



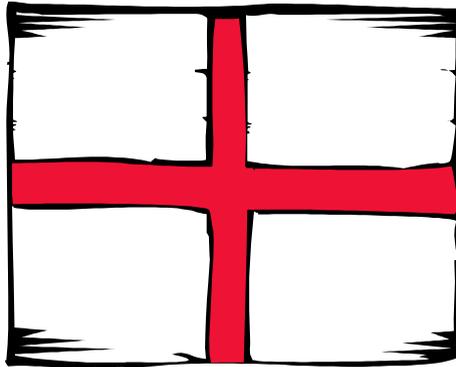
April 2003

The Golden Lion

Founded 1894

The Newsletter of West Lancashire Yacht Club

Fly the Flag
for England



at the
St. George's Day
Party

Saturday April 26th
at 19.30

The Commodore

Shortly I will be attending a conference at the “senior” Yacht Club in the area, – the Royal Mersey, for the annual agreement of dates of events and meetings between the kindred clubs for 2004. The kindred clubs are a recognised group of twelve sailing and yacht clubs, mainly based on the Mersey and Dee, but including WLYC who get together both on and off the water. . In addition a representative of each Club is usually invited to each of the kindred clubs’ annual dinners, helping to cement the strong friendships that have been built up over the years. At our dinner in February we had over 100 members and guests attending, including the local Mayor.

In addition to the kindred clubs, WLYC has strong links with Pilkington SC, Southport SC and Ribble Cruising Club, (probably our second nearest neighbour, as the crow flies, and the “other end” for the Bog Hole Trophy”). And the fraternity does not stop there. Recently a snooker team visited the Union Club in the town, and Southport and Ainsdale Golf Club “played” us at home. I mention the above in some detail for two reasons. Firstly the newer members may not be aware of the strong links, some over a hundred years old with the other clubs in the area, and the warm welcome that awaits visitors from WLYC, but

secondly to plant the idea of trying sailing waters away from the lake and Ainsdale by supporting some of the kindred club regattas. We have particularly close links with West Kirby Sailing Club, and their regatta is on 12 July. If you would like more information, please contact me or visit the website <http://www.dee-sc.co.uk/wirralregattas/>. WKSC also have a major international event in the Wilson Trophy, a team sailing knock out competition, which is scheduled for 10 / 11 May.

The other side of this fraternity coin is for you to introduce non sailors to the world of sailing. I don’t know how you came to the sport, but how about resolving to bring one person or family down to the club and taking them out for a sail? If they are interested in taking it further then introduce them to a flag officer or a member of the membership committee. It doesn’t have to be on an open day, but one is scheduled for Sunday afternoon, 6 July. Ian Donaldson will be publishing more details soon.

Sorry I missed the Fitting Out Race and Supper, but I was down south (sailing, of course). Congratulations to the winner Chris, and Mike & Alex.

Best wishes, Kit Robinson

Ding Dong

Thank you for the excellent support at Quasiphildo's Steak Night, the Pre-Season Buffet and the Fitting Out Supper (FOS).

On the first – a good number of us enjoyed a re-run of the Pantomime on the big screen, in which our excellent smooth talking bar steward demonstrated his thespian leanings. There were some classic performances from the rest of Stubbs's Strollers too – Stratford watch out.

The second, the Pre-Season Buffet, was held on just another of those lovely weekend days of this spring and a good time was had by all.

The FOS followed an excellent afternoon's racing in perfect conditions (at least for those of us who do not like it too hairy – especially this early in the year). Over 30 boats took place in this including me (no we don't race). The Vice – Commodore duly awarded prizes at the Supper and made reference to his 'hole in one', a consequence of the dodgem style of sailing which some of you tried out. Ouch.

The Catering Committee (again) did us proud with some delightful food – those of you who did attend missed a truly memorable bread and butter pudding! They were well supported as ever by ~~Quasi~~ Phil and his team.

Looking ahead – the ST.GEORGE'S DAY PARTY takes place on SATURDAY 26TH APRIL at 1930 and will be great fun. It will comprise dinner (including a pre-meal fun drink) and various entertainments: Morris dancers, in house comedy (apart from the accidental!) and country dancing to Mister Blundells Alms (back by popular request). Dress is formal or fancy (nice). I would book now to avoid disappointment.

