



**Minutes of the WYA Annual General Meeting
17 February 2011
Via Video Conference between
Plas Menai, Caernarfon and
Sport Wales National Centre, Cardiff**

Present:

Sport Wales National Centre:

**Chris Basten
Bill Jackson
Dave Vickery
Andy Howard
Ian Carswell
Paul Simes
Nick Sawyer
Blake Shaw
Laurie Pavelin**

**Chairman
Board Member
Board Member
South Regional Committee Chairman
West Regional Committee Chairman**

**Sully Sailing Club
Llandegfedd Sailing Club

Llandegfedd Sailing Club
Teifi Boating Club
Cardiff Harbour Authority
Cardiff Bay Yacht Club
Tenby Sailing Club
Penarth Yacht Club**

Plas Menai:

**David Griffiths
Bob Lowe
Laurence Roberts
Bill Barry
Alan Williams
Ken Newing
Mary Gowers
Mike Davies
Keith Rollinson
Mark Stafford
Paul Moreton
Phil Smith
John Ball
Dawn Russell
John Saunders
Martin Ellis
Gwilym James**

**Vice Chairman
Honorary Treasurer
Company Secretary
North Regional Chairman**

**Red Wharf Bay SWC
Pwllheli SC/Royal Welsh YC
Royal Anglesey Yacht Club
Port Dinorwic Sailing Club
Manager, Plas Menai
Port Dinorwic SC/ANWSC
Llandudno Sailing Club
Nefyn Sailing Club
Clywedog Sailing Club
Penmaenmawr SC
Llandudno Sailing Club
Bala Sailing Club
Llanbedr & Pensarn YC
Holyhead SC/Young Optimists
Bala SC
Royal Welsh YC
Rhyl YC**

Bill Newton
Mark Walker

Rhyl YC
Royal Welsh YC

In Attendance:

Iwan Basten	WYA High Performance Manager
Ruth Iliffe	WYA Regional Development Officer (North)
Ben Smith	WYA Regional Development Officer (South)
Leah Collis	OnBoard Officer (Plas Menai)
Ceri Yeomans	WYA Office Manager

Apologies:

Steven Morgan	WYA Chief Executive Officer	
Kieran Harris	Sport Wales Liaison Officer	
Mike Butterfield	WYA Legal Representative	
Tim Bowden	North Environmental Representative	Shotwick Lake Sailing
Mal Jones		Llangorse SC
Gwyn Jones		Rhyl YC
Gareth Roberts		Llandudno SC
Sam Healy		Mumbles YC
Monkstone Cruising & Sailing Club		
Dovey Yacht Club		

Action

Minutes of AGM of 4 February 2010

The minutes of the 2010 AGM were confirmed – proposed by Ian Carswell and seconded by Bill Barry.

Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

REPORTS OF THE WYA OFFICERS

Chairman

Chris Basten's full report attached. This had been made available to member clubs prior to the meeting.

Honorary Treasurer

Bob Lowe's report attached.

It was requested that the issue of mileage rate allowance (payable to staff, contracted coaches and volunteers) be further investigated, and it was agreed that this item would be discussed at the next WYA Board Committee meeting.

The 2009-2010 annual accounts had been made available to member clubs prior to and during the meeting.

Approval of the 2009-2010 was proposed by Mark Stafford and seconded by Blake Shaw. Carried unanimously.

CB expressed WYA's appreciation for the work of Dave Vickery, who has been vastly instrumental in the overseeing and preparation of the Association's accounts for a number of years.

Chief Executive Officer

Steven Morgan's report attached.

North Regional Committee Chairman

Bill Barry's report attached.

South Regional Committee Chairman

Andy Howard's report attached.

West Regional Committee Chairman

Ian Carswell's report attached.

Environmental

Bob Lowe reported on the Welsh Assembly Government's proposed marine planning system which will cover all key marine activities and is intended as a more managed approach to marine matters. This will also encourage sustainable use of the environment.

There has been recent concern surrounding the so-called "killer shrimp", an invasive species that appears to be spreading from inland to coastal waters. All water-users are requested to be vigilant and to act responsibly. Advice on the washing down of boats and equipment, and other information, is available from the Environment Agency.

Report attached.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Nominations attached. Approved.

ELECTION OF REGIONAL MEMBERS TO THE STRATEGY COMMITTEE

Nominations attached. Approved.

ELECTION OF CLUB MEMBERS TO THE REGIONAL COMMITTEE

Nominations attached. Approved

Note: The South Regional Committee is now operating an open forum, with approximately four meetings a year.

APPOINTMENT OF ACCOUNTANTS

The proposal to again appoint Alexander Partnership, Tenby was approved and carried unanimously.

RESOLUTIONS

Club Affiliation Fee

The Board Committee proposes the increase of the annual club affiliation fee to £35.00 with effect from 1 July 2011. Approved and carried unanimously.

AGM Reports

The Board Committee proposes that with effect from the next AGM, all AGM reports, and the annual accounts, be dispatched electronically to each member club. These will also be available to download from the WYA website. This is to substantially reduce paper usage. Hard copies, however, will be available on request. Approved and carried unanimously.

