

Commodore's Comments



A few bits of news for everybody. A big thank you to all who attended the 'Not the 24 Hour Race' weekend regatta. Not only the sailors, but also so many members who turned up for the meal on the Saturday evening. Over the past year it has not been possible to hold many functions, so it was nice to see the Club so full, with a great atmosphere. A massive thank you to all who helped with the curry. All the racing was organized by Gabe Hill, assisted by Jerrold Carr on Saturday, and Jo, Finn and Sophia Henderson on Sunday. A big thank you to you all for what you did (Just remember if you do too good a job you will be asked again). Well done to Pete Ashworth in his Finn, who attended both days, and won the event. I did suggest as it went so well we did it again next year, but apparently we are having a proper 24 Hour Race instead.



Well done to Steve Blackburn who had a great Streaker nationals, coming 3rd at the rescheduled event, which was held at Staunton Harold Sailing Club. Also well done to Charlotte Cooper, coming 2nd in the RYA Regional Junior Championship held at Derwent Reservoir SC.

We have a change of Training Principal. Having recently retired from work, Mike Dorr has also stepped down as the Club's Training Principal. A big thank you to Mike for all his help over many years. I hope he now has more time to do some sailing himself. Thanks go to Mike Gribble, who takes over this role.



While we are on the subject of retiring there is one more to announce. Our Club Steward Phil has decided that now is the time for him to hang up his tea towel and retire. Phil has been with the Club for 31 years, through thick and thin, and I'm sure we all have fond memories of our time spent with him. As Phil said, Covid has changed lots of things, and he wants to spend more time with his partner, Joanne, and his children and grandchildren. We wish Phil all the very best for the future and hope he enjoys many years of retirement. Phil will still be around for a few more weeks, and in due course, we will let Members know how we are planning to mark his retirement. Maybe it's our turn to serve Phil instead of him serving us.

Tim Harper – Commodore

RC Sailing

We have now moved to Tuesday afternoons. Starting at 13:00 hours until we drop, or light stops us! The Club RC Laser has been used by one of our Club members who will not normally be able to join us on afternoons. If you are interested in joining us, just pop down and have a go.

Sunday racing continues 09.30 for 10.00, until about 12.00 ish.

We are soon to be hosting the DF65 & 95 TT Open weekend (13-14 November), in the last in their National TT season. This will be followed by the Laser Open TT on 28 November. Why not pop in and see what happens in this competitive arena of sailing.

Alan Tickle – RC Racing

What's On at the Club

October

Tuesdays	RC Club Racing – 13.00 - continues weekly
Wednesdays	Lunch Time Launch 11.00 – continues weekly
Saturday 23 rd	Brasiliero Junior Race Day and Pirates Day – 13.00
Saturday 30 th	Monkhouse Cup – 14.30 - & Supper 19.30
Sunday 31 st	RC Sailing End of Season Race – 11.00

November

Friday 12 th	Around the World Suppers - American Night – 19.00
Saturday 13 th & Sunday 14 th	RC DF65 & 95 TT Open Weekend
Saturday 27 th	Prizegiving – 19.00 for 19.30
Sunday 28 th	RC Laser Open TT

December

Thursday 9 th	AGM 20.00
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Notes

- *Many thanks to Ian Hughes who continues to work on the finish of the bar area floor.
- *Many thanks to Pete Ashworth who spent hours power washing the slipway.
- *An Around the World Supper is planned for **December**. Date and format to be advised.
- *New Year's Eve – No band has been booked. Please let the Committee have your thoughts on an event for this occasion.

Club Dinghy Hire Scheme

- Re-introduced Sept 2021



Aim and Background

The aim of this scheme is to give our newer members the opportunity to develop their sailing skills, without having to first purchase a boat of their own.

The Club has several dinghies used for training and coaching, as well as for members to hire. The RS Quests are on loan from Southport Sea Cadets, and may be used by them for their own training at times.

With immediate effect, Mike Gribble (Training Principal) has agreed to manage the assets appropriately, to ensure the security of the boats and fair access for all parties. Members will not therefore be frustrated by turning up at the Club to use the boats when they are not available for use.

Who Can Hire a Club Dinghy?

Any member who has successfully completed an RYA Level 2 dinghy course, or, if a more experienced sailor, been shown previously how to rig, launch and recover that type of boat.

Junior members can only hire a dinghy if accompanied by a parent, guardian or responsible adult. This person does not have to sail in the boat.

Mike Gribble has discretion on the suitability of all hire bookings and may, where appropriate, refuse the hire request.

What Dinghies are available for Hire?

Club dinghies are a mixture of single and double handed boats. We have 6x RS-Quest, 1x Mirror, 3x RS-Feva, 4x Toppers, and 12x Optimists for hire.

When are the Dinghies available for Hire?

