

WELSH YACHTING ASSOCIATION
CYMDEITHAS HWYLIO CYMRU



ANNUAL REVEIW - ADLOLYGIAD BLYNYDDOL

2013



Promoting and Protecting Safe, Successful and Rewarding Boating in Wales

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1 WELCOME / CROESO

Welcome to the 2013 Welsh Yachting Association annual review. It's been a busy old year with lots of activity going on across Wales.

This time last year we were busy writing a new four year Strategic Plan and preparing our funding bids for the 2013/17 period for Sport Wales. The new Strategy, "Sailing an Inclusive Sport for Life" was launched earlier this year at three Regional Road Shows held at Cardiff YC, Neyland YC and Llandudno SC.

Our vision is that Wales becomes one of the best places in the world to be a sailor and we have set ourselves some challenging targets. Sport Wales have recognised our efforts over the last few years and our performance programme has received an increase in Lottery funding for the 2013/17 period with the aim of getting more talented sailors on to the team GBR pathway and emulating Hannah Mills' efforts at the London 2012 games.

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 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. One of the main aims of our new strategy is to retain as many people as club members and keep them 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 are challenged on 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 Northern Ireland. One question that is often asked is, "why do we need to affiliate to the RYA & the WYA"? The benefits of RYA membership are well documented; the use of the racing rules, insurance, legal support and discounted opportunities to certain goods and services to name but a few, we encourage clubs and individual members to affiliate to the RYA. However the RYA will not and does not have the capacity to help and support club, volunteer and athlete development in Wales. This is our remit and in order to access the additional support, like our subsidised coach education courses and the Champion Club grants, we ask clubs to affiliate.

If your club wants to grow and develop, 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

After two years as Chairman of the Welsh Yachting Association I would like to take this opportunity to briefly summarise the year's activities.

The board have met regularly over the year. One of the main items early in the year was to develop and agree the strategic plan and associated documents for the current 4 year cycle. This was well received by our main funding partner Sport Wales and resulted in a slight increase in funding. However, we need to be aware of clouds on the horizon as the UK Government's Spending Review begins to impact on the Welsh Assembly Government's budget. The board also regularly monitor the WYA budget and assets at our meetings, and have agreed to an investment in a more sophisticated accounting and 'customer relationship management' system more suited to an organisation of our size. Other items on our agendas have included policy reviews, the branding of the WYA, the revamped WYA website and the boat provision scheme. During the year Ffion Lloyd was co-opted to the board. Ffion is originally from North Wales and has a great deal of experience in the public sector and is currently the head of Continuing Learning and Leisure with Newport Council.

In the main the board use video-conference for meetings with two or three face to face meetings each year. Very recently, in a move to use board members' time as effectively as possible and reduce travel costs, we have experimented with web based meetings via computers and tablets from home.

With a number of board members having indicated that they will be stepping down at the 2013 AGM it was disappointing that very few nominations were received for the elected director positions by the closing date of 9th September.

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 the country. A full complement of board members with a range of diverse skills and backgrounds is essential for a successful National Governing Body. For the next year we intend to strengthen the board with a number of co-opted appointments from within and outside the sport. If you are approached to become a co-opted member it is because the board and senior staff feel that you have the skills that are needed!

I would personally wish to put on record my thanks to the board members who are stepping down. Dave Challinor and Andrew Pulford have made a valuable contribution during their tenure and will continue to be heavily involved in other aspects of the sport. Due to his business and other sailing commitments Bill Jackson has decided to step down. He has been a Board member for many years and brought a very business-like perspective to our discussions. Finally Bob Lowe has been with the WYA for many, many years and has held all of the offices over that time. With his involvement in the major building project at Pwllheli and his other wide ranging commitments in and outside sailing Bob felt that now was the appropriate time to step down. Many thanks to them all for their support and commitment.

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 and the Plas Menai staff excelled themselves by preparing a wonderful Saturday evening meal at the WYA Awards Ceremony.

