Hurricanes Hit Halifax
Excitement at the Laser Worlds & Masters

Sail for Gold Weymouth
ISAF World Cup Finals

Conditions Challenge Sailors
World Laser Radials

European Laser Standards
Goodison & Buhl Win

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Hurricane Bill Hits Halifax
Paul Goodison Crowned Laser World Champion

St. Margaret's Bay didn’t disappoint on the first day of racing at the 2009 World Laser Standard Senior Championship. The Bay gave the world’s top sailors a small taste of what could come over the next seven days of racing. Hot, hazy conditions, with winds ranging from 18 to 20 knots and smooth two to three foot seas, provided absolutely perfect racing for the 169 athletes from 51 countries. One experienced, but retired Laser sailor said, “It was absolutely thrilling to watch these boat shapes and the differences around race marks with such practiced perfection.”

The day was not without its problems, however. There were four general recalls in the first race - and at least four gear failures. One failure included Paul Goodison (GBR), putting him in fifth place in his fleet and 16th overall after the first race. Things took a turn for the better for him in the second race, where he took a second to finish the day in sixth place overall. Top finishers after the first day of racing were Tonci Stipanovic (CRO) in the top spot, Nick Thompson (NZL) second, Clayton Johnson (USA) third, Bruno Fontes (BRA) in fourth and Philipp Buhl (GER) in fifth place.

Day two proved to be more exercise for the volunteers hauling race marks than for the athletes, as fog hanging over the outer reaches of St. Margaret’s Bay had the Race Committee making numerous course changes in an effort to find clear water. In addition to this, with US and Canadian Hurricane Centres predicting Hurricane Bill would brush the Nova Scotia coast on Sunday, the Race Committee moved the first race of the day to noon, in the hope that accommodating an extra race would enable them to get ahead of schedule in case a day of racing was cancelled by storm conditions.

It was not to be. Only one race was completed with two fleets managing to get in a quick race and the third fleet proving anxious. There were numerous general recalls for sailors crossing the line early and more than 20 sailors were black flagged. It took an hour and a half to get the fleet off, which prevented further starts. At the end of the day Stipanovic remained in the lead with Johnson in second and Thompson in third. Pavlos Kontides (CYP) moved to fourth, while Goodison also moved up to fifth.

Conditions were ideal for racing on day three. The exciting racing saw a change in the top athletes, as fog hanging over the water Monday, “It’s disappointing to lose two days of racing,” said event manager Duncan Enman. “It happens sometimes and just means we will try to get in more races in the next two days. Having a day without wind on St. Margaret’s Bay, this time of year, is almost unheard of.”

However, in true ‘Goldilocks’ style, the wind proved to be just right on day six. After one day with too much and one day with too little, the breeze returned, ranging from nine to 16 knots, meaning sailors could enjoy three well deserved and tough races after spending two days ashore.

In the gold fleet, Goodison took over first place, followed by Thompson in second and Michael Bullot (NZL) in third. Stipanovic dropped to fourth, while Alsogaray moved to fifth.

While a great day of racing had enthused the sailors, the arrival of Laser designer, Canadian Bruce Kirby, also inspired them. In the evening the competitors for the Masters portion of the Laser Worlds began to arrive, and St Margaret’s Bay saw mix of veteran and elite athletes milling around the Sailing Club.

“Forty years ago when I drew that first design,” said Kirby, “I had no idea what it would turn into. Never in my wildest dream did I expect the success that I see here today.”

A new Laser World Champion was crowned on the final day of racing. Goodison managed to hang on and take first place. Michael Bullot (NZL) took second, while Thompson was third.

“The final race was classic with Goodison and Bullot hunting each other at the start,” said event manager Duncan Enman. “It was a mesmerizing dance along the start line as each athlete tried to outplay the other. Amazing sailing, amazing sport, as one would expect at a World championship.”

