



Welsh Yachting Association
Cymdeithas Hwyllo Cymru

Annual Review 2014
Adlolygiad Blynyddol 2014



Sailing - an Inclusive Sport for Life

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1. WELCOME

Welcome to the 2014 Welsh Yachting Association annual review.

It's been another very busy year with lots of activity going on across Wales, that will be picked up in each of the individual reports included in this document.

We are now into the second full year of our 2013/17 Strategic Plan and good progress has been made on many of our programmes and target areas across all sections of the plan. Your help is essential and helps us prove to Sport Wales and the Welsh Government that we are a significant club based community based sport with thriving clubs with one of the largest membership bases in Welsh sport.

The vision and unreasonable ambition we set ourselves in 2013 - is that "Wales becomes one of the best places in the world to be a sailor". This summer has seen a huge number of events that have brought hundreds of competitors from across the world to Wales to sample our clean seas and beautiful coastline as well as the stunning natural landscape of our inland venues. The events have been spread across Wales with Mumbles hosting the Dart 18 Europeans, Pwllheli hosting the ITCA Topper World Championships and some of the best sailors in the world descended on Cardiff Bay for Act 5 of the Extreme Sailing Series. Other clubs have also been busy hosting UK Class Association Championships at Tenby, Abersoch and Llangorse to name but a few.

Events generate income for clubs as well as boosting the local economy. Over the next 12 months we are preparing a legacy programme that capitalises on the Volvo Ocean Race Stopover in 2018. Work on the new £8.3 million pound Welsh National Sailing Academy at Pwllheli has also started and we all look forward to the official opening in June 2015.

We are often asked "who are you" and "what can you do for my club or organisation"?

The simple answer to this question would be to say that we are still very much about More and Better Sailing and we strive to "enable the best to reach for the top and encourage the rest to achieve more than they thought possible." Our participation programmes are designed to help clubs increase their adult, family as well as youth and junior membership, keeping participants involved in life long activity in our exciting and inclusive sport.

The WYA receives the majority of its funding from Sport Wales, and in return we have to demonstrate how we contribute to the challenges set in the Vision for Sport and how we deliver against the two main aims of:

- Getting Every Child Hooked on Sport for Life
- Creating a Proud Nation of Champions

We continue to work closely with the RYA, and our colleagues in RYA Scotland and RYA Northern Ireland. At the 2014 AGM the Board will be proposing that we move to a closer strategic and brand alliance with the RYA by rebranding to RYA Cymru.Wales. This will provide clarity to the relationship, but we will still maintain our independence and manage our own affairs.

If your club wants to grow and develop, and if you need help and advice, please contact our National Officers or your Regional Club Development Officer or look for more information on our website www.welshsailing.org.



2. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

It is a pleasure to present to you the Welsh Yachting Association's annual report for 2014.

In it you will find our Chief Executive Officer's report, a summary of our financial position, and reports on our performance and development activities, the ongoing environmental lobbying work as well as the work of our regional committees. I hope that you will find time to read through the document. You are welcome to ask any questions at the AGM or by contacting the WYA staff at any time.

The board met regularly over the year using a mixture of face-to-face and web based meetings via computers and tablets from home. The clouds on the horizon that I spoke of last year as the UK Government's Spending Review began to impact on the Welsh Assembly Government's budget were perhaps not as dark as we had initially feared. However, further cuts in our budget are likely in the short term and board members carefully monitor the WYA budget and assets in order to make the most effective use of our resources.

Last year I indicated that the board were discussing the rebranding of the WYA. During 2014 our proposals have been shared via the website and regional roadshows and there is a proposal on the table at the AGM to rebrand as RYA Cymru.Wales.

During the year David Reed was co-opted to the board. David works in and has a great deal of experience in marketing and of the wider marine industry and has made valuable contributions to our board discussions.

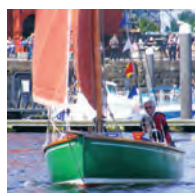
Sound governance is an essential requirement of any National Governing Body and the WYA is currently recognised by Sport Wales as being amongst the best in Wales. A full complement of board members with a range of diverse skills and backgrounds is essential for a successful National Governing Body. If you are approached to become a co-opted member it is because the board and Chief Executive feel that you have the skills that are needed to enable our continued success!

Once again the Big Weekend at the start of the year was a highpoint. It was extremely well organised by our WYA staff and volunteers. Many varied and interesting talks and workshops were delivered over the 2 days. The Plas Menai staff excelled themselves by preparing a wonderful Saturday evening meal for our second WYA Awards Ceremony.