This year RYANI (RYA Northern Ireland) hosted the RYA and Home Countries Conference at venues around Belfast Lough. This was a valuable opportunity to discuss matters of common interest and concern to the Chairs and Chief Executives from the RYA and the Home Countries. Sarah Treseder the RYA CEO presented the RYA's strategy document that will guide the strategic direction of the sport at UK level over the next 4 years.

The performance report will highlight our successes in National and International sailing events over the last year but I would like to draw your attention to the dominance of our single handed Welsh sailors at this year's RYA Youth Championships held at Largs, Scotland. Congratulations to Ellie Meopham (Radial Girls) and Tom Williams (Radial Boys) on winning their respective events and on their selection for, and participation in, the 2013 ISAF Youth Championships in Limassol, Cyprus. Also to Mickie Beckett on winning the Laser full rig event at the Youth Championships. The WYA are confident in the future success of Ellie, Tom, Mickie and many more of our young Welsh sailors currently involved in Junior, Youth and GBR Development squads as we look forward to Rio and Tokyo.

Lastly, but perhaps most importantly, we are continuing to see the results of investment in our participation programme. The On-Board scheme and other initiatives at clubs in Wales has seen increased numbers attending CYRC (Club Youth Racing Circuit) events and in September both the North and South & West Wales OnBoard Regattas had a large number of entries. Attending the prize giving of the North Wales event I was very impressed with the organisation that blended the skills of WYA staff with those of a large number of volunteers from a number of clubs. It was also great to see the enthusiasm and good natured competitiveness between the sailors and also the support of parents. The success of these local and regional events needs to be built upon and they bode well for the future.

For most of us the sailing season begins to wind down over the winter. However the WYA staff and committees will be continuing to work hard to plan and develop schemes and individual sailors to ensure that 2014 builds upon the success of the past.

Dafydd Griffiths

Cadeirydd CDH / WYA Chairman



Promoting and Protecting Safe, Successful and Rewarding Boating in Wales

3 CHIEF EXECUTIVES REPORT

There have been many highlights as well as a few frustrations over the last 12 months that I will try and summarise in my review.



Over the last 12 months we have been able to embed our new staffing structure and welcomed Sarah Williams as our Part Time Programme/Admin Support Officer based at HQ in Plas Menai. After years of trying different options it was both personally and professionally satisfying that we have been able to appoint a Regional Club Development Officer in West Wales. Hester Walker was appointed in June and has made an immediate impact in the region. We all look forward to watching the West grow and develop further over the next few years. Sean Evans has been appointed as our new Club and Pathway Officer. Sean will be based in Cardiff, but will have a national remit and joins us in December. His remit will include the development the Regional Squad, Champion Club programmes as well as taking our new Paralympic and windsurf development programmes forward.

In April we officially launched our new Strategy. The 2013/17 plan was well received by clubs and Sport Wales and resulted in an increase in Lottery funding. We hope that clubs sign up to our vision of “Wales becoming known as one of the best places in the world to be a sailor”. We need a thriving network of clubs and centres to work together to help increase and retain new participants in our sport. The development of clubs and participation opportunities is one of our most important programme areas for the next four years

The strategy has some challenging targets and we have already started to roll out some of the new opportunities like the Active Marina Programme specifically targeting the adult recreational boating sector.

Some of the highlights from the last 12 months include:

