

COLIN BLANDY OLYMPIC FUND

For several years preceding the 1976 Olympics, two young BYC members, Richard Hewitt and Colin Blandy, made a concerted effort to be named as Canada's crew in the Tempest Class. Because most of the competition in this class was situated in Europe, Richard and Colin spent a good deal of their time travelling to qualifying regattas. In order to help our sailors with travel and regatta expenses, some members of BYC formed the Britannia Yacht Club Olympic Participation Fund. Although Colin and Richard had great success in several international events, they did not make the team for that Olympics. During that winter Colin wrote a letter to the Board of Directors expressing his thanks for the support from the Participation Fund, and stating how if young sailors from BYC are going to try to compete on a World Class level they must get out and sail against the best.

Very tragically, while attending Queen's University, Colin, son of Past Commodore Walter Blandy, became ill and eventually died.

As there was some money left in the Participation Fund after Richard's and Colin's campaign, a group led by Liv Sherwood, Rod Miller, Phil Tillman and Maurice Murphy decided to continue the fund in the name of Colin Blandy to assist future potential young Olympic and World Class sailors from the BYC with their campaign expenses. Thus the Colin Blandy Olympic Fund was born.

Many young sailors have been assisted through this fund. Since 1977 the Fund has assisted over 29 young men and women in the attainment of their racing ambitions. Of these several have gone on to become international competitors and Olympians.

Rob Woodbury was selected to represent Canada in Finn's at the 1980 Moscow games but was unable to compete for a medal because Canada withdrew, for political reasons. Shona Moss, sailing Europa's, represented our country at Barcelona in 1992 and did us proud. Internationally, Al Clark Jr. and John Brooman sailing Lasers, have shown that they are world class sailors and worthy of the support given them by the Fund. More recently, other young enthusiastic ambitious recipients of the Colin Blandy Fund like Erica Vines, Amy Cada, Rob Frost, Matt Soosalu, Nick Kroeger and Rob Hemming have pursued their quest to get onto the international stage.

None of this would have transpired without the members of BYC who have financially supported this worthy cause over the years. For over 35 years now, through the generosity of BYC members by adding \$20.00 to their annual fees, bequests, donations in remembrance of deceased friends, and other contributions, the Colin Blandy Olympic Fund has been helping young BYC competitors attend out of town regattas in order to enhance their racing skills. The high skill levels of our young sailors is evident around our Club and throughout the regatta circuit. What it says is that Britannia Yacht Club members are a generous group of people who want to share their love and enthusiasm for the sport of yacht racing and sailing with young people.

We look forward to hearing from other young people who have the same aspirations of representing Canada and Britannia Yacht Club on the race courses of the world.

