

## DIARY DATES

### March

Saturday	17th	Fitting Out Race 15:00
Saturday	17th	Fitting Out Supper 17:30 (Please book early)
Sunday	18th	Sunday racing Starts 10:30
Sunday	18th	Mothering Sunday Lunch (Book Essential)
Thursday	29th	Thursday Evening Sailing Starts
Saturday	31st	Southport Town Cup Briefing 11:30, First Start 12:00

### April

Sunday	1st	Joint series racing starts with SSC
Saturday	14th	Junior Training Starts
Tuesday	24th	Tuesday Social Sailing starts (Practice Safely)
Saturday	28th	12 Hour Single Hander Open Race 8am to 8pm

### May

Sunday	6th	Tidal racing Starts (Ainsdale)
Saturday	12th	<b>Club Open Day</b> — bring your friends
Thursday	24th	Ladies race

### June

Sunday	1st	Diamond Jubilee Fun Day Pageant
Monday	2nd	Diamond Jubilee Concert Party
Saturday	9th	Lloyd Hayes Trophy & Optimist Trophy Open Meeting (Junior & Youth)
Sunday	10th	Bog Hole Trophy (Ainsdale)
Sunday	24th	Enterprise & Laser Open meeting (Ainsdale)
Saturday	30th	Southport SC Junior 12 Hour Race (Start 08:00)

Next copy date: 8th May 2012

Editor: Dave Bower. The views expressed herein are not necessarily those of the editor nor of the WLYC Committee.



# An Open Pursuit Race

## Saturday 31 March 2012

Briefing 11:30, 1st Start 12:00

All types of monohull dinghies are welcome

## Editorial

Well, here I go with my first edition. Having just finished the job of editing the 2012 diary, I now start on the Golden Lion as editor (Temporary). This post has fallen open because Roger Ryan will be moving to a new home in Norfolk. We all thank Roger for his many contributions to the Club, not only as editor of this publication, but also as Secretary and the magnificent work of writing the history of the club back in 1994. For any new members, this is a fascinating book with much insight into one of the regions older sailing Clubs. Well worth a read, and I know that there are a few left at a very reasonable (1994?) price from Phil.

I was much saddened at the recent loss of Brian Randall. I know many of you attended the celebration of his life at the Club, and learned of the commitment he had to living his life to the utmost, and the courage with which he faced his long illness. What most of you won't know is that it was Brian who persuaded my Dad to join the club with the family, and so started my sailing career. He was the first person that I sailed with in a GP14, and I will always remember him sitting laughing on the upturned hull as I struggled to the surface, wondering what had happened to cause my first capsizing. I have much to thank Brian for.

I have already spoken of two members who have given service to our Club, but they are unfortunately, two of a dwindling group who realise that being a member of the Club is much more than just paying a subscription. It is participation that is the key to making the most of your money (By that I mean what is more popularly known as volunteering). Participation at West Lancs is a lot better than most Clubs that I visit. We don't have to 'fine' members for no shows for race officer, for example. The 24Hr race tends to bring out the best in our members. As with many Clubs, it is the positions of high responsibility where members should step up. We still await a full complement of elected officers, for example. I am however, delighted to see Chrissie Howorth taking on leading events with the House Committee and that Steve Blackburn is continuing in his role, that he has done so excellently, with the Sailing Committee. Neil Croston is now the new Training Principal, and Jayne Tickle is leading the Catering Committee. As you see, an excellent contribution from members engaging with the club. If you are a new member, why not get in touch with one of them, or any of the other Committee members. They will all welcome you with open arms.  
Dave Bower — Editor

**What's on at the club ?**  
**Fun for everyone!**

**Great Fitting Out Supper**  
Race, sail or just give that boat a once over for the season! Join us for a warming Supper and a great family Sailing Quiz – Straight after the race at starts at 5.30pm!

**Mothers Day Lunch**  
Spoil the family – delicious three course roast beef dinner, book your family table quick to avoid disappointment- from 12.30 pm

**Open Fun Day**  
Sumptuous BBQ and salad picnic. Bring your friends for a taster sail. Plenty to do for all ages. All welcome - a few surprises too!

