



# the Venturer

Newsletter of the **North West Venturers Yacht Club**  
Gallows Point, Beaumaris, Anglesey, LL71 8EJ

## Events

- Sat 25th Feb 2012      ABC Discount hour 5:30 - 6:30. See Dave Clough for discount voucher
- Sat 25th Feb 2012      Evening Social Event - guest speaker is Mr Will Williams from Holyhead Coastguard
- Sat 31st March 2012      Start of Season Working Party.  
New Members Forum (4pm)  
2nd ABC Discount hour 5:30 - 6:30.
- Sat 31st March 2012      Start of Season Party — with North Wales Cruising Club.

## Commodore's Corner

We seem to be having a mild winter up here in North Wales this year – certainly milder than in other parts of the country. So hopefully we can look forward to some decent weather when it comes to launch time. It's almost at the point where you need to start panicking about launching, especially as short February draws to a close. I plan to start panicking mid-March. A development this year at Gallows Point is the new launch facility offered by ABC. It will be interesting to see what difference this makes to the usual clamour getting our boats scheduled in for launching.

An inspirational talk by Derek and Jean Lumb earlier in the year left me impressed by how much value they were getting from their boat. Where a lot of us are content to re-visit old haunts and keep to the tried and tested routes, Jean and Derek are taking the sailing life by the horns and doing stuff that sounds both daunting and rewarding. The pie and pea lunch provided by the Beaumaris Central bakery was once again well received.

We have a vacancy in the club for a new Honorary Bosun. This job possibly involves fat cat bonuses, and the wheeler dealing involved will require Del-boy levels of business acumen. It's a vital post so anyone who fancies a go at it please contact one of the committee, or the outgoing Bosun, David Clough.

Finally, it leaves me to recommend the rest of the Winter events – notably a chance to stock up on whatever it is that ABC sell – great anti-foul discounts followed by a evening social. Incredibly, there is also a chance to visit the RNLI and Coastguard based at Holyhead. A chance to see the faces behind the silky tones broadcast on channel 16!

*Glen Warburton*

## What's Inside?



Discount Hour specials from ABC on:

- ⇒ Sat 25th Feb
- ⇒ Sat 31st March

**Time to varnish that woodwork Colin. Chris Hynes previews April's sailing programme — see Page 2**




RYA North West Region

REGIONAL CRUISING  
CONFERENCE  
WARRINGTON  
10 MARCH 2012



**See page 7 for details of RYA Regional Cruising Conference**



How about this for the Club Water Taxi?

Last September's Boat Show - see page 5

## Vice Pudding

Well here we are in 2012 and I as your Vice Commodore, a role in which I will do my best to serve you well.

In March, prior to the commencement of our sailing season and on the same day as the Start of Season Party, we are holding our New Members Forum at 16.00hrs on Saturday 31<sup>st</sup>. This is a very informal meeting which generally lasts an hour or so and which gives our new members the opportunity to meet many of the committee and learn what the club has to offer. If you are a new member, please do come along, we do have quite a lot to tell you but I can promise we won't bore you to death. It is also a good opportunity for you (and us) to put faces to names and for you to raise any questions you may have. Following this we hope you will stay for our Start of Season Party which kicks off at 18.00hrs, we will hopefully be hosting one of our neighbouring clubs - the North Wales Cruising Club and there will be food and drinks available at fraction of bar and restaurant prices.

April sees the start of our sailing season and I have no doubt we have all got our fingers and toes crossed for fairer winds and weather than that we all had to endure last year. For the very organised, here's what we have to offer in April

**APRIL 6TH** For the brave and not too worried about what the weather may throw at them we have a mini cruise to Aberdaron with Lee Downes as your officer of the day. Aberdaron is the Lands End of Wales and boasts magnificent views of Snowdonia, beautiful sandy beaches and some of the best weather Wales has to offer (according to the brochure). Lee will update you with all the sailing details nearer the time, I would advise you be prepared by packing your shorts and sun glasses etc.

For those who have not yet stocked their boat with the necessary Fray Bentos tinned pies and peas (not to mention beer & spirits), a short trip to Victoria Dock is also arranged with your officer of the day Paul Mountford. No doubt there will be plenty of socialising in the evening perhaps at a local restaurant or maybe the chippy and very possibly a jar or two later at the Royal Welsh Yacht Club.