Governance

The Board Committee proposes that in order to satisfy the quorum requirements, at least two of the elected Board members' presence is required at Board meetings. Elected members alone have voting entitlement. Approved and carried unanimously.

MATTERS FOR DISCUSSION

Welsh Sailing Games

The Welsh Sailing Games last took place in September 2006, but has since then

been dropped from the events calendar. Discussion ensued, with many salient points, on whether or not to resurrect the Games.

One of the problems is the diversity of classes, and the fact that with too many participants the event is in danger of becoming unwieldy. Another is the difficulty, as faced in past years, of encouraging adults to participate – some felt that it was too youth-focussed. Competitor travelling time is also an issue.

It was agreed that the matter should be discussed in more detail at each of the Regional Committee/forum levels. Options to be addressed include possible qualifier events (at club level) and regional events, culminating in one pan-Wales event every year or every second year, to be hosted by a volunteer club.

Regional
Committees
/Forums

Any Other Business

There has recently been a number of Wales-based recipients of Community Awards, and congratulations are extended to all those within the sailing community who have been recognised for their sterling contribution.

Volunteers

WYA wishes to once again thank all its volunteers, on whom its survival is so dependent, for their tremendous willingness, energy and enthusiasm. Their input is invaluable.

Closure

CB thanked all those present for attending, and with there being no further business the meeting concluded at 2035 hrs.

Chairman: Chris Basten



Chief Executive: Steven Morgan

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Mae Cymdeithas Hwyllo Cymru yn gwmni cyfryngedig drwy "guarantee". Rhif y Cwmni 2908378

2011 WYA COMMITTEE NOMINATIONS

<u>Post</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Club</u>	<u>Nominated by</u>	<u>of (Club)</u>	<u>Seconded by</u>	<u>of(Club)</u>
Chairman	Chris Basten	Sully SC	Richard Tudor	RAYC	Ray Beer	MSOD
Vice Chairman	David Griffiths	Red Wharf Bay Sailing & Water- Sports Club	Richard Tudor	RAYC	Ray Beer	MSOD
Honorary Treasurer	Bob Lowe	Royal Welsh YC	Richard Tudor	RAYC	Ray Beer	MSOD
Reg Rep (North)	Bill Barry	Port Dinorwic SC	Ken Newing	PDSC	Mark Stafford	Penmaenmawr SC
Reg Rep (South)	Andy Howard	Llandegfedd SC	Jeremy Symons	Llandegfedd SC	Paul Bambridge	Tata Steel
Reg Rep (West)	Ian Carswell	Teifi Boating Club	Martin Sykes	Fishguard Bay YC	Karen Thomas	Teifi Boating Club
Club Rep (North)	Ken Newing	Port Dinorwic SC	Lindsay Price	Port Dinorwic SC	D Calvert	Royal Welsh YC
Club Rep (North)	Mary Gowers	Llandudno SC	Gareth Roberts	Llandudno SC	Mark Stafford	Penmaenmawr SC

Continued

Continued

<u>Post</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Club</u>	<u>Nominated by</u>	<u>of (Club)</u>	<u>Seconded by</u>	<u>of (Club)</u>
Club Rep (North)	Mark Stafford	Penmaenmawr SC	Bernard Carter	Penmaenmawr SC	Gareth Roberts	Llandudno SC
Club Rep (West)	Blake Shaw	Tenby SC	Martin Sykes	Fishguard Bay YC	Karen Thomas	Teifi Boating Club
Club Rep (West)	Rod Kirk	Neyland YC	Martin Sykes	Fishguard Bay YC	Karen Thomas	Teifi Boating Club
Club Rep (West)	Christian Smart	Pembrokeshire YC	Martin Sykes	Fishguard Bay YC	Karen Thomas	Teifi Boating Club

Chairman's Report – 2011 AGM

It seems to become custom and practice as I put pen to paper, to include matters that have relevance in the nine months since the end of the year on which I am formally reporting i.e.2009 to 2010. This gives a form of continuity which I trust, you find useful.

1. Finance.

The year in question has been the first in a 4 year funding package, agreed with Sport Wales (formerly the Sports Council for Wales) in the previous financial year. This gave us a commitment to a regular income until March 2013, and has enabled the Association to implement the plans and proposals that were agreed with Sport Wales to increase both participation and performance over the period.

However, in the current UK financial climate, it is very difficult to be certain of this funding continuing, and we already know of the reduction that Welsh Assembly Government has passed down to Sport Wales. How much of this will be absorbed by Sport Wales remains to be seen, but we expect to learn exactly what grant will be available for 2011-12 towards the end of February.

As I point out every year, the Directors are very aware of our reliance on grant assistance, and, with the appointment of a new Chief Executive, have placed great emphasis on the need to reduce this dependence, and seek sponsors and funds from other sources. A new promotional pack will shortly be available, and we eagerly await results.

The management of the accounts and their presentation has again been the responsibility of Dave Vickery and Ceri Yeomans, and this has given the Directors more information than ever before. This has enabled budgets to be controlled in a much better way, and variances are now highlighted in time to allow remedial work to be put in place before the end of the financial year. This will be shown in the accounts as less profit or loss, as we complete more programs on time and we operate more as a not-for –profit organisation. This can already be seen in the reduced surplus for the year, down from £22k to £13k, which for this year only is carried forward towards 2010-11 activity.