For full results and more images, visit: www.laserinternational.org.
Tropical Storm Danny did little to deter sailors competing in this year’s World Laser Masters Championship in Halifax. Due to heavy rain, the opening ceremonies were postponed for a day. Then higher than forecast wind gusts overnight knocked out power to the St. Margaret Sailing Club when an event tent blew down and wrapped around a power line.

Undaunted, organizers set up an emergency generator to provide enough power to get the fleets organized and sailors on the water.

Finally, with a little patience, the sun came out and St. Margaret’s Bay showed promise. On the first day of competition, the winds started light, but then the Bay’s famous sea breeze kicked in with winds of up to 18 knots.

The Masters takes in many sailors who started sailing a few decades ago – before the one-person Laser was deemed an Olympic class – and haven’t found a reason to stop. Among the Canadians rigging up for the races were former Olympian Terry Neilsen, a former World Laser Champion, and Phil Gow, a Nova Scotian who represented Canada in the Sailing class in Barcelona in 1996.

Judy Lugar, a resident of St. Margaret’s Bay, was one of 20 women competing. “Any day sailing is a good day and today provided a nice, easy introduction to the Bay”, she exclaimed. “I’m just thrilled that the Worlds are here, in my home bay. I’ve sailed around the world and always thought nothing could compete with St. Margaret’s Bay. Now I have a chance to show the best sailors in the world what we have to offer.”

With the wind not coming in until mid-afternoon, the first race on day one didn’t get started until three and sailors weren’t off the water until seven in the evening.

Sailing at St. Margaret’s Bay is not for the faint of heart. Under sunny skies, but shifty winds, it was again mid-afternoon before the race committee could get the first race off on day two. It meant for the second day in a row, athletes were on the water for more than six hours.

An offshore shifty wind with speeds of six to 15 knots made for a good day of racing on day three and all fleets completed two races.

After a rest day on day four, five day five proved to be one of the best days of sailing yet. “There were a lot of smiles out there today,” said Gerry Giffin, president of the Canadian Yachting Association and a competitor. “This is what people came here for, some great days of racing.”

Day six was again a perfect day for sailing. With sun and with a steady breeze of 16 to 18 knots, it was a day to test endurance, skill and strength.

Day seven of the competition proved disappointing because of the lack of a steady wind to set courses and racing was abandoned, but all fleets had completed ten races in the regatta.

“It’s a disappointing last day,” admitted event manager Duncan Enman, “but both the Seniors and Masters had some incredible racing days on St. Margaret’s Bay.”

The results of the seven categories in the Masters (the Apprentice, Master and Grand Master in the Laser Standard rig; and the Apprentice, Master, Grand Master and Great Grand Master in the Laser Radial rig) were as follows.

**Laser Standard Apprentice:**

At the end of day one, the top finishers were Adonis Bougiouris (GRE), followed by Brett Beyer (AUS) in second and Orlando Gledhill (GBR) in third. These sailors kept their positions until day three, when Stewart Casey (AUS) bumped Gledhill off third place. Day five saw Gledhill regain his position back in third. Bougiouris, Beyer and Gledhill remained in the top three for the remainder of the championship, resulting in Bougiouris taking the Laser Standard Apprentice title from last year’s champion Beyer, who took second and Gledhill finishing third, up from his fourth place in 2008.

**Laser Standard Masters:**

Andrew Pimental (USA) was in first place at the end of day one, with Arndt Hummel (NED) in second and Peter Vessella (USA) in third. The leaderboard changed on day two with Scott Ferguson (USA) coming in first, hometown favourite Andy Roy in second and Ari Barshi (DOM) in third. It continued to be a tight race with the top ten sailors within seven points of each other. At the end of day three, Hummel had moved to first, with Ferguson in second and Roy in third. On day five, Ferguson took the bullet in the gold fleet, while Hummel came in second, and Pimental third. Ferguson kept his commanding lead over chief rival Hummel to take the title, with Hummel in second, while Ferguson’s club-mate Pimental ended the championship in third. Last year’s champion, Jan Scholten (AUS), finished on fifth place.

