

Golden Lion

The West Lancashire Yacht Club Newsletter



Founded 1894

November 2015



**West Lancashire Y.C.
Junior Training Squad
in a close race**



Commodore's comments

The 24 hr race was completed with creditable results for both our teams coming 4th and 12th for the Enterprise and GP14 respectively.

I would like to thank everybody who helped before, during and after the race. We look forward to

planning for the 50th race next year.

This year it was our turn to host Bart's Bash, which fell on the day of the Air Show. It also was the final day of the Joint One Day Events with Southport Sailing Club so we also had its prize giving, it was a very busy day.

The Monkhouse Cup was raced in in fair weather, the predictions for more wind did not materialise. Charles Adams with Alex Halliwell crewing in his Enterprise, put in a consistent performance and won the Cup, while Steve Blackburn in his Streaker, won the Ship's Log on handicap. The Hotpot supper in the evening was exceptional and all who did not come down missed out, thanks to the Catering Committee for preparing it. Following the supper and prize giving, Sue Porter and Jules Ashworth delivered a short quiz prepared by Christine Howorth, thanks to you all.

Elsewhere in early September, Ben Hill and Jordan Porter came 2nd overall at the Enterprise Youth Championship at Barnt Green, they also came in 1st under 18. Molly Nixon was selected to join Sam Cooper for training in the National Topper Squad.

The House Committee organised a successful Bollywood evening with the curries made by Dave and Charu Bower and dessert by Nicole Van Rij.

The Offshore Supper in early November was extremely well attended and was followed by a very interesting talk from Tony and Louise on their exploits up the Baltic to St Petersburg.

Over the winter months there is the Junior Christmas Party on 5th December and the Family Christmas Party on 12th December, these promise the usual festive fun and games. The New Year's Eve Ball this year will have a Downton Abbey theme with live music, so dust off your flapper dresses and dinner jacket and put your name down on the list early for this popular event.

On the 23rd January we plan on resurrecting a Burns Night, complete with Ceilidh .

The Club AGM is being held on Tuesday 8th December. It provides an opportunity for members to ask questions about matters relating to the management and administration of the Club. It is important that any issues raised are answered fully, by the appropriate person. If you wish to raise a question which will require reference to supporting information, it would be helpful if it is submitted in advance of the meeting. Please forward your question to the Hon Secretary, Jerrold Carr, either in writing or by email to (Hon.Secretary@WLYC.org.uk).



Letter from the Vice Commodore 2015 Racing Summary

Yet again 2015 has been a busy racing year for WLYC.

Away from the club our dinghy sailors sailors have travelled far and wide:

Glyn Sheffield and Chris Rutter went to Australia for the Flying Dutchman Worlds; in addition at the FD National Championship at Bala they came 2nd ; **Tim Harper** crewed for Steve Goacher in a Flying 15 and was 2nd in the British National Championship, 6th in the French National

Championship and 10th in the World Championship again in France. Back in UK we were well represented at the Enterprise Inland Championship at Burton SC and the Enterprise National Championship at Looe. But most impressive was the total success in various class Northern Travellers Trophies: **Tim Harper** won the GP14 Northern Bell, **Charles Adams** - the Enterprise NW Top Helm and **Steve Blackburn** - the Streaker Northern Paddle. In all our main fleets we have the top helms in the NW. A result we can all be proud of: **well done to Tim, Charlie & Steve**

The Juniors have been travelling as well. The **Onboard team** went to Hollingworth Lake for an 8 Hr regatta, it was pleasing to note our teams came 2nd & 3rd (or rather joint 2nd). **Ben & Gabe Hill** finished 2nd in the Graduate Northern Championship at Bassenthwaite SC and 3rd in the Graduate National Championship at Chipstead SC. In addition, **Ben Hill & Jordan Porter** were 1st under 18 at the Enterprise Junior National Championship at Barnt Green. Also 2 of our Junior sailors qualified for the NW Junior Traveller series in the Handicap Fleet in Toppers: Overall **Rebecca Wilson** was 8th and **Lucy Pettifer** 14th. At a national level **Molly Nixon** and **Sam Cooper** are both in the Topper National Squad this winter, that is all after a busy season when **Sam & Molly** competed at a national level and Sam was invited to the Irish Nationals (where he was 3rd). Sam and Molly both went on to at Topper Worlds at Lake Garda in Italy with creditable results.