Beyond that the JAZZ NIGHT on MAY 17TH is shaping up well. This is on the evening of the Topper Open day and we hope it will enhance a good day all round. Many of you seem keen for this so, again, get your names down as soon as you can.

Watch the WLYC web site as we will be making more use of it to promote House events.

Congratulations to the Offshore Committee for their excellent hot pot supper which was also well attended.

Finally, a big thank you from me to all members of the House Committee whose commitment and good humour serves the Club so well. Enjoy your sailing.

STEVE ABBOTT

Dinghy Captain

With a full lake, clear blue skies, and a good breeze the weekend of the 29th/30th March proved the perfect start to the 2003 sailing season.

Congratulations to Chris Rutter for winning the Fitting Out Race Trophy against very stiff opposition. Much of it was from the juniors, many of whom have been training over the winter months, and doesn't it show. Mike Pickering finished a very creditable 8th to win the junior trophy. In the Optimist fleet Alex Stubbs sailed a very steady race to win their fitting out race trophy with Abigail Hewitt and Harriet Stubbs sailing an excellent race proving that Jim Anderson and Bob Caton do know what they are talking about! Perhaps the adults need a bit of training in knowing where to start.

The club offers excellent sailing and training for all levels of ability so perhaps this is the time to consider how you can utilize the club's training facilities and speak to Gwyn Roberts, our Training Principal. If you are new to the club and need pointing in the right direction contact me at the club (G.P.14 -13672) or e-mail me at damian.chisholm@wlyc.org.uk.

Part of organising racing is the need for people to run the racing and the club is very fortunate in the number of experienced members it has who are prepared to give their time. As a club it is a responsibility of the members to offer their services for such duties were possible and I would be grateful if members, who are not presently allocated OOD or safety

boat duties, would contact me to discuss their ability in participating in these duties (Juniors included!). Training may be possible. For those who participate in OOD duties, we all know how difficult it can be on occasions and I would ask members not to be afraid to offer help to a struggling OOD if you are at the club but not sailing. And for OOD's, don't be afraid to ask.

Thursday evening sailing restarts on the 3rd April for our more competitive sailors and Optimist training under the guidance of Jim Anderson, Bob Caton, and Chris Rutter starts Saturday 26th April. For parents who have children who are cadet members, and want further information, contact Cindy Hewitt for details. Club racing is open to all levels of ability and we have fleets that will accommodate most classes of boat. Contact me or your class representative for further help.

On Saturday 3rd May we will have a Supper Race so called because it is followed by one of Phil Lyndsay's excellent meals. A booking for the meal is normally required using the notice by the bar. The racing will take the form of a pursuit race (slowest boats start first) which means that the starting will not be as traumatic to inexperienced sailors. The racing will not be as "serious" as normal club racing and will be popular for families racing together and for members new to racing. Perhaps a few Mirror dinghies could be coaxed out!

That's it for the moment, I look forward to seeing you on the water,
DAMIAN CHISHOLM DINGHY CAPTAIN

West Lancashire Yacht Club

ST GEORGE'S DAY PARTY

2003 a grand knight!

Morris Dancers - The Southport
Swords

Dinner

In house entertainment
English Country Dancing -

Mr. B Lundells Aims

Saturday 26th April 2003

19.30 In The Clubhouse

Dress: Formal or Fancy

Tickets: £15

OFFSHORE NEWS

In the absence of agreement over Commodore's Cruise locations, due to the distribution of our boats throughout Europe, we met in late March to understand what each other's plans were for the coming cruising season. The conclusions were as follows:

ARTEMIS (Graham & Gilly Pinch) will be based at Kilmelford, near Oban for the next 12 months, expecting to cruise in the north west of Scotland.

BONAVENTURE (Bob Willets) will also be based at Kilmelford for the summer and will be cruising in the same area.

FREJYA OF MERSEY (Tony & Louise Halliwell) are based at Plymouth and expect to spend the season off the South coast of England and the Brittany coast.

