



Back to Boating - Joint Task Force

Pwllheli

Friday, 10 July 2020

Updated on 6th July following Relaxations of Regulations by Welsh Government

The work of the Task Force is to ensure that our return to boating is achieved as soon as possible, in a safe, considerate, and responsible manner.

This is achieved by being prepared for the various stages of the easing of restrictions.

We will publish our strategies and policies and carry out risk assessments as found relevant to the activities carried out at the facilities of the Welsh National Sailing Academy and Event Centre.



Wednesday, 27 May 2020

Document Contents

Introduction - Gerallt Williams – Joint Task Force Leader	3
Background to the Formation of the Joint Task Force.....	4
Territory	5
Remit.....	5
User Groups	6
Matrix of Skills and Representation.....	6
Consultation.....	7
Actions	7
1 Form a Covid-19 Team - The Task Force - Established.....	7
2 Confirm What is Permitted	8
3 Assess risk, Decide Controls - Actions and Risk assessments - in anticipation of Easing Of Restrictions	9
Back to Boating Task Force – Statement 31st May 2020.....	10
Plas Heli Cyf – “Back to Boating” Protocol – Use of the Compound for beach launch of dinghies and other small watercraft.	12
Plas Heli Cyf – “Back to Boating” Protocol – Use of the Pontoons	14



Introduction - Gerallt Williams – Joint Task Force Leader

I am delighted to lead on the Joint Task Force to get us back to boating in Pwllheli at the earliest possible date.

As Vice Commodore of CHPSC and a boat owner I believe I am well placed to fulfil the duties of this role with the assistance of the Task Force members.

This is a collaborative team approach to the complexities of returning to boating. My aim is to bring together a team of likeminded people who can achieve the goals of the Task Force.

CHPSC and many other user groups rely on the use of the facilities of the Welsh National Sailing Academy and Event Centre

The initial work of the Task Force is to consider the legal framework, remit and authority of the group as well as to set the territory and groups represented.

The strategies and policies will then follow the results of the various risk assessments

Gerallt Williams
Vice Commodore
Clwb Hwyllo Pwllheli Sailing Club



Background to the Formation of the Joint Task Force

RYA Cymru Wales, our governing body published the 'Return to Boating in Wales – a Pathway to Recovery' document on 15th May. This included the 'Club Guidance' document which recommends that Clubs and Associations set up a 'Covid-19 team'.

The Flag Officers of Clwb Hwyllo Pwllheli Sailing Club and the Directors of Plas Heli Cyf identified the need to set up a 'Back to Boating Task Force' relevant to the facilities of The Welsh National Sailing Academy and Event Centre which includes a number of user group with varied needs and expectations.

An open invitation was published by e-newsletter on Saturday 23rd May to seek out representations from all user groups and achieve a complete matrix of required skills.

An induction meeting is planned for Tuesday 26th May by Zoom led by the Task Force leader Gerallt Williams – Vice Commodore of CHPSC.

The Task Force will confirm the remit and territory, areas of responsibilities and the user groups represented.

The Task Force will follow the guidance which form the legal framework for our phased return to boating:

- RYA Cymru Wales in the 'Return to Boating in Wales – a Pathway to Recovery',
- the latest 'Government Roadmap Guidelines' and
- the current 'Notice to Mariners' for Pwllheli Harbour
- any other relevant Regulation or Guidelines

The Task Force will ensure that preparation works are undertaken in advance of the easing of restrictions so that our return to boating is achieved as soon as possible and in a safe, prepared, considerate, and responsible manner.

To achieve this goal, we must publish our strategies and policies, undertake relevant risk assessments, and carry out the recommendations of the Task Force.

Easing of Restrictions will vary with time and as we progress down the Governments Roadmap.

This document is a working document and will be updated as conditions dictate.



Territory

The buildings, land and Pontoons in the use of Plas Heli the Welsh National Sailing Academy and Event Centre. Including Carparks and beach access for launching dinghies.

This task Force will not consider the wider areas of the Glan Don peninsula or the Hafan and Harbour.



Remit

The remit for the Task Force is to set policies and strategies required for our return to boating as found relevant to the 'Territory'

Undertake risk assessments and methods for implementing the recommendations.

Ensuring compliance with the recommendations.