This year England hosted the RYA and Home Countries Conference at the RNLI Headquarters in Poole, Dorset. This was a valuable opportunity to discuss matters of common interest and concern to the Chairs and staff from the RYA and the Home Countries. The conference concluded with a tour of the facilities and an opportunity to experience the lifeboat simulator in a Force 9.

For most of us the sailing season begins to wind down as winter approaches. However, the WYA staff and committees will be continuing to work hard to develop schemes and individual sailors to ensure that 2015 builds upon the success of the past.

Dafydd Griffiths
Chairman



3. CHIEF EXECUTIVES REPORT

Once again there have been many highlights to report as well as a few frustrations over the last 12 months that I will try to summarise in my review.

In May, we lost one of the nicest people ever to have worked for the WYA. Chris Jeffries or Jaffa as he was known to everyone lost his brave fight against cancer. Jaffa worked for the WYA as a Regional Development Officer and Community Coach in West Wales. His enthusiasm and dedication made him very popular with clubs, sailors and parents across Wales. This was evident by the number of people that attended his funeral in Mumbles on the 2nd of May. To mark his contribution to the development of junior sailing we have created a new award that will be presented annually at the South & West Wales Acorn Regatta at Llangorse. The Jaffa Trophy will be awarded to the sailor who shows good sportsmanship, respect and helps others and demonstrates all the "Jaffa like qualities" that made Chris such a respected and popular person.

This year we have been working with the British Marine Federation in Wales to lobby Welsh Government (WG) Ministers and Officials on the important contribution our sport makes to the wider Marine Leisure Industry. The sector is worth over £69 million to the Welsh economy in the last financial year. Events are an important factor and this year has seen several clubs host high profile events across Wales. We have started discussions with WG officials on developing a legacy programme on the back of the Volvo Ocean Race Stopover in Cardiff in 2018.

The austerity measures finally hit Welsh sport in 2014 and we had to absorb a 5% cut on our exchequer funded programmes. Exchequer funding is the money that Sport Wales receives from the Welsh Government. The picture for the next few years is looking very uncertain and we are preparing for another reduction in funding of between 5 - 10% in 2015/16. We undertook a contingency planning process at the end of last year to help manage the reduction in funding that will inevitably at some point impact on our ability to deliver against our key strategic targets.

Securing Commercial Sponsorship is very important over the next few years. We are fortunate to have some great supporters and my gratitude goes to Firmhelm who support performance programme, Acorn Adventures who give us free use of their Royal Oak site for the Acorn Regatta and this year Milford Marina who are supporting the Zone Championships. We have also picked up support from the Welsh Sports Association who are funding a pilot project to help make us "sponsor ready". I am under no illusion that this is going to be simple and we have had a lot of rejections from the companies that we have approached this year.

The 2013/17 strategy has some challenging targets and we have already started to make some good inroads to achieving our targets

Some of the highlights from the last 12 months include:

- The OnBoard programme now has 25 clubs and centres delivering quality 1st experiences for adults and young people - Tenby SC and Colwyn Bay Watersports joining this year.
- OB clubs have delivered over 10,000 1st experiences for both adults and young people, just short of our target, but with more clubs and centres now part of the programme we are confident that this will increase this year.
- The Active Marina programme continues to grow in Wales and we now have 5 Marinas participating in the programme at Penarth, Neyland, Milford, Conwy & Deganwy.



- Sailability clubs remain active and we captured a baseline participation level in 2014 with 532 1st experiences delivered. This was short of the 750 target, but further progress has been made in capturing the participation data this year.
- Mari Davies (with Sarah Norbury) became UK Youth Champions in the 420 and went on to represent Team GBR at the ISAF Youth Worlds. The pair also won Bronze at the Junior Ladies 420 Worlds.
- 60% of the GBR Optimist Team for the 2014 Worlds come from Wales.
- 50% of the GBR squad that went to the inaugural EUROSAF Championships in Poland came from Wales, with Gold medals for Dan Whitley and James Clementson in the 420 and for Rowen Edwards and Daniel Blight in the 29er.

One of the significant pieces of work that we completed this year was our club membership survey. For the first time we were able to provide more robust data to our main funding bodies on Welsh club membership. Can I thank all the clubs (86% return) who provided the information. This is an on-going process and we have already started the process this year as part of a UK-wide push to capture accurate data on clubs and club membership with the RYA and our colleagues in Scotland and Northern Ireland. I can't stress how important being able to provide this information is to us. Your help is essential and helps us demonstrate to Sport Wales and the Welsh Government that we are a significant club based community based sport with thriving clubs and one of the largest membership bases in Welsh sport.

