



Sailability Conference 2018

Technology Workshops Output

Workshop objectives

To share perspectives on boats, technology and equipment and agree an action plan for how to work better together as a technology group in 2018

Workshop overview

Workshop 1

- Introductions by attendees and their technical involvement in Sailability
- Overview of Sailor Interview findings
- Introduction to technology providers
- Identifying key opportunities for the group to work together and challenges to overcome

Workshop 2

- Presenting the 6 themes created by Opportunities and Challenges
- Break out groups to work up each opportunity into an initiative
- Presenting back worked up initiatives
- Discussing next steps

Sailor Interviews: key themes

1. What are your specific boat, technology or equipment needs when it comes to sailing?

- Sailing experience is very varied and many variety of boats have been tried – all with some form of modification specific to the sailor's needs
- Feeling secure when seated
- A life jacket that will turn and support wearer if tipped from boat
- A range of servo-assisted technology used that needs to be simple to access
- Technology and modifications need to be reliable

2. How has your current sailing method been developed? What have been the biggest challenges? What have you learnt along the way?

- Instructor led Reward scheme was highly regarded and used as a way to develop skills
- 'Choice' of boat depends on availability in Club
- Secure seating is crucial whatever the boat
- Bespoke solutions are needed that are reliable, cheap to develop and easy to maintain
- There is a lot of knowledge out there but how to tap into it

Sailor Interviews: key themes

3. **Is there anything you wish you could have when it comes to boats, technology or your sailing, even if it seems impossible?**
 - Ability to retain independence in all sailing activities
 - Being able to sail solo from the onset
 - To race on same day as able-bodied sailors, with simplified easy to access rules
 - Access to affordable, reliable, responsive, supportive, bespoke/adaptable systems – and funding
 - Comfortable seating with universal fittings
 - Modern boat designs developed for cheap and easy adaptation

4. **What advice would you give us in providing solutions for other sailors?**
 - To new sailors - find out more before you dismiss the sport
 - To technology developers – keep developing safe solutions
 - Ability to loan differently adapted boats and share knowledge and advice e.g. on-line Forums
 - Everybody's needs are different and different solutions are needed
 - Clubs need to attract good technicians to develop/maintain solutions
 - Ask for advice
 - Keep solutions simple and easy

