

## OCSG Meet Report for Bala 2024

Held at Pant Yr Onnen Campsite at Llangower near Bala, Wales and running from Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> to Friday 28<sup>th</sup> June 2024.

This was a midweek meet organised for Wednesday and Thursday although several came early or stayed on for the following weekend. There were 29 people in total, bringing 21 assorted boats; mostly sailing canoes with outriggers, 3 trimarans, some kayaks, a dinghy and even a paddle board.

Liz, the campsite owner made us very welcome and in spite of boilers breaking down, made sure we had all that we needed. Even though the site was at full capacity it was quiet and there was plenty of space, most of us camping near the spit with a fantastic lake view.

The promised warmer weather stayed with us for the first half of the week, bright sunny days and light breezes from various directions. Some of those arriving early enjoyed sailing without drysuits for the first time this year. Wednesday remained warm and sunny for our usual cruising day so groups formed to sail off for the day, either south or towards Bala with perhaps a café on the way. Two prospective new members were made welcome, one bringing an interesting skin on frame canoe and both with considerable sailing experience. I hope we shall see more of them at future meets.

The wind strengthened overnight bringing light rain showers and by Thursday morning it was apparent we would not be racing. At the 10am briefing we could see white topped waves in every direction and putting out a buoy would be difficult. 40 mph gusts were forecast for later so it was suggested that anyone wanting to try sailing in these conditions should go out early on. 3 sailors ventured out zipping around for short spells. One or two people departed for home, some went walking or into Bala, some worked on their boats or rigs and others had a restful day out of the wind.

Friday dawned dull and damp, unfortunate for those of us packing away tents but worth it for another enjoyable stay on this lovely campsite and some great sailing with friends.



Pete and Penny trying out their new rig.



Sunset over Llyn Tegid taken by Penny Oakley