SOJOURN (Rick & Linda Hurst) are at present in the Firth of Clyde, and plan to visit Ireland, on route to Dartmouth on the south coast where they will be based for the summer.

ONE-OFF (Keith & Anne Shorrock) plans to cruise around the Croatia coast.

FLYING CLOUD (Peter Chester) will be based throughout the south coast of England!

JENARD (or successor), Dave & Wendy Pratt, expect to take ownership of their new Halberg Rassey 43 in April, and to sail to Gibraltar, with a stop en-route during May/June in the Hamble, followed by the ARC cruise in November.

DERANGED & DEE-TOPAZ (Cyril Porter & Bob Abram) plan to cruise in the Irish Sea – in whichever direction the wind blows!

Those on the south coast of England plan to meet up during early June.

GRAHAM PINCH
OFFSHORE CAPTAIN



GP Fleet News

Well, we are off and racing for 2003 and what good weather for the Fitting out Race and the first Sunday morning series racing.

Six GPs took part on both days with some very close racing between those at the front and those at the back end also having very good scraps. After the mass start on Saturday some real ducking and diving was needed to avoid the crashes taking part between the other classes. Fortunately no GP damage was reported. Hacking the way back up the fleet working through Toppers and Enterprises and the slower handicap boats sharpened the skills very quickly as did keep out of the way of the fast handicappers. On Sunday the racing was again very enjoyable being nip and tuck all the way round with places changing several times between the three slightly slower teams during race one. Race two was close round lap one with all six boats pretty close together. Unfortunately the spinnaker got the best of Wet Dream and I got my first bath of the season. Nice way to christen my new sailing gear.

We have made a good start with six boats but I hope many more of you will be able to join the fleet on the water. Considering some of last years teams have moved on to RSs and big Lasers, there is still a lot of GPs in the club so lets all try and get racing as soon as possible.

OTHER GP NEWS.

There seems to be an outbreak of plastic in the fleet at the moment with Dave Westley, Damian Chisholm both racing this last week end and I now understand

Ed Thomas has changed his order for a new wooden boat and will now take delivery of a plastic craft in May.



Having not received any information directly about members' adventures else where from you I have checked the GP web site and can report that eight teams are entered under the West Lancs banner and a further two West Lancs members are entered under other club names. If any one is getting about a bit during the season please advise me so I can get your exploits up in lights on our web site and in the Golden Lion.

Important please all take note. It is lake licence time again and I must remind all the GP fleet of Rule 2.1 of the Club Racing Sailing Instructions (Insurance and Lake Licence) All craft must be insured and all boats must have and display a current lake licence. If you race and wish your results to count you must have your licence for the series being completed for during the series. Late purchasers can not expect their results to be credited to them for unlicensed periods. So if you are pot hunting this year, do the right thing. Lets not be the fleet to let the club down on this point and lets also be fair to our fellow GPer who buy their licence at the correct time. Please note you need a licence even if you are trailing your boat to other clubs and only sailing the odd race at West Lancs.

PAUL ROWE GP FLEET REP.

(GP14@WLYC.ORG.UK)

TRAINING WEEKEND-SEAMANSHIP AND START RACING

Whilst the above was scheduled to start on the Saturday 15th March, this was not possible due to inadequate depth of water in the lake. However, Gordon Callaghan and yours truly, together with the valuable assistance of Andrew Kissick, started the course the following weekend.

Eight members signed on for the course and, as some of them wanted to do 'Seamanship' whereas others 'Start Racing', Gordon and I decided to run the course on a joint basis to cover all of the disciplines identified in the syllabus for both courses.

The theory sessions were followed by opportunities to put into practice on the water the skills they had just learnt in five different boats. We were fortunate enough to enjoy most excellent weather for that time of the year. I was delighted to see that everyone was properly dressed and kitted out as the easterly wind gave everyone the opportunity to experience the difficulties of launching their boats

from the dinghy park on a lee shore and, as a result, feeling the cold water before they had even started sailing. They all handled these tasks very well despite my demonstration being less than perfect as I slipped on the weed of the slipway and took an early bath!

