



September 2022

The drought continues to take its toll on the lake. Last month at a level of minus 11.5 metres and already well past the lowest point of 2021, the level has continued downwards and is currently well below 15 metres almost at the lowest recorded point.



The jetty is now pushed out as far as it will go and the island is well and truly aground. That said, the opportunity is being taken to look at the state of normally submerged components and to replace them if necessary. Kevin is looking at improving the jetty access over the rough ground.

The low level has also provided Severn Trent the opportunity to inspect the structure of the reservoir and the dam itself. Although Autumn is here, the drought continues with only occasional bursts of rain. The cruisers are still able to enjoy a sail but it is a real difficult and dirty job to launch and retrieve anything larger than a canoe.

Keep doing the rain dances and hopefully things may improve before the season end. The exposed landscape has brought a constant stream of visitors keen to see where previous generations once lived and farmed. To deal with this club members have volunteered to man a rota to cover club house duties on Saturdays in addition to the usual Sunday coverage.

The Canoe section

Thursday night club sessions have been well supported this year but unfortunately have come to a premature end due to the ever-decreasing water level. We will now shift our focus to pool sessions starting in mid-October in Llanidloes sports centre, and which will be an opportunity to continue to practice and develop those important skills ready for next year.

Full details regarding pool sessions will be communicated shortly but we are aiming to start on Thursday 13th October, and will be running two 45 minute sessions from 6pm-7.30pm. Due to numbers we may have to operate a rota system. Many thanks to Mandy for all her help in arranging this with the sports centre.

Meanwhile, many congratulations to Des Richardson and Stuart Noble for being awarded their Paddlesport Instructor certificates. This is a fantastic achievement and is the result of some long, and very wet, days of training culminating in a two-day assessment in Brecon. Their achievements will be of significant benefit to the club and allow us to increase the scope of our activities. Well done both!



We are already starting to look ahead to next year and are planning an increased focus on trips away from the lake. We are aiming to start the year with a full calendar of trips aimed at differing levels of ability.

Thank you to all our canoe members for your continued support and commitment in what have been challenging conditions at times this year.

Name the Island Competition

On the Sunday of CVRDA Gavin announced the results of the "Name the Island" competition .

Paddy – Chair of the CVDRA was kind enough to present to the winner Kai Worthington for his entry

“ Turtle Back Island ”

Well done Kai !!



Working with the Club and Community SUP Club

Following on with the Club working with the community, Andy Jobling provided his time and kit for Llanidloes Rangers and Guides to have a SUP session.

He did two sessions, both using his Mega Sup.



The Rangers and Guides would like to thank Andy. They all had great fun.

Due to the nights closing in quickly now, the session for the Brownies has been postponed to 2023.

Once again thanks Andy for your time and effort.



Llanidloes High School Duke of Edinburgh students

Club was pleased to host 25 Y10 pupils from the High School as part of their Bronze DofE expedition challenge. They used the club for the overnight camp part of this two day event.



The participants successfully navigated to numerous checkpoints using their training to fulfill the 20 conditions of the exercise.



Jamie, the DofE organiser at the High School, once again extends his thanks for the use of the club facilities and says that many are looking forward to go to complete the next section, the Silver Award.

Sailing – the 2022 season -

CVRDA Weekend

Despite the access difficulties, we were pleased to welcome the CVRDA (Classic and Vintage Dinghy Association) for a long weekend which included their Nationals competition and their AGM.



The light winds at the beginning of the weekend were more than made up on the Monday when participants had to deal not only with the notoriously fickle Clywedog wind but also hazards appearing from the depths as the lake level retreated during the course of the day.

The weekend was thoroughly enjoyable and we look forward to welcoming the Association back in 2023.



Unfortunately there has not been much dinghy sailing for our juniors , August was a month of holidays and alternate events. The outlook for September is not great with the lake level continuing to recede.

Sailability with Mick Crehan-

Recently Club was pleased to welcome army vet Alec Watson .

