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The Primary Club helps ten blind yachtsmen set sail

Grant enables East Anglian Sailing Trust to run East Coast Blind Sailing Week

East Anglian Sailing Trust (EAST) , a registered charity that enables adults with disabilities to take part in boating and other related activities, is using its £1,540 Primary Club grant to run East Coast Blind Sailing Week this summer for ten yachts. The fleet will set sail on 13 July from Levington in Suffolk headed for Honfleur in France enabling visually impaired yachtsmen to experience a week's sailing. Each boat will have a visually impaired sailor on board who will participate as a member of the core crew. The only limitations are cooking and going over the side with a mooring line. In addition to helping to finance the adventure, The Primary Club has also helped to fund specialist equipment such as an audio compass to enable the visually impaired yachtsmen to be as involved as possible in the experience.

"The East Anglian Sailing Trust works tirelessly to help people with disabilities to enjoy sport," said Derek Underwood, Patron of The Primary Club. "We've been working with the Trust for over three years and we're delighted to be able to continue to support this organisation who shares our values of helping to improve the quality of blind people's lives through physical recreation."

"We've been running our sailing week for fourteen years now and every year without fail the experience has a dramatic impact on the visually impaired sailors who take part," said David Vasey, a trustee at EAST. "Not only do they get to have fun and enjoy the pleasures of sailing but mastering sailing also helps to build their confidence and the social aspect of the trip also cements friendships for life."

(275 words)

About The Primary Club (www.primaryclub.org)

Founded in 1955, The Primary Club's mission is to raise money to fund sporting and recreational activities for blind and partially sighted children. Now in its fifty-first year the Club has almost 9,600 members having raised a total of £2 million. In 2006 the Club donated £200,000 to a number of UK-based charities including Linden Lodge School, The Royal London Society for the Blind and British Blind Sport.

About East Anglian Sailing Trust (EAST)

The East Anglian Sailing Trust (EAST) is a registered charity aiming to provide regular opportunities for adults with disabilities, and their carers, to take part in boating and other related activities. EAST is run entirely by volunteers from Suffolk Yacht Harbour at Levington near Ipswich on the Suffolk River Orwell. The EAST dedicated training room/workshop/social centre allows EAST to offer a year round programme of activities which involve over 100 volunteers. In addition to offering sail cruising opportunities for mobile adults with various disabilities over weeks and weekends, EAST liaises with the management of Suffolk Yacht Harbour to improve accessible facilities available to sailors with disabilities and their carers at the marina. EAST maintain a fleet of five National Squib Keelboats at Levington which have opened up evening sailing and racing opportunities to adults with a wide range of disabilities. Additionally, EAST organise an integrated training programme for volunteers and disabled members, in conjunction with the East Anglian Sea School, to enable appropriate RYA courses to be run and qualifications obtained. Contact David.vasey@ntlworld.com for further information.