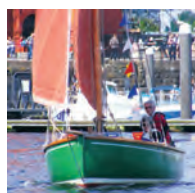
Our Big Weekend Conference in February 2014 was well received once again with a record attendance and Sarah Treseder from the RYA as our key note speaker. We are taking a break from the format in 2015 and running two smaller 1 day regional events. The Club & Volunteer Awards were well supported and we recognised the achievements of clubs and individuals at the Big Weekend dinner in February. Nominations for the 2014 Club & Volunteer Awards go live after the AGM and we hope that we will get the same level of support once again this year. The awards will be presented at a lunchtime ceremony in mid Wales in March 2015.

Looking ahead, we may be entering a new chapter in our history with the rebranding proposals being put forward by the Board. Can I thank everyone who has attended the regional consultation events where the overwhelming majority have been in favour of rebranding to RYA Cymru.Wales, but we will have to wait and see if this support carries over to the AGM on the 13th of October.

In August we said goodbye to a very important member of our staffing team. Sarah Williams has been working as our Programme Support Officer for the last 18 months and provided the rest of us with invaluable support. Sarah will still be coaching our national & regional squads, but will be spending a large part of the winter and next year in Rio, coaching the British Paralympic Scud Team.

Our greatest assets are our volunteers and our hard working staff. Without the volunteers who give their time freely to sit on our Board and Committees and help make our events safe and successful we would not be able to function as a Governing Body. Can I also thank the WYA staff for all the long hours they put in and the passion and knowledge they bring to the organisation.

Steven Morgan
Chief Executive Office



4. DIRECTOR OF FINANCE REPORT

It is with great pleasure that I submit the accounts for your approval.

In my second full year as Director of Finance, we have seen several new appointments to the Board of Directors and I wish to thank everyone involved for their valued contribution during our financial debates.

The last twelve months have seen some notable milestones. The organisations gross income rose to just over half a million pounds, an increase of twenty percent compared to the previous year.

The previously announced investment into new accounting software was completed and following a period of training and familiarisation, Ceri Yeomans has successfully implemented the deployment of the new system. We now have a robust cloud based accounting package that is fit for purpose and should serve the organisation well in the years ahead. Ceri should be congratulated for completing this project with the support of our IT partners, AlphaLogix.

Further investment was made into our IT system which has resulted in key members of staff being equipped with iPads. The new CRM (Customer Relationship Management System) has also been deployed and following a period of setup and customisation, Sarah Williams commenced a project to update our database. I wish to thank Sarah for the contribution she made during the year. We will continue to roll out the system to other employees in the months ahead once the integration into the RYA's server has been completed.

Financial policy reviews planned for the financial year ahead include depreciation and how the organisation values its assets and boats.

These financial reports relate formally to the 2013/14 Accounts that were approved by the Directors on the 11th of September 2014.

I will endeavor to answer any questions at the meeting or subsequently by correspondence. Members who would prefer the accounts in a paper or hard copy should contact the office and we will facilitate this for you.

We have incurred a small operating deficit which is in part due to the investment made into new technology and software. Taking into account the Fleet Replacement Fund, there is a small retained overall surplus for the year. I wish to thank Dave Vickery who provided assistance in preparing this year's financial reports together with Alexander Partnership who have prepared the final accounts.

As we move towards our new financial year, the Board must remain mindful of the grey clouds that exist on the funding horizon. The organisation will need to continue to monitor expenditure and be ever more receptive to exploring new ways to grow its income whilst protecting its existing core sources of grant funding.

Huw Stiley
Director of Finance



5. REGIONAL REPORTS

5.1 SOUTH WALES REGIONAL REPORT

It has been a busy year here in South Wales with further development of adult, junior and youth sailing and windsurfing. Clubs are proactive and always looking for ways and means to sustain and increase activity.

Adult Sailing

The region sees a lot of good quality adult sailing, and this is often not noticed as it is mostly at "club level". However, even here, some new activity is going on that should be recognised. Cardiff Yacht Club and Cardiff Bay Yacht Club trialled a Frostbite Series for the dinghy sailors, this year, which proved to be very successful. Two thirds of the 23 Sailors that took part were from CYC, sailing through January and February. Now that we have this series established we expect participation to grow and what a great way to deal with the delights of the Christmas dinner table.

Cardiff Bay YC dinghy membership is holding steady, despite a purge of dinghy park space and the "use it or lose it" policy. The training section remains active and well attended. The cruiser racing and "Old Gaffers" are active, proving that active sailing is not just dinghies. Tata continued winter sailing, (Blue Robin!) but the high winds led to multiple cancellations. 57 entrants in the depths of winter, 15 qualifying with 9 races from the 17 held.