Club dinghies are largely used to train/coach members and sea cadets how to sail. Use of the boats for training and coaching takes precedence over boat hire.

Club dinghies can be hired both for an informal sail or to take part in Club racing, only when an organised Club activity is taking place. Boats cannot be hired outside of scheduled Club activities. This is to ensure that there are always more experienced sailors on hand to assist with rigging, launching and recovering the boats.

Hire Charge?

Club dinghies are not cheap to run (lake licences, parking fees, insurance and maintenance costs) therefore we ask members to contribute to their running costs through this scheme with an appropriate hire charge.

- **Crewed** - RS-Quest, RS-Feva - £10 per session (includes racing).
- **Single Handed** - Mirror, Toppers, Optimists - £5 per session.

How to Hire a Club Dinghy?

1. Contact Mike Gribble to confirm boat availability. His number is 07852 992831
2. Once down to sail, obtain a payment envelope from the noticeboard beside the bar, complete details and post envelope with payment where appropriate under bar door or hand it to the Club Steward.
(Card payments are acceptable if the bar or galley is open).
3. Obtain sails and foils from boathouse. Mike will advise how to do this.
4. Return sails and foils to the boathouse for secure storage.
5. Record any damage or missing equipment in the 'Dinghy Maintenance Log' kept in the boathouse next to the rudder store
6. Lock boathouse and return keys to their safe place in the Clubhouse.

Edith Wilson (1920 – 2021)

Edith died on 26th August at the venerable age of 101. Edith joined West Lancashire Yacht Club in 1959, 62 years ago. She rapidly became a prominent member, particularly in support of her late husband Kirk Wilson, when he was Commodore (1964 – 1965). The ten years starting from the time when Kirk was Commodore, was a pivotal period in our Club's history, including: the move across the lake to our new Clubhouse, and the development of the first 24 Hour Race. In recognition of her contribution to the Club over such a long time, Edith was made an Honorary Member in 2001. Our thoughts and sympathies are with Edith and Kirk's daughters Anne and Tricia, their husbands Graham and James, and their families.

Kathy Robinson



William Gordon Callaghan (1942 - 2021)



At the tender age of fifteen Gordon left school and started his career as a butcher working in his uncle's shop in Liverpool. He then joined the Merchant Navy as a butcher, traveling to and from New York. This gave him his first taste for travel. He left after two years, returning home, to open his own butcher's shop. Within a short time Gordon had successfully grown his business to three shops and a manufacturing unit. His hard work resulted in him becoming the youngest President of the Meat Traders Association. His flagship shop in Maghull continues to be at the heart of the shopping community. During this period of time, Gordon met Linda, and they married in 1968. It wasn't long before Howard and then Emma were added to the family. Gordon and Linda were delighted when, four years ago, their grandson - William was born.

As a young man, Gordon started racing dinghies at Southport Sailing Club, where he owned a Fireball and an Enterprise. He also sailed a Trapper 22 - 'Why Not' on Windermere. It was here that he went into partnership with two other members of the Lake District Boat Club to buy a Beneteau 42 which was moored in Estepona, Spain. In 1985, Gordon joined WLYC and sailed his Enterprise 'Hello' with Linda. Gordon was a competitive and successful sailor competing in lake and tidal series racing. When eligible he travelled to compete in the annual Enterprise Masters. Later he also owned a Streaker and was the Class Captain. Offshore sailing was always a great love for Gordon, he regularly chartered boats in Greece, Turkey and Croatia with friends and family. He also joined other WLYC members on their yachts to sail the west coast of Scotland and the Isles of Scilly on various Commodore's cruises. Gordon also enjoyed sailing the Pacific Ocean on Bob Willetts circumnavigation, with Tony Halliwell in the Baltic, and with Dave Pratt on various trips. Gordon was a qualified Training Instructor and spent many years enthusiastically teaching and encouraging new members to sail. He was also responsible for running the bar at the 24 Hour Race, a very important job! Gordon held many positions at WLYC including House Chair, Commodore (1997-98) and President (2005-08).

Gordon joined Maghull Rotary in the early 1980s and was active in various fundraising projects - including the yearly barn dances featuring his famous barbecues. Gordon also had many other interests. He was a member of Southport and Ainsdale Golf Club where he enjoyed playing with Linda and his many friends. He represented S&A playing for the Seniors team against other clubs. His main claim to fame was a hole in one on the first hole. He played in West Lancs' Whitehead Bowl golf trophy for several years, and won it on no fewer than four occasions.

His enthusiasm for life didn't stop at sailing and golf. He also went skiing, sometimes twice a year, and had a great passion for traveling. He travelled to over fifty countries flying, sailing or in his beloved Morgan car. Gordon, who was always so positive and cheerful and will always be remembered, by those who were lucky enough to have known him - for his generosity, and his great enthusiasm for life. We will remember too, his broad white smile and his hair that never went grey! Gordon, will be sadly missed - but remembered by all.

