

## **CBYC Training Centre Principal's Statement 2024**

The Training Centre at CBYC has had a good year in 2023 thanks to our professional team of over 20 staff (contract, casual and volunteers), led by our centre's senior team Richard Mills (Watersports Manager) and Sam Thomas (Lead Instructor and Outreach Officer).

At the end of summer 2023 Sam Thomas was successful in gaining a role with RYA Cymru Wales as their Events Officer and left our team to take up that role. We truly thank Sam for all the work and dedication he has put into the Training Centre during his time with us - the positive impact he's had on sailors and within the staff team has changed the club for the better. I am certain, even in his new role, we will still welcome him regularly to CBYC.

One of my personal highlights this year was the delivery of our new Get Working on Water course. Funded by sailing and sporting charities our senior team put together a 4-week course, taking people new to sailing and coaching them intensively to help them quickly gain professional sailing instruction qualifications. Competition was intense for places on the course, but I'm delighted to report that all 6 course attendees achieved coaching qualifications with many of them taking up sailing instruction jobs in CBYC, South Wales and beyond.

I also welcome the creation of a new Youth Racing committee in 2023 and I hope to work with the members of that committee - with the aim of motivating more young sailors to take up racing and then refine their skills whilst having fun on the racecourse.

The collaborative working arrangements that Mark Cheeseman (our CBYC General Manager) and I have established this year mean that the training centre staff are now fully integrated with the professional office staff, making the best use of the experienced staff we have in all areas.

Whilst we all enjoyed being on the water 2023 when we could, there were many weeks in the spring and summer where it wasn't possible with either too much wind and rain or not enough. This has meant the past year has been a tricky one financially for the Training Centre. Whilst we strive to balance our income and expenditure streams, through competitively priced courses and professional staff, this year we posted a small deficit.

The Training Centre aims to be cost-neutral at the end of each financial year, but inevitably some years will be more profitable than others.

Summing the years Richard Mills and I have been leading the centre we have achieved that cost-neutral aim overall, however there is no complacency in this regard. Whilst we cannot plan for the weather, we are putting efforts right now into thorough budget planning and forecasting to allow us to make faster financial decisions - balancing our income and expenditure in fine detail.

One of the most exciting developments last year and something I am looking forward to in 2024 is the rapidly expanding 707 fleet at CBYC (which you might have noticed on the swinging moorings). We thank both the 707 class association and individual members who have allowed their boats to be used for racing, keelboat instruction and race coaching. This is a growing, exciting and friendly fleet to sail with at CBYC, I urge anybody interested in crewing or racing keelboats to give them a try.

We hope to host numerous exciting events, new and returning, this coming year - working hand-in-hand with the CBYC volunteer committees to deliver safe adult and youth events that benefit all our members.

Our true strength lies in our staff and volunteers, which run your Training Centre - we have already started planning for the co-ordinated development and training of our staff and volunteers at all levels in 2024.

Lastly, all of us within the Training Centre at CBYC would continue to be very keen to hear your feedback and ideas about the future direction of your training centre (our courses and our contact details can be found at <http://www.cbyc.co.uk/training>).

Wishing you all fair winds and happy boating in 2024!

Matt Sayer

Training Centre Principal