



# Golden Lion



The West Lancashire Yacht Club Newsletter

Founded 1894

June 2015



## Lloyd Hayes Junior Open Meeting





## Commodore's comments

The season is now well underway and the club seems to be buzzing. The weather hasn't warmed up yet for the summer but I'm sure this will change in June, hopefully!

The Fitting Out Race and supper were enjoyed by 15 starters and was won by Steve Blackburn in his brand new Streaker. There was a very pleasant

supper prepared by Di with her Catering Committee and later that evening with a new addition of a quiz, to keep the banter and competition going from the day. The Garden Gnome trophy was won by the team of Roy and Lin Kissick.

### **Tidal Lagoon**

As mentioned in the last "Commodore's Comments" the prospective Tidal Lagoon off Southport has not been chosen as one of the preferred sites and will not be going ahead, as the other sites have better access to the infrastructure necessary for the distribution of the power. Maybe when there is a second tranche of Lagoons Southport may be reconsidered.

### **New Members Cocktail Party**

This year we decided to reinstate the New Member's Cocktail Party into the annual programme of events, as I felt that the new members were only joining for their particular interest in the club and not having an appreciation of what we do throughout the year, with all the other aspects that are club life, both in sailing and social. There was representation from all of the aspects of the club to discuss with the new members their interests and broaden their knowledge of what is available. Also, I dug out some history of what had been in the distant or recent past. I believe the evening was successful in what it was meant to achieve. Since then many of the new members have been down enjoying the various facilities, more than in previous years. Also many of the existing members learnt some things about the club too! Well done and thanks to Christine Howorth and the House Committee team for providing the cocktails and canapés for the evening.

### **Push the Boat Out**

The day was chosen on the toss of a coin with Southport Sailing Club in December as the RYA's Push the Boat Out was to be held over 9 days covering two weekends this year, we were the first of the two Saturdays.

Our day was fabulous with the sun appearing at about mid-day, the breeze making for some great thrill rides, but not too scary for the visitors. Some visitors turned up in the morning early, before any of the

boats were rigged. The club had the feel of a vibrant community with many different sailing activities going on at the same time.

The following weekend, SSC held their Push the Boat Out day, the wind was not so kind for them.

At the end of the day 4 families signed up for membership, another 20 or so families are to be followed up after the event and by the number of new entry forms being submitted before the Club committee last week, membership seems to be on the way up.

Many thanks go to Richard Barnes and the Membership Committee for organising the day, also to everyone else that helped out on the day both on and off the water.

### **Town Cup/Vintage Afternoon Tea**

The Town Cup Pursuit Race was a hard race to sail last Sunday. It was eventually won by Jonny Latham in his Optimist, third time lucky. The fleet just could not catch him after the 132 minutes of time from his start at 12.00. Second place went to Chris Jones in his Blaze, and third to Paul Swainson from Southport SC in his Laser EPS.

Following the race was the Vintage Afternoon Tea, which is now a regular event on our calendar. A wide variety of cakes and scones were donated by members for the event. Thanks to everyone that baked and donated. It was a most pleasant afternoon with courses of sandwiches, scones, and cakes, washed down with fresh tea in china cups. I would like to thank everybody that helped both in and out of the galley to make the day so special.

### **Security**

On Easter Monday at dusk in foggy conditions, the clubhouse and bar area were broken into and some money was taken from behind the bar. The thieves got their car in through the padlocked main gate; this has been addressed. Everything has since been put right, but we must always please lock up the clubhouse and padlock the gate when the last person leaves the premises. Do check if you are the last out. The padlocks can be difficult at times to lock and unlock, but if you persevere they will work. Because of the sandy environment they are replaced frequently.

If any members require keys for the clubhouse and gates, please see Phil.

Remember please to **always** lock the clubhouse and gates when leaving the premises.

