

North Wales Regional Committee of the Welsh Yachting Association

**Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 26 February 2009
At Port Dinorwic Sailing Club
2000 hrs**

Agenda

1. Apologies for absence
2. Minutes of the meeting held on 20 November 2008
3. Matters arising
4. Winter Open Training
5. CYRC
6. Cruising
7. Welsh Youth Championships 26 & 27 September 2009 –
combining with Zone Championships
8. Family Sail
9. Clubs Action Planning Evening
10. Regional Action Plan
11. Evening Talks
12. Instructors Conference
13. AOB

Item		Action
Present	Mark Stafford (Chairman) – Penmaenmawr SC Mary Gowers (Honorary Treasurer) – Llandudno SC Ken Newing – ANWSC/Port Dinorwic SC Bill Barry – Royal Welsh YC Paul Moreton – Llandudno SC Rosina Hearn – Rydal Penrhos John Mackie – Port Dinorwic SC Peter Davies – Llyn Brenig SC Peter Weekes – Rydal Penrhos	
In attendance	Tim Hall – Director of Sailing – WYA Ruth Iliffe – North Regional Development Officer - WYA Ceri Yeomans – Office Manager – WYA	
Apologies	Dave Turtle – Gresford SC Tim Jones – Holyhead SC Antony Robinson – Royal Anglesey YC	
Minutes	The minutes of the meeting held on 20 November 2008 were agreed – proposed by Bill Barry and seconded by Ken Newing.	
Matters arising	<p>Mary to speak to Nikki Forshaw regarding the possible development of an equipment loan/lease system, viz in line with the proposals of the Regional Action Plan.</p> <p>The Club Planning Workshop held at Plas Menai on 26 January was well attended, attracting members from 12 different regional clubs.</p> <p>Tim Hall reported that WYA’s bid to the Sports Council for Wales (for the next four years’ funding) had been successful. However, at a Sports Council Panel meeting on 17 February, at which Tim and WYA Chairman, Chris Basten, had been present, one of the conditions imposed included the mandatory acquisition of relevant data on club activity, and this will therefore require the full co-operation of all clubs affiliated to the WYA.</p> <p>Following the appointment of an OnBoard officer , Cai Roberts, at Plas Menai, local clubs have an opportunity to take advantage of the scheme. Literature is available, and will be passed to MS.</p> <p>Shotwick Lake Sailing’s bid for funding from the Minor Equipment Grant scheme (MEG) for a projector and laptop was unfortunately unsuccessful – this was believed to be partly due to the scheme’s criteria that funded equipment should have a shelf life of at least 10 years. Nevertheless, clubs should be encouraged to bid for equipment – clubs involved in training, for example, could apply for relevant equipment such as digital cameras</p>	MG
Winter Open Training	<p>Dovey – little to report at present.</p> <p>PDSC - The 7 & 8 February sessions’ turnout was disappointing – the inclement weather may have been a factor. .</p>	

	Xmas Regatta – held at Pwllheli SC, this was an outstanding success, helped in no small part by the excellent weather conditions.	
CYRC	All dates now confirmed and to be uploaded onto the WYA/North Wales website. A 2-day event, to be held at Red Wharf Bay, is planned for 30 & 31 May.	
Cruising	A joint venture between PDSC and Royal Welsh YC will see the organisation of a Sunday Series, with racing from Port Dinorwic. Members from other clubs welcome. Bill Barry is attending a cruising seminar in Warrington on 14 March at which he will represent local cruising interests.	
Welsh Youths/Zone	Due to the increasing number of sailing events each April, specifically at Pwllheli, it has been decided to reschedule the annual WYA Welsh Youths championships to combine with the Zone championships and squad selections – and these will now be held at Pwllheli on 26 & 27 September 2009. It is anticipated that these combined events will attract attendance at upwards of 130 young sailors – Youth, Junior, Regatta and “OnBoard” classes are envisaged. This in turn will require considerable organisation, and it is hoped that enthusiastic volunteers will be happy to lend support.	
Family Sail	As discussed at the last meeting, a member of Llyn Brenig SC had approached Mary with the view to her helping organise a “family sail” event in the summer holidays. It was agreed that this would need to be very well planned, and probably not prudent to try to run it parallel to a CYRC session, not least from a safety perspective., However, the logistics of families “trailing” boats around the region needed to be addressed, which effectively rendered the mid-summer unfeasible due to holidays and other competitions being undertaken. It was agreed that an option could be for a club to hold a CYRC one weekend, and the Family Sail the next, which would allow boats to be left in situ for a week. It was agreed that parents’ opinions should be gleaned – CYRC events being an ideal opportunity – with the view to running the first session in 2010.	MG
Clubs Action Planning Evening	Following this workshop at Plas Menai on 26 January, feedback from club members included requests for the following to be arranged: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Volunteer management workshop • Funding workshop • Safeguarding children workshop 	
Regional Action Plan	Details of the progress made so far on the Plan had been circulated to committee members. A major problem is the acquisition of club data and how best to address the issue in a way that will not cause problems and/or too much of a workload for club secretaries. A generic database was thought to be inappropriate due to differing software packages, and therefore an online method was agreed to be more accessible. The current criterion of the Plan	