Opportunities+Challenges identified for 2018

Online forum to share advice and expertise

Contacts database to easily access technology experts

Leadership team for technology group

Sharing boats and equipment

Funding for technology solutions

Access to technology provider expertise

5 Initiatives emerged from the workshop

Ask the Experts
online forum

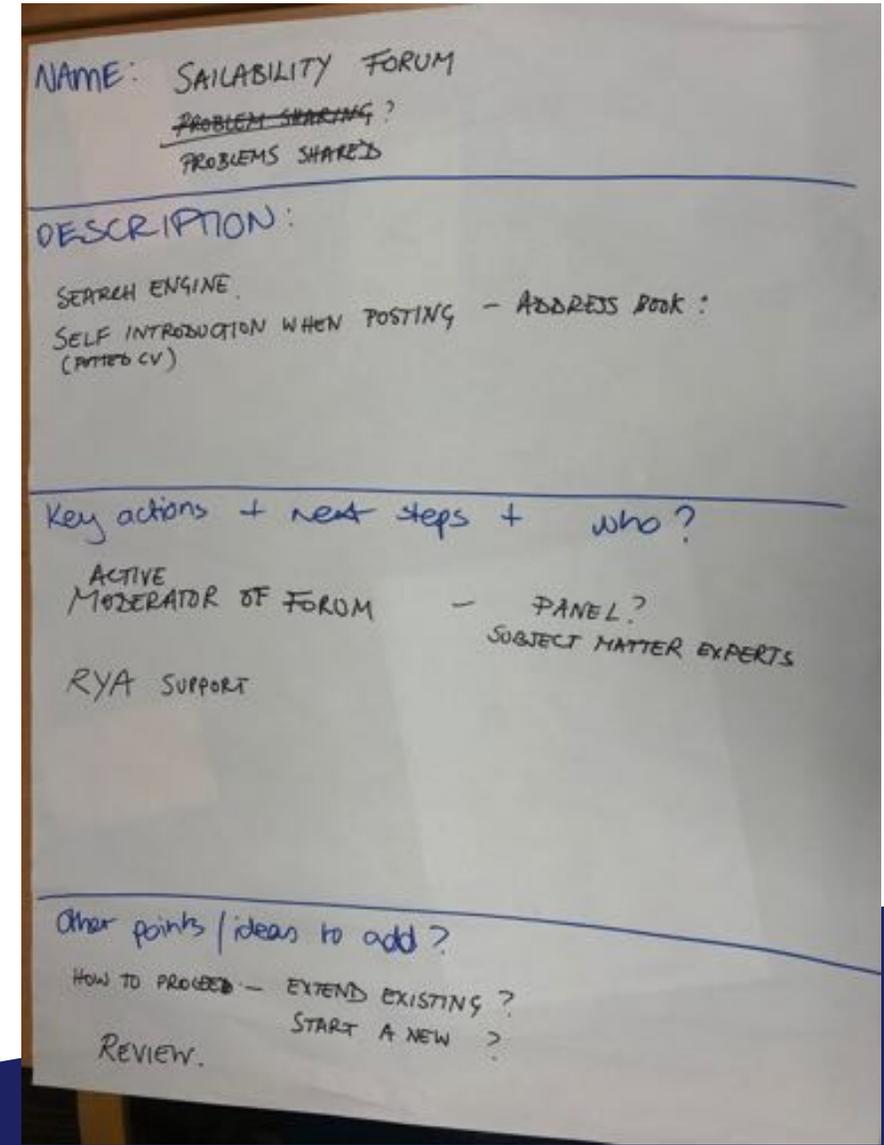
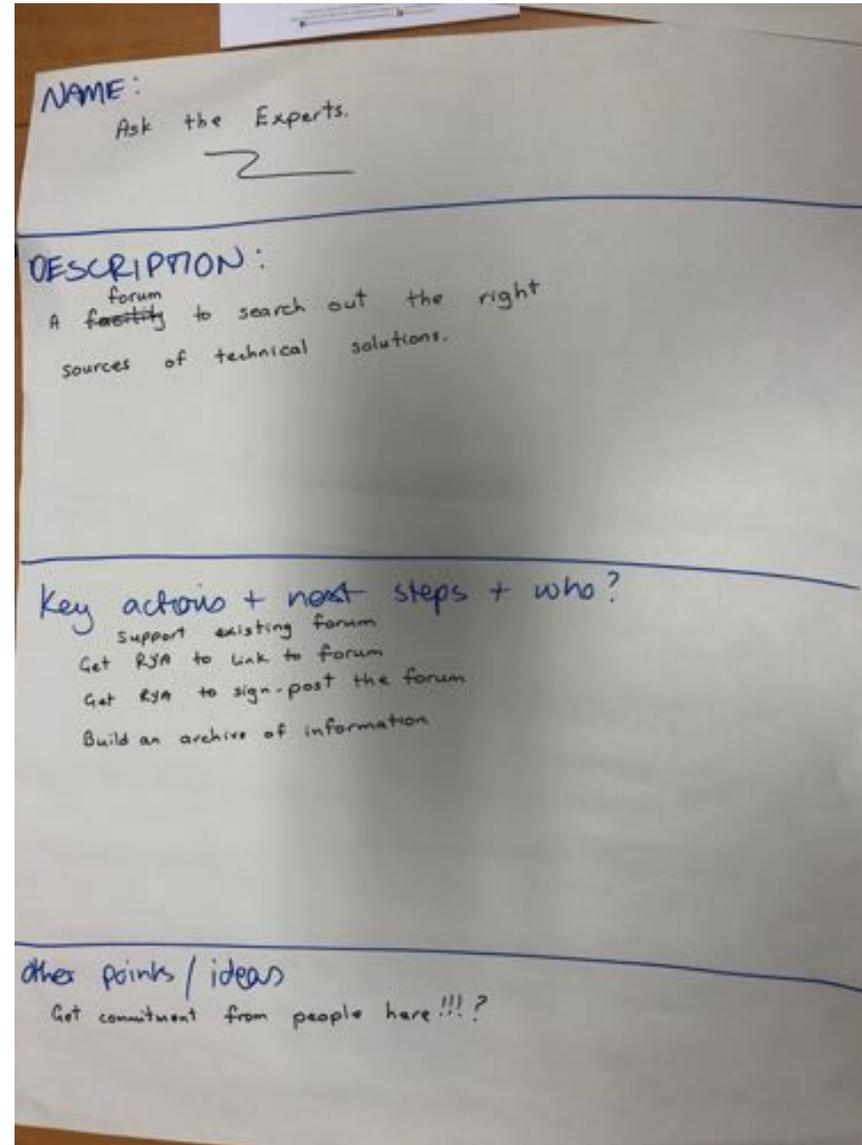
Technical
Solutions team

Facebook
Group

Pool of Resources

Project Funding

Ask the Experts online forum



Ask the Experts online forum

Forum design requirements:

- Contacts page for each forum member, including name, club, area, expertise, case studies, boats and technology specialist areas and photo
- Panel of Technical Solutions experts, each of whom own a specific topic of expertise (hoists, servos, etc)
- Fully searchable for finding relevant topics and threads
- Includes club profile page with equipment audit (see Pool of Resources idea)
- Active volunteer moderation within RYA guidelines (not moderated by RYA)
- Consider a closed Facebook group as a parallel resource to provide beginner sailor information, short articles on technical solutions, a place to ask questions, to send people to the forum

Actions and next steps:

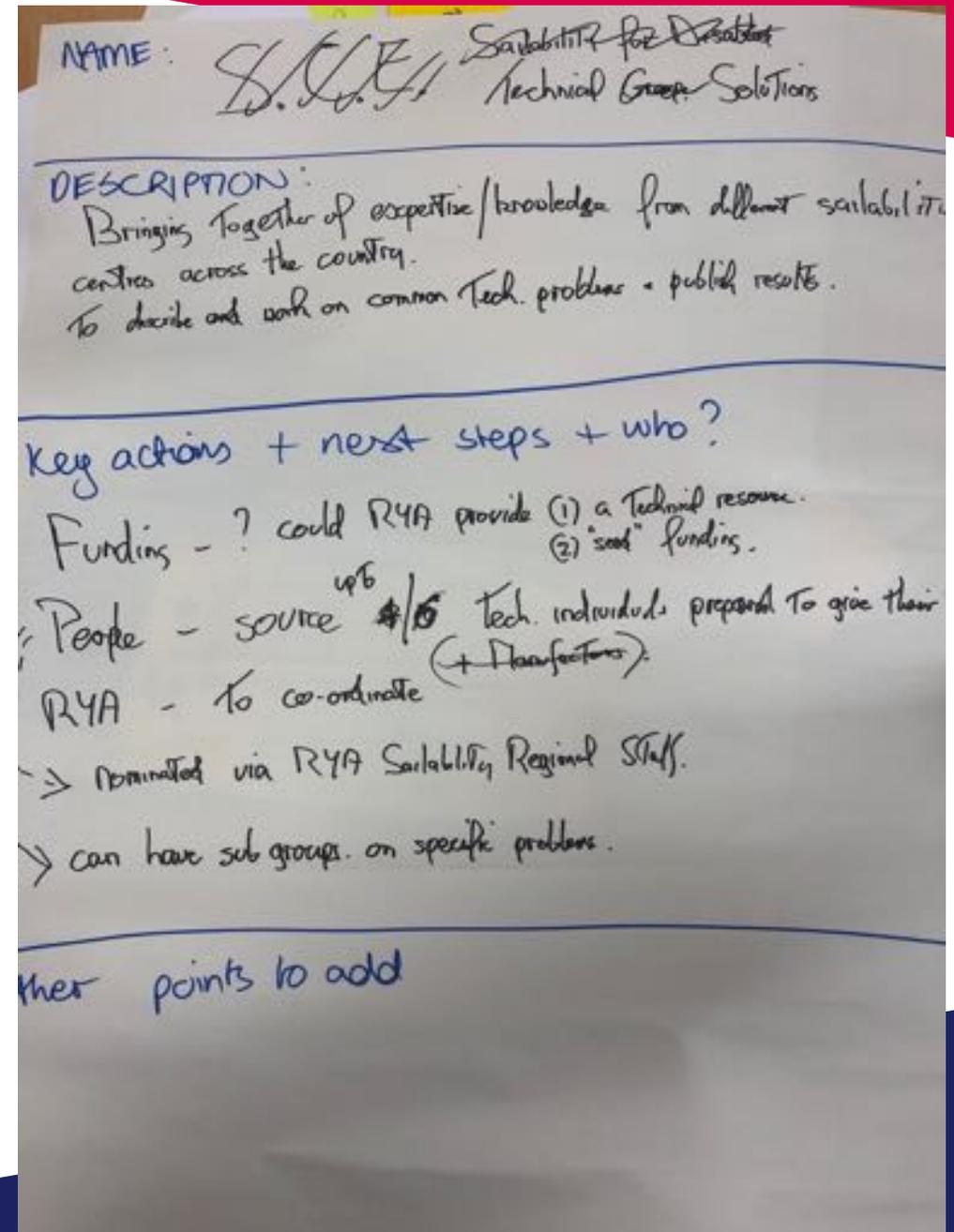
- Each technology member will join the existing forum immediately
- Each member joining will fill in an introduction to themselves, their background and expertise
- Develop in parallel further Forum design improvements or a new forum as per above ideas
- RYA to promote and market the forum in all Sailability communications

