

LLANDEGFEDD SAILING CLUB

February 2011 Edition
www.llandegfedd.org.uk



Welcome to 2011 sailing.

This is my first offering of a newsletter prepared without any 'publishing' programme, but I wanted to get something out now with the '5 minute gun' about to fire to start the new season first race 1.30 pm Sunday 6th March.

Permit application forms should by now have reached us all from Welsh Water ; also Mandy with her usual zeal has requested our membership renewals. Please reply to her now, when we think of our great racing programme, the club rescue, the club boats and the very hard work of many club members, we really do have value for money.

This year we again have a very comprehensive racing programme, great for all members whatever your position in any fleet. It would be great this year to increase the numbers of regular race starters. Indeed if you do not have one, borrow one of the quality club boats, so if your crew is missing try the laser. No fee just treat the boat as you would your own.

Hopefully we will see some new faces and boat changes. I have sold the Dart and now proudly own an RS200 which I hope I will at least learn to sail [when not in the vareo], with one of the twins as crew.

TOP GUN SUNDAYS.

April 10th is the first of 3 of these exciting mini series racing handicap days. These take the place of the usual series racing on the 3 days yet form part of the general club racing programme with no entry fee.

Mark 'Tom Cruise' came up with the idea. Each should be a Sunday of great racing and good for all of us wherever we are in the fleet. There will be 3 races but we all race together, asymmetrics, single handers, catamarans, any type as long as there is a PY, just like we do on Wednesdays.

Race 1 will be a pursuit 'around the cans' in the format with which we are all so familiar and enjoy.

Then 2 handicap races but the idea with different courses depending as always on the OOD, but race 2 with wing mark[s] to assist the non asymm. classes, then the final race 3 with windward and leeward marks. So it should be fair to all. Likely prizes for each Top Gun Sunday and overall.

Perhaps opportunities for people to try other classes or sail one of our excellent club boats. It would be great to see more junior sailors on the water racing with the club and showing the oldies their skills so maybe these events will give them the opportunity to do so!

NEW CLUBHOUSE.

The following is an e mail received recently to those who wrote to Welsh Water...interpret as you will !!!

Editor : they seem to be intent on 2 schemes to be completed by March 2012. The gatehouse and perhaps with it a visitors centre which is not really of great interest to us. The separate water sports centre [in a different location after all the hassle and work to get planning by the 3 muskateers!!!] one wonders if that will be by Mr.Terry's area. The Club officers intend to keep pressing for updates. Let us hope their optimism of commencing work even by the summer is well founded although I am sure none of us want to stop sailing until October.

Dear Sir or Madam,

Thank you very much for your considered comments on the proposed Water Sports Centre at Llandegfedd. Some of our respondents have given a great deal of expertise and thought to their suggestions and they are much appreciated.

Dwr Cymru is committed to improving the facilities at Llandegfedd Reservoir for the benefit of the general public to enjoy water sports. We have relatively recently undertaken to finance the scheme rather than let it rest on Llandegfedd Water Sports Centre Ltd to raise the funds.

Llandegfedd Water Sports Centre Ltd has made some great progress in preparing the way for the development and they have been highly instrumental in achieving planning approval for a new Water Sports Centre on the point of land to the west of the Sailing Clubs current site. The imperative for Dwr Cymru is not only to provide facilities for water sports participants, but also for non participants, anglers, and Dwr Cymru ranger staff. Therefore our commitment is not only to a Water sports Centre, but also to a Visitor Centre and rangers and anglers accommodation at the gate house.

