

The Venturer

North West Venturers Yacht Club



Issue 188. December/January 2020



Happy New Year!



Image by kind permission of Gareth Jones

JANUARY SOCIAL - Burns Night Theme

Saturday, January 25, 2020 at 6PM

Come along and have a great night at our Scottish themed event to celebrate Burns night.

A meal of Haggis, Sausage casserole, Neaps and Tatties together with a wee dram will be provided by the social sub committee.

Bar opens 6pm

Supper served 7pm

A vegetarian option will also be available.

As usual, donations of desserts to share will be appreciated.



Contents

January Social - Burns Night Theme	FP
What's on!	see right
Bonfire Night	2
Social Matters	3
Christmas Party	4
House Officer's Report	4
'Ode to a Trophy' - Des Founds	5
50 Club Numbers 2019	5
Final part of 'Mentoring around Ireland	6
50 Club Numbers 2020	7
The Vice Squad	7
Our Commodore & new Galley layout.	8

What's on!

25 January 2020

Burns Night Supper

15 February 2020

As the Galley will be under refurbishment during February we may be organising an outside event, perhaps a meal in Caernarfon if people are interested please contact Commodore Andy.

14th March 2020

Start of Season Party - Andy's "Pie and Peas". This will be earlier than in previous years as the organised Sailing Season will commence at the beginning of April, hopefully to catch some decent sailig weather over Easter.

Bonfire Night

Denise Lewis

Following on from the AGM, our 'venturer bonfire builders' started work, very soon a large bonfire was built on the beach after the tide has receded (thanks to Richard Zalot for the pallets). The BBQ's were lit ready for our DIY BBQ, which proved to be very popular. Then after lighting the bonfire, we watched the beautiful fireworks that Beaumaris had put on, and then our resident pyrotechnic (sp) Des Founds went to work with his little helpers, to give us our own firework display, which was excellent, Des bought fireworks, and other members donated too. We had the company of four lovely little children who I think made our night, seeing them enjoying the fireworks. After everyone had eaten their BBQ food, the evening was bought inside,

to listen to your resident (recent) NWWYC band consisting of Dave and Rosetta Welling, Paul Morton and Marie Lawrence...what a superb night! Dave & Rosetta had bought along their friends, who are also excellent musicians.. many thanks to you all. Turned out to be a brilliant evening, thanks to the lovely kids that were so well behaved and gave us great pleasure seeing them enjoying themselves – **that's what the club is all about.**



Social Matters

Liz Andrews

Rear Commodore

Since my last article we have held two successful events at the Clubhouse. Our End of Season working party on 12th October was organised by Richard Adams and he has written about our achievements for the day. Our End of Season evening social was well attended and the Galley team cooked up and served a variety of Mediterranean themed dishes and sides which were enthusiastically received. Since we offered five different main dishes everyone was given the opportunity to pre-order food or take pot-luck. This worked really well, and helped the catering team too. I have treated myself to a new food processor so I'm looking forward to testing out some new recipes for dips etc. (I have to justify squeezing it into my kitchen cupboards somehow!) Of course our "Frayed Knot" bar was open as usual serving a great variety of drinks thanks to Andy Stevenson.

Many thanks go out to Denise Jago and Marie Lawrenson who gave a very interesting PowerPoint presentation and talk about the Club's Spring Cruise to The Isle of Man and Ireland. They shared their sailing passages, sight seeing, and many points of interest. Club members familiar with the ports chipped in with their own stories which added to the more informal atmosphere of the evening. Speaking to members afterwards it seems that more of us will be joining in next year.

On 2nd November we held a club bonfire and DIY barbecue. The weather forecast earlier that week had been for F8 to F9, so we were very relieved when the day dawned bright and calm. Our rather small bonfire was suitably enlarged with donations of wood from Des Founds and Richard Zalot. Once the tide had ebbed enough our many helpers soon made a splendid bonfire - good enough to rival Beaumaris!

