



## ***Foreward***

I have tried to collect together photographs and anecdotes illustrating the history of the Llandudno Sailing Club and some of the members who have made a contribution towards its outstanding reputation.

The quality of some of the prints is not particularly good due to the scanning process of the early pictures.

Please accept my apologies if I have omitted an event or person in this brief history of our club.

The history takes us up to 2020, the year of Covid and the Lockdown.

Tony Lockett  
President

*1868*



This pewter tankard is the oldest club trophy. It is engraved 'Llandudno Regatta 1868', and was presented to the regatta committee by 'The Ladies of Llandudno'.

The trophy is now called the 'Easter Tankard' and has been competed for on every Easter Sunday (weather permitting) since 1963. The plinth was added in 1998 to record all the modern day winners.

**1876**

Report in the Cambrian News and Merionethshire Standard 11<sup>th</sup>  
August 1876

**'SPORT**

**LLANDUDNO REGATTA**

Favoured by fine weather, and patronised by a large concourse of spectators, the annual regatta at Llandudno took place on Saturday August 5<sup>th</sup>, with a fairly successful result. Hitherto the programme has been almost exclusively limited to a start and finish of yachts belonging to the Royal Dee Yacht Club.....'

The above is the opening of a very long article in the paper reporting on the regatta.



*1888*

**LLANDUDNO**  
**4<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL BOATMEN'S**  
**REGATTA**  
**And SPORTS**  
**TUESDAY, AUG. 28, 1888.**

## PROGRAMME.

- [illegible]

W. OWEN, Inc. Boston

A poster advertising the Boatmen's Regatta of 1888

**1899**

Commodore – James J Marks




One of the earliest pictures of Llandudno Sailing Club  
taken in July 1899.



1900

Commodore – James J Marks



COMMODORE:  
JAMES J. MARKS.

VICE-COMMODORE:                      REAR COMMODORE:  
W. OWEN.                                  HARRY E. FORD.

**1900.**

PRESIDENT:  
W. SCOTT HAYWARD, Esq.

VICE-PRESIDENTS:

JOS. BROOME, Esq., J.P. WM. BEVAN, Esq., J.P. E. E. BONE, Esq. R. BELLIS, Esq. STANLEY BRIGG, Esq. S. CHANTREY, Esq. R. S. CHAMBERLAIN, Esq. THOS. DALTON, Esq., J.P. T. P. DAVIES, Esq. G. A. HUMPHREYS, Esq. R. VINCENT JOHNSON, Esq.	T. T. MARKS, Esq. JAS. L. MAYGER, Esq. W. R. NICOL, Esq., M.D. G. B. PEMBERTON, Esq. LOUIS RIVETT, Esq. CAPTAIN A. WALL JOHN WAINWRIGHT, Esq., J.P. CHAS. WALLACE, Esq., J.P. JAS. WALKER, Esq. EPHRAIM WOOD, Esq. E. R. WOODHOUSE, Esq., M.D.
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PATRONS:  
MAJOR ASHLEY.      J. A. CLAYTON, Esq.      W. W. WALTON, Esq.

CAPTAIN:  
FRANK EDGE.

OFFICIAL TREASURER:  
A. CONOLLY.

EXECUTIVE AND SAILING COMMITTEE:

Messrs. H. EDWARDS, W. GOULDING, and PIERMARTE JOHN ROBERTS.	JOHN EVANS, ELIAS JONES, and PIERMARTE JOHN ROBERTS.	JAMES GRIFFITH, R. T. OWEN,
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HON. SECRETARY:                      HON. TREASURER:  
A. CLEVERE SLATER,  
"Hafod," Llandudno.                      ARTHUR R. TEMPLE,  
"Hedder Idan," Llandudno.

*1900*



LLANDUDNO SAILING CLUB.  
REGATTA 1900.

There were several races scheduled for the 1900 season, but things never change!

24<sup>th</sup> May – race for the Bradley Cup – two boats entered; ‘Bobs’ won, ‘Myfanwy’ gave up after round 1.

26<sup>th</sup> May – Cruise unsuccessful due to lack of wind – ‘Bobs’, ‘Gwen’, ‘Gwalch’ and ‘Myfany’ left their moorings.

2<sup>nd</sup> June – Race postponed owing to ‘boistrous weather’.

The season continued in similar fashion.

*1953*



The caption says this aerial photo of the old Arcadia was taken in 1953.

The Pitch and Put Course is clearly visible with the Golf hut in plain view. This is now our board hut and is still in use today.

The Grand Theatre (now the Broadway Boulevard) is to the left with what appears to be the LSP Garage behind it. On the far side of the Arcadia there is what looks like a skating rink. The field beyond the bus is where the venue Cymru Theatre now stands.

Llandudno Sailing Club Clubhouse is on the land between the Golf hut and the promenade. The club followed the original building line of the Arcadia. When the Venue Cymru Exhibition Hall was constructed the building line was moved forward. This gave the club the opportunity to construct its extension with the balcony, bosuns store, classroom and office.

***1961-62***

**Commodore – Bill Sargent**



Bill Sargent was the first Commodore of the newly re-formed  
Llandudno Sailing Club

Over the three days of the Whitsun holiday in 1962 the club hosted the very first Merlin-Rockets 'Cock O' The North Trophy'. This was also the first major sailing event organised by the club.



## *1962*

Speaking with Norman Brierley in January 2005 about the UKOBA (United Kingdom Offshore Boating Association) event.

This was the very first event organised by the re-formed Llandudno Sailing Club

Norman Brierley was a member of the UKOBA and used to race powerboats at UKOBA events. Norman persuaded the association to move its North Wales race from Pwllheli to Llandudno. Approximately 50 boats took part in the race which started in flat calm conditions. Within a very short space of time the wind increased to gale force, causing mayhem amongst the competitors. One boat sank off the Little Orme. The race was abandoned and as the boats started to return to shore, the wind moderated and the sea returned to an almost flat calm. Pochin provided his boat 'Angelsey 2' as the Committee Boat and Regent petrol acted as sponsor with a tanker on the promenade to re-fuel the racing boats.

The United Kingdom Offshore Boating Association presented the Club with the UKOBA Trophy which is still raced for today, but in sailing dinghies not powerboats.



