

The Venturer

North West Venturers Yacht Club



Issue 184. March 2019



Stay Informed About Club Activities

Marie Lawrenson
Vice Commodore

One of the challenges we often face as a club is how we can all stay safely in touch with what's going on. Along with The Venturer, our website and the annual sailing programme, we have tried using various social media methods, some with more success than others, to update members of any last minute changes to the sailing programme and events.

The Facebook Page which was set up several years ago, with the aim of improving communication and promoting the club on social media, was open to the public and everything that was posted was available to anyone on Facebook. There was, quite understandably, a reluctance by some members to join in as they were concerned about their privacy and security.

After some detailed research and with input from many members that are already in a Facebook group, it was decided to create a "Closed" Facebook Group named NWWYC North West Venturers Yacht Club (Members Closed Group) in which members can only be invited by other members and must be members of our yacht club – the application to be in the group is a manual process, thereby controlling who has access to our information and ensuring security of our data.

We have 'retired' the public Facebook Page.

So far the closed group has proven to be one of the most flexible and simple ways to send event invitations and

updates directly to members, and is very popular with over 60 of our members subscribing to the closed Facebook group. We will continue to publish event information on the club website, however, the blog section is not as interactive as was hoped, and members need to actively log into the members area to see what is happening. There is no facility to send notifications that someone has posted, as happened with the old website.

Posting to the Facebook Closed Group

Any member of the closed group can create a post which is available to all members. Members can choose to just read the post or respond if they wish to. For those who "do their own thing", it is a way of keeping in touch with other members and also letting others know where they are and where they have got to. It's also a great way of sharing photographs and general sailing related information or reviews of destinations.

Events:

Events set up in the closed group generate a private invitation to our group members via email (that is interactive) which allows them to inform the club if they would be attending, were interested or couldn't attend an event by simply clicking on a button on the invitation. It also generates an event in your calendar, if your electronic device is set up, which generates a reminder - so there is no excuse for forgetting what is on!

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Liz Andrews
Rear Commodore

I have been a member of NWVYC since 2009 and with my partner, Reece, sail Cloe Jo, a sloop rig Bruce Roberts Norwest (built in Birkenhead in the early 1970s).

More recently I have become a committee member actively supporting Jen Barcroft in her role as Rear Commodore. I am sure we all agree she has done a splendid job over the last four years and worked tirelessly for the club.

I have offered my services as Rear Commodore to enable the club to plan and run social events etc. and will be committed to fulfilling this role. Andy Stevenson is doing a great job as Bar Manager and we will be working closely together with our very supportive team at future events.

I am looking forward to seeing everyone at the Start of Season party on Saturday 6th April. If you have any ideas regarding future social events, or helping our team, I would be very pleased to hear from you.

Liz

What's on!

6th April 2019

WORK PARTY and START of SEASON PARTY

Catering by Bishopsgate Hotel,
Early booking with Denise please

Hosted by Denise Jago

26th May 2019

STRAITS RAFT RACE

Menai Bridge

30th May 2019

ALL WALES BOAT SHOW

Anglesey Showground

and as we promised, here is the date for....

WORK PARTY and END of SEASON PARTY

12th October 2019

Clubhouse Work Party: 6th April

Richard Adams
House Officer

You'll be glad to know that the building is quite good order so there won't be loads to do on that, but the grounds will need tidying up so please bring your gardening stuff. Paul and I will do a final check a few

days beforehand and will post an up to date jobs list on the Facebook page. You'll enjoy the start of season party so much more if you've grafted a bit during the day!

Further Adventures of a Sea Dog

by Richard Forder



In part 1, Richard and I had sailed from Conwy via Isle of Man and Bangor (NI) arriving at Glenarm in fog. Richard had decided to wait at Glenarm until visibility improved. He took advantage of the free washing machine to do some washing. I was taken for a walk through the forest behind the village. Inland the fog was less dense with it hanging onto the tops of the hills.

Sunday 3 June 2018 – Glenarm to Campbeltown

On our morning walk along the harbour wall, visibility was much better. We could see across the bay but not across to Scotland. The decision was made to make the passage. We set off at about 1015. With a cross tide, we chose to leave on the north going tide which would help with the passage. We got half way across when the sea fog closed in and the wind died. On went the motor and Radar. The iPad was mounted in the cockpit to repeat the chart plotter display. We continued like this for a few hours. Our first sight of Scotland was the top of the Mull of Kintyre poking out above the fog. Next was Ailsa Craig to the east and then Sanda to the north.

We passed to the east of Sanda and headed up Killbrannan Sound. The fog had cleared. While motoring along the Sound a submarine on the surface came into view. First one I had ever seen.



