

BLUE BUCKET 1986

Well it's getting like Ol' Man River, the Blue Bucket fund just keeps rolling along. Thanks to the amazing goodwill and generosity of the 505 fleet no less than a total of seven young men have been able to go to the National Sailing Centre for a six-day dinghy sailing course. The association sent one in 1984, two in 1985 and four in 1986. They have been learning how to sail in Lasers and Wayfarers and three have received the RYA Elementary Certificate. All have reported back with great enthusiasm and thanks to the 505 Association.

These 505 Blue Bucket Scholars, for those who have not been pressed to dig deep into the oversuit pocket for the occasional corroded copper, are selected from the various social services, may have run into a spot of minor bother and generally are not that socially advantaged. They could be (although our chaps most certainly haven't been) the types who perhaps might chuck a rock at the passing 505 from the Weston foreshore (or am I doing our angling brethren an injustice?).

The general aim of the 505 Blue Bucket Fund is to dispel the unworthy notion that yotties are a monied uncaring group of Henries; to give these youngsters a break from the unemployment queue and to give a bit of a leg up the ladder. To win a Blue Bucket Scholarship they must enter a competition devised by Dave and Pia Wansbrough and undergo a stiff interview from the selection committee.

Where have our lads come from? Well for ease of administration the first three came from Hampshire, but as our organisation improves in both scale and efficiency we are now spreading country wide. Two this year came from Swindon and one from Toxteth; Neil Thomas and Sue Colclough formed the interview panel there. The other was from Southampton. In view of this exponential success should we envisage making it compulsory for all school leavers? I mean rules and all that, after all they might go off sailboarding, a laissez faire activity if you ask me loafing around, no proper mark rounding, no discipline pulling all the pretty birds I mean to say what? Much better for the



A clean-shaven Ossie Stewart and Jim Berry minus one of his bugger's grips – two examples of excess facial hair auctioned 'off' in aid of the Blue Bucket Fund.

character to get wet, cold, stiff, hot, itchy, cut abused, cramped, I digress.

Next year the committee comprising Dave Wansbrough, John Donnelly and myself are intending selecting from Liverpool again, Neil and Sue having again volunteered, and Glasgow, courtesy of Stan Waughman (Stainless Stan), who you will all be meeting at Prestwick.

What of the funds? Well on page 22 there is a covenant. Vernon, Vernon, a covenant is not where you find loose limbed lovelies desperate to be taught about pollination and pussy catskins, but a crafty way of getting extra money for the fund. Scheme being, if you are going to give the price of a pint, say 70p for those North of Bridlington, the good old Inland Revenue will chuck in a bit extra and round it up to a pound. So fill it in, just the price of a pint will do, and we will be able to keep running. Jo Robertson,

Robbie's mum, has again contributed most handsomely – thank you Jo.

Besides this there is always the chance that Jim Berry will grow another pair of B-Handles for another auction.

This year's main fund-raising event was an auction at the Abersoch Nationals. The idea was that people would give unwanted sailing gear or other goodies, which would be auctioned by a suitable extrovert, with all proceeds going to the Blue Bucket Fund. In the event, so few people bothered to contribute anything (with the notable exception of Dave White who donated a brand new Z Spars spinnaker pole) that the event seemed bound to flop.

Then Jim Berry offered to auction his whiskers. To add to the fun, he agreed to have them shaved off in public, by Ossie's girlfriend Alison. Similar offers followed, including Ossie's beard, and with Vernon and

Pete's uninhibited auctioneering style, the money flowed in – over £400 for the evening. There was a further collection at the prizegiving and the total received in the week was over £500 – a truly magnificent result.

There will be another auction at Prestwick in 1987 and we hope everyone will give generously – either by contributing articles for sale or by bidding for them, or both. Any surplus hair welcome, provided it is attached to the donor!

Other donations have brought the total for 1986 to just over £750. With courses costing about £150 each plus travelling costs etc., we can be sure of providing at least four courses in 1987.

Please think of the pleasure which even a small contribution could give to someone who has not had many of the good things in life, fill in a form and send it to Les Everitt.