Norman Brierley

*1961 – 1999*

President – Lord Mostyn



Lord Mostyn was very supportive of the Club providing the site of the clubhouse at a peppercorn rent.  
He sailed regularly on Wednesday evenings with Roy Wakeham in Roy's Lark.





George Hiller, incoming Commodore, presenting Bill Sargent, retiring Commodore, with a table lighter at the first AGM in November 1962. The report in the North Wales Weekly News (below) shows that in its first year the Club had grown to over 100 members and that plans were being made to adapt a shop on Mostyn Broadway into a Clubhouse.

**Membership  
over 100**

As soon as planning consent is obtained, Llandudno Sailing Club will go "full speed ahead" with the conversion of premises in Mostyn Broadway into a clubhouse, it was stated at the club's first annual meeting last week. A clubhouse development committee were appointed to plan the project.

The meeting was told that Mr. Frank Tyldesley had offered to carry out the structural alterations, and he was thanked and other members also offered their services.

***1962-69***

**Commodore – George Hiller**



George Hiller was Commodore for seven years.  
As Lord Mostyn's estate agent he negotiated the lease of the land on which  
the Clubhouse was built.

The Committee persuaded George to stay as Commodore whilst the Club  
applied for a Sports Council grant to build the present Clubhouse.

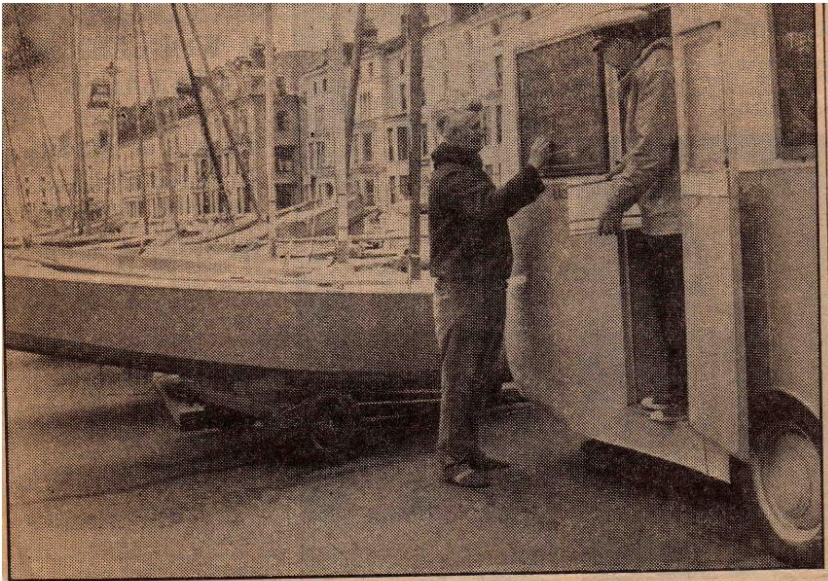
**1963**

The Merlin-Rocket class came for their 'Cock-o'-the-North' event over the weekend of 1<sup>st</sup> to 3<sup>rd</sup> of June. , followed in August by the GP14 National Championship.



This was the first major championship in the newly reformed Llandudno Sailing Club.

The class would return every four years until 1979



Against a background of covered dinghies tied firmly to the promenade seats, beachmaster Mr. E. J. W. Waite and Mr. G. E. D. Hillier, commodore of the Llandudno Sailing Club, put the weather forecast on the notice board outside the mobile headquarters of the G.P.14 National Championships, being held this week in Llandudno. The gale-force winds yesterday resulted in a second blank day for the competition.

Obviously not a happy day!!

The Club used a caravan as the Race Office for all major events from 1963 until the old wooden slipway opposite the Imperial Hotel was destroyed in a storm in 2013.

The caravan was parked on the Promenade opposite the Marine Hotel. There was an electrical socket in the nearby street lamp which the club could use to power the radio.

Processing of the results for National Championships took place in the basement of the Marine Hotel, a long and tiresome process without computers.

Two club members slept overnight in the caravan to periodically patrol the dinghies to make sure no-one interfered with them.

**1964**

May 16<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup>; Merlin Rocket 'Cock o' the North'  
August 23<sup>rd</sup> to 29<sup>th</sup>; Albacore National Championships



**1967**

The start of the building of the Clubhouse

**On the other side of Mostyn Broadway a start has been made on the building of new headquarters for Llandudno Sailing Club. Use is being made of part of the area which, in the past, has been a pitching and putting course.**

North Wales Weekly News 21<sup>st</sup> December 1967



### Moving the Golf Hut.

This is now the 'Board Hut' named so when sailboards were stored inside  
It is now used for storing the sails, etc of the club's training fleet



*1968*

Firefly National Championships

*1969*

1969 was Investiture Year.

The Club hosted the International 14 class who sailed the 'Prince of Wales Cup' race with the Royal Yacht Britannia at anchor in Llandudno Bay.

The Prince of Wales then continued his tour of Wales from Llandudno.



This is the only time the International 14 class have raced in Llandudno.

Later, in August, the Graduate Class Association held its National Championship in Llandudno for the first time.

***1970***

Commodore – John Graham-Smith



John raced a Fireball with his son Ian.

John provided the trophy for the Constable Buoy race, which was a replica of the original Constable Buoy. It looked like the sting of a bumble-bee!!



On John's death, Ian provided a silver Cup for the Constable Buoy race, the original trophy being awarded to second place. Both require rounding the Constable to be awarded.



March 1970, Bangors and Mash at the Launching Party.  
Commodore John Graham-Smith accompanied by Christine Jones, Vanessa Saunders, Jackie Waite, Annette Van Brandwyck, Denise Mann and Yvonne Young.



Presentation of the Marks Trophy for Lady Helms to Dr Jayne Anderson by Constance Hiller, wife of former Commodore, George Hiller with Commodore John Graham-Smith looking on..

Also featured are future Commodores, Tony Lockett, John Rowlands and Ian Forfar

***1971***

Commodore - John Rowlands



John was a keen GP14 sailor, winning many club trophies.  
It was appropriate that he was Commodore when the GP14 Class returned  
for their Nationals in August  
John became Chairman of the Welsh Yachting Association.  
In this capacity he represented Wales on the RYA Council.  
John was Treasurer for many years and guided the Club through the process  
of becoming a Limited Company.

