

Bala Sailing Club

Newsletter Feb 2010 (Text Only)

IMPORTANT

IF YOU INTEND JOINING THE CLUB THIS YEAR, PLEASE RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP ASAP. THANKS.

Jenny Hull

Lake Licence Negotiations

During the course of negotiating the Lake Licence Renewal with Snowdonia National Park, it became necessary to delve back through our record to determine a little of the history of the club, and I thought this may be of interest to members.

What do we own?

The Lake and surrounding area were originally owned by the Glanllyn Estate. The Government accepted the estate in lieu of death duties in 1946. The land that the original clubhouse was built on was leased from the British Railways Board on 7 May 1965 (280 sq yards approx) for a term of 60 years and at a cost of £20pa (subject to review)

A second strip of land was assigned to the club at a cost of £350 for the unexpired 95 year period of its lease on 15 September 1978 by Rheilfordd Llyn Tegid Company. This strip of land was immediately behind the original clubhouse on which the clubhouse extension was built.

Originally, the club was not allowed to operate on Sundays and, prior to 1966, we were not able to have open events on Sundays without special permission.

Lake Licence Terms

The club negotiates a licence (each 7 years) with Snowdonia National Park, which gives us the right to sail on the lake, access the foreshore etc. It imposes some restrictions on what we are able to do, e.g. no powerboats other than rescue craft, or committee boats, no boats over 20ft waterline length, no hiring of craft, no overnight camping on the foreshore or sleeping on boats and no toilet facilities on boats. The licence also limits the number and location of moorings we are able to lay. Our last licence expired at the end of 2009 and a new one has now been negotiated for the next seven years. This is substantially the same as the previous one, but with the fee inflated in line with the retail price index. This will be £6750pa for the next 3 years, then increasing annually in line with the retail price index.

My thanks go to Hugh Carter and John Saunders for their considerable help in these negotiations.

Jetty Update

As Bala Sailing Club is in a National Park and also an area of special scientific interest, a number of consents were required before we were able to go ahead with the new jetties.

A letter of consent has now been received from Countryside Council for Wales for the construction of the two new jetties following the snail and otter surveys. They have specified that construction work is to be carried out during dry periods and at low water so as to avoid disturbing any sediment into the water. They also stipulate that work is to be completed between 1 June and 31 Dec 2010 to avoid gwyniad spawning periods.

A letter has also been received from the Environment Agency advising they have no objections to the installation of the two new jetties as we have now satisfied all their concerns.

A planning application has been submitted to SNP and I am pleased to advise this has now been approved.

Letters of support have been received from Trevor Edwards, Secretary, Bala Angling Club, Bala Council / Eifion Roberts, Mayor of Bala and Mel Williams, Chairman of Bala Tourist association. You may wonder what the significance of these is, but when we apply for grants it is important that we are able to demonstrate that we have local support and that other groups will benefit from the jetties.

A grant application has been produced for SPLASH funding as this seems to give the best chance of significant funds. However, we are still looking for other sources of funds, so if you know of any please give me a call.

Access to members' area of the Bala SC website

In order to simplify access, in future you will need to input the gate code (padlock number) to get in. The new gate code will be on your new membership card.

Gents changing Rooms

The committee have been looking at the possibility of re-modelling the gents changing rooms to try and expand them and introduce separate shower cubicles.

Work is currently going on to replace the damaged floor tiles, and then we hope to move ahead with the shower cubicles.

Winter Storm Damage / Working Party

We did suffer some damage during the floods, so we have a longer than normal list of jobs for the working party on Sat/Sun 27/28 Feb and 6/7 March. A JCB is being organised to shift all the brock that has been deposited at the high water mark, and move gravel about, but we still need plenty of bodies with shovels and rakes.

On Board Scheme

Bala SC have been asked by the Welsh Yachting Association to be part of the

On Board Scheme. This aims to give school children an introduction to sailing and, for those really interested, an opportunity to develop their sailing skill.

Local schools in the Bala area will have the opportunity to go on sailing courses at Bala Watersports or the Glan Llyn centre and, if they like it and wish to continue, they will move to Bala SC and become part of our youth training squad.