Our plan is to re-apply for planning consent for Water Sports Centre, potentially on a revised site, and to apply at the same time for a Visitor Centre, Cafe, Toilets and Rangers and Anglers base to be built at the gatehouse. Our draft statement of requirement is with the Dwr Cymru Capital team so that they can engage architects, cost consultants, structural engineers without further delay. We will revise the statement of requirement in the light of all the comments we receive from the public, where we can, but the over-riding imperative will be to deliver the two buildings within budget. We expect to be building through the summer of 2011, or begin to build in September 2011, depending on whether we ask water sports activities to cease during works or not. Either way, we are looking to open the new buildings in March 2012, provided the business can deliver the required facilities within budget. The Gate House may be supplemented with a meeting room for the use of anglers and others, especially if the angling bodies are able to introduce additional funding.

Yours Sincerely

Tom Packham
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PHOTOS

I intend running a ‘best photo of the year’ competition taken at Llandegfedd. Digital of course so we can publish entries on the website. No limit to number of entries, just e-mail to Andy Howard via the yahoo link and he will give you the technical details to reduce mega-byte size. How about first prize we print it and put on the wall of the new clubhouse!!!



The Llandegfedd Pin

A play for three players

From the quill of Andie and Alexis Shakespeare.

B: The near invisible BOAT. BOAT carries a bucket and throws water at the other players when they are not expecting it. During any maneuver, BOAT attempts to trip the other players. {ed. Probably an RS800}

C: The long suffering CREW

H: The valiant HELM. A local rule variation is that above Force 3 the HELM wears blinkers upwind.

B: Oh why can't I stay on the shore, its warmer there and I was nicely snugged down under my cover. It's bumpy and windy and cold here at the far end of the reservoir. Its wet and some of these little boats might bump me, especially the way these ungainly two crash around

C: One minute to go – there's the horn; you need to get us nearer the line.

H: OK, going behind these Vareos. Going for that space in the middle. Is the board still up a little bit? How long to go?

C: 50 seconds. Horn just gone. Yes, board up as before

H: More kicker please.

C: 40 seconds, mind that lump of boats coming up on us

H: It's much windier than this morning

C: 30 seconds, you need to accelerate.

H: We will be early again, how long?

C: 20 seconds, we are too far behind the line, start accelerating.

H: Hooked on, more kicker and power up now, let's go!

C: Kicker on, mind the pin buoy

<A Horn sounds>

B Oh my mast, why do they bend me so? It hurts, quite out of line. I bet they would not like to be twisted and have two heavy hunks dangling from their shoulders. It's even colder and windier out here now. Can we go back please?

H: Going up – pull the sail in gently – no not that far, as we go up.

C: Need more Cunningham if we are falling around like this, going in?

H: OK, balanced, try that... No: We need more kicker

C: Going in, more kicker, now try heading up more.

H: That's it, tell tales are OK and we are moving. Any boats?

C: No, they are miles away behind us. More wind coming, be a bit yet

H: It's already over Force 5, hard to keep tel- tales going and boat flat

C: More kicker and Cunningham then

Go in , OK, yes that looks better

Wind coming!

B: Ohh, not more? I can feel my spine creak.

H: Whoa! ease sail! That's a blast, going up

C: Easing

H: Going now, sail in

C: Hauling, do we need more Cunningham?

H: No, let's get some power to make us fly. Where are we?

C: Near number 9, just carry on

H: I don't want to go under the right bank as it will be even more downdrafts and nastiness.

C: But we do need to get over to 3 at some stage for this evil oblong course

H: Any boats? We can tack up the middle once we run out of room over here on the left, but we need to come to 3 from the middle rather than going up the bank, as it will be too nasty.

C: No boats, all way back behind us and looking like its hard work

H: It is hard work; it's just that we go faster in this.

B: Oh this is painful, all this wind, all this spray, can't we just calm down now and carry on to the launching bay and go back to sleep? I wonder if I can throw them off like I used to?

H: Its windier, need a little more kicker but it's already near the limit.

C: Going in, there, just a bit.

B: Oh, Oh, even more bend in my back. It is just horrid!

H: Where are we? Oh, that's a lot of wind, ease sail, going up

C: Didn't see that one, right, hauling, need to tack once we are sorted

H: OK, let's go half was across. Ready, going

<The players run frantically from one side of the stage to the other>

B: There they go, leaping around on their bits of string, banging my racks and decks in such a clumsy way.