**Jubilee Weekend**  
1,000 boats on the Thames – let's see what we can do!  
Lots of activities and celebrations planned – watch the notice board to find out more!

**Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> March**

**Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> March**  
Adults £8.50  
Children £4.50

**Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> April**

**Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> June**

For all event s put your name down on the list or phone Phil on 01704 530840

The **Sailing Committee** as a safety measure has agreed to fit roll bars on the larger RIBs. We are also proposing to try out a special cage fitted over the propellers of the Grey RIB.

**Events**, we have great events for March, starting with the Fitting Out Race on Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> starting 3pm, followed by the Fitting Out Supper at 5.30pm. Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> is the start of the series racing. Thursday racing will commence on the 29<sup>th</sup> with the C1 series. The following Saturday the 31<sup>st</sup> March we have the Town Cup pursuit race, 12:00 start, which is an Open event. We will be looking forward to visitors competing along side us for the chance to win this coveted trophy. Social sailing on a Tuesday night will be starting 24<sup>th</sup> April, when we hope to see many sailors enjoying a more relaxed evening on the water.

Steve Blackburn  
*Dinghy Captain*

### Quote of the month

Life is full of lessons, and the key is to use them as building blocks. That is a definition - my definition - of experience. And, like time, you cannot buy it. You just have to use it, to serve your apprenticeship.

John Bertrand

Born to win

Australia II The first Non-American boat to win the America's Cup



### Commodore's Comments

The warmer weather we have been experiencing recently is encouraging people to come out of winter hibernation and start thinking about the sailing season. Your committees have been very active and are well into the preparations for the year ahead, looking forward to a busy year of activities both on and off the water. You should be receiving a copy of your Club handbook (many thanks for preparing this Dave) listing the forthcoming events with this edition of the Golden Lion.

The Club's Annual Dinner will have happened by the time you are reading this. It is an occasion when we invite guests from the Kindred Clubs to share the evening with us. I feel it is important to keep up this relationship we have with the other clubs in the local area. It provides a great support network where we can share ideas and experiences. It is always an enjoyable occasion to meet up and chat with fellow sailors. I hope you were there to join in with us.

The Marine Lake is being drained starting on 2<sup>nd</sup> March and refilled with the high tides the following weekend. A working party to replace missing tyres from the lake edge, amongst other things that are best done when the lake water level is low, is planned for Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> March, at 9.30 am. Do come along and help if you possibly can. Many hands make light work - and is much more fun.

To get things off to a great start to the sailing season the **Fitting Out Race - 15.00**, followed straight after by the **Fitting Out Supper - 17.30**, is on Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> March. The start of the Race has been set back to 3pm to allow for a bit of warm up time on the water beforehand, so you can begin to get your 'sea legs' back. This is especially useful for those who have not set foot in their boats since last October. Regular Sunday racing starts the day after, the 18<sup>th</sup> March. This also happens to be Mother's Day. Phil is putting on a special lunch at the Club. Please book your table early to avoid disappointment.

The following weekend, Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> March, there is an RYA training day for Optimists being held at the Club. Our young sailors are doing really well and hopefully they will pick up some good tips and techniques from the coach to help them develop their skills. Please contact Heather Malliband for more details [optimist@wlyc.org.uk](mailto:optimist@wlyc.org.uk) Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> March is our Training Instructors and Volunteers day. This is another RYA initiative, to help

brush up sailing and instructing skills and re-familiarise people with the training boats. Please contact Kath Hall for more details [kshall@longton.u-net.com](mailto:kshall@longton.u-net.com)

The **Southport Town Cup**, on Saturday 31<sup>st</sup> March, is being run as a Pursuit Race this year. The first boats start off at noon. According to the handicap system all boats are then supposed to be finishing at the same time, but I don't think that has ever happened! Let's make it a first.

On Tuesday evenings there will be regular Social Sailing, starting at the end of April. This is your opportunity to get more experience on the water, without feeling you have to book a training course. Members are encouraged to have a sail with different people. Newer members who need more experience, or anyone who would just like to have a go on the water, do come down and talk to people.