Its early days yet to know how well this will work, but we have taken it as a positive move and signed up to participate.

Recent quote from a member

“On behalf of Aled, I would like to thank everyone who has been involved in the Youth Squad/Winter training. The help and encouragement he has been given throughout the year has been very much appreciated, thank you. He is looking forward to the next sailing season already!

Regards
Mannon”

Ken Hull

Sailing Captain's Report

The new season looms, giving us little time to prepare for the opening of the club and the first event, The Bala Massacre on 14th March. After a series of storms this winter, there's lots of damage and debris to be sorted, so please help on the working party days.

The storms resulted in a number of cruisers and one of the committee boats to break their moorings and sustain significant hull damage. The consensus is that all boats must be taken off the water and removed from the club at the end of the season. A number of members travelled down to the club to recover boats. Particular thanks to Chris Smith who climbed into the committee boat when it was jammed against the road bridge by the onrushing flow of water, managing to start the engine and slowly getting it away against the gale to eventual safety.

We hope that once again with the help of Peter Watkin, the Moored Cruiser Rep. cruiser members will co operate and assist each other in the provision and laying of new ground tackle and in the launching of their boats. In order to avoid congestion on the foreshore cruisers should be brought down and launched on the same weekend. O boats are available to tow the cruisers. May I suggest that the Yahoo Groups forum be used to organize the fleet.

We have received a number of further requests for Open events. These have been allotted to other open weekends or Regatta weekends. We will be hosting the following National events: - Graduates, Laser 2000 and Blaze. The other opens are: - Solutions, Supernovas, Solos, Europes, Flying Fifteens, Tinkers and Sea Vets. Although the water and scenery are an attraction, visiting fleets have become confident in our efficient race management. Although in many respects these events are a burden on our manpower, they do raise the status of the club and bring in much needed finance.

The Saturday club racing programme has been revised by Paul Plested to include a progressive coaching programme devised by our senior coach, Dave Eccles. This will take place on Sat. mornings and integrate within the existing Sat. racing programme. All ages and non racing members are welcome. We really want junior racing to take off this year, so as an encouragement, 'on the water' coaching is to be allowed. The racing will be short course and run from the Bridge. It doesn't matter how inexperienced you are, please take part. There will also be Gold and Silver fleet prizes.

It is hoped that in normal circumstances, the committee boat will be used to run Sunday racing. It is a high maintenance and expensive asset that should be used for the benefit of the members to give good start lines and courses. It is not there just for the privilege of visitors at open meetings.

All members will compete against each other on Sundays apart from the Champion Helm when the Junior Champion Helm result will be extracted. The much improved Junior fleet will now gain a more competitive racing experience. The Champion helm race will start no earlier than 1.30 and the last race will be windward /leeward course.

I hope all members who race will agree to be race officers this season. After all, you are only paying back those who run racing for you. I will be running Club race officer sessions, the first early Sat. 10th April. Before doing your race officer duty, please refer to the race management booklet on the website.

'Safety boat, emergency response' sessions are to be provided. The first date is 22 April.

New guidelines for safety cover for 'free sailing' and cruising have been produced and will appear on the website and on the Bridge. The essential element of these guidelines are that, should you need safety cover, then you have to formally notify the

Race Officer who will agree on the time and extent of this cover and inform the safety crew. It will also be necessary to sign 'on' and 'off'.

Gwil James

Duty Rota

Another sailing season is almost upon us, another duty rota to fill!

This year we are going to try something new, DutyMan. Many clubs successfully use DutyMan to run their rotas. DutyMan will make organising the rota simpler. It will give most of you the opportunity to swap your duty with another member who has been allocated the same type of duty as yours i.e. OD for OD, Cox for Cox etc. So please do provide an e-mail address! A further major benefit is an automatic reminders by e-mail of an up coming duty. Look out for a welcome e-mail from DutyMan with your username and password. You can still view the rota via the Bala website.

Hopefully this will keep down both my telephone bill and my blood pressure!!

Obviously anyone with a problem or no access to the internet can still call me or Kevin Guinan for technical issues with DutyMan.

I will try to accommodate the requested dates on the renewal forms. However, a quick glance through reveals several members have asked to do duties on the same dates, for instance the Bala Massacre. A lot of you have asked to do all your duties as early as possible, so some compromise may be necessary.