We passed Davaar island into Campbeltown Loch. We managed to contact the berth master and were allocated one of the finger berths. The berth master helped Richard with the berthing and made a fuss of me. As soon as we were safely tidied up, Richard took me for a walk along the front. It had been a long day and I was glad to get ashore to do my business. I like to be on a finger berth; it is quite a challenge to get ashore if we are rafted up.

We had arrived in SCOTLAND.

We spent a month in the Firth of Clyde and visited many places –

Arran	Loch Fyne
Kyles of Bute	Bute
Holy Loch	Loch Long
Gareloch	



But, that's a much longer story. I did enjoy the 5 days we spent on Bute. Using the local buses, we were able to explore the whole island, lots of beach walks. Ettrick Bay was the best. Richard was able to take me into the café and they paid me a lot of attention.

Membership News

We are happy to Welcome James and Amy Sutton and their 3 boys. They sail Samphire, a 23ft Pandora. I'm sure you will say hello to them and make them welcome when you see them around the clubhouse.

I'm happy to report that the Membership renewals are all in and the up to date lists are now available in the Members Area of the website. A number of members have given up

– Sue Beetlestone

sailing and converted to Anchor memberships and some have not renewed as they are moving away.

Membership cards will be on their way to you soon, together with the sailing programme. The new door code will come into operation on the day of the working party/ start of season party.

Commodore's Corner

– Paul Morton



I am sitting in my shirt sleeves, writing this at the end of February and I am not even going to mention the weather: all I have to say about it is we could do with saving it for another day when we are on the water.

The Social committee have been busy over the winter months with speaker nights, and good food. The

members have responded by giving us excellent attendance. I am sure the next event will be the same, along with the Start of Season party (6th April).

The view from the Club House has improved dramatically with the removal of the old catamaran which was cut up on site. A few things need to be done around the Club House which I am sure our House Officer Richard will have in hand for the working party on 6th April.

New members are still joining us and we are working hard to improve the media profile of the club to attract others. Our sailing programme is second to none and that is a big attraction to both new and experienced sailors coming to the area, but there is still more to do including the web site and Facebook. We are working on it.

We now have a New Rear Commodore Liz Andrews, a highly organised person, who will take on the role along with her Social Committee to carry on the excellent work of our retiring Officer - Jen.

People are working hard readying their boats for the coming season, doing vital repairs and creating two more jobs in the process but what an experience they are getting! ... and they are keeping the Chandlers in business!

So I look forward to seeing you all at the next Event

Colin Pattinson

Sadly, I write to inform members of the death of one of our most loved and respected members, Colin Pattinson. Colin and Alison joined the club in 2007, sailing a Hunter 27, and quickly moved on to Alfresco, a Moody 31 which was much better for longer adventures.

They first started sailing in the late 70s, where their only techy piece of equipment was a Decca depth sounder. Following a 25 year gap they decided to join our club. They loved the camaraderie in the club, sailing in company and making many friendships and memories.

Colin first aspired to be a Venturer in the 1960s, having helped to sand down a Silhouette. It took 40 years before he and Alison joined!

As valued members they both supported the club in any way they could, helping new members, taking part in socials and promoting a friendly and professional atmosphere. Shepherding new members, whilst exploring destinations around the Irish Sea on Summer Cruises, ensured all got off to a good start. Visiting new destinations and having a good time founded great memories.

Colin was diagnosed with inoperable cancer in early 2015 and sadly had to leave the high seas behind. Seeing Alfresco for sale in Dinas Boat Yard provoked both sad

– Margaret Hopkinson



thoughts and happy memories for those who knew her and her crew. Instead, Colin and Alison went motor-homing and classic car rallying in their old MGB. They made the most of the time they had getting out and about and keeping up with friends and family as best they could. They were rewarded with the birth of an additional 3 grandchildren bringing the total to 6, and those who have grandchildren will know what a commitment this is.

Colin and Alison found enrichment from friendships they made in the club and they certainly enriched the lives of others. Alison, you have many friends in the club who are thinking of you and Colin at this time, remembering past times that were good.

We hope that you, Alison, will continue to maintain your interest.

The prices shown below will be held for the early part of the season. I urgently need your orders of almanacs, pilot books and charts if I am to deliver them before the Start of Season party.

I am in the process of creating a new clothing store for you all to access and have your clothing delivered directly to your door, this includes an online payment system.

This should be up and running by the start of season party.

Liferafts are in the process of being serviced. Once you have paid your invoice please inform me and I will arrange delivery back to the clubhouse.