Offshore **Mike Pickering** skippered in the Round the Island Race and in the RORC St Malo Race. **Andrew Hall** on "Jackknife", with several from WLYC crewing, competed in the Irish Sea Offshore Racing Association series, the IOM Midnight Race and the Lyver Trophy RORC Race as well as the Block Island Race Week in the USA. In particular, with **Dave Porter** helming Jackknife, they won the Lyver Trophy from Holyhead to Howth - they took Line Honours and, after taking the handicap into account, they were 1st in class and 1st overall. *They won by such a large margin that as they stood on the deck of the ferry back to Holyhead the crew were able to wave to the yachts still sailing in!*

Overall a very impressive racing season for all our sailors away from home!

RC Sailing

With its wide appeal to all from the older to the younger club members the Radio Controlled fleet continues to expand. Throughout the summer season the group have sailed regularly on Tue evenings and once the nights drew in they have been known to sail Tue pm. Like last winter from Sun 3 Jan 16 they plan to race alternate Sundays until the start of Club racing on Sun 20 Mar. We are developing a positive reputation for the quality of the waters, facilities and welcome. Next year in May it is an honour that we have been asked to host the RC Dragon-force 65 World Championship - with up to 100 sailors expected it promises to be a lively 5 days.

Dinghy Racing at Home

Thursday evening Class Racing continues to be well attended and yet again the supper races in September were popular; although as the evenings closed in there was some confusion regarding the start times. The plan at the moment is to include similar Thursday eve supper races in Apr as well as September in 2016.

As regards racing on **Sundays**, in an attempt to improve the attendance and appeal of Sunday racing we joined with Southport SC to offer racing on the lake almost every Sunday in the season. It is unfortunate that on Sundays many of the shared management races were abandoned / cancelled because of strong winds but also it is clear that WLYC sailors prefer not to sail after lunch.

We hope to continue the shared management racing scheme next season. Although like all schemes there will be a few changes in the form of evolution while we seek to improve the attraction of Sunday racing. By comparison the format of the Joint One Day Events with Southport SC were in the main well attended; particularly the final event that coincided with Barts Bash

Moving on to the Juniors. In May we held the Lloyd Hayes Trophy. With 38 dinghies in 3 different fleets it is a most

complex race to manage - Well done to **Sarah Hill and Charles Adams** and their teams for a very successful day. 11 of our juniors took part, with **Ben and Gabe Hill** being first youth and **Sam Cooper** the second Junior. The end of June was Southport Sailing Club's Junior 12 Hour Race. Always a popular event with our club, we again entered two teams. The **GP14 team** were third overall and first under 18 and the **Enterprise team** the first Enterprise.

August saw a Topper open meeting for the first time in a long while at WLYC. We had 13 entries, 5 from West Lancs. **Sam Cooper** was second and **Molly Nixon** fourth. Following on from this event we were chosen to host some Topper training, where we had 6 West Lancs boats taking part. Apparently they enjoyed it so much they have asked to come again - *perhaps it's the proximity to the shops that makes us so attractive for the accompanying parents*

To help bridge the gap between training and racing we introduced a programme of **novice training/racing** programmed for Tues evenings in May.

We completed the training element with a pleasing amount of interest; however the following 4 weeks of racing was blown off! - a great disappointment to all. Not to be disheartened we aim to provide a racing skills development scheme for next year with the aim of encouraging the inexperienced or those that need confidence building to join in club racing. More details in the New Year - *in the meantime I am looking for a club member to lead on this programme*

As regards **our tidal sailing at Ainsdale** I think I reflect the opinion of all that it has been disappointing. Our ability to plan Sunday sailing off the beach is limited by 2 factors:

When is high water - we can only launch and recover with a midday or early pm high tide.

Availability of a tractor and driver. We are dependent on a tractor and driver from Southport Lifeboat but they can't guarantee a volunteer driver over any holiday period.

As a result only 2 events were planned on the tide:

Due to the weather forecast the **Boghole Trophy** was cancelled.

