



LLSC Résumé of Activity



The club has had a very busy summer, with lots of activity across the board from ages 8 to (not quite) 80! This summary provides an overview in case you missed things on the various social media pages. You can see the “home” results on our own website, but there have been many excursions to other venues. Some notable ones are listed here.

Adult Racing away from Llandegfedd

- Pete Vincent (3rd) and the Boswells at 2000 Nationals in Keyhaven
- Myles and Bill, and George Biggs in Scorpions at Eastbourne
- Meyrick 17th in the RS200 Nationals, one of the UK’s most competitive fleets.
- Jonny Everett, in Supernova Nationals at Paignton, 11th and **The Master!**
- Tom Halhead 3rd in RS400 Nationals, another competitive fleet
- Alicia in Fastnet storm. Probably a bit more exciting than she hoped!

Training successes

Course	Numbers	Course	Numbers
RYA Junior Stage 1	13	RYA Junior Stage 2	15
RYA Junior Stage 3	13	RYA Junior Stage 4	13
Sailing with Spinnakers	5 adults	Start Racing	2
Power Boat Level 2	6		
Dinghy Instructor	Tommy Willett, Phil Greenman, Callum Kennedy, Georgia Hughes, Luke Crichton, Rhys Powell. We now have about 30 individuals who are Assistant Instructors, Dinghy Instructors or Race Coaches or Powerboat Instructors.		

A lot of hard work is done by the trainees themselves to learn how to sail. Equally, a lot of support is provided by our widening team of Instructors and supporters. However, it is very gratifying to watch our beginners from a few years ago achieving success in racing events around Europe, and in becoming Instructors in their own right. Another new phenomenon this year is “Ladies who Launch”. This is mostly self driven, by the parents of the youth squads who used to sail. They seem to be greatly enjoying being back on the water with some Instructor support. We can learn from how they have organised this and should encourage the men who don’t wish to race to follow their example. (see later section)

Joanne Harris is now our Training Principal. She is busy preparing us for an RYA official Training Centre inspection. This is to ensure we are up to the full RYA standard and delivering courses safely and under control.

Bill is the Chief Instructor, ably assisted by a large and in depth team.



Aled and Terry enjoying a conventional spinnaker. It brings a new meaning to the phrase “pole dancing” when you come to gybe. It is not a simple as on an asymmetric boat such as the Feva or Vario.

Terry’s boat is a Wayfarer, number 45, and it is older than the Sailing Club (and most but not all of our sailors)

On the course we used this and the club 2000s. It was highly enjoyable in the spring weather and sunshine.

Topper and Feva Squads

What a wonderful year 2023 has been for our junior sailors. We have seen brand-new juniors go from never having sailed before to racing in their first regattas, some of last year’s more experienced juniors go through their first season of racing, several of our sailors complete Welsh Squad training, and Llandegfedd juniors racing all around the UK and even the world in several different classes of boat!

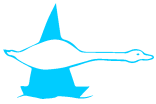
As a club, we ran two RYA Stage one courses, an RYA Stage Two course and an RYA Stage Three course over this season. With our wonderful voluntary instructor team, we have also been able to run our regular Thursday Club every week from April. This club is only now being slowly wound down due to the loss of light in the evenings. The future of the junior club is certainly in safe hands with our new sailors!

This year we also saw the return of Sunday morning Feva sessions. Where the juniors spend a morning, once a month, enjoying training in double hander Fevas and are then encouraged to join the club racing in the afternoon.

A perfect bridge for some of our sailors to gain the confidence to enter club races.



We have hosted some key Welsh Topper sailing events at the lake. Starting with the first of this year’s RYA Dragon Series in May, where we welcomed 34 boats (Optimists, Toppers, Fevas and a Laser) and had a fantastic day. This was followed by the Welsh Open Topper Championships & Onboard Regatta in July. This weekend saw 44 toppers from around the UK, in two fleets enjoy high winds and competitive racing.



LLSC Résumé of Activity



Our juniors also played an important role in the clubs collaboration with Welsh Water in the Discover Sailing day which took place in May. They showed off their skills out on the water for the entire day in the rain. They obviously inspired people as the day resulted in bookings for our junior stage one courses.

There is currently a lot of change within the junior side of the club as several of them age out of Toppers and are moving into other classes. I am sure you will see many of them out there practicing in their new Lasers and 29ers in what is left of the season. They are joining our more experienced youth sailors in these classes, who have been building on their experience in races around the country. Including the World Championships. And some also had their first taste in keelboat racing.

And finally, we have also enjoyed a few social events. The first being our annual prize giving in January where it was lovely to catch up with everyone during the winter and award some well deserved prizes.

This is where we also launched our new 'merch'! I'm sure you will have seen juniors (and parents) walking around in LLSC hoodies and hats!



