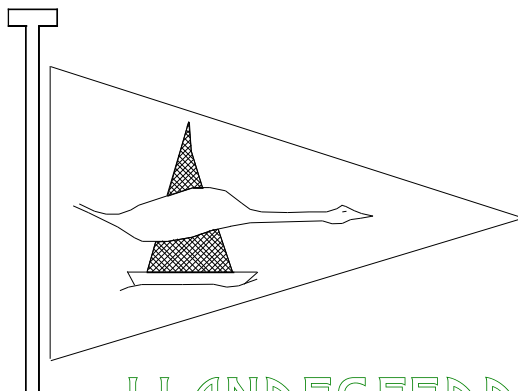


# 2003

News & Review

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[www.llandegfedd.org.uk](http://www.llandegfedd.org.uk)



# February NEWS

LLANDEGFEDD SAILING CLUB

## Social Diary

## Thoughts from the Commode

### Youth Racing

Some diary dates for this year. Open to all Youths unless indicated otherwise.

### Major Events

- Welsh Youth Championship 26-27th April at Pwllheli
- Young Racers Camp (for 13 and under) 26-30 May at Bala
- Youth Racers Camp 21-25 July. Venue not yet fixed, but it will be South or West Wales.

For the camps, parents are not expected to stay. The youths are not under canvas. At Bala they stay at the Urdd Centre, which has very good facilities.

### Dates for CYRC are

- May 24 (prov) Llangorse
- June 08 Mumbles
- June 15 Llandegfedd
- June 29 & 30 Barry
- Plus one more at probably at British Steel, if a date can be found.

### Optimist Race Coaching

Phil Weston has provisionally booked Olly Green to provide race coaching on Sunday 13th April. Olly is a previous local Optimist star sailor.

*Bill*

My first task as Commodore is to thank Bill Jackson for all the real achievements he made during his two years in office. Last year's success was due to his hard work. He has been very energetic, and his will be a hard act to follow.

I also want to thank those who've agreed to serve on the General Committee and on subcommittees and all those who help in other ways. We are a voluntary club, with no paid helpers, and it is therefore important that as many people as possible contribute to the running of the club and its activities.

We need to spread the load. On the Committee are 5 ex-commodorees and it's great that these individuals still want to help. It's always nice to see new faces and I am very pleased to welcome onto the committee Phil and Lisa Weston, James Davy and Mike Dean.

But the big problem for the Club is that we still don't have a vice-commodore, who would expect to be commodore in two years' time. If anyone is interested, or wants to find out more about what the job entails, please ring me.

At the AGM we talked about these subjects, and it was proposed that each member should contribute 12 hours' work per year to the Club. If everyone does so, I'm sure that we'll have another successful year.

My aims for the next two years are **More people, sailing better**. So I wish you all a happy new year, and wish you good winds and good sailing.

*Gareth*

### Anyone for Saturday Sailing?

One of the ideas discussed at the AGM was organised Saturday sailing. There are some of you who would prefer to focus on Saturday activity for a variety of reasons. Many of the current sailors prefer the Sunday for equally good reason.

The worry is that with a club of less than 100 members we just do not have enough to split it over the two days of a weekend. Are we right?

If you are interested in Saturday sailing, either competitively, or a more relaxed cruising format, please contact Gareth either by phone or e-mail. If there is enough interest, we will put something together.

### May "Start Sailing" and "Basic Skills" training

Now is the time to contact Keith Sykes if you or your family or friends need training this year. Adults and Juniors can learn to sail to RYA level 2, (or Junior stage 3 which is an equivalent standard). Course starts on **evening of Friday 9<sup>th</sup> May**. Keith is co-ordinating the bookings, and I know that we have a lot of places filled already. Phone now to avoid disappointment! 01633 880288.

**J** anuary

John James announces that he is looking for two crew members to join him in an exciting sailing event in Australia. "It's called 18ft skip racing!" he states.

Martyn Osborne enters the Monte Carlo Rally but decides not to drive when he realizes that the course isn't windward / leeward.

**F** ebruary

There is international outrage when, on the eve of the final regatta, the America's Cup is stolen by four men wearing kilts. Lib, Ynad, Lonic and Upal are interviewed by Interpol but are released without charge when it becomes apparent that they don't sell Bass in New Zealand.

**M** arch

Phil Tilley enters the competition to find "Britain's Strongest Man." Leading comfortably after day one things go disastrously wrong for Phil on the first discipline of day two, the "Pull a trailer full of Oppies through a narrow gate" event. Phil destroys trailer, the gate, the Oppies and any hope of victory.

**A** pril

The Llandegfedd asymmetric open meeting is oversubscribed with entries from ...er.. ...Llandegfedd!

