



November 2003

The Golden Lion

Founded 1894

The Newsletter of West Lancashire Yacht Club



To all WLYC Members

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



Commodore's Comments

Sailing Waters-

Nobody was more surprised than I when a member told me that Sefton were draining the lake the next day (early November). Sefton's officers had apologised for not informing us on previous occasions, and assured us it would not happen again. Well it did, and again they have apologised. The Club has tried talking constructively with the Council but clearly this has not been effective. Your Club Committee have instructed me to write to the lake licensee and Sefton MBC's chief executive. This I have done and copies are reprinted in this magazine for your information. I am also writing to the RYA to get legal advice on our position.

Commodore's Cruise 2004

7 family groups have expressed an interest. Discussions on terms and availability are in progress. I would expect to have an update by early December.

AGM-

It's that time of year again. The meeting is being held on a Monday so that the

steward is available to serve drinks before hand. He will then leave whilst we have the meeting and return at the end. The main item on the agenda is a change in the rules to give lady members who are married to an inport member the option of changing their membership class to inport without incurring a financial penalty. The lady member class will then be closed to new members. The change recognises that many of our married lady members are active sailors themselves, perhaps with a non sailing husband, but under the current rules cannot be an inport member and take advantage of the lower combined subscription fee. In addition it overcomes the problem that lady members have to pay a higher subscription fee if they are asked to serve on the executive committee. In addition the Club Committee is pleased to be proposing Brian Randall as a life member after many years of distinguished service to the Club. I hope you will come along and support these proposals

Warm regards, KIT ROBINSON

Annual General Meeting

The Annual General Meeting will be held in the Clubhouse on Monday 15th December.

Happy & Merry House



Well done to all of you who supported the **Monkhouse** and **Harry Leigh** suppers. On **29th November** is the **Prizegiving Supper**.

We are running into the peak of the House winter social season with some crackers lined up for you all. **The Children's Party** is on **6th December**. I am delighted to report that we have secured an entertainer with a great reputation – **Mister Trix**.

It's the **Adults' Christmas Party (with panto)** on **13th December**. Another key date for your diary – the **New Years Eve Ball**. A young, female singing duet called **Zenika & a DJ 'Great Disco'** will entertain you through to Midnight and on into the early hours while you dine and dance.

Celebrations Entertainments have lined up these people. It was they who recommended Lesley Fyne for the Summer Ball and those of us who attended that know how good she was.

On to next year – on **January 24th** is **Burns Night**, a WLYC

classic. This will be the same popular formula as last year. In February it is our **Annual Dinner** – please note that unusually this is on a **Friday – 13th February** and not as printed in the diary.

It remains for me to thank House Committee and Richard Stubbs for the fantastic support provided through 2003. Given the way I was thrown in at the deep end, this is always much appreciated. The same goes for The Commodore and other leading lights who have all been so supportive and kind. This typifies the spirit of the Club.

House Committee and I are interested in volunteers to join us & I have already noted some names. I would be grateful if you could let me know if you are interested by having a word with me in person or leaving your names and contact details in my pigeon hole.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to you all.

Steve Abbott – Chair

RADIO CONTROLLED LASERS.



You may have seen a number of rather small Lasers in front of the clubhouse recently. No, your eyes are not deceiving you.

No, we haven't found a flaw in Laser production, they don't shrink when washed in hot water. Yes, they really are 1/4 scale radio controlled Lasers.

For about 15 years I have been interested in RC sailing. I spent a number of years as a member of Fleetwood Model Yacht Club. While there, I acted as rules observer at several National Championships and a World Championship, and acted as Principle Race Officer at two National Championships. Clearly, i'm quite keen!

The problem with RC sailing has always been the 'cottage industry' way that equipment is produced and marketed. Don't get me wrong, the equipment in the UK is some of the best in the world, with only Austrailia/ New Zealand coming close.

However this reluctance to produce an 'off the shelf' mass produced boat has always kept RC sailing a minority, and rather expensive, sport. For years I have been looking for a boat that I can recommend to a dinghy sailor, with, till now, little success.

In 1996, John Elmaleh, an RC racer from New York, of considerable talent, raced at Fleetwood in the Marblehead World Championships.

From memory he finished in the top five.

While there, he raced a local one design, the Mustang. This Mustang looked rather like a Laser, but with an up-to-date rig (the mast was cranked at deck level).

This must have got him thinking, and the result, with a little financial muscle from Bruce Kirby, the Laser designer, is the 1/4 scale RC Laser.

Some 4,500 boats have been sold world-wide, of which approx. 500 have been sold to UK skippers, with some 300 joining the Class Owners Association, so the future is bright.

www.rclaser.org.uk

The boat not perfect, but does seem to be quite well put together. The Club members who have raced this boat will all agree, it's very good fun with very close racing, and it seems reliable.

On Sunday 16th Nov, a few of us got together for a days racing. Two or three people from other clubs also came to have a go. By 3pm, some 16 races later, and after a leisurely stop for lunch, it was agreed that a good day was had by all. Poor Damian Chisholm hasn't felt so much pressure in years!

For those who may be interested, there will be another days racing on Saturday 29th Nov. 10.30 till 3.00 approx. (yes, prizegiving day) when you will be welcome to have a go.

ANDREW KISSICK



OFFSHORE NEWS

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY:

Tuesday, 2nd December at 20:00 - 20:30,

Offshore Christmas drinks.

Tuesday, 6th January at 20:00 - 20:30,

Offshore Gathering. Merseyside has had a long association with tidal prediction and with Oceanography. Recently, the Proudman Oceanographic Laboratory (POL) moved from the Bidston Observatory to Liverpool University and for this evening, John Huthnance will join us to explain the work the POL. In fact WLYC currently uses POL software for the tidal

predictions used in the club handbook. Please try to attend this one!