The barbecues were duly lit along with the candles in Dave and Rosetta Welling's enormous pumpkin which yielded their delicious home made soup which warmed us up a treat. Although there were no officially organised fireworks by NWVYC, thanks go out to all who brought their own, which they set off safely on the beach. The Beaumaris fireworks were spectacular, as always, and we all had an excellent vantage point from which we could appreciate

them. The club should also be congratulated on giving such a warm welcome to guests and non members alike. It was great to see so many children there.

Our evening's musical entertainment was so enjoyable. The ranks of the Commodore's band were swelled by Dave Welling's cousin Jim Coggan and his partner Deborah Harris and I noticed Trowell adding acoustic guitar backing. Thank you so much for coming along and providing us all with great enjoyment. My three youngest grand children were with us and loved trying out the various instruments and dancing and singing along. Before long we had quite a few people on the dance floor, and judging by how late everyone went to bed it was a good night. I know Andy was very busy on the bar. All that singing must be thirsty work!

I am looking forward to another year as Rear Commodore and will gladly welcome suggestions for events and suppliers.

Forthcoming events:

25th January Burns Night Supper

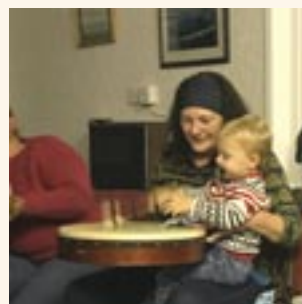
Hearty Burns Night supper, a Scottish themed quiz and maybe some Scottish dancing too?

February event

If enough people are interested I would like to book Ouzo and Olive, Caernarfon for a meal out.

14th March

A talk by Ian Sadler, the race organiser of The Three Peaks Yacht Race. Pie and peas supper.



Christmas Party

by Jen Barcroft

For this edition of The Venturer it has fallen to myself to keep everyone up to date with the Social Events which have taken place at the Club since the end of the sailing season.

On the evening of November 2nd following the Club AGM, we held our Bonfire Night Party and watched a magnificent firework display across the Bay, which was organised once again by Beaumaris Town Council and later enjoyed our own bonfire on the beach in front of the Club. Everyone brought along their own food to cook on the barbecues, and afterwards moved back inside to listen to music and be thoroughly enchanted by the dancing and singing of some of the very young children and grandchildren of our members.

Next came our Christmas Party held this year at the Club-house, and enjoyed by a small but beautifully turned out 'crowd' in festive jumpers. The room was dressed over all with sparkly lights and baubles. Santa manned the bar "helped"!! later in the evening by the usual volunteers. This year catering was by the Bishopsgate and Hazel did us proud with Roast Turkey and all the trimmings, Christmas pud. Chocolate torte or trifle, which made a lovely change for the Social Committee as the meal was not only prepared but also served out to us and all we had to do was wash the plates. Our thanks as always to those who helped with cleaning up.

The photographic competition was judged by Jan Lomas and won once again by Jerry and Denise. Congratulations. Graham and Noreen had gone to great lengths to organise a Grand Raffle and our thanks must go out to all those who donated such generous prizes and of course to all those who bought tickets.

After moving aside the tables those remaining settled down to listen to and join in with folk music from Dave Wellings, Rosetta, Paul and myself with my modified words by Des, who also gave us a poem explaining the future of the Rock Trophy. After all that we went to our beds about 1am with the wind howling and the rain thrashing down! Altogether the evening was a very pleasant way to start the Christmas Season of goodwill.



House Officer's Report

by Richard Adams

Having taken on the role at the 2018 AGM I wondered how to keep on top of stuff, but needn't have worried. Partly because of efficient maintenance and a lot of good renovations in the recent past, there have been almost no problems with the clubhouse. Members treat the place and its fittings with respect and the two work days I've been responsible for "managing" (an exaggeration if ever there was one) have been well-attended and enthusiastically tackled. So, thanks to the efforts of the membership, the clubhouse and grounds remain in good order with safety checks etc. up to date.

There have been reports of increased anti-social behaviour by some local young men around the boatyard area in recent months, but so far the club itself has been unscathed, though there has been damage and theft at one member's boat. It therefore seems extra important at present to ensure that boats are securely locked and equipment isn't left unsecured. Hopefully it's a transitory problem.

