



CARDIFF BAY YACHT CLUB

Sailing Secretary's Annual Report April 2025

2024 proved a mixed bag on the sailing side with the weather taking its toll for a large part of the season. Whilst probably not the case it certainly likely felt to most sailors as a case of "all or nothing" on the wind front, and even on the days when the wind did play ball it often felt like the sun didn't. Whilst we can only hope for those champagne sailing conditions, our various sailing sections did manage to make the most of what mother nature gifted us to put on a busy calendar of events.

Dinghy Section

The dinghy section completed its annual series of Sunday and Wednesday evening bay racing. The Wednesday evening summer series proved the most popular for a number of years with the highest turnout of Junior / Youth sailors entering a series that I can recall. Not only that, it was great to see some of the Junior and Youth sailors giving the adults a run for their money and even take a series victory in the Autumn Series. Much of the thanks for this goes to our team of coaches that support the training section in helping to work a plan that dovetails the coaching the club offers with the racing series to keep the younger generation engaged with club activities whilst they fulfil, in many cases, their various RYA squad training and competitions. We are looking to do the same in 2025, plus building our existing relationship with local universities to hopefully encourage some of the older students to help bolster our dinghy, and keelboat, sections in the future.

Speaking of the RYA, as we have done for many years now, CBYC has been a leader in supporting the RYA dinghy classes, from the Optimist up to the 420 and 29er classes. It's great to see this section of the club continuing to develop new sailors in 2024, from as young as 7 years old, many of whom have gone on to represent both Wales and Team GBR at national and international events, flying the flag for CBYC along the way. This year the Optimist class especially has seen a good influx of new sailors which is great for the future of the sport that we continue to attract young people away from their iPhones and Xbox's, but also as its position CBYC as the top Optimist club in Wales and arguably also in the UK.

Aside from the club racing, this year the club hosted the Welsh Supernova Champs, the event was a follow on from the successes of hosting an event in 2023, with the class keen to come back to CBYC again and I'm pleased to say we will again be hosting the class in 2025.

Mixed in with the racing the section also trialled running some Sunday afternoon social sails, whilst not proving as popular as hoped, a revised plan integrating with the Sat morning learn to sail group, has been formulated for 2025.

The end of year prizegiving was again a success, with thanks to the restaurant and bar staff for hosting the event. With over 80 prizes handed-out including the coveted Dinghy Clubman of the Year award going to Paul Thomas, Most Improved Sailor going to the husband and wife combination of Clare and Stuart Allen, Youth sailor of the Year going to Dan Powell and Adult sailor of the Year going to Royston Richards, all of whom took home new trophies donated to the club by professional sailor, and multi Olympic medal winner, Hannah Mills. Series wins went to Simon Gadsby and Arran Pitter in their Lasers, Sean Ricketts and Martin Roots in their Supernovas, Mark and Jess Oakey in an RS200, and finally Dan Powell also in a Laser.

IRC / NHC Section

On the keelboat racing side this year, in addition to the Sunday and Tuesday evening racing, the fleet also managed to complete two Offshore races, with 4 boats taking part and Marco Polo, skippered by Steve Berry, taking the overall win.

In the Earlybird series Silverback, skippered by Will Boland, took the series win in the IRC1 fleet, comprising of 14 boats. IRC2 was won by Ragamuffin skippered by Mike Jones-Downing, who also took the NHC crown. In the Spring series the IRC1 fleet saw a change of the guard with Checkmate XV, skippered by Phil Cook, taking the series win. In IRC2 it was, Gladrags, skippered by John Griffiths, taking the honours along with the NHC title. In the Tuesday evening Spring series it was the J92 of Chris Watler that proved dominant in the IRC1 class, finishing all their races in the top 3. In IRC2 it was Gladrags continuing their success of the Spring series taking the honours along with the NHC title. In the Tuesday Summer series Chris Watler's Joyride continued to be the boat to beat, once again taking the series win in IRC1. There were no entries in IRC2, but in NHC it was Corsair, skippered by Jonathan Crofts-Davies that took home the chocolates. The last series of 2024, the Frostbite, saw Silverback return back to the top of the podium in IRC1. In IRC2 it was Gladrags and in NHC the series win went to Corsair. With the 2025 Earlybird well underway at the time of writing its currently close at the top, good luck to all the entrants as the series and the season progresses.

Shanghai / Nimrod Cups

Once again in 2024 the club took its share of responsibility, along with Portishead, to host one half of the annual Shanghai Cup, this year also joined by the Nimrod Cup. The event itself, now having run for many years, still proves to be one of the Bristol Channels most popular yacht racing events of the year.

Whilst not proving to be the year for CBYC boats, the Shanghai Cup was won by the J109 "Ctrl-J" from Portishead. Will Bolands "Silverback" led the CBYC entries finishing 4th overall.

In the Nimrod Cup there was better news for CBYC boats with Steve Coopers Elan 333 Wavetrain taking the series win.

The Shanghai Cup will again return to Cardiff in 2025, with the Cardiff leg planned for the weekend of 24/25th May, to find out more you can visit the Shanghai cup website <https://www.shanghaicup.co.uk>.

Cruising Section

The cruising section again this year managed to put on its compendium of visits to neighbouring yacht clubs, and of course frequent trips over to Mermaid Quay. For 2025 we have another list of events planned, more details of which can be found on the website.

TARS / Gaffers Sections

The TARS section continued to grow in numbers this year, with new boats joining the fleet and entries in the afternoon racing also growing. The TARS section are always keen to encourage new members, anyone interested can visit the TARS and Gaffers sections of the sailing pages on the website to find out more.

Aside from above the annual club regatta proved a little difficult this year with the wind deciding to do a no show. We did manage to get a race in for the keelboats, with Chris Watler taking the regatta trophy, similarly in the dinghies the trophy went to an RS Vareo sailed by Toby Bedgood from CYC and the TARS / Gaffers just about managed to get a race in. Hopefully the wind will turn on for this years regatta and encourage the sun to join in, the regatta is still in the planning phase, but soon as we are ready we'll be populating details on the website so watch this space.

So onto the rest of 2025, across our various sections we have a busy year planned on the water once again. With so many things going on we cant keep up with all the activities but would very much appreciate if you would share your sailing exploits on the new "News" section of the website.

Whether taking part, following along, or wanting to volunteer, we have plenty of opportunities for anyone that wishes to join in this year. If you have any questions then please feel free to drop me an email at sailing_secretary@cbyc.co.uk.

Thank you and fair winds.

Nick Hankins
CBYC Sailing Secretary