**APRIL 14TH** Another short trip through Puffin Sound to anchor at Moelfre. Don't forget to pack your portable/disposable BBQ's in case of an early heat wave. Failing this, the Anchorage does very decent pub grub at a reasonable price, or, you could hone your home cooking skills and cook on board – the choice is yours.

Officer of the day for this one is John Bowles

**APRIL 21ST** By now, the weather should be perking up. Pen Y Parc this weekend and the first of our club races – the Trilogy Trophy. Dave Clough is the officer of the day for this. Racing is not compulsory, you can go along for the cruise and sail at your own pace. The beach @ Pen Y Parc is lovely and sandy and it's an ideal place for a bbq or picnic.

**APRIL 28TH** One of my favourite anchorages, Llanddwyn Island. Your officer of the day is Ian Hynes (hubby) although it's more than likely it'll be my voice you'll hear over the radio since I do all the talking at home J. By now, we will hopefully be basking in hot sunshine and as I write I can almost smell the sausages on the bbq.

Writing this has at the end of January has got rid of my winter blues and I am now very much looking forward to the coming season and to seeing you all on the water.

Chris Hynes  
Vice Commodore

### RNLI Fish and Chips

Beaumaris RNLI will be holding their annual Fish and Chip supper in the Gallows Point clubhouse on Thursday evening, 8th March.

Would all members try to leave the clubhouse clean and free of excess clutter or other miscellaneous chandlery for them.

Thanks.

Alison Pattinson  
Rear Commodore

### 50 Club winners

Recent winners were:

#### **December**

- 1st – David and Pam White - £50
- 2nd – Derek Lumb - £20
- 3rd – David and Pam White - £15

#### **January**

- 1st – Ed and Margaret Hopkinson - £50
- 2nd – Des and Linda Founds - £20
- 3rd – Kath Hyde - £15

## View from the Rear

Venturers were out in force for our first social event of 2012 lured by the promise of puddings, pies and a trip to the Baltic!

Almost 60 members turned up on a damp Saturday evening and munched their way through 65 steak pies and 15 cheese and onion pasties. These locally made pies were served with mushy peas, red cabbage and rather oddly, beetroot. In my defence, the labels on the jars did look the same!

And despite cooking 6 kilos of peas, we still ran out. Without drawing breath Venturers dived into a delicious array of home made puddings and cakes ranging from a healthy post-Xmas fruit salad through to cheese-cake, pavlova, French plum tart, rhubarb crumble, caramel cake, chocolate cakes, cream and custard. Thank you to all those members who contributed; you know who you are. The Galley Crew co-ordinated the catering perfectly and after many helping hands in the sinks, we filled the room to listen to Derek and Jean who inspired us with an account of their trip to the Baltic Sea in summer 2011.

With Tess fully pet- passported and rabies- vaccinated, "Whispered Secret" cruised from the River Deben across to Belgium, through the Dutch Canals, north to the Frisian Islands and coastal Germany then through the Kiel Canal to the Baltic coast ready for summer 2012. It was a fascinating account of a cruising area so

different to the Irish Sea. Jean peppered their talk with extracts from Erskine Childers' "Riddle of the Sands" and from Griff Rhys Jones's amusing book "To the Baltic with Bob". I hope they had some decent Pilot books as well!

In recognition of Derek and Jean's achievements, the clubhouse tables were decorated with national flags from Germany, Netherlands, Belgium and Denmark. However, it was rather worrying that some members had no idea which countries were represented....don't follow them on a Club cruise!

The January social was my first event as your Rear Commodore and my grateful thanks go to the Social committee and all those other individuals who helped and supported my efforts. It was good to see a full house of Venturers.

Our young members and our more 'seasoned' members all seems to enjoy the evening and everyone can't wait to be "messaging about in boats" in 2012!

On a final note, if you can't find information about the socials on the website Event Noticeboard, then try looking in the blog instead which is where my postings are at the moment.