**Laser Standard Grand Masters:**

Wolfgang Gerz (GER) dominated the fleet and ended the championship taking the title from defending champion Mark Bethwaite (AUS), who came in second. There was a battle for third place. Alan Keen (RSA) took the third spot after day one, but was pushed off the podium by Robert Lowndes (AUS) on day two. Keen regained his third place on day three and managed to stay ahead of the rest of the pack for the remaining races, taking third at the end of the championship.

**Laser Radial Apprentice:**

The Apprentice division was dominated by athletes from the southern hemisphere. Richard Bott (AUS) took the bullet on day one, followed by Scott Leith (NZL) in second with country mate Edmund Tarn in third. Day two saw Grant Willmott (AUS) move into first, while Tarn moved up to second and Bott moved down to third place. Day three saw another move in the top three, with Bott regaining the top spot by pushing Wilmott into third while Leith moved back into second. At the end of the championship, Bott took the title, with Leith in second and Wilmott finishing third.

**Laser Radial Masters:**

Carlos Eduardo Wanderley (BRA) came first on day one with Australians Greg Adams and Vanessa Dudley in second and third. The leaderboard stayed the same for the remaining races, with Joao Ramos (BRA) stealing third from Dudley. The top three remained in their positions until the end of the championship, which saw Wanderley take the title.

**Laser Radial Grand Masters:**

There was plenty of movement in this fleet and a battle for the top spot raged between Rob Koci (CAN) and defending champion Peter Heywood (AUS). Koci took the bullet on day one, followed by Peter Whipp (GBR) in second and Heywood in third. On day two, Heywood moved up to first, while Alison Shattuck (NZL) took second and Bruce Jones (NZL) third. On day three, Koci again claimed the top spot, pushing Heywood in second and Shattuck down to third. On day five, Heywood again claimed the lead, while Koci, Pridham and Ian Rawet, both from Great Britain, moved to second and third place. These sailors kept their positions until the end of the championship, which saw Heywood keep his title.

**Laser Radial Great Grand Masters:**

Michael Kinnear (GBR) started well and took first place on day one, with Kerry Waraker (AUS) and Sandy Grigg (NZL) following him into second and third. The sailors kept their positions at the top of the leaderboard until day three, when Peter Seidenberg (USA) took first place. Waraker remained in second, while Kinnear moved down to third. These three positions were held by Seidenberg, Waraker and Kinnear for the remainder of the event. At the end of the championship, Seidenberg took the title for the fourth year in a row.

For full results, daily reports and more images, please visit www.laserinternational.org.
LaserWorld December 2009

**Goodison & Buhl Dominate in Sweden**

European Laser Standard Senior & Youth Championships

Heavy thunder and rain welcomed the start of the European Laser Standard Youth and Senior Championships at the Borstahusen Yacht Club, Landskrona. With wind speeds starting at six knots and increasing to 14 to 16 knots, the conditions were dramatic. However, the spirits of the 243 competitors were not dampened and both races planned for the first day were eventful.

The tone of the Senior championship was set early on with the battle for the lead being fought by top sailors Tom Slingsby (AUS) and Paul Goodison (GBR). Slingsby ended day one at the top of the leaderboard, after scoring a fifth and a first. Goodison had a bad start with a black flag in the first race, but managed to recover by finishing eighth in the second race.

Among the Youth, Filip Matika (CRO) led the way after a second and a first place, together with Pelt Gjs (NED), with a first and a second. Sailors awoke to brilliant sunshine on day two, however light winds varying from four to ten knots forced the organizers to change both the Seniors and Youth courses several times before the first race. The light breeze also caused problems for the sailors on the start line, with several black flags.

Goodison showed his skill by coming first in both races, which saw him shoot to the top of the leaderboard with ten points. Javier Hernandez (ESP) also had a good day and, after a fourth and a third, he moved to second on the leaderboard, also with ten points. Slingsby did not have a good first race and discarded his 20th place. However, with a fifth in the second race, he ended the day in third place on 11 points.