Many thanks to all who have contributed to the good state of the buildings and grounds.



Ode to a Trophy

Des Finds

Surely some crews have had a mishap
where it only happens to the other chap.
But NO! You've all been very stum
which makes me feel so very glum
'cos I wish to pass this Trophy on
to a clubby yacht or at least someone.
So here we go, I'll spill the beans
I'll make up stories by any means.

Now Beneteau Bill on 'Irish Mist'
sailed off to lands the sun had kissed.
They stopped off at Menai Pler
to fill the crew with all good cheer.
Onto the jetty they did glide
not thinking about the dropping tide.
On coming back from the bar that night
all were greeted with a terrible sight.
The yacht was leaning at 45 degrees
poor Billy the skipper was on his knees.
The embarrassment, the shame, the total scorn.
I'm glad its dark, we'll sail at morn.
Only a few have heard this mishap.
I think he was a lucky chap.

Another story comes to mind
sailing into the bay at night quite blind.
"Its dark my love, we need a light"
she calls to the skipper that fateful night.
This brand new torch will do I think
but poor Denise drops it in the drink.
The swearing could be heard ashore.
"I'm not coming sailing with you no more".
In the morning after a restless night
the skipper decides to retrieve his light.
Up to his knees in mud and grime,
he finds his torch covered in slime.
"It works" he shouts with great delight
so alas forgiven of the previous night.

Stargazer's crewe on an Isle of Man trip
heard an alarm within the ship.
Looking into the engine bay
"It's dark in here" we heard the skipper say.
"The water pump belt had gone I fear,
we'll need a tow away from here".
The lifeboat pulls us into port,
Manz news and tele did report
but to keep this trophy would be greedy,
so I'll pass it on to someone needy.

Some members on a weekend trip
decided to Puffin Island they'd nip.
Some lunch, a sail, a bit of play,
the grand kids had a wonderful day.
All went well, the day's a breeze
until it came the time to leave.
Now things don't always go our way
so as they sailed away that day,
the foresail jammed, completely stuck.
"I'm thinking Liz we're in the muck.
The wind's got up, its blowing strong
I think I've got the sail all wrong.
A Pan Pan call is what we need"
so a member turns up with a kindly deed.
The sail is finally wrapped around
they safely get back to their mooring ground.
A Pan Pan or a Mayday shout
will certainly bring the lifeboat out.
I've had this Trophy long enough you know,
and I thought I'd pass it on to the yacht Clo Jo.

But no. That's not what the trophy is all about,
its for hitting a rock with a mighty clout.
So back in the cupboard it will stay
until someone hits a rock one day.
Then out it comes with great aplomb
we hand it over to a deserving one.
I'm sure you'll all agree
cos that's why its called the ROCK TROPHY.

50 Club Numbers 2019

Joy Downes

The 50 club winners in drawn order

Thank you all for supporting your club through the 50 club this year. It is much appreciated and helps towards our costs.

The September 2019 draw was as follows:

19 - Brian Oulton - £50
02 - Lee & Joy Downes - £20
42 - Alison Pattinsonl - £15

The October 2019 draw was as follows:

26 - Charles Townley - £50
23 - Charles Townley - £20
16 - Sarah Crawford - £15

The November 2019 draw was as follows:

36 - Richard Forder & Charlie Brown - £50
8 - Lee Downes and Fleur - £20
24 -Mij Shirley- £15

The December 2019 draw was as follows:

41 - Don Marshall - £50
2 - Fleur Downes - £20
12 -Jerry & Denise Jago - £15

Continued overleaf: How to purchase your 50 club numbers for 2020

Numbers
still
available

watch this
space

Mentoring around Ireland

Completing Mentor's 2015 trip up the West coast

Sue Beetlestone

Irish Lights in Don Laoghaire

Irish Lights HQ in Dun Laoghaire

We had encountered the Irish Light vessel Granuaile around Galway Bay and the Aran isles laying and maintaining buoys. Our berth in Dun Laoghaire marina had a good view of her home and it was interesting to see the activity in the Irish Lights yard.