*Alison Pattinson  
Rear Commodore*

## NWVYC Web Site

Since we lost Carolyn Warburton as 'webmaster' about a year ago, we had to rely on Glen for emergency maintenance for over half the year. I started to build a new site in September. In its first month (December) it received around 128,000 hits (not sure I believe that figure, but Google Analytics says it's so). 120 of the Club's 180 members "signed up" - more than half using the PayPal facility to pay their subscriptions.

Much of the content is similar to that in the old site. The aim was to use updated technology to make the site easier to maintain (and hopefully to use). Drop down Menus simplify navigation with forums (see under 'Events') for planning impromptu weekends, exchanging ideas etc . If you have ideas for other topics, just make a suggestion.

To update your membership details, pay subscriptions, find out who is applying to become a member and see Committee Minutes and other documents you need to register (sign up) using any valid email address. A firewall

stops you from seeing more sensitive information until your details have been checked against the Club database.

There are, of course, some teething problems; in particular some Smart phones (Apple) – cannot use the menu system! So a sidebar has been added which makes it possible for these devices to navigate around the site.

Pages can be moved or added within minutes without expert web knowledge, as those using the site over the last couple of weeks will have seen. The "Cruise Planning" pages were not being accessed – so they were moved to the top level. This means that ideas to develop the site can be acted upon quickly. The site has lots of opportunities to provide feedback and I would like to hear from anybody who has suggestion for additional material – or who would like to volunteer to moderate one or more of the forums.

*Ralph Morris.*

## Dark stormy night in the Western Approaches

Have you noticed that the summer of 2011 seems to have been dominated by NW winds, and strong? Certainly in SW Cornwall, where we keep our cutter-rigged Victoria 34 Anitra on the Helford River, NW strong winds have been pretty constant. Fine for sailing to Brittany, which saw us to Ushant in July.. but then the return... we waited in cold, rainy L'AberWrach for days for a wind change and time was running out. Eventually we got an un-forecast SW wind early one morning: not ideal timing, as we would arrive in darkness to the unlit Helford, but we reckoned we could always proceed to fully-lit Falmouth and then return to Helford the next morning.

So we set out into the misty SW4, out past the Libenter Buoy and rocks seething with swell from so much wind, and up Channel, making excellent progress at 6-7knts for many hours. By 7pm we were about 40 miles S of the Lizard, hoping to make landfall by midnight. But suddenly the wind dropped and shifted to N in a matter of a few minutes, and then equally suddenly strengthened to F6; we had hardly time to reduce sail, pulling down our hanked-on staysail and then trying to furl part of the yankee as the wind strengthened further. The yankee sheets twisted themselves irrevocably around the staysail halyard, clipped to the deck rail, rendering both sails unusable.. and there was no possibility of sorting out the Gordian knot of rope overhead from the bucking foredeck. With mainsail only set, we had therefore to resort to the engine and to plough into the ever strengthening headwind.

Even at 60 degrees to the wind, and off course, the boat tossed like a wild horse, the bows plunging into green water above the steaming light, and Scott succumbed to an all-embracing seasickness. He became unable to do anything except lie down below. This was wholly unexpected, and we had no seasickness remedies on board to address this unprecedented situation. It became clear that we were facing many hours of very uncomfortable motion, effectively single handed in darkness through heavy shipping lanes.

I wondered about turning back to Brittany.. but we were most of the way across.. if I steered a course best to windward, I worked out that this would land me in Portsmouth or alternatively, Nova Scotia.. neither seemed ideal!

So, with heavy reliance on autohelm and chartplotter, I kept a watch across the two-lane highway of container ships, fishing boats, ferries and cruise liners out and into the Channel as I tacked to keep heading roughly North straight into the wind. One cruise ship, lit like a Christmas tree, crossed my track so close that I could

see people of a certain age (mine!) sipping wine at dining tables in the saloon..I wondered if they had the slightest idea that there was a woman like them, but battling with wind and waves and shipping, water cascading overhead from stem to stern, but I suspect nobody on board even saw me. The wind was now North F7. Then I picked up the Lizard light, and soon after, the Eddystone: it is remarkable that the actual physicality of lights is still so reassuring, even if they are well noted on a flickering electronic screen. Slowly the darker outline of the Cornish coast began to appear, and as I came within the shelter of the Lizard, even the seas began to abate.

