

# 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

Hello everyone, I hope you are all as well as can be expected under these difficult circumstances. Normally, at this time of year, members would be busy finishing off those last minute jobs on their pride and joys and talking about possible launch dates. The clubhouse would be busy with members cooking breakfast and the smell of bacon would be wafting around the place. We would also be looking forward to the Start of Season working party and evening social at the clubhouse. Sadly, these things have been delayed but there is the promise of better times ahead.

Everything is subject to change and dependant on data but if things go to plan and the Welsh Government co-operates, mid April could see us able to use our boats again.

Our Sailing Captain, Jerry Jago has prepared a sailing programme for the year and is updating it as more information becomes available. We will publish it once dates have been confirmed.

This year is the 60th Anniversary of the formation of NWVYC and we hope to be able to celebrate it later in the year. If you have any ideas on how best to do this please let me know. Maybe a mass club cruise and BBQ at a suitable beach with an open invitation for non members to join us or an open day/party at the clubhouse? Has anyone got any old photographs of the club and Gallows Point that they could share to see how things have changed?

Thank you to everyone on the Management Committee, who are now officially Directors of the North West Venturers Yacht Club Ltd, for their continued support and especially to our House Officer Richard Adams for keeping an eye on the clubhouse during our absence. Thanks also to Ed and Margaret Hopkinson, our Treasurer and Secretary for looking after the day to day administration of the club.

Keep positive, stay safe and hopefully we will soon be able to get together and out on the water again.



**Andy Stevenson. Commodore.**

### Isle of Man update

It was announced mid March that due to Covid **the Isle of Man's borders will be closed until September 2021**. The IOM Enterprise Minister, Laurence Skelly, said that the announcement was regrettable but would provide "clarity and certainty".

**It should be noted that transit vessels can use mooring buoys or anchor off but it is forbidden to moor alongside sea walls or the visitors pontoon in Douglas, except for emergency reasons. Going ashore for any reason other than an emergency is forbidden.**

### Bangor Pier

"The structure off the pier is not safe so Bangor Town Council want to disconnect it from the pier in case of damage. The lit Bangor buoy which is right in front will cover it. Trinity House have agreed the change but there has to be a consultation period. The existing light is on top of the unsafe structure and it cannot be maintained. I am helping Bangor Town Council pass the word on. Any comments to them please not me!"

Alun

Pier master, IOACC

# Rear Commodore's Report

My report for the Spring edition of The Venturer would normally consist of a write up of our social events held at the club house or, occasionally about a meal out together. As we all know there is no 'normal' at the moment, but we have endeavoured, as a club, to stay in touch via Zoom and have 'virtually' met up on a few occasions.

On Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> December we held a Zoom pre-Christmas chat and quiz for our members. 21 people joined in, wearing festive garb. Following our joint virtual toast, Andy Stevenson challenged us with a fun quiz which we all enjoyed. Many thanks Andy for organising and delivering thought provoking questions for us. It was lovely to catch up with all who joined in and we hoped this would encourage more members to join us at any future 'social Zooms'.

I can confirm that the new flooring in the Galley has now been completed. On Monday 4<sup>th</sup> January Brian Fox Carpets, Bangor, fitted the Polyflor anti-slip flooring. It was chosen to complement the worktops and the existing laminate flooring in the rest of the room. Many thanks to Richard Adams for overseeing the work and taking some photographs as I was unable to travel, due to lockdown. I can't wait to get cooking in our galley now - which looks amazing.



Our Bosun Graham was reminiscing about the successful Burns Night event at the clubhouse last year and suggested that we could have a Zoom get together for Burns Night this year. It was rather short notice, but a great idea and Andy offered straight away to organise a Scottish themed quiz and we chose Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> January – as close to Burns Night as we could and to suit most people. The invitations were quickly written and sent out via our closed Facebook page and email. We were encouraged to don Scottish garb and Andy appropriately responded with a Tam o' Shanta sporting an attached red-head wig! The quiz was great fun too. Thanks again Andy for hosting. Des, also sporting a 'tam', addressed the haggis with great enthusiasm. It was a very entertaining evening and thank you to all who participated.

On Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> February our President Derek Lumb, who is the Celtic Section Secretary for the Cruising Association, repeated a talk via Zoom previously given to its Celtic Section which was originally part of a series of 5 sessions covering Ireland and the West Coast of Scotland. It was entitled An Introduction to Cruising the West Coast of Scotland from the Mull of Kintyre to Ardnamurchan Point.

Derek shared with us his journey aboard Whispered Secret. He certainly made me feel as if we were sailing with him as he told us about the southern part of this area in the sheltered waters of the Sound of Jura. When you head North and West you pass into the Firth of Lorne with more than half a dozen sea lochs branching off and the centres of Oban and Tobermory before passing out into the Passage of Tiree and the more exposed west coast of Mull with the islands of Coll and Tiree, Gometra and Ulva, the Treshnish Isles and the holy island of Iona plus the west coast of Mull, Jura and Islay. Derek's knowledge of this area showed us that whatever the weather there is somewhere to go in sheltered waters. This is also the centre of the production of the distinctive Island Malts with 8 distilleries on Islay and, with those on Jura, at Oban and Tobermory, Derek assured us you will be spoilt for choice.

Screen sharing made it possible for us to see some fantastic photographs which made me realise how much I am missing sailing. The Antares charts which we were also able to see via screen sharing were very detailed. Derek's knowledge about safe passages and anchorages, and local history made this a totally enjoyable experience. Thank you very much indeed. It was good to see 67 logged in screens from NWVYC and various other sailing clubs and associations from Wales, England and Scotland, as we had opened the invitation out beyond the closed Facebook page.

Looking forward to future social gatherings I can only say that as soon as we are able to, we will organise events to suit whatever level of restrictions are in place. Thank you all for your patience and understanding during this last twelve months as I know that club events have been organised and then sadly cancelled due to various COVID restrictions.

Liz Andrews

## Rear Commodore

### 50 Club update

The draw takes place on the last weekend of the month with an extra £150 prize at the SOS and EOS parties. Unallocated numbers are :- 3,6,18,30,31,40,41 & 50.

Date	December 2020	January 2021	February 2021
1 <sup>st</sup> prize £50	43 Shirley Dwyer	36 not taken	4 Sarah Crawford
2 <sup>nd</sup> prize £20	44 Lee Downes	4 Sarah Crawford	49 Joy Downes
3 <sup>rd</sup> prize £15	26 Charles Downley	28 not taken	45 Mark Suffield

All proceeds go to fund improvements etc in the Club. If you would like purchase a number the cost is a one off payment per year of £50. You can purchase a number in 2 ways :- BACS into the club bank account, sort code 09 01 28 Account No 867052. If you pay by BACS please reference 50 club and the number e.g.50club 6 or by cheque payable to NWVYC and posted to:- Margaret Hopkinson, 25 Peterborough Close, Macclesfield, Cheshire. SK10 3DT. **Any enquiries** margarethopkinson1@gmail.com.

## GEOFF PIKE

Geoff Pike had been a member of the North West Venturers Yacht Club for many years.

His acceptance into the club as a dinghy sailor was by virtue of the fact that he was a keen long distance sailor in Sundance Drifter his Wayfarer, his latest Wayfarer was Grey Dog, cooking and sleeping in a boat tent. Geoff had circumnavigated pretty much all of the Scottish Western Isles large and small including a figure of eight circumnavigation of the Shetland Isles, no mean feat in a small open boat. Geoff also spent time as a Lt Commander teaching sailing skills to Navel cadets.

Sadly at the age of 61, still strong and active Geoff became ill and had to undergo an operation after which he developed Sepsis and Pneumonia. When Geoff passed away on Monday 30th November it was a huge shock to all that knew him well, especially his sister Helen. Geoff's funeral was on Wednesday 16th December at St Mary's Church, Sandbach, Cheshire. Helen had requested donations go to the RNLI.