- 5 new clubs joining the OnBoard programme – Cardiff YC, Gwent Adventures, Llangorse SC, Pembrokeshire YC and Dovey YC
- Existing OnBoard clubs expanding their programme to include adult participation
- Conwy & Deganwy Marinas become the 1st Active Marinas in Wales, Neyland and Milford will also be signing up in September
- Gwent Adventures & Tata Steel became Sailability Foundation Clubs.
- The development of Windsurfing in South Wales is gathering momentum with regular participants in T15 and open training programmes.
- Our national event entries continue to grow and our Zone Championships in New Quay looks like being the largest Zone Championships in the UK in 2013.
- Welsh sailors dominated the Laser fleet at the UK Youth Championships at Largs
- Two sailors represented Team GBR at the ISAF Youth Worlds
- The growth of the 29er & 420 classes has resulted in GBR selection and encouraging performances
- 50% of the GBR European Optimist Team came from Wales
- WYA appointed Ffion Lloyd as a Director
- All three Regional Committees met on a regular basis and support the work at a local level.
- A new staffing structure was put in place moving back to a more regionalised structure.
- WYA attained Level 2 of the NSPCC’s Safeguarding Standards and have now started on the work required to gain Level 3.

There have also been frustrations at the lack of progress in areas like corporate sponsorship and developing more robust reporting systems, and as always there are areas of our communication, work and delivery of programmes that we can improve on.

One of the significant pieces of work 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 who provided the information. This is an on-going process and we will be asking for your support again this autumn to get the 2013 membership numbers. Your help is essential and helps us demonstrate to Sport Wales and the Welsh Government that we are a significant community based sport with thriving clubs and one of the biggest membership bases across Welsh sport.

In 2012/13 we have benefitted from the work that was done to implement a more open and transparent system for disposing of our squad boats and our trading surplus is far healthier this year as a result. This funding is protected within our accounts in the fleet replacement fund, but it does give our High Performance Manager and the Performance Sub Committee more flexibility to invest in double handed boats in 2013/14 on the back of the growth in double handed sailing at youth level.

Our Big Weekend Conference in February 2013 was well received once again following the inaugural event in 2012 and will continue in 2014. The Club & Volunteer Awards had three times the number of nominations and it is always humbling to read about the contribution of volunteers and clubs make to the sport. Nominations for the 2013 Club & Volunteer Awards go live at the AGM and we hope that we will get the same level of support once again this year.



Looking ahead the Chairman has already warned of dark clouds on the horizon that will impact on our Sport Wales Exchequer funding in 2014/15 & 15/16 and the impact this may have on the support we provide and the delivery of the strategic plan. – We will know more over the next few weeks and we will have to plan accordingly.

I would like to thank the hard working WYA staff who put in long hours, and work over and beyond what is expected to ensure that we support our clubs and sailors. I would also like to thank all the volunteers who sit on our Board and committees and to all those who have helped us run our events safely and efficiently this year.

Please remember the WYA is here to help clubs, volunteers and individual sailors to grow and develop. We don't always get things right, but If you need support contact the relevant National or Local Officer who will be happy to help.

Steven Morgan
Prif Weithredwr /Chief Executive Officer
September 2013

4 DIRECTOR OF FINANCE REPORT

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

This is my first full year on the Board as Director of Finance. The last twelve months have given me the opportunity to learn how the organisation operates and with the support of the Board and staff I am pleased to report that a number of new initiatives have been started.

The early part of the year was focused on preparing the Sports Wales grant and I wish to congratulate Steven Morgan and the team on the professionalism of the funding application which resulted in a very positive outcome for the WYA.

I previously reported that a review of the accounting procedures would be undertaken and this has resulted in the Board approving an investment into new accounting software which will be implemented during our next financial year. This will deliver improved management reporting and addresses several historic limitations with our existing software.

The review of procedures has also resulted in the decision to implement a new Customer Relationship Management System (CRM) which will enable the staff to become more efficient and effective. Our key objectives include streamlining our business processes by using better IT systems. With our mobile workforce delivering support and programmes across the principality, our focus in the year ahead will be to equip the team with technology and systems to help them achieve our strategic objectives.

The financial report relates formally to the 2012/13 Accounts that were approved by the Directors on the 16th of September 2013

I will endeavour 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.

I am pleased to report a small profit on the year due in the main to income from the sale of assets and I wish to thank Dave Vickery who provided assistance in preparing this year accounts.

