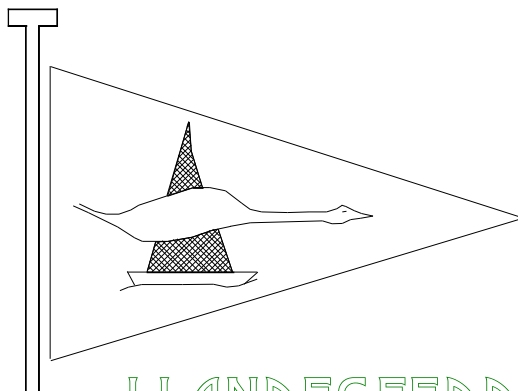


2005

News & Review

February
Number 55

www.llandegfedd.org.uk



February NEWS

LLANDEGFEDD SAILING CLUB

Breaking News

Commodore's Letter

Social Events Summary

February

"Raj Gate" Curry
night, Saturday
February 26th 1930.
The ex-Pub between
Llanfrecfha and
Ponthir.

April

Skittles evening,
Saturday 16th After
Asymmetric Open
first day

May

Sunday 22nd, Club
Regatta racing for
all with boats to try
from manufacturers

July

1st, Petanque,
Sebastopol.

24th, Club Fun
Regatta

September

14th, Go-Karting!

November

11th, AGM

26th, Prize-giving

Stop Press

Stefan and Richard
(Spice Girls) buy an
Int 14 are they mad
or is it a viscous
rumour?

Only 3 weeks to go!

It's now only 3 weeks until the season kicks off and there's frantic activity throughout the households of the sailing fraternity to get those jobs done before we go sailing again. Alternatively some of us just live with the guilt and abuse and go sailing anyway!

Firstly I would like to thank everyone who has agreed to take up committee and officer positions for this year and welcome the new members who have taken up the challenge for 2005. I think the team this year represents a fresh outlook for the club with new ideas, skills and energy for the challenges ahead. We have some ambitious plans for this year as we revealed at the AGM described in the Action Plan and I personally look forward to the challenges ahead.

To the retiring officers we offer our thanks, many of them having served the club through thick and thin over many years. Colin Chapman has been Treasurer for 8 years and is stepping down and we thank him for his careful handling of the finances of the club. Bill Jackson has served as President, Commodore and Membership secretary over several years and now wishes to concentrate on the Youth coaching programme. This activity is making a significant difference to the standards at Junior racing level in the club for which he and all the other instructors involved should be congratulated.

Gareth has been Commodore for 2 years and before that has served on committees and various officer positions for many years and I know is looking forward to having a relatively peaceful retirement as President – although he's just found out that President's event is now a weekend!

Gareth has seen through some significant changes in the club and I think we can all agree that the quality of racing improved last year for which he can take much of the credit through his leadership. He has, I believe established a good foundation for the new committee to take the plan forward.

The target which I and the committee and officers share is to make LSC the best sailing club in the area providing the best quality racing in whatever boat you happen to sail and at a level an individual wishes to aspire to. We will also strive to get the best facilities and equipment to support this.

The current committee and officers are committed to promote sailing at the club for **all types of boat** and provide the best quality for racing to satisfy all flavours of down wind performance. We also believe that this can only be achieved through split fleet racing with slightly different courses. You simply can not use the same race track for Optimists, Solos and 49ers and expect everyone to enjoy the experience.

As Commodore I feel it is essential to identify a clear strategy of how this should be achieved first, forming a consensus and overall plan with officers and committee and then working with the membership to get the ideas put into action. A clear vision and leadership is essential to get these activities put in place and through **communication** involving the membership in the process.

I believe we have a golden opportunity to make significant strides forward but I ask you all to be patient, let the ideas have time to work and support the officers as we all have the best interests of the club at heartand please get involved - we can't do it without you.

Steve

AGM Report

After the main standard business of the meeting was done, the new officers outlined the 2005 Action Plan taken from the Development Plan revealed at last years AGM as the targets for the year. The plan was presented on PowerPoint and it was pleasing to see that most people stayed a wake for the whole show with some interesting debates breaking out. The details of the plan will be (if not already) made available on the website so you can take a copy and keep or throw darts at if you feel so inclined . The details were printed in last month's newsletter.