User Groups

The Task Force seeks representation from all user groups who use the facilities of The Welsh National Sailing Academy and Event Centre.

and to engage with a wide range of boating user groups not only within the sailing club but also as all those who use the facilities at

The user groups and subsections identified include the following:

- CHPSC
 - Dinghy
 - Cruising
 - Racing
- CHIPAC
- Plas Heli
 - Compound users
 - Pontoon Users
 - Car Park Users
- Plas Heli Caterers
 - Café
 - Bar
 - Restaurant
- Rowing Club
- Rotary Club

Matrix of Skills and Representation

A matrix of Skills and abilities are required to fulfil the full remit of the 'Back to Boating Task Force' from the setting up and conducting the various risk assessments, producing guidelines and policies, implementing the recommendations and ensuring compliance.



Consultation

The task Force will consult with the following authorities / Organisations

- RYA Cymru Wales – the Governing Body for Boating in Wales
- RNLI
- Gwynedd Council as the Harbour Authority, and the
- Hafan Marina Management.
- Other

Actions

1 Form a Covid-19 Team - The Task Force - Established



2 Confirm What is Permitted

On 26th May – From April everything is closed and no access other than to maintain and inspect property, equipment and members boats.

Authority – Welsh Government and Notice to Mariners 6th April 2020 [here](#)

Conclusion – carry on with inspections – carried out by Richard Tudor. Expect some relaxation of restrictions announced on Friday 29th May and react accordingly on the advice published by RYA Cymru Wales

Economi a Chymuned
Economy and Community
Gwasanaeth Morwrol a Pharciau Gwledig
Maritime and Country Parks Service
Rheolwr/Manager – Barry Davies



CYNGOR GWYNEDD COUNCIL

Uned Morwrol a Pharciau Gwledig
Maritime and Country Parks Unit

LOCAL NOTICE TO MARINERS

Rhif-4-06-04-2020

Managing COVID-19

Following Government Guidance and Orders with regard to the Corona Virus COVID-19 outbreak in the United Kingdom, Gwynedd Council as the Competent Harbour Authority for the Harbour of Porthmadog and the Statutory Harbour Authority for the Harbours of Pwllheli, Abermaw (Barmouth) and Aberdyfi hereby give notice that with the exception of Registered and Certified commercial fishing vessel operators, all harbour operations, activities and vessel movements in the harbours of Porthmadog, Pwllheli, Abermaw (Barmouth) and Aberdyfi is suspended with immediate effect until further notice.

This notice also applies to the suspension of small Ferry operations.

No mooring operations are to be undertaken in any of the aforesaid harbours including the laying, picking up or maintenance of any mooring in harbour waters. Leisure fishing operations or activities are not permitted.

The launching, lifting, or recovery of any type of vessel, craft, boat, sailboard or any other type of apparatus able to utilise harbour waters is not permitted and all harbour slipways will remain closed until further notice.

Operators of Registered and Certified Commercial fishing vessels are advised to navigate with extreme caution when navigating in the channel approaches due to sudden and undetected movements in the course of the navigable channels.

Barry Davies

Maritime Officer
Cyngor Gwynedd
Pwllheli
LL53 5AA

01758 704066
07831 212264



3 Assess risk, Decide Controls - Actions and Risk assessments - in anticipation of Easing Of Restrictions

Sub-Groups to work on area and activity Risk Assessments:

Group/Sub-Group	Lead	Territory	Activities
CHIPAC	James Evans	Compound & Beach	Dinghy maintenance, beach launching
Dinghy Compound	Mark Thompson	Compound & Beach	Dinghy maintenance, beach launching
Pontoons	Mark Thompson	Plas Heli Pontoons	No boats on Pontoons at 27 th May



Back to Boating Task Force – Statement 31st May 2020

Welsh Government issued a Statement on Friday 29th May which in brief allows boating as a form of exercise, from Monday 1st June, subject to complying with current regulations. – [see here](#)

RYA Cymru Wales, the governing body for boating in Wales, published a Statement on Friday 29th May confirming the steps needed for our safe return to boating – [see here](#)

We believe that individuals as members of CHPSC who have dinghies in the Plas Heli compound can use their dinghies by launching on the Glan Don beach.

The Joint Task Group has worked through a risk assessment for this activity and has developed a 'protocol'. This protocol was approved by the Joint Task Group on 31st May and is to be effective for Monday 1st June.