There were changes at the top of the Youth leaderboard on day three. Michal Gryglewski (POL) moved from third to first with 12 points after scoring two second places. Buhl moved from fourth to second with 15 points after coming first in the last race. Matika came eighth in the first race and, despite discarding his 20th place in the second race, he lost his spot at the top of the leaderboard and moved down to fifth with 29 points.

The final day of qualifiers was another day of changes in the rest of the fleet. Pavlos Kontides (CYP) shot up the board from tenth to second with 54 points after a first and a sixth. Slingsby moved up to third with 57, while Hernandez moved up to fourth. Slingsby had two 13th places and slipped down to fifth place.

The Youth course had the windward mark in an area without much current, but many eager participants were over the line resulting in black flags. Buhl kept his lead with a total of 31 points, despite a fifth in the first race and a 50th (discarded) in the second. Wojtzech Zemke (POL) had a good day discarding his 45th in the first race and coming second in the race two. He ended the day in second, just 13 points behind Buhl.

Pelt remained in third on 45, while Karl-Martin Rammo (EST) won both races and shot up to fourth, just one point behind. Gryglewski slipped further down the leaderboard and ended the day on fifth after scoring a 25 and 51 (discarded).

Despite thunder at the beginning of the last day of the championships, the sun continued to shine. The wind came from the South, blowing an average four to five knots, but a 40 degree windshift and decreasing wind at the end meant the second race was cancelled. Gryglewski died completely and the thunder returned.

Goodison discarded his 20th place and was declared champion of both the European Laser Standard Senior Trophy and European Laser Standard Senior Championship 2009 with a total of 22 points. With three first places, two seconds and a third it was a well deserved win.

With a third place in the day’s race, Slingsby advanced from third to take second in the Trophy, 21 points behind Goodison.

Hernandez came second in the race and ended the day on 46 points, which resulted in him coming second overall in the European Championship and third overall in the Trophy. Kontides discarded his 55th to come third in the European Championship and fourth in the Trophy with 54 points. After leading the Youths for several days, Buhl was crowned champion with 32 points. Pelt was second on the podium with 62 points, while Zemke was just one point behind him in third. Rammo had a very impressive championship with three first places and a total of 67 points, seeing him end in fourth.

Robert Holmes (GBR) won the Under 19 event with 98 points, with Alex Mills-Barton (GBR) in second with 110 and, with 132 points, Ricardo Montemayor (MEX) in third.

Full results, daily reports and images can be found at www.laserinternational.org.
First, we looked at our objectives for 2010 and the following years. Our main objective is to increase the ILCA membership from currently around 16,000 to 20,000 members within the next two years. It is obvious that this objective can only be realised by hard work in the Districts. Experience has shown that two elements are essential: a strict, but friendly control of the membership at all regattas and a successful support program for the 4.7 rig and youth sailing. The membership control needs some organisational effort. District/ fleet officers responsible for the control need to be named and have the courage to cope with non-members at the regatta. The main argument is the one of solidarity. The class is run by volunteers, but there are some expenses to be covered like, for example, newsletters, training camps, prizes etc.

The ILCA office was charged to develop a number of concrete programs for these countries.

Another concern of the World Council is the development of activities in countries, which are not part of a Region. The ILCA office was charged to develop a number of concrete programs for these countries.

In a number of countries the Laser 4.7 has had an impressive development during the last few years. In these countries it has become the most attractive class to continue regatta sailing after the Optimist. This also applies to the Laser 4.7 fleet in the UK. It is planned that the Laser 4.7 will not become over time an "old men" boat only – as it has happened with so many classes in the past. Some other countries still lag behind the Laser World Council therefore asked the Regions and the builders concerned to work together to develop the growth of the Laser 4.7 in these countries.

I wish you and your families Merry Christmas and a happy 2010.