The plan encompasses the whole sphere of operations with the main goal to improve the facilities and make the whole sailing experience better through good management. To improve facilities we will need funding and inevitably this will require a larger membership, this will be achieved with better facilities but prior to this we need to make our racing attractive to new members from other clubs and beginners new to the sport.

Three resolutions were presented to the assembled group;

The constitutional changes proposed included changing the status of full time students for the purposes of membership fees and deleting references to no sailing members. The main item proposed was the change to the club financial year to finish at the end of August allowing the AGM to take place in early November. The general idea of this change is to allow the new committee and officers to be proposed towards the end of the season when the club is still active and dialogue can take place between members on the issues for the following year. The AGM is the time when elections take place allowing the new team to prepare for the new season during the winter months with a much greater period to plan than the current arrangement allows. The constitutional changes were accepted.

An increase of 10% on all membership fees to fund some of the new initiatives in the plan where proposed by the committee. It was pointed out that these increases only go some way towards funding new initiatives and reserves would drop this year unless other funding came available during the year. After debate it was suggested that this increase could be higher and John Daniels tabled an amendment to make a larger increase on the basis that these fees still represent excellent value accepting that our facilities are somewhat below par currently. The amendment proposed a family membership fee of £60; £20 for Seniors with Juniors unchanged and would go further to assist with the funding requirements. The amendment was accepted with a large majority.

The final vote was taken as a means of seeking approval for the printing of the membership list in the new Yearbook. The intention is to provide the means by which members can freely communicate for the purpose of ensuring that OOD duties can be swapped and checked on a weekly basis. It is hoped that using this list, members will check with each other to ensure that everyone rostered on a given day will be present. Email addresses and telephone numbers will only be printed and members will be asked permission to use this information on the 2005 membership forms due for release shortly. The motion was accepted.

The full minutes of the meeting will be published on the website within a few weeks.

Steve

Working Party

As ever, we will run a working party on Sunday morning the week before we start sailing again. Expect to get damp, and cold but have a good chat. All welcome to clean/organise etc. Bring wellies, mops, brushes and similar. Also need to check buoys, so some sailing kit needed for volunteers

February 27th, 10:00

Please also standby as we may need assistance with the relocation of the rescue boats store....to be advised.

In this section we will be providing details on progress made towards the plan throughout the year, giving feedback on what has been achieved.

OD Training

An A team list has been published for the main OD's who can with an Assistant and Rescue Crew running the races provide on the job training for up to 5 trainees. It is important that all those rostered on for training attend as the racing management is key to the new format working. It is not difficult to learn and with the information provided should prove the make duties a great deal more interesting and hopefully not a chore.

Safety boat training

Phil Weston and Sean Teadstone will be announcing dates for PB2 training. We need to get a significant number of people through basic training and our own endorsement to ensure the safety of all concerned at the reservoir.

Doris

She has now been pumped out and is being fitted out ready for the new season. Thanks to Ken and Martin for volunteering to sort her out.

Safety boat storage

We have successfully agreed a package of improvements for the provision of safety boat and essential equipment storage at the waters edge with United Utilities. The large blue container will be moved hopefully in February to an area just to left of the sea scouts containers right on the service road. The RIB and Jeanneau with engines installed will be housed in this container along with the club boats equipment. This will get around the problem of rushing around the site picking up equipment and using a suitable car to tow the boats down to the waters edge. Later we shall be extending the slipway to the front of this container to allow the boats to be pulled in and out of the water with a winch (to be sourced) using only limited manpower. The justification of this is to improve safety and make the whole process easier for all concerned.

Race Management Equipment

To simplify the new start sequence, a portable control unit is being designed which will contain a battery and be charged in the ranger's cabin along

with the radios. On arrival at the reservoir keys, timing unit, instruction manual and radios will be collected fully charged. All other equipment will be in the container.

Timing Control Unit

The new timing unit will plug into suitable sockets on Doris and in the hut to drive the horn and lights (if appropriate). The timing unit will provide the clocks for the three starts and a set of control buttons. The only button which will be needed will be the start countdown. A switch will set the number of starts required.

The sequence will then be automatic and the horn will sound without any interaction from the OD. The OD will only need to operate the flags when prompted from the control panel. If lights are used this will also be automatic. All finished will be timed as currently and adjusted using a simple calculation and this will be illustrated simply on the new race results record sheet.