At the same time, the inevitable increase in costs has led the Directors look at fees, and to a motion before the meeting to increase subscriptions to £35. In view of the possible benefit to each member that partnership with the WYA could bring, this still remains the bargain of the century, and I strongly hope that you will see fit to agree.

2. Performance.

In our year 2009-2010, we have maintained our progress in developing young sailors, to the extent that record numbers of Welsh competitors took part in Optimist Worlds, Europeans and UK National events, with good representation in many other classes.

Together with our other main classes, some absolutely outstanding results were seen. I always try to avoid names, but at the risk of omitting some outstanding sailors to whom I apologise in advance, I must mention Toby Morsley, Matt Whitfield, Bleddyn and Eifion Mon, Hannah Tilley and Mickie and Stevie Beckett, all of whom posted results that reflect so positively on the training they receive.

This has also been seen in 2010, with Solva Sailing Club obviously finding a magic ingredient in their waters, producing another champion in Ellie Meopham, to enhance the achievements of the Beckett brothers. Perhaps the same ingredient can be found on Anglesey as the Mon brothers have an enviable reputation.

2010 has seen this success continue, and notwithstanding the success of our young sailors, I am happy to congratulate Ed Wright on becoming the Sailing Athlete of the Year, Chris Gowers on his award for Coaching Excellence and Steve Thomas for his Silver in the IFDS Worlds.

It continues to be the Association's policy to support all talented sailors, and it is our intention to ensure that even in these difficult times, we continue to offer as much as we can to maintain our place as the most successful part of the UK in terms of bringing forward the talent that exists in Wales.

3. Development.

The workings of just two RDOs have now gelled into a sustainable arrangement, but the outstanding feature of the progress made has been the OnBoard programme that has bought many children into contact with our sport. Our 4 year target as agreed with Sport Wales was to provide 10000 first opportunities to experience sailing, and at the end of 2010, just under halfway into the programme, we are within a few hundred of achieving our goal. Thus a doubling of this number is now well within our capabilities, and further steps have been taken to go further.

Included in the above commitment was retention of these young sailors at a rate of 5%, but currently we are only achieving just over half of this figure. In overall terms, this still means that we are on target to bring the same actual numbers into clubs, but steps are being taken to improve this important statistic.

The West region has benefited greatly from the work of Ifan James in the 9 months or so of the year he was in post. Sadly he left to pursue other sailing opportunities in the summer of 2010, and we took the opportunity in the light of experience, and after listening to what clubs in the west wanted, to modify the post into that of a Club Development Officer, still with OnBoard responsibilities.

Also, whilst not actually in the year in question, opportunity arose to appoint an ODO in the Swansea area, and we look forward to a large number of extra first opportunities being provided.

North Wales has moved steadily forward in many areas, and the developments at Rhyl are a great achievement for all concerned. Leah Collis has taken up the challenge of replacing Cai Roberts at Plas Menai, and the future of the OnBoard programme in the region looks very promising.

4. Staffing

The major change in the Association's staff during the year was the resignation of Tim Hall as Director of Sailing. Due to the importance of the role to us, a new appointment was investigated slowly, and I was delighted when our Sport Wales Liaison Officer, Steve Morgan intimated that he could be interested in the role. Negotiations and interviews with Sport Wales and Steve followed over a period of months, as they were reluctant to release him from his duties, but finally an agreement was reached, and Steve took up his post as Chief Executive in May 2010. The change in title has been made to reflect the emphasis the directors now place on his role in driving the Association forward as a business, and to recognise that as we already employ very talented sailors, the need has been, and still is, to manage an organisation that faces challenging times.

We were also sorry to lose Ruth Sharratt as our Green Blue representative during the year, as her funding package came to an end, and, as mentioned above, Ifan James as he left to fill a role in sailing on the south coast of England.

Since the end of the year in question, Sean Evans, a former WNS sailor has taken on the role of ODO in Cardiff, releasing Tom Herbert Evans to develop the project in his home town and area of Swansea. Once again Chris Jeffries has stepped forward in our hour of need and taken up the post of Club Development Officer in West Wales, to the general acclaim of all he comes into contact with, and is working with the local clubs to provide assistance that is perhaps unique in Wales. Leah Collis, as mentioned before, has taken on the role in North Wales, and brings her own unique talent to the role.

The other members of staff have continued to serve the Association loyally and well, and have frequently astonished the Directors with their continued enthusiasm and commitment to the sport, for which we all offer our thanks.

I would also offer the Association's thanks to Christine Stanley for her excellent work with the website, Hamish Stuart for his superb work with the media and getting the message about sailing to as many people as possible.

5. Sport Wales (formerly Sports Council for Wales).

Each year at this time as I write my report, I am reminded of the tremendous assistance that the staff of Sport Wales provide to the Association. In previous years, this has been Steven Morgan, and before he became 'conflicted', this never wavered. Kieran Harris stepped into the role in the summer of 2010, and has already proved to be invaluable, especially in help with marketing and sponsorship.