*Clive Porter*  
Commodore

## Sailing Matters

We are now 2 months into the club's dinghy racing season; the general weather pattern has been somewhat unsettled. This has resulted in rather too many light wind or strong wind days leading to a disappointing number of races being cancelled / abandoned. However, the introduction of the series of races being hosted alternate Sundays by WLYC and SSC this has meant almost every Sunday in the season there is dinghy handicap racing on the lake planned for our club members.

The season started well with 15 dinghies launching for the Fitting Out Race. The Commodore acting as OoD laid out a long course; the mixed fleet of single and double handers, with mixed crews from juniors to pensioners, set out in good wind conditions; certainly watching Glyn Sheffield and Chris Rutter in the Flying Dutchman provided particular interest for those ashore. Many mini-battles throughout the fleet continued throughout the race, the event being won by Steve Blackburn in his Streaker.

Despite this promising start, with very light winds the planned Sunday racing for the remainder of March was disappointing. With April started the Sunday hosted handicap series of races plus the class racing on Thursday evenings. While the weather has been particularly disruptive for the Sunday sailing the advantage of a hosted format is clear: if we had not joined with SSC, between 1 Apr and 17 May WLYC members would have only raced on one Sunday! On the other hand the Thursday evening class racing has settled down well with sailing each week so far.

The greatest disappointment has been the planned novice race training. Strong winds severely disrupted both the training day and the racing. Regrettably the weather conditions were not suitable for any of the planned novice races and even the race training day had to be delayed by 24 hrs! The Sailing Committee is considering options to provide further transitional training to assist the less experienced sailors to have the confidence to join future club racing.

On Sunday 24 May we hosted the Town Cup with WLYC & SSC sailors sailing a 2+hr Pursuit Race. The 14 dinghies started in a fresh breeze from the west, on a square course around the islands. The first off was Jonny Latham in an Optimist at midday. He had sailed 3 laps before the faster dinghies began to cross the start line! The chasers gradually caught up with Jonny, but much credit to him he held them all off. After 2 hrs 12 mins of sailing Jonny crossed the finish line a few seconds ahead of Chris Jones in his Blaze. With Paul Swainson 3<sup>rd</sup> in his Laser EPS. Line honours were all taken by the single handers; however Charles Adams & Alex Halliwell (Enterprise - 5<sup>th</sup> overall) took the prize for the first double handed dinghy. An excellent day completed with an exceptional Afternoon Tea provided by Di Porter and her catering team.

## Push the Boat Out

Our Open Day on Saturday 9 May, under the banner of the RYA's Push the Boat Out initiative, was a great success, with the club buzzing with activity. Much credit must go to the club members who were able to organise and support the event; the numbers of new members we attracted to join us was very encouraging. It is now the responsibility of all of us to welcome these newcomers into the club and encourage them to join us in sailing, as well as making the most of our club's wider ranging facilities and activities.

## WLYC Travellers

It is good to see club members travelling away from our local waters to compete regionally, nationally and internationally. Highlights so far this season are:

Enterprise Inlands at Burton SC on Foremark Reservoir in early May:  
Steve Blackburn 3<sup>rd</sup> & Alex Halliwell 4<sup>th</sup> Dave & Beth Porter 7<sup>th</sup>

Graduate National Championships at Chipstead SC Ben & Gabe Hill  
3<sup>rd</sup> overall

Sam Cooper selected to join the UK National Topper Squad in Ireland

Skip Reaser & Alan Tickle travelled to Ouderkerkerplas, Netherlands for the RC Laser Championship of Nations: Skip 15<sup>th</sup>. We presented the West Lancs Yacht Club Trophy for the highest placed individual from the host nation.

## Road Closures

Members need to be aware Southport is hosting several road racing events in June and early July. Each event involves some sort of road closure that to a greater or lesser extent affect access to our club from Marine Drive. Together with SSC we have held discussions / meetings with the event organisers to minimise the disruption and continue with our planned sailing programmes. Affected days / events are:

**Sun 7 Jun - Boghole Trophy on the tide at Ainsdale.** Cancer Research UK have organised a Race of Life (5 & 10K Fun Runs) around the Marine Lake. Road Closures are from 9am till midday; however, to take our dinghies and safety boats to Ainsdale, we have arranged that we can have an exclusive route from WLYC over the bridge and Marine Parade until 9:30. After 9:30 even this route will be closed until midday.