**M** ay

Concerned at the ever increasing cost of twelve metre yacht racing, The International Yacht Racing Union decrees that the 2006 America's Cup will be sailed for in Toppers.

Dan Edwards becomes the bookies' favourite to win the Cup for Great Britain.

**J** une

Mark and Sam appear with strange catamaran like-craft. Embarrassed explanation is their Laser match race practice taken too seriously, masts entwined

**Ally Pally Dinghy Show**

The infamous RYA Sailboat show is on 1 and 2 May this year. Catch up on latest boats, gear, and buy cut rate clothing, ropes and other items – such as the Rules of Sailing?

See Yachts and Yachting and RYA web site for details. (Contact committee, may be able to share lifts?)

**J** uly

Due to unprecedented local demand McDonalds announces that it is to open a new restaurant in Bettws Newydd.

Phil and Lisa now regularly overtaking the other RS400s as they have learned from their training - unlike the ones who thought they already knew everything.

**A** ugust

The Q.E.2's voyage to New York has to be abandoned when John James drops the engine over the side.

"Tuesday club" offered employment building smart apartments in the Algarve.

**S** eptember

Paul Nolan wins the Pin. (Naaa - only joking!) Gareth is second – again.

Match racing team concerned when on-the-water judges seen donning black caps. Mervyn seen teaching new knots that are not bowlines.

**O** ctober

The landlady of The Carpenter's Arms smiles. (Naaa-joking again!)

**N** ovement

Martyn Osborne decides not to go to the dinner / dance as the main course isn't windward /leeward. Sudden cold snap brings arguments about Ice Yacht Handicaps

**D** ecember

Llandegfedd Sailing Club's 2003 calendar is published. (you just don't realise how hard this fixture list is to organise!)

*Upal*

**Race Courses**

Martyn Osborne and Steve Clarke have been working away at generating some "standard courses" for use under certain wind conditions and directions.

These have not yet been reviewed in detail, but it is a non-trivial task especially at Llandegfedd where the South-west wind rolls down over the hill with the treatment works and fans out into funny shifty gusts.

If this project succeeds it ought to help ODs set sensible courses and reduce stress levels. They will for advice, not to restrict experienced ODs.

### Optimist News

NEWS FLASH: Is Optimist fleet is now the largest fleet in the club? At the last count there are now five privately owned boats, three club race specification boats and the WYA fleet of 6 (well almost) wooden training boats. 14 boats!!

### Optimist Race training

A date for your diaries is Sunday 13th April. Oli Green, an RYA specialist Optimist coach is coming to pass on some of his go faster tips. Hannah and Sara have already seen him in action and he knows more about making Optimist go fast than the rest of us put together! Miss this one if you dare.

### Optimist Scholarships

Our proposals for an Optimist Scholarship scheme were approved at the recent AGM. The committee would therefore welcome applications from the parents or guardians of children aged 8 to 13 who would like to be considered for the scheme.

Successful applicants will be given sole access to one the clubs three newly acquired racing specification Optimists for the 2003 season. To be considered children should ideally be:

- 1) Active members of the club
- 2) Have achieved RYA Youth Stage 2 or above
- 3) Be interested in attending CYRC Youth Opens in South Wales
- 4) Be able to regularly attend club Sunday racing in the summer months

Priority will be given to those children who meet the above criteria and the committee's decision will be final.

There will be a charge made (to be finalised but in the region of £100) to cover the cost of a berth, insurance and class association membership. The responsibility for maintaining the equipment will be with the child, parent or guardian, not the club. Applications are to be made to Gareth as soon as possible.

*Bill*

### Child Protection

Kathy Milosevic has put together our child protection policy, in line with National guidelines. This helped us win the WYA Dragon Club award last year.

Our instructors will be disclosing any relevant details and new trainees will be provided with contact information in a bid to make our sport safer. All information is confidential of course.

### Subscription Renewal

It's that time of year again. To make things easier, we have printed the details for you. This gives us a chance to correct our records and for you to see what we think we know.

### Qualifications

Note that last year's qualifications have **not** been added to the database – so now is your opportunity to brag about your achievements. (Yes, I know that they are on the web site, but that is a different department even if the same guys doing it!) We need to track power boat qualifications, let us know if the data is incorrect please.

### Fees

If you have changed your membership category, the price list is as follows;

Full family members £50; first year full (none of you I guess?) half price at £25. Seniors above national retirement age are £15, and Cadets less than 18 are £10 or "free" if within a family membership.

### e-mail

If you have e-mail and Internet access, please let us download the majority of data to you that way. Its quick, easy and saves hours of time for your club committee. (Any volunteers for copying and envelope stuffing?) Check that the mail addresses are correct, and then try to check your mail-boxes at least once a week!

