

AFLOAT

If you have boating or watersports news,
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WINNER: Weymouth Sailing Club commodore Melita Biggs and cadet of the year Tom Rees

YOBs enjoy big awards night

By STEVE DADD – WSC

WEYMOUTH Sailing Club's Youth On Boats section (YOBs) held their annual prizegiving at the club's Nothe Parade headquarters.

A total of 110 cadets, parents, sponsors and helpers attended.

Club commodore Melita Biggs presented the awards after which the cadets elected their new captain Nathan Moss. Games were played then everyone tucked into a large buffet before dancing the night away.

Another first for the club was a New Year's Day race – with the wind chill down to -2C, only four boats ventured out on to the water for a quick blast around the bay. The winner, Kay Stibbs, was presented with a bottle of bubbly.

Lois takes her quest to show

ADVENTUROUS physiotherapist Lois Bickerton will be taking her Clipper round-the-world yacht race quest to the London Boat Show.

The former Thomas Hardy student has passed the selection process for this year's event but is now in hot pursuit of sponsorship.

Lois, 26, has already raised £10,000 to secure her place on legs one and two of the race to Rio de Janeiro and South Africa.

Yet she is £3,000 away from confirming a place on leg three to Western Australia.

Lois said: "Leg three is the one I'm looking forward to the most because it is big ocean sailing with the potential for the greatest speeds down mountainous seas – though it also scares me."

"This week Clipper Ventures confirmed that the initial leg leaving Hull on September 13 will involve a highly tactical race through the English Channel, across the Atlantic to Rio de Janeiro in Brazil.

"At the London Boat Show I expect to hear about boat sponsors and the confirmed route of the race.

"The latest news is that California is to sponsor a boat, while Qingdao, Humber and Singapore are already confirmed.

"If only Weymouth and Portland were sponsoring a boat!"

With just eight months to go, Lois has stepped up her funding campaign and is determined to secure a place on all seven legs of the circumnavigation.

She said: "I will continue to look for sponsors until the day that I leave. The search is on."

"I am hoping that national and local businesses will see the potential in this international event especially with the 2012 Olympics around the corner.

"Sponsors gain the benefits of media coverage and business promotion and networking.

"I am also looking for race partners to provide advertising, clothing, equipment and training to my challenge."

Those already supporting Lois in this way, include On The Water Training on Portland, which has provided sea survival and first aid training and Arthur Savage Insurance in Dorchester which is providing advertising opportunities.

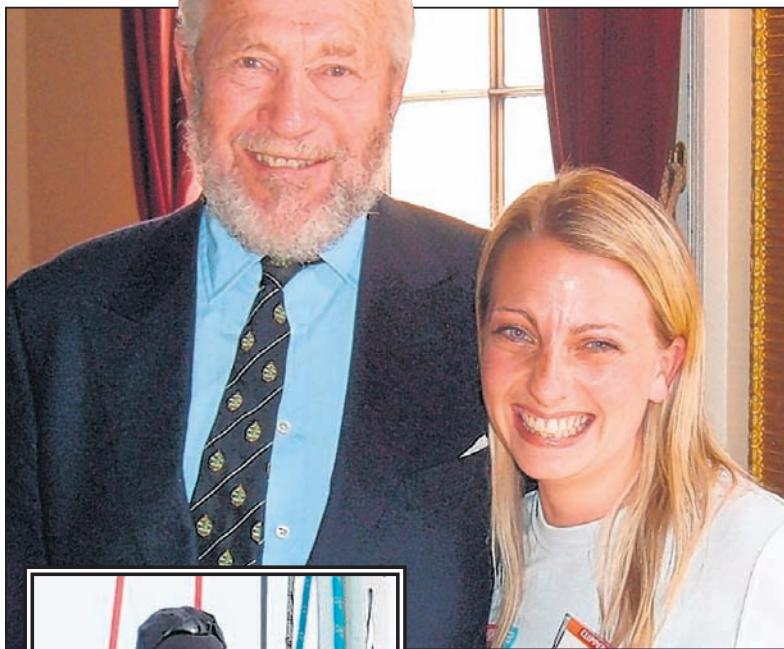
Lois's visit to the London International Boat Show on Saturday, January 17 will involve meeting potential sponsors and attending Clipper press calls and team briefings.

Race founder and sailing legend Sir Robin Knox-Johnston, who Lois has met on numerous occasions, will also be there.

In February Lois will take her yachtmaster theory course.

She also aims to maintain her fitness levels to ensure she is ready for the physical challenge of the race.

Lois said: "I will be keeping up with my windsurfing in our waters, walking our coastline and perhaps



STARS OF THE SHOW: Lois Bickerton with the Clipper race founder Sir Robin Knox-Johnston. Left and below, Lois in training for her adventure



another long-distance run challenge.