I would like to express a special note of thanks to Ceri Yeomans our Office Manager who provided me with a great deal of help and information during the review of our financial procedures. Ceri will be playing a major role in the implementation project for our new accounting software and I look forward to her continuing support.

Huw Stiley
Cyfarwyddwr Cyllid / Director of Finance
September 2013

5 REGIONAL REPORTS

5.1 South Regional Report

This report is a brief overview of the South Region for all of 2012/2013

Volunteer training

Successful winter volunteer training, this is Sam's success in my view – we need to follow up and do this over 2013/2014 winter as well. Joint sessions at clubs gave added benefit of meeting new faces and swapping ideas. The "Protecting vulnerable people" training event at Tata in the dead of winter, with 38 people from across the region was perhaps a little too successful, but again was well received by all.

Eddie Ramsden (rules) and Iain Williams (Race Officer) have both run sessions attended by multiple clubs. Their hard work in bringing "higher education" and guidance to the region is appreciated!

Need to continue cross-club dialogue. Clubs are already doing a very good job of training, coaching, encouraging, and general up-skilling, but the average age in most clubs is increasing. There are lots of good ideas, limited mostly by volunteer capacity as they are already busy.

Adult racing

A very slow start to the season in March and April due to the very cold weather, then May brought everyone out to play. Since then it's been a very enjoyable year of sailing. There seems to be a general increase in boats racing at most clubs. The fact that when our Welsh sailors travel and do well outside Wales is to be applauded. This will also help lift club sailing levels as well if they have competitive fleets against which to hone their skills.

By looking at club sites and the statistics supplied, the most boats on start lines seem to be about 20. Mixed fleets of handicap boats don't help this, and even Lasers do not seem to get as many as 8. Llandegfedd often gets 6 or 7 RS Vareos out, and took 7 to the Lake District for their national championships.

Adult Coaching

Most clubs have coaching sessions, for "improvers" as well as the more knowledgeable. The CYC based 5* Laser fleet work is commendable, and is a follow on from the "Activate your Laser" work in 2012.

Championships

Cardiff Bay has hosted the Extreme 40 catamarans again. We also have a lot of good adult sailors, including in no particular order;

- Clare Williams (LLSC) is RS Vareo National (UK) Youth and Ladies Champion
- Andrew Davies (Tata) is leading the RS Vareo Bolle travellers series
- Kahla Delahey (LLSC) is effectively UK Ladies Europe Champion as she attended the World's in Denmark



- Robert Dangerfield (Llangorse) is current EPS National Champion
- Aran Pitter (Penarth) is Welsh Laser Champion 2013.
- Keith Jones (Tata) is also club champion at Saundersfoot SC.
- Robin Wood (LLSC) is yet again Asymmetric Canoe Champion, this time for Europe

The Region has hosted a number of Welsh and UK National Championships

- Penarth; Enterprise Severnside Area Championship
- Llangorse; Flying Fifteen Inland Championships attracted over 20 boats from around the country, including the West Country, Humberside, London and Scotland.
- The Llangorse EPS Open to complete the National circuit
- Topper Welsh Championship, June- 28 contestants
- Llangorse; Flying Fifteen Classic and Silver Fleet Inland Championships and Open meeting
- Mumbles; Dart 18 Open Welsh Championships – 22 entries

CYRC series

Whilst this has not yet completed, we can already say that there has been a good series of races at Mumbles, CBYC, Tata, Llandegfedd and we hope Penarth in Mid-September.

The Acorn Regatta, as ever, was a success in early September and enjoyed by all that I have met.

OnBoard

This scheme is being picked up by a number of clubs and organisations, but further work will be required to bring together the commercial and volunteer organisations. There is enthusiasm, and the potential for further LAPA funding and input, which is all to the good. We need to ensure that the volunteers in clubs are not exploited to a low retention result; instead we need to find a logical way to expand this approach across the family and adult potential markets.



Environmental concerns

Zebra Mussels and killer shrimp are spreading across the region. We have shared best practice and the main affected sites have policies in place to wash down boats, trailers and kit. Not fully effective though, otherwise it may not have spread so much?