Ironically we were not to have any problem about the dangers of darkness in approaching the Helford River. At about 5.30am, as the sky began to lighten, Scott began to recover as a clear horizon became discernable and the waves eased. I had then been single-handing for 8 hours so was very happy for him to take over for a while. We came into the Helford entrance at 8.30am, picked up our mooring, pulled down the mainsail and slept until 2pm. When we emerged, the people on the neighbouring boat pointed out that we were still flying a Brittany courtesy flag and that our sails seemed to be in disarray.. bit of a detail, it seemed to us! It took about 10 minutes to sort out the knot of sheets and halyards that had prevented us from sailing effectively all night.

We've learned some lessons from this experience:

- ⇒ Anitra is a much more skittish boat (although by no means a racer) than our previous long-keeled 10 ton steel boat Conachair: Anitra is fast, and a delight in F3, whereas Conachair was dead in the water in light winds but just ploughed through anything above F5.
- ⇒ We will always carry seasickness medication, even if our crew have no history of needing it.
- ⇒ We will clip halyards to the mast on passage, not to the rails, if other sails may interfere with them.
- ⇒ We will set up watch systems on long passages, and stick to them from the start, even if hoping to finish the passage within a fairly short time.

Next year we'll take additional crew with us to Brittany: any volunteers?

Linda Moss.

## Southampton Boat Show

Derek Lumb and I went down on Monday 19<sup>th</sup> September for a browse. AA Route planner said 3 hours from Stafford, and it was almost spot on – we left at 07:00 and by 10:20 we were parked, through the ticket barriers and in. The weather was good for walking round a boat show – a gentle breeze, not too hot and the sun disappeared about 11:00.

Neither of us had any specific purpose for going other than a browse. Derek achieved 2 firsts – the first sale of the day on the English Braids stand, and the first purchase of the day of a mooring gadget – so sales generally appeared slow. Talking to stand owners the weekend had been busy, particularly the Sunday. Not wanting to carry everything round I kept a log of everything we (mainly Derek!) bought as we went round (we made arrangements to collect later on the basis by the late afternoon we would be too tired to remember everything).

Barrus (Yanmar), ICOM and Vetus were on hand to answer a technical queries we had, and I identified a neat little fuel filter that promises to make spilt diesel when changing filters a thing of the past. By mid afternoon we were on the pontoons, investigating Ovni's, Catamarans and X Yachts – all very nice if a little bit pricey.

As an example, whilst the X Yachts XC38 (the cruising version of the X38) is priced at about £300k, by the time you have added extras like sails (yes – they are extra!) don't expect much change out of £400k – nothing

wrong with a 25 year old Sigma 33c or a 1990's Westerly Typhoon we concluded.

Most outrageous gadget – the retractable balcony on the £13.8m Sunseeker (we didn't notice if that price included VAT by the way). Now there's something for Susan Bowles to add to John's list of upgrades to do this winter! Potentially the most useful gadget – the hovercraft which we think would solve the water taxi problems in Beaumaris Bay when the tide is out. And yes, we did remember to collect everything we had bought before we left!



Drc



Dave's ideal water taxi for Beaumaris Bay



Most outrageous gadget for your £13.8 Sunseeker?



## Bosun's Corner

### Sail Laundering.

The plan is to have the sails delivered back to the Clubhouse for the 10th March. If those who have had them laundered could get them collected before the start of Season party on 30th March it would be greatly appreciated. Please do not contact the Boatshed to collect them in person from Y Felinheli - this just creates administration and negates the benefits to the Boatshed of offering a discounted price.

### Liferafts

The serviced liferafts will be delivered prior to the 30th March - an exact date is not yet known but all members who have sent their life rafts for service will receive an e-mail confirming when delivery will take place.

### Flares

IF you require flares please collect them from ABC after

filling in an order form (available in clubhouse, but not yet available on the club web site). They only have limited stocks at the special NWWYC members prices negotiated.

### ABC Discount Weekends

Yes, plural – weekends, not weekend, not hour. Following the success of last years Discount weekends, ABC have agreed to run two for us this year, which will coincide with the February and March Winter Events. Extra special offers on Anti Foul will be at the February event, and Ropes at the March event in addition to the special discounts on offer. You will need a voucher to claim the special offers and discounts - keep your eyes peeled on the Club Notice Board for full details.