Our next social event was a well supported BBQ during the Welsh Open Topper Champs, where the Llandegfedd Lake café catered for nearly 100 people.

And finally, we joined the scout sailing team (also based at the lake) for their end of season regatta in the last week of August, where our newest sailors enjoyed some racing followed by a BBQ, hot chocolate and cake!

As an admin and coaching team we are already looking forward to seeing what the 2024 season brings for our Llandegfedd juniors.

Youth Racing away from Llandegfedd

It is not only the adults who have been playing away at various events, but the Youths and Juniors are putting them to shame!

The Topper Nationals:-

Dan Powell (new member) won a race in gold fleet finals in 100+ boats. Wales's sailors performed exceptionally. Baz Sanderson Wood from our club was incredible in silver (missing gold fleet in his first nationals by one point). Skye Sanderson Wood won the regatta fleet at Pwllheli. Club based Coaches Jonny Everett and Will attended in support. Loads more could be written on this one if needs be. Talk to Jonny or Will!



LLSC Résumé of Activity



Performance of Note:-

Eliska van der Veen and Zoe Morley won the personal handicap race at the club earlier this summer in a club Feva and wiped the floor with the adults. It wasn't by accident or luck. They're brilliant sailors.

ILCA Youth worlds in Gdynia:-

Georgia Hughes attended.

29er worlds and nationals:-

They were on home waters in Weymouth. I think it proved a tough environment which I'd expect but wherever you finish it's a huge achievement in that class.

Topper Worlds:-

Dylan Fletcher from the club also went in support of our team. The event was held in Cork, Ireland. Five sailors represented us in the World Championship. Bill was our lead coach (again)



RYA Youth Match Racing Championships:-

Harry Sims helmed his Elliott to the U19 National Match Racing Champion title, and 4th overall across all youth ages with a mixed team from Wales with his brother Jack on board. On the team were two 14 year olds and two 16 year olds. Remarkable...!

Fastnet Race:

Alicia Biggs started one of the windiest Fastnet races on record... she didn't complete it this year (along with 100s of others) but has shown the seamanship and courage to know that she will complete it sometime soon.



On Board regatta, Dale:

Lots to cover here. Our juniors who are progressing to youth classes were brilliant in the 29ers. This is the first regatta for most sailors, so we did well to have 10 there.

Bill was a coach so they had a familiar face on the water. Fitful winds, but nice countryside!



Welsh Topper Nationals:

We hosted this event and the stand out sailors were the inexperienced regatta fleet sailors, almost all of whom were from our club, completing their races, many of whom raced for the very first time. 44 boats sailed - one of our largest events for quite a while.

SB20s:-

Harry and Jack Sims are blazing a trail here and encouraging others to join them largely thanks to the generosity and support of James Howells.

Training:-

The numbers of juniors at our club who have qualified this year as Dinghy Instructor, Race Coach Level 2, First Aid and so on is so good to see. It lays foundations for the next few years.

Eric Twiname Championships:-

Will Willett was one of the Welsh team coaches for this year's ETs where once again Wales performed strongly and LLSC made up the backbone of that team.

What is good too is that our club racing programme continues to draw younger sailors and that's not very common across sailing clubs. Testament of a good club, venue and racing programme with an incredibly supportive group of parents getting behind them all.

OD Hut refurbishment

Mark has been working away rebuilding the OD hut which has been standing on the point for over 45 years. It has had some cladding replaced in that time, and the roof has been re-felted more than once. Now that more rot is appearing in the cladding "something must be done"



LLSC Résumé of Activity



The back of the hut with cladding removed. Two pieces had already fallen off. Oddly, the main lengths of structural timber were horizontal, with shorter lengths in between making up the vertical support. (Alex and I have walked on the roof more than once when fitting the wind turbine and racing light systems.)

Mark has added extra vertical timbers using cross halving joints to give strength in all directions.

Here is an interim stage with waterproof cladding (Tyvek) to protect the basic structure. This will give a more waterproof hut and hopefully will prevent future rot. There is plenty of breathing space on all sides inside and out so condensation will not be a problem.

Some rotting timbers have been treated with rot killer and wood preservative. Overall the hut is in remarkable condition given it is about 50 years old.



New composite cladding has now been fitted at the back and started on the South side. It all looks very smart.

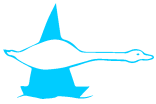
The sides and the top section will be completed once the double glazed windows arrive. They are made to order and should arrive early September.

The inside has been simplified. The L shaped worktop has been taken back to a simple worktop facing the reservoir.

Robert Cone's wife Annabelle is going to recover the two stools in there. The original cloth has worn away. They are still comfortable but definitely in need of rework.