Mumbles YC also has the prospect of disturbance to centuries of industrial pollution if the Swansea Bay tidal lagoon goes ahead.

Club Improvements

Llangorse has had improvements to slipways and boat storage facilities. Over the next few months both they and Llandegfedd will have major work to clubhouse/Watersports facilities.

Regional Committee

The committee has travelled to Penarth, CBYC and Mumbles this year. I feel that the policy of moving around is good, but the further flung locations have had few attendees. Meeting new people, seeing how a club runs and picking up the odd idea just by seeing activity, storage etc is an opportunity to take the idea back to the home club. (or ask "why don't you consider...?")

We do not have a formal structure, but as each of the clubs is strong, knows what they are doing, and why, we can make things work well and are increasingly working through issues and sharing ideas.

Andy Howard

Cadeirydd Pwyllgor Rhanbarthol De Cymru / South Regional Chairman

September 2013

5.2 West Wales Regional Report

I took over the post of Chair of the West Region Committee from Ian Carswell at the start of the year. He provided an excellent foundation on which to build and I hope to continue the good work that he commenced. It has been a busy start for me with lots to learn and I am still finding new things nearly every day, which has been challenging and exciting. I am grateful for all the help, support and advice I have been given over the past months.



One of the first tasks I undertook was to sit on the interview panel for the Club Development Officer and we are pleased that Hester Walker accepted the role. She has already visited most of the clubs in the region to introduce herself and get an idea of where they are, and what they wish to achieve. One area she and I are keen to progress is the provision of Sailability in West Wales and I hope by this time next year we will be in a position to offer more and better sailing to sailors of all abilities. Kelly Mayhew has made an impact in this area, with Morgan Bugler giving impressive results in the Topper class. Kelly and Hester are working hard with Alistair Dickson to establish a quality service to those sailors who have different needs to a fully able bodied sailor.

By increasing participation and availability we can improve our chances of being the location of first choice for major sailing events. The west coast of Wales is one of the best sailing environments in the world, with excellent volunteer support. Already we have hosted the Welsh Lasers, Mirror Nationals and the Laser 5000 Nationals, and Merlin Rockets and they all want to come back. The WYA Welsh Zones are returning to New Quay after a very successful event last September

The CYRC series this year was well attended with the number of competitors increasing with each event. As with all things not everything went smoothly and there are few niggles that need to be ironed out before next year's competition. I only managed to attend two of the five venues but was impressed with the standard of the sailing and the fierceness of the competition. As I presented the trophies to the winners I noticed they were following in the footsteps of previous winners, who have gone on to represent Wales and GB at national and international level. I hope this year's recipients will continue with similar success stories.

The winter training ran smoothly and by learning from what worked and what needed to be changed the arrangements are being finalised for this year. Parents and sailors are already asking for details of when and where the sessions will be held. An introduction to asymmetric sailing is to be held in Pembrokeshire YC in October and almost all the places available have been booked. Hopefully we will see an increase in double handed sailing



There have been notable achievements by our young sailors and coaches which are well documented elsewhere and it looks set to continue. The restructuring of the WYA has seen a greater clarity of roles and responsibilities which is a benefit for those at ground level when seeking advice and guidance. The number of sailors

and classes of boat being sailed are on the increase. There is also greater participation within and between the clubs.

Looking to the future I am hoping to introduce a programme of training for club coaches and volunteers so that we will all benefit from the same high standards, and we don't have to rely on the willing few all the time. We are also continuing to develop our OnBoard provision, Active Marina programme and RYA Champion Club status across the region. This will have a lasting benefit with more sailors being able to access quality wherever they choose to sail.

With the combined efforts of all in the region I am confident we can have everyone saying "West is best".



Brian Murphy
Caderiydd Rhanbarthol Gorllewin Cymru / West Regional Chairman
September 2013

5.3 North Wales Regional Report

The region and clubs have worked well to promote themselves this year by having open days at many clubs and a stand at the All Wales Boat Show. I hope a lot of clubs had new members that we sent along from the show to your clubs.



