
LLANDEGFEDD SAILING CLUB

END OF SEASON EDITION



NOVEMBER 2011



2011 A SEASON TO REMEMBER

As we all lovingly pack our boats away until march 2012 a short reflection on the year.

The attendance at the agm on 10th November was good with 40 or so members present most of whom the well known faces of the season.

We have around 200 individuals in membership of the club representing around 100 separate memberships. So family membership is good

Mark produced statistics for the numbers in club racing. The average Wednesday evening 16 [best 25].

Sunday asymmetrical 10 [15 best] and conventional 4 [best 10]. So average Sunday turnout all season is 15. But stats hide true success and some events and races with larger turnouts. A few Sundays and Wednesdays 25 boats racing. But look at the numbers of boats which actually raced at some time during the season and the numbers could go up a lot. So we must encourage everyone to be regular racers.

Of course we have a successful OD rosta which usually takes 2 or 3 racers off the start line which would increase the above figures and quite a number are away on open meetings etc.

The **TOP GUN** Sundays were a success and there will be 4 next year to include in July a special Olympic event with medals. We hope these mini series, [on a Sunday with 3 races a pursuit, round the cans and windward/leeward all together handicap] attract the club members and guests who may not be able to race regularly each week.

Photo competition. I announced at last edition. There can only be one winner and that is Nigel's amazing picture of Simon underwater with just his hand out of the lake 'Excaliber' fashion holding his varello tiller extension the boat still upright. To view go to the club website and the link is unique. It made its way to the RS magazine.

The success of the club is not just in club racing stats.

So here a few words about some very successful members

The juniors

There are some parents who weekly trek the country and even the continent taking their young sailors to squad events, championships and international regattas. The opportunity they give their offspring is extraordinary and they fly the Llandegfedd flag as proudly as any. We hope in their travels they can make some of our special events as last year and some more series races.

I was lucky to be ood at president's weekend this year when many of these 'squadies' were sailing. Over that weekend 30 club boats started at least 2 races. The 29ers in some strong gusts providing much entertainment in their capsizes [thank heaven for Bill and his crew on his rib] but then also showing their excellent skills in some of the racing. Some high quality laser sailors were also evident. I also think these wiz kids were impressed by the quality of the club sailors as well

Away

Quite a number of our regular racers travel to events. Our flag is now well known nationwide in the asymmetric canoe class and the rs vareo. We have the largest fleets in the country of these 2 classes.



Asymmetric Canoes

World champion - Dave Timson.

National champion - Robin Wood

Top 4 World's and Nationals - Steve Bowen.

Boatbuilder Steve Clark and also some other useful club members. We await Gareth's debut on the lake.

Vareos

4th UK nationals Jeremy Symonds

3rd UK inlands Simon Collinson

We have over 10 vareos here. All we need to do now is get mark and nigel back in the fleet!!!!!!

June 2012

UK National Inland Championships will be held at Llandegfedd

Topper Welsh Nationals

Our most successful open event ever was held in 2011. Over 40 boats raced the weekend being a fantastic turnout. S.Jackson coming a brilliant 2nd. Great thanks to all who made that weekend so good [which also has a marvellous financial benefit for the club]. Next year we expect even more boats as the word has spread how good it was.

Other boats often toured such as 2 at rs200 nationals, laser 2000, rs400. So stats hide the true success of the club on the water

We now have some excellent club boats:

The Laser 2000, 2 competitive Laser's, as well as some Toppers and Optimists. So if your crew/helm is away why not give them a go.

2012 Programme

Mark Williams and his committee have continued to develop the prog for next year. Main events in this newsletter and full prog should make the website in due course. Last year every programmed race took place except those which on the day were abandoned due to conditions. A great tribute to the club and our systems which ensure oods and rescue are in place. Those of us who travel to other clubs all say how exceptional we are in this respect. Our race management is second to none. Course setting excellent especially considering the difficult wind conditions we can experience.

2012 will be improved by our continuing investment. The new rib will be with us in advance of next season. 40hp 4 stroke merc on the back of a larger rib at a cost of £10k. All users of the new rescue boat will be required to undergo some training on the boat which will be organised before racing at the start of the season and throughout.

Doris has been great this year especially with the bailer working so well. We hope to have a new cabin next year.

Next year club rules will allow a course mark to be touched without penalty. So if the flag hits your boom just keep going. You cannot manhandle the mark. This rule successful in rs vareo events and likely will be with us. But you cannot touch doris or the mark the other end of the start/finish line at any time. Penalty one turn.

Also for OOD duty '2' will no longer be given for each race but a series average.

Race starts. Just a gentle reminder that races should start on time and will not wait for late launchers. The start gun is the published time so 5 min signal is before. Ood will of course have the final say and may extend time say in exceptional wind conditions or other reason

Club boats. As mentioned all are encouraged to use. New members especially have a great opportunity at really low cost of the club membership fee. Foils will be locked in the container now attached to the rescue boat container. Sails and spars for laser in top container. Respect the equipment and if any failures etc inform sarah green immediately.



2012 Sailing Programme

ASYMMETRIC and CANOE OPEN
28+29 April

TOPPER WELSH INLANDS
12+13 May

VAREO UK NATIONAL INLANDS
9+10 June

PRESIDENT'S WEEKEND
15+16 September

TOP GUNS

25 March; 27 March, 29 July [Olympic]; 30 September



Training. A comprehensive programme will be run by sarah assisted by dave and alun Bolton and others. Any members wishing to assist in any way please contact her. Rescue boat qualification requires an enjoyable few hours on the water with alun, so if you want to be able to drive any rescue boat contact him to get the pb2 qualification. The time and effort dedicated to training by these members is tremendous and all are grateful. But assistance however small is welcome.