Club Regatta - 16 sailed, 9 of whom were visitors including 2 from the Northampton area. The racing was competitive although the rapid deterioration in weather in race 3 caused a few anxious moments! Only proves dinghy sailing offshore is not for the inexperienced and the race management must be of high quality. *If we are to continue to sail off the beach to be able to maintain our duty of care it is essential the club sails on the tide regularly to ensure our racing and race management skills do not diminish.*

Further it is of great concern to us that Ainsdale Beach may not be available for our use next year. All I can say at present is that we are keeping in close contact with Sefton Council to monitor developments. Hopefully we'll be able to return to the beach for our Club Regatta on Sun 5 Jun 2016

Looking back strong winds have been a major problem this year. As already mention we lost the whole Novice series to the wind; on Sundays of the 63 races planned, 15 were abandoned because of the weather; however over the whole summer sailing season on a Thursday evenings out of the 44 races planned we only lost one due to the wind.

Training

We continue to have an active training programme: 46 Adults attended courses that led to RYA certificates and we had many more Taster sessions. The Junior Training remains very popular: 70 children enjoyed the Saturday sailing 37 of whom were new to the club. Many of the more experienced Juniors helped out as assistant instructors and 8 Juniors are now working towards their power boat qualification.

None of this training would be possible without those keen, willing volunteers. After all those we train today are the future racers in the club and indeed are the future of the club. But as I mentioned earlier there is a huge gap between finishing the supervised training and having the confidence to race.

24 Hr Race

The 24 Hr Race continues to attract well over 60 entries. Even though this year lacked a major sponsor the race still made a healthy profit and the takings across the bar were as buoyant as ever.

Next year is the 50th, we must ensure it is successful for the club both on and off the water. After all we did win the first race and we still have club members in that first winning team - not least our President **Louise Halliwell** (or Thompson as she was then). For our part on the Sailing Committee however many teams the club decides to enter in next year's race they must be well prepared and trained; and on the race day managed by an effective shore based team.

As such we are looking for shore based Team Captains to recruit, train and run the teams; those captains need to be in place early in the New Year.

Any volunteers? I'd be delighted to chat!

Support

But all this club racing could not be possible without all those volunteers who plan and manage the racing programme, provide safety cover, maintain the club dinghies, and score, as well as provide the catering and bar facilities. Therefore I must thank:

My colleagues on the **Sailing Committee**; in particular the long suffering Secretary - **Alex Halliwell**

The Bosun - **Skip Reaser** and the Club Boatman **Colin Appleton**

The Scorer - **Martin Butcher**

All the **ODs** for giving up their days of racing

The **Safety Boat Drivers and crews**

*Our main concern is to provide safety cover at the 24 Hour Race. We use the normal club racing to develop high safety standards among our crews. But Skip is always looking for new blood. If you want to be involved - however inexperienced you think you are - **please contact Skip** - he'd be delighted to hear from you.*

And last but very definitely not least I must thank Di Porter and her marvellous team of caterers working so enthusiastically and tirelessly throughout the year.



What's On at WLYC?

All start at 7.30 PM – PLEASE help us by putting your name down with Phil if attending. Guests very welcome.

Christmas Party

Saturday

December 12th

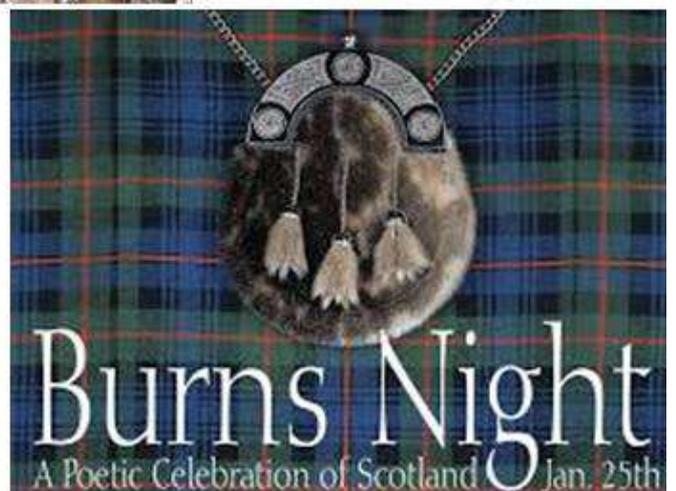
Supper, Games, Prizes, Carols & "The Panto!"

Wear Christmas Jumpers!!