Dave Pratt, with his boat **Jenard of Mersey** (Hallberg Rassy 43) is taking part in the Atlantic Rally for Cruisers (ARC), this autumn, starting from Gran Canaria on November 23rd, expecting to arrive in St Lucia, approximately 3 weeks later. Progress across the Atlantic can be followed on the website www.worldcruising.com. This has a link to www.worldcruising.net which gives the positions of the boats.

GRAHAM PINCH



To the Skipper-Dave Pratt-and crew of

JENARD OF MERSEY.

Best Wishes and a fair following wind on your voyage in The Atlantic Rally for Cruisers. The exotic isle of St Lucia awaits you.

WEST LANCS YACHT CLUB WINTER WALK

Monday December 29th



Burn off those calories with a post Christmas walk and chat with your friends.

We are organising a 'gentle' walk around **Crook and Lickbarrow** with views over **Windermere**, followed by a delicious meal at the **Wild Boar**.

Those of you who joined us in 2000, will remember the excellent meal there.

We propose to meet at the Wild Boar at 10.30 for coffee and then walk from there, returning for a two-course meal at approx. 4.30– 5pm. The cost will be £10.50 plus the morning coffee.

If you would like to join us, please contact **Roy and Margaret Gambie** on 01539-442325 before December 19th.

Looking forward to seeing you all.



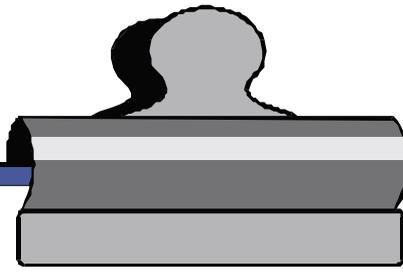
The adults Christmas party (with panto')

Saturday
December 13th
at 20.00h

Dress: Smart
casual

Tickets: £5





New Years Eve Ball
2003 with the sounds of



and

Great Disco

19.30h

Tickets: £28 Dress: Formal

New Members

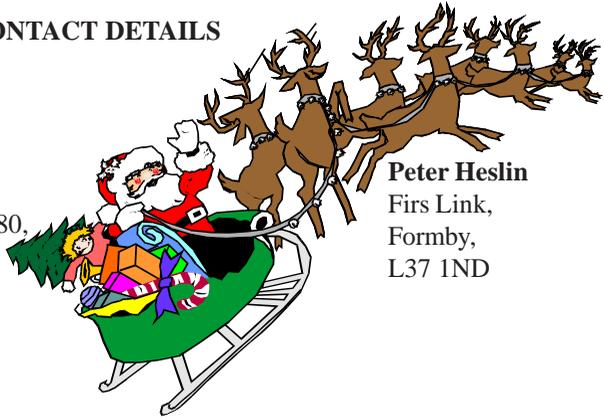


Ashley Johnston
Coal Clough Lane,
Burnley,
BB11 5BT

Daniel Walker
Sidney Avenue,
Hesketh Bank,
Preston,
PR4 6SU

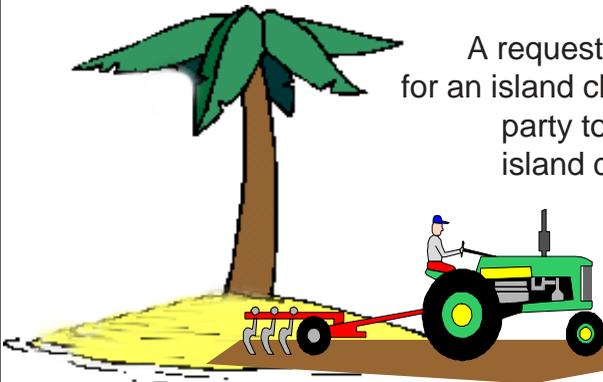
CHANGES IN CONTACT DETAILS

David Brown
Apartado de Correos,
Calle Constitucion 6,
Palma De Mallorca 07080,
Balears,
Spain



Peter Heslin
Firs Link,
Formby,
L37 1ND

ISLAND CLEARING



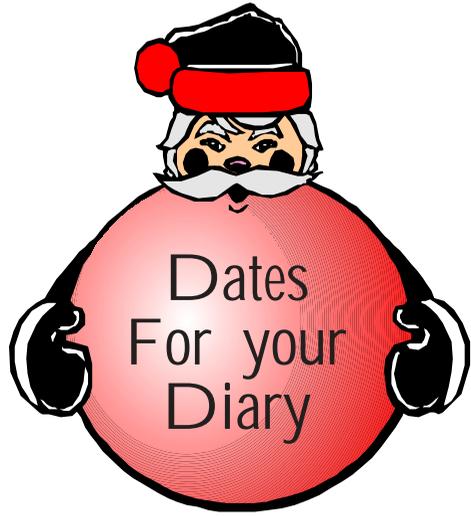
A request has been made
for an island clearing working
party to volunteer for
island clearing on

Sunday 11th

January

2004 at

09.00



November

Sat	29th	Prizegiving	19.30
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December

Tue	2nd	Offshore Christmas Drinks	20.30
Sat	6th	Children's Christmas Party	15.30
Sat	13th	Adults Christmas Party	19.30
Mon	15th	Annual General Meeting	20.30
WED	31st	NEW YEARS EVE BALL	19.30

2004

January

Tues	6th	Offshore Gathering	20.30
Sun	11th	Island Clearing Working Party	09.00
Sat	24th	Burns Night	19.30

February

Fri	13th	Annual Dinner	19.30
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Copy date: Thursday 15th January 2004