Financial. Significant expenditure this year especially with the new rib but the accounts remain very healthy.

Membership fees. No increase for 2012 which is good news. Please please please pay fees immediately at request when season to start. Mandy Sykes has done a fab job for years and now worn out so we need a new volunteer for 2013

Project for next year. Paint and upgrade the ood hut on the headland. I do not think it has had any paint since erected before I was a new member in 1972. Andy and Alex have regularly maintained the wind speed machine and the ood horn and brightly painted the start line arm. It would be nice to paint the inside, get some new chairs [if anyone comes across a couple of bar stool type chairs please keep them for the ood hut] and some photos on the wall. Perhaps members can dig out some good photos even historic ones and frame ready to go up. Maybe then club will invest in a new weather machine. As the new clubhouse is

likely to be off the headland maybe we can consider extending the ood hut a little to provide a viewing room across to Doris, perhaps with fixed binoculars [and Martin Peters would like a G&T cabinet as well]

The new clubhouse. Progress is slow. The water authority have recently eventually appointed an architect. This is expected to move matters along. We are assured funding is in place and they are committed to the project. Several club officers and others continue to press at every opportunity. Plans should be ready in the new year and we will have an input but then planning and other matters will take much of next year. Best timescale likely start the build end of 2012 with earliest finish march 2013. The project is a 2 building idea with a visitor centre at the main gate and the clubhouse likely between mr terrys and the container. Much can be said on the subject and the frustration of delay is keenly felt especially by those at the club who have put in so much to the project over the years. Just think if they had let us get on with the plan the centre had it would be there now!!!!!!!

A word here about the many who do work for the club. The bosuns and helpers that make things run smoothly, the huge input in training [more later], the committee members, membership, results and so on. Here a special thanks to Jeremy Symonds our commodore who has led from the front and has the vision and drive to develop the club.



Racing rules - Often a mystery to most. a few simple rules and my understanding [which I am happy to discuss and be wrong!!!!!!].

The one we all know. Starboard boat has right of way over a boat on port tack. This always applies where both boats close hauled and at the windward mark. But also Remember this applies where boats are going in different directions so that for example a fast canoe on port close hauled must keep out of the way, which may require bearing away or tacking, of a solo ambling downwind on starboard. even if they are in different races. There are exceptions at a non windward mark where an overlap has been established.

But all boats must do their best to avoid collision. So shout to warn. if the port sailor does not move then get out of the way and call to do a penalty turn.

By the way windsurfers enjoying themselves but not racing cannot claim starboard rights as I was 'requested' recently. Politely tell them racing boat has priority. Similarly fishermen in their motorboats should keep clear of us whatever tack but usually it is easier to keep clear of them.

Start Line Rules



This photo taken from Doris about 15 seconds before the start gun, start line to the right. Some aggressive and exciting starting here and quite a number of situations developing in this action shot.

The simple rule starboard has right of way. The laser has gone head to wind and tacked over to port and actually has her mainsheet wrapped around Jeremy's bow. There is not much he can do in these circumstances. He should be sheeting in and luffing up especially as below him are 2 boats who are rightly luffing.

Mark in the rs100 does not look happy as he is properly wanting Dave T to luff. Mark is entitled to luff slowly as he has a leeward overlap, giving the canoe time to respond. Normally that's what should happen. Dave in turn has an overlap on the vareo so will luff Jeremy. So if the laser was not present, by the time they reached the line 15 seconds later one would expect Jeremy to be right up close to Doris with Dave next to him and Mark below the 2 controlling the start. Jeremy by then may have run out of room and not able to pass inside Doris and thus tack, circle and start late.

This picture shows how a helm can never be sure what is happening. We can also read Mark's mind [perhaps he is shouting] wanting Dave to stop bearing down on him. Dave likely feeling the same about Jeremy. Neither can see the laser in Jeremy's way. Jeremy is not at fault.

So however frustrating for the 2 of them they really have no choice but to bear off slightly, Jeremy meanwhile hoping the laser sheet dislodges.

The laser is in deep trouble and after starting will have to do a penalty turn [she did].

Boswells in the L2000 down the line has no luffing rights as he has no overlap but he likely could have powered up and hit the line fast below all the boats in trouble and in clear air so getting a good start ; which was unlikely before the laser caused so much trouble.

The Topper to the left was likely lined up for a reasonable start behind Jeremy close to Doris. But the laser has put an end to that. Perhaps Topper should sheet in and go across the laser bow and bear off to the line, but that may be risky and not possible. But Topper has no right to water at Doris and cannot push in.

The laser helm is a well trained quality sailor which goes to show the best can easily mess up.

Overlap at Leeward mark.



In this photo Vareo has an inside overlap on the Greens.[assuming the course is leaving 5 to port just left of picture]. If you look closely it is Jeremy's spinnaker pole which overlaps the line across the rs200 transom. As long as Jeremy maintains that overlap as Greens enter their 3 boat lengths from 5 he is entitled to water at the mark, and Sarah must give him room to round close to the mark.

But if Jeremy pulled down his spinnaker before 3 boat lengths of the mark and the boats remained in similar position to the other the overlap would be broken. Greens then reach their 3 boat lengths not overlapped so Jeremy is not entitled to water and must either slow down and pass the mark after the rs200 or go to the right. If the overlap is only broken within the 3 boat lengths circle the inside boat keeps the right to water at the mark.

I hope march comes quickly. Must be off to the gym now to get slim and fit...maybe after Christmas !!!... to sail new vareo next year.

Keep an eye on the excellent Llandegfedd sailing club website or yahoo group e mails for details of any events in the close season.

I hope this newsletter will appear on the website with photos so look for it.

Llandegfedd Reservoir
www.llandegfedd.org.uk