As we are short of ODs again this year we are encouraging all members who race to become Officers of the day. This may seem daunting to some, but help and advice will be at hand upon request. There will be a set of guidelines on the bridge and Gwil is running training sessions throughout the year. If I can do it... anyone can!!

Also junior members over 14 years are expected to do duties, and will be given tasks within their capabilities. Hopefully, this will be viewed as exciting and positive. Our young members are very important to us, and by getting them more involved we hope to add to their experience and develop better understanding of how Bala Sailing Club runs.

The Rota will be available via the members' area of the Bala website shortly. You will be able to access the members' page by using this years gate number as the password. This will be shown on your membership card. Then follow the link to "DutyMan" website.

Wendy Hitchman, Duty Rota Officer

01691 649969

Junior Fleet

2009 has been a great year. For the highlights see the You Tube video at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EgziKaSBO7I>. There is a related video produced by the WYA which can be seen at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=M5CBFWyLLPs>

Winter Training/Racing

Winter training finished on the 5th Dec before the weather turned really cold. Thanks to everyone involved in making it a success. A few hardy juniors have not stopped racing and kept the Bala flag flying at Budworth on Boxing Day and Leigh and Lowton's New Years Day pursuit. Read all about it in Yachts and Yachting

<http://www.yachtsandyachting.com/news/?article=150007> and

<http://www.yachtsandyachting.com/news/?article=150008>

Quiz 1

What does "Sail by the Correct Decisions" and "Can this Boat Sail Correctly" stand for?

Youth Squad Dates for 2010

Sat 20th March, combined with the adults "Improved Boat Handling"

Sat 10th April, WYA Open Training prior to the first CYRC event

Sat 24th April, combined with the adults "The Beat"

Sat 12th June Trip to the seaside! CYRC at Penmaenmawr

Sat 17th July

Sat 21st August

Sat 11th September, combined with the adults "Downwind Speed"

Junior Trophy/Cup Days

In addition to the Early and Late Saturday series, there are junior starts at all the Club's Regattas. Don't forget the Junior Champion helm runs throughout the season.

CYRC 11th April 2010. The first date of the season long North Wales inter club youth racing circuit run by the WYA.

Owen Shaw Shield: Sunday 23rd May

Pugwash Trophy: 3rd-4th July

Family Week: 9-13th August

Junior Cup: Sunday 22nd August

Junior Open: Sunday 19th September

What is the CYRC?

Well, it is the North Wales regional "Club Youth Racing Circuit" and last year was won by Aled Goddard. The CYRC is run by the Welsh Yachting Association (WYA). Their stated objective is: -

"5 days racing to build on North Wales Regional and Open Winter Training. Whilst quality racing is the intention of the series, courses maybe adapted and training may be provided to suit the age and ability of competitors. The series will cater for experienced racers (wanting to practise against their squad mates!) through to novice sailors travelling to their first event."

Bala will hold the first event this year on the 11th April with a training day on the 10th. So no excuse for that one! As the June date "clashes" with the youth squad I had planned, I would like to have a Youth Squad seaside trip to the beautiful and safe Conwy bay.

CYRC Events

Sun 10th April: Bala SC

Sat 9th May: Port Dinorwic

Sat 12th June: Penmaenmawr SC *** Youth Squad Sea Side Outing ***

Sat 18th Sept: Llyn Brenig SC incorporating North Wales Schools Sailing Championships

Sat 16th Oct: Shotwick SC

Quiz 2

What does the Yellow and Red diagonally striped flag mean? Why is it not needed at Bala?

See you all on the 20th March

For quiz answers, see the Junior Fleet page

<http://www.balasc.org.uk/Fleets/Junior/junior.html> and Training page

<http://www.balasc.org.uk/Fleets/Junior/juntrain.html>

Kevin Guinan Youth Squad Coordinator

RYA Race Coach Level 2 Course

17th and 18th April

There are only six places available across North Wales.

Bala SC is hosting this course for the WYA and will be using a top-class coach.

Entry level is good club standard with open meeting experience. Some instructor skills would be useful but not essential.