The Big Weekend was held again at Plas Menai in February, it was well attended and there were many interesting speakers. A very good weekend that has now become a regular feature in our events calendar with something for most boating spectrums.

Cruising Sub Committee; we have had 2 meetings to set up a leisure and cruising sector in the North Region. We have agreed to send a North Wales flotilla to the Cruise Scotland Commonwealth Games which is taking place on the Clyde next year. Expressions of interest are welcome from all clubs and further information will follow during 2014.

Training A lot of clubs have started offering adult training in particular PDSC and Clywedog SC this is going from strength to strength. One idea is what PDSC call Sail Clinics successfully run by Andy Long. If you would like to know more come along to the Regional Committee meeting.

Club Youth Racing Circuit - The CYRC season got off to a slow start as a result of venues having to change plans at the last minute. At the time of writing 3 CYRCs have been sailed, with one more to go. Attendance has been slightly down from the record breaking number last year but even so more than 130 sailors from 14 clubs have already competed this year. We are particularly pleased that 30 sailors have sailed in the Regatta fleet many of them at 2 or 3 events. Many thanks to Sarah Williams for her nurturing of these youngsters – they are the future of our sport.

In response to “popular demand” we piloted the Adult Racing Circuit (ARC) to run alongside the CYRCs. 2 ARCs ran this year with a total of 9 sailors from 5 clubs competing. Many thanks to Phil Smith who provided on and off the water support and helped to ensure the success of the pilot. As a result the RC has decided to offer at least 3 ARCs next year.

North Wales On Board Festival – this year’s festival was held at Bala on 2 days at the end of August. There were 80 plus young people on the water with 2 days coached racing for the OnBoard fleet. A barbeque and camp was held on the Saturday night. The festival was lucky enough to win the Yachts & Yachting #GetOutAndSail prize for August; over £1,000 worth of prizes. A good weekend was enjoyed by all.

Open training at clubs and the dates are now online along with other information. Many thanks to Mary Gowers the Regional Vice Chair for all her work on this and the CYRC’s.



Active Marina - The Active Marina programme was launched at the All Wales Boat Show to promote and encourage more people to use their boats more often. The Conwy & Deganwy Marinas are the first to sign up to the programme in Wales; with all the clubs and associations being involved in the Conway area. This idea will be expanded across Wales to other areas. To further enhance the programme & its launch 'Active Marina Experience' was a very popular feature of the All Wales Boat Show; this offered new participants and boat owners the opportunity to try out some of the clinic type sessions on offer- everything from man overboard to dealing with tides. The workshops were sponsored by Snowdonia Sailing School and Celtic Cruising - without their hard work and enthusiasm it would not have been possible.



NW Windsurfing - I am happy to report that the North Wales Windsurf Boards have been around the clubs this season and have been well used, they are currently at Clywedog. These are an asset that we need to use to help develop the windsurf participation base in the Region, please contact Ruth if you would like more information.

Finally I would like to thank to all the club representatives who have attended committee meetings, and provided valued input between the region and the clubs. All those who have who have organised training and arranged the events - without you none of this is possible, and I hope we can count on your continued support in 2014 and beyond.

Bill Barry

Cadeirydd Pwyllgor Rhanbarthol Gogledd Cymru / North Wales Regional Chairman

September 2013

6 NATIONAL PERFORMANCE REVIEW

After a very strong year in 2012, and a significant number of sailors transitioning into new classes throughout the winter of 2012/13 and some taking a well-deserved break after Olympic success in 2012, it was always going to be difficult to emulate the previous success of the WYA's Performance Programme throughout 2013.



