

# CLWB HWYLIO BALA SAILING CLUB

## 50th Anniversary 1958-2008

### May 2008 Newsletter

#### Commodore

Can I start by wishing Ian & Stella heartiest congratulations after recently tying the proverbial knot (every pun intended!). I am sure all members will join me in wishing you both a very long and happy life together

Last weekend saw the 420 class descend on North Wales for the first of this years world championship qualifying rounds. The fleet demonstrated some very skilful sailing and were an all-round friendly and polite group of youngsters who will be very welcome back to Bala at any time. Photos and video can be found on our website.

The 4th & 5th May is our Anniversary Club Regatta weekend which heralds the start of our 50th year celebrations. Sailing programme looks good. (See Sailing Captain's report). Great live band in the evening together with a buffet supper. (Have a look at <http://dangerous-age.net/homepage.html>). See the posters around the club and get yourselves booked in sooner rather than later as this will be a **busy** weekend.

You will also notice the appearance of information about our Anniversary Dinner at the Woodlands Hall in Ruthin on the 13th September. Please get your tickets ordered early so we can give precise numbers. There is a limit to the numbers they can fit in, so again early booking avoids disappointment. We are arranging transport from Bala (See Social Section). At the time of writing, they have one room left, so anyone wanting to stay over should ring the hotel as soon as possible and book direct with them. (Tel: 01824 705107)

I suspect most of you have now seen our excellent new web site . thanks to everyone involved in delivering it. Latest addition is a forum on our site rather than having to hop off to Yahoo groups. Please register with the forum as soon as you can and keep those postings coming in.

Thanks to all who came along to the open forum. The thoughts and ideas that were expressed will be discussed by the management committee and where appropriate will be actioned immediately or included in the next release of the Development Plan. Another open forum is being planned for the summer. Anyway I have already taken up enough of this newsletter so just to finish with a reminder that the water is officially tepid now (honest), so lets see you all out sailing.

***Dave Eccles***

## **Sailing Captain's report**

The anniversary fun Regatta 3<sup>rd</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> May will soon be here. I hope everyone participates and enjoys the sailing programme that has been arranged. This, of course, may be modified to suit the weather conditions that prevail. The racing format will be as follows: -

### **Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> May**

**12:00pm One-hour personal handicap pursuit**

**Lunch**

**2:00pm 2 back-to-back personal handicap races, each 40 mins**

### **Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> May**

**11:00am Le Mans start long distance race**

Helms start from the patio (Start timed from the patio)

Boats on shore with mainsail down, crew with the boat

Course from launch position: -

Senior X (port), G (port), X (port)

Junior X (port), D (port), X (port)

**Lunch**

**Cruiser sail past**

**2:00pm Pico team racing – team with last boat loses**

Number of teams dependent on entries

**Fastest lap races – start any time. Course: 321X or 123X**

### **Monday 5<sup>th</sup> May**

**11:00am Short course handicap mini series**

5 races, 4 to count, each approx 25 mins

2 races back-to-back in the morning

**Lunch**

3 races in the afternoon

The cold, windy weather has resulted in a lower than normal turn-out at weekends so far, but I know everyone is keen to get sailing.

### **Cruising/racing etiquette**

One word about racing: it is generally accepted that 'free sailing' or 'cruising' boats give way to racing boats, if they are on the race course. It is also appreciated if non-racing boats keep clear of marks that are in the course.

### **Race Officers**

Just a small plea: if you are RO on Saturday or Sunday, please take a look at the Race Management booklet beforehand. There has been some confusion with the transit line and the placement of the inner and outer limit markers. Mike Davidson's auto timer is a great hit with ROs. Thanks also to Dave Wall for implementing the Sailwave program to process our results.

### **420 Open**

Congratulations to all in making the 420 GB Selection event a great success.