Anon  
Feb 2012

**Once in a Preston Guild?****PRESTON GUILD 2012 — PRESS RELEASE**

Every 20 years we in the city of Preston celebrate our historic PRESTON GUILD MERCHANT – a rare and precious trading right bestowed upon the (then) town by King Henry II over 800 years ago. The “Guild Year”, last celebrated in 1992, gives we Prestonians an excuse for some pomp, pageantry and partying with a summer long programme of events including the Preston Riversway Maritime Festival over the weekend of 21/22 July and culminating in the actual Guild Week in early September. Also this special occasion gives us the opportunity to do things that we might only do “once every Preston Guild”.

With this in mind we at Preston Marina are marking this Guild Year – our second Guild since we started the company in 1986 - with a Special Summer Berthing Deal which we hope might inspire boat owners to try Preston Marina as their base for Irish Sea Cruising this Summer.

Between April 1st and September 30th 2012, pontoon berths are available at Preston Marina for £10 per metre per month inc VAT. There are some Terms & Conditions – for example a minimum 3 month stay is required and the berth must be vacated by the end of the period, but for those who may never have considered using Preston Marina – or indeed the Irish Sea before, have never had a better opportunity.

Cruising the Irish Sea has its challenging aspects for sure, but the rewards are equal to the task, and Preston is central to the many and varied cruising grounds on

offer. The North Wales coast, the Fylde and Cumbria coast and the Solway Firth are all within a day’s sail, as well as the Isle of Man which is a convenient stepping stone to Ireland’s East Coast and Scotland’s West Coast.

It is true that our river (the Ribble) is a bit of a trek (although fast offshore powerboats are especially suited to our location), but the channel has never been easier to navigate than at any time in our company’s history and Preston Marina has all the facilities onsite expected by the modern boatowner including chandlery, technical services, brokerage, shopping, cafes and restaurants as well as all the amenities and excellent road and rail access of a city centre about 1 mile away.

As well as the Guild, 2012 serves up other reasons to be based at Preston for the Summer – we are the closest marina to the Open Golf in July and Preston hosts the UK Corporate Games the same month – and as such our city has been designated the “European City Of Sport 2012” by the European Capital of Sport Association (ACES) – not that we are the only British city hosting sporting events this summer of course!

To find out more:

Preston Marina - [www.prestonmarina.co.uk](http://www.prestonmarina.co.uk)

Preston Guild – [www.prestonguild2012.com](http://www.prestonguild2012.com)

e-mail: [info@prestonmarina.co.uk](mailto:info@prestonmarina.co.uk)

Telephone: 01772 733595

**50 Club**

The 50 Club is being run again in 2012 to help raise money for the redevelopment of the clubhouse. To date over £1,100 has been paid out as prizes, and the club is nearly £1,000 better off.

How does it work? You pick an available number between 1 and 49, and pay £50 for each number (there is no limit on how many numbers you can have). On the last Saturday of each month (starting in February), using the draw order from the National Lottery, prizes will be awarded as follows;

1st drawn number - £50, 2nd drawn number £20 and 3rd drawn number £15. Any number drawn not purchased by a member will be deemed to be a ‘club number’ and added to the club reserves. Membership lasts for 12 draws, or until end February 2013 whichever is the earlier. Your chances of winning a monthly prize are

1 in 17. There will also be a ‘mega draw’ made at both the start and end of season party’s with a single prize at each party of £150. This years Start of Season party coincides with the last Saturday of the month, so the total prize fund that evening will be a whopping £235!

Numbers are available for purchase by telephone, e-mail or in person to David Clough. Payment may be made in full, or by 4 instalments of £12.50 (payable by post dated cheques). A list of available numbers will be displayed in the Club House from 10th February, or upon request from [daveclough@btinternet.com](mailto:daveclough@btinternet.com).

In the event that we fail to sell sufficient numbers any monies collected will be returned. Full terms and conditions are available on the member’s only section of the club web site, or upon written request to the Club Treasurer or David Clough.

## RYA North West - Regional Cruising Conference - Warrington - 10th March

After an event which attracted over 100 people in 2009, the RYA North West Region is running another Cruising Conference on Saturday 10 March 2012 at the Conference Centre, Birchwood Park, Warrington WA3 6YN starting at 0930.