If you are interested in this course, please ring me – **Phil Smith** – on 01978263988 for further details.

Open Adult Coaching

Building on the successful junior race training we have been doing for a number of years the 20th March will see the first of a series of race training events primarily for adults. They will focus on improving knowledge and skills in key areas, designed to get you round the race track faster than the opposition.

Our aim is to see improvement and progression in racing at Bala SC leading to a more worthwhile racing experience for us all.

The key areas are

- Improved boat handling
- Starting
- Upwind speed
- Downwind speed
- Tactics and strategy

The sessions will run from 10:00 am on Saturdays and will be repeated twice during the season so if you miss out on one day you can come along to the later session.

The **structure** for each day will follow the format:

10:00 Short presentation and briefing

10:30 Rig and change

11:00 On the water exercises

13:00 Lunch

14:00 Coached races

17:30 approx Debrief

Charge

These sessions are open to all for a minimum charge with the proceeds going to our jetty fund. The coached races will run with the normal Saturday series and will be the opportunity to try out those newly learned skills and tricks under the watchful eye of an RYA qualified coach.

See posters in the club or our web site for further details.

For these events to be a real success we need to ensure that we have enough coaches for each day so it is very important that you book your places in advance. To book or for further information call me on 07748 118872, e-mail me dave@kdx.org.uk or just catch me at the club!

As an aside we are always happy to help with specific requirements so any individual or fleet with particular requests just let me know and I will try and help.

Look forward to seeing you on the water.

Dave Eccles, Senior Coach

Committee Update

Dave Eccles and Fran Jones are sharing the club Secretary's duties. Steve Williams has taken on the role of Publicity Officer.

The Competition Secretary post is still vacant. The duties are: -

1. Arrange to be at the club to take entries on the first day – registration time in Notice of Race
 2. Arrange a cash float (Bar useful for this)
 3. Set up registration point in clubhouse
 4. Put Notice of Race on table for information
 5. Take competitors entry forms and fee
 6. Close registration after briefing (late entrants by special arrangement with you)
 7. Reconcile entries to cash and arrange banking with Treasurer or Rear Commodore
- If you can help with some or all of these duties, please contact me at: k.hull1@btinternet.com

Vacancy: Facilities Manager Bala Sailing Club

Pay: Non existent

Hours: 24/7

Conditions: Hopeless

Duties: Everything to do with the club's buildings

Seriously: Mike Sullivan who was Rear Commodore has had to stand down for personal reasons so we are looking for someone to take on this role.

We have decided to change the title to something that better reflects the responsibility. Like most jobs in the club, this is not about doing all the work, rather determining what needs to be done on a priority basis and handing over to a team of willing volunteers.

If you feel you could contribute to the club in this way, please give me a call.

Regards
Ken Hull

Club Racing Calendar 2010

Dates of Saturday Series:

Early Series: – 10th April to 26th June Late Series: – 24th July to 9th October

Dates of Sunday Series

Early Series: – 21st March to 20th June Late Series: –27th June to 10th October

40% of races to count in both Saturday and Sunday series

Champion Helm: Results are taken from the Sunday race at 13.30 between 21st March and 10th Oct. Regatta & Trophy events excluded. 40% of races count.

Junior Champion Helm: Results are taken from the 1.30pm Sunday race between 21st March and 10th October. Regatta events excluded. 40% of races count.

Tegid Cup: 6 June. One day Handicap event using RYA PN's. 4 races, 3 to count.

Commodore's Cup: 3/4 July. A two day handicap event using RYA PN's. 6 races, 5 to count.

President's Trophy: 22 August. One-day handicap event using personal PNs obtained from Saturday Personal H/C Racing. 4 races, 3 to count.

Steward's Trophy: 19 September. One -day Handicap event using RYA PNs 4 races, 4 to count. (No discard)

Owen Shaw Shield (23 May), Pugwash Trophy (3/4 July) & Junior Cup (22 August)
One and two-day handicap events for juniors, where helm and crew are under 18 on 1st Jan 2010

Final Fling

16/17/ & 23/24 October. 12 race event, 50% to count

If you have any contributions to make to a future newsletter, please contact me on: cmjames2005@yahoo.co.uk