Soroptimist’s International Milford Haven
26th September 2023
Dawn Pickering, Secretary for Sealegs2
Overview

• Background to Sealegs2

• Rights of disabled people to access activities (my PhD research)

• 2022-2023 season

• Future
History: Sealegs in Neyland 1993-2018

Our History

Building on the wonderful Legacy of the original Sealegs venture, the Sealegs 2 association was formed in 2020 to continue accessible sailing based in the Milford Haven estuary.

A Typical Adventure on a Sealegs Boat!

Between 9:30am and 10:30am our passengers arrive but I prefer to call them our friends, which is who they become, soon after they step onboard. We meet and greet them, don them in lifejackets and discuss what time they need to return, this helps to determine how far and in what direction we will take Sea Legs.

Rain or shine, it’s usually all smiles and excitement as we slip our lines and using the engine’s steerable drive leg, we swing the catamaran around smoothly and head out of the marina. On a short day, say 10:30am to 2pm, we may head over to Pembroke Dock as there’s lots to see and our friends enjoy looking at the tugs and other craft in this area.

Then we may head upriver towards Llaven-ny or Llangwm, especially if we have the tide in our favour and with prevailing winds usually behind us, we often unfurl the genoa and cut the engine. The peace and quiet of ’ghosting’ along is my cue to boil the kettle and make everyone a nice hot drink, which is always well received.

On days when our friends have more time with us, perhaps 9:30am to 3:30pm, we consider heading down the Haven to Angle, Sandy Haven or Dale, if the conditions are suitable. On these days we enjoy using the mainsail and genoa to reach down to our lunchtime anchorage and then fly the colourful cruising chute to run back home.

Upriver, our lunch break is usually spent on a suitable mooring, and we have our favourite spots where there is beautiful countryside close to us. Downriver, we often anchor in a sandy bay but we always use a tripping line, just in case the anchor fouls on something.

Our friends love helming Sea Legs, and many of them do this with a little help from us, others can take instructions and steer her well, just as if they’d been on boats all their lives. Tacking is also a team effort and a sheet end, passed to someone in a wheel chair, enables them to feel part of the team, which of course they are.

Back at the marina, and safely alongside, we help our friends onto the pontoon and say our farewells, and then we spend about half an hour cleaning and preparing Sea Legs for her next adventure. We may feel tired but we’re pleased and privileged to have helped some amazing people to experience the joys of sailing, on a very special catamaran!
Pinafore purchased 2019
February 2020 Sealegs2 formed
Verity K. on loan from Disabled Sailor’s Association 2022
Trip from Alicante to Milford Haven
June-July 2022
Ramp access
Lift down to sleeping quarters, kitchen and bathroom
Neyland Marina access
Access (borrowed ramp)
Website data

- 2,242 visitors; 158 social views

- 2022 Verity K August to November

- 2023 Verity K until July; Pinafore April –September

- Total of 73 people have had trips across this time
Trips out Verity K
Trips out Verity K.
Trips out Pinafore - April – September 2023
Trips out April – September 2023

I had an amazing time. I have told all my friends about it, thanks.
Future

Changing places toilet?
Ongoing costs

• Maintenance of life jackets.....

• Skipper training

• Ramp for Pinafore?
Please take a leaflet to pass onto someone who might benefit and get in touch for next season

• [www.Sealegs2.org](http://www.Sealegs2.org)

• Email: [info@sealegs2.org](mailto:info@sealegs2.org)