*Andy and Bill*

### AGM highlights; \* Work list, \* Volunteers \* Safety Boat Qualification

The full AGM minutes are distributed with this newsletter. Picking out one or two things to look for;

- The committee will attempt to keep a list of "jobs to be done" on a notice-board within the clubhouse. Volunteers to do these are invited. We have been spilled the last year or so as there has been a willing source of building renovators working for us, and doing an excellent job! Let's share the load a bit more?
- After an interesting discussion, we agreed that it was reasonable for everyone to be expected to willingly contribute about 12 hours work per year. We do not want to chase you, as that in itself is tedious and counter productive, not to mention being hard work in itself! If you see something that needs doing, please get stuck in and then cross it off the list. (You may need to add it to the list first?)
- Welsh Water/Dwr Cymru want rescue boat crews to have RYA Safety Boat qualification. This is not an excuse to avoid rescue boat duty if you do not have it. This year we believe that we have negotiated that RYA Power boat Level 2 is sufficient. The RYA themselves believe that clubs should decide the appropriate level of skill required. We need all club sailors to develop their skills and make progress towards Safety Boat certification – see Club Clinic notes elsewhere.

## Training

### April Youth/Race coaching

Alan and Andy are considering skill development, perhaps in line with Youth Racing badges. Adult "Start Racing" is similar level. Could those interested contact us please? Depending upon what level you are, and what you want we can move our ideas around.

### Powerboat

Mervyn is running a two day Powerboat Level 2 course on March 29 and 30th. This is for "beginners".

### Beginner's Sailing

May the Tenth be with you, as that is the first day of RYA Level 2 / Junior Stages 1, 2 and 3 training. See the front page. The end of the course may be shifted slightly as it is on a Bank Holiday weekend

### Race Officer (OD) training

Dave Downs did a lot of preparation last Autumn and has a very slick, professional training programme for budding ODs. **Probably end April on a Sunday.**

This training will not only make being OD more pleasurable as you will not be overwhelmed, but may improve your knowledge of what is happening when racing your own boat!

Co-ordinate via Keith to show interest please.

### Youth Squad

Training dates arranged are;

March 8	Margam
March 29 and 30	Mumbles, Regional Squad

Contact Gareth for details – you may not need to be a member of the squad to partake of these.

### Other Training

Keep asking, keep checking the web site and notice-boards!

### Co-ordinator

Keith is co-ordinator for all training this year. As a newly fledged Instructor we need to keep him busy!

We intend to revise or Instructor's material, handouts etc this year. Any volunteers to help on that would be appreciated.

## Footnote

Ruth has been reading Ellen MacArthur's book with interest (and have you been following the Jules Verne attempt via [www.YachtsandYachting.com](http://www.YachtsandYachting.com) to see what she is up to now?)

In the acknowledgements, there are thanks to the guys at ISIS mouldings for taking her under their wing at the boat show 1996. This is none other than Jon and Dave Illife, who had their yacht next to hers. Fame at last!

## WYA/Plas Menai Club Clinic

### What?

Welsh Yachting Association sponsor some courses with club members from all over Wales to start their season off. Excellent value, and Llandegfedd will provide further sponsorship for Safety Boat, Power boat and Instructor skills.

Also, Instructors pre-assessment, First Aid, try a boat, Powerboat 2, Club Race Coach, Club Race Officer.

### When?

15 and 16 March, near Anglesey! There are at least 4 of us going so far.

### How?

Contact Bill and see the WYA web site - link off our site on links page.

## Working Party

The first activity of the season for the general club members is our pre-season working party.

**Sunday February 23rd** will see us checking out the power-boats, OD hut, clubhouse and a myriad of other things.

**Start at 10:00** in the morning. All welcome. Wellies and overalls recommended!

## Care of RIB and other power boats.

Those of us at the AGM heard how much the RIB costs to run, and more significantly – to maintain.

Petrol is one of our major expenses. Each fuel tank holds 5 gallons, and can be used in a weekend. That's £16 I think. We can but three of those per membership fee.

Propellers cost a membership fee to replace blades.

Just remember when you are near the shore, the engines **MUST** be in Neutral! Even better, switch off!

Putting a new keel band on and stopping the leaks costs many hundreds of pounds. Put the boat on a tire to stop it grinding the bottom off on the shore.

*Mervyn*

## New Season

Well, its only three weeks as it type this until the start of the season. Have you got the boat in order yet? Do the blocks al turn? Ropes run, or have they been eaten by mice along with the toe straps. Does the cover still keep water off, and did you remember to repair that strap (Oops, knew I had to do something)

Now is the time to buy the permit so that you are no higher up the hill than last year. Ring 01291 673722 if you have not had a renewal yet. See you soon.

*Andy*