

## MEMORIES OF EDDIE DUNHILL 1924 - 2015

### A Fitting Tribute to Eddie Dunhill

After a life-long passion for sailing, Eddie Dunhill passed away last year at the age of 90. He had been introduced to boats by his father as a child and this started an enthusiasm for the sport which never left him. Eddie fully understood how sailing helped to develop young people and he liked nothing more than encouraging them to get involved in the sport.

An extremely competitive racer, he collected over 100 trophies, sailing in many classes over the years, some of them international. Eddie was also Commodore of Worthing Yacht Club and then Salcombe Yacht Club when he moved to the south west. Although retiring from the water when he was in his 60s due to ill health, Eddie continued to take an active role in the sailing at the club.

As beneficiaries of Eddie's Estate, his children, Caroline and Tony, have decided to donate sufficient funds to the Tall Ships Youth Trust to set up an annual Voyage in his name.



Caroline, Tony and the Trust have been working together to develop a plan that will disburse the "Eddie Dunhill Fund" over the next 25 years providing bursaries to 300 disadvantaged and disabled young people and helping with the upkeep of the Trust's fleet. Each year the young people will join an Eddie Dunhill Voyage with the most improved young person receiving one of Eddie's trophies in recognition.

"Everything the Trust stands for resonates with Dad's life" said Caroline. "It's a brilliant organisation that works right around the UK reaching out to some of the most needy and troubled young people and achieving remarkable results in a very short space of time.



One of his last pleasures was watching The Trust's Tall Ship Stavros S Niarchos sailing into Salcombe with a crew of young people on board. We'd just given him an iPad and his carer helped him take a picture of the ship as it moored up. It was the only picture he ever sent to us from his iPad."

Tony continued "After his funeral, we were sitting on the balcony at Salcombe Yacht Club talking about Dad, when the ship appeared round the headland and sailed into the harbour. We hadn't told the Trust the date so it was surprising,

spooky and magnificent all at the same time. It was even more amazing when we heard from the Trust that Stavros has only visited Salcombe twice this year. We felt Dad must have been looking down and smiling on us that day."

## Eddie's Life

Introduced to boats by his father as a child, Eddie Dunhill taught himself to sail on a lake in Corsica while returning home from war service in Southern Italy, in 1946. He had been an RAF Navigator on Special Operations with 148 Squadron.

When back home in Worthing he led the local Air Training Corps, encouraging the young cadets to achieve their full potential.

By the mid 50's he was married and joined the newly formed Worthing Yacht Club with his wife, Joy and two children.

He became a skillful and competitive sailor, participating in and organising club events and Open Meetings for two decades along the south coast and beyond, competing internationally in the sixties in the Moth class, and becoming Commodore of the Club in the early seventies.

His key to success was to understand how sailing worked and although he had no academic qualifications he studied and learnt the theory and practice of sailing.



This led to many successes in a range of dinghy classes from Herons to A Class Cats. Sailing was his passion but this approach served him well in many areas of his life.

From his ATC days, Eddie always recognized the need to encourage and teach skills to the young, especially those disadvantaged through lack of support or equipment. He set up youth training sessions for sailing, so no one would miss out.

He continued this idea on moving to Salcombe in the seventies where, in due course, he was again elected Commodore of the Yacht Club.

Sadly, ill health cut short his sailing days but his enthusiasm for encouraging young people to sail through knowledge and experience never diminished.

The Eddie Dunhill Voyage with the Tall Ships Youth Trust continues this vision and is a fitting memorial.