### **Winter Lake Level**

I represented the club at a recent **Celyn, Tegid and Tryweryn Advisory conference**. I have a copy of the Annual Report and Work Programme which was presented at the meeting. The issue that most impacts upon us is the winter water level. Those present were warned that the very high lake level reached in February could not be viewed as an uncommon event and it is predicted that even higher levels resulting in flooding in Bala itself could not be discounted. The rapidly rising levels at Llyn Tegid are caused when lakes Celyn and Brenig fill up and then when there is further rainfall, Llyn Tegid gets the lot, including the overflow of the other lakes.

Other issues that were discussed at length were incidences of **vandalism** and **dog fouling**, so just a reminder to members to keep the barrier down and locked, especially during the week as it was reported that £12,000 of damage was caused by vandalism to the Llangower toilets, the Lake Warden's office and the rugby club.

Also, thanks to members with dogs who have strictly abided by the club's rules and removed fouling from the foreshore. Those of you who have walked to Bala will have noticed how bad this problem is in other areas.  
**Gwil James**

## **Fleet Reps**

For anyone sailing a Fireball, a General Handicap boat (29er, Albacore, Contender, Enterprise, Vago, Wayfarer, etc), or any of the RS classes, Mick Fleming and Mandy Edwards have kindly offered to act as fleet reps. So if you have a problem of any kind that you need assistance with please speak to them at the club, or alternatively, contact them via the details provided on each of the respective fleet pages, or the forum on the new Bala website.

Mick and Mandy both feel it is important that the content of both the club noticeboards and, in particular, the website reflects the activities and interests of fleet members. Consequently, they are really keen to hear from anyone who feels able to make a contribution by way of pictures and accounts of outings and adventures, just so long as they have the vaguest of sailing connections and involve club members past or present.

## **Laser 2000**

Andy and Gez Jones are extracting the Laser 2000 results from the racing on a Sunday, with a view to possibly awarding prizes at the end of the season.

## **Cruising Fleet**

A few cruising boats have turned up on the foreshore with the usual traditional looking day boats in evidence. Some cabin cruisers have now been launched and there should be a steady trickle appearing in the next few weeks.

We have some moorings to lay, as this year there will be twenty boats on moorings with a good variety of types.

Please try to be at the club on spring bank holiday Sunday, 4 May as I intend having a parade of boats for the fiftieth anniversary of Bala Sailing Club.

The cruiser training day last year was quite successful and I hope to hold another this year. If you are interested, please let me know and suggest items you would like included. It will of course be in the warmer weather.

Keep me informed of any news items or subjects for discussion in committee.

**Geoff Bolton**  
**Cruising Captain**

## **Solos**

Well at last I have managed to get out on the water for my first sail in a Bala S.C. race THREE solos out there! Welcome to Tony Hughes joining the fleet and Miles Thomas winning the Champion Helm on that afternoon. True to style, I was still rigging my boat when the start gun went. There was sufficient wind during the afternoon for me to see how bendy my new rig is. I have now just got to learn how to trim it.

Tony was saying that he hopes to be racing his Solo on Saturdays in the learn to race series and will probably be cruise sailing his FF15 with Pat on the Sundays. I have also had another member interested in the Solo, so yes the fleet might grow. Miles is hoping to be representing Bala at some of the Northern area Solo Opens.

## **Solo Open 13th July**

With regard to Opens – I have asked Don Muir our new member who sails the pale blue RS400 if he will be the Race Officer for the Solo and Solutions open event at Bala which is on 13<sup>th</sup> July. Don has said yes he would be willing to do this if he has no other commitments that Sunday. Don will be running the races for the two fleets from a committee boat, and he will need an assistant race officer to help him. This would be an ideal opportunity for any participants in Gwil's last race officer course to get experience and learn more about being race officer. As the races will be fleet racing the only timing involved is that of the two sequential starts with the recording of boat positions as they go through the laps and their finishing positions. Other topics covered will be course selection and positioning of the committee boat for a start line. Don is a great guy and this will be a great chance for anybody interested in helping with race management to get some on the water experience. Total number of boats for both fleets expected to be not more than forty. If any one is interested talk to Don, it should be easy peasy.

***Cheers Solo John (3687 or 3474)***

## **Blaze Open**

Less than 3 weeks to the Blaze open at Bala on 10 & 11 May. We are hoping for a good turnout as competitors really enjoyed the Inlands at Bala last year, & are planning another Inland championship event at Bala in 2009.

