

Commodore's Comments –



Well, this is a rather gentle start into 2021. Normally by now we would have celebrated New Year's Eve and toasted the haggis for Burns' Night. Unfortunately, this year we could not hold either.

But there is still lots of good news and a little bad. The good news is we have all our events planned for this year as normal, starting with the Fitting Out race on the 27th March. We are getting ready to order our new safety boat. The eSailing is continuing on Thursday evenings, and the Lunch Time Launch group are still meeting up on Zoom. The Club Zoom talks in November and December went down well, and we are planning some more soon. We have even had the boiler serviced

so the Club will be warm. The bad news is, of course, we still can't open up the Club, but as soon as we can we will let you know. This is about the longest I have ever gone without sitting in a boat, so I can't wait to start sailing again. Hope to see you all soon.

Tim Harper - Commodore



The Commodore's Cup
for
Outstanding Service to the Club
is presented virtually to
Mike Pickering,
by immediate past Commodore
Richard Stubbs



The President's Prize
for Outstanding Achievement
is presented to Christine Howorth
by President Bryan Marshall

Club eSailing

The Club edition of the **Virtual Vendée Globe** is almost complete. Five Club members went to sea for 10+ weeks, competing with 1 million other virtual sailors. The French company "Virtual Regatta Offshore" continually run offshore eRaces, although certainly most are not as long as the Vendée Globe! We hope they will have an online version of the Fastnet Race in August – we'll keep an eye open for that. It would be brilliant to have our own Fastnet eRace; we'll keep you informed.

Stop Press: Vendée Globe winner = Yannick Bestaven. Pip Hare crosses the equator.

Club eRacing returned on Thursday 21 January with Lockdown 3 series. Hosted on Thursday evening, there are 5 short races each week. It's not too late to join as each evening is a mini-series in itself, and then all races count towards an overall winner.

Open exclusively to WLYC members of **all ages**, from Juniors to Veterans. Historically the Juniors do well and often beat Veterans; therefore, while retaining the Juniors' results in the tables of results; we'll also produce a Juniors' table so their achievements can be recognised. The racing is sociable as we chat through Discord and Zoom. If you're new to virtual racing, that's no problem at all. We'll be hosting practice races before each mini-series allowing you to get to grips with sailing your virtual yacht!

Sign up here - <https://forms.gle/HJdSxwRx94xAZoX56>

If you have any questions, email Mike on virtual.sailor@wlyc.org.uk

Mike Pickering - eRacing



Sailing Matters

Interested in improving your sailing and racing skills even during the pandemic - ready for the 2021 sailing season?

If so, on its website the RYA has developed an impressive online catalogue of instructional videos and activities. The full catalogue is well laid out and is open to all (including those who are not members of the RYA).

Goto: <https://www.rya.org.uk/programmes/Pages/sailfromhome.aspx> then scroll down to topic headings that include:

For Junior and Onboard sailors:

- Sail Smart and #Knotonthewater - presentations
- Onboard Activity sheets

For Racing Sailors

- Racing Sailor Playlist
- Racing Rules Playlist

**SAIL SMARTS
RACE SMART**

RYA Events / Conferences. For your diary here are a few events of more general interest to sailors and instructors:

- **RYA Dinghy Show – 27/28 Feb** - book at www.rya.org.uk/dinghy-show
- **Instructor Training Day 13 Mar** - select "News & Events" menu on the home page then under "Events" select "Instructor Training Days"
- **Cruising Conference – 21 Mar** - book at <http://rya.org/5B8D50CXuzi>

RYA North West - Top Tips & Advice.

- **16 Feb @7pm Race Tactics** (Adam McGovern)
- **16 Mar @ 7pm Racing Rules Explained**

The bookings for these events are not open yet; we'll try to keep you informed!

The topics for April and beyond tba.

There is so much to do online through the RYA, this is just a taster.

Cathie Reaser & Rob Pickering - Training & Sailing Committee

Racing Rules of Sailing (RRS) 2021 – 2024

The updated RRS came into force on 1 January 2021. There will be a copy of the new rules in the Club for the Officer of the Day (OoD) to use. Also, a link to the latest rules is on the Club website – from the home page select the "Sailing" dropdown menu.

Sailing Committee

The Lunch Time Launch group held a virtual Burns' Night to celebrate the Bard, as we couldn't hold the usual Ceilidh. There was a mini quiz about Robbie Burns; then remembering and reciting a past 'Toast to the Laddies' that was created by Kath Hall and Anne Rushton, all adding to the conviviality of the Zoom chat. Do keep in contact with your friends and colleagues at the Club.

Bob Fisher



We are saddened to hear of the passing of Bob Fisher, whom many considered the doyen of yachting correspondents. He gave a huge amount to sailing through his passion for the sport. Our own Bob Caton was a personal friend of Bob Fisher and has written a tribute to him, which is available on the Club website. Bob Fisher was a big supporter and promoter of our 24 Hour Race, and even participated in the sailing one year. There is a BBC video of that Race; Bob Caton has a copy. It was the year the race was stopped during the night due to the appalling weather conditions.



Read More Here: <https://wlyc.org.uk/about-us/information/bob-fisher-tribute>