

Mengeham Rythe Sailing Club – Annual Prize Giving

With the main racing season coming to an end it was time for the Annual Prize Giving Ceremony and an opportunity to award our sailing greats on their achievements. This was held in the club house on Saturday, 25 November, 2011 with a packed audience of prize winners, crews, support teams and their proud families.

The Presentation table fairly groaned under the weight of the splendid array of prizes. The silver had been freshly polished and the glassware sparkled - all waiting to be proudly displayed on the recipient's mantelpiece.

It had been a busy year with a full racing schedule and it was busy not only for those participating but for the dedicated band of volunteers who support the programme and without whom the racing wouldn't be possible (perhaps there should be an award for them also)?

The Master of Ceremonies was Graeme Macdonald, who opened the proceedings and introduced Val Jenkins who had graciously agreed to present the prizes.

John Butcher (RYA Principal) introduced the 10 Junior Members who were being awarded certificates for attaining RYA Stage 1 and the 5 Junior Members who attained RYA Stage 2.

The Junior Shield for Most Promising went to Harry Payne – John said that although this was Harry's first year of sailing, his enthusiasm and the excellent progress he has achieved made him a very worthy winner.

The Admirals Trophy for Junior Merit was awarded to Conway Parke for his success not only in races at MRSC but for the Tera Nationals where he had borrowed a club boat and came 9th out of 63. Conway was always willing to give up his time and regularly helped with the junior training at the Club. Well done Conway.

Graeme moved the proceedings along but still introduced each worthy award winner with a sentence or two on their achievement or a quip and/or a story if he had one.

The Annual Log Trophy – went to Carol and Gordon Gravestock who in a friend's boat sailed from the Med along the Rhone and Seine rivers and canals to Paris.

A full list of awards can be found on the MRSC website.

The overall star of the evening must go to 15 year old, Anthony Parke who amongst other trophies and awards was awarded the Sailing Secretary's Award.

Anthony has had an exemplary year not only in the races at MRSC but this year he also qualified for and was chosen for the RYA Team (under 19s) to attend the Laser 4.7 Worlds held in San Francisco in July/August of this year.

MRSC were proud to help Anthony attend this event with sponsorship through the Jeremy Strugnell Fund and the Club's support was justly rewarded as Anthony came 19th out of 110 –and 2nd in the Under 16 Championship run concurrently; no mean achievement for this quiet, unassuming young man.

Anthony said that it was very exciting sailing under the Golden Gate Bridge and getting up close to Alcatraz but thankfully not as an inmate!. It had been the only sightseeing they managed as there was no spare time to do anything other than sail!

They had had 3 practice days in which to familiarise themselves with the sailing conditions and equipment. A particular challenge was contending with the flooding tidal race that occurs in San Francisco Bay; where the rising and falling waters enter through the narrow opening at the Golden Gate, creating strong tidal currents, this along with the huge tankers manoeuvring in the bay ensured the young sailors had to be alert and on their top form.

Anthony received his Club awards watched by his proud parents, brother Conway (who had been awarded the Admirals Trophy), his sister Hazel who had attained RYA 2 this year and his grandfather who started it all off, needless to say the whole family are keen sailors.



Here, Anthony is pictured being presented with the prestigious Sailing Secretary's' Award. This award is nominated for outstanding achievement in the year.

Anthony's ambition is to eventually compete in the Olympics in 2020 and will be looking into sponsor ship to help him to achieve this goal.

It was certainly a year for our junior members and we can all look forward to an even better and competitive sailing year in 2012 and no doubt we will be spurred on by the Olympic Sailors in 2012!

Sylvia Clamp (MRSC Press Officer)