

The Venturer

North West Venturers Yacht Club



The Newsletter of the North West Venturers Yacht Club Ltd (NWVYC Ltd)

Gallows Point, Beaumaris, Anglesey. LL58 8YL

Commodores Report

My first year as Commodore started off well but went downhill rapidly as the sailing season was about to start due to the Covid restrictions.

Only a few of us managed to get out on the water at all this year. Most members decided not to launch because of the uncertainty of how Covid restrictions would effect us and on reflection they probably made the right decision. You would think that it would have given us all time to carry out all those maintenance jobs we have been putting off but the restrictions on travel, social distancing and not being able to fully use the clubhouse has made it difficult to even do those. Hopefully, we will get the chance to complete everything before the start of next season and be ready to sail away.

During February, as planned, the Galley was refurbished. The original intention was to have sub contractors carry out the work so that it would be complete for the Start of Season party in March. Unfortunately, the contractors were not available so Paul Morton and Des Founds kindly offered to do the work themselves. They were assisted and sometimes hampered by a motley crew of willing labourers, gofers, tea mashers and sweeper uppers but managed to complete the work on time and to a brilliant standard. The new galley looks tremendous and together with the heads that were refurbished in recent years means we probably have the best facilities of any yacht club in the area.

Many thanks to Paul and Des and everyone that helped.

At this year's AGM, the membership voted to change from an unincorporated club to a company limited by guarantee. A great deal of work was done by Ed and Margaret Hopkinson, Mike Butterfield and I preparing the Articles and Bye Laws, which are required for the Company Limited by Guarantee. We painstakingly went through our constitution to ensure that it was incorporated into the new Articles and Bye Laws and reflected the ethos of the club.

Whilst all of this was happening, we were also making plans to open the club as soon as we were allowed by the Welsh Government. The legislation to do with COVID-19 is not easy to follow. Margaret Hopkinson took the lead as our COVID-19 Officer and researched all the legislation in order to prepare a Risk Assessment, something that is required in law. Margaret was assisted by a COVID-19 sub committee, which included Richard Adams our House Officer, Liz Andrews our Rear Commodore, Alan Hollingworth our Health and Safety advisor and I.

Jerry Jago, our Sailing Captain, produced a sailing programme for 2020 but obviously we didn't have the opportunity to take part. In absence of the real thing, we held a series of weekend Virtual Cruises on our closed Facebook page, following the sailing programme and posting old photographs of previous cruises to the same destinations. We also held a Virtual Summer Cruise in the same manner. It was well subscribed to, allowing members to keep in touch with each other and bringing back many happy memories. An edited version was also posted on our Open Facebook page, which generated a lot of interest from non members who have interacted with or started following it. The intention is to continue to use this form of social media to advertise the club and what we do, hopefully leading to new members. We have already had several enquiries and at least one new member join us.

I can also report that our President John Lomas has resigned this year. I'd like to thank John on behalf of the membership for all his hard work over the years.

Our new President is Derek Lumb, who many of you will already know. Derek and his wife Jean have been club members for many years and both have held various positions within the club management committee. Derek was also a Trustee of the club.



Andy Stephenson. Commodore.

Historic AGM

The 2020 AGM was the first in the club's 59 year history to be held electronically on 'Zoom' due to the Covid 19 pandemic. Restrictions imposed by both the Welsh and UK Government prevented members from meeting in person. Considering that this form of communication was new to many members the meeting was well attended with over 40 persons "present". Additionally, the membership voted to change from an unincorporated club to Company Limited by Guarantee and transfer all of the club's assets to the newly formed **North West Venturers Yacht Club Ltd (NWVYC Ltd)**.

Vice Commodore's Report

Well what to say about 2020 season! Sadly, the only sailing events we took part in (apart from a 2 hour dinghy trip from Gallows Point around the Bay) were the 'virtual cruising' events posted on Facebook. These kept members involved on a number of weekends, brought back many pleasant memories, and helped to raise the Club's profile too, where items were posted on the open Facebook page. Thanks to all who contributed to these digital events.

On the positive side, we've had plenty of time for reviewing and refining the draft Articles and Bye Laws for conversion to 'Company Limited by Guarantee', and comparing these against the existing Club Constitution, and by the time you read this, I hope that the restructuring will have all gone through.

I've found I have to do a daily check on our webcam to see if anything at all is happening, and to remind myself of the view from the clubhouse. Just very occasionally there's been something to see, such as this picture of Stan playing Tonka toys on the beach – apparently sea defense works for a property down by the Gazelle – I didn't know you could drive all the way there on the beach at low water!



So, let's all hope we can have a good Christmas, and that the New Year will bring us the chance to get back to what we got into sailing for, and to meet up once again – and make use of our new galley facilities.

