



The integration of able-bodied and physically disabled people through the adventure of sailing a tall ship at sea.

Background:

Many Rotarians are already familiar with and actively support the Jubilee Sailing Trust. This partnership is greatly valued and Rotary has made a most significant contribution to the success of the Trust in its early years. The Jubilee Sailing Trust (JST) was established as a registered charity in 1978 with the aim of encouraging integration between able bodied and disabled people through sharing the challenge of crewing a tall ship at sea. This dream was fully realised in 1986 when the first, custom designed, ship the Lord Nelson entered service.

The special facilities incorporated into the ship allow a safe working environment for young and old and ensure a very high level of independence for disabled people. Voyages last from 5 to 10 days and 40 voyage crew (20 disabled and 20 able bodied, including up to 8 wheel chair users) join the 10 permanent crew for the experience of a lifetime. The voyage crew are divided into four watches and sail the ship under a traditional watch system that encourages fellowship and a tremendous team spirit. Nearly 25,000 people have sailed with the JST. This includes almost 4,000 wheelchair users and nearly 400 amputees. The numbers are always increasing but the following information gives an indication of some of the disabilities of voyage crew, although this has not prevented them from taking an active part in sailing a JST ship:

Blindness	1051	Muscular Dystrophy	127
Hemiplegia (Stroke)	620	Paraplegia	432
Spina Bifida	585		

A second tall ship, Tenacious, has been built from wood by the JST by a huge team of volunteers in Southampton and, entered service in Summer 2000. At 680 tons she is the largest ship of her type to be built in the UK for more than 100 years.

The JST's two ships have been specially designed to allow people of all physical disabilities to sail side by side on equal terms. People from the age of 16 upwards are able to take part in the JST experience and there is no upper age limit. Sailing the high seas as part of an integrated team has helped thousands of people achieve things they never dreamed possible. Crew-members often return with a new outlook on life and a greater understanding of their own and each other's abilities.

The JST want as many people as possible to benefit from sailing with them. To make sure that no one is denied the opportunity due to cost, the JST subsidise each voyage by at least 35% (representing approximately £250 per person). Providing opportunities like these costs the JST huge sums of money every year (more than £1.4 million). The JST work hard to ensure that as little money as possible is spent on administration so that the maximum amount is available for our main aim – life changing experiences.

How Rotary can support JST:

Rotarians have played a significant role in bringing the JST experience to any people during nearly 20 years of partnership with the Trust. To date almost 800 Rotary Clubs have joined up with the JST and helped to make lives brighter.

There are a number of different ways in which the JST and Rotary might continue to work together to the mutual benefit of both organisations. For the JST this could mean completing the financing of Tenacious, maintaining the two ships and operating the two ships at high occupancy levels to the benefit of the public; for Rotary this would mean helping to provide a service to able bodied and disabled people in the local community. Some of the ways in which this might be achieved in practice are outlined below:

- Arrange a visit for your Club members aboard a JST ship, especially during the Summer when port visits by the ships often coincide with maritime festivals.
- Invite a JST speaker to your Club.
- Sponsor a local able-bodied or disabled person on a voyage.
- Sponsor a person to act as buddy to a seriously disabled person on a JST voyage.
- Sponsor a foreign student on a JST voyage as part of their exchange experience.
- Sponsor a young person on a voyage, which qualifies towards the Duke of Edinburgh's Gold Award Scheme.
- Encourage the media to feature the JST/Rotary partnership.
- Commit to fundraising towards an aspect of the operational costs of JST's 'life changing experiences' work.
- Become a member of the JST.

You will find JST representatives attending many District Conferences, for you to make contact directly.

Benefits to Clubs:

- Helping to change lives through the integration of able-bodied and disabled people.
- Providing your Club with a speaker.
- Involvement of Club members in a JST voyage or event.
- JST's experienced fundraising, marketing and PR teams are able and willing to assist, to ensure your project is successful.
- Developing links with your local JST branches and our network of volunteers throughout the UK and abroad.
- Opportunities to raise awareness of your Rotary Club and potential to recruit new members.
- Opportunities for fellowship.

Contact Information:

General enquiries: Tel: 023 8044 9108 Fax. 0870 4435782
Address Jubilee Sailing Trust, 12 Hazel Road, Woolston, Southampton, SO19 7GB
Email info@jst.org.uk

Voyage enquiries: Tel.0870 4435783

Website: www.jst.org.uk

Or if further assistance is required, please contact any member of the current RIBI Community & Vocational Resource Group member.