***1972-73***

Commodore – Norman Brierley

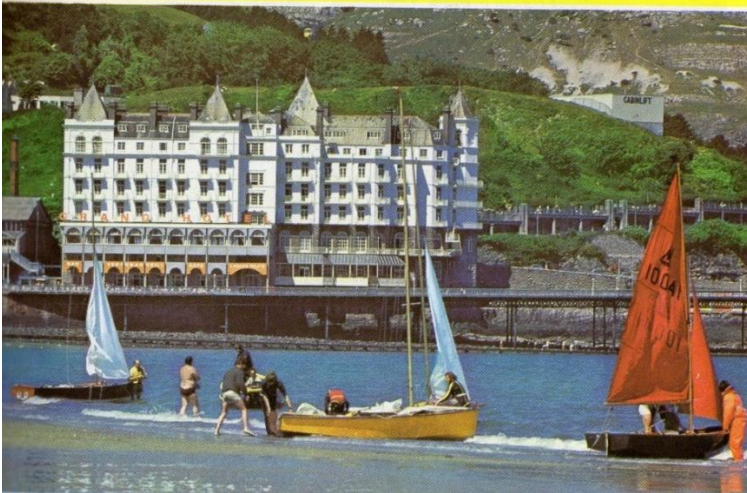


The Mirror Class held their Nationals in 1972 followed in 1973 by the Firefly Class



The following pictures are taken from the 1972 Llandudno Town Guide

## The heart of Lovely Llandudno



A low water launch on a Sunday morning in 1972

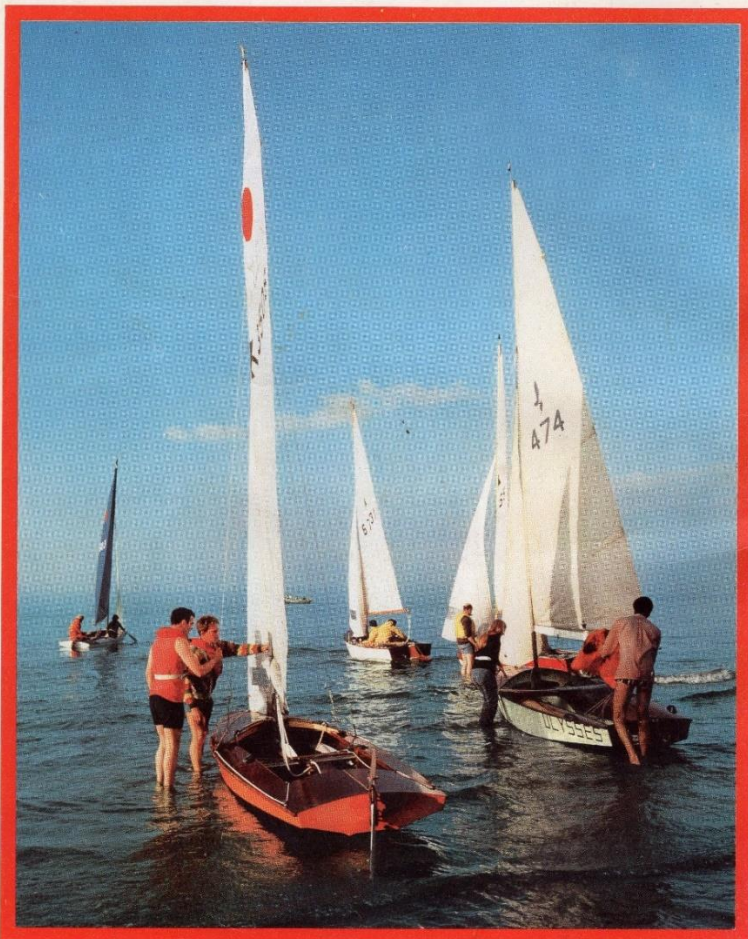


GP14 6283 has Bill Craven on the helm. Bill was another hard working member of the club. He acted as House Manager and in that capacity was responsible for the maintenance of the clubhouse. Bill worked for the 'Bell Woodworking Company' who produced many GP14 class dinghies

The back cover of the Llandudno Town Guide of 1972



# Llandudno



Wednesday night series racing

Tony Lockett and John Ratcliffe rigging their Fireball, 'Brontosaurus'

Marcus Elliott getting his Hornet, 'Ulysses' ready

The blue sailed fireball is 'Tanbaid' with Maurice Wigzell at the helm.

A windless Wednesday evening!!



This was the scene on many Wednesday evenings, frequently with hardly any wind and a real drifter for the racing

Fireball 3426 is being helmed by Ray Bray with his son David crewing.

Maurice Wigzell is in the blue sailed Fireball

The two main fleets at this time were the GP14 with over twenty boats in the club and the Fireballs who managed to reach fifteen.



***1974-75***

Commodore – Ian Forfar




Ian did not have a lot of luck when it came to Championships.

In 1974 the Fireballs paid their only visit to Llandudno. The week they chose, against the advice of the Club, had the largest tides for 300 years. This combined with a total lack of good wind and a fleet of 175 competing boats resulted in a very poor championship!

Ian was an Auxiliary Coastguard



**1975**

**R.Y.A.** NATIONAL ELEMENTARY DAYBOAT CERTIFICATE 

This is to certify that

Name PAUL WILLIAMS

Address 31, QUEENS RD. LLANDUDNO,  
G. WYNEDD.

has been examined to the standards laid down by the R.Y.A. and has achieved the proficiency required.

Signed Alan Wright Date 16/2/75

Name of Establishment Llandudno Sailing Club

TIDAL ENDORSEMENT OBTAINED ON (date) 16/2/75

at Llandudno Sailing Club

A copy of the first ever RYA Training Certificate issued by Llandudno Sailing Club

To Paul Williams. Pauls father was Sailing Captain at the time.

The Club was approved as a Training Centre under the leadership of Alan Wright, a senior instructor.

Training took place every Friday evening.

### **GP14 Nationals**

1975 was a unique year when the club hosted the GP14 National Championships and had a record entry for a dinghy Nationals of 227 boats!! They stretched on the Promenade dinghy park from the old Imperial slipway to past the Clubhouse and the Washington Hotel.