	<p>is in line with WYA's current Four-Year Plan. However, as discussed earlier, WYA has now submitted its subsequent strategy to Sports Council (namely its 2009-2013 proposal) and therefore it was agreed that Tim Hall would attend an Action Plan review (to be held at Plas Menai on 19 March) to present the WYA perspective.</p>	
Winter Evening Talks	<p>TH had given a presentation of his recent Flying 15 success following the WYA AGM on 19 February.</p> <p>Bill Barry reported on the success of Royal Welsh YC's fortnightly evening "talks", which covered all manner of subjects. The Harbour Master at Conwy was next in line to deliver, and it was agreed that it would be an excellent idea to advertise these events on relevant websites and to encourage other clubs to arrange similar evenings – an opportunity to maintain contact throughout the winter months and a way of raising revenue. Subject to agreement from the individuals themselves, clubs could perhaps "swap" speakers.</p>	
Instructor Conference	<p>An instructor conference is scheduled for 15 March at Plas Menai; a similar event is planned for South and West Wales clubs and will be held at Pembrokeshire Activity Centre on 14 March. Amongst other items, there will be an on-the-water workshop, a volunteer management workshop, and the National Windsurf Coach will be in attendance. There will be an opportunity to order from the RYA bookshop.</p> <p>A recent postal mailshot advertising the event and targeting hundreds of Wales-based instructors had led the WYA to decide that subsequent years would see electronic versions issued instead!</p>	
Any other business	<p>North Wales Boat Show – following last year's seminal event, the 2009 show is again planned for July at the Vaynol estate, near Bangor. A huge effort by Mary and Bill and a few other key volunteers ensured that the WYA and WYA affiliated clubs stands were a great success, but this cannot be left to the same, few individuals again, and it is hoped that more volunteers will be forthcoming this year. A concern last year also revolved around the shortage of sailing boats on display and Ruth Iliffe agreed to request that OnBoard officer Cai Roberts use his contacts, such as RS (Fevas), to improve this year's stand. Following on from which, it is hoped that at least two OnBoard Festivals will be organised for the coming summer months – at the North Wales Boat Show as above, and also at the Welsh Youths/Zone championships, with the National Eisteddfod in May another possibility. RS and Laser have agreed to nationally support Onboard festivals with boats.</p> <p>RI advised that there will be Topper and Laser camps for youth/junior sailors scheduled for Whitsun, with the possibility of Optimist training at Pwllheli.</p>	RI

It was agreed that due to MS's other commitments, a contingency plan will need to be put in place should he, at short notice, be unable to attend any future meeting. A volunteer vice-chairman, to take over as necessary, would be much appreciated.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 2145 hrs.

The date of the next Regional Committee meeting is scheduled for Thursday 7 May 2009 at 1930 hrs at Llandudno Sailing Club. This is a pre-WYA Strategy Committee meeting, and will be concluded with a further Regional Committee meeting on Thursday 18 June 2009 at Penmaenmawr SC.