

First Award of Martin Broom Memorial Trophy for Outstanding Contribution to Broads Boating

All who knew Martin Broom MBE were saddened when he passed away in 2013. Martin will go down in Broads history as a wise, unassuming and tireless worker for boating on the Broads. His record for contribution to the administration and well-being of boating is without equal.

After consultation with Martin's widow, Jennifer, the NSBA's General Purposes Committee decided that each year the NSBA should offer to award a trophy in Martin's name for an outstanding contribution to Broads' boating.

For this purpose, 'outstanding contribution to Broads' boating' is not limited to any particular context or to an individual contribution. It could, for example, be awarded on the basis of work behind the scenes, contribution in the commercial boating sector, contribution to training, or a combination of these things. The Trophy may be awarded to an individual, a group of individuals or an organisation. *The closing date for nominations (to be submitted to the Hon Administrator) is 30 September in any year.*

The Trophy consists of a wooden cabinet containing a display of some silver spoons adorned with club burgees which Martin won at regattas and open events across the Broads. The concept was inspired by Jennifer Broom who donated the spoons. The Trophy was made by Lorne Betts, who donated the wood and his time. Its construction took many hours of work.



The winners

Jennifer Broom presented the Trophy to its first winners at the NSBA's AGM in December. It was awarded to the Nancy Oldfield Trust to general acclaim.

The Nancy Oldfield Trust was founded 30 years ago by Richard Kenyon who had a vision of providing a centre for anyone disabled or socially disadvantaged so that they could experience and participate in water-based sports. With help from his parents and with the £80,000 that he had raised, a bungalow at Neatishead was bought as a base and some sailing boats were bought with extra funding.

Over time three specially converted motor boats, each with capacity for up to ten people, have been bought enabling visitors, even those with significant mobility issues, to enjoy the Broads in all weathers. In addition, a pontoon was obtained which provides a permanent base for the nine sailing boats (two Bass boats, three Yeoman, a YBOD, a Kinsman, a Randmeer and a Pandora).

Supported by a recent bequest, the bungalow has been updated for the second time so that en suite accommodation is available for up to ten people with disabilities and their carers. The Trust can now provide experience in tandem canoes, sailing, fishing, bird-watching and trips in the three motor-craft. It is committed to 'green' technology and has a number of craft powered by electricity giving the opportunity for peaceful observation of wildlife. The Trust co-operates with many other Broads organisations including the Norfolk Wildlife Trust, the Hunter Fleet, the Green Festival, Fairhaven Gardens, St Benet's Abbey, and the Broads Authority. In addition, it has trained many RYA Instructors and Senior Instructors who also now support sail training in clubs across the Broads. Motor-boat drivers are trained to RYA Inland Waterways Certificate standard by the Trust. The Trust works with local charities for people with a range of disabilities including Norfolk and Norwich Association for the Blind and residential homes and day centres. The Trust is run by the Centre Manager, Stephen Bradnock, full and part time senior instructors and part time administrative support. More than 60 trained volunteers (many of whom are NSBA members) work summer and winter and the NOT has recently been awarded the National Parks Group Volunteer Award 2014. The Trust would always welcome more volunteers, particularly sailors. You can contact them on 01692 630572 or visit the website www.nancyoldfield.org.uk



Nancy Oldfield Trust receives no statutory grant funding and is dependent on donations and bequests. If you have enjoyed spending time on the Norfolk Broads during your lifetime, perhaps you might consider remembering the Trust in your will or making a donation to enable people with disabilities, both young and old, to benefit from time on the water both now and in the future.