President's Report

Our class President, Heini Wollmann, gives a summary of decisions made at the World Council Meeting, which was held in Halifax, Canada on August 27th 2009.

### Accounts

#### 2008

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The 2009/2010 ISAF World Cup kicks off in Australia, with the Sail Melbourne regatta starting on 14 December 2009 and followed by Rolex Miami on 24 January. Full details of all ISAF World Cup events can be found at www.sailing.org.
Anticipation was high for the World Laser Radial Men and Youth sailors who completed registration and measurement procedures at Karatsu, Japan. The wind was predicted to be strong at the beginning of the week, with a period of rain and lighter winds likely later in the week. The weather prediction was correct and there were superb sailing conditions at Karatsu on the first day, with warm sun, 20 knot North Northeastly winds, a choppy sea and building swell. It was daunting conditions for some of the less experienced sailors and some scored DNF for being over the time limit. However, the experienced sailors had a wonderful day with real gains to be made on the reaches and runs.

Ashley Stoddart (AUS) had a win in race one and a second in race two, ending the day as overall leader of the Radial Youth Girls’ fleet. Mathilde de Kerangat (FRA) followed her closely with a third in race one and a very convincing win in race two. Alexandra South (AUS) ended the day in third place after a second and a seventh. Comfortably in second place in race two, South capsized rounding the last mark before a short beat to the finish. However, the mummery paid off and eight good races were sailed. The day was an opportunity for those sailors to show their skills and sail in both races. The yellow fleet was much more mixed with Tobias Kirschbaum (NED) having a second and third, Filip Kobielski (POL) with a win, Arian (IRL) second and third in both races. The yellow fleet was much more mixed with Tobias Kirschbaum (NED) having a second and third, Filip Kobielski (POL) with a win, Arian (IRL) second and third. The day ended with sunshine and light breezes, it was a beautiful day on the water, despite some rain ashore in the hills.

The first race for each of the four fleets was sailed in five to eight knots and the second in 12 to 15 knots. Arian had another consistent day to maintain his lead in the yellow fleet. Rudawski consolidated his big lead in the Men’s fleet, finishing the race and move into second place and maintained the lead to win the race with Cheol Seo Dong (KOR) in second. Kirschbaum maintained third place and Chris Penney (IRL) moved up from tenth to fourth just one point behind Kirschbaum. Kobielski had a huge lead in race three of the Yellow Fleet but received a yellow flag and had to retire.

The lead changed in the Youth Girls with de Kerangat taking her third bullet to top the leaderboard with an impressive win in the second race. Stoddart ended day three in second place, with Michelle Katsios (GRE) in third on 18 points. Stoddart and South were convincing leaders in the Under 17 award, with first and second places, respectively.

In the Men’s fleet, race five results reflected the light conditions with the top two sailors down in the results. Giacomo Sabbatini (ITA) won the race with Cheol Sea Dong (KOR) in second. However, Rudawski continued to dominate the fleet with a win in race six to continue as overall leader. Koppelaar had an OCS in race six but continued to hold second place, 14 points behind Rudawski. Mocht Romzi Muhamad (MAS) moved into third place with the two big movers of the day, Insub Kim (KOR) in fourth place and Sabbatini in fifth.

Poland was also dominant in the Youth Boy’s with Arian first overall, leading by 17 points. There was a close battle for the next three positions with Matej Valic (SLO) second on 23 points and Alexios Katsios (GRE) in third on 24 points. The light winds certainly brought some changes in positions with Christopher Jones (AUS) moving up to sixth place from 12th and Keerati Bualong (THA) into seventh from 23rd.

In the boys Under 17 Fleet, Philip Doran (IRL) led the way, with Nevin Snow (USA) second and Loughead in third. Despite a difficult start with low cloud, poor visibility and little wind, which delayed racing by half an hour, day four was another fantastic day of sailing. Two races were sailed for each fleet with the first race sailed in light winds of seven to ten knots and the second in 12 to 15 knots. The sun was shining and the seas were light. Arian had another consistent day to maintain his lead in the Youth Boys by 17 points from Bualong. Bualong had a second win to move into third place, while Nikolas Chrtos (GRE) moved into fourth place with a second and third. Josh Porebski (NZL) moved into seventh place with an impressive win in the second race of the yellow fleet. Visic won the first race in the blue fleet while Snow took over the lead in the Under 17 group.