Multiple courses

The sailing committee are working on a new simple to understand manual to describe the start sequences and the new courses based on a small number of shapes which are simply rotated about Doris depending on wind direction. Courses from the hut will also be standardised.

Courses will generally share the same windward and leeward marks but one or two wing marks will be added for the conventional fleet. Juniors may sail a shorter course.

Training

The training committee is working on an updated strategy for 2005 to meet the needs of the Development Plan.

Clubhouse

A cunning strategy is unfoldingwatch this space.

Yearbook

The new Yearbook will be finalised this month and made available for the start of the season with the sailing and social programmes.

Sailing Secretary's blitz and blobs

We are introducing a new racing format, as you will by now be aware, the main difference is that there will be separate starts for Asymmetric, Conventional and Junior fleets, with the fleets sailing different courses. This is new to Llandegfedd but the norm for the majority of sailing clubs throughout the UK, just have a look at the programmes on club websites, to check. Those of you who prefer the melee of a mass start, will have the chance on Wednesday evenings. The first race on Sunday will be a 45 minute Pursuit as last year.

We are hoping that sailors, will take the opportunity to benefit from the OOD training that is in place, the aim is that members who need help will be able to gain experience, by assisting some of the clubs more capable OOD's. Thank you to the OOD's who have agreed to help with this initiative. Phil Weston has spent a good deal of time, between nappy changing and feeding baby Ben, to arrange suitable teams, so please make his efforts worthwhile. When you are rostered for race officer duty, make sure you come prepared to go on the water, on most Sundays we will be using Doris, last year we had teams turn up without any wet kit, leaving them vulnerable in any emergency. I am looking for volunteers, for OOD and Safety Boat, who are interested in gaining experience at the next level, by helping at the Open Meetings, I am sure anyone participating will find it rewarding. Please contact myself or Phil if you are up for this.

Forthcoming Open meetings

April 9th Topper - 4 races, first race 11:00 – coordinator: Gareth Edwards

April 10th CYRC – coordinator: Bill Jackson

April 16th & 17th Asymmetric – 4 races / day, first race Sat 12:00, Sun 10:30
coordinator: Martyn Osborne

The new Sailing committee is now up and running, we have had our first meeting, and are already working on our objectives in the Action Plan. The next meeting will be Thursday 17th March 19:30 at the Holiday Inn, Coldra, Newport.

Looking forward to seeing you all at the start of the season.

Keith

OD Details

Following the feedback from the club questionnaire, it has become apparent that many members required further help and advice when performing their OOD Duties.

It is therefore planned to carry out 'on the job' training throughout the 2005 sailing season.

Sunday Racing

An 'A' rated OOD (A person capable of running an Open Event) will be rostered on for all club Sunday racing. This 'A' rated OOD will have up to four other club members' rostered on with them. These members will assist the OOD with the running/safety boat duties for the racing, but will also receive training with regard to all aspects of the OOD activity.

Wednesday Night Racing

Both 'B' and 'C' rated members will be rostered to run the racing.

To undertake this training exercise, will require members to carry out more duties than would normally be required of them during the sailing season. However this commitment, in the long term, will improve the standard of club racing.

Your co-operation during the 2005 sailing season will be greatly appreciated.

Phil

Vice Commodore's Socials

The Social calendar is now taking shape for 2005 and to ensure that you keep your diaries free here is a warning of what is on the menu for this year. Attendance by all members is of course compulsory – well advisable to make sure no one's talking about you!

Pre-rigging Curry Party.

Saturday 26th February 1930hrs. Pre-rigging Party. Curry and Video night at the Raj Gate, Carleon Rd, Llanfrechfa. Excellent opportunity to meet the members, discuss tactics, psych out the competition etc. before the season starts.

Beer and skittles evening.

Saturday 16th April 1930hrs. Entertainment for the Asymmetric Open visitors and all members. To be held in a suitable establishment close to the res. possibly Usk. Have no fear your social committee will research and test all suitable venues in the area.

Afternoon race with barbeque.

Saturday June 11th/August 20th. Format to be announced.

Petonque with Gareth

Friday July 1st 1900hrs. Petonque with Gareth at Sebastopol Park in Pontypool. Those large metal balls again.