Alan Williams has also been a constant, but as I read back over previous reports to you, I am aware of one name that I have never mentioned, that of Sarah Powell. As Chairman, I have had a lot of contact with her over the years,(usually at times when we were in trouble!) but her attitude to sailing and sport in general is always so positive that it has been a honest privilege to have worked with her. I hope that I am not breaking any confidence, but her assistance during the search for a Chief Executive was invaluable and I, and the WYA will always be grateful.

6. Royal Yachting Association

At the end of the 2009-2010 year, Rod Carr retired as CEO of the RYA, and was succeeded by Sarah Treseder, who visited us in June last year, combining an inaugural meeting with Sport Wales with a 4 hour drive to Plas Menai and a visit to Pwllheli the following day.

The change at the top has resulted in very little difference to the support they give us, both financially and practically, and we hope that this continues.

7. Volunteers

As you look at the accounts presented today, you will observe the financial help that we receive from two main partners.

However, this does not even approach the value of the support and work we receive from the hundreds of volunteers who work tirelessly to promote the Association and our sport, both in Wales and further afield. We

attempt to recognise their value by assisting them to gain professional qualifications in our sport through training programmes, but I do not think that we can ever repay them sufficiently. We continue to offer our grateful thanks for all their efforts, and ask them to accept this mention as a meagre token of our appreciation for all they do.

8. Other matters

Members may recall the continuing concerns about the proposed development of Llanishen reservoir near Cardiff. Notwithstanding the concerted opposition both politically and locally to the plans, I am saddened to report that sailing is currently suspended as the owners, Western Power, drained the water for maintenance purposes in the early part of 2010. We continue to monitor the situation.

One element of the 4 key areas the Association has targeted (besides Performance, Participation and Club Development) is the examination of its own procedures. As a step in the process of modernising itself, two motions are placed before this meeting, one setting a quorum for Board Committee business, and the other to allow us to communicate more effectively with you, our members. I think they are self explanatory, but would welcome questions if you have any. Further to this, we are currently engaged in a process of examining how well we function as an organisation, and may well have further proposals to put to you in the coming year.

In their quieter moments, I am pleased to report that a sailing team, comprising mostly WYA staff and coaches, were successful in their campaign to become J105 European Champions in the summer of 2010, and I am sure that further success lies before many other sailors who have benefitted from being part of the WYA squad system.

9. Summary

A year of change and progress has been marked by growth in the numbers of children trying our sport for the first time, by some truly outstanding performances by young and older sailors from Wales, by an outstanding contribution yet again from the volunteers and parents who support our activities, and by some excellent developments in club, regional and national programmes.

At this time of writing, we are now nearly halfway through our 4 year programme, and some goals have already been achieved. Some goals are a long way off, some are moving in the right direction, but as we face the challenges and opportunities that the new financial situation forces upon us, I am confident that everyone involved with the Association will be proud of what has been achieved, and will continue to support our activities.

Chris Basten
Chairman
January 2011

Honorary Treasurer's Report – 2011 AGM

I am pleased to report another satisfactory year for the Association.

I would like to thank Dave Vickery for his continued professional input and for the hard work of the Office Manager in preparing the monthly accounts for the scrutiny of the Board Committee.

There is a continuing need to control our costs and increase our non-grant income, which will be critical in the coming 'lean' years. Members' funds equate to only about six months operating costs and these reserves will continue to be vital to the sustainability of the Association.

Alexander Partnership (Tenby) has prepared the Accounts from the information supplied. These were approved by the Board Committee on 9 September 2010.

I recommend the AGM to accept these Accounts for the period 2009/2010.

Bob Lowe
Honorary Treasurer
January 2011

Chief Executive's Report – 2011 AGM

Following my appointment in May this is my first report to the Annual General Meeting (AGM). Can I firstly thank staff and the Board and all our volunteers for helping me settle in. I have received a very warm welcome at all the clubs I have visited in the last 8 months and I look forward to visiting many more clubs over the next year.

The last year has been a very successful one for WYA on a number of fronts, however it has not all been as I would have hoped for and there are plenty of areas that we can and will improve on during the next 12 months and beyond.

Progress against our Strategic Plan continues to develop well and a review of the plan was undertaken at the November Strategy Committee when a number of active volunteers and parents within our structure were invited to attend a weekend at Plas Menai. A copy of the report and the action plan are available on our website at www.welshsailing.org/committees.

Our main funding partner, Sport Wales, has produced three new Strategic Documents over the last 12 months, the Elite Sport Strategy, the Coaching Strategy and the Vision for Sport document. All will have an impact on us, and we have to do more if we are to maintain our current funding levels and clearly demonstrate that sailing, windsurfing and powerboating can contribute to getting more people more active and ensuring that Wales contributes to a "Nation of Sporting Champions" at World and Olympic level.

Corporate Governance – In 2009 Sport Wales commissioned a Corporate Governance Audit as part of their ongoing support of National Governing Bodies. This is a process that all governing bodies in receipt of significant funding have to go through once every four years. The audit was completed by PriceWaterhouse Coopers(PWC). PWC gave WYA a reasonable review and we are currently working through a 16 point action plan that will be completed by the end of March.