South Wales Grand Prix

A series of five club regattas is linked to form the South Wales Grand Prix. This has promoted more travelling between clubs than recent years, and generated interest and excitement. With two events to complete in September after this report's deadline, we already have a total of 68 entries split into two fleets. Llangorse, CYC, CBYC have been held, and Sully and Tata are yet to come.

Push the Boat Out

CYC had a great Open Day on the "Push the Boat Out" weekend. Six sailors were kept very busy, simultaneously, taking out people that wanted to have a go. There were also opportunities to go yacht sailing and get on board an RNLI rescue boat. Advanced notice of the date would help - the publicity comes way after all clubs will have fixed their racing programme.

Bart's Bash

The South's major clubs are promoting this event to raise charity funding and be part of the Guinness Book of Records attempt. Tata, Sully, Penarth, Merthyr, Llangorse, CYC, Chepstow and District YC and CBYC are all hosting the race.

CYRC Series

The series this year has been to just four clubs, and will close at the Acorn Regatta. There has been good racing, and reasonable numbers. Llangorse's event had over 30 boats, and they have sent 12 to 15 juniors to the other CYRCs. CBYC's event had over 40 boats, and was run alongside the regatta that feeds into the South Wales Grand Prix. Mumbles had 43 boats; Penarth had 20 boats. The final event is the Acorn Regatta in early September.

Welsh National & Regional Squads

Congratulations to Optimist sailors Will Hall & Rhys Lewis (CBYC) who have been selected to go to the World Optimist Championships in Argentina this October. (2 from South Wales from the total of 5 from GBR). Will also secured 2nd Brit at the Optimist Nationals (1st British Boy) and Jamie Cook (CBYC) as 1st Welsh Junior at Weymouth. Will also won the Pre-European Optimist event at Pwllheli.



Team Wales secured 2nd at the RYA Eric Twiname Championship 2014 at Rutland SC on the 10th and 11th May. South Wales was represented by 7/9 Optimists, 2/9 Toppers and 7/7 Windsurfers. We notice CBYC is very well represented and visible at the GBR level .

John Merricks Sailing Trust

Llangorse's Huw Farmer was presented with a new Optimist by the John Merricks Sailing Trust

Disability Sailing

Llangorse's Disability Watersports Fun Day attracted over 80 visitors on 14th June. Channel View's Welsh Paralympic sailing days in August introduced a number of people to the sport. Sam and Sean will be following this up.

OnBoard

This year has seen improved retention from all clubs in the South, however commercial centres are still struggling to retain sailors and windsurfers. Overall, figures have increased and look set to continue into the 2015 season. Llangorse SC became a member of the OB family earlier in 2014.

Club Development

CYC have addressed one issue of welcoming sailors and promoting the club. They have improved their system for introducing potential new sailors to sailing. They now have a team of people that will take out newcomers and, if they are interested, they often get to experience racing.

Llangorse are pleased to be awarded Development Champion Club, and will continue working over the coming year. They were pleased to be presented with WYA Club of the Year (Participation) Trophy at the "Big Weekend" and have made some mileage out of that in local publicity. Approximately 40 children attended Llangorse Cadet Week (May 26th - 30th) and 16 children attended beginner training sessions on 16/23/30th August. Their Taster Days on 31st May and 19th July attracted new memberships - growing number of family memberships.

Tata has been supporting windsurfing this year. Windy days over the winter, and there were a few, saw more windsurfers than dinghies occasionally. Taster days in June were also successful, with a crop of trainees being taken on.

MYC hosted a very successful Volvo Sailing Academy day in July attended by Paralympian Stephen Thomas.

Volunteer Training

Last year was a very busy year for volunteer courses

1. CRO+ (MYC)
2. CRO x3 (CBYC and Merthyr Tydfil)
3. Sailwave Workshop (Tata)
4. NSPCC/CPSU Safeguarding and Protecting Children in Sport (CBYC)
5. RYA Race Coach Level 2 (CBYC)
6. RYA Start to Windsurf Instructor Course (Tata/MYC)

Race Management - 8 new CRO+ qualifications in the South after a successful training session held in Mumbles in April. These folk have been visible in their clubs organising regattas, advice, Open Meetings and expertise.

The normal stream of candidates achieved Dinghy Instructor and similar qualifications, so our continuing training programmes can continue unabated. Should we perhaps be putting more concentration on "improving" and ongoing coaching rather than beginners' instruction?

Sailwave, (South Wales's world leader in race scoring software), safeguarding, Race Coaching and other training courses have been held with reasonable attendance. We will continue these over the winter of course.



