

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

This year has been another difficult year due to the Pandemic but slightly better than last year. Some members were able to launch their boats but others are still on the hard due to a variety of reasons. Those that have launched have been able to take part in some of the sailing programme weekend events, with a good turnout of boats at times.

The clubhouse has been fully open for members to use but is still subject to Covid regulations with regard to signing in for Track and Trace, social distancing etc. I think it has become second nature to us all now to stand further apart when speaking to someone and not shaking hands. The hand sanitisers in the clubhouse are being put to good use and are regularly topped up.

The Spring and Summer Cruises didn't attract much interest from members but that is understandable given the restrictions that were in place in Ireland, Northern Ireland and The Isle of Man. It made it difficult to plan a destination for fear of breaking some rules or worse. However, some members did take the plunge individually and managed trips to the Isle of Man, Northern Ireland and Scotland, whilst others chose to stay local and circumnavigate Anglesey.

This year is the 60th Anniversary of the formation of the NWVYC and it was hoped that we could celebrate it somehow. However, with the continuing Covid situation and increasing infection rates in Wales, the committee (Board of Directors to give it its official title) have decided to postpone any celebrations until next year. If the Olympics can postpone then so can we!

Several hard working members of the Committee have indicated that they will not be standing for re election at this year's AGM, so I am appealing to you all to step up and be counted. The club cannot function without volunteers to join the committee and take on the Officer roles, especially Honorary Secretary and Treasurer but all of the roles are available. If you would like to see the club grow and prosper and you feel you could help please get in touch to discuss.



Andy Stephenson. Commodore.

Commodore to the rescue!

Our Commodore, Andy Stevenson was sailing back from Scotland on Sea Gem. After leaving Portpatrick, following the coast of the Mull of Galloway towards the Isle of Man, they received a Pan Pan call from Belfast Coastguard. Two men in a small inflatable dinghy had broken down near to Port Logan and were being swept away with the tide. By chance, Sea Gem was off the Mull of Logan and commenced a search, spotting the men a short time later off Cairnywellan Head. Having informed Belfast Coastguard, Sea Gem approached the men who were close to the rocky shore and managed to throw a line and take them in tow away from the rocks.

Portpatrick RNLI lifeboat arrived on scene a short time later and took the men aboard. It transpired that the outboard engine was new but when the men, who had been fishing, came to start it, they pulled the starter cord so hard it became detached. They couldn't paddle against the tide and one of the men had a heart condition. Only one of them had a buoyancy jacket on and they raised the alarm by mobile phone.

Rear Commodore's Thoughts

As some of you know, Reece and I have sold Cloe Jo which was our first boat. We have been looking to change to a bilge keeler for a while, and with the sellers' market being buoyant we decided to go ahead. This also means that with no boat to sail or jobs aboard to do we haven't visited Gallows Point for a while. I was so pleased, when we did finally travel up in our camper van, to see the clubhouse busy, and the club environs looking well kept. The lovely galley was being used, and the familiar chatter amongst club members was very welcome after such quiet times. It was also really good to meet some of our new members too. I'm really looking forward to planning social events once again, even though they may be slightly modified versions to suit whatever restrictions may or may not be in place.

Although we are without a boat here, it hasn't stopped us sailing. Reece and I were very fortunate to spend a week as crew for Andy as part of Sea Gem's Grand Tour. Andy is a great skipper with a lovely boat and we were thoroughly spoilt. Even the Scottish weather was amazing most days. We have not sailed on the Clyde before and it was stunning. I won't say anything more about the trip, as I know Andy has a talk planned for our End of Season Party.

Whilst we were searching the internet for possible boat purchases, Reece came across a share in a boat syndicate in Greece. We have never sailed in Ionian waters before, never tried 'Med – mooring' but it has always sounded so appealing. We did our research, contacted the group, had many long "shall we – shan't we" discussions between the two of us before finally making a commitment. We now have a share of Southern Comfort, a Sigma 33, based at Nidri on Lefkas.

We missed our two-week allocated slot due to Welsh Covid restrictions so when a spare two weeks came up, and restrictions were eased, we didn't have any second thoughts. We had to jump through several hoops regarding Covid passports, passenger locator forms etc, but it was well worth the effort. We nearly didn't make our 07:00 flight from Manchester either! At 06:45 we were still queuing at security, having arrived at the airport in plenty of time. "Organised chaos" springs to mind to say the least. We just made it to our seats with five minutes to spare.

So far, we have only explored Lefkas, Ithaca and Meganisi, but we are looking forward to sailing further afield next year. She's an older boat, but has had upgrades and improvements, and with a great racing pedigree, we certainly did not need much of a breeze to get her going. We even encountered a potential stowaway as we were having a late evening drink on the deck and moored on a pontoon near a taverna. A ginger and white cat appeared from inside the boat. Needless to say, puss was quickly returned to shore, and we did thorough checks before we left the following morning.

Liz Andrews

Rear Commodore

House Officers Report

With Coronavirus restrictions easing, it's been great to have the clubhouse being used a lot more, and members have really risen to the maintenance challenge too – we weren't able to have a start of season work day, but people took on the tasks listed on email and Facebook and got everything done – many thanks to everyone involved. At some point we probably need to expand the gravel area of the car park, as we've lost it to vegetation, but there's no rush on that.