New Year's Eve
Grand Ball,
Downton Abbey
Dinner Dance
Celebration

Burns Night
Saturday 23rd January
Traditional Scots Night
with Ceidleih Band



Sharing House Committee Highlights

What a year 2015 has been - and still plenty left to go! Some rather memorable evenings and I do hope everyone has enjoyed them as much as I!

In **April** we re-introduced the New Members Cocktail Party. With delicious canapés provided by our Team and Jolly Roger Cocktails, a grand evening was had by all.



Push the Boat Day in **May** brought in a record number of visitors with family's battling for taster rides all day long the sailor volunteers struggled to keep up with demand. Later that month the Town Cup High Tea Party, provided by the Catering committee was elegantly spectacular and a great success.

The **June** Cheese & Wine Party was a truly memorable evening. France's finest vineyards were expertly emptied by Louise & Tony Halliwell and paired with amazing cheeses - a gastronomic delight. Somewhere between Allo Allo and Faulty Towers with fun and wine boffin quizzes. This event will defiantly be back in 2016.

July found us Dancing on the ceiling at the Summer Party with a Lionel Richie Tribute Act on Independence Day. A deep south menu of Cajun steak fajitas and Mississippi mud pie followed by dancing made for a lovely evening.

August Bank Holiday BBQ was a fabulous day.

Followed in **September's** BBQ which combined the best seats at Southport Air show and Bart's Bash. A great turn out despite a rather cloudy Sunday but a fitting end to the Summer BBQs Strawberries with Red Arrows!

October saw the traditional curry night of old morphed into a full blown Bollywood experience. Some



sensational outfits combined with fabulous authentic curries provided by Charu and Dave Bower with desserts by our new member, Nicole Van Rij. Movema Dance theatre showed us how Bollywood dancing should be done and put on a colourful display. A fabulous family Halloween party ended the month with horrifying décor kindly left by Monday's Salsa team. We loved the charging life sized ghost stagecoach!



The magical offshore talk, from Russia with Love took us into **November** rounded off with the grand Prize giving on the 21st.

Early December the tree will go up and the Club will be rather specially decorated this year. Carols, wine and mince pies will ensure we are in time for the Christmas party so please join us and give a helping hand on the 3rd. This year's Party will bring in some new games, old carols and a never to be seen before pantomime. Do wear your Christmas jumpers and join us for a buffet dinner and lots of fun on the 12th

New Year's Eve has traditionally been a Grand Ball at WLYC and this year will be no exception. Themed on Downton Abbey, a sumptuous menu has been prepared by our Catering Ladies. Transformed elegant surroundings, live music and dancing it will be a wonderful night. Celebrate the New Year with friends and please feel free to welcome your guests along to for this rather special night.

2016 is already in planning with a January Burns Night and a Ceilidh Band booked for a traditional Scottish night with all the trimmings. Look out for Oktoberfest and a few more surprises next year.

House Committee is a fun group but are always on the look out for help if you have a few hours to spare please come and join us. Hope to see you round the Club, wishing you and your family all the best for Christmas and a very Happy New Year Sailing.

Chrissy Howorth



**Wear those
Favorite
Christmas
Jumpers !!**

WLYC Christmas Party Saturday

December 12th 7.30 pm



**Great fun night to party
before Christmas.
Buffet supper
£10.00 per head**



GAMES – CAROLS – PANTO - SILLY THINGS TO DO – PRIZES



**PANTO TIME the West Lancs Players
in a VERY unusual version of:-**

(It's OK – it's only 8 mins long!)

**RED
RIDING
HOOD**

News from the Youth Section

West Lancs juniors have had a busy year again. 70 children have taken part in Junior training on a Saturday this year. 37 being new to the club.

Many of the experienced juniors have again helped out as assistant instructors and 8 juniors now have their power boat qualification. Well done to them all.

In May we held the Lloyd Hayes event, which is part of the North West Junior Traveller Trophy series. 11 of our juniors took part, with Ben and Gabe Hill being first youth and Sam Cooper being second Junior.

In June 12 juniors took part in the OnBoard eight hour regatta at Hollingworth Lake. This was the first time many had sailed away from the club. Our teams came second and third, or joint second as we like to think of it. We were praised for how well everyone behaved.

The end of June is Southport Sailing Club's junior 12 hour race. Always a popular event with our club, we again entered two teams. The GP14 team coming third overall and first under 18 and the Enterprise team coming first Enterprise. The event is about far more than prizes and it was lovely to see all the sailors having a great time and being commended for their behavior again.