Fifteen brand new boats were all kicked out of the Championship because they did not measure. They became known as the 'coffin' boats, having been built by an undertaker!

The duty roster for this event is on the next page. Look at the number of guard boats required.

Earlier in the season the Club Regatta attracted 75 entries and the very last race of the season had 40 club boats racing.  
Neither number has been exceeded since.

1975 G.P. 14 NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

	24TH	25TH	26TH	27TH	28TH	29TH
	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
PRO	I. FORFAR	R. BRAY	A. LOCKETT	G. HILLER	J. ROWLANDS	I. FORFAR
ASST. PRO 1	R. BRAY	J. ROWLANDS	I. FORFAR	I. FORFAR	J. FORFAR	J. ROWLANDS
" " 2	J. ROWLANDS	A. LOCKETT	R. BRAY	J. ROWLANDS	A. LOCKETT	G. HILLER
TIMEKEEPER	B. APPLEBY	B.A.	B.A.	B.A.	B.A.	B.A.
FLAGS	M. ATKINSON	M.A.	M.A.	M.A.	M.A.	M.A.
GUNS	K. GLOVER	K.G.	K.G.	K.G.	K.G.	K.G.
RECORDER 1	J. LOCKETT	J.L.	J.L.	P. ROWLANDS	P.R.	M. BRIERLEY
" 2	V. SYKES	V.S.	V.S.	V.S.	V.S.	V.S.
" 3	P. ATKINSON	P. ROWLANDS	P. ATKINSON	P.A.	P.A.	P.A.
BEACHMASTER	R. THOMAS EVELYN	R.T.E.	R.T.E.	R.T.E.	R.T.E.	R.T.E.
ASST. BEACHMASTER	PAUL WILLIAMS	P.W.	P.W.	P.W.	P.W.	P.W.
SAFETY OFFICER *	P. MORRIS GIBBONS	P.M.G.	P.M.G.	P.M.G.	P.M.G.	P.M.G.
SWAN 1	C. NORTROP	C. NORTROP	J. ROWLANDS	A. LOCKETT	R. BRAY	R. BRAY
" 2	A. THOMAS	C. GRIMSLEY	S. WHITTAKER	S. WHITTAKER	C. GRIMSLEY	A. LOCKETT
BIG BOAT 1	J. BRIERLEY	D. RICKETTS	J. CLINT	P. MORETON	A. HAINES	D. RICKETTS
" " 2	J. NICHOL	J.N.	J.N.	J.N.	J.N.	J.N.
" " 3	R. SMITH	R. MARSHALL	R. SMITH	R.S.	R.S.	R.S.
TECH. Y. OGO COHM.	M. NORTROP	M. N.	M. N.	M. N.	M. N.	M. N.
" " " CREW	D. RICKETTS	W. KENDAL JACKSON	W. K.J.	W. K.J.	W. K.J.	W. K.J.
CLUB DORY COHM.	R. WILLIAMS	R.W.	R.W.	R.W.	R.W.	R.W.
" " CREW	TRACY COLLINS	A. FROST	A. FROST	T. COLLINS	T. COLLINS	A. FROST
CLUB WITH COHM.	D. RIGBY	D. R.	D. R.	D. R.	D. R.	D. R.
" " CREW	A. JONES	A. J.	A. J.	A. J.	A. J.	A. J.
RANA COHM.	J. HENITT	J. H.	J. H.	J. H.	J. H.	J. H.
" CREW	TRACY SMITH	T. S.	T. S.	T. S.	T. S.	T. S.
MARL DORY COHM.	D. HORLEY	D. H.	D. H.	D. H.	D. H.	D. H.
" " CREW	P. MORETON	GREG. COLLINS	G. C.	G. C.	G. C.	G. C.
P.G.'S. WITH COHM.	P. GRADWELL	P.G.	P.G.	P.G.	P.G.	P.G.
" " CREW	P.G.	P.G.	P.G.	P.G.	P.G.	P.G.
PHIL WILKES COHM.	PHIL WILKES	P.W.	P.W.	P.W.	P.W.	P.W.
" " CREW	J. WILLIAMS	TRACY COLLINS	T. C.	W. CRAVEN	W. C.	W. C.
ROBERTSONS COHM.	B. HARRIS	B. H.	B. H.	B. H.	B. H.	B. H.
" CREW	M. EDGE	A. FORFAR	R. MARSHALL	H. PINKERTON	A. FORFAR	R. MARSHALL
SPARE					H. PINKERTON	

\* IN BIG BOAT 2 WITH RADIO



Gate start with 227 GP14's



Committee Boat crew waiting for the wind!

*1976-77*

Commodore – Ray Bray



Ray rebuilt a GP14 with Bryan Appleyard which they raced together.

Later Ray sailed a Fireball with his son David

Ray was an Auxiliary Coastguard



Ray Bray and Bryan Appleyard launching their GP14 'Aye-Aye'.  
They bought this boat from Ysgol John Bright.





Ray receiving the 'Hydro Hotel Trophy' on behalf of the Club  
 Junior members Gary Spillane and Paul Moreton are in attendance being the  
 first winners of this trophy



Two Pauls. Moreton and  
 Burrows racing their Fireball



Ray and David Bray in their Fireball

*1977-79*

Commodore – Tony Lockett



Tony built and raced a Fireball in the Club.

He later served three terms on RYA Council, became Chairman of the RYA Race Management Committee, served for five years on the Racing Rules Committee and eventually represented the RYA on the ISAF Race Management Committee becoming Chairman in 2002.

He officiated at the Sydney Olympic Games in 2000 and became Chief Race Officer at the 2004 Athens Olympic Games.

Tony was Auxiliary i/c Llandudno Coastguard for twelve years

***1979-81***

**Commodore – Peter Morris-Gibbons**



Peter acted as Assistant Race Officer for various National Championships in the Club



## *1980*

Peter was Commodore when the Club experimented with two classes having their Nationals in Llandudno during the same week. This came about because the policy at that time was that a class had to guarantee a 100+ entry before we would accept them for a one-week Championship.