Ian Williams

Linda Hurst (1948 – 2021)



Linda passed away peacefully at home on 5th September, following a long illness. Linda and her husband Rick joined West Lancashire Yacht Club in 1985. They both learnt to sail in the Club and, while Rick bought a GP14, Linda bought a Laser, that she sailed with typical enthusiasm and determination. Linda and Rick sailed offshore in their own yacht, that they based at Kingswear Marina, at Dartmouth. They also joined in many Club offshore cruises, particularly on the west coast of Scotland, when their boat was based up there for a time. Linda was a talented artist and had remarkable Project Management skills that she generously offered the Club. In particular she was Chair of the Ladies Committee when Rick was Commodore (2001 – 2002) and for many years Head of 24 Hour Race Catering. Whilst she was Madam Commodore she organised and hosted a number of very successful charity events at the Club. More recently Linda's artistic talents were called on to create the Club's 125th Anniversary Dinner Menu, which featured pictures and snippets of information about the Club's history as a special souvenir.

Linda will always be remembered for her energy, creativity and phenomenal organisational skills. Our thoughts and sympathies are with her husband Rick.

Kathy Robinson

Peter Walker

Peter sadly died on 28th August. He joined West Lancs in 1972 and, sailing with wife Ruth, was an enthusiastic competitor in the Enterprise fleet for many years, and a stalwart of the Club, participating in social events and other activities (including, I remember, painting the outside of the Club before the original wooden window units were replaced with plastic). He was also a member at South Windermere SC where he kept, and raced, a second Enterprise. Peter bought a new suit of Musto sails for each of his boats every year, and was a valuable source of used sails for other members of the Enterprise fleet (so that several of us were, to the confusion of long-suffering ODs, sailing around with the same sail number!). Peter competed regularly in the Enterprise National Championships and joined the Class Association committee, going on to serve as Commodore of the Association in 1980-2 and later as Admiral.

On retirement (he had been a gynaecologist in Liverpool), Peter and Ruth moved to Arnside, and he was able to spend more time fishing. When our member Brian Rees signed on for a fly-fishing lesson in the lakes, he was surprised to find Peter as his instructor!

Peter's wife Ruth and three daughters were all well-known at West Lancs and Ruth, like Peter, remained a supporter of West Lancs through Outport membership. More recently, he and Ruth left Arnside for Widnes, to be close to their daughters and many grand and great grandchildren. Our sympathy to Ruth and the family at this sad time.

Tony and Louise Halliwell

Sailing Matters

Regular Club racing has continued with good turnouts, despite the lack of wind, or too much, on some occasions. Pictured are participants and trainers from the weekend of 18/19 September.

Adult Training

The pandemic led to a significant delay in the start of this year's training programme. After making a start in late May, over the summer we ran a Tuesday evening RYA Level 1 course, a weekend powerboat L2 course and a combined weekend L1 and L2 dinghy course. In September the Sea Cadets loaned us three additional Quests. This expands our training capacity and gives us the opportunity to run courses for members with differing levels of ability simultaneously. Our initial focus in 2021 was to get new members out on the water. In September and October we ran two training courses, to give members the chance to consolidate their new skills before the sailing season drew to a close. The courses were fully subscribed within an hour of sending out the Mailchimp. Surely this must be a record!

Club life very much revolves around dinghy racing and social sailing, so look out for next year's Training Programme. Our aim in 2022 is to offer members old and new, not just RYA Start Sailing courses, but also more advanced training sessions, to build skills and develop members' confidence to actively take part in all Club sailing activities. Over the coming months, if sufficient demand exists, we plan to run two powerboat courses, the first of which is on Saturday and Sunday 6/7 November, plus the long-delayed powerboat instructor's course, and a first aid course, in readiness for the start of next season.

Junior Training

Junior training also got off to a very slow start this year, and similarly gained momentum as the year progressed. We started Saturday sessions in late May for juniors who could already sail. Although relatively few in number in comparison to previous years, these juniors enthusiastically took to the water. With strong encouragement and the support of instructors, a number of juniors started to join in Saturday racing and they compete regularly in Club races today.

During the Whitsun school holiday, we offered juniors a full day's training, which proved so popular we extended the training to one day during each week of the school summer holidays. The sessions were all very well attended and enjoyed by everyone, adults and juniors alike.

Presently juniors are in the process of finishing off their RYA stages on Saturday afternoons, in readiness for the end of season **Brasiliero Trophy Race and Pirate Day on 23rd October**.

Next season some of our youngest members will be of age to join junior training, and so we look forward to starting to teach the joys of sailing to a whole new batch of youngsters.

Training at WLYC is only made possible by a small army of Member volunteers. Our sincere thanks to everyone for their help and support this season. You know who you are!

Cathie Reaser - Training Secretary