August saw a Topper open meeting for the first time in a long while. We had 13 entries, 5 from West Lancs. Sam Cooper coming second and Mollie Nixon fourth. Following on from this event we were chosen to host some Topper training, where we had 6 West Lancs boats taking part.

Away from the club we have had juniors competing in Sea Cadet events, National Sailing Schools Association events and Open meetings, areas Championships, National Championships and World Championships.

Ben and Gabe Hill came third overall and first juniors in the Graduate Nationals at Chipstead, Kent. They also came second in the Graduate Northern Championship at Bassenthwaite.

After Ben taught Jordan Porter how to sail with a spinnaker for the 12 hour race, Jordan returned the favor by teaching Ben how to race an Enterprise at the Enterprise Youth National Championship at Barnt Green, where they came second overall and first under 18.

Sam Copper and Molly Nixon have both qualified for the National Topper squad and have had a busy year competing all over to qualify for it. Sam was picked to represent GBR at the Topper Irish National Championship, where he came third. He and Molly went to lake Garda for the Topper World Championship and Sam to Weymouth for the Topper National Championship.

The end of the junior season was rounded off with the Brasiliero trophy race day. As ever a popular and competitive event, with a meal for 60 to finish off.

Winner of Fleet 1 (On Board) - 1st Holly McKenzie,

2nd Oliver Bedwell, 3rd Connor Williams.

Fleet 2 (Beginners) 1st Jack Craven,

2nd Elliot Goldup, 3rd Thomas Bluck.

Fleet 3 (Intermediate) 1st Jake Dickinson,

2nd Katy Bluck, 3rd Jo Cropper.

Fleet 4 (Advanced) 1st Abraham Birchall Rahnama,

2nd Thomas Dorr, 3rd Bo Birchall Vural.

Congratulations to all the juniors who competed in the Monkhouse Cup. Over a third of the competitors were juniors.

Huge thank you's to all the many volunteers, who have made this another successful sailing year for our juniors,

....especially: Bob Caton, Mike Dorr, Dave Farrington,

Anne Rushton, Skip Reaser, Sylvia and Stan Gilland, Neil Bluck,

Nicola Goldup, Stella Pettifer, Lin Caton, Cathy Reaser and Sarah Hill.

Stuart Moss, Ben Hill, Gabe Hill, Jay Lavelle, Dannon Lavelle, Lucy Pettifer and Molly Nixon.

Barbara Porter

We were all sad to hear of the passing of Barbara Porter recently. Wife of ex-President and current Vice President Cyril, Mother of present Commodore Clive, Dinghy Captain David and Grandmother of Clare, Beth and Jordan, she has left an indelible mark on the club forever.



Barbara was born and brought up in hard times through the depression and war in Southport. Life was very hard but she trained successfully in secretarial services and worked for local companies throughout her life.

Barbara and Cyril got engaged floating on a boat on the River Dee and married in 1952, little realising just what a life involved with a sailing family would mean—but she should have guessed it wouldn't be easy. Clive appeared in 1957, followed by Dave in 1959, and life was never quite the same again, unless you think that painting a keel on the dining room table is normal, that is!

Cyril joined the yacht club in 1965, and by now a seasoned offshore sailor, sailing the Irish Sea in Topaz of the West and Topaz 2, Barbara joined in 1969 to support her family. She became a regular participant in Yacht Club activities, helping out with the many tasks that being a member involves. This along with the blossoming sailing careers of her 2 sons and all the support that that involves. Barbara seemed to spend as much time at the Club as she did at home, and all this added to touring the country in their home made Transit Camper Van.

Barbara, unfortunately suffered a stroke in 1997 and life was never quite the same again. Even so, her indomitable spirit shone through, commenting in the nursing home that she was in for respite care whilst Cyril recuperated from a bout of Shingles “Why is he not in here, there is nothing wrong with me, I should be at home, it's he that should be in here being looked after”. She will be sorely missed by her family and the Club.