Technical Solutions team

- Bringing together expertise and knowledge within Sailability to describe and work on common technical problems and publish results
- Each expert owns a topic (servos, hoists, etc) and a geographic area – with sub-groups on specific problems
- Work via the online forum and in person, face to face to meet and solve technical issues

Actions and next steps:

- Funding - could RYA provide technical resource and seed funding
- People – source up to 6 technical individuals prepared to give their time
- Coordination – RYA to coordinate, nominating via Sailability Regional staff

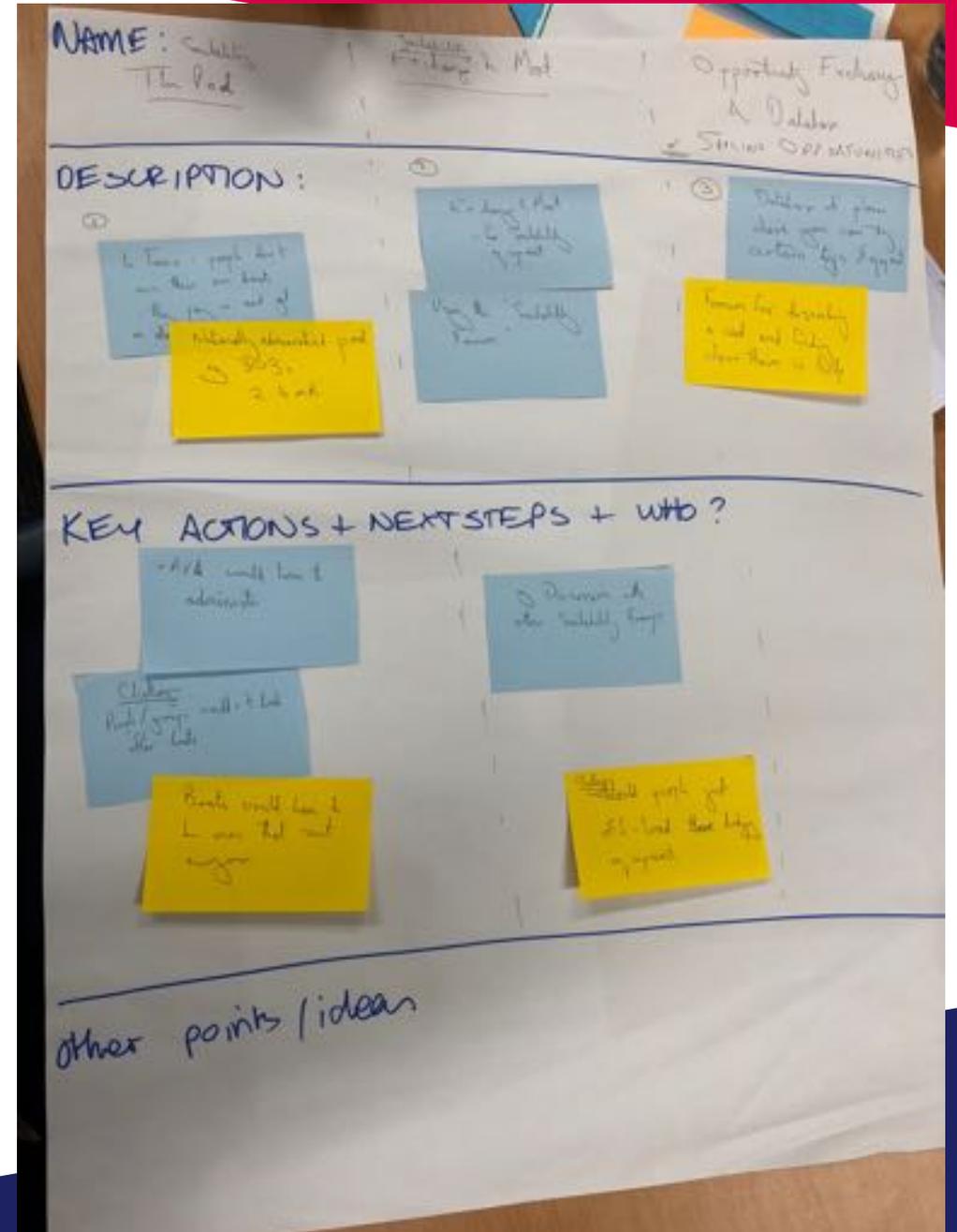


Pool of Resources

- A pool of boats and equipment nationally administered by RYA
- An exchange system where different clubs do an audit of the boats and equipment they have and are available to lend, exchange or sell to other clubs for money, exchange of equipment or services
- Database of places and clubs where you can try out specific types of equipment and find out where there is help or expertise