Championships & Major Events

Cardiff Yacht Club hosted its first major event this year, the Welsh Laser Championships. 38 entrants enjoyed 10 races over two days. There was a wide mix of ability with enthusiastic club sailors competing with top level international sailors.

Mumbles YC has hosted the Dart 18 European Championship. 76 entrants, and the leaders looked to be very close, with 7 different race winners in the 10 races.

CBYC hosted the Optimist Welsh Championships to coincide with the August bank holiday and the Extreme 40 activity at the other end of the water. Bit of contrast in size, if not concentration!

Llangorse YC has hosted the Flying Fifteen Inland Championships and the Tideway Class National Championships and the annual Acorn Regatta with 92 entries.

Cardiff Bay itself hosted the Extreme 40 catamaran event over the August bank holiday. Where else can one see this number of Olympic sailors, America's Cup contenders and winners of world championships?

Regional Committee

The committee has travelled to Cardiff YC, Tata SC and Llangorse SC this year. Attendance has dropped off as we moved further from Cardiff, which is very disappointing. We will have to review the dates of the meetings to remove clashes against clubs' committee meetings and possibly be further from school holidays. If we continue with low numbers it again calls into question the commitment of clubs to support the WYA regional structure.

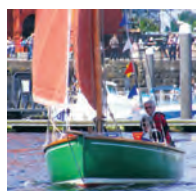
However, the communication level between clubs is increasing, and it is the conversations about points of mutual interest that provide value, in my view. Shared experience has been helpful in promoting and running events.

Andy Howard

South Regional Chairman

Samantha Healy

South Wales Club Development Officer



5.2 WEST WALES REGIONAL REPORT

It has been a busy year here in West Wales with further development of adult, junior and youth sailing. Clubs are proactive and always looking for ways and means to sustain and increase their activity.

Class Association Training

The past year has been a year of change and opportunity for the region. We are making progress in developing more opportunities for young sailors to sample a wider variety of sailing experiences by developing a programme for Feva training. So far the response has been positive and I am hopeful we will soon have greater competition for squad places in the double handed classes of boats. I attended the RYA Youth Championships in Weymouth earlier this year where a presentation on the British Keelboat Academy was given. At least one sailor from the region has expressed an interest in this area of sailing and we may see someone from West Wales in the Americas Cup in the future. The rebranding of the WYA will benefit us all in showing that there is more to the organisation than the Olympic Pathway Programme and we should build on this.

Chris Jeffries

Sadly, the year had a shadow cast over us all with the sad loss of Chris "Jaffa" Jeffries. He will be missed by us all and the current success of our sailors is a testament to his efforts at the early stages of learning to sail. I, for one, would not be here today if he hadn't introduced me to this fantastic activity. He is remembered with fondness.

Club Development & Participation

The region's Club Development Officer Hester Walker has been very busy in her first full year in post promoting boating activities and raising funds through sponsorship and assisting clubs with Community Chest funding. She has also been instrumental in promoting the Active Marina programme and developing closer links with Neyland and Milford Haven Marinas. Her input in organising and co-ordinating people and resources for events and training is greatly appreciated.

Continuous Professional Development Workshops and Governing Body Courses

Last winter and spring a number of opportunities were created at Clubs and Centres across the region to upskill volunteers. These consisted of workshops like safeguarding and protecting children, race officers and asymmetric training as well as SI, DI and PBI courses. Uptake was good and it was refreshing to see new faces becoming involved!

OnBoard/Sailability

The West has two new OnBoard Clubs this season, both providing safe and structured first experiences to new and existing sailors. Congratulations to Tenby SC and Pembrokeshire Yacht Club on becoming part of the programme. Sailability in the west region is led through a charity Welsh Sailing Venture based out of Neyland Marina. They use a 32 ft. Catamaran which is actively providing opportunities to get residents of care homes afloat.

RYA Champion Club

Neyland YC have been running Champion Club sessions with support from Regional Performance Coach "Taff" Owens. In the last few weeks two new Development Champion Club applications have been registered at Tenby and Pembrokeshire YC.

RYA Honda Youth Rib Challenge and RYA Thundercats

Pembrokeshire Adventure Centre (PAC) hosted the Regional final (Wales) - late August; youngsters from all over Wales competed to gain a place in the final at Southampton Boat show in September. Ieuan James from Tenby SC was the winner and we wish him the very best in the competition as he'll be in with a chance of winning his club a RIB.

This year Thundercats held a heat at Coppet Hall beach, Saundersfoot where teams from all over the UK gave the onlookers a thrilling sight tearing around a course only a short distance from the shore. They have been invited



back again next year and may even be setting a further date at another venue within Pembrokeshire that has surf, as that makes it even more challenging for the crews and interesting for those spectating.