Nevertheless, the WYA has experienced some of its best performances in British waters at national championships and national events throughout 2013 and our proportions of Welsh sailors in British squads in Youth and Junior classes has never been better. A clean sweep of three out of three gold medals at the RYA Youth Nationals in the Laser and Laser Radial classes demonstrated the prowess of Welsh sailors in the singlehanded pathway within Britain and the competence of our coaches; both in the Youth and also the Junior level who nurtured the sailors earlier in their careers. Both Ellie Meopham and Mickie Beckett were the sole GBR representatives in their respective classes at the premier world youth sailing championships in 2012 (ISAF Youth Worlds) Ellie repeated that achievement in 2013 for the second year running and, this year, she also joined by fellow WYA Youth Academy sailor, Tom Williams.

British Sailing Team

In the Olympic programme, Hannah Mills took some well-deserved rest through the first half of the year. Hannah has re-started competing with fellow London 2012 Silver medallist, Saskia Clark and they quickly found their silver medal winning form with a win at the recent Santander Sailing World Championship Test Event. They will be looking to continue that performance at next years' ISAF World Championships and onwards towards the 2016 Olympics in Rio.



Pushing on into yet more increasing form, Dave Evans and Ed Powys have started the new Olympic cycle in great style with a number of top three finishes at the grade 1 Olympic class's events over the year. The duo are improving with every event and are looking like strong contenders for GBR selection for the 2016 Olympics at Rio. Similarly, Ed Wright is making the most of Ben Ainslie's involvement in the America's cup. With Ben bowing out from Olympic sailing, Ed also looks to be one of the top bets for selection in the Finn class at Rio.

Finally, Stephen Thomas is bouncing back from the disappointment of not winning a bronze medal at the 2012 Paralympics following a long inquest into an incident that occurred in the games. He will undoubtedly also be pushing to be back competing at Rio and doing his best to come away with a well-deserved medal after the ordeal he has just been through.

Our Optimist programme has grown from strength to strength this year following the appointment of Kate Williams as our new National Coach. Kate has a very experienced and knowledgeable team to help her and we now have more sailors within GBR Optimist Programme than ever before. Half of the 2013 British Optimist Europeans Team was Welsh and six of our sailors were inside the top 15 at the British Optimist Nationals up in Largs in Scotland.

We have also combatted a fall in performance in double-handed classes which is demonstrated with some fantastic performances from sailors very new to the youth double-handed classes. Just this weekend, the Welsh girls' 420 crew won the 420 Inland Championships, three of the WYA's double-handed youth crews have climbed into the top 10 of the GBR rankings and one was seventh in a European championship this summer. All are very new to the classes and have years left in the youth programme to progress even further and undoubtedly succeed on the international stage.



We have also taken big steps towards the expansion of our programme; both with regards to development of performance programmes within clubs and also the expansion of the programme into new areas. The new areas include Windsurfing, which has always been a fluctuating variable within Wales but with new energy and vigour in the South, this looks like it could at last succeed and make its way into the performance programme and help us produce more and better windsurfers who challenge for British Sailing Team selection.

It also includes development directed at the formation of a new Paralympic sailing programme within Wales. At present, we have a few disabled and Paralympic junior and youth sailors within our able-bodied programme and it is a critical step for us to provide them with a performance pathway that allows them to transition into a Paralympic class and receive the best support possible to help them reach their potential. We are forming strong links with the RYA's programme and the future looks bright for Paralympic sailors in Wales

To help manage these new developments and also to help us provide more support to the south and west of Wales, we have also appointed a new member of staff, Sean Evans. Sean will undoubtedly relish the challenge of developing these new initiatives as well as taking a leading role in other areas of the programme. Many will know Sean well from his time as an Onboard Officer in Cardiff, as a top youth and Olympic development sailor and from his time coaching the WYA Topper and Laser squads alongside Paul Simes and Chris Gowers. We look forward to welcoming Sean to the new role in early December and you can look forward to more support with regards to improving your club's performance programme.