The Joint Task Group has also considered the use of the Plas Heli pontoons, assessed the risk and developed a 'protocol'. This protocol was approved by the Joint Task Group on 31st May and is to be effective for Monday 1st June but is subject to the limitations imposed by the current Notice to Mariners dated 6th April which prohibits boat movements in the harbour. [See here.](#)

The Task Force considered it prudent and in-line with the advice given by RYA Cymru Wales to be prepared in readiness for the relaxation of restrictions.

It is hoped that Gwynedd Council, as the harbour authority, will follow the lead of many other Harbour Authorities by allowing boat movements in the harbour from Monday 1st June. This would, of course, be subject to all the regulations set out by Welsh Government.

The work of the Task Force is to ensure that our return to boating is achieved as soon as possible, in a safe, considerate, and responsible manner.

Back to Boating Task Force – Statement and update 6th July 2020

Stay local travel restrictions lifted today, but maximum of two households exercising together remains. It has been clarified by RYA Cymru Wales that this includes boats, if big enough to social distance at 2m

A new Notice to mariners will be published this week, and will be posted here

Further easing of restrictions are expected to be announced later this week.

The protocols have been updated





Coronavirus
COVID-19

STOP THE SPREAD

WELCOME BACK



**This club is following COVID-19
secure guidelines.**

**Please help us by following hygiene
and social distancing guidelines.**



**wash your
hands**



**respect social
distancing**



**check local
restrictions**

If you have any concerns, please contact a member of the committee.
The RYA supports Government guidelines to prevent spreading
of COVID-19 and minimise pressure on frontline services.

rya.org.uk



Plas Heli Cyf – “Back to Boating” Protocol – Use of the Compound for beach launch of dinghies and other small watercraft.



As of Monday 1st June, Plas Heli Cyf will open access to the compound, to members of **Clwb Hwyllo Pwllheli Sailing Club (CHPSC)**, **Clwb Hwyllo Ieuentid Pwllheli A'r Cylch (CHIPAC)**, **Clwb Rhwyfo Pwllheli** and the **Paddling Group**, who wish to sail, windsurf, canoe or paddleboard independently.

Note: This is not organised activity but use of watercraft for exercise.

This protocol must be followed alongside the government guidance to maintain social distancing.

Please read it carefully and check for updates as the situation develops. We hope that this allows you to make the most of the facilities at Plas Heli within the current regulations.

Please also note the following:

1. Our primary objective, in introducing this protocol, is Preventing the spread of covid-19.
2. Use of the facility is at your **own risk**. Your safety is **your responsibility**. The directors and staff of Plas Heli Cyf accept no liability for any injury/death/damage to persons or property as a consequence of using the facility. Note there are no safety boats, bridge or any organised safety supervision
3. Following this protocol is your responsibility. If this is not followed, access to the compound will need to be reviewed.
4. The definition of watercraft, are dinghies, canoes, rowing boats, kayak and windsurfers
5. This protocol should be read in conjunction with Back to Boating - Joint Task Force' Which contains links to the Welsh Government Regulations, RYA Cymru Wales Statement and the Local Notice to Mariners [here](#)

Accessing the Compound

- Only by current approved members of the user groups listed above, and those authorised by the Directors of Plas Heli Cyf
- The gate will remain closed at all times and must be secured by combination padlock. Please read this protocol in full, if you are happy to agree to these terms, you will be provided with the combination. The gate should be secured with the padlock whilst you are out on the water to prevent unauthorised access. Please do not pass on the combination codes. A nominated representative from each club will have these details and keep a log of members that the code is passed to.



- Members accessing the compound and Hub must bring sanitiser and use before and after using the combination lock/gate handles and Hub access handle and lock. These will not be cleaned by the Plas Heli Cyf at this time.
- Be aware of other users in the compound, minimise numbers of people entering the hub, and maintain social distancing etiquette with other compound users.
- Before visiting the compound, you must inform Plas Heli via email: access.log@plasheli.org with the names of all those visiting the compound for track and trace purposes. *(all personal details will be held and processed in accordance with Plas Heli Cyf published data protection policies)*

On Water Access

- No organised safety boat cover – watercraft users must be independent. Please check the forecast, carry appropriate safety equipment, and use a conservative approach.
- CHPSC recommend that dinghy sailing is carried out in groups of boats to allow for self-contained safety cover.
- Single hander sailing /rowing/Kayaking or crews from your household only, unless your vessel is big enough to social distance at 2m. You must be self-sufficient when launching & landing, unless able to comply with social distancing regulations.
- Plas Heli main building will be closed - No access to changing facilities – please arrive changed or change by your vehicle. Bring everything you need with you and take it all away, including any rubbish.
- Launching & landing,
 - Beach launching – The mat is not currently laid.
 - Trolleys must be removed from the water and left in a safe location that does not cause a hazard to the public.
 - Hosepipes will be available to washdown your watercraft, please take care to sanitise this after use.