Have you completed your Review Group questionnaire? If not please send in your replies now. All views welcomed. This is your club. Help us make it better.

I look forward to seeing as many of you as possible at the Club, both on and off the water.

Kathy Robinson  
Commodore

### Ladies will launch

Thank you to all those ladies who have responded to my plea.

Friday has proved to be the most popular day of the week and daytime surprisingly seems the most popular time.

I propose that we meet on 20 April for lunch at 1pm followed by a little sailing if the weather allows, hopefully the weather will have warmed up a little by then.

Remember this is for fun, you are not signing up for a continuous course, I simply ask that you let me know if you will be coming by the Thursday so that I can organise the food.

I'm looking forward to meeting you all on the 20<sup>th</sup>.

We would be delighted if any other ladies would like to join us, please just get in touch.

I will be contacting everyone who has shown an interest in April.

Louise Halliwell [louise@wlyc.org](mailto:louise@wlyc.org) 01704878572

**Windermere** A few sailors from West Lancs have been sailing at Windermere through the winter in J24s and Beneteaus enjoying a more refined sailing, with dry feet and let's say, 'slightly warmer conditions than dinghy racing.'

**Eskimo Roll** Tony Halliwell, sailing his recently purchased Streaker, finished 17<sup>th</sup>. Michelle & Kaye Tickle and Greg & Kirsty Meesam finished 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> in their RS 200s representing our club at the Eskimo Roll Pursuit Race at Blackpool & Fleetwood YC.

**The RYA Volvo Dinghy Show** will be on 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> March with all the major classes showing their latest boats. Ben & Gabe Hill have kindly lent their Mirror dinghy for the Mirror Sailing Association stand. Many more sailors, will be taking the long journey south to Alexandra Palace in north London.

**RYA Portsmouth Yardstick Scheme** In mid February I travelled, along with a few other members of the Club, to Bolton SC for the RYA Portsmouth Yardstick Scheme meeting. The RYA are very interested to find out why so many people think their sailing class (i.e., Enterprise, GP14, Laser & so on.) may have a poor, or good, handicap and they would like to rectify the problem. They are setting up a special website. The website has been designed so all the clubs will be able to upload their results of handicap racing online. A special programme inside the website will calculate the PY's for each classes sailed. The PY's are carefully controlled so the best and worst sailors are not infringed by the new system. Luckily a lot of sailing at our club is fleet racing, but for the fast and slow handicap fleet may be helped, with some of the boats which may not have a fair PY handicap at the moment. The PY's which we will calculate, will only apply to the Marine Lake and tidal sailing. You may find when you sail your boat at other handicap events; your boat class may have a different PY due to the size and style of the water in which you are sailing. The new PY Scheme will be launched at the RYA Volvo Dinghy Show. You may even see a Laser win a Pursuit Race next year!

**The Lake** will be drained starting the weekend of 3<sup>rd</sup>/4<sup>th</sup> March after the SSC's Frostbite Series. It will be refilled the following weekend with the high tides. We would welcome volunteers to come and help us with repairing tyres on the waters edge and removal of bags and rubbish from the lake. After the refill of the lake Colin Poole and Sefton Council will be putting the blue dye into the lake which will hopefully keep the weed at bay for the remainder of the year.

Check with the briefing, and start on the line when your gun goes. You will not have any help from the flags, so a stopwatch is vital. You may be starting on your own, so don't expect help from other boats. Get yourself on the water in plenty of time for your start (the slower boats may already have been racing for over an hour). A few seconds late on the start line will come back and bite you as you desperately try to catch an Oppy on the last leg. Try to start in clear air on the line, you're not only competing against the other boats in your class, but other boats with different start times. A clean start is vital!

Keep out of trouble, remember that you have to get around as fast as you can. Getting into a luffing match, or disputing water at a mark will always slow you down. If you are in a Port and Starboard situation, go behind (you are already on the right tack because you chose to be there). Don't tack close to another boat, or let them tack near you, it will kill your boat speed. Similarly, be decisive when overtaking slower boats. It is important not to get involved in little duels throughout the race. Then enjoy the race!!!