Llandegfedd SC fun regatta.

Sunday 24th July. A whole day of sailing silliness with plenty of entertaining events and games as yet to be dreamed up by the social and sailing committees.

Go-Karting adrenalin rush

September 14th The Go-Karting adrenalin rush evening back by popular demand. Great night for the over 14's, price £25 per person.

26th November Prize Giving.

To be held at the excellent Usk Conservative Club as last year with dance and buffet.

Volunteers, especially for research

As always we are seeking willing helpers and new blood for the social committee to help organise these events. If you are willing to assist in any way please call me.

Pre-rigging Curry Party

Date: 26th Feb 005

Time: 19h15

Cost: £14.95 per head (adults) & £7.50 per half head or also known as 12 & under.

Pay me on the night.

Place: Raj Gate, Caerleon Road, Llanfechfa, Near Cwmbran. NP44 8DQ.

I need to know exact numbers, please tell me soon if you will be there.

The President Address

CLUB CLINIC

Welsh Yachting Association has announced that they are holding a Club Clinic on 16th and 17th April this year. This is a residential weekend at Plas Menai. Some of us have been to Club Clinic before, and found it great fun.

They will run courses at discounted rates, and anybody who attends will meet sailors from all over Wales. We don't know what the courses will be, but when I went I did my Instructor's pre-assessment and my First Aid course. Others have done their Rescue Boat course. If you're lucky, they can arrange for a helicopter from RAF Valley to do an air-sea rescue.

If anyone wants to go, please contact the Welsh Yachting Assoc on 01248 670738 or admin@thewya.org.uk they'll be able to give further details. It is possible that the Club will be able to access grants to enable members to get qualifications that benefit the Club.

Welsh Youth Championships Pwllheli 23-24th April

All youth and junior sailors should try to attend. If anyone wants self catering accommodation in Pwllheli, please contact Gareth
president@llandegfedd.org.uk

Gareth

Note from the Bosuns

If you used the RIB towards the end of last season you may have noticed a distinct lack of 'GO'. This was in large part due to a severely damaged propeller. This has now been replaced so please take care when operating in shallow water. We have also serviced the RIB's engine and hull over the closed season and have replaced much of the safety kit on both the RIB and the Jeanneau. As usual there is lots of work to be done around the club all offers of help will be gratefully received.

Sean & Martin

Membership Secretary's box or Mandy's Rant

You will have received your 2005 membership renewal form with this newsletter, or it will be following in the post very shortly. I look forward to receiving an influx of post back. Make sure you check the details on your forms. New fees are as follows.

Full Membership	£60
First Year Discounted	£30
Senior Membership	£20
Temporary	£15
Cadets	£10

Mandy

Classified Section

Anything to sell or anything wanted. Within reason and the rules of common decency, can be advertised here. Call a committee member if you wish to add anything.

For sale: Contact Ken Adams if you would like to buy his **Solo** for **£775.00**, he has built a new one.
Tel:

Wanted: Does anyone know of a cheap Laser for Mari?

For sale: Mark Williams is the man to contact at 01633 if you want a young good looking Laser.

Officers and Committee Members

The Team for this year

President	Gareth Edwards.
Commodore	Steve Clarke.
Vice Commodore	Phil Leeb-du-toit.
Sailing Secretary	Keith Sykes
Membership Secretary	Mandy Sykes
Secretary	Julie Boswell
Treasurer	Keith Jones
Newsletter Editor	Committee
Bosuns	Sean Tedstone Martin Phillips
Webmaster	Andy Howard
Training Principal	Mervyn Reece
Gen committee members	Phil & Lisa Weston

Sailing Committee – Chaired by Sailing Secretary

Training/Youth	Bill Jackson
S/handed	Nigel Tinkler
Asymmetric	Martyn Osborne
Conventional	David & Ros Downs
OD Roster	Phil Weston.
Sailing Dev Officer	Dave Iliffe

Training Committee – Chaired by Training Principal

Instructors	Alan Bolton Andy Howard Gareth Edwards Mike Farmer Keith Sykes
Training /Youth	Bill Jackson

Non committee positions

Results Sec	Mark Williams
Child Protection Officer	Kathy Milosevic
Race coach	Phil Tilley
Training	Alan Bolton

Social Committee – Chaired by Vice Commodore

members co-opted