

Sailing Club with Covid Guidelines is Ready for the Off!



Ben Williams (blue cap) and his crew Rhidian Jones racing at Llangorse Sailing Club last year. “Ready, but being patient for the Government go-ahead.”

Some Llangorse Sailing Club members are eager to get their boats on the water, but the Welsh Government’s Covid 19 restrictions still prevent the Club from opening for the vast majority of members. Commodore and local farmer, Ben Williams says, “As soon as restrictions are sufficiently eased by the Welsh Government, we’ll be ready to welcome sailors who want to rig-up and sail abiding by social-distancing guidelines.”

Ben Williams continues: “Restrictions have been further eased in England than Wales, and there many sailing clubs are active again. This has caused some understandable confusion in members who live across the border in England. We understand and share their frustration as the inconsistency between England and Wales has raised questions in border-areas from north-to-south.” Ben Williams says, “We’re being patient. But we’re also being cautious and responsible. We’re aware of the higher rate of infection in Wales and the fear of further outbreaks which is influencing Welsh Government policy.”

Ben Williams continues, “We’ve been working with local and national government, with the Royal Yachting Association, the lake owner and other users. Individuals - or people from the same household sailing together - should be able to gain their daily exercise within expected guidelines.

We've put together a set of measures which maximise safety to members. Social distancing will apply, sailors will be able to rig and launch without imposing risk to others or themselves, and we will restrict access to buildings where people tend to gather. Sadly, for the meantime, there will be no racing, training or coaching – which brings people into close-proximity with each other – but to have the site open for recreational sailing will be a great step forward."

The Club has a membership of over 100 families which means that over 350 people are members of the club. Ben Williams says, "We'll be reminding members that it's their responsibility to stay at home if they show signs of symptoms. Equally, we're asking members only to bring their boats if they plan to sail them soon and regularly."

"We look forward to returning to normality as soon as we can. As things stand we're being patient and making preparations at the club-site within the scope of existing regulations.