The two classes were the Graduates and the Miracles, the latter class having their very first one-week event. Both fleets were around 65 in number, thus meeting the 100+ boats required by the club.

To ensure that there was harmony among the two fleets the Graduates were given all the odd numbered berths and the Miracles took the even number berths!

Both fleets had 'gate starts' with the second fleet starting to run their gate when the leaders of the first fleet were two thirds the way up the first beat.

Two recording teams were required on the Committee Boat so that the Graduates finished on the starboard side and the Miracles on the port side.

Two separate venues were used for the Prize Presentation. The Miracles were in the 'Grand Hotel' with the Mayor of Llandudno in attendance and the Rear-Commodore while the Graduates were in the 'St George's Hotel' with the Mayor of Aberconwy and the Vice-Commodore joining them.

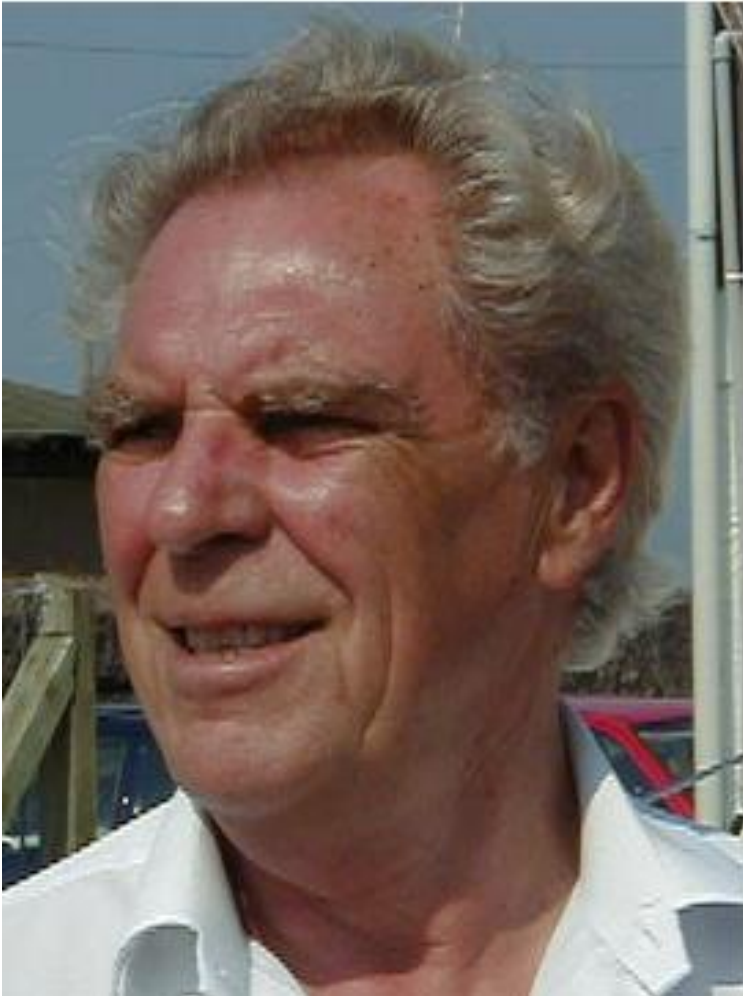
Lord Mostyn, as President of the Club presented all the prizes being shuttled between the two venues by the Commodore.

## *1981*

The Mirror Nationals were held 9<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup> August

***1981-83***

Commodore – Bryan Appleyard



Bryan crewed a GP14 with Ray Bray

The Club hosted the Solo Nationals in August 1982 and the National Twelves

Burton Cup Week in August 1983

Bryan was an Auxiliary Coastguard serving for over twenty years



Another Wednesday evening race

***1983***

## Sailboards

With the start of construction of the Conwy tunnel quite a few of the engineers working on the project joined the club.

A number of them joined the various fleets in the club but a lot of the new members took up Windsurfing.

Initially they raced in the Fast Handicap Fleet but as their numbers grew they were given class status and had their own start and course separate from the dinghies.

The driving force behind the Sailboarders were Rob Arnold and his partner Kathy Woodhead. Rob eventually became Sailing Captain.

Gradually as people moved away from the area on completion of the tunnel the sailboard fleet was once more absorbed into the Handicap fleets of the club.

However, a number of members continued to race and very slowly they switched to more conventional methods, many purchasing Lasers.

Among this group were Steve Lawrence, Rob Davies, Phil Northam and Ken Davies.

The Sailboard era lasted about ten years.

*1983-85*

Commodore - John Nicol



John raced a Fireball with his son Jeremy crewing. For years there was an oblong mounted piece of plywood that was on display in the clubhouse, labelled 'danger board infested waters'. It was part of the 'letterbox' punched into John's Fireball by one of the fleet of Sailboards racing at that time.

In 1984 the club hosted the Scorpion Nationals followed by the Miracle nationals in 1985

John was an Auxiliary Coastguard



*1985-87*

Commodore – Phil Wilkes



Phil, an electrician by trade, was responsible for all the wiring when the clubhouse was built in 1967.  
He was another Fireball sailor but crewed more than helmed his boat 'True Blue'.

There was no championship in 1986 but the GP14 class returned in 1987.  
Another successful event.

*1987-89*

Commodore – Peter Gradwell



There was no Championship in Peters first year in office but the Albacore nationals were held in 1989.

What is now the workshop under the clubhouse was originally open. One night some youths entered, stood a small RIB on its transom and set fire to it under the club. Luckily it was caught in time but there was some fire damage in the Clubhouse, where the current TV is situated.

***1989 – 91***

Commodore – Maurice Wigzell – National Race Officer



In 1990 the National Twelve class returned for their Nationals always known  
as  
'Burton Cup Week'.

They were followed in 1991 by the Toppers  
Maurice raced a Fireball

Maurice qualified as one of the first 'National Race Officers' under the newly created RYA Race Officer Training scheme.

He was Principal Race Officer for events in Holyhead and Pwllheli as well as at home in Llandudno.

In 1998 he travelled to Dubai as part of the North Wales Race Management team operating on the J22 course at the ISAF World Championships of Sailing.

He later acted as Assistant Race Officer at the Dubai Junior International Regatta for several years. This was always held in late January.