The reputation of Bala as a sailing venue certainly seems to be improving & can only take us from strength to strength.

Tim Heaton has kindly donated wine for the meal on the Saturday evening, from his daughter's vineyard, & is providing each entrant with a Bala 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary burgee.

There will be live music on the Saturday night to which all are welcome, & we are planning to open the bar on the Friday evening prior, so why not come & join us?

We have 2 new Blazes at Bala, Tim Heaton's & Dave Pye's. These boats have a new design deck arrangement to improve the build quality & engineering, but otherwise are the same as the X version.

In theory, they are not supposed to be any faster, but those who have seen Tim sailing in the past few weeks might question that. Dave Wall has taken delivery of one of the new design sails, (completely transparent), so no excuses if he says he didn't see you on starboard. There seem to be a few people in the club who might be interested in joining the Blaze fleet, & if anyone would like to give one a try, just let me know. Be warned though once tried one, you won't want to sail anything else.

**Ken Hull**

## **Youth Squad**

Despite the weather being VERY cold, 3 Squaddies, one visitor and a few oldies turned up for the first Youth Squad day at the beginning of April. Dave Eccles (Commodore) gave a little talk about sailing in strong wind conditions, and we all learned something, (even the oldies!) Otto decided the wind was too strong for him to sail. James sailed, but not for long as he had a gear failure and had to be towed back in! It was a very chilly start to the season.

The second Youth Squad day was Saturday, 26<sup>th</sup> April. The weather was much warmer, but windy in the morning, so we had onshore activities. One was 'Pirate ship,' an elimination game, and another was a flag quiz. They all got at least half the questions right, but the winner was James Guinan. John Saunders gave a short talk on rules and the windward mark. After lunch, it was less windy and several boats took to the water for some sailing practice.

The next Squad day is Saturday, 31<sup>st</sup> May. Parents must be on site and help with rigging and putting boats away will be needed.

Be there or be square! 10am start.

**Wil (Junior Fleet Captain)**

## **Spreading the news!**

Our Competitions Sec, has been emailing sailing clubs around the world telling them about our 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebrations. She has asked them to send us photos of their members wishing Bala Sailing Club a happy anniversary. We have had some replies already which can be seen on the website.

## **New pages on the Website**

*Hot on the heels of the recent launch of Bala Sailing Club's new website, a site-wide search facility and an interactive Forum also have been added. It is hoped that the forum will allow people (members & non members) to communicate with one another even when they are far, far away from the club.*

As a starting point eight individual forums (Racing Ramblings, Boat Owning Babble, Cruising Corner, Rules & Regs, Visitor's Views, The Way Ahead, Sailing Through Life and Committee Communiqués) have been created to provide natural homes for most subjects. For anyone who hasn't used a forum before (or Bulletin Board as they are sometimes called) a comprehensive FAQ section offers guidance on how to get started and a

link to this can be found just below the Bala S.C logo on the forum's home page. Similarly there is a Forum/Board Rules page that tells users what can, & more importantly what can not be included - please read this before you post.

Although use of the forum is open to anyone, it will be closely monitored and it is hoped that the majority of Bala members who have internet access will soon become registered users so that the club can develop a comprehensive e-mail database that will ultimately be used in place of the yahoo group list. In addition, registered users will be able to communicate privately with one another via the forum's U2U (User to User) function without revealing their e-mail addresses if they so choose. Unlike the club's yahoo group, an integral part of the forum is the facility for users to include photographs & emoticons to illustrate their posts. Users can also format their text to reflect their personalities and creativity.

To accommodate this latest development, keen eyed visitors to the site will notice that the Forum tab has replaced the Help tab in the main menu bar. This isn't at the expense of the Help page, instead with a little bit of re-jigging, its link has simply been relocated in the sub menu bar on every content page.

***Andy Homer***  
***Webmaster***

## **Race Results Software**

Members may have noticed we are currently operating a new program (Sailwave) for our race results alongside our in-house database system originally designed by Dave Pye.