The Board Committee with the support of the Welsh Sports Association are about to embark on a review of the current Governance Structure and the Memorandum & Articles of Association. Their appropriateness and the skills mix that WYA will require for the next few years within the governance structure will all be reviewed and a report with recommendations will be put to the May Strategy Committee.

Marketing – over the last few years Sport Wales has consistently challenged the WYA on its income generating capacity. In response a new sponsorship/marketing prospectus has been produced and WYA will be proactively targeting Welsh based companies that may want to associate themselves with an inclusive and successful sport.

Over the last 12 months some of you will have noticed that we have developed a new logo and the Welsh Sailing brand has been more clearly defined. Our new corporate identity is now aligned with the RYA and our colleagues in Scotland and Northern Ireland.



Programme specific branding has also been developed and all our development and squad work will now be tagged under the Welsh Sailing Brand. Windsurfing will have its own logo as will any work that we undertake in the future on Powerboating.



Development – Onboard continues to grow from strength to strength and by the start of the 2011 sailing season we expect to have reached our strategic aim of 10,000 first participation opportunities. A new stretch target of 25,000 first participation opportunities was discussed and agreed at the Strategy weekend, however the main focus will be ensuring that we improve retention between the participation sessions and the club activity if we are to reach the 5% retention target set in the Strategic Plan.

We now have Onboard partnerships with Cardiff Harbour Authority (Sean Evans) and Plas Menai (Leah Collis). We have a Contractor delivering in Swansea Neath Port Talbot (Tom Herbert-Evans) and our West Wales Club Development Coach (Chris Jeffries) has OB as a central part of his work. In 2011/12 we are looking to expand with further posts at Cardigan Bay Watersports and we are in discussions with Swansea, Neath PT, Denbighshire, Conwy and Powys Councils to enhance or introduce new OB development coaches in these areas.

Club Development - is still one of our main strategic and programme priorities. WYA can't develop clubs in isolation and we need your support in selling the benefits of our sport and ensuring the future of your clubs are secured for generations to come. We have been piloting club development contracts over the winter. This has involved 3 clubs producing whole club development plans on how they want to grow their family, adult as well as their junior and youth sections. This is, we believe, a way forward and we will be interested in talking to clubs who want to further develop over the next few years.

Windsurfing – I am pleased to report that WYA is now proactively developing windsurfing and Richard Mills has been contracted on a Pilot programme in South Wales. Funding obtained thorough our ACORN Adventures sponsorship has enabled us to roll out a trial programme over the winter with further coaches to be appointed in North and West Wales in 2011.

Performance – A full copy of the 2010 Performance Report and a copy of Iwan Basten's presentation to the Strategy Committee is available at www.welshsailing.org/committees . Members who require hard copies should contact the WYA Office direct.

Another great year for the Welsh Squad programme. The year ended with 27 of the squad selected into a British Squads and more sailors than ever being selected to worlds teams for Great Britain, with Toby Morsley and Matt Whitfield only just back from their overseas Christmas adventures into tough competition!

The video played at the start of the AGM is available for your use and enjoyment - please see the link to the 2010 highlights below:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OE2ldrVk6cA> or www.welshsailing.org

Our sailors in the British Olympic structure continue to progress in one of the most competitive and challenging performance environments in Olympic Sport. Ed Wright had his best year ever becoming World Champion and World Cup Champion in the Finn as well as picking up the BOA Athlete of the Year Award.

Following the publication of the new Elite Sport Strategy with greater emphasis on Olympic, Commonwealth and World success, WYA needs to evaluate how it delivers and supports its athletes. We have already been warned that there will be reductions in our grant aid from 2012 onwards. This will mean doing things differently to protect a successful structure, and this will inevitably cause some concerns for some of you. However, we will do our best to explain the rationale behind any changes before they are implemented.

The Next 12 Months – At the time of writing this report we are still waiting for confirmation of our 2011/12 Sport Wales grant. Early indications suggest that we will be looking at a standstill budget for the next 12 months. In the current financial climate this is better than we could have hoped for, however the long term forecast is still uncertain and we have been told to prepare for a reduction in our lottery funding in 2012/13.

Improving our external communication with clubs and members is something that we recognise we need to do better. A number of new developments will be initiated in 2011 and the use of electronic media and Social Networking such as NING, Twitter and Facebook will be expanded. I am pleased to report that the main WYA website is far more user-friendly and is regularly updated thanks to the efforts of Earlswood Marketing Ltd and WYA Staff.

The need to generate external non-grant related income is something that we will be pursuing with vigour. A new individual and corporate sponsorship package will be launched in April and some progress has been made on sponsorship.

WYA now has its own branded clothing in association with Blue Fin Watersports - for further details and to view the catalogue please visit our website and follow the links.

Finally, can I thank all our volunteers who turn up week after week to run their club activity, support our events and to all the coaches that work on our programmes. 2011 looks like it could be a very busy year for us at Welsh Sailing, and without your support we could not make things happen.

Steven Morgan
Chief Executive
January 2011

North Regional Report - 2011 AGM

The North Wales Region is made up of 43 affiliated clubs and associations, the clubs are spread over a wide geographical area which includes coastal and inland waters. The majority of clubs are run and supported by enthusiastic volunteers. We also have 17 Commercial RYA Training Centres, also working hard to promote the sport. A variety of sailing activities takes place at all times from racing to cruising and during this year windsurfing training.