C: You watch your tell tales, and I'll tell you when we are half away

H: Are we there yet?

C: Nearly, another 20 yards... let's go!

H: Tacking

C: Well come out on the racks then! Power up.

H: Any boats? How far do we go? Are we there yet? And we are not pointing as well as yesterday as the railway is set further out

C: No boats. Not far off, 10, 5, go!

H: Oh, number three is in front of us!

C: Yes, that's why we tacked.

H: We need to go around this cautiously and cannot do a beam reach in this wind, we would just get knocked flat. We will do a wide fetch across until its safe enough to bear away and go through the wind and put the spinnny up. Can let some Cunningham and kicker off as well.

B: Yes please!

C: Wind coming

H: Ready to ease

C: Easing, NO, hauling!

H: Bearing away, that must be an anti gust.

B: Hm, nearly got rid of them then, that trick nearly always works, but they did not even put a rack in. I just want to lie down for a rest.

H: Ready about, and cautiously bear away just after that.

<The players cross the stage in perfect lockstep then cautiously lean back>

B: Didn't catch either with the boom this time, I'll duck it harder next time.

C: That was a good one!

H: Yes, makes a change, go and ease the Cunningham a bit now that I can change course and let the sails off. I don't like these anti gusts, too much water down my neck in them. More wind coming but we should just go faster

B: They do clatter around so, quite makes my head ache.

C: You're still sailing high

H: Yes, if I bear away now we won't get around 10. Not much further then you can go in and put the sail up, You'll need to be ready for a gybe before we run out of room. Off you go, just wait until we are through the reach.

C: Started, Cunningham more off, kicker slightly off, grunt, oof, grunt, hup, oof, coming back out now.

H: That's a big change of course, just get it going, and then we will be nearly ready to gybe, OK, here we go

C: Filling, now we are really motoring, must be over 20 mph again. See the other boats still coming up the middle?

H; Oh yes, so they are. I cannot see anything at all upwind when it's this strong, I am in the tell tale zone. We cannot get to 8 on this leg, more gybes needed. Come back, back!

C: I did not know we could plane with the bow underwater. Do we often get a waterfall like that over the back?

H: No, a little unusual, but not often we go this near to down wind rather than going diagonally, must be this Force 7 gust. When we get further down the lake past the fishermen we can gybe to get around 8. Well we got this far, ready? Going nice and slowly...

<BOAT succeeds in tripping the players>

B: Got them!

C: Oof!, I am on the board!

H: I'm OK, here in the water with the sails. Bringing the spinny in. I don't know quite what happened then, seemed to go OK to start with.

B: Ha, got them, I put a rack in and its far more peaceful now. They can have a nice cold swim whilst I have a rest. Bit cold though. Whoo, far easier.

H: Spinny down, off you go.

C: Pulling, here it comes. I'll pull you in, Dad.

H: Right, off we go. I think we need the spinny to do the gybe next time, so off you go once capable.

C: Started, grunt, oof, grunt, hup, oof, coming back out now.

H: Just need to accelerate and we can then gybe around the corner at 8. Did the other boats catch up?

C: Dave and Sarah are a lot nearer, and the Lasers are near them. We will have lost a couple of minutes at least.

B: Oh, now we area going so fast again. I do quite like that big blue sail but it does so make us go too fast, its quite dizzying.

H: Ready to gybe. That's better, we will now harden up and take the sail down when we are at position to go across to 7 tidily without a reach. We are jumping waves now. Cunningham

on please. Yes, just a bit and then take the sail in when I bear away.

B: Ouch. Ouch, Ouch. Every. Time. I. Hit. A. Wave. It. Hurts!

C: Ready, going in, oof, grunt, coming, oof, kicker coming on and I'm coming out.