Alec lost his leg in the 1970's in Northern Ireland due to a bomb planted during the troubles. He's also blind in one eye due to this. Since then he has gone through many physical and mental issues culminating in a sailing trip around the world. He and his wife sailed around the world on a nine year journey! He was looking to get back on some water after a long break from sailing and we are looking forward to welcoming him as a new member next season.

Mick took him for a sail in his now famous “banana” boat. “I'm sure he enjoyed the day very much and was grateful to all who made it happen. I have to say I was very proud to take him out and thoroughly enjoyed our banter together.”



CLUB MAINTENANCE

Nick and Gavin have been keeping a close eye on the impact of the reducing lake level on the club moorings and the water supply to the clubhouse. As you will have seen, we have vessels beached because the water went down so fast, other vessels are using racing marks as temporary moorings until they can be recovered ashore.

The club water supply passed the environmental health test in August, apart from some slight discoloration due to the low water level, this is not a health hazard. To alleviate this the pump has been moved a small distance further from the shore, but looking to the future it may be necessary to install a longer pipe to deeper and less disturbed water.

CLUB HOUSE CLEANING VOLUNTEERS ? ?

Jill is no longer able to do club cleaning, if any member would like to take over or knows of anyone who may be interested, please let us know.

In the meantime we all have to take some responsibility for keeping the club clean. We ask all members- and their visitors- to remember these few simple rules for everyone's benefit.

Take home all rubbish you may generate
Wash, dry and put away any crockery and cutlery you may use, leave the galley clean.
If using showers use the mop or squeegee to dry off any water on the floor and
PLEASE only paper towels into the bin.

We are a volunteer club and everyone has a responsibility to keep the place clean, tidy and secure.

SUMMER MAY BE OVER BUT PLEASE REMEMBER THE RNLI ON THE WATER SAFETY ADVICE

The weather may be starting to cool off a little but the RNLI safety warnings do still need to be heeded. The lake water is relatively still - this means there is a 30-50cm layer of warmish water on top of the much cooler core lake water- these are ideal conditions for **cold water shock**. At Clywedog we insist you wear a suitable personal flotation device for your activity. If you are on a paddleboard, make sure you also have your leash attached.

If you get into trouble in the water, remember to **Float to Live**: lean back, using your arms and legs to stay afloat. **MOST IMPORTANTLY CONTROL YOUR BREATHING**. Then call for help or swim to safety.

Buoyancy Aids

We regularly have to check members with incorrectly fitted buoyancy aids, particularly children. Please check your BA is fit for purpose, any tears, rips on the webbing or crushing of the internal foam will render it dangerous. Check it fits securely and any excess on the straps tucked out of the way so it will not snag. Childrens BA's come with leg straps, make sure they are attached.

Club buoyancy aids are only available during club led activities and/or when there is a nominated club person on duty- that will normally be Thursday evenings for SUP/Canoe club , Saturdays and Sundays – subject to the duty rota being manned.

Calendar for September onwards ... will depend on the lake level !

Sunday 18 Sep 10:00 - RYA Club Inspection 10.00-1200
10.00 - Committee meeting

Week end rotas

24/25 Sept Richard Anderson
1 / 2 Oct Rod Townsend
8 / 9 Oct Gillian Sat /Gavin Sun
15/16 Oct Maggie & Kevin Andrews

Looking ahead....

November 12-13 Work Party Weekend- as many as can come to help close the club for winter.

Future dates for sailing, canoe and SUP meetings are all under review due to the lake level.

In the meantime when visiting the club on your own, please follow the guidelines for lone sailing and paddling as contained in your handbook and remember to lock up securely when you leave.

All calendar events are subject to change as they depend on members volunteering their time so please help if you can, additionally activities could be impacted if the water level continues to fall.

Any comments, suggestions send to myself below or to club secretary Gillian

Useful Links:	
Club Website	https://clywedogsailing.org.uk
Members Facebook	
Newsletter: send any news and pictures to...	paulfeely@btinternet.com