Throughout this year the region has encouraged clubs to work more closely together and to develop inter-club co-operation. The success of this was demonstrated when strong winds prevented a Club Youth Racing Circuit event at Penmaenmawr SC, but rather than postponing, Port Dinorwic Sailing Club was able to offer their facilities at short notice.

Open training is also a way that clubs are working cooperatively. This year's trainings ranged from club camps to open training during winter supported by VCC coaches. Open Laser training (for all ages) was held at clubs and centres across the region with a huge increase in participants. The initiative has been supported by Plas Menai, Rydal Penrhos and Holyhead SC. The Regional Committee is always looking for new venues to host and organise this sort of training. The Honda Youth Rib Championships was again hosted by Offshore SeaSchool, in Pwllheli - thanks must go to Karen and her team for all her hard work.

The region hosted several successful Accessible Courses for Clubs, including workshops on funding and race management.

During the year many people have gained new qualifications, these include 20 new RYA Dinghy Instructors now working in clubs inspiring other sailors and 10 people have gained their Racing Coach L2. For the first time in a number of years we were able to run a region-specific RYA Senior Instructors course: 8 participants qualified. A number of clubs also hosted and ran RYA Club Race Officer courses. Congratulations, and a thank you for the work we are sure you will be doing for your club and in the region.

The numbers at the Regional conferences continue to grow; the Club and Coaches conference in December now proves to be an essential part of each club's calendar: the Instructors Conference is key to firing up the enthusiasm for the new season and proving the opportunity to develop new skills and network. The bi-annual Race Management conference was held at Llandudno SC; it was well attended and very informative. It's great to see so many people getting the opportunity to meet up and develop new skills.

Windsurfing taster sessions were held in various clubs and a successful Windsurf Camp took place in Pwllheli. There was the 1st North Wales Windsurfing exclusive event. The region now has a trailer with 4 junior beginners' windsurf boards and rigs which we can loan out to clubs at a small charge.

The CYRC events have been very successful and I am delighted to report record numbers at each event. With over 63 entries at two of the events this year it has proved to be the most successful in recent history. With an increase in the number of participants we will need to recruit more volunteers and RIBs to assist at these events. Mary Gowers the Regional Committee CYRC Coordinator does an excellent job and deserves a big thank you and would welcome some more volunteer helpers.

I am also pleased to record that North Wales was well represented at the Acorn regatta. The Regional squads continue to be healthy; 10 Optimists and 8 Toppers; Congratulations on their achievements to all of them.

In April we welcomed a new OnBoard officer Leah Collis to the region; she is like a breath of fresh air to OnBoard and we now have 6 OnBoard Clubs including a newly formed group in Bala. PE Teaching Staff from 2 local Authorities were given the opportunity to find out more about OnBoard and try their sailing and windsurfing skills on an Inset day.

OnBoard Club of the year went to CH Pwllheli SC.

Clubs have also worked hard and 2 more have achieved RYA Training Centre status; Rhyl Yacht Club worked extremely hard as they had previously not had dinghy sailing for 15 years and achieved their TC status in 6 months. 2 other clubs have achieved Volvo Champion Club Status this year. Congratulations to all the clubs who have worked so hard to develop their activities.

Following the very popular workshop, several clubs have tried a Sailwave computer programme this year to assist with race results, and all that have used it have been happy and report it as a success.

The Strategy Committee weekend at Plas Menai was attended by regional representatives from the whole of Wales. The representatives that attended from N Wales felt it was an excellent opportunity to network with colleagues from other regions and exchange ideas for progress of WYA.

Following this, Terms of Reference for WYA regions were discussed at our January meeting and several amendments suggested. These will now go forward to AGM.

Due to the severe weather pre-Xmas, our planned Xmas regatta in Pwllheli had to be cancelled. The Fancy dress theme has been moved forward to the 1st CYRC/ End of Winter regatta to make up for the disappointment

Overall a busy year with many successes; we look forward to the challenges of the next year and delivery of the planned initiatives. With more initiatives and opportunities it is becoming increasingly important to work together. There are huge opportunities for clubs to further develop their activities; ranging from learn to sail to inter club cruising events.

Thank you to all the club representatives for their attendance at all our meetings and their invaluable input between clubs and the region. Thanks to the Regional Committee members for their hard work and continuing support throughout the year.

I would also like to express my thanks to our WYA officers for their enthusiasm and especially to Ruth our RDO.

Bill Barry
North Regional Chairman
February 2011

South Regional Report – 2011 AGM

This report is a brief overview of the South Region for all of 2010 – so it includes details already reported to the Strategy Committee meetings in November

Regional Organisation

We have had 2 meetings of a forum of South Wales Clubs, in November 2010 and January 2011. These have shown an encouraging amount of passion for sailing in the region. They have also shown that there is a remarkable lack of contact between clubs and the RYA in general, apart from the development and performance pathways. It has been agreed that more attention will be devoted to this over the next few months.