Haulbowline Lighthouse

Carlingford Lough

This imposing lighthouse at the entrance to Carlingford Lough is something of a landmark. It stands guard over a channel which, while not as fearsome as Strangford can be, is still noted for its strong tidal flows. We were a little late getting there and the tide was already ebbing strongly. Mentor's engine stood up to the test but we passed a catamaran anchored beside the channel whose skipper was watching his position and his anchor warp anxiously.



Sorrento Point

Sorrento Point

To the south of Dublin Bay many affluent Dubliners live. We admired many and styles of houses as we sailed along the coast and through Dalkey Sound. The bay tucked in round Sorrento Point was perfect in the calm light northerlies which had been with us for some days and we spent a peaceful night there ready for an early getaway to Rosslare where we completed our circumnavigation



Howth Head Lighthouse

Baily Lighthouse, Howth Head

It's not usual to anchor south of Howth Head in Dublin Bay but what wind we had had been from the north and there was little swell. If you don't mind the wash from passing ferries and other ships, it's a great place to watch boats coming and going. We were due to meet Alice in Dun Laoghaire but didn't want to spend too many nights in the marina.



Cardigan Island Channel

Cardigan Island Channel

I couldn't resist including this. From Rosslare we had intended to cross back to Fishguard but got pushed north so ended up, rather late, in the entrance to the Teifi. After a good night at anchor we headed north through the channel between Cardigan Island and the mainland before spending a few days in Aberdyfi and then heading back to the Strait.



50 Club Numbers 2020

How to purchase your 50 Club numbers

We've still got some numbers available for purchase if anyone would like to treat themselves for the New Year and continue to support the club.

Your £50 purchase entitles you to 12 Draws throughout the year which take place on the last Saturday of the month and two super draws which are on the evening of the start of season and end of season party. The standard monthly draw pays three prizes for the first three balls drawn which are a first prize of £50, a second prize of £20 and a third prize of £15. The first numbers drawn at the start of season party and end of season party dates pay a one off super prize of £150. As this is a lottery draw, your subscription is non-refundable.

If you would like to purchase a ball, please check on the website for up-to-date availability of numbers and then contact Joy Downes either via the closed members Facebook page or by the details in the yearbook to arrange to pay for your number."

Numbers
still
available

watch this
space

The Vice Squad

by Ed Hopkinson



'Still' from webcam

I can hardly believe I'm writing (re-writing) this on 12th night. It started out as an Advent-related thoughts piece, but Christmas has come and gone in a blink, and after a busy Christmas period, we've almost settled down to our normal daily routing (Margaret has paint brush in hand again around the house). Now I'm starting to fret about getting the boat ready to launch, thinking about all those jobs we promised ourselves, back in October, would be done by Christmas.

Domestic stuff aside, there has been plenty going on at Gallows Point. The committee have been making preparations for next season, whilst handing over responsibilities to the new season's officers. Andy Stevenson has been very busy managing the December/Xmas social, and planning for the Burns Night January social too, whilst making sure other plans for 2020 are progressing. Jerry Jago has prepared a draft sailing programme for 2020 (and I've loaded this onto the website - it's under the "Events" heading). Plans are now well advanced for galley refurbishment -

you should have already had an e-mail with further details, so if you have comments on any of these, please let us know.

There is also a 'Weather Cam' camera installed on the front of the clubhouse overlooking the bay. We've had the hardware since the summer (thanks to Rob from Misty Isle), and now it's fitted and got power connected (thanks Paul M), the live(ish) video is available on the website so you can check the weather. It doesn't record anything, and can't be steered from the website. It is a very basic installation (can be jerky due to our low speed internet connection - waiting for someone to give us all free fibre broadband!), but from what I've seen so far, it looks pretty good. I hope we'll find it useful, and ideally attract people to the website too.

Hope your 2020 has kicked off well, and I look forward to seeing you over the coming season - starting with the Burns Night social on 25th Jan.