. Opening hours:

- Gate access from 8.30am to 9pm

All protocols issued by Plas Heli Cyf and additional rules from your clubs must be observed at all times. The prevention of the spread of CV19, and compliance with Government Regulation is the prime consideration at this time. Any user not following these protocols, your club rules, and Government Regulation may be subject to measures that may include immediate suspension of access to the compound, and potential cancellation of your club membership.

Approved 31st May 2020



Plas Heli Cyf – “Back to Boating” Protocol – Use of the Pontoons

As of Monday 1st June, Plas Heli Cyf will open access to the pontoons, for Plas Heli Cyf Bertholders, and those authorised by the Directors of Plas Heli Cyf to access safety boats, and for maintenance of both boats and the facility itself. Consultation has taken place with the RYA and Local Authority. Use of the facility may be withdrawn without notice at any time subject to the direction of Welsh Government.



This protocol must be followed alongside the government guidance to maintain social distancing.

Please read it carefully and check for updates as the situation develops. We hope that this allows you to make the most of the facilities at Plas Heli within the current regulations.

Please also note the following:

1. Our primary objective, in introducing this protocol, is Preventing the spread of Covid-19.
2. Use of the facility is at your **own risk**. Your safety is **your responsibility**. The directors and staff of Plas Heli Cyf accept no liability for any injury/death/damage to persons or property as a consequence of using the facility. Note there are no safety boats, bridge or any organised safety supervision.
3. Following this protocol is your responsibility. If this is not followed, access to the pontoons will need to be reviewed.
4. This protocol should be read in conjunction with Back to Boating - Joint Task Force' Which contains links to the Welsh Government Regulations, RYA Cymru Wales Statement and the Local Notice to Mariners [here](#) and the General Terms and Conditions of Berthing, of your Berthing Agreement

Accessing the Pontoons

- Only by current approved Bertholders, and those authorised by the Directors of Plas Heli Cyf
- The Bridgehead gate will remain closed at all times and must not be forced or set to remain open in free flow.
- Please read this protocol in full, if you are happy to agree to these terms, you will be provided, via email the Keypad code, and a user agreement relating to this protocol
- Please do not pass on the Keypad code, those that are authorised to access the pontoons will be provided the code by a director Plas Heli Cyf or another authorised person.



- Berth Holder and Maintenance staff accessing the pontoons must bring sanitiser and use before and after using the Keypad. These will not be cleaned by Plas Heli Cyf at this time.
- Before visiting the pontoons, you must inform Plas Heli Cyf via email: access.log@plasheli.org with the names of all those visiting the pontoons for track and trace purposes. (all personal data will be held and processed in accordance with Plas Heli Cyf published data protection policies)
- Boat owners arranging contractors and marine service providers to work on boats, should ensure their details are emailed to access.log@plasheli.org

Pontoon Rules and Procedures

- Give way to people coming up the bridge, leaving the gate area clear
- Walk on the right of the walkways and pontoons, and where possible maintain social distancing etiquette with non-family members
- If you use the water supply, please sanitise the taps afterwards.
- When taking your vessel out, leave no equipment on the pontoons
- Where possible please return to your allocated berthing space
- If you are rafting up to a fellow Berthholder, access over the bows and minimise touching any parts of the boat you are rafting on. Its recommended that gloves are worn in this scenario.
- Please do not move other boats or change other boats warps without contacting Richard Tudor 07540 146284 or via email access.log@plasheli.org
- Plas Heli main building will be closed - No access to changing facilities – please arrive changed or change by your vehicle. Bring everything you need with you and take it all away, including any rubbish.

Opening hours:

- Bridge Head access from 8.30am to 9pm

All protocols issued by Plas Heli Cyf and to aid the prevention of the spread of CV19, and compliance with Government Regulation is the prime consideration at this time. Any user not following these protocols and Government regulation, will be subject to measures which may include suspension of access to the pontoons, and potential revocation of your berthing arrangements.

Approved 31st May 2020 – updated 6th July and 10th July