At the second meeting it was agreed that we will explore some opportunities for collaboration and improvement. Four topics were selected to give “quick wins” and are summarised below;

CYRCs (Club Youth Race Circuit), led by Phil Hall

- Liaise with clubs to identify and promote the CYRC dates across the region
- Responsible for overall CYRC series prizes presented at the final CYRC
- Assist where necessary to collate the racing results
- Looking at ways that the CYRC events could better involve parents and families

Youth Transitional Group, led by Bill Jackson

- To look at a suitable class or classes that could be promoted as an alternative to youth pathway classes to try and retain youth sailors within the sport
- How best to initiate the programme, promotion of dates and training
- Identification of ‘transition’ youths and juniors so the correct individuals are targeted and don’t ‘slip’ through

Club Dates & Communication, led by Laurence Wells

- To promote communication between the clubs in south Wales when setting their calendars of events to try and avoid clashing and duplication
- Looking to select a number of events that could be promoted regionally to re-create the “South Wales Grand Prix”
- Promotion of club events and open days regionally to attract more numbers to the sport and to participate

Adult Training, led by Idris Dibble

- To look at a regional programme of adult training to try and move more adult beginners in to the world of sailing (racing, day sailing, seamanship skills etc)
- To look at the standard of race management in the region, and suitable courses laid on to up-skill regional volunteers to improve the standard of race management

This is very encouraging – as we have volunteers to lead and focus activities. All have a background of ideas and build on existing practices, so we hope it’s more a case of increasing communication and gaining agreement

rather than starting a revolution of ideas. In the case of Bill's group, he already has this target set from the main strategy and board meetings. In fact similar ideas were fed in by the clubs, so we anticipate some fruitful discussions.

There is a feeling that we can increase co-operation, and it's now probable that by the next AGM we will have better links to the clubs in the south so that we can feed our ideas through to the board properly, and vice versa.

Participation in 2010

The area has activity mostly on certain well known "hot-spots" such as Cardiff Bay, Llanishen, Corus, Mumbles, Penarth and Llandegfedd.

CYRC

- Successful CYRC events held at Corus, Mumbles, Penarth, Cardiff Bay and Llandegfedd clubs.
- 33 Optimists took part, 22 Toppers and 17 handicap boats, mostly Lasers, Fevas, 420s and a single 29er.

Welsh Schools & Clubs

- Hosted by Mumbles in July, 30 boats in OnBoard fleets, 99 in other fleets.

OnBoard

- Successful with large numbers across the region. The retention is in line with other areas. However, some of the trainees from OnBoard have entered Optimist and Topper Nationals.
- Cardiff Sailing School, CBYC, MYC, Swansea Watersports are amongst scheme participants.

Team 15

- Three T15 clubs, Llandegfedd Reservoir Dogs, Mumbles Mutineers and Llanishen
- Region's Bic Technos are in use almost every weekend at events and training.

Adult racing

Strong Open meetings at CBYC, Penarth, Tata (was Corus), Llandegfedd, Mumbles. A variety of fleets covering various extremes of the sport!

Club Development

- Merthyr in talks with Sport Wales and WYA about redevelopment
- Corus have finished the first stage of their clubhouse development and it is in use. They have also received funding for disabled sailing.
- Penarth has successfully trained large numbers, with reasonable retention.
- Llandegfedd have had an extraordinary time with their Watersports centre. Volunteer led activity lined up grants, loans, planning permission, builder and leases and was going to start when Welsh Water stepped in and took control and will supply the funding. Two buildings will be put in place, one near reservoir entry for fishermen/rangers, and another one the other side of the launching bay. Details and dates unclear.

Andy Howard
South Regional Chairman
February 2011

West Regional Report – 2011 AGM

The West Region consists of twenty-three affiliated clubs and organisations comprising mainly of small clubs traditionally run by enthusiastic volunteers. The water-born activities capture a full range of ages from those taking their first 'On Board' steps to senior mariners cruising for the sheer pleasure of the wind in their faces. This is not to say that racing doesn't feature as there are club regattas and open events right up and down the coastline as epitomised by Cardigan Bay Regatta held annually at New Quay to the events featuring Caldy Island and beyond. The Haven is an ideal location where racing continues throughout the year as displayed by the cruiser and big boat winter series keenly fought and well supported, and there are many other successful both winter 'freezer' and summer 'wassailing' events held throughout the region.

Youngsters are the main thrust of the W.Y.A. support and to this end it is a pleasure to report a continuing and evolving number of youth events throughout the year through the clubs directly involved in supporting the R.Y.A. Pathway programme.

The resignation of Ifan James as our first On Board Officer, who had instigated a programme of events based mainly on Pembrokeshire Adventure Centre, caused a need to examine the future of On Board in West Wales. The established involvement of Chris Jeffries and Nick Berridge as Community Coaches working principally through the clubs to develop not only the young sailor's skills but also the aspiration of the clubs themselves provided an ideal springboard to encompass On Board. To this end Neyland Yacht Club was the first On Board club in the region and with an emphasis on retention rather than just numbers and boxes ticked, has been able to grow its membership and programmes. Tenby Sailing Club has achieved R.Y.A. Training Centre status, with O.B. within its grasp and together with a successful grant bid for extra dinghies to support its junior fleet the future looks good. Congratulations must go to the officers of these clubs for the considerable effort that went towards achieving these goals.