Rear Commodore's Report

We all know what a strange year 2020 has been so far and we have tried to have some social events, but nothing like our usual lively gatherings. After the end of season party in October, we managed to hold three events before Lockdown in March prevented us from opening the club.

On November 2nd we had a club bonfire on the beach and DIY barbecue with the bar open as usual. Dave and Rosetta Welling donated an enormous pumpkin and delicious pumpkin soup. Thanks also to the members who donated fireworks for our unofficial display to complement the Beaumaris event. Many thanks also for the fantastic musical entertainment from Dave and Rosetta, with Jim, Deborah and members of our "Venturers" band.

The Christmas Party complete with festive jumpers and Christmas decorations was held at the clubhouse on 7th December. Excellent catering was supplied and served by the Bishopsgate Hotel, with a choice of festive mains and dessert. Jerry and Denise Jago won the photograph competition again. Graham and Noreen organised the Grand Raffle – many thanks.

Our club members rounded off the evening with musical entertainment and a poem by Des to explain the future of the Rock Trophy.

Andy Stevenson organised a Burns Night Supper on 25th January. The room was festively decorated with Scottish bunting and Tartan table runners. I have only seen pictures of how the club was decorated for the evening but it certainly fitted the event. The hearty supper of haggis with tatties and neaps and sausage casserole and catered by the social committee was much appreciated by everyone. Des Founds, suitable attired, "addressed the haggis" in his inimitable style.

Since the galley was being totally refurbished during February no events were organised at the clubhouse. Andy, again in my absence, organised a meal at Villa Marina, Caernarvon 22nd February for club members. The ground floor of the restaurant was allocated to NWVYC and drinks at the royal Welsh Yacht club were enjoyed afterwards.

The Start of Season Party was scheduled for early March 14th. Ian Sadler, the Three Peaks Yacht Race organiser, had been booked to speak after a pie and peas supper. So many people cancelled due to mounting concerns over Covid-19 that we regrettably had to cancel the event. Ian has fortunately agreed to re-book at a future date. I was so looking forward to cooking in our splendid new galley.

Derek Lumb very kindly offered to do a zoom presentation for club members on 25th June. The presentation entitled "Cruising Scotland with Nelson" The talk was about how they planned and executed a two-week cruise from Oban to Orkney with their old friend Nelson Renner. This was part of Derek and Jean's 2019 clockwise circumvention of Britain. I know members who were fortunate to "zoom in" found it fascinating.

By August, many of us were a bit fed up to say the least. The bay looked empty and we were only allowed access to the 'heads' at the clubhouse. Feeling that a social gathering, under permitted guidelines would be a good idea, Margaret came up with the suggestion of a socially distanced DIY beach barbecue. We managed to organise this for 29th August – the Bank Holiday weekend. 26 people came along and although there was a chilly breeze it stayed dry for us. Andy manned the bar from inside the club and we all observed the one-way system and social distancing rules. We all lit our own small barbecues which we kept going for extra warmth during the evening. It was lovely to catch up with friends we hadn't seen for a while.

Finally, our EOS Essential Maintenance Day and party was also postponed due to the fact that only a very few people had booked in and local lockdown restrictions prevented some of us from travelling. I'm sure we will get together again as soon as circumstances permit and I look forward to planning our future events.

Liz Andrews

Rear Commodore



Thank you to Anglesey County Council

I had a bill for my mooring at Menai Bridge, with a reasonable discount, hopefully like everybody else (unlike the winter storage charge at the point), and was so pleased, that I wrote to the County Council thanking them for their very kind gesture during the difficult situation we are all in. I also took the opportunity, as a thank you letter was probably a novelty to them, to get their attention about the speed of craft passing the moorings and the very unfortunate accident that involved a jet ski that caused a fatality. I also mentioned that as a club we have been concerned for some time about the very considerable speed of the Rib Rides and other craft and we would like some speed restrictions properly buoyed and speed limits indicated.

I did mention that we were aware of the benefit to the town of visitors coming in, but it is not Blackpool and a lot of visitors choose Anglesey for the quiet beauty of the surroundings.

So all that said, I had a reply! A call from the Harbour Master, Alun Price who said they were in talks about it, and all are concerned. He also mentioned that the Rib Ride in the Beaumaris Bay had finished and they are concentrating on Puffin Island trips. He also suggested that I should contact him in the new year for an update.

I will keep you informed. Paul Morton

John Whittaker Chairman of the VDBHA kindly circulated some useful links concerning antisocial speeding on the Straits which may be of some interest to our members. Some of the dates have past for the meetings but there is still some useful information there.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-wales-54852792> A bill to create the offence of operating a jet ski without a licence

<http://www.caernarfonharbour.org.uk/public-consultation-on-speed-control-zones/> A public meeting called by the Marine Advisory Committee concerning speed control zones on the Strait.