The Editor

### Dinghy Captain Report March 2012

**The weather** is mild for the time of year and many people are preparing their boats for the start of the season. We have some great events in store for all our sailors. The sailing committee has been working very hard over the winter months to make sure everybody can enjoy sailing from club racing, to tidal racing and social sailing.

**The Frostbite Series at Southport Sailing Club** will finish on Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> March. Quite a few of our sailors have been racing at Southport, finishing the races with good results. At the moment Steve Blackburn & Alex Halliwell are leading the Fast Handicap AM and PM Series, Tim Harper & Diane Thomas are currently 2<sup>nd</sup>, both are sailing Enterprises. Andrew Thomas & Ben Swainson are in 3<sup>rd</sup> place, sailing a GP14. Dan Farrimond has recorded top 3 results sailing his RS 300 and Andy Hall & Neil Croston have been sailing fast in their RS 400 with top 10 finishes.

**WLYC** members are also doing very well in the Slow Handicap fleet with Ben & Gabe Hill currently 1<sup>st</sup> in the AM & PM frostbite series. George Coulthard is 5<sup>th</sup> Harry Hurst is 6<sup>th</sup> and Tony Halliwell is 7<sup>th</sup> all sailing Streakers. There have been over 50 boats competing in the series, so our sailors have enjoyed and endured the cold winter racing.



**Brian Randall**

It is with much sadness that we report the death of Brian Randall, who has passed away after a lengthy illness.

Brian joined West Lancashire Yacht Club in the late 1950s and subsequently had a very distinguished career at the club.

Brian took on the post of Honorary Secretary in 1962; a post which he held for three years. He became Commodore in 1972/1973 and was elected as a Vice President in 1977, before volunteering, in 1977, for the role of Chief Executive for the 24 Hour Race - a post which he performed with distinction for 3 years.

Having then been Club President in 1983, Brian was the only current Life Member - elected at the Annual General meeting in December 2003.

In addition to all of the official posts which he held at the club, Brian was always to be seen around the premises and sailing on the Marine Lake. Supportive of the club and its activities in a practical manner, Brian was one of a small group of members (including Jack Whiteley and Geoff Atherton) who bought Finns and established a Finn fleet at West Lancs to provide home competition for John Dennis, a member who had been nominated as an Olympic triallist for the Finn class in the 1964 games. He also sailed GP14s on the lake for many years. A staunch supporter of the Commodore's Cruise, he had many an escapade sailing the waters of the Irish sea and beyond. Once he decided that sailing was for younger people, he would organise inland waterway trips for the 'Snooker Room' brigade.

He will be greatly missed by all at the club and, of course, by his children Carol, Linda and Nick.

## Premises

First, a big thank you to all those who joined our working parties in the autumn and suffered the biting cold winds either on the roof or painting around the back of the club. I think you will agree the clubhouse is looking much better and we can all congratulate ourselves on our efforts. We have accomplished a great deal in the last 18 months (repairs and redecoration of the changing rooms, painting/wood treatment of the exterior, repair and treatment of the outside benches, cladding of the upper walls, relaying of the edge stones around the flagpole area etc, etc). And enjoyed (?) some convivial times doing it. At the same time, the club has invested in new flooring in the bar, refelting of the raised roof over the central bar area and a new oil tank (the insurers having paid for a new boiler after the previous boiler failed due to the extreme winter cold in 10/11). And Rick Hurst has generously provided for a top spray coat in the gents changing room and refurbishing of the ladies showers (although the drains remain to be perfected). Not only does the place look smarter, but Phil is no longer complaining about leaks from the roof in heavy rain.