### **Llandudno Sailing Club Golf Society**

This was formed in the early 1990's and comprised of a few members who played at different local clubs.

A trophy was provided and visits to clubs in the immediate area as well as further a field in Holyhead and Shrewsbury.

The main contestants were Phil Northam, Steve Lawrence, Keith Murday, Ray Hooper, Paul Moreton and Tony Lockett

Unfortunately, there is no photographic record of the Society which only survived for two or three years.

***1991-93***

Commodore - Stan Ellis



Stan was a keen GP14 sailor winning a number of club trophies.

As Commodore Stan welcomed the Miracle class in 1992 followed by the GP14 class in 1993.

Both classes had very successful championships.



## ***1993-95***

Commodore – Janet Lockett

5

Janet was the first Lady Commodore  
She became an excellent hand at the front of the Fireball crewing for  
husband, Tony and later sailing with Keith Tout

The Albacores returned for their Nationals in 1994

In September 1995 an 80 year old driver of an automatic hit the wrong pedal  
and drove his car through the fence from the Boulevard roundabout and  
smashed five dinghies before stopping against a Landrover parked near the  
Boardhut!

## ***1995-97***

Commodore – Phil Northam – National Race Officer



Phil Northam became the third club member to become a National Race Officer.

In 1996 the Mirror class returned for their Nationals followed in 1997 by the Topper class. Phil acted as Chief Race Officer for both events.

In the 1990's a catamaran fleet was established with a number of boats moving into the club for regular racing.

## *1997-2000*

Commodore – Paul Moreton – National Race Officer



Paul was the first Junior member of the club to become Commodore. He served in office for three years.

In 1998 the 420 class came to Llandudno for the first time for their nationals followed in 2000 by the National Twelves for Burton Cup Week.

Paul became the fourth club member to qualify as a National Race Officer.

*1999*



In 1999 the club hosted the Catamaran Nationals.

Two course areas were set in the Bay with the Nacras inshore under Phil Northam's Race Committee and out to sea the larger Formula 1 Cats with Tony Lockett as Race Officer

*2000 – 06*

President – John Rowlands



John became the second President of the Club in 2000 following the death of Lord Mostyn in the previous year.



***2001 – 02***

Commodore – Pat Botham



Pat was a catamaran sailor

During the second year of his term the Club hosted a double championship with the Miracles and 405's joining together for the event. Phil Northam was Race Officer

**2002**



Tony Lockett receiving the RYA Award for Services to Sailing.

Presented by the President of the RYA, HRH Princess Anne, the Princess Royal.

In 2002 Tony resigned as Chairman of the RYA Race Management Committee to take up the position of Chief Race Officer for the 2004 Athens Olympic regatta.

Tony had previously acted as an Assistant Race Officer at the 2000 Olympic Regatta in Sydney, Australia.

Prior to these two appointments, Tony had led the development of both the RYA and the ISAF Race Officer Training programmes. He was the lead trainer in both these programmes and with the latter travelled all over the world running IRO Seminars in a variety of countries.

***2002-03***

Commodore – Tony Lockett – International Race Officer



*2003- 07*

Commodore – Hugh Lomas



Hugh served as Commodore for four years.

Hugh was an Auxiliary Coastguard

Hugh commenced a policy of looking for a steady income for the Club. Initial enquiries with HM Coastguard to share the site proved not to be viable. Later ideas included building apartments on site and sharing with the RNLI.

None of these ideas came to fruition.

Mostyn Estates came up with three other proposals. One was to take over the Shelbourne Hotel. Another was to be part of the Pier Pavilion redevelopment and finally a move to a site on Bodafon farm as part of a leisure development with launching off the beach where the Llandudno Lifeboat Station is now located.

**2004**



John Rowlands receiving the RYA Award for Services to Sailing at the RYA  
AGM on 14<sup>th</sup> October 2004

Presented by the President of the RYA, HRH Princess Anne, the Princess Royal



**2005**

## Phantom Nationals



The club's long association with HM Coastguard was consolidated when Commodore, Hugh Lomas, welcomed the Llandudno Coastguard as Honorary members.

George Foxton, Auxiliary I/C Llandudno Coastguard presenting a plaque to Hugh Lomas, Commodore.

The Club has also had a long association with the Llandudno Lifeboat crew who have been associate Honorary Members for a number of years.



*2005*

The new exhibition hall was built on the old Arcadia Theatre site.

It eventually became Venue Cymru.

As a result of the new building the club lost its view of the Imperial slipway



The Club gained a new storage facility (racking for the smaller boats) and the tarmacing of the carpark.

**2006**

420 Nationals – Race Officer Paul Moreton

On the water judging took place for the first time in Llandudno and the Club used the newly constructed Conference Centre, Venue Cymru as the Race Office.

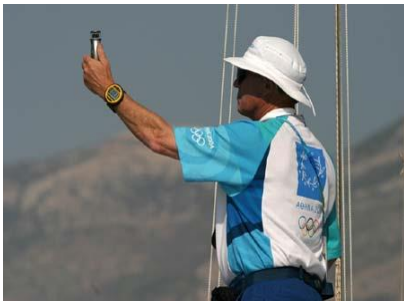


**2006**

**President – Tony Lockett**



Tony became the third President of the Club in 2006.



The International Sailing Federation Silver Medal Awarded to Tony Lockett  
For 'Services to World Sailing.'

Taking wind readings at the Athens Olympic Regatta

**2006**

Southport

Over 40 members travelled to Southport to support the Llandudno SC team in the 24 hour race. We completed the race but it is better not to discuss our overall position!



*2007-09*

Commodore – Paul Moreton



Paul was the first Junior member of the Club to progress through to Commodore.



**2008**



Ruth Brown receiving the RYA Community Award for Services to Sailing from the President of the RYA, HRH Princess Anne, the Princess Royal.

Ruth is the longest serving Officer in the Club in any position, having been the Club Secretary for 21 years and Social Secretary previously.

On her retirement from the post of Secretary in 2018 Ruth was elected a Vice-President of the Club.



*May 2008*

Mirror Nationals – Race Officer Paul Moreton, NRO



A very windy championship with only a couple of races completed.