West CYRC Series

The CYRC series has been well attended and the competition has been fierce between the sailors, and is proving a good introduction to racing. With the Zone Championships being held in the region I am hopeful we will see many of these sailors stepping up to a bigger stage. This is also an opportunity to highlight the area to a wider audience and show to people how wonderful the region is.

2013 Zone Championships

The 2013 WYA Zones were held once again in the Region at New Quay YC, with a record breaking entry of 172 boats, making the Welsh event the second largest event in the UK. This year's event is being hosted at PYC on the 27 & 28th of September.

Looking Ahead

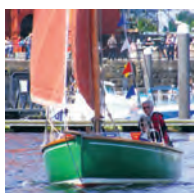
Looking to the future I am keen to build on the foundations we currently have, to continue promoting more and better sailing for all. There are challenges ahead with rebranding of WYA, changes to the winter training programme and a need to ensure value for money with financial constraints. Over the coming months I will be looking at sponsorship opportunities, attracting larger class associations to run events in the region and developing training programmes for volunteers. With the combined efforts of all in the region I am confident we will have everyone to continue saying "West is best."

Brian Murphy

West Regional Chairman

Hester Walker

West Wales Club Development Officer



5.3 NORTH WALES REGIONAL REPORT

Events

CYRC Series has again been a huge success this year. Numbers have been slightly smaller, but the range of clubs attending continues to grow, a great indicator for the future! The **ARC Series** that was run as a pilot last year has now become a feature of each event allowing less experienced adults and parents, bored of sitting on the side to take part! New for this year is the first ever **Welsh Sailability Championship**, being run in conjunction with the 4th CYRC event being held at Clywedog in September.

The stand this year at the All Wales Boat Show was again very popular; the show continues to grow and shows great potential to become a regular fixture in the calendar.

The North Wales OnBoard Festival, now in its fourth year continues to demonstrate how much hard work clubs put into developing new sailors. Congratulations to CH Y Felinheli/Port Dinorwic SC on winning the OnBoard Club of the Year and CH Clywedog SC on winning the overall Club of the Year. For those who are unfamiliar with the scoring for the event it's very much set up to reward the clubs for bringing new sailors along as much as performance.

Participation (Thriving Network of Clubs & Accessibility)

Club activity in North Wales continues to go from strength to strength; a massive thank you to all those who have already responded to the RYA membership survey - indications so far show that overall club membership in the north is stable. We must not become complacent and must remember we all need to be working hard to increase membership to help secure the future of the sport.

Congratulations to Holyhead SC and Gresford SC who achieved their RYA Training Centre status this year - I'm sure this wasn't without lots of commitment from volunteers - it's brilliant to see more and more clubs demonstrating the quality of their tuition.

The OnBoard scheme continues to be a huge opportunity for clubs and centres to work with young people and families to secure the future of both their organisations and the sport. Congratulations to Dovey YC and Colwyn Bay Watersports on joining the other 9 clubs and centres in the north providing accessible opportunities through the OnBoard scheme.

The number of RYA Champion Club in North Wales is growing with both Llyn Brenig SC and Clywedog SC reaching the end of their 2 year development period with the likelihood of both becoming RYA CC for the start of next season; just like the clubs who have become RYA TCs this year; there has been a lot of invaluable volunteer work has gone into the development of these clubs and we need to make sure we are celebrating their success.

I recently had the opportunity to attend Conwy Watersports Group networking evening; an exciting newly formed group which has been developed in partnership with the Conwy Outdoor Tourism project to enable clubs, centres and marine sector businesses based in Conwy to work together a lobbying group and in partnership.

Push the Boat Out was a fantastic sunny weekend this year. Again loads of hard work put in by the clubs and centres who participated. It was a great opportunity to take part in a UK advertised open day with loads of supporting resources. A small mention to Rhyll YC who provided 146 taster sessions on the Marine Lake! Next year's date has already been set and to help the more tidally based clubs take part it is going to be spread over 9 days 9th - 17th May 2015.

Bart's Bash has understandably inspired lots of clubs and sailors to take part and is proving to be incredibly popular event to get involved in. Lots of clubs are signing up to part of the Guinness World Record attempt. Good luck to all involved.



The North Wales boats taking part in the Commonwealth Flotilla sailed out of Rhyl on the 19th July to arrive at Glasgow for the Commonwealth Games on the 26th July. They had a great sail calling in at I.OM then different ports along the Scottish coast; a special night was spent at anchor off Ailsa Craig. At Greenock they joined the Flotilla and sailed up the Clyde - all boats decorated with bunting and Battle flags. The shores were crowded with supporters giving the event a special atmosphere. When all were secured against pontoons in Glasgow they were free to explore the attractions of the Games. The city was alive with athletes from the Commonwealth enjoying the Carnival and street entertainment - an incredible opportunity.