Some of the WYA's highlights for 2013 are as follows:-

Junior

- 6 sailors in GBR Optimist National Squad, 6 in GBR Optimist Intermediate Squad and a further 6 selected for the 2013 Optimist European & World Selection Trials.
- WYA sailors qualified for 50% of the 2013 Optimist GBR European Team places.
- 6 WYA sailors in the top 20 GBR results at the 2013 Optimist British Nationals.
- Will Hall from CBYC was 4th at the Optimist International Regatta at Braassemermeer.
- Jemma Viney 1st in Optimist Spring Championships
- 2 WYA Topper sailors are in GBR National Squad and 1 in GBR Intermediate Squad. A further 1 has been recently selected for GBR National Squad and another 2 for the GBR Intermediate Squad for 2013/14.

- Merrick Stanley 21st Laser 4.7 Junior European Championship

Youth

- Ellie Meopham - 1st overall in 2013 RYA Youth Nationals Laser Radial (first girl to win championship overall ever)
- Tom Williams - 1st boy in 2013 RYA Youth Nationals Laser Radial
- Mickie Beckett – 1st overall in 2013 RYA Youth Nationals – Laser Standard
- Sarah Norbury & Mari Davies – 1st 2013 420 Inland Championships
- Dan Whiteley & James Clementson – 7th in 2013 420 European Championships
- Tom Williams – 22nd 2013 Laser Radial World Men’s Championships
- Michael Beckett – 2nd U19 in 2013 Laser Standard European Championships

Olympic

- Dave Evans and Ed Powys – 11th 2013 49er Europeans
- Dave Evans and Ed Powys – 2nd 2013 Hyeres Olympic Classes Regatta
- Dave Evans and Ed Powys – 2nd 2013 Delta Lloyd Olympic Classes Regatta
- Dave Evans and Ed Powys – 3rd 2013 ISAF Sailing World Cup Palma
- Hannah Mills & Saskia Clark – 2013 1st Santander Sailing World Championships Test Event
- Ed Wright – 2nd 2013 Finn Gold Cup
- Ed Wright – 2nd 2013 Finn European Championships
- Ed Wright – 1st Garda and Tretino Olympic Week



Paralympic

- Stephen Thomas – 3rd Delta Lloyd Olympic Classes Regatta
- Stephen Thomas – 5th ISAF Sailing World Cup, Hyeres

Alistair Dickson

Rheolwr Perfformiad Uwch / High Performance Manager

September 2013

7 PLANNING & ENVIRONMENT REPORT

This has been another busy year for the network of hard working volunteers that we have around the country who comment and provide advice to the RYA on several

consultations initiated 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 as well as projects that improve or protect access for boaters.



During the year the RYA issued a number of new and revised guidance notes on planning and environment matters that can be accessed through the website. A significant amount of voluntary effort has gone into responding to the Welsh Government's consultation on a new type of Marine Protected Area (MPA) called Marine Conservation Zones (MCZs).

Many clubs objected to potential threats to recreational boating such as restrictions on anchoring, mooring and even navigation in the 10 identified potential sites. 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 was represented on the SFG by Caroline Price the RYA's Planning & Environmental Manager and supported by John Eddington and Bob Lowe at two regional meetings in West and North Wales respectively. Following the work of the Task and Finish Group the Minister announced that he was withdrawing all the MCZ proposals and seeking further guidance on MPAs generally by way of gap analysis in a UK context. 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. Further announcements on this are anticipated in Spring 2014.

WYA collaborated with RYA on a response to the National Assembly for Wales' Environment and Sustainability Committee Inquiry into marine policy in Wales. Steven Morgan and Caroline Price gave oral evidence to the Inquiry at the Senedd in Cardiff Bay

This year we also said goodbye to Suzanne Newbold, who has been a Regional Planning and Environmental representative for South Wales for a number of years. Sue has made an invaluable contribution and we wish her well for the future.

John Eddington and Bob Lowe
September 2013

BIG Weekend Penwythnos MAWR

Chwefror 15-16 February

2014



Coming Soon...
Dwad yn Fuan...