**2008**



Alex Lomas won the RS 300 National Youth Championship in 2008  
Alex was one of the many junior sailors who achieved their Dinghy Instructors  
Certificate



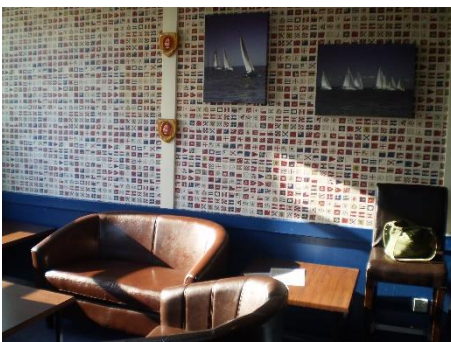
Gamlins Solicitors of Llandudno sponsored the purchase of an Oppy for the  
Club. This was Sportsmatched by the Sports Council of Wales'.

David Williams of Gamlins is seen presenting a cheque for £800 to  
Commodore Paul Moreton with Club Secretary Ruth Brown Looking on.



**2008**

In October 2008 the snug and bar areas were refurbished with new furniture and carpets. The main lounge area was also re-carpeted and new tables and chairs were installed.



Two months later disaster struck!

At lunchtime on New Years Eve 2008, Paul Moreton arrived at the club to put the heating on and prepare for the New Year's Eve Party.

He was greeted with a waterfall coming down the stairs and about two inches of water covering the whole of the top floor, (snug, bar, kitchen and main room).

During the very cold period a joint had been forced in the header tank located in the loft over the kitchen. The weight of water had brought down the ceiling in both the kitchen and the bar, just missing Paul.

Needless to say, the party did not take place in the clubhouse but Andy McNamara came to the rescue and the party took place in his Hotel.

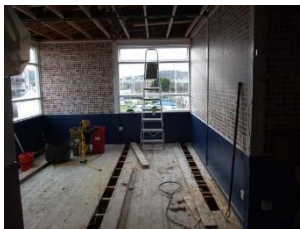


### Update published in the Club News & Views February 2009

Mike Knowles who is guiding the work in the clubhouse reports the following on Monday 26<sup>th</sup> January

Drying out of Clubhouse just about complete and Dehumidifiers returned to contractor; Scottish Power have installed a new isolator switch so that club testing and rewiring can take place; Electrical Work - Contractor appointed; Plasterboard work - Contractor appointed; Plumbing repairs - Contractor appointed; Floor coverings - Estimate received & yet to be agreed; Upstairs decoration - Estimate pending; Burglar & Fire Alarms - Stores & costs identified (To be fitted by club members); New Kitchen - Design agreed & costs obtained; Kitchen Appliances - All ordered (Dishwasher on site); Insurance matters - Ongoing negotiation with agent.

With temperatures below freezing the main room became an ice-rink for a week before the de-humidifiers could be effective.



A grant of £2500 from Conwy CBC paid for the re-wiring and Llandudno Town Council gave £500 towards the cost of new curtains.

*2009*

During the closed season Paul Moreton completed two training sessions in the Club's Guard Boats

Successful candidates earned their RYA PB2 Certificate on a cold February weekend.





*2009*

### Friday night Junior Training



Many of these young sailors eventually became RYA Certified Dinghy Instructors and helped Gareth Roberts with the training programme.

The Club Training Programme included sessions with the Aberconwy Sea Cadets  
And the RYA Onboard programme

**2009**

Two National Championships – both three day events

Race officer for both events – Paul Moreton

### **GP14 Nationals**



Followed three weeks later with the **Phantom Nationals**



This says it all!!

*2009*



The club has always relied on members to maintain all the equipment and the clubhouse. One of the stalwarts of the working parties is Maurice Wigzell, here seen replacing the kitchen window with a double-glazed unit and installing an extractor fan.



Rob Davies and Gus Lees working on one of the Guard boats.



Mike Knowles is another member who has made a considerable contribution to the club. He is the longest serving Treasurer in the Club's history. His other major contribution was allowing the club to use his boats, 'Tyg' and 'Alice', as a Committee Boat for the many events hosted by the club.



*2009-12*

Commodore – Andy McNamara



Andy was a highly competitive GP14 sailor, encouraging the Club to invite that class to various events. He also took the lead in entering and organising the clubs team at the Southport 24 hour race. However, his greatest achievement was persuading the Club to invest in the extension at the front which included a viewing balcony over a classroom, bosuns store and race office.

Sadly, Andy passed away shortly after leaving office.







The building took nearly two years with the bulk of the work being done by club members with specialist contractors brought in as required.

Grants were obtained from Conwy County, Llandudno Town Council, Sport Wales with very strong support in kind by Mostyn Estates.

Club members supported the finances through a loan scheme all the money being repaid within two years.

## **Training**

Meanwhile, sailing and training continued as normal.

The Club has had a long association with the schools in Llandudno. John Bright Grammar School's Sailing Club was an associate member and they kept their boats on the club dinghy park.

Later St David's College also became associate members, many of the pupils joining the club as individual members and winning a number of trophies.

In the 1970's, the Warwickshire Outdoor Pursuits centre at Marle Hall also used the Club as a base for their sailing activities.

In 2010 three Llandudno Primary Schools had a one day 'Taster session' using the clubs training fleet.

Blessed William Davies, Craig-y-Don and Tudno were the schools involved. In addition to the sailing they were also taken out in the Guard boats with, on one occasion viewing a pod of Dolphins off the end of Llandudno Pier.



## Constable Buoy Race

One of the highlights of the Club's racing programme is the Constable Buoy Race.

This race is out to the Constable Buoy which is 5 miles due north of the Club marking the western end of the Constable Bank.



Weather conditions have to be good for the race to take place.

# **2010 Medieval Night**

This event was organised by Andy McNamara



Thanks Andy for a great night!

*2011*

One of the innovations introduced into the sailing programme in 2011 was a cruise in company.

A number of boats escorted by two club guard boats sailed to Colwyn Bay where they had a picnic lunch before re-rounding the Little Orme and back into Llandudno Bay.



The cruising sailors on the beach in Rhos-on-Sea.



**2012**



In 2012 the Club celebrated the 50<sup>th</sup> season since the its re-formation.

