

January 2003

The Golden Lion

The Newsletter of West Lancashire Yacht Club
www.wlyc.org.uk

HAPPY NEW YEAR



SEE INSIDE FOR YOUR SOCIAL CALENDAR

Editorial team :- Barbara Agnew, Margaret Gambie, Maureen Potts, Jack Diamond

Commodore's Comments

This is the second attempt at a letter – Kathy found the first effort (all finance and strategy) too dour.

Perhaps she meant too dire. Anyway a big thank you to Rick, and those members of his team who are retiring, for their efforts over the last couple of years. Happy retirement!

What's in store for the next couple of years? Well gallons of good sailing of course, with sea sailing taking on a new look, and a new Club fleet for series racing on the lake – well done the Topper squad for getting their presence felt on the water. No doubt Damian, the new Dinghy Captain, will be providing more details in his column at some stage.

Training continues under Principal Gwyn (the impersonator) Roberts. Full details in his column, but please note the need for the Club to manage its costs. Expenditure has exceeded income for the past three years. A tridental (three prong) approach is planned to rectify the position, an increase in income from the bar and social events, by attracting more people down to the Club, an increase in subscriptions as agreed at the AGM, and an active management of costs, of which one of the biggest is sailing. (That was part of the dour bit).

The Social round gets going in a lively fashion with Burns night (a “black-tie do”) on 25 January under the auspices of Steve Abbott, the New House Chairman taking over from Richard Stubbs. One of his objectives

is to try and provide something for everyone, so keep your eyes on the Golden Lion to identify the event that has been planned for you.

The other newly co-opted member of the Club Committee is Rob Pickering who is CEO 24 Hour Race.

One of the projects I would like to see through in the next two years is the renovation of the race control tower. Built in the late sixties and the winner of an architectural award it is now in a poor state of repair. I'd like to recruit a project leader with the appropriate skills to manage its restoration to something more like its former glory. Any volunteers for this exciting role?

Please help your Committee to help you in engendering a Club atmosphere that everyone enjoys. The first way you can help is in paying your subscriptions now please, if you haven't already done so. They were due on 1 January. Please feel free to collar me, or another flag officer if you want to chat about the Club; preferably not to give us a problem, but by all means to highlight an issue and suggest a solution.

Every good wish for 2003

KIT ROBINSON
COMMODORE

HOUSE REPORT

And so.....the end is near
(here)and now I face the final
curtain....

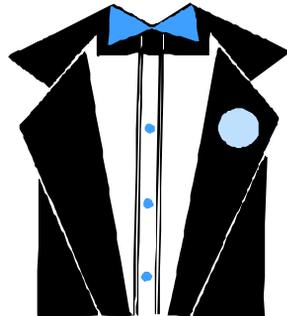
Well, something like that anyway.
We' ve had a busy Christmas for the
House Committee..... Prizegiving,
Children's Party, Adults Party and the
New Year Ball. All have passed off
with great merriment and peace and
goodwill to all men. My own favourite
was the Adults Party, as I had a lot of
fun writing the pantomime and a lot of
laughs rehearsing it with our star-
studded cast. Anyone who missed it
should talk to Alan Houghton who is
selling bootleg videos at reasonable
prices. If their alter egos pay me
enough, I'll ensure that Sheriff Rick, Dr
Foo Kit, Sir George de BUPA, Prince

Bryan de Beancounter, Quasiphildo and
Father Ted Southfork are never seen
again.

And here comes the valedictory.
I've had a great time being House
Chairman over the past two years and
I've been lucky to have such a fantastic
team on the House Committee. We've
had great fun organising the events...
and for their boundless energy, enthusi-
asm and inventiveness I give my humble
thanks. I' m sure that they will go on to
greater things under the new Chairman-
ship of Steve Abbott and I wish him
every success. Please support Steve and
the team over the next two years
the social events are the glue that bind
the club together. Next event is the
Burns Night on January 25th, so get
down to the Club and scoff some haggis.
And as for me..... well, I'll still
be around the club and still contributing
where I can, but I have an important
project to attend to in 2003!
Party-on

RICHARD STUBBS

GENTLEMENS DINNER



**Saturday 8th February
19.30 Dress Formal**



House

I must admit to being very surprised when I was approached by our new Commodore to take on the role of Chair of the House Committee. After all, Chris and I have only been members of WLYC since April, and Richard Stubbs is a hard act to follow.

