

Llandegfedd Sailing Club newsletter

March 2020

Commodorial Ramblings

Welcome back! The 2020 season has started with a bang. Big winds, lots of capsizes and a few breakages. There are some great photos on the club Facebook page – have a look. As a club we are increasing using Facebook both to promote the club and for members discussions. If you are not signed up you are missing out.

Thank you to all those who made it to the AGM last month. The presentations are available to review on the club website within the secure members area. We discussed a lot of things but I will try to highlight some of the key area.

Roof repairs & temporary facilities. DCWW's contractors have started to install a temporary scaffolding roof prior to stripping and repairing the leaking roof structure. The building could remain closed for several weeks so DCWW have organised temporary changing rooms (no showers), toilets and a Wet Room. These are available to all users. Not ideal but better than nothing.

Parking. DCWW are planning to make changes to parking on site and will be installing a "pay and display" system. However, permit holders will be exempt and will be issued with permits. Details and implementation date are still to be confirmed.

GBSC 20. It was announced at the recent Dinghy Show that the club will be hosting the prestigious finals of the Great British Sailing Challenge in late September. This will attract some of the top UK dinghy sailors and will help promote the facility. DCWW will be organising all the land-based logistics and the club will run the racing.

Planning. DCWW have resubmitted their planning update and the General Committee have again objected to some of the proposed changes on behalf of the membership. Local residents and other interested parties have also objected for various reasons. We now await a date for the decision to be confirmed and will keep you updated.

Lastly, I would like to thank the General Committee and the Teams for their efforts to get us ready for the new season. Chris Smith and the Race Team have been practically busy getting the rescue fleet and Penelope ready. It's surprising how much needs to be done and unfortunately this falls on a relatively small group of dedicated volunteers. Many thanks to you all.

Bill

Membership

Thank you to those who have renewed and paid subscriptions and berth fees already. A polite reminder to let Becca know ASAP if you are not going to be renewing your berth, as we do have a waiting list. Anyone not renewing the berth by 31 March will lose it to those waiting. All of the details are on WebCollect (via "Join Us" on the club web site). Costs are the same as last year.

Winter Berths should have been vacated this Sunday, March 1, unless it's your full season's berth. The rightful owner might turn up soon!

Racing Team

At the AGM it was agreed that the following changes to the Sailing Instructions would come into force for this year, the full clauses are below.

14.2: If a boat on one occasion during a race accidentally rounds any mark the wrong way she may exonerate herself by promptly completing a One Turn 360 degree penalty turn. If the error is repeated and not unwound as Rule 28.2 or not discovered until the race is complete, 30 seconds will be added to her finishing time or she will drop two finishing places in a pursuit race. This changes Rule 28.2

17.5 Scoring will be for the helm or regular helm and crew team and not the boat. Within a regular helm and crew team they may swap roles without restriction. The helm to inform a Club Officer of their regular crew at the beginning of a series.

The use of local Portsmouth Numbers to calculate handicap results was trialed last year and generally accepted as giving reasonable answers so **the same figures will be used again this year**. The PN and pursuit times are available under the Racing tab on the website.

We have already had three Sundays Winter racing in 2020 and Jonny Everett emerged victorious with some help from James Adams' detaching rudder stock. Three 29ers were out on the 23rd February but all were beaten by Eabha in a Laser 4.7 which was more suited to the extremely gusty conditions. Special thanks to Will Willets and Dylan for manning the safety boat.

Due to the lack of facilities the Sunday racing will consist of three races back to back starting at 12 noon with the pursuit. We will revert to a lunch break as soon as we can.

The mid and late summer series will change from the normal format to have an earlier start at 11:15 to accommodate an hour long pursuit followed by a single fleet handicap which will count towards the club championship. After a lunch break there will be two races with the asymmetric and conventional boats having separate courses though possibly a single start depending on numbers. This is a trial format to allow keen people to get four races and those only wanting a half day to still get two. We will assess how it has gone at the end of the season so feedback welcome in the autumn.

The General Committee proposed to the AGM that we purchase a new RIB this season to replace the "small" one. It is hoped that this will be ordered soon and ready by the start of the summer.

Marketing and Communications Team

We are in the process of developing a new club website, with Paul Freeland's expert help, that will be more attractive to visitors and accessible from a mobile phone. The MarComs Team are busy starting the build but need someone with "Use of English skills" to do a copywriting job to review current information and make it more friendly, easier to read and attractive to non-sailors. No specialist knowledge of sailing or technical computing needed. If you can help in some way Andy would love to hear from you.

"Find a crew" was an innovation last year, run by Rob Cone. It worked well. This is a simple WhatsApp group that you add your name to, requesting a crew or offering to crew for someone else. Email Rob at crewfinder@llandegfedd.org. and he will add you to the list.

Training Team

Meet a Mentor and gain confidence. This is a new feature for 2020, promoted by Colin Walsh. The idea is that you and an Instructor agree what time to meet, any day of the week, and have a mentoring session in a boat that helps you develop a particular aspect of your sailing.

Adult training will again be based on **RYA courses**. No dates are fixed, as we do not know what the demand is. A very brief outline of the courses is under the "Advanced / Improvers" section of Training on the website.

Our current **Thursday Juniors** we hope will progress into the club Topper and Feva Squads and through RYA Stages and become confident sailors. We will be taking on new beginners in the summer and will be working closely with Llandegfedd Watersports once again.

The RYA have rebranded Push the Boat Out as **Discover Sailing** and we will be holding an open day to attract new members in early June.

2020 training dates are now on the website under Training/Schedule.

Our **Coaching** target is to get our new Juniors to go to Acorn to have a sail and race in early September. The timing and the content of the junior Thursday sessions is being aligned to that.

Following last year's success, the club will be running the popular **Social Sailing** on Saturdays from late May throughout the summer months. Whilst not formal training or coaching there will be some support in getting rigged and the security of a club powerboat on the water. If there is demand and sufficient volunteers social sailing may also be organised on weekday afternoons. Dates will be advised by e-mail to all members and via the club Facebook page, please ask Dave Green for further details.

Social Team

Needs your help! We are hoping to run some social events over the summer but desperately need volunteers to develop this side of the club. Bill would love to hear from anyone who has some ideas and are prepared to get involved. One exciting idea is to take a team to the Southport 24hr race. Something we did nearly 30 years ago.