In the Youth Girls, South took two bullets to move into third place. However, first and second place were still held by de Kerangat and Stoddart, both of whom sailed consistently with a second and third each. Stoddart also continued to lead the Under 17 group.

Rudawski consolidated his big lead in the Men’s competition with only one place outside.
the top three in eight races. Koppelaar was 19 points behind, but had a 13 point buffer over Romzi Muhamad who lay in third. Nagai had his second win of the regatta to move into sixth place overall.

Sunshine, 14 to 18 knots and choppy seas greeted the sailors on day five. Rudawski

With some concern that there may be too much wind for sailing on the final day of racing, there was a sense of urgency to get good results in the Youth Boys. Arian maintained his 17-point advantage at the head of the Gold Fleet. There were significant changes in the other placings with Bualong moving up one place to second. However the biggest mover was Visic who shot up the leaderboard from 22nd to third. Kobieliski climbed from 14th to fourth, only one point behind Visic, after two wins.

There was little change in the top placings in the Youth Girls’ fleet, with de Kerangat holding a four point advantage over Stoddart. Sabbatini moved to fourth, overtaking Agraflit, who had an impressive first and second.

In the Men’s fleet, Koppelaar nearly ruined his chances of second with an OCS in the first race of the final championship day. However, he kept calm and finished second in the last race to hold second by four points from Kim. Sabbatini left his run too late but still came away with two wins, ending the championship in ninth.

The Youth Boys championship went down to the wire and was won on countback by Bualong, who snatched the winning spot from Arian after he scored a disappointing 17th in the last race. Kobieliski’s consistent sailing paid off and he took third place on the podium. The Under 17 group was won by Doran followed by fellow countryman Loughead in second and Snow in third.

The Youth Girls’ championship was decided on the last race, where de Kerangat used the conditions well to finish in third and win the championship by three points over Stoddart. Michelle Broekhuizen (NED) finished third overall with consistent results of fourth and sixth. Marie Bolou (FRA) and Soufia Ben-horin (ISR) both had their first wins of the regatta and finished sixth and eighth (respectively) on the leaderboard.

The Under 17 fleet was dominated by Australia with Stoddart in first and Second in second. Momo Tada (JPN) took third.

Full results, daily reports and images can be found at www.laserinternational.org.

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www.laserinternational.org
Neil Dunkley looks at the history of sailing in Thailand

There is no better time to be involved in dinghy and Laser racing in Thailand than right now. This past summer 17-year old Keerati Bualong scored a sixth in the 29th Volvo ISAF World Championships in Brazil and then bettered that great result by winning the Laser Radial Youth World Championship in Japan, beating the world’s best.

In the Optimist class, which has been the backbone of youth sail training in Thailand for many years, 13-year old Noppakao Poopan became the girls’ Optimist World Champion finishing fourth overall at this year’s Worlds in Brazil. As quoted afterwards in the Brazilian press ‘the winds dance in the Bay of Niteroi had found the ballerina to the star performance - Noppakao Poopan - as she displayed incredible boat handling skills to master the tricky conditions’. In the same regatta the Thai Optimist team won Bronze in the total nation team scores behind Brazil and Malaysia.

At a ceremony held at Government House, Bangkok recently, the Laser and Optimist teams’ achievements were honoured by Prime Minister Abhasit Vejjajiva, the young sailors having brought credit to the Kingdom in the world of yachting and Thai sport.