The boats that attended were co-ordinated by the Cruising Sub-Committee of the North Wales RC and we are looking for more cruising clubs to get involved.

Active Marina Experience at the All Wales Boat Show was a huge success with every session filled to capacity. The local program based from the Conwy & Deganwy Marinas program continues to grow and with a new Assistant Marina Manager in place who is taking an enthusiastic lead to further develop activity this bodes well for the future.

Performance (Creating a Nation of Champions)

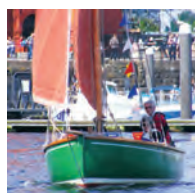
Congratulations to Mari Davies, CH Pwllheli SC on her ISAF Youth Worlds selection and on winning bronze at the 420 Junior Worlds, Hatty Morsley CH Y Felinheli SC Port Dinorwic SC, on her Optimist Worlds Team selection and Dan Whitley, CHYF/PDSC, Rowan Edwards & Daniel Blight on their gold medal winning performances in the EUROSAF Championships in Poland! We really have some very talented young sailors in this region.

Summary

Growing club membership in Wales continues to be our big challenge. We know we can grow participation - we do it already... We know we have a great sport, but we are in a competitive world and need to make sure we tell people about it. We have been incredibly lucky with the funding clubs and centres have received in the last couple of years that has helped them grow, however with public funding becoming harder to secure we need to be creative and driven to keep the momentum up.

We are small passionate clubs who care about our sport; if we can work together we can continue to make boating a force to reckon with in North Wales!

Bill Barry
North Wales Regional Chairman
Ruth Iliffe
National Development Officer



6. NATIONAL PERFORMANCE PROGRAMME REVIEW

2014 has been a solid year for the WYA's Performance Programme and it has been a year where many of the changes and developments that were detailed in the 2013-17 High Performance Plan have become a reality.

Firstly, and in the last few weeks of 2013, we were joined by our new Club & Pathway Officer, Sean Evans. Sean has made a welcome return to the WYA where he used to work as the South Wales OnBoard Officer and has already made some great progress with our Champion Clubs, our new Windsurf Youth & Junior Racing Programme and our new Paralympic programme.

The WYA invests more into its Champion Clubs than any other zone or home country association in the UK and Sean, alongside the RDOs, has played a pivotal role in ensuring the clubs investment is put to the best use in achieving both our aims and ambitions alongside the clubs' own aims and ambitions. We welcome Tenby and Pembrokeshire YC as new WYA Development Champion Clubs and we look forwards to seeing their progression into full RYA Champion Clubs over the next few months.

We also contracted Ali Yates as our new WYA Windsurf Head Coach and she will work alongside Sean in ensuring that our growing youth and junior programme is managed and nurtured effectively. Ali brings with her a great amount of experience from her work as an RYA Windsurf Trainer and North West Zone Head Coach. She is passionate about the development of windsurfing in Wales and we are sure that, under her and Sean's management, that the WYA's Windsurf Programme will soon be one of the most successful in the UK. This winter promises to be the first for our Windsurf Squad Programme, and we look forward to seeing how they get on at some of the national events next year.

Our new 2.4 Paralympic Dinghy has been put to some great use by WYA South & West Regional Topper sailor, Morgan Bugler. Morgan from Neyland YC and who suffers from cerebral palsy is in the process of transitioning up to the 2.4 Paralympic class after a successful two years within the South & West Topper Regional Squad. Morgan will be competing in some of the RYA's 2.4 National Ranking Series with the new boat and we look forward to seeing how he gets on.

Within our Youth and Junior Dinghy Racing Programme, the WYA's squad sailors have had an impressive year despite the obvious drop in British Youth Sailing's medal haul in international regattas over the last few years.

The RYA has recently put a great deal of emphasis on a new international EUROSAF Youth Championship. They predict this event will soon take over from the traditional ISAF Youth Worlds, due to the fact that each nation can send more sailors to the event in each class. This allows nations to keep squad sizes larger and the talent pools healthier, hopefully leading to more sailors moving up into Olympic sailing squads.

At this year's EUROSAF Youth Championships in Gdynia in Poland, Welsh sailors took up an impressive 50% of the GB Team's places from their respectable results at this year's RYA Youth Nationals in Weymouth and won FOUR (!) gold medals in Poland which was excellent to see, more so as all of the Welsh medals were won by double-hander sailors which have traditionally been the weaker classes within the WYA's Youth Programme in the run-up to 2012.