Actions and next steps:

- Work out which boats would be most versatile for broad needs to have as a pool
- Audit of all clubs current and spare equipment on Ask the Experts forum for both exchange and “try out” scheme above

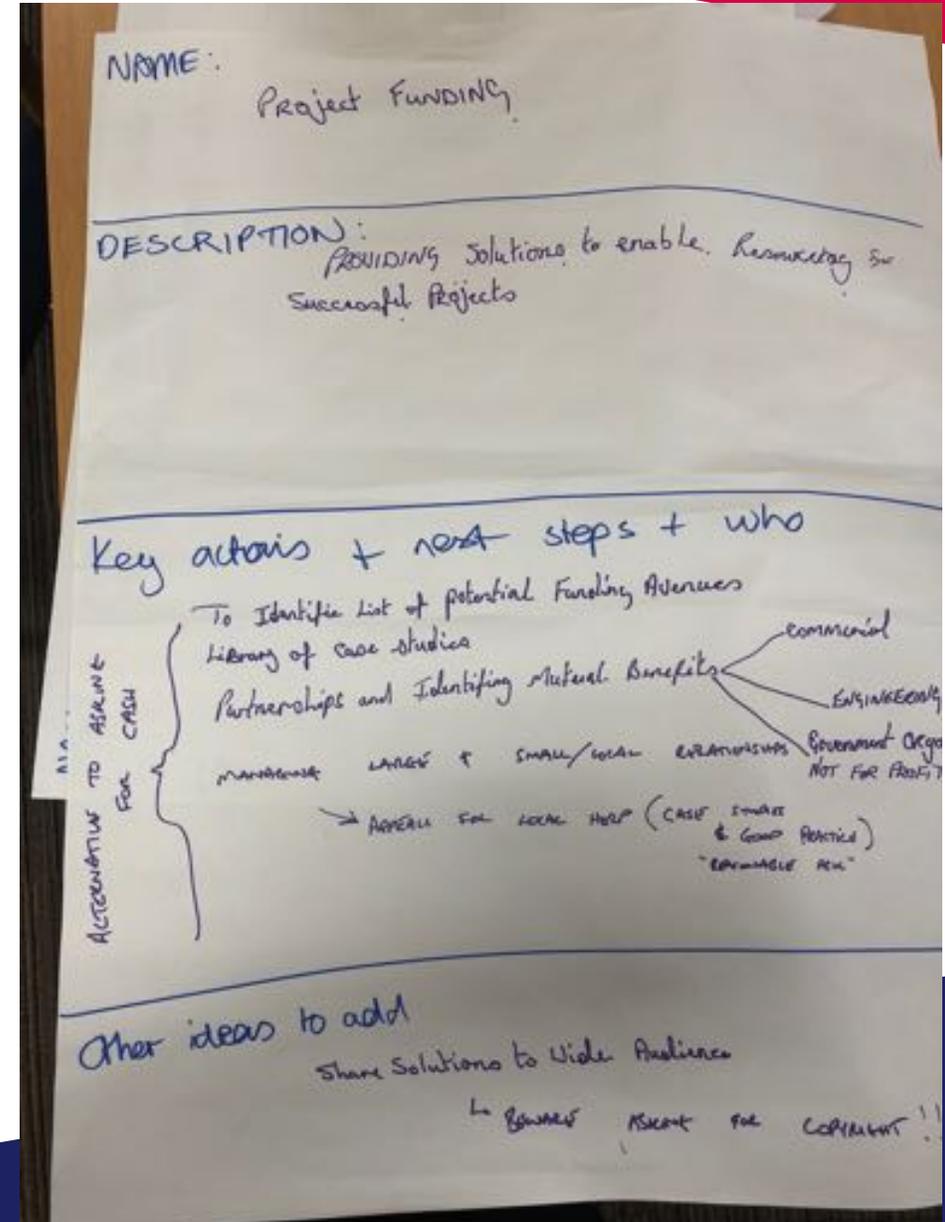


Project Funding

Providing solutions to enable resourcing for successful projects, including Ask the Experts, Facebook Group and Pool of Resources

Actions:

- To identify list of potential funding avenues
- Pull together a library of case studies for use in online forum and Facebook group
- Develop partnerships and identify mutual benefits (with commercial, engineering, government, university research and not for profit) for solving issues in future
- Managing large and small/local relationships
- Appeal for local help using case studies and good practice (reasonable asks from local providers with advice from group, eg. Small welding job)
- Sharing solutions for a wider audience via Facebook, As the Experts and other requests (beware asking for copyright)





Pam Hamilton
pam@paraffin.ltd