"Of course I am still working as many hours a week as possible in my normal job – being a physio."

In May, Lois will attend her team's selection day in Gosport.

From this point on she will work with fellow team members and a skipper to prepare for the race.

She said: "We will begin all our team training together both on and off the water."

"Crew members will be allocated roles which will include duties such as victualling, boat organisation, nutritional calculations and training co-ordination."

"Throughout the summer we will be training together and individually to improve our sailing and racing skills – much of mine will be happening here in Weymouth and Portland waters."

Another plan in the pipeline is for Lois to conduct school visits to raise pupils' awareness of the challenge and get them to follow her progress around the world.

In September Lois and the Clipper

crews will take the boats up to Hull and prepare for the media attention and interviews.

Lois said: "I am getting so excited now but I wish so much that I was able to represent our region in the entire circumnavigation."

"I love Dorset and would like to tell the world about how great it is. "This challenge has taken over my life, and got my whole family and friends involved too."

"I want to say thanks to everybody who has helped and supported me so far and I hope they will stay as supportive as they are now throughout the preparation and the race."

The Clipper event enables people from all walks of life to compete in a round the world yacht race.

The 10-month event will see a fleet of 10 identical racing yachts cross all the world's major oceans and visit ports on six continents during the 35,000-mile race around the planet.

To contact Lois, email lois@ocean2ocean.co.uk

White now ninth with 12 left in world race

STEVE White is currently in ninth place in the Vendee Globe round-the-world yacht race.

An exciting week of events saw former Weymouth schoolboy Jonny Malbon retire due to a severely deteriorated mainsail on Monday, while French sailor Jean Le Cam sparked an emergency rescue on Tuesday.

The plot then thickened when the boat of French competitor, Vincent Riou, who attended Jean, then dismasted and had to be towed ashore by the Chilean Navy yesterday.

Just 12 boats remain in the non-stop race, which is living up to its reputation as the Everest of sailing.

A total of 18 boats have now abandoned the circumnavigation of the globe since the fleet of 30 left Les Sables d'Olonne in France on November 9 last year.

Former Swanage PE teacher Dee Caffari is currently in eighth position.

See Steve White's latest blog at www.afloatweymouth.co.uk/stevewhite/

■ For the full story on this week's adventures see Page 9 of today's Echo.

Olympians to promote the resort

OLYMPIAN sailors Sarah Dempsey of Wyke Regis, and her former Yngling crewmate Sarah Webb will be attending the London International Boat Show today.

The double gold medallists will be helping to promote Weymouth and Portland ahead of the 2012 Games.

Paralympic sailor Helena Lucas will also be offering her support to Team Dorset at a question and answer session at 12.15pm on the Weymouth and Portland Stand N69J.

The sailors will share their thoughts on the continued expansion of the Weymouth and Portland region as a destination for marine excellence with John Tweed, chief executive of the Weymouth and Portland National Sailing Academy and Richard Burgess corporate director of the environment for the Weymouth and Portland Borough Council.

Dempsey is due to reveal which boat she will be campaigning in for the games later this month.

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PORTLAND HARBOUR AUTHORITY LIMITED

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No 01/20Q9(T)

LOCAL NOTICE TO MARINERS IN FORCE

Mariners are advised the following Local Notice to Mariners are in force:

No	Title
01/2009(T)	Local Notice to Mariners in Force
02/2008	Port Waste Reception Facilities
03/2008	Portland Noise Range - Sea Cable Route
04/2008	South Ship Channel and the Wreck of the 'Hood'
05/2008	Small Vessels
06/2008	Dangerous Substances in Harbour Areas Regulations 1987
07/2008	Risk Assessment of Recreational Events
08/2008	Reporting of Accidents and Incidents
09/2008	Prevention of Oil Pollution
10/2008	Diving at Work Regulations 1997
11/2008	Permit to Work
12/2008	Speed of Vessels
13/2008	Unauthorised Navigation Prohibited Area
14/2008	Escort Towing for Vessels > 180m LOA
15/2008	The Training Vessel 'Tristram'
16/2008	Use of Sound Signals
17/2008	Ballast Water Management
26/2008(T)	Wellworthy Beacon

All other Portland Harbour Authority Local Notice to Mariners are hereby cancelled.

The Portland Harbour Authority Local Notice to Mariners can be found on the website www.portland-port.co.uk

This Notice is issued under the powers invested by the Portland Harbour Revision Order 1997.

Captain M Shipley
Harbourmaster & Marine Manager
1st January 2009

Owners, Agents, Yacht Clubs and Recreational Sailing Organisations should ensure that the contents of this notice are made known to the Masters or persons in charge of their vessels or craft.