Once the main structure is complete, the inside can be repainted. This is a simple job with emulsion paint and a roller





LLSC Résumé of Activity



Work progress on the north and reservoir facing sides. The horn has been re-integrated and looks smarter and tidier.

Waiting for the north window. It will have an opening top vent section that will not get in the way as much as the current large opening window does.

The roof felt is at the end of its life. The seams between the sheets of felt do not look particularly waterproof so more work is needed. The final section of work is to put a new roof covering on top. This will probably be a metal one for durability.

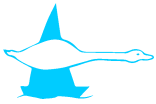
Safety Boats

The old smaller RIB is about 13 years old. It started leaking air from its tubes last year. We have done a partial repair to a couple of seams but it still leaks, so another attempt will be made shortly to sort this out. Whilst it still works, we have bolstered our safety by purchasing a new RIB, near identical to the larger one. This has now arrived and is in use.



The new RIB is an orange XS Pro, and has a Mercury 50 hp engine with electric lift and starter.

It is near enough identical to previous grey big RIB



LLSC Résumé of Activity



Controls of the new RIB – should be familiar to all PB2 users. The hydraulic steering should be more reliable and easier than the cable versions.

A new cover will be bought for the new RIB to protect it from sun degradation on the tubes.

We will attempt a repair on the old smaller RIB tube air leaks and May retain it to support Junior and Youth away events.

Not having a trailer limits what we can do, does anyone know of a second hand trailer for a 5 m RIB? (Trailers are enormously expensive)

The aqua-dock has been extended slightly and there is room to moor a Janneau alongside as there are fends bolted in place.



Non-Racing survey and what we might do next

There are a number of areas that the club does not cover very well. (And not just the club bar and lounge!). Thank you to those who helped provide an insight on what could be improved recently. Some of the ideas gave rise to possible solutions to be implemented next year. Comments are invited;

1. Encourage the non-racers to group together and arrange to go sailing at mutually convenient times. If the Ladies can do this, why not others? This has to be driven by those interested, but we could offer
 - a. Instructor/Coach support and Mentor type activity on those days
 - b. RIB or Janneau support if there is one available, if not running racing, training or squads.
 - c. Possibly encourage social sailing on Wednesday night in parallel with our racing? We might need a second safety boat out but we often have that anyway
 - d. A joint email address or encouragement to have their own WhatsApp group. (Input from the Ladies might assist here) Men who Meander? Gents who Gybe? Ancient Mariners?
2. A reminder that if you need a crew or helm Robert Cone is contactable on crewfinder@llandegfedd.org.uk to help pair up people and boats.
3. Offer “Start Relaxed Racing” with specific target of bringing these people to race a few times a year. Maybe not on the hot spot days, President’s, Top Gun, but certainly on the personal handicap and benign days during the summer.
 - a. We would follow roughly along RYA “start Racing” course guidelines, but on an informal basis. How races work, rules of the road, starting techniques and so on.
 - b. A bit more work on how to run a race as OD so trained sailors can come and chat and join in as OD assistants. This will fit in on poor weather days of a scheduled course
 - c. More on Pursuit racing as it is a way of having easier and less stressful starts. It is an easy way to join in about a third of of the club races. Handicap or fleet starts can be intimidating.
 - d. Show where the LLSC racing is explained on the website
4. Wrapping another potential training opportunity, we should try and involve the parents of our youths now that the youths are busy spreading their wings. If they can help, they can also see their youngsters more closely on the water. They can contribute towards the training and racing days. This could be any or all of the following;



LLSC Résumé of Activity



- a. Agreeing days when they can assist the OD and safety boat drivers in training and youth racing and gradually learn how it all works. No prior knowledge of sailing is needed for this
- b. We could offer short sessions on Race Management that will help them support their children to understand the Notice of Race and Sailing Instructions
- c. This could then turn into the capability of running races, even if it is limited to practice ones when the feva and Topper Squads are active

Social Media

Don't forget that we have three Facebook pages. One is external facing, and the other two are private and you need permission to join. There are other media, such as Instagram and probably things I have not heard of!

FaceBook: @Llandegfedd Sailing Club

FaceBook: @LLSC

FaceBook: [@llandegfeddSCJuniors](#)

Instagram: [@llandegfedd.sc](#)

Contributors;

Thanks to significant input from Mark, Shaun, Abby, Rew and Will. Others have chipped in with comments as well. Thanks, Andy

If you would like to help bring the club together, please volunteer to take over or help this sort of activity, probably using Facebook occasionally rather than the occasional old fashioned blockbuster. There is so much going on in a fairly small club that it is bewildering trying to keep up with it all.

This version is very 20th century or even earlier! However it crosses all the sections of the club. One aim is to show "the other half" what goes on and why we have some of the equipment that we do have.