Graham Jones
bosun@nwvyc.org.uk

	Members' price	IMRAY
Burgees		
Standard	£23.00	
50th anniversary	£17.00	
Battle Flags	£25.00	
Publications		
Imray C Charts	£16.50	£19.00
Imray 2000 folio charts	£34.00	£39.50
Admiralty Charts SC Folio	£42.00	£44.30
Cruising Association Almanac (incl Tide tables)	£32.00	£37.50
Cruising Association tide tables	£15.00	£17.00
Reeds PBO Almanac	£17.00	£19.00
Reeds Nautical Almanac	£39.00	£45.00
Reeds Western Almanac	£30.00	£35.00
Cruising Anglesey & adjoining waters Pilot	£27.50	£32.50
Irish Sea Pilot	£27.50	£32.50
Clyde C C Sailing Directions(all volumes)	£23.50 /£27.50	£25.00/£32.50
Irish Cruising Club (South &West, East &North)	£25.50	£29.95
Cruising Ireland	£25.50	£29.95
Reeds Handbooks (Skipper,Crew, Weather)	£6.50/£7.50	£7.99/£8.99
Flip Cards (Rules of the Road)	£5.50	£7.00
50 ways to improve your	£8.00	£9.99
Lochs and Lights	£8.00	£9.95
Admiralty Tidal Stream Atlases	£8.00	£10.05
Salty Stories – Ralph Hill	£7.00	
Miscellaneous		
NWVYC Bear	£13.50	
NWVYC Mugs	£5.50	
Ties	£3.00	
Pin Badge	£3.00	
Pilot Book Bags	£6.00	
Tidal Clocks	£15.00	
Boat Care Products		
Boat cleaner, Polish, Wax	4 for £10	£3.00

National Coastwatch Talk and Social

– Jen Barcroft

We could get used to this, a lovely Gin and Posh Tonic to start the evening, what more could you want? This new barman Andy is practicing his "bottle juggling" and we are looking forward to some fancy cocktails in the near future! Not only is he great in the bar but he also sourced some excellent meat pies, plus both vegan and vegetarian choices, from his local area, and award winning ones at that.

The general opinion was that they were really delicious and all we needed to do in the Galley was provide the peas, green beans, gravy, warm it all up and serve it out along with some crusty bread. Job done!

Much easier than spending hours cooking, so all agreed that we should repeat the exercise. Brilliant! And we even had that local Yorkshire delight Hendo's sauce.

There was a great turnout of members and it was good to see everyone enjoying a lively chat.

After supper was cleared away we settled down to hear a very interesting and informative talk by two members of the National Coastwatch Institution, George Boyer and Rhian Hardy. NCI is an entirely voluntary service with stations all around the coast, our nearest being at Port Lynas, from which they keep a watch for any unusual events either human, animal or weather related.

They can be contacted on Ch.65. (duplex) and encourage us to call them up as we sail by. George spoke about their work in



general and how we could work more closely as a club. They are always encouraging more volunteers to join them in their very worthwhile work.

Our next Social event will be the Start of Season Party, in the evening after the work party on April 6th. No doubt some of you will be back on the water by then, and looking forward to lots of beach barbecues.

Start of Season Party:

Saturday 6th April 2019

Our start of season party is arranged for Saturday, 6th April, 2019. The bar will be open at 6pm and food will commence at 7pm.

This year we are catering with an in house, hog roast, which will consist of roast pork, stuffing, apple sauce in a lovely fresh bap, accompanied by various salads. Donations of puddings, as always, will be greatly appreciated.

Food bookings required please

The food will be charged at £7.00 per head.

Booking is essential for this, so please contact Denise Jago (via e mail, deniselewis1@btconnect.com or phone 07706 926 951), club website or via the closed members group page on Facebook) to let her know you will be attending and to secure your plate!

New Zealand Encounters

– Liz Andrews

Reece and I have recently returned from a nine week trip to New Zealand, travelling many miles around both the South and North Islands by campervan, car, plane, buses and trains. People say it is like 'Wales on steroids' and as we crossed gorges, snaked through mountain passes and hugged coast-lines we marvelled at the ever changing landscape. We thought we would be sure to get some sailing in. We didn't, but we did meet some very interesting 'boaty' people on our travels.

After leaving Christchurch, and being greatly saddened at the reminders still there of the devastating earthquake six years ago, we travelled in our campervan to Akaroa, a quaint coastal town. It was our first free campsite of many and we parked next to a large converted Nissan bus. There we met Peter and, as a native Kiwi, he was very knowledgeable about freedom camping, and gave us some great tips. Whilst chatting about sailing he casually mentioned that he had sailed from Auckland to Southampton and won a top prize for his classic boat! He made it sound like a hop over to the IOM.