H: Going up slowly, you need to pull the sail in gently to keep us going fast as we turn. Bit more, can't get there, need more Cunningham and kicker. Still flying

B: Oooh, Here we go again. More waves to bash through.

C: Kicker on, Cunningham coming, is that enough?

H: Probably, where are we? When do we tack?

C: Just past 7, surely you saw that? Another 100 yards to tack, get ready, soon, now.

H: Ready, Go, OW!

B: Ha! That will teach you to duck more next time!

C: Are you going to come out and join me on the racks then?

B: Yes, coming, I hit my head and fell over.

C: I did wonder. It's quite lonely up here sometimes.

H: Oh, there's Doris. I wonder how many times Dave will send us around? How long did that take?

C: About 13 minutes including capsize, so it ought to be just over 10 minutes a lap? Wind coming.

And this is where we came in at the beginning, so we will stop and let the players continue gaining bruises for another three laps.

..... Thanks guys. Interesting insight how to go up a beat in survival wind and going fast down. Must admit never heard of an 'anti gust'

TRAINING 2011

Adult RYA Dinghy Level 1 and 2 Course

Llandegfedd Sailing Club will run an RYA Level 1 and 2 Course.

The dates are Fri 10th June - evening, and Saturdays 11, 18 and 25 June - all day.

This course is suitable for complete beginners and will teach the very basics necessary to allow the candidates to sail safely in light winds in sheltered waters.

The cost of the course is £150 plus club membership.

Enquiries should be made to Sarah Green david.green7@btinternet.com

Further Adult Training

For those who have already gained their RYA Level 2 and for race training will be available by agreement.

Enquiries to Sarah Green david.green7@btinternet.com

Junior Training

This will commence on Thursday evenings from May 5th. This year we shall be offering places to those who sailed last year and to sailors over 8 years old who have completed Junior Stage 2.

Enquiries should be made to Sarah Green 01291673779 or david.green7@btinternet.com.

Sessions will cost £5.

Junior Race Training

This will commence after Easter and is for those who can comfortably sail a triangular course or have completed Junior Stage 3.

Those interested should apply to coach@llandegfedd.org

Finally

I thought a few words from Ben Ainslie's autobiography would be of interest. If you recall at the Sydney Olympics the final race in the Laser class the gold was between him and the Brazilian Robert Scheidt. Ben had to win by 10 positions ahead of Scheidt or else sail him to the back of the fleet as he had to count that race in the series total. Ben chose the later. Winds were shift and one start abandoned.

'..... he kept sailing around the committee boat to keep free from being caught out. Eventually he split and made for the middle of the start line. I chased him down there. With about 5 seconds to go before the start I got into a leeward position which is a right of way position, got underneath and luffed him. He bore away and we just had contact. I protested and he did 2 penalty turns which put him behind the fleet. I stopped and waited for him bearing in mind what my coach had said about ensuring that I put him as far down the fleet as possible. I was directly on his wind already trying to slow him down. He just put in tack after tack. There must have been 50 tacks up the first upwind leg...' 'Every manoeuvre he made I covered it. He was trying to catch me out and break free. By this time we were a long way last. But I felt I needed more. I set a trap whereby I kept him to the outside of me and just wouldn't let him go round the first mark. He was really frustrated as you would be...' '..Robert turned and gybed his boat straight in front of me and we collided. In the process he eluded me and was gone...' '

The next piece sounds just like Llandegfedd.

‘..on the second to last leg. I could see this large patch of dark water coming towards us from the other side of the harbour which was basically a massive wind shift. Robert had picked that up and gone the opposite way to the whole of the rest of the fleet. He had got this wind and was coming to the next mark at twice the speed of any other boat. I was powerless to intervene’.

Scheidt reached 22nd position at the finish, he needed 21st to win the gold. He was actually later disqualified for an infringement.

I welcome any articles for future editions from ANY member or suggestions. My e mail johnregan47@googlemail.com

Good sailing.