Subject: Mark Shackleton, the popular Dock Master at Victoria Dock sadly passed...

Mark Shackleton, the popular Dock Master at Victoria Dock sadly passed away in August this year. A memorial 'Sail Past' was held on Saturday 19th September with over 50 boats of all shapes and sizes sailing past the Dock entrance in front of his family. Many of the boats were 'Dressed Overall' and the whole procession was over a mile long. It was a very moving spectacle, something that is rarely seen and was a measure of how popular Mark was. A memorial bollard and plaque has been installed near to the entrance to the marina. He will be sadly missed.



Membership Renewal Time

Renew before the end of December and get a discount.

Membership subscriptions and Dinghy Store fees for 2021 are due before the end of Dec 2020 (except for those new members who have joined since the 1st September 2020). All members have received an additional discount from the Covid 19 grant in addition to the early payment discount.

You can pay your subscription by BACS, or cheque.

Membership Category	Amount payable following C19 discount (if paid after 31/12/2020)	Early Payment Discounted amount (if paid by 31/12/2020)
Family	96	86
Single	52	46
Outport	45	40
Anchor	20	15
Honorary	n/a	n/a
Associate	Individual rates apply	
Dinghy Store	Dinghy and Engine £56 Engine only £28	

You can pay your membership subscription and dinghy store fees in 2 ways.

By BACS into the club bank account

Sort code 09 01 28 Account No 81867052

If you pay by BACS please let the membership secretary know that you have made a payment and reference your payment 'Subs 2021'.

Email : members@nwvyc.org.uk

Or by cheque payable to NWVYC and posted to:

Denise Jago, The Acorns, Holcroft Way, Cross Houses, Shrewsbury. SY5 6LQ

50 Club 2020

Thank you for supporting your club through the 50 club this year. Your support is much appreciated and allows us to develop and improve the club facilities. The new galley is an example of where our fundraising goes. This years winners have been:

Month 2020	First Prize £50	Second Prize £20	Third Prize £15
January	Simon & Jan Quarmby 30	Graham Jones 33	Jan & John Lomas 39
February	Richard Adams 25	NWVYC 34	Paul Morton 32
March SOS party £150	Dave Calvert 38		
March	Lee Downs 8	Joy Downs 49	Liz Andrews 14
April	Sue Beetlestone 21	John Lomas 9	Richard Adams 25
May	NWVYC 6	Lee Downs 8	Jen Barcroft 32
June	Robert Heyes 15	Joy Downs 2	Charles Townley 37
July	Liz Andrews 14	Jan Quarmby 18	Ed Hopkinson 10
Aug	Ed Hopkinson 5	NWVYC 10	Sue Beetlestone 21
Sept	Paul Mountford 1	Dave Calvert 38	Brian Oulton 19
October EOS party £150	Sue Beetlestone 21		
October	Sarah Crawford 16	Paul Mountford 1	NWVYC 6
November			

If you want to participate select an unallocated number. Notify the club secretary of the draw number you have selected and arrange payment as to the right:-

Numbers still available:- 6, 13, 31, 40, 41, 42. (£50 per No./year)

You can renew your number, or pay for a new number by:

BACS into the club bank account

Sort code 09 01 28 Account No 81867052

If you pay by BACS please reference 50 club and the number e.g.50club 6

By cheque payable to NWVYC and posted to:

Margaret Hopkinson, 25 Peterborough Close, Macclesfield, Cheshire. SK10 3 DT

Committee as elected at the 2020 AGM

Position	Name	E Mail	Committee Members
President	Derek Lumb	president@nwvyc.org.uk	John Wilkinson
Commodore	Andrew Stephenson	commodore@nwvyc.org.uk	Sue Beetlestone
Vice Commodore		Vice.commodore@nwvyc.org.uk	Sarah Crawford
Rear Commodore	Liz Andrews	Rear.commodore@nwvyc.org.uk	Brian Oulton
Hon Treasurer	Edward Hopkinson	treasurer@nwvyc.org.uk	Richard Bumpus
Hon Secretary	Margaret Hopkinson	secretary@nwvyc.org.uk	Co Opted Members
Hon Membership Secretary	Denise Jago	membership@nwvyc.org.uk	Mike Butterfield
Hon Sailing Captain	Jerry Jago	sailing@nwvyc.org.uk	Venturer Editor
Hon House Captain	Richard Adams	house@nwvyc.org.uk	Dave Calvert
Hon Bosun	Graham Jones	bosun@nwvyc.org.uk	editor@nwvyc.org.uk