Sarah Norbury and Mari Davies (ineligible for the EUROSAF Youth Champs) are having a great 2014. They won the gold medals for the first female 420 at



this year's RYA Youth Nationals and represented Team GB at the ISAF Youth World Championships in Tavira, Portugal where they came a credible 10th place in difficult sailing conditions. They then also went to Gdynia in Poland but this time for the 420 European Championships and exchanged bronze medals for their excellent, medal-winning international performance!



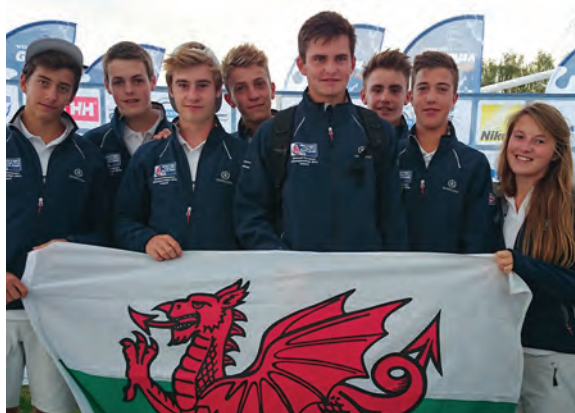
In our junior programme, our strong Optimist programme continues to deliver and this year, Welsh sailors have taken up over 60% of the RYA's 2014 Optimist World's Team. They will soon go with their Optimist dinghies to Argentina where they will represent Britain in one of the most competitive world championships within sailing. This is a tremendous feat as the team includes just the top 5 in the country (as deemed from the results at the IOCA Selections) and Will Hall, Rhys Lewis and Hatty Morsley (all from Wales) all qualified!



All have been within the top five at numerous national IOCA (Optimist Class Association) events, but this year, Will Hall won the IOCA Winter Championships and Rhys Lewis won the IOCA Inland Championships. All are pushed hard by an increasingly competitive Welsh Squad which is in turn managed very effectively by Head Coach, Kate Williams and a top-class coaching team.

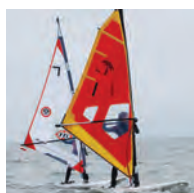


Our Topper Squad has been achieving results at the top of the International and National scene. Callum Elwin came a credible 7th overall at the 2014 Topper World Championships and Tom Renny was 10th at the 2014 National Championships and 3rd at the recent Nationwide at Rutland. The Topper programme in Wales has had a dip in performance recently but things are starting to fall in to place and Welsh sailors are starting to climb back up the national ranking series.



Overall, the WYA's Performance Programme is continuing to effectively deliver at national and international competitions and events. We are looking forward to starting a new winter training programme in October, where we will be looking to put in place some more developments which will keep Welsh sailors flourishing all the way through the RYA's Performance Pathway.

Alistair Dickson
High Performance Manager



7. PLANNING & ENVIRONMENT REPORT

This has been another busy year providing advice to the RYA on several consultations by the Welsh Government on marine issues in Wales and on applications for marine consents that affect boating interests. A feature of the casework has been the submission of applications for marine renewable projects around the entire coast of Wales, coastal protection projects as well as projects that improve or protect access for boaters.

Due to the January storms there has been an increase in coastal protection projects. These have mainly been restricted to the construction and replacement of sea defences. The majority of activity has been shore based or carried out at low tide with little impact on navigation.

During the year the RYA issued a number of new and revised guidance notes on planning and environment matters that can be accessed through its website.

Following a successful campaign by clubs, stakeholders, WYA and RYA, the Welsh Government Environment Minister announced that he was withdrawing all MCZ proposals and will be seeking further guidance on existing MPAs (Marine Protected Areas).

There was overwhelming local public objection across Wales. WYA contributed to the joint formal response by the RYA to the consultation. A number of clubs responded on an individual basis to provide local detail. As a consequence of the volume of comment the Minister for Environment established a Task and Finish Group supported by a Stakeholder Focus Group (SFG).

WYA and RYA were part of the SFG and this group was influential in the Minister's decision.

The current intention is for any future proposals for MPAs to be drawn up through local consultation with all stakeholders and should any management measures be required they should be simple, proportionate and fit for purpose.

As part of the consultation process, Welsh Government has set up the Wales Marine Strategy Advisory Group. WYA and RYA have been invited to represent recreational boating interests on this group.

Welsh Government is also seeking input on the National Marine Plan and WYA and RYA have been invited to comment on this.

John Eddington
RYA Regional Planning & Environmental Representative (Wales)