The Commodore explained that others had been unable to take the responsibility on and that support would be forthcoming from all directions (which to date it has).

So here I am with much to learn, in 'at the deep end', and keen to do my best. Chris has kindly offered to support me and I know how valuable that will be. Clearly we need the support of the membership. I am pleased to report that the existing Committee have already generally indicated their willingness to keep up the good work. Phil Lindsay has also been very helpful in providing information about a host of practical issues.

The Club relies on a vibrant clubhouse scene as bar takings

and social events are a crucial source of income. As such members enjoy its excellent facilities, social benefits and hospitality. By being there they sustain the existence of the Club and its development from an economic point of view.

Richard and his Team have set a high standard and, from all accounts, enjoyed themselves in the process. We hope to build on that. On behalf of the Club it remains for me to thank Richard and his Committee for all its hard work and energy.

Finally, the issue of dress code has been raised with me. There are two aspects:

- the matter of what is appropriate;*
- the need for us to make it clear what the code is for any function.*

We have taken this on board and will make the situation clear when functions are promoted.

We now look forward to hearing from you and having your support for House Committee functions.

**STEVEN ABBOTT – CHAIR,
HOUSE COMMITTEE
(01704-822674).**

CALLING ALL JUNIORS & TOPPER SAILORS

Happy New Year! Well a new season brings new challenges. Days are already getting longer and it won't be long till the Fitting Out Race! Time to start survey your dinghy and start preparing it for the new season. Plans are well ahead for next season's sailing: we hope to include even more racing opportunities for Juniors at WLYC, but I also hope the club can be represented by Juniors at Open meetings and traveller events throughout the NW plus Regional National championships and even some international regattas! Next season there will also a new edition to the WLYC's repertoire of open events, we will be holding a Topper open on Saturday 17th May!

26 April - NW Topper Travellers - Nantwich & Borders

3&4 May - Topper Inland Championships - Grafham (tbc)

10 May - NW Topper Travellers - Dovestone

17 May - NW Topper Travellers - West Lancs

24 May - Nationwide & NW Topper Travellers - Ullswater

31 May - NW Topper Travellers - Elton

31 May & 1 Jun - Nationwide

Topper Traveller - East Lothian
7 June - NW Topper Travellers - Winsford Flash

14 June - NW Topper Travellers - Redesmere

15 June - Nationwide Topper Traveller - Red Wharf Bay

21 June - Nationwide Topper Traveller - Draycote

12 July - NW Topper Travellers - Budworth

2 - 8 Aug - Topper National Championships - Sunderland

30 & 31 August - Nationwide Topper Traveller - Chew Valley

20 & 21 Sept - Topper NW Area Championships - Leigh & Lowton

27 Sept - Nationwide Topper Traveller - South Shields

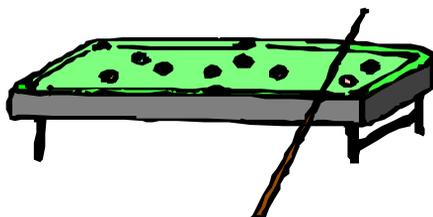
28 Sept - Nationwide Topper Traveller - Sunderland

But being a Junior at WLYC is not just about sailing. On 28th December, 14 Juniors and young at heart adults took to the Ice at the Altringham Ice rink - lots of thrills and spills but thankfully no injuries! Future social events are being planned, if anyone has any ideas please don't hesitate to contact me.

I hope to see many of you on the water and around the club this season.