LEARN TO SAIL

WEST LANCS YACHT CLUB

Home of the 24hr race

RYA accredited courses - all ages
Fully qualified RYA instructors
Safe waters of the Marine Lake Southport
Wednesday afternoons - Ladies who Launch group
Thursday evenings, Sunday mornings - Racing
Saturdays afternoons - OnBoard and Junior Sailing
Safety cover on Saturday afternoons



**EIGHT WEEKS
FREE MEMBERSHIP**

Contact Kath Hall training.secretary@wlyc.org.uk

Full details of forthcoming courses available on www.wlyc.org.uk

LADIES WHO LAUNCH

WEST LANCS YACHT CLUB

Home of the 24hr race



...Meal and Planning Ahead...
...Tuesday March 3rd...
...7 for 7.30pm in the
...clubhouse...

INTERESTED IN LWL?
COME ALONG AND
JOIN US TONIGHT
Contact Judith Kirkby
beforehand

training.secretary@wlyc.org.uk





WHAT'S NEW 2016



Jan 9th Saturday	RYA 1-day First Aid Course Contact: Neil Croston
Fri eve 22 nd April Sat/Sun 23 rd /24 th April Sat/Sun 30 th April/1 st May 9am – 5pm	RYA Dinghy Sailing Basic Skills (Levels 1&2) Contact: Kath Hall
Saturdays 1-3 pm and 3-5pm depending on ability From March 26th - mid October	RYA Junior Training and OnBoard Sailing Contact: Sarah Hill
Saturday 21 st May	OPEN DAY RYA PUSH THE BOAT OUT
2 Sundays Feb 21 st and 28th	RYA (PB3 Inland) Safety Boat Contact: Neil Croston
Saturday and Sunday July 16th/17th	RYA Dinghy Sailing -Improvers Better Sailing Level 3 Contact: Kath Hall
Fri evening 3 rd June; Saturdays 4 th & 11 th June Sundays 19 th & 26 th June	RYA Dinghy Sailing Basic Skills Level 2 Contact: Kath Hall
2 Sundays October 2 nd & 9th 9-5pm	RYA (PB2 Inland) Power Boat Contact: Neil Croston

Contact POWER COURSES: Neil Croston training.principal@wlyc.org.uk

SAIL COURSES: Kath Hall training.secretary@wlyc.org.uk



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Marine Drive, Southport, Merseyside, PR8 1RY
Telephone: 01704 530840
Email: Training.Secretary@WLYC.org.uk
Website: wlyc.org.uk



RYA

Dinghy Sailing
Basic Skills –Level 2

Friday evening 22nd April 19:00
then on two weekends 09:00 – 17:00

Saturday / Sunday April 23rd / 24th
&
Saturday / Sunday April 30th / 1st May

- ✓ practical teaching techniques
- ✓ rigging and launching a boat
- ✓ sailing a triangular course
- ✓ coming along side / man overboard
- ✓ returning safely to shore

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.

Adult members £100

Juniors Half price

Non-Members £250

Enrolment forms on the website

Contact : Kath Hall

Training.Secretary@WLYC.org.uk

RYA

Dinghy Sailing
Basic Skills –Level 2

Friday evening 3rd June 19:00
then on two weekends 09:00 – 17:00

Saturdays June 4th / 11th
&
Sundays June 19th / 26th

- ✓ practical teaching techniques
- ✓ rigging and launching a boat
- ✓ sailing a triangular course
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DIARY DATES

December

Saturday 5th Junior Christmas Party

Tuesday 8th AGM 20.00

Saturday 12th Family Christmas Party

Thursday 31st New Year's Eve Party

January

Saturday 23rd Burns Night

Welcome to new members

James Bridge

James Constable and Claire Mahaffey

Peter, Sara, Jamie and Daniel Edwards

Jane and Olivia Hall

Mark, Jennifer, Taylor, Owen and Honey McKenzie

Eleanor Mehew

Stephen, Cathy, Frankie, Will, Henri and Charlie Richmond

Stuart and Connor Williams

Ernesto Maya, Loange and Sofia da Silva

Notice of Meeting
West Lancashire Yacht Club
Annual General Meeting
is on Tuesday 8th December,
20:00 hours at the Club

The Minutes of the 2014 AGM
are available on request from the Club Secretary

Next copy date: Sunday 14th February

Golden.Lion@wlyc.org.uk

Editor: Dave Bower, Assistant Editor: Kathy Robinson

The views expressed herein are not necessarily those of the editor nor of the WLYC Committee.