



# CARDIFF BAY YACHT CLUB

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## Sailing Secretary's Annual Report April 2026

With another year on the water over 2025 was another year of successes both on and off the water across all our sections, proving CBYC continues to lead the way as Wales' leading watersports club.

### Dinghy Section

At last years AGM I talked about the successes, in supporting and working with the RYA, that our sailors achieve. I'm pleased to say that 2025 was no different. On the national, and international front, most notable was Merle Nieuwland. Merle, who originally started with the CBYC training centre, before working her way up through the RYA Optimist and 420 pathways, Welsh squads and National Squads, achieved notable success winning the 420 Nationals then followed it up with the 420 Worlds and through recognition of both was presented with RYA Youth Sailor of the Year, a fantastic achievement. Whilst now at university, plying her trade in the 470 class, Merle occasionally still helps with the training centre coaching, developing the new stars of the future, her achievements are testament to the skills of our training school and all the people that helped guide Merle on her sailing journey.

Closer to home the dinghy section completed its annual series of Sunday and Wednesday evening bay racing. With 36 entrants in the Wednesday Late Summer series the section continues to attract new members each year and along with hosting a number of class "open" events throughout the year continues to be the place to be on a Wed evening.

The end of year prizegiving was again a success, with thanks to the restaurant and bar staff for hosting the event. With a range of new shiny plaques up for grabs for series wins, prizes were also handed-out with the coveted Dinghy Clubman of the Year award going to Grant Wilton, Most Improved Sailor going to Ned Powell, Youth sailor of the Year going to Dan Powell (for a second year in a row!) and Adult sailor of the Year going to Jason Probert, all of whom took home trophies donated to the club by multi Olympic medal winner, and current SailGP Emirates GBR team member, Hannah Mills. Series wins went to Dan Powell and Arran Pitter in their Lasers (ILCA), Martin Roots (Supernova) and Andrew Phillips (Aero).

### IRC / NHC Section

On the keelboat racing side, in addition to the Sunday and Tuesday evening racing there was also the return of the Shanghai and Nimrod Cups.

In the Earlybird series it was Silverback, skippered by Will Boland, continuing on from their 2024 series win with another win in the IRC fleet. The NHC series went to Volition, skippered by Vince Parker Brown and the YTC series went to Boxer, skippered by Hywel Mackie.

In IRC the Spring series was a hotly contested affair with 2 boats finishing on 8 points, Checkmate XV skippered by Phil Cook, took the series win on countback from Silverback. NHC was similar with 3 boats finishing within 1 point, Gatsby and Team Gatsby taking the win, and Boxer continued their run of wins with another series win in the YTC class.

In the Tuesday evening series, Just in Time, the J80 skippered by Andy Deverson, took the early series from Chris Watler's Joyride in the IRC class. In the NHC class, the interestingly named Mary's Bucket, crewed by Owen Kinsella and friends, took the win followed by Team Gatsby.

In the Tuesday late evening series, Andy Deverson's J80 continued where they left off with another series win in IRC. Tonto, skippered by Stuart Lewis, took the NHC win and Corsair, skippered by Jonathan Crofts Davies, took the YTC class.

Rounding off the year in the Frostbite Series, Wil Boland's Silverback, continued their channel racing prowess with the IRC series. Soco, skippered by Owain Thomas, took the NHC and Boxer once again the YTC series.

### **Shanghai / Nimrod Cups**

Once again the club took its share of hosting, along with Portishead, one half of the annual Shanghai Cup, again joined by the Nimrod Cup.

2025 was a copy of 2024 with the J109 Ctrl-J from Portishead taking the Shanghai Cup with Will Boland's Silverback leading the CBYC entries finishing 2<sup>nd</sup> overall up from their 4<sup>th</sup> in 2024....so only one more place to climb in 2026!

In the Nimrod Cup there was good news for CBYC boats with Gladrags, owned by John Griffiths, taking the series win from Pele and Koco, also both from CBYC.

The Shanghai Cup is returning to Cardiff again 2026 to find out more you can visit the Shanghai cup website <https://www.shanghaicup.co.uk>. This year the Nimrod cup is taking a different structure with more racing planned and the hope of encouraging a few more of the TARS and cruisers fleets to join in.

### **TARS / Gaffers Sections**

The TARS section continued to grow in numbers again this year, with new boats joining the fleet and entries in the afternoon racing also growing to what our President, Idris Dibble, tells me is now record levels for the entire Bristol Channel. 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, or join the community whatsapp group to find out more.

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Aside from above the annual club regatta proved difficult again this year, in 2024 it was the case of a lack of wind that put pay to the racing, in 2025 it was the opposite with strong winds again curtailing the water-based activities, lets hope for more success in 2026!

We did however manage to hold our annual New Years Day Pursuit Race this year. Having been cancelled last couple of years due to the weather it was great to see dinghies, TARS, Cruisers and Racers all mixing it up on the racecourse. With 19 entrants the race win this year went to the dinghy section's Dan Powell taking home the new "Colin Lyons Memorial" Cup. A special mention must go out to Hugo Thomas, sailing his Oppie, Hugo braved the elements for 2 hours to narrowly miss out on the win, finishing 3<sup>rd</sup> overall...but more importantly beating Dad at the sametime!

Finally I would like to take a moment to thank all the volunteers that help to run the various water sports sections of the club, without you none of it would be possible so thank you for your efforts! 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](mailto:sailing_secretary@cbyc.co.uk).

Thank you and fair winds.

Nick Hankins  
CBYC Sailing Secretary