Your new premises committee (me, Ken Cooper, Neil Croston, Jim Anderson and Bob Abram) are planning a re-commencement of our Tuesday morning working parties on 28 February, running through March (except that in week 2 we will gather on Thursday 8th March rather than Tuesday 6th to take advantage of a scheduled lowering of the lake level to remove rubbish from the lake and refit tyres to the wooden fendering around the lake edge). We hope to complete the paintwork around the back of the club and the parts of the upper walls where we haven't clad, whiten the flagpole, and attend to the many small tidying jobs needed. And then there are thoughts afoot of tackling the tower! We are planning a continuation of our post working party lunches (I have apples left from last season's crop for at least one crumble, and Louise is already talking of a sticky toffee pudding), so if you are free to join us on Thursday 8th March, or any subsequent Tuesday morning (from 09.30), we would be delighted to see you. And if you are planning to come and let me know, I can be sure of enough pies before we start and avoid a late dash to Morrison's.

Tony Halliwell

[halliwell@waitrose.com](mailto:halliwell@waitrose.com) , 01704 878572

PS This is an equal opportunities occasion, and there will be tasks to suit all ranges of skills and specialisms!

## Pursuit Racing

For this new edition I thought I'd create a new column, explaining some of the many intricacies of sailing. It seemed to be a good idea to start with the theme of this edition's front page and write about pursuit races.

### **The Theory**

You almost certainly will have come across handicap racing at the club. In this type of race every class of boat has a handicap number and all start at the same time. At the end of the race each boat's race time is taken and, using a simple mathematical formula with the handicap number, the handicap time is calculated and the results are published using the simple method of lowest time wins.

Pursuit racing is a little more complex, using the same handicap numbers and a fixed race time, it is possible to work out when each class should start. The aim is to have everyone finishing at the same time. Inevitably, this never happens because of the different abilities between the participants. However, I have been involved in some remarkably close finishes between different classes, such as beating an RS400 and a 505 by about 2 boat lengths, but being beaten by another GP14 and a Mirror by a similar amount. The finish line can be different as well. The best way is that the finish line is a moveable one. It is laid as close to the finish time as humanly possible, so that the leading boat passes through exactly at the timed ending of the race. The other (simpler?) method is to have a fixed finish line, then have the remaining race time as the finishers cross line adjusted by the boat's handicap number.

### **The Practice**

Although the racing can be extremely close, it is highly dependant on the weather. In practice, the Handicap Number is an average of boat performance in all conditions and water types. Thus we could expect an Enterprise to exceed its Handicap in very light conditions, but the opposite will be the case in heavy weather. More importantly, if the wind changes during the race then this can affect different boats. For example, if the start is in very light conditions then the wind fills in after a little time, then those boats that have already started will be at a disadvantage, likewise, boats starting in faster conditions will have an advantage as the wind dies.

### **Tactics**

The start is vital, as always. Make sure you know exactly when your start is.

## \*For Sale - Laser 17456\* £400



WLYC training boat, hardly used during recent seasons - good condition for age (built late '70s) - in full working order.

Equipment includes over cover, launching trolley, standard sail & rig. Available to view at the Club.

Please contact Ian Donaldson (tel. 01704 879964) for further information.

### Rules Quiz Answers

1. True. According to the Part 2 preamble, the right-of-way rules apply between boats that "are sailing in or near the racing area and intend to race . . ." So the racing rules almost always apply to boats before their warning signal.
2. False. If you are not racing and you interfere with a boat that is racing, for example, you break rule 23.1 (Interfering with Another Boat) and you can be penalized.
3. False. (2009 change) The old 2005-2008 Part 2 preamble said that when a racing boat breaks an IRPCAS rule, she can be protested only by the race committee or the protest committee. That part is deleted for 2009-2012.
4. False. When a boat that is racing meets a cruising boat under sail, the applicable rules (which guide them both) are the IRPCAS (International Regulations for the Prevention of Collisions at Sea).
5. False. When two boats are tacking at the same time, they are both subject to rule 13 (While Tacking). So the "one on the other's port side or the one astern shall keep clear." As far as rule 13 is concerned, it doesn't matter which one passed head to wind first.