We were keen to sample the New Zealand wine, and headed towards Blenheim where for one and a half hours we were flanked by vineyards to left and right. There was a lakeside campsite just outside Blenheim at Lake Argyle, so we rumbled along an unsealed gravel road to reach a little lakeside oasis. There we met a friendly family who were camping, fishing for brown trout and paddle boarding. We chatted to Graham who was a boat builder by trade and had sailed one of his boats, mostly single handed, from New Zealand to the Isle of Wight where he had then worked for two years. Once again this had been casually dropped into the conversation as if he had just



gone across the Caernarvon bar. They also shared their barbecued brown trout with us as New Zealanders are hospitable beyond measure.

Whangarei, on the North Island, has a marina with free camping overlooking the boats. We attended the local church on the Sunday morning and a rather out of breath lady,

clutching a tourist map sat next to us. She had walked from the marina, so we offered her a lift back there after the service. It was a hot, sunny morning, and she readily agreed. Renee, who is French, warmly invited us aboard for coffee. She and her husband Patrick have been sailing around the world for the last ten years on a stunning Lagoon 470 Catamaran, and they told us of their epic journeys to date - they have a blog site about their trips. At last, perhaps a sail with this amazing couple? No such luck, as they had broken a rudder and were awaiting repair and were sorry they couldn't take us for a trip.

When we finally reached Auckland, from where we would fly home, we were thrilled to find a Regatta weekend as it was the last weekend of their summer break. From the marina we watched the colourful Dragon Boat racing. Multi-aged teams



of ten paddled furiously to the drum beat from their coxswain to sprint across the finish line in canoes rigged with dragon head and tail. It is fiercely competitive and is a bit like the rowing race around Puffin Island, but

with much more shouting. There was also a very comical tug boat race with much posturing and pushing by the tugs.

There were of course the traditional regatta events as well, and all this made us long to be back on the water.



There were also a couple of boat names worth a mention. We spotted 'Beaumaris' in the harbour at Hamilton. We also found 'Menai' amongst the classic boats at Auckland Marina. This made us smile and evoked memories of our home sailing territory.

If New Zealand is on your list of 'must see' places it's worth the long flight. It is an amazing country with wonderful people.

Stay Informed About Club Activities

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Marie Lawrenson
Vice Commodore

On the water, we have found that this has given the OoD a good idea of which boats were likely to be attending weekend events so that members were not missed, and we didn't sail off without them. It goes without saying, that the usual channel for communication is still Ch69 whilst on the water and the OoD always gives a shout out to let everyone know what our intentions are for the weekends. Should the destination change at the last minute (which often seems to happen), the OoD can post within the FB group and everyone within the group is informed of the alteration.

We understand the reluctance of some members to join and use Facebook, but you can create a profile (maybe as your boat name and not using any of your personal information) and just be a member of the NWWYC Closed Group – that way you know what's going on but are safe in the knowledge that only club members see your posts. You can set up your settings (within notifications) so you choose to see who is posting and not be bombarded with notifications – that is entirely up to you.

You can always opt out of the group if you no longer wish to be a member or find that it isn't relevant to you but, as a club, we feel that this is probably the best fix for the majority of our members who wish to keep up with what is going on within the club on and off the water.

Why not give this a try to see if you like it? – you can always opt out again if it isn't for you (which we hope you won't) and please give us your feedback and thoughts on this method of communication so that we can give you, the members, the best method of providing digital information on a regular basis that can be fluid and pertinent to what is going on within the club.

Why not give it a try?

To talk about it in more detail, contact Marie Lawrenson, Vice Commodore.

50 Club Numbers 2019

Joy Downes

We have numbers available to purchase for the 50 club, which has been successfully running for the past 8 years. As of 31.03.2019, the following numbers are still available for purchase: -

The 50 club has been drawn for this month and the winners in drawn order are as follows:

35 - no winner as number unsold
45 - Mark Suffield from True Brit - £20
26 - David and Pamela White from Spindrift III - £15

Edward Hopkinson our Treasurer will make the payments into your bank accounts in the next few days.

Due to the timings, our next draw will take place on Saturday 6th April where the first number drawn will win a whopping £150 one off prize.

You've still got time to bag one of the available numbers - see our website for more details.

Numbers still available

4
14
15
16
34
35
40

End Notes:

The next issue of The Venturer will be late May 2019

Ed is hoping that will give members plenty of time to have fun on the water, take loads of photos and write about it. And not to forget to send it in to me, **Jan Lomas**

Send your articles for
the next issue to:
venturer@nwvyc.org.uk
by 17th May 2019