MIKE PICKERING (JUNIOR CAPTAIN)

SNOOKER & BILLIARDS



The draw for the billiards and snooker competitions has now been made and is on display on the snooker room door.

All participants are requested to arrange to play their matches before the dates stated on the list.

PELORUS JACK

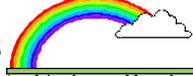
LINERS

Big naval sailing ships with two or three decks of guns went into battle in line ahead so that they did not shoot each other. Smaller ones, such as corvettes and frigates, with much smaller range, could attack out of line. So the word LINE became associated with the big important ships.

Merchant ships of 150 years ago, even when part of a fleet, were largely under the control of the master. He picked up cargo and went wherever the trade dictated. As steam took over from sail the control passed to the owners. It was possible to have ships sailing from, say, Liverpool to New York on a regular basis, and timetables were published and the passenger trade became the dominant factor. A number of these ships sailed along a LINE (like a railway) between the two ports and because of this, and their size and prestige they were called LINERS as opposed to TRAMPS, which picked up whatever cargo they could, and so were unpredictable. Then the companies took up the

word, hence White Star Line, Cunard Line and of course, Elder Dempster Lines.

RAINBOWS



I am indebted to Graham Pinch for adding to my piece on rainbows. He pointed out that it is possible to see a rainbow which has its centre above the horizon. He was standing on the beach at Arisaig with the sun behind him, and saw the normal rainbow with its centre below the horizon. But the sun's rays were reflected by the surface of the sea, and he saw a second rainbow whose centre was as high above the horizon as the direct rainbow's was below. He has given me a photograph of this very unusual sight.

But he has a second photograph showing two rainbows both centred below the horizon but crossing at the horizon. Neither he nor I can understand this. I will bring the photographs to the club on Thursdays, to see if anyone can help to explain this oddity.

Where did the word KNOT come from?



'I see Major Pycraft. You haven't had a drink, you were just tacking into the wind.'

PRIZEGIVING 2002

Recipient

Series & Trophy Results

GP 14

CCJ & KNE Robinson

TGF Atherton Challenge Cup

1st A, 1st B, 1st AU, 2nd O, 1st TA, 2nd TB

EW Thomas & N Jackson

2nd C, 2nd D, 1st E, 2nd 100, 2nd TA, 1st TB

DJ & C Bower

3rd A, 1st C, 1st D, 2nd E, 1st 100

JA Houghton & others

2nd A, 3rd B, 3rd C, 3rd D, 3rd E, 1st O

D & L Chisholm

2nd AU, 3rd O

JA Hivey & CK Caton

2nd B

A Thomas & C Reaser

3rd 100

ENTERPRISE

M Lunn & S Agnew

Army Service Corp Cup; Centenary Bowl;

Inshore Pier Series Cup Charles Oliver

Trophy 1st C, 1st D, 1st 100, 1st TA, 1st TB

A & G Thomas

3rd A, 1st B, 1st AU, 1st O; GP14: 3rd 100

WG Callaghan & R Stubbs

RHB Whittam Tidal Cup 2nd A, 2nd E,

2nd Au, 3rd O, 2nd TA, 2nd TB, 1st TH

R Willetts & D Edwards

1st E, 3rd 100

RP & M Gambie

1st A, 1st TB

IC & B Agnew

3rd C, 3rd AU, 2nd O, 3rd TA

AC & L Halliwell

2nd C, 2nd 100

AR Ashworth & Ja Dick

2nd D, 3rd

LASER

JM Anderson

John Hayward Trophy 2nd A, 2nd B, 3rd C,

2nd D, 1st E, 3rd 100, 1st AU, 1st O

CM Rutter

1st A, 1st B, 2nd C, 3rd D, 2nd 100, 3rd AU

DK Porter

1st C, 1st D, 1st 100

D Newton

1st TA, 1st TB

JG Mainey

2nd AU

J Miller

3rd B

M Newton

3rd A

OPTIMIST

J Donaldson

Read Trophy; Fleetie Holden Salver 1st A,

1st B, 2nd C, 1st TA, 1st TB; Handicap:

1st C, 1st E, 1st 100



S Marshall	1st C, 1st 100
T Rutter	2nd A, 3rd B, 2 100
D Hall	2nd TA, 2nd TB; Handicap: 2nd AU

T Hewitt	1st O
A Stubbs	3rd A, 2nd B

HANDICAP FLEET

N Donaldson	3rd A, 2nd B, 2nd C, 2nd D, 3rd O, 1st TA, 2nd TB, 3rd TH AGB Randall Handicap Trophy
S Hall	2nd A, 1st AU, 2nd TA, 1st TB
D Reaser	1st B, 1st D
E Thomas & D Wilson	1st O
Jamie Dick	1st A
I Donaldson & T Hutchinson	2nd O
M Chisholm	3rd TA
K Tickle	3rd B
G Stevenson	Kirk Wilson Trophy 1st Z, 1st 1920

OFFSHORE FLEET

M Parker	Reg Sayer Premier Prize
DG & WM Pratt	Victoria Cannon
AC & L Halliwell	Harry Leigh Cannon
Zandra Oliver	Ted Barton Trident Trophy

SPECIAL PRIZES

John Daniels	Divers Helmet
Gwyn Roberts	Commodore's Prize
Ted Southworth	President's Trophy
Catherine Reaser	Ladies Race
Phil Lindsay	Wreckers Trophy
Chris Rutter	John Dennis Trophy
Tim Harper	Vera Dixon Trophy
Barbara Agnew	Crews Prize
John Ives	Novice Cup





TRAINING NEWS

Everyone will now be aware of the request for the donation towards the costs of fuel, repairs, maintenance, Insurance and licensing etc. that are incurred when training

It is hoped that participants will be able to make a donation towards the above costs of the order of £30 Adult (£25 plus £5 admin, Log-book and certificate) £10 Junior plus £5 admin, Log-book and Certificate

In addition this year, it is proposed that in order to improve standards even further, a maximum of 20 places will be offered on Level 2 Beginners and 10 each on Seamanship Start Racing and Junior Training courses.

It is essential therefore to reserve your place early because in fairness to everyone places must be offered on a 'First Come, First Served' basis.

Preference may be given to new members whilst repeat level 2 certificate holders are encouraged to take the Seamanship Course

DETAILS OF COURSES

RYA Basic Skills Level 2 – On completion of this course, the successful sailor will be safety conscious, have a basic knowledge of sailing and be capable of sailing a dinghy without an instructor on board in light winds

RYA Seamanship- On completion of this course, the successful sailor will be capable of manoeuvring a dinghy in a seamanlike manner and making seamanship decisions in moderate conditions

It is assumed that every student starting this course has already mastered the practical skills and absorbed the background knowledge required for Basic Skills Level 2

RYA Start Racing – This course is designed to give the confidence, skills and knowledge to take part in club racing in good conditions, much of the work afloat will be done without an instructor on board. Some practice on the sea is envisaged

It is assumed that every student starting this course has already mastered the practical skills and absorbed the background knowledge required for Basic Skills Level 2

Junior training – Will consist of either of the above courses according to previous training/experience

Optimist training - continues with the previously held IOCA certificate course and is intended for cadets under the age of 12 but are encouraged to remain in training in Optimists up to the age of 16.

