

## S&B Report 2017

August 2016 presented the usual weather challenges but despite this we managed to run a full calendar of sailing races up to the August Bank Holiday, including one to Celebrate the Clubs 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

Sailing - Like many Clubs elsewhere we have a reduced number of boats participating in our races, however they are still supported and enjoyed by those participating. We are ably assisted by those manning the Club Safety Boats and the Officer of the day running the races and we will continue to run a full race calendar this August.

Rowing – Celtic Longboats and Surf Boat. We have a renewed interest in rowing and our Celtic Longboats are out each week training and have participated in some of the Celtic Longboat League races held throughout west Wales. We again held the Dinas Head Challenge which is supported by many visiting Clubs. Many thanks to all who helped on the day especially following the event back at the Club with the BBQ, food and drinks. Meanwhile the Surf Boat has been put to full use and while sailing events may be cancelled due to sea and weather conditions the bigger the surf the better for this boat. The Club sponsored the Veterans Team to away events on several occasions including the Biarritz France International where they came a very respectable third in the men's open category and first place in the masters +200 category, they were the oldest crew in the competition. Which probably accounts for their title of 'NOBs'. Congratulations.

In June this year the Club held a very successful Open Day where, amongst other activities, we offered taster sessions in sailing, rowing or in a Safety Boat. We had over one hundred taking part in these activities and there would have been more if the tide had not gone out! This surely contributed to 35 new members joining on the day.

Windguru – Last year we installed a "Windguru Spot" that posts live wind strength and direction and temperature data to the internet. A page was created on the NBC website to show the continually-changing, multi-coloured graph. Though proving a little unreliable, the Windguru Weather Station has received highly positive feedback. We are re-positioning the receiver to move it into the roof space above the Commodore's Lounge to improve performance, and we plan to mount a tablet on the ground floor to give a permanent readout.

Planning ahead – we have enquired both locally and away for qualified RYA dingy instructors to run small taster days for youngsters using the Clubs Optibats, Pico's and Safety Boats. It is very frustrating that we have not yet been able to secure someone to instruct for this role. We have enquired both to the RYA Wales Development Officer and to other local Clubs and likewise they struggle to attract suitably qualified people to this very seasonal role. We continue to try to recruit.

Community Chest – the Club holds some money granted through the Community Chest which is available to financially assist members undertaking RYA courses such as the Marine Radio Short Range Certificate, Power Boat 2 or First Aid courses. We ask that the member contributes at least a third of the cost and the Club will cover the rest subject to available funding.

It is worth reminding ourselves that we are a Boat Club and that we continue to offer assistance to our members in all boating activities. Whilst a few harp on about the decline in numbers participating in sailing races it is important to recognise the numbers taking to the water in whatever way is probably greater now than ever before.

Doug Williams

Rear Commodore

24<sup>th</sup> July 2017