Speakers will be:

- Sam Llewellyn, nautical thriller writer and PBO's Minimum Boat Man
- Vyv Cox, NW Venturer, marine engineer, regular contributor to YM, cruising and yacht equipment guru
- Sarah Treseder Chief Executive of the RYA
- Stuart Carruthers, the RYA's Cruising Manager
- Gus Lewis, RYA legal expert
- Bob Bradfield who is charting the Scottish West Coast in detail, just for yachtmen.

Delegates will enjoy a day of talks and discussions with a buffet lunch, morning and afternoon coffee for £26.00 (for RYA members or members of affiliated clubs) and £36.00 (for others).

More details on the website ([www.rya.org.uk](http://www.rya.org.uk) and follow REGIONS) or from Geoff Meggitt at [geoff2005@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:geoff2005@tiscali.co.uk) or 01925 755076.

To register simply send a cheque for the appropriate amount made out to "Royal Yachting Association" with the names of the people coming and your full contact details (postal, email and phone) to the address below.

Please indicate whether you are Personal Members of the RYA or give the name of your club. Please say if there are any special dietary needs.

NWRYA 2012 Conference  
2 Dingle Bank Close  
Lymm  
Cheshire WA13 0QR



RYA North West Region

REGIONAL CRUISING  
CONFERENCE

WARRINGTON

10 MARCH 2012



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Venturers' Miscellany

# Readers Special Offer

The Venturer is pleased to offer our readers a free subscription to the [Beaumaris Mud Spa](#).

Covering the area of at least 16 Football pitches, the [Spa](#) caters for mud loving people of all shapes and sizes.

Ms Maureen Tackle enthuses "I've indulged in a [Beaumaris Mud Spa Bath](#) several times. It's great for crabs and builds mussels too! After 20 minutes or so in the [Beaumaris Mud Bath](#) I feel so different – at least 20 years older!"

For your chance to try the [Beaumaris Mud Spa Bath](#), apply to Ynys Mon C.C. for a licence and then drag 2 x 20 metres of chain, two large anchors and various shackles onto the designated area. Repeat annually!

For the less adventurous, [Beaumaris Spa Mud](#) is now available in specially recycled plastic jars from the Bosun's Store. Just apply liberally to Face, Hands and Knees

and watch the transformation as Friends and Family give you a very wide berth, allowing you time to contemplate your existence in the Cosmos in muddy solitude! Please give the Bosun twenty minutes notice of your order to ensure availability of freshly gathered mud.

For further information contact Captain Snowbird.



Outboard maintenance - Oct 2011  
Soon time to find out if it will fire up again!

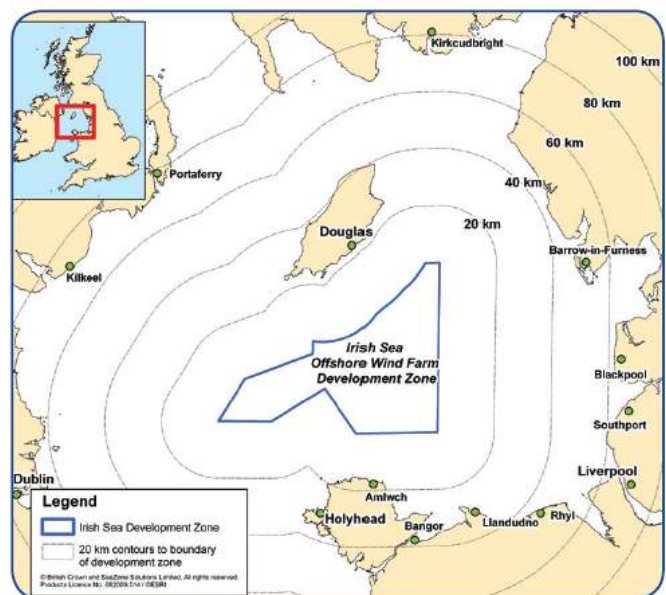


## Wind Farms

Centrica has announced plans to investigate the potential for wind farms in the expanse of the Irish Sea between Anglesey and Isle of Man.

Full details of their proposals are to be found at

[www.centrica.com](http://www.centrica.com)



See also Venturers web site front page news.