## How good are you at the rules?

Another new subject that I have thought of is a rules quiz. Below are 5 questions with a simple true or false answer. Don't get fooled, it's a bit more difficult than first appears, but they are all common occurrences, even the cruising question (the cruising boat may well be one of the training boats, for example)

1. The Racing Rules of Sailing begin to apply between boats before their warning signal. True or false
2. A boat cannot be penalized under the racing rules unless she is racing. True or False
3. When you are racing and you witness a competitor foul a cruising boat, you are not permitted to protest the competitor for that incident. True or False
4. When a boat that is racing meets a boat that is cruising under sail, the racing boat has right of way. True or False
5. When two boats are tacking at the same time, the one that passed head to wind first has right of way. True or false

(The answers are on Page 10.)

### YOUR GOLDEN LION

There are two new articles to GL in this edition. The rules quiz and the piece about Pursuit Racing. Chrissie has also come up with a few suggestions about future features. Please let us know what you would like to see in **YOUR GOLDEN LION**.

1. **Children's sailing stories** Radio 2 are currently running a 500 word story competition - maybe we could have one at the club and tame the literary skills of our younger members, with say a 200 word story about the fun of sailing, racing and capsizing on the Marine Lake? Or maybe the none tranquil day in the life of a swan one Saturday in spring. Could you come up with some title options?
2. **Children's paint a (sailing related) picture competition** - I can maybe give up a bit of my wall for displaying them.
3. **Children's sailing quiz** - no prize just work it out
4. **An Oppies page** - where they all contribute.
5. **Update on the Olympics**, who is taking part, when, can we watch it at the club?



John Hayward, Mayor & Mayoress of Sefton Paul & Carol Cummins, Kathy Robinson

The Annual Dinner was a delightful evening. A big thank you to both the House Team and the Catering Team for your contributions to making the evening such a success. The club looked magnificently dressed for the occasion. We received many compliments on the food, which was absolutely delicious. The fun of the Flying Snooker rounded off the evening very happily. Thank you to Ted Southworth for organising that. Thank you also to Bryan Marshall for acting as MC and proposing the Toast to Sefton and to John Hayward, who proposed the Toast to the Kindred Clubs. If you missed it you missed out on great night!



## House Committee Update

Aren't we lucky! The WLYC must me one of the prettiest spots in Southport on a sunny day. I grew up in Southport and on returning, nearly three years ago now, I joined the Club. Everyone has made me very welcome; I've made some great friends and just love being on the water. When Kathy cornered me and asked if I'd take on the House Committee - I was a bit taken aback. Linda Hurst has done such a great job for years it would be a very hard act to follow!

I've attended some excellent Club events, the hilarious Christmas parties and most recently Burns Night - which was bizarrely poorly attended for such a fun evening. I wondered how can we fill the Club, create events for members, their families and friends, plus make some money to keep our WLYC going. So I asked people - and the ideas have just come tumbling in! Enthusiastic, fresh ideas for Concerts; Talent nights; Illuminated Halloween sailing; Jubilee weekend; Hog Roasts; BBQs; Seafood nights; Cup Cake Decorating; Quizzes; Olympics; Bouncy Castles; Games boxes; Pirates Days; Pugwash Nights; Wine tasting; Whiskey tasting; Guest beers and ciders (think there's a theme running here!) and much, much more. I'm delighted to welcome some new Committee members to the team - and we'll certainly need their help for what 2012 will bring.

The next House event will be the "Fitting Out Supper" and family "Sailing Quiz", straight after "Fitting Out Race" of the season on Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> March. This early season race kicks off in the afternoon but it's a great opportunity for everyone to check out their boats, test the rigging and join in an informal evening straight after sailing. Catering committee have planned a great supper with delicious puddings, so come and warm up after sailing, bring the family down and join in the fun. For all events PLEASE put your names down as soon as possible. We'll do our best but do need to know for catering and hate to disappoint anyone if you're not booked in.

Remember Mothering Sunday is on March 18<sup>th</sup>. Phil's planning a 3 course roast beef lunch, (booking essential) so why not bring the whole family down for a lovely afternoon overlooking the lake.

Look forward to seeing you there.

Christine Howorth