Geoff's wishes were that he would be cremated and that his ashes be scattered from a sailing boat at sea.

This will happen this summer somewhere off Anglesey, date to be announced.



## DEREK ASQUITH

Derek, one of our much loved members, sadly passed away on the 4th of March this year. He was successfully recovering from surgery, following a fall when he contracted Covid. He was a longstanding member of the club and apart from being an active member, always ready to lend a hand, was the club House Officer for some time, keeping the clubhouse in good repair.

Derek first started sailing as a boy on the Norfolk Broads. After a long break, in 1984, together with his wife Carol, they took up dinghy sailing together in Rhosneigr. Their first yacht, in 1994, was a 24' Snapdragon called Luffa. Abraxas of Arne, a Moody 29 was purchased in 2005 and was a familiar site on the Straits.

Together with his wife Carol, they sailed their yacht Abraxas on many adventures, being especially fond of the waters around South Wales. An intrepid and experienced sailor, Derek supported members taking part in the early summer cruise of 2017 to South Wales, willingly sharing his experience of these waters. His timings on how to make Jack and Ramsey sounds in one go were much appreciated. Derek was an esteemed and long standing member of our club, and many members will hold many fond memories. He was a fine sailor, always willing to help and give quiet advice. He will be much missed.

Derek's funeral was held on the 17th of March

Our thoughts and condolences go to his wife Carol.



## Victoria Dock Berth Master

A new Dock Master has been appointed at Victoria Dock Marina. Danny Patton, a firefighter is currently serving his notice and due to start work for Caernarfon Harbour Trust the second week in April. We wish him well in his new role and look forward to meeting him.

## Morlais Development Zone

The Morlais Development Zone is managed by Menter Môn, a 'not for profit' company set up to work to deliver projects, mostly in Anglesey and Gwynedd, working for a sustainable future.

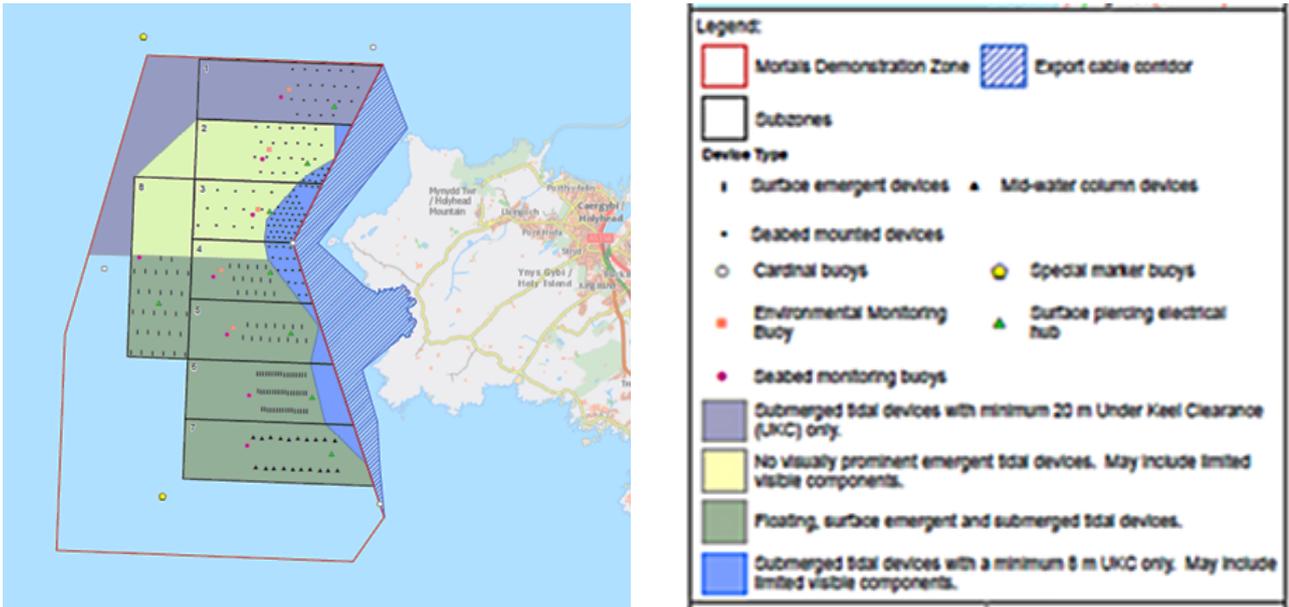
One of these projects – the Morlais Development Zone - is of significantly large scale and potential impact. It covers 35 km<sup>2</sup> of the sea near Holy Island, Anglesey, making use of the tidal current resource to generate electricity. It has the potential to become one of the largest tidal stream energy sites in the world with a generating capacity of up to 240MW of tidal electricity. It is intended to secure a renewable and reliable energy source of electricity.