We are still in the early stages of using the program, but found it was very successful and easy to use for British International 420 Class Open Regatta Worlds and Junior European Selector held on the weekend of 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> April.

The Sailwave program has many advantages and solves a lot of the input errors on our own program. Sailwave Results and Series Results can be downloaded to the website within seconds. The 420 Results were on our website within 5 minutes of the results reaching the noticeboard and on the 420 website within a further 5 minutes.

By the time we come to the end of the Spring Series a decision will be made whether we change over to our Sunday Racing on Sailwave. Whatever decision is made, all Opens and Regattas will now be done on Sailwave. This is an internationally recognised programme and used by a large number of clubs.

I will be running some instruction sessions on a Saturday Evening in the clubhouse so members can see and understand how the programme works. I am all in favour if a system makes the job easier. An easier job will have more volunteers.

***Dave Wall***  
***Race Results Co-ordinator***

## **Rear Commodore's Corner**

Well, here we are approaching the club's 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary when the girls in the galley will be providing a buffet for us. They provided a good Chicken Korma for us for the 'fitting out' supper and then fed and watered the 420 fleet for the whole weekend. Both these events were busy – thanks go to Christine and Rhiannon.

There was a request from the 420 fleet for a pasta snack to be available for all sailors as they came off the water after the last race to provide that immediate energy boost. Thanks go to the two Junes for providing a Fusilli and Ragu pasta snack. Great trays of great pasta that was served from the BBQ after the last race on the Saturday.

It was not without panics Saturday morning of the 420s. Christine told me the dishwasher did not appear to be working correctly. It appeared that the system was not sucking up the soap solution. This was fortunately resolved quite quickly. I did not want to spend the day doing the washing up.

Wendy then told me that one of the ladies toilets was blocked. Did we have any means of unblocking this? Yes the rubber plunger - problem sorted but not for long. More toilets started to suffer the same problem - there was a blockage in the pipe work to the septic tank. Thanks go to John Saunders, Mark and Roger for literally getting us out of the \*\*\*\*.

I have been asked at the bar whether I sell any low or non alcoholic beers. At the moment the answer is no. I understand that I might be able to get hold of bottles of Bitburger Drive lager. It sells in a local pub for £2.20. I will be putting a questionnaire up asking if anyone is interested in this being sold in the bar – if you want to drink it in large enough quantities I will try and get it. The latest message from the local contractor is that the new railings for the patio have been manufactured and are now away being galvanised. The new railings for the bridge are in the process of manufacture. It is hoped that both sets of railings will have been fitted by mid May.

### **Rubbish**

Twice this year I have had to remove rubbish from our green waste bin on a Friday before the start of the weekend. Bala council now run a recycling centre that is open on Friday, Saturday and Sunday. There is no reason therefore why our green bin should be filled with old microwave ovens, building rubble, old paint tins, foam cushions or cardboard boxes. The Friday before the 420s event, the bin was nearly full of such rubbish and where then do we put the waste from the galley at the end of a busy weekend? As it is, the bins are hardly big enough to cope with the waste from a three day regatta weekend. The council are in their rights to refuse to empty a bin if it contains too much rubbish that can be recycled. Cardboard boxes should be folded down and placed between the bins when they may be taken by the council or by me when I take the old boxes from the bar up to the recycle centre. Can members please try and take any rubbish that can be recycled up to the Bala centre which is on the industrial estate just opposite the bakery?

### **Barrier Lock**

Following the Easter Regatta I was not able to open the lock on the barrier and therefore used the old spare lock to secure the barrier using the chain.

The next time I visited the club with some oil to try and free the lock somebody had managed to open it and taken it away. Can whoever took the lock please return it to the club?

Thanks

***John Hunter (01691 870292)***

## **Social News**

### **50th Anniversary Celebrations!**

#### **Anniversary Regatta 3rd to 5th**

The highly acclaimed family band, Dangerous Age, is booked for the Saturday evening. They have a vast repertoire of songs and styles to suit all tastes and occasions.

