

Black Ties And Helium Balloons

OVER 150 sailors from the north east of England attended the North East Sailing Charity Ball in Newcastle at the end of February and enjoyed an evening of wining, dining, dancing and money raising in aid of the charity Sail4Cancer, writes Liz King.

There were lots of games played, the hula hoop table challenge probably being the biggest spectacle of the night, with lots of gyrating hips on the dance floor, except for Sunderland Yacht Club who had a cunning plan to keep the hula hoop up - lots of helium balloons!

The programme was full of entertainment and the raffle/auction provided a lot of fun, resulting in fabulous prizes provided by the generous sponsors being won by some happy guests, while raising lots of money.

The final dance involved a limbo competition across the floor to great amusement of partakers and onlookers and brought an entertaining evening to an end.

Dave Shilling assisted by Josh Gebhard provided a busy photo studio, taking snaps of guests in their wonderful dresses, while the Team Trident UK Ladies worked hard with their bowls and buckets collecting money.

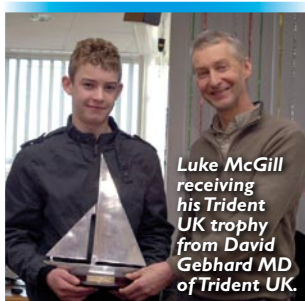
Organisers Jackie and Jaemi Gebhard from Trident UK said they were absolutely delighted with the successful evening, and the monies raised, and would like to say a big thank you once again to everybody who was



Trident Ladies preparing for action: Judi, Jaemi, Jackie, Carinna, Jessie and Sophie Gebhard.



Tynemouth Sailing Club Ladies.



Luke McGill receiving his Trident UK trophy from David Gebhard MD of Trident UK.

involved.

In total £2,350 was raised for the UK based charity Sail4Cancer, whose aim is to use sailing as a medium to raise funds to provide sailing opportunities for cancer patients and their families and to improve cancer treatment, research, care and rehabilitation.

Prizes were donated by Gill, International Paints, Office Angels, Optimumtime, Henri Lloyd, Yachts and Yachting, Lowrie's Cash and Carry, Imperial Racing, Premier Inn, Groovy nights Disco, and a number of local sailors.

Will there be a North East Charity Ball in 2010? Yes is the answer. The provisional date is 20 Feb 2010, same time, same place.

It is hoped that all the sailing clubs

in the region will support the event.

● 14 year old **Luke McGill** from Sunderland was presented with his Trident RYA NE Regional Young Sailor of the Year trophy at the RYA North East Spring Conference on Saturday 21 February.

In front of the conference delegates, from RYA clubs and training centres across the north east, David Gebhard managing director of Trident UK, paid tribute to Luke's achievements and his commitment to sailing:

'Winning this trophy is not just about results on the water; winning races is a great achievement, but this trophy is bigger than that. We recognise the commitment of the young sailor in terms of training the youngsters in the club, helping out in the boatyard and at regattas.'

'The Trident Trophy rewards the complete package and this year it could not go to a more

deserving winner than Luke.'

As well as winning the Trident Trophy for his work in 2008, in the past year Luke has won the RYA NE Travellers Series, the Honda RYA Youth RIB Challenge NE Regional final and the Raymarine RYA NE Young Sailor award. All fantastic achievements. Bring on the 2009 season!

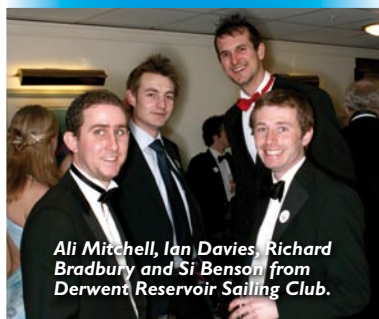
● The town of **Scarborough** in North Yorkshire has been shortlisted for the 2008/2009 European Enterprise Awards by the European Commission.

The news comes hot on the heels of Scarborough winning the Enterprising Britain 2008 award in October. As competition winners, Scarborough was automatically invited to enter the European Enterprise Awards, and is now one of three shortlisted projects in the Entrepreneurship Promotion category.

Tony Peers, chairman of Scarborough Town Team said: 'Since taking over from Tom

Pindar as chairman of Scarborough Town Team, I have seen at first hand the dedication and hard work of everyone involved. Given that I consider Scarborough the best town in the world, Europe should be no problem!'

The European Enterprise Awards Ceremony will take place in Prague on 13 May 2009.



Ali Mitchell, Ian Davies, Richard Bradbury and Si Benson from Derwent Reservoir Sailing Club.



Scarborough, shortlisted for an Enterprise Award.