SUMMER TRAINING 2003 ENTRY FORM

I wish to reserve a place on one of the following training courses;

RYA Basic Skills Level 2 Dinghy (Beginners)
RYA Seamanship
RYA Start Racing
RYA Level 2/Start Racing (Topper, juniors)
RYA Level 2 Power-boat
Optimist training

Friday 4 April 7.30pm then Sat. 5 April for two consecutive weekends
Sat. 15 March for 2 consecutive weekends
Sat. 15 March for 2 consecutive weekends
Weekend 12/13 April
Weekend 15/16 March
Saturday afternoons commencing Sat 26 April 2003

I wish to enrol on the above course / please delete if not required

I enclose a cheque for £ _____ (Adult training) £ _____ (Junior Topper Sailors)

Optimist training £1 per daily session (collected on the day)

(Please note: A donation is not requested if juniors are enrolled on a racing course e.g. RYA Start Racing)

Name _____ Course _____ Date _____

Please send this Entry Form and cheque to **Ms K Hall, 4 Woodlands Way, Longton, Preston PR4 5HN** - payable to West Lancashire Yacht Club (Last date for entries must be 28th February)

PLEASE NOTE .The above dates and courses may be amended due to demand, weather and availability of Instructors, boats etc.

OTHER TRAINING NEWS AND DATES

First Aid

RYA One Day certificate course will be held at the club on Monday 3 February and Monday 10th February 2003 at 7.30pm and will be run once again by Bob Willetts and Dave Taylor

All are welcome to attend. The cost of the course is £10 plus £12 for the Edition 7 First Aid Manual

Racing Techniques

David Hivey is an extremely knowledgeable RYA Coach with considerable racing successes to his credit and often still sailing in international events.

On two evenings only, he will impart some of the secrets of his successes by talking about 'Starting' 'Boat speed' and 'Boat handling' or any other topic you wish to discuss. If you miss this one, you'll certainly be at the back of the fleet!

The dates are 11th February & 18th February. Commencing 7.30pm

RYA Dinghy Instructors course

Following on from the successes of last year, another course is arranged for the weekends of 1st and 2nd March and

8th and 9th March

There is just a couple of places left. If you fancy it but are not sure, give me a ring and I will explain all.

Powerboat Courses

It is hoped that members who are trained by our own club instructors will be available for occasional club duties when required

Although these have been run on the lake up to present, We have been working to gain RYA recognition for this training to be done on the River Mersey as an additional site.

Completion of this arrangement is due very shortly and meanwhile a Level 2 course will be run on the lake over the weekend of 15/16 March 2003

Watch the club's notice board or the Golden Lion for further news

Visit of RYA Class Coach

A visit by a RYA Topper Class coach is being arranged and when finalised all Junior Topper racers will be informed.

GWYN ROBERTS

OFFSHORE NEWS

This year's Commodore's Cruise is planned for the week commencing Saturday 24th May-more details to follow.

The 4th February Offshore Gathering will consist of an illustrated talk by John Driver of the Peninsula Canoe Club, describing coastal kayak cruising in Northern Russia, Greenland and the Scottish Western Isles.

Where possible, please send your email address to me at graham.pinch@wlyc.org.uk.

Please also send me details of any changes to the offshore fleet – to be included in the 2003 WLYC handbook.

Graham Pinch
Offshore Captain

West Lancs Yacht Club Winter walk

This year the walk took place near our new abode, ie, Winster in the Lyth Valley. We had one or two phone calls before 9am, hoping it would be cancelled, as apparently it was pouring down in Southport!! At that precise moment it was dry here in the Lakes (believe it or not). However, all those cars must have dragged the rain clouds up the motorway, because by the time coffee was being served in the Brown Horse, the drizzle had started. However, undeterred, the 27



intrepid walkers and two dogs set off, suitably clothed to sample what was promised as a 'gentle stroll' this year.--- definitely no repeat of last year's mountaineering!---where were

you Stuart?



After a while, the rain ceased and walking became more pleasant. The bridleways were a little muddy in places (drysuits might have been more appropriate), but we all used our ingenuity and managed to follow the correct path without too many deviations. Lunch was taken(not before time, I hear you mutter) with views over the Winster valley, which renewed our energy for the enthusiastic climb to the summit to admire the stunning view (well, it was when the sun was shining--- honest!)We then continued our gentle stroll via Winster house and the Church back to the welcoming haven of the 'pub', where we enjoyed a few drinks followed by a delicious soup and roast beef--satisfying after our day's exercise.