Andy Stevenson, Commodore



I am looking forward to my tenure as Commodore and I hope I can do the role justice. I have some big shoes to fill to equal the attainments of our previous commodores but with the help of the management committee and our members I believe that the club can flourish and grow. There are several projects that I have inherited that were already in the planning phase and it is my intention to complete them as soon as possible.

The new galley will probably be one of the first to be completed in time for the new season and closely followed by the club becoming a private company limited by guarantee, if approved by the members at a future general meeting.

Following the recent members forum, I will endeavour to steer the management committee to solve some of the issues raised, especially in relation to using social media to attract new members.

Now a little about me for those that I have not met personally.

I started sailing in my twenties in rented Wayfarer dinghies but work and family commitments forced me to put that on hold. Years later, whilst on holiday in Majorca, I saw a cruising yacht sail into a small cove and drop anchor. The occupants were then seen swimming from the sugar scoop stern before eating lunch in the cockpit. I thought to myself "I'd like to do that, I wonder how I go about being able to do it"? After some research, I signed up for a Day Skipper theory course, a practical course, Yacht Master theory and Coastal Skipper practical. I met a guy doing the same courses and we became good friends. He bought a Leisure 23 and together we sailed it for many years in the Humber Estuary and North Sea. I have also chartered yachts on the Caledonian Canal, Greece and Croatia.

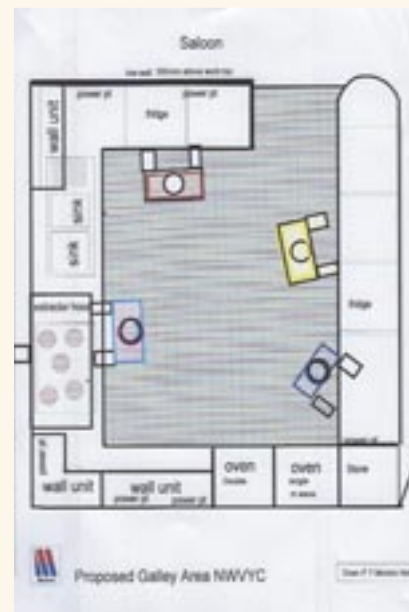
I am married with three children and two grandchildren. Janet, my wife used to sail with me and many members will have met her but due to ill health she can no longer take part in club activities.

I left school at 16 and eventually became a Quantity Surveyor working for building contractors until I was aged 24. I then had a change of career and became a Police Officer. I performed many varied roles, uniform, CID, Traffic and Police Helicopter observer before achieving promotion to Sergeant and Acting Inspector. I retired in 2010 after 30 years service and the same

year bought SeaGem, a Jeanneau Sun Odyssey 42i that was for sale in Conwy. I decided to keep her in North Wales but felt I needed the support of a yacht club to boost my confidence.

After looking around I found the NWVYC and decided they were the club for me. A family based cruising club without all the 'airs and graces' of some other yacht clubs. The members were down to earth, friendly and welcoming. We joined in the weekend cruises, spring and summer cruises and extended my knowledge of the Irish Sea. I sailed to destinations I would never have thought of and in conditions I would have been afraid to experience on my own. With the help, assistance and encouragement of other club members I was able to take them in my stride. I am a much better sailer as a result and my hope is that many new members will also benefit from joining the club. I look forward to meeting you all at the club socials during the winter season (I'll probably be behind the bar) and out on the water when the new season begins.

The proposed new galley layout



We thought you would like to see the current proposal to update the galley in the Clubhouse and also to remind you that the Clubhouse will not be hosting a social event during February while the new galley is installed.

See 'What's on' for a possible February meal out in Caernarfon.

End Notes:

The next issue of The Venturer will be March 2020

Ed is hoping that some members will share their experiences bringing their boats out of the water and the general maintenance undertaken at this time of year. If you would like to share your horror stories or solved a problem that might help other members, please send me your article and a photo or two always helps. Many thanks **Jan L**

Send your articles for

the next issue to:

venturer@nwvyc.org.uk

by 7th February 2020