

## AN INCLUSIVE FAMILY EXPERIENCE



Sailing in the 303s at Blairgowrie Sailability can be more than just sailing especially for families. A family of five, mother father three children ages about fourteen eight and two who were in the area for a short family holiday decided to try sailing, responding to our general invitation. There was a special purpose for their short holiday break, as for the past two years they had been dealing with the Children's Hospital coping with serious illness affecting the youngest member.

They had not expected that they would all 'go sailing' but they did. With lifejackets on, the two oldest children helped get Patrol 8 into the water and we brought it round from E Arm to the hardstand sailing area. The other family members watched as Lindsay and Frank launched some 303s from their storage pontoons and rigged them.



Sailing began with baby on her mother's lap while Frank sailed and mum helped. Dad who had some sailing experience had a short sail with Brian and with reefed main then sailed with his son. Lindsay sailed back and forth in the protected water off the hardstand, sharing the controls with the eldest child. Lots of informal chat and the introduction of new words like 'painter' and 'sheet' etc. Most of all a shared experience, not for some while others watched, but for the entire family. Plenty to talk about afterwards, and some photographs to help them appreciate Remembrance Day for some additional reasons.



What a demonstration of the capacity of Chris Mitchell's wonderful design and of the fact that thanks to the effort and commitment of the volunteers, the provision of the excellent facilities and equipment at Blairgowrie Yacht Squadron, sailing was once again proven to be for 'all ages and all abilities'. Also evidence that while it is about sailing, Sailability is about so much more for both the participants and the volunteers.

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