Car parking: please will all members display their club parking permit when using the club car park? We are trying to police illicit users but if members aren't showing a permit we might cause offence. If you don't have one, please contact Denise Jago, Membership Secretary, and she will send you one.

The Clubhouse

Now that the club is open for use again, members are reminded to follow the signing in procedures and comply with the Risk Assessment for track and trace.

Members using the galley are reminded that the fridges are for everyone to use and should only store food to be used the same day. Cool packs for use on your vessels can be frozen overnight in the freezer compartments but should be marked with your name and not left there indefinitely.

Richard Adams Hon. House Officer

Money, money, money

.... as the song goes.

Behind the scenes of any good Club are the Committee Members who keep the "cogs" oiled. Without them the Club cannot continue to function. New Committee members are always wanted, so if you feel you could give some time to one of the positions please contact the Commodore or any Committee member and have a word. You will be part of a great team.

We need someone to volunteer to take over the Hon Treasurer role. It's not rocket science, or high finance, but without it, the club cannot continue.

As Hon Treasurer, I've been looking after the Venturer's money for almost 5 years now, and not managed to spend it all yet!

I was supposed to be handing over the role 2 years back, but the plan fell through, so as a stop-gap I agreed to continue. However, I am going to step down from the role at this year's AGM, so need someone to hand over to.

If you would be willing to help, please speak to either the Commodore, or myself.

Thank you. Ed Hopkinson (Hon Treasurer)

To New and Old Members alike,

NWVYC 50 Club

If you aren't already in the NWVYC 50 Club , subscribe now.

Based upon the National Lottery Draw, the 50 club is a fun way to raise money for our club, with the chance of **monthly prizes**.

Whilst your membership subscription covers the expected annual costs of running our club, our fundraising activities allow us to develop our facilities. The cladding on the club, the redevelopment of the heads and galley are examples of where money raised through fundraising activities goes.

If you don't already have a lucky number choose one now.

The following numbers are available:

3, 4, 6, 18, 24, 30, 31, 40, 41, and 46.

One of these could be your lucky number. Join the fun at the end of every month to see if you have won.

You can purchase a number in 2 ways:-

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

Or By cheque payable to NWVYC and posted to:

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

If you wish to purchase a number, let me know and I'll reserve it for you.

margarethopkinson1@gmail.com

Remembering Peter Brimecombe

When the club was first formed in 1961 Peter was the master of moorings and storage. He decided where moorings were laid in the Bay and where boats were stored ashore. The distance between moorings was determined by the turning characteristics of the boat, the tidal eddies, ground gullies and a dozen other considerations, known only to Peter. Launch day was an exciting time. There were no hoists, just a trolley and a bed of rollers. Peter conducted teams of volunteers to move the rollers. As the boat slid down the slope, rollers were removed from the uphill side and rushed to the seaward side, hopefully to be in position before the boat reached them. It was lowered just far enough to float at high water, after which there was a wet scramble to rescue the rollers before they floated away across the bay. Hauling-out saw a reversal of the process.

Peter never lost a boat.

Cajoling him into launching before the fifteenth of May was a herculean task, as was letting you keep the boat in the water after the fifteenth of September. As the years passed and boats grew longer Peter let others deal with launching and concentrated on moorings. He became the unofficial manager of Gallows Point and all yachting activities north of Menai Bridge. He was the backbone of the Venturers and following the sale of his mooring business he was made an honorary member.



In 1967 he was one of the first crew on Beaumaris's new "Blue Peter II" lifeboat, a "D" class inflatable which was one of 4 "D" class inshore lifeboats funded by the viewers of Blue Peter who had sent in 240,000 paperback books to raise the money. Following his retirement from the crew he went on to be a Deputy Launching Authority and later a member of the Beaumaris Branch committee.

However, his great love was building wooden boats, slowly carefully and beautifully, in the shed he occupied on Gallows Point. Tongue in cheek, he acknowledged that "some people" might be prepared to risk their lives in these new-fangled Tupperware Boats, but nothing was better than traditional wood. From those early days to recent times, if you wanted help from Peter, the place to go was his Gallows Point shed. Nowadays the shed looks a little different from what it did in the early days.

Forthcoming events

Saturday 9th October

- Working party 09:30 Free tea/coffee and home-made Welsh cakes
- 10:00 Working party tasks organised by Richard Adams House Officer
- 18:00 Bar opens
- 19:00 Supper served with a 'Street Food' theme
(Dishes from around the world)
- 20:00 A talk given by Andy Stevenson on Sea Gem's Grand Tour of Scotland

Saturday 6th November

- AGM 11:00 at the Clubhouse and also via Zoom for those who cannot attend
- 18.00 Bar opens. Bonfire Party and DIY barbecue.

Saturday 11th December

Christmas Party at the clubhouse

I hope you will be able to support these events. Further details will be circulated by email and the NWVYC closed Facebook page. If you would prefer me to contact you directly about these events, please let me know. My number is 07716344010.

Liz Andrews Rear Commodore