The 2010 C.Y.R.C. series culminated in a finals day at Fishguard Bay Yacht Club with the attendance of the W.Y.A. – C.E.O., H.P.O., R.D.O., Community Coaches and members of the Regional Committee this made a fitting conclusion to a successful series; plus the opportunity for parents and sailors to meet and speak to officers of the W.Y.A. was a valuable exercise worthy of repetition. The support of our sponsors; DragonIng for the rosettes awarded at every event and First Milk for the perpetual trophies awarded lifted the atmosphere at the presentation and produced many a smiley face from our young sailors. I must also thank Alstrom for supporting the purchase of the bright red hoodies much in evidence, adorning members of the West Regional Squad.

Winter Training followed by Open Training has been a bit up and down with fluctuating attendances. Using clubs rather than one single centre possibly introduced added complications but in conjunction with the 'buddy' club training it is possible that the overall result will effectively bring the clubs together, but it is something that will have to be addressed, perhaps like the government we can blame the downturn on the weather. West did however choose the right date for the Christmas Regatta, the sun shone and although Baby Jesus did drown and a couple of Angels did lose their halos in the Haven, everyone did have a good day. Thanks again to Neyland Y.C.

Congratulations must go to those youngsters who have progressed beyond local competition into Youth and Junior Squads at every level. Transition from and into new classes and new boats has adversely affected numbers but the future looks positive. Regional Squad representation for West is a problem. The combining of South and West into one region with a single R.D.O. created an imbalance between our little minnows in a rather small pond and the South who are a very big partner with overwhelming numbers both of sailors and population. I applaud the South for their industry and commitment in developing a successful programme

which some of our 'little fishes' find rather daunting and their parents a logistical problem. We do have to up our game and encourage aspiration.

On a wider note; the stalling of the Vetting and Barring legislation with its review delays is a pity, and having won the hearts and minds battle to embrace this procedure we will no doubt be back to the rumours and suspicions previously experienced.

The 'modernisation' of the Coastguard system with the potential closure of two of the three stations in Wales is another cause for concern. The R.Y.A. is pursuing the issue and we all hope that the conclusion will be an improved service rather than solely a means of cost cutting.

The upgrading of the November Strategy Meeting to a weekend at Plas Menai was an excellent idea. Face to face interaction is invaluable and although the agenda was a bit overwhelming progress was made and ideas were formulated for ongoing development.

The challenge for the forthcoming year will be the tightening up and delivery of current initiatives and the involvement of more of our affiliated clubs in an exchange of views and ideas.

Finally I would like to thank the club representatives serving on the West Regional Committee for their hard work and continuing link with the clubs so essential to any representative body like the W.Y.A.

Ian Carswell
West Regional Chairman
February 2011

Environment and Planning Report – 2011 AGM

The WYA, as the regional body representing the RYA, is required to deal with environmental and planning case work and increasingly advise on devolved maritime matters, which no longer follow an English model. This report reflects the activity of the Association through 2010.

I represent the WYA (and RYA) on the Wales Coastal and Maritime Partnership, which advises WAG. I am a member of the RYA's Planning and Environment Committee and the UK Steering Group for the RYA/BMF Green-Blue project.

I would like to thank our three 'regional coordinators' – Susanne Newbold, Tim Bowden and Dominic McDonough for their efforts in responding to numerous consultations on FEPA and CPA applications that potentially impact on recreational boating together with scoping studies and environmental statements associated with off-shore renewable energy projects and other maritime projects. Collectively we have responded on developments affecting Rhyl, Holyhead, Beaumaris, Felinheli, Caernarfon, Swansea, Barry, Milford Haven, Skomer to name but a few.

The enactment of the Marine and Coastal Access act 2009 has resulted in a flurry of activity in establishing new policies, programmes and procedures. This is made more complex by the devolution of many responsibilities to WAG whilst retaining an overarching UK framework.

This has created a huge work programme for the RYA is leading on behalf of UK recreational boating interests. We are very well served by the RYA's new Environment and Planning Advisor, Caroline Price, who has lead on our responses. To illustrate some of her work on behalf of Welsh interests, responses have been made to:

UK Marine Strategy Framework and UK Marine Policy Statement with references to Wales (and Scotland and Northern Ireland)

In respect of Wales WYA/RYA has responded to WAG's draft Marine Policy Statement, marine renewable strategy review, marine protected areas consultation, revised marine licensing regime and the draft Natural Environment Framework.

Through the WCMP I am now a member of its Stakeholder and Community Engagement Group for the MCZ project and a member of WAG's Marine Planning Working Group. I am covering temporarily the Irish Sea Conservation Zone project (on behalf of RYA NW regional committee).

Recently the issue of invasive species has become important and problems associated with zebra mussels, carpet sea squirt and killer shrimps have come to the fore. Regrettably these are all present in Welsh waters and will require preventative measures to be followed by many watersports enthusiasts.

You can find more information and detailed position statements on the RYA website under Information and Advice – Planning and Environment. In addition you will find helpful material on www.thegreenblue.org.uk

Bob Lowe
January 2011