ROY AND MARGARET GAMBIE

New Members

A warm welcome is extended to all new members

David and Glynis Blackburn

Southport, PR9 8BN

Colin and Matthew Dryden

Formby, L37 3RW

Harry Hurst

Ormskirk, L39 1LX

Donald and Barbara Marsden

Southport, PR8 5BA

Paul Jeffrey and Nicola Quinn

Ainsdale, Southport, PR8 3QS

BARTONS UPDATE

Past Commodore Ted Barton will in July this year have completed 40 years membership of WLYC. When renewing his Outport membership last week, he indicated that he was unable to conceal his pride at the sailing achievement of his son Peter, a former club member and winner of the Charles

Oliver Trophy. Peter has won a place in the team representing Great Britain in the World Dinghy Team Racing Championship to take place in Auckland, New Zealand in February. Peter is now a member of both Spinnaker S C in Hampshire and Royal Lyminster Y C. Congratulations to Peter on this notable achievement, we wish him and the team well and we look forward with special interest to learning of his progress.

24 HOUR RACE 2003



I know it hardly seems the 24 Hour Race was only yesterday, but having taken over from Ted Southworth as Chairman of the 24 Hour Race Executive I'm already well into planning the 2003 event (and even thinking ahead to 2004!). What is really important at this stage is encouraging more teams to participate, particularly those who have not

joined us in recent years. We are developing several marketing strategies to increase the numbers of entrants, one of which may be to have representation at the Sailboat & Windsurf Show at Alexandra Palace on 1 & 2 March. If you are intending to go to the show and feel you could help out for a short time on a stand (say an hour), I'd be pleased to hear from you.

ROB PICKERING 01704 878667
rob.pickering@wlyc.org.uk

IN MEMORIAM

FRANK THOMPSON

Frank Thompson, whose recent death we are sad to report in this issue, had been a distinguished and devoted West Lancs member since the late 1950s. An Enterprise sailor through and through, he joined the fleet as a wily helmsman with his daughter Louise as crew: shortly, however, the roles were reversed, and many of us were privileged to witness the wondrous pyrotechnical effects which emanated from "Elfima" as tactics were discussed! He served as a member of the Club Committee for seemingly countless years, fulfilling many roles with consummate efficiency – particularly as Sailing Secretary and Press Officer (his "Flopsy Bunny" as he was wont to call it in the Visiter, was always whimsically memorable). He was subsequently elected a Vice President, only to be corralled back becoming a Flag Officer in 1977. He was Commodore in 1980/1981 and President in 1985/1986.

As if the foregoing were not enough, in his retirement Frank took on the Secretaryship of the Enterprise Association, bringing order and efficiency from his Formby office, and travelling the length and breadth of the country to Area and National Championships. He was thus a unique and visible ambassador for dinghy sailing in general and WLYC in particular. The Life membership which was bestowed upon him was an attestation to his years of involvement within the Club.

The loss of Frank, coupled with the loss of his lovely wife Elaine some years ago, robs us finally of a wonderful West Lancs duo. We extend our most sincere sympathy to Louise, Tony, Alex and Tom at this very sad time.



Dates For your Diary

January

Sat 25th Burns Night Supper 19.30

February

Sat 4th Offshore Gathering 20.30

Sat 8th Gentlemans Dinner 19.00

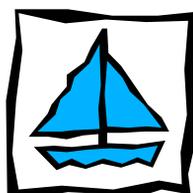
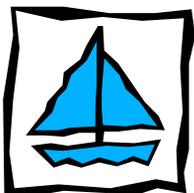
March

Tue 4th Offshore gathering 20.30

Sun 16th Preseason Cocktail Party

Sat 29th Fitting Out race 14.30

Sat 29th Fitting Out Supper 19.30



Copy date : Thursday 20th February 2003

email: goldenlion@wlyc.org.uk