsible for the selection of the Team. For more information watch www.yachting.org or email Kate Culbert (Olympic & Paralympic Manager) katie.culbert@yachting.org.au

MALAYSIA—by Zul Bin Mohd Ali

We are excited to host the first sailing competition in FESPIC Games. Ten Malaysian sailors of different disabilities are training for selection. We train twice a week at Port Dickson about 2 hours from Kuala Lumpur. The Malaysian Sailing Association provide our coaches.

Malaysian Liberty Sailors in Italy—(L) Shimah Binti Hasham and (R) Zul Bin Mohd Ali