- Morlais will provide the infrastructure for developers of tidal energy converters to deploy their tidal devices on a commercial scale.
- There will be a very controlled phased deployment, with the first turbines being carefully and extensively monitored - only when it is confirmed that there are no negative impacts will further devices be installed.
- Morlais has the potential to generate up to 240 MW of electricity.
- The electricity will be transmitted from the Morlais site to the National Grid.
- Depending on the types of tidal devices used, some may be visible above the sea surface and others will be fully submerged and hidden from view.
- Any moving turbine parts or rotors will be below the sea surface.

Cont' overleaf

- For safety purposes there will be some navigation markers showing the location of the devices.
- Any devices on the surface will have lights similar to the navigation lights on small boats.
- Electricity will be brought to a substation on shore via a maximum of 9 sub-sea cables.

Electricity will be exported from this landfill substation to the existing electricity network via buried cables to grid substation. The area where these devices will be installed:



*I apologise for the poor quality of the legend. This is how I received it.*

The purple area is a restricted zone with submerged devices having minimum 20m under the keel; the yellow area is also restricted and has no visually prominent emergent tidal devices (but possibly sub-sea devices); the green area is unrestricted having floating, surface emergent and submerged devices. The blue area would be restricted having submerged devices having minimum 8m under the keel. The hashed blue is the export cable corridor. Whilst the area is not in itself described as an exclusion zone the overall effect will be to exclude sailing vessels from the area in which generating devices are sited. Basically, vessels navigating around the Stacks would have to either keep to the west, or in the corridor between the blue area and the cliffs.

Over the last 12 months our club has become increasingly concerned over the safety of vessels travelling through the zone during the construction phase and the subsequent operation of the zone. We have contributed to the RYA's response to the scheme and public inquiry and we continue to liaise with them. The RYA is representing the recreational boating community over safety, whilst other organisations (RSPB etc.) are representing other environmental concerns.

The RYA, whilst not opposing the scheme outright, has set out a series of safeguards and limitations they wish to see set into the scheme such as:

- Increasing the width of the blue (restricted) zone to widen the corridor along the coast.
- Having no surface emergent devices in the blue zone.
- An 800m wide Escape Channel through the restricted areas orientated SW-NE.
- Tightening the controls over the development of the area, and the monitoring of the impacts

They have made a number of points to the public inquiry, the three main ones being:

- Amenity issues- how the area is used by their members, have not been adequately assessed;
- Economic impact- the impact to recreational boating as an economic driver for the community has not been considered, and;
- Visual survey data had not been included in the NRA and the applicant was forced to disclose this.

Menter Mon has submitted consent applications pursuant to the Transport and Works Act 1992. They also have to complete the Marine Licence process with Natural Resources Wales before the offshore elements of the project can take place. A decision by Welsh Ministers is expected later in 2021.

Whether or not it will go ahead, only time will tell. We certainly will need the green energy but how much are we prepared to pay in terms of limitations on sailing.

**Margaret Hopkinson**