### **Dinner Dance 13<sup>th</sup> Sept 2008**

**Tickets now on sale!**

This event is to be held at the Woodlands Hall Hotel, Ruthin. Tickets are on sale at £16 each, and £10 each for children 10 years and under. There is a limited number of places for this event and there has been considerable interest expressed so far by members. All other tickets will be sold on a first come first served basis.

The cost of the ticket includes a three course dinner, vegetarian option if required, drinks are not included. However, I can arrange for wine/drinks to be available at your table, payable on the evening. There will be live entertainment. Craig Martin has confirmed our booking for the entertainment.

The hotel has a unique environment, and we will have full use of all four dining areas. However, once the meal is ended, preparations will be made to centralise the entertainment to make best use of the areas available to us. We have been asked to be seated by 7.30pm to ensure the evening runs smoothly. There will be a seating plan. If you would like to sit with friends, please let me know and we will do our best to accommodate requests. The Grand Prize Draw and Commodore address will take place after dinner, but before the entertainment.

I can let you know when I will be at club, or we can arrange the transaction by post. Information and application forms will be sent to all members. Cheques will need to be made payable to Bala Sailing Club. You will need to bring your ticket on the evening as you may be asked to present it on entry.

Transport will also be available to take people to the event from Bala and back at the end of the evening. The cost will be £6 each. Again spaces on coaches will be limited so let me know as soon as possible if you require transport.

**Grand Prize Draw** tickets are available at £5 each. Again, sale of these tickets is limited to 200. 1<sup>st</sup> prize is a weekend break in Wales or mini break

in Cornwall in 2009. These tickets can be bought with the dinner dance tickets.

### **Blaze Open**

**Mann Alive** is to perform for us again on the Saturday evening. They can be relied upon to provide excellent entertainment, playing old and new favourites.

### **Whit Regatta 24<sup>th</sup> – 26<sup>th</sup> May**

Smooth Roscoe and the Goo (local rock band) have confirmed their booking for this weekend. They have visited the club and are looking forward to performing for us!

### **Family Week**

Look out for the timetable of social events – coming soon!!

All social information is now available on website.

**Lorraine Norfolk, Social Secretary**

## **STRANGE HAPPENINGS ON LLYN TEGID...**

It all started at the Bala Massacre at the beginning of March. There was a fierce wind which whipped up the lake. During one of the many capsize, a helm's brand new size 13 Gull All Purpose Sailing Boot (right foot) was wrenched off and 'lost'.

A couple of weeks later, the commodore was contacted by the Snowdonia National Park and the following day (1<sup>st</sup> April), he posted this message on Yahoo groups, as a warning to all members:

*"I was contacted by Snowdonia National Park late last night to advise that they had come across the carcass of a freshwater alligator on the shore near the Wardens office.*

*Having carried out an autopsy to reveal the cause of death it was discovered that this was a female of the species and had recently given birth. They currently advise against swimming in the lake and that other water sports users should refrain from dangling hands or feet into the water.*

*Any reports of contact or other information should be sent to:  
c.dundee@....*

*The beast appears to have ingested a complete neoprene sailing boot which can be claimed from the Wardens Office by anyone who may have recently lost a similar item". Dave Eccles*

There was a flurry of responses, several members claiming to have seen the so-called 'Balagator' (similar to the one shown above). And that is not all. A few days later, when Geoff Bolton was helping to launch one of the cruisers boats, something caused the tender to tip him into the lake – a most unusual occurrence.

