



Llyn Clywedog

Lake

The lake is very deep, with steep banks around most of its shoreline.

The bank between the main slipway, past the small slipway and into the creek is less steep. When the water level is high launching and recovery is restricted to the two slipways. As the water level falls the whole of the sailing club shoreline forms a suitable launch / recovery and activity area [although it may be muddy until the surface dries off].

The banks at the upper end of The Creek are less steep, but the bottom is very soft and muddy, so it is best not to access the banks in low water.

There is a small beach diagonally, right, across from the small slipway. This is a good landing area, given favourable winds, as it has fine gravel and few large stones. As the water level drops, this beach provides an excellent activity area [i.e. for building rafts].

There are also shallower banks in the broad creek north of the clubhouse. Again, this is muddy as the water level drops, and there are rocky areas near the shore that pose a risk of grounding at lower water levels.

There is a small beach at the end of The Point. This is useable for landing as soon as the water level has dropped by over 1 metre. At high water the angle is shallow enough for canoes / kayaks to use this shore.

The western shore of the lake beyond the fishing jetty is shallow, but again can be muddy.

The areas beyond The Point heading towards the main dam, and the two upper arms of the lake beyond the old toilet block, are all out of bounds to boats / canoes / kayaks.

Whilst the surface layer can warm up in fairly still, warm conditions, the lake quickly cools when wind mixes the water. At depth the water will remain very cold all year, and the huge volume of water requires vast amounts of energy to heat up.

Approach & Conditions

The lake is approached down a steep track, and it is usually possible to see what the wind is doing as you come down from the farm.

Being surrounded by high hills, the lake can have gusty / shifty winds.

The cleanest wind is an Easterly, which blows from Bwlch y Gle Dan onto the sailing club shore. This wind can be difficult for novices returning to shore.

The prevailing wind is an offshore, blowing down the lake towards Bwlch y Gle. It generally gets stronger the further down the lake you get. There can be a little

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shelter on the point, but not always. The prevailing wind gives shelter on the club shore, but can give unpredictable winds close in as the gusts coming over the hill hit the surface and fan out across the water. There can also be funnelling effects out of the creek and in either direction in the narrows

Winds with a southerly or northerly aspect can be very shifty as they bend around the hills.

The strongest winds are often found on ‘Capsize Corner’, directly opposite the clubhouse, where the wind squeezes round the hill [it can also turn through 90 degrees here], and in The Narrows towards the fish farm, where it funnels through the narrowing gap. It can be 10 – 15 knots stronger as you go down The Narrows, or blowing in one direction at one end and the opposite direction at the other end.

The general principle of operating on the lake is:

- Look at what the wind is doing from your vantage point as you approach the lake.
- Measure the wind strength and direction at a number of points both in and beyond the area you plan to operate in.
- Monitor the conditions – they can change very quickly.
- Look at the water – dark patches racing down the lake towards you give you warning of a gust [often accompanied by a noticeable wind shift].
- Look at the clouds – storm clouds approaching should give you warning of what is coming.
- Clearly define your ‘safe’ area, and work well within it. Be aware of the conditions beyond your safe area.
- Don’t be afraid to change your plan if conditions change, or if you think your original plan isn’t correct.
- If you are not sure if the wind is too strong for what you have planned, it probably is! And if it isn’t now, it probably will be by the time you get out there.
- Unless you are experienced with the local conditions, and your group are experienced, be a little cautious.
- A good session is usually one where everyone comes back without injury and no kit is broken [although just because no-one is injured and nothing broken it doesn’t guarantee it is a good session].
- There are days when National Sailing Squad sessions are completely land based because the conditions afloat are unsuitable [there is an unacceptable risk of injury / damage, or the conditions mean nothing useful can be achieved] Brenin Adventures takes this same approach.

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Sailing Club

Clywedog Sailing Club is a private members club which Brenin Adventures has access. The use of the facilities in the clubhouse [Changing Rooms, Toilets, Seating, Kitchen], and access onto the water.

Brenin Adventures does not have sole access to which groups are onsite, the venue is still open to Club Members and there could also be other organisations using the site at the same time.

Changing Facilities

As the venue has public access (for members), when groups need to use the changing facilities Brenin Adventures aims to work around the other uses of the venue, so not to impact upon them. This may mean groups need to wait whilst a club member is getting changed. If the situation is unavoidable where members and groups will be changing at the same time; constant monitoring of the changing rooms will be done by Brenin Adventures instructors and visiting Staff. No pupil should be left by themselves in a changing room with a club member, this is for safeguarding both individuals.

Clubhouse

Instructors are to leave the clubhouse in a clean state at the end of a working day. The heating, water pump & system needs to be set for the correct time of year, all instructors are inducted in the process.

The kitchen area needs to be tidied if any of our groups have used the facilities, any items used must be washed, dried and put away in cupboards. Surfaces used also need to be clean.

Main room, if the weather conditions permit, groups will be encouraged to eat lunches outside. If we use the main lounge room at the end of lunch or end of the day the floors must be swept of all Brenin Adventures rubbish.

All Rubbish needs to be taken away at the end of the day. There is no waste facility at the club.

Boat Yard & Water Edge

No participants are to go onto the water or jetty without an instructor present and stating to do so.

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The boat yard is full of Members and Sailing Club equipment. Care must be taken around all of this equipment. Groups must be told which of the Brenin Adventures equipment can be handled and constant monitoring undertaken.

All correct lifting techniques must be undertaken and instruction given to groups. For example; canoes are extremely heavy, these may require a whole group of 10 primary students to carry 1 boat. Each group's requirements need to be assessed by the instructors on the day.