So how can this success be achieved in two of the most hotly contested classes in the dinghy sailing world, with so few sailors and so few resources available to them? Unlike many large competing nations which have national squads, large budgets, endless types of professional coaches and selection trials in many different locations in their respective countries, the Thai team has very limited funds, no travellers circuit, only a handful of local coaches and a youthful but small national sailing squad!

Credit has to go to the Yacht Racing Association of Thailand and the Royal Thai Navy who together have developed a recipe for success

for bringing on young local sailors to the highest international standards. The great enthusiasm and dedication of the young sailors and the hours of on the water training they put in every week make up for lack of resources.

Of course dinghy racing is not new to Thailand – its roots are deep. In 1963, King Bhumibol was rowing off the Klai Kangwol Palace in Hua Hin when he was passed by Prince Bhisajet sailing along very slowly. Upon arriving back at the beach the King examined the Prince’s boat and thought there must be a quicker way of sailing it. That started the interest and together they built a number of boats in a room at the Chitrlada Palace in Bangkok using the Palace moat as their testing waters. The King built a succession of OKs and Enterprises, with one OK being sailed by himself across the Gulf of Thailand some 64 nautical miles. The rudder from this OK has been, and still is, the subject of a challenge trophy raced for each year under the auspices of the Royal Varuna Yacht Club.

On the 16th December 1967, sporting history was made in Thailand when the King was awarded the gold medal at the South East Asia Peninsular Games (now the SEA Games) sailing his OK number 27. In honour of this occasion Thailand still celebrates National Sports Day every year on this date. In recognition of the King’s prowess as a dinghy sailor and his great contributions to sport, the International Olympic Committee bestowed the ‘Insignia of the Olympic Order’ upon the King – the only reigning Monarch to receive such an honour.

Pivotal to dinghy racing in Thailand is the Royal Varuna Yacht Club (RVYC) – situated in South Pattaya, around 140 km from the Thai capital Bangkok and 1½ hours drive from its new Suvarnabhumi airport. The Club, which was founded in 1957 and moved to its current location in 1967, was once the popular sailing ground of the Thai Royal Family and was given Royal patronage in 1965. Due to Thailand’s beautiful all year round climate, racing is conducted every weekend of the year with junior sailing very much a part of the programme, run by their coaches from their junior clubhouse.

The RVYC stands within its own private grounds and has a beachside swimming pool. Its private sandy beach is sheltered from the prevailing northerly and south westerly winds, making launching safe and easy. Palm fringed offshore islands with beautiful beaches some eight to ten kilometres away make for some great racing for all classes sailed at Royal Varuna. There is nothing better than relaxing with a good beer after a round the islands marathon, watching the sun set over the islands, followed by a great BBQ and more beers at the perfectly positioned beach bar.

The Club is already well known to many classes who have held their world and Asian championships there. Most notably Lasers have held their Pacific and World Masters Championships at Royal Varuna together with the Enterprise and Fireball classes. The Asian Byte CII and Optimist Championships are a continual feature to the clubs international calendar, and the Hobie Asian Championships were sailed there in 2008.

2010 sees Royal Varuna hosting a number of international Laser events:

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<th>Event</th>
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<td>Asia Pacifics</td>
<td>27 Feb 2010 – 5 Mar 2010</td>
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<tr>
<td>Asia Pacific Laser Masters</td>
<td>6 Mar 2010 – 12 Mar 2010</td>
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<td>Laser 4.7 Worlds</td>
<td>31 Mar 2010 – 8 Apr 2010</td>
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A multitude of sailing opportunities together with an idyllic setting, unrivalled conditions and superb shore side facilities make the Royal Varuna a true haven for dinghy sailors looking for a relaxing home from home. So far it’s been a well kept secret. We fear we may well have let the cat out of the bag! Just be warned: once you arrive at the Club you’ll find it very hard to leave!

Of course the 2012 Weymouth Olympics are very much on the mind of the top sailing officials in Thailand. For sure the local sailors will not be resting on their well earned laurels; they will be hard at work every day with their coaches and don’t be surprised to see them competing more overseas and gaining more honours for their country.

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