However, all seems to have been resolved, according to this latest message from the owner of the boot:

*"I think you all have been very helpful in tracking my lost right size 13 Gull All Purpose Sailing boot. I feel deeply distressed that my reckless behaviour at the Bala Massacre has contributed to the death of the endangered species Great Fresh Water Crocodile.*

*I must admit I am a little surprised at the mounting costs of the loss of one boot. I have just returned from the Lake Wardens Office to retrieve the right hand size 13 Gull All Purpose Sailing Boot only to find I had to pay for:-*

- 1. Mooring and retrieval costs for one dead Alligator.*
- 2. Post-mortem examination as to the cause of death.*
- 3. Rental of heavy lifting gear to extract one rather cumbersome size 13 Gull All Purpose Sailing Boot.*

*If that wasn't enough they are now asking me to pick up the costs of the taxidermist as Snowdonia National Park have agreed to have the size 13 Gull All Purpose Sailing Boot stuffed and mounted on a plaque at the side of the lake as a point of local interest. Unfortunately, they wanted the Crocodile but that was snapped up by a local Bala business for his range of 12" Hot and Spicy with a Bite Pizza range.*

*Many thanks to all the club members involved for all your ongoing concern & support."*

***Mick Flemming***

## **For sale/Wanted/Duty Rota Sailing Gear**

**G-Force full wetsuit** (small split on seam), XXL £5

**G-Force full wetsuit** (Red & Black), XL £10

**O-Neill full wetsuit (Detachable arms)**, 14yrs £10

**Triboard full wetsuit** (Blue & Yellow), 10 yrs £10

**Shortie Triboard** (hardly worn), Womans S £10

Xtremity zipped wetsuit **sailing boots**, S £3

**Gul UV Shield Rash Vest** (Black & Red, brand new R.R.P. £17), XL on label, but is a small/medium fit £8

**Gul Spray Top**, front pocket (Blue, grey & Black), L £5

**Sailing gloves;**

Rooster 5 fingers, XS £2

Triboard 5 fingers (small split on seam), S £1

Gill 3 fingers (never worn), XS £4

Triboard Fingerless, S £3

Contact the Wilde family: [wildes@freenetname.co.uk](mailto:wildes@freenetname.co.uk)

## Bala Sailing Club Clothing

	<b>Adult</b>	<b>Child</b>
T-shirt	£7.50	£6.50
Polo shirt	£8.50	£7.50
Sweatshirt	£11.50	
£10		
Rugby shirt	£15	£13.50
Hoody	£14	£13
Zip hoody	£17	£16
Fleece	£16	£15
Beanie	£5	£5
Baseball cap	£4.50	£4.50

Contact Wendy  
Hitchman: [wwendyhi@yahoo.com](mailto:wwendyhi@yahoo.com)  
or place your order on the general  
noticeboard at the club.

Contact Wendy Hitchman: [wwendyhi@yahoo.com](mailto:wwendyhi@yahoo.com)  
or place your order on the general noticeboard at the club.

## Bala SC Anniversary Goodies

Burgees	£6
Red, white or rosé wine	£6.50
Sets of 4 slate Bala SC coasters	£3.50

All available behind the bar

## Laser 2000 for sale

Sail number 21692 (October 2005)  
Combi trailer with jockey wheel  
Normal cover plus top and bottom trailing covers  
Lighting board  
Full set of Sails  
Only raced three times

Competitively priced at £5,500

Contact John or Berni on 10678 520083 or 07967644510

## Boat Names

Gwil James has access to his old school's computer cad machine until the end of July, so if you want a boat name, see Gwil or email at [gwiljames@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:gwiljames@yahoo.co.uk). Cost around **£6**

## **DUTY ROTA MAY 2008**

It is expected of sailing members at Bala Sailing Club to assist in the running of the Club for three days each season for which credits will be given against next year's membership fee.

Please check the duty rota on the club's website which is updated regularly and is the master copy. (It can be accessed in your local library if you do not have internet at home, but you will be contacted about the duty you have been allocated). If there are any dates which you have been allocated that are inconvenient or duties you feel are beyond your ability, please contact Mannon Goddard Tel 01978 362263 as soon as possible.

Volunteers are needed for the following dates and duties, so if you can help, please contact Mannon. Social members are invited to do duties.

Sunday 4th May	Safety 1, Cox 2
Sunday 11th May	ARO2, Safety 1
Sunday 18th May	ARO2
Saturday 24th May	ARO2, Safety 2, Cox 2
Sunday 25th May	ARO2, Cox 1
Monday 26th May	ARO, ARO2, Cox 3
Saturday 31st May	Cox 1, Cox 2