Anchoring and man overboard practice followed but it was disappointing that we did not have the opportunity to right a dinghy which had become inverted following a capsize. They all enjoyed sailing in Indian file down the lake following the directions of Andrew Kissick in the rescue boat as they snaked into the wind and off the wind at various speeds in an effort to improve boat handling skills.

Gordon was particularly keen on demonstrating race starts and we did many of them in quick succession with a beat to the windward mark and a run back to the line followed by only a two minute interval before the process was repeated.

"Well, if we aren't in the shipping lane there are 4 moons going over at 20 knots."



This gave them an adrenalin rush, the excitement of which they certainly enjoyed and Gordon and I were really pleased that so many of them took part in the Fitting Out Race the following week.

We even tried some advanced techniques including sailing backwards, sailing without a centreboard and also without a rudder. Whilst I am sure that they all understood the theory of the latter, the difficulties of putting it into practice were

obvious, as boats were spinning around on their centreboards like floating tops. However, I am sure that they were not alone in experiencing problems in trying to master this difficult technique.

All the participants said they thoroughly enjoyed the course and the feedback from them was very favourable. We intend to have a few Tuesday night sessions in May, when the nights are longer, in order to try out some more racing starts and polish up some of the other disciplines.

IAN C AGNEW

REGALIA



BOW TIES

I am able to purchase bow ties. They will be navy blue 100% silk pretied with a Golden Lion on one of the front bows.

If you are interested in purchasing one at a price of £17 each please contact Maureen Potts on 01704 879466

Please note this item will only be stocked if sufficient pre orders are received

In stock for the new season

Fleece Jackets reversible £39

Waterproof Jackets £28

Polo Shirts Navy,Gold,White £17

Sweatshirts £16

Baseball Caps £8

See Phil or phone Maureen Potts 01704 879466



Pelorus Jack

KNOTS – Why?

10 Downing Street

The Romans had no way of measuring distance on the sea. The word MILE comes from the Latin word MILLE which means 1000 (paces), which is difficult to mark out on the sea. But someone thought of a way of measuring relative speed. The boss would hang over the stern a length of light line with knots tied in it. The distance apart did not matter. But he could say to the oarsmen “ This morning they were lifting 3 knots out of the water and you are lifting only 2”, and out would come the whips.

The word knot comes to us from Latin *nodus* – *knot* through Old Dutch “*cnotta*” and has been used to measure nautical speed for an unknown length of time. “Node” comes straight from Latin and means a junction.

The 10 on the Prime Minister’s door has very small serifs and at a distance it looks like IO, and Io is one of the moons of Jupiter. Serifs are small horizontal lines that were added to the tops and bottoms of vertical lines of letters in hand written formal text, using a ruler, to make them all the same length. They disappeared when double or joined-up writing became common, but remained in printed letters.

Copper Bottomed.

Two years ago I put some money in an ISA, which I was assured was “copper bottomed”

It wasn’t. – but why do we say “copper bottomed”?



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Golden Lion Copy Dates

TO HELP YOU PLAN YOUR ARTICLES FOR THE MAGAZINE THE FOLLOWING ARE THE PROPOSED COPY DATES FOR THIS YEAR :-

29 MAY

10 JULY

28 AUGUST

9 OCTOBER

20 NOVEMBER



Dates For your Diary

April

Sat	12th	Training Beginners Weekend 111	09.00
Sun	13th	Training Beginners Weekend 1V	09.00
Sat	26th	Afternoons Optimist Training Commences	13.30
Sat	26th	St George's Day Party	19.30
Sun	27th	Joint Series SSC	10.00

May

Sat	3rd	Supper Race	17.30
Sun	4th	Tidal Sailing Ainsdale Trophy Day	10.30
Fri	9th	Spring Golf Meeting	
Sat	17th	Topper Open	
Sat	17th	Jazz Night	19.30
Sun	18th	Laser Open Ainsdale	
Sun	25th	Joint Series WLYC	10.00
Sat	31st	Supper Race	17.30

June

Sun	1st	Tidal Sailing Ainsdale Trophy Day	10.30
Sat	6th	Oppie Camp Coniston	
Sat	15th	Joint Enterprise & GP Open Ainsdale	10.30
Sat	21st	Midsummer Ball	19.30

Copy date: Thursday 29 May 2003