The cake was cut by Club President, Tony Lockett

This was combined with the formal opening of the new extension opened by  
Tim Hall, Competitions Manager of the RYA.







Commodore Andy McNamara and Tim Hall

Over 50 invited guests were served drinks and canapes by Cadets from the Aberconwy Sea Cadet Corps and entertained by a group from Llandudno Town band.



***2012 – 15***

Commodore - Gareth Roberts



Gareth became Principal of the RYA Recognised Training Centre before becoming Commodore.

He has produced a very successful training programme and organised several Open Days to attract new members to the Club

**2013**

A capsized with a difference!

This happened when the tractor, driven by Gareth Roberts, locked wheels on the slippery slipway and slid over the edge to finish on its side on the beach.



It was recovered and returned to service after examination.





Two weeks later the slipway was very badly damaged in a north-westerly storm.



Negotiations with the County Council about building a new slipway were already underway when the damage was done.

It was decided to locate this opposite the club and abandon the old slipway which was some 300 metres away on the promenade opposite the Imperial Hotel.

For the next two seasons the club members had to carry their boats over the stones to reach the water. This obviously proved too much for some people who left the club to sail elsewhere.

It took two years to construct the new slipway.

## *2014 & 15*

Building the new slipway opposite the clubhouse took two years.

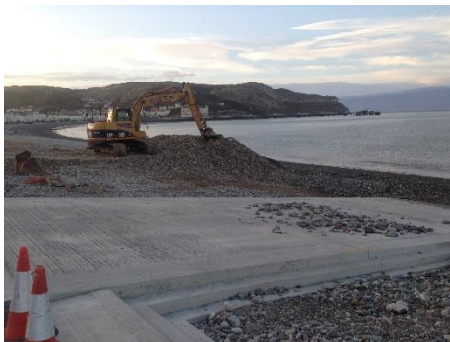


During this period of construction the Guard boats were launched at the old Lifeboat slipway and the sailors carried their boats over the shingle opposite the Washington Hotel.



During construction the contractor was constantly having to clear stone washed into the work site by the tide.

Eventually the slipway was completed towards the end of the 2015 season





***2015 – 17***

Commodore – Phil Braden



Phil Braden shortly after becoming Commodore took on the role of Chief Executive of the Welsh Yachting Association, later known as RYA Cymru Wales.

Unfortunately, Phil passed away at the young age of 55 shortly after retiring as Commodore



2016 saw the Club return to the Championship scene with a vengeance, hosting three, three day National Championships.

The classes involved were the Solutions, the Supernovas and the Scorpions.

The Supernovas were quite impressed with their first visit, returning two years later for their 20<sup>th</sup> Nationals .

**2016**



Paul Moreton receiving the RYA Community Sports Award from the President of the RYA, HRH Princess Anne, The Princess Royal.

November 2016

***2017 – 19***

Commodore – Phil Roberts



Phil became the youngest Commodore in Club history as well as being the second junior member of the Club to take on the role.

Phil was a RYA Senior Instructor and made a major contribution to the club training programme.

He crewed in a Scorpion

In 2016 the Supernovas returned and celebrated their 20<sup>th</sup> Championship with an entry of 120 boats.



A fleet of single handers of this size required a good number of rescue boats!





**2017**



David Rowlands receiving the RYA Community Sports Award from the President of the RYA, HRH Princess Anne, The Princess Royal.

November 2017

David follows father, John Rowlands, in receiving an RYA Award.

David has been a staunch member of the GP14 Class Association, having served on several committees and being elected President.

David is a RYA National Race Officer.

**2018**

A replacement Launching Vehicle was sought to replace the old tractor. Eventually the cheapest way was to adapt an old dumper truck. This was done with the help of grants from Gwynt-y-Mor Windfarm and Llandudno Town Council.



Commodore Phil Roberts christening the new Launch Vehicle

The Mayor and Mayoress of Llandudno watched as the Launch Vehicle is put to good use for the first time

## 2019

A new addition to the sailing programme in 2019 was the introduction of 'Girls Afloat'. This was a RYA Cymru Wales event organised by Rosy Hearn to encourage more women and girls to take part in sailing. The pilot scheme here in Llandudno was so successful the scheme was pushed throughout Wales by RYA Cymru Wales.

October 2019 saw three weeks of disruption to the club sailing programme when the Wales GB Rally took over the dinghy park as one of the pits for the competitors.

The dinghy park was cleared of boats. Some went home, others were parked in a secure compound on Bodafon Farm and those who wanted to carry on sailing had their boats parked in another secure compound on the promenade.



**2019-22**

**Commodore – Rosy Hearn**



Rosy is the second lady to become Commodore.

Unfortunately, within four months of taking over in that role the Coronavirus struck.

The Venue Cymru Conference Centre was taken over as a 'Rainbow Hospital'. To operate successfully the NHS required the Club carpark for the unloading of ambulances. This required a large tent being erected to cover the vehicles and patients as they were transferred to the hospital.

The NHS also took over the Clubhouse as a rest centre for the staff.







**2022-**

**Commodore – Pete Fisk**



Pete served three years as Sailing Captain combining the Vice-Commodore position in his last year before becoming Commodore.

Pete is an active sailor racing his single-hander Solution to great effect in club racing.

I would finally like to thank all those members who have supplied photographs and personal memories of the club.

Without their help many memories would be lost.

One of the most valuable assets to the club is the contribution made over the years by the ladies of the club. The social programme has had a tremendous variety of activities, many organised by the Ladies Social Committee. The Annual Dinner Dance and Prize-Giving being one of the highlights. Another annual event is the visit by Father Christmas at the Family Christmas Morning. Not only did the ladies organise these events, they provided meals on Wednesday evenings, during the many championships they staffed the kitchen, acted as recorders on the Committee Boat, manned guard boats and took on responsibilities as Officers and members of the Management Committee.



When putting together a book like this it is inevitable that some people and events will have been overlooked. This is not done deliberately but rather more a case of trying to remember what happened over the last 50+ years. The early years of the original club were the most difficult and I am sure that there are items of memorabilia that will re-surface sometime in the future. My final thanks must go to Ruth Brown who not only proof read the book but editorially made a significant contribution.

I hope you have enjoyed the read.

Tony Lockett