**Sun 21 Jun - One Day Joint Series hosted by SSC.** Vital Events are organising an international qualifying triathlon race that includes: swimming in the Marine Lake; cycling between the Pontins and Plough roundabouts; and a road running around the Marine Lake. The event starts at 7am and finishes around midday. Road closures effectively prevent access to both SSC & WLYC until the finish; however we have negotiated access from 11:30 on to Marine Drive via the Fairways Roundabout at the north end of the lake. SSC will delay the start the One Day Joint Series event until 12:30

Sun 5 Jul - WLYC Ainsdale Regatta.

Vital Events are organising a half marathon starting in Victoria Park at 9am. After the start the route takes the runners down the Coast road towards Pontins before turning round just short of the Pontins Roundabout. Back up the Coast Road and Marine Drive to the Fairways Roundabout then around the Marine Lake to Waterside Lodge. Back down Marine Drive to Weld Rd and Rotten Row before finishing in Victoria Park. General road closures are from 8:30 till about 11am. Again we have negotiated special access for club members: **until 9am approach the club via the Fairways Roundabout ; again until 9am depart the club left out of Marine Drive car park and over the Marine Parade Bridge.** Even these exclusive arrangements will be closed between 9am and 11am. With access via the Fairway roundabout from 11am, SSC are planning a late racing at 12:00 noon

**For all these events club members are advised to bring with them club diaries as proof of membership.**

Looking forward to seeing you on the lake

Rob Pickering  
Vice Commodore  
07932632112

Dave Porter  
Dinghy Captain  
dinghy.captain@wlyc.org.uk

## Membership Focus

Well it's been a busy period for the Membership Committee and I take this opportunity to thank Ilush Bricknell, Mike Dorr and Sue Porter for their continued support and hard work on the Membership Committee.

On 25<sup>th</sup> April we held a Cocktail Party for our newer members, the first event of this sort for quite a number of years. Joiners from the last three years received an invitation and 18 new members enjoyed cocktails and canapés courtesy of Christine and the House Committee. Many thanks to the House Committee. New members had the opportunity to meet other members and learn more about the work of the various committees. The Commodore also provided an interesting insight into the history of the club.

The event was such a success that we shall make sure it remains an annual event within the club calendar.

Then came the Open Day held to correspond with the RYA push the boat out campaign. This event is gaining a great deal of support from the RYA. The campaign ran across two weekends this year, so on the toss of a coin, West Lancs had the first weekend and Southport SC had the second. Despite a mixed start to the day weather-wise and some lively winds we had guests queuing for a sail from 10:15.

The club had a fantastic atmosphere and was packed for most of the day. 59 people visited and tried their hand at sailing and I am pleased to report that 4 families applied for membership and a further 19 families have made enquiries.

I extend a very warm welcome to all our new members, listed elsewhere in this publication.

The best people to promote membership of WLYC are the present members so don't wait for the next open day, bring your friends and family down and get them involved.

*Richard Barnes*  
Membership Committee

## 24 Hour Race 2015 Progress

Entries to 2015 24 Hour race are progressing well, at the end of May we had received 23 paid entries. Further Marketing efforts will occur over the next few months, to remind clubs of this year's race.

An important development which I need to share is that our prime sponsor of the last two years Crewsaver, has decided not to renew its sponsorship. They have decided to focus on other events occurring the same weekend that have a commercial importance to the company. Efforts are under way to find a replacement primary sponsor. Thanks to Dave Porter, Mike Pickering for their efforts in pursuing an alternative Sponsor.

On a positive note, GJW have renewed its secondary sponsorship of the event. Please remember that the club receives a rebate from Boat Insurance booked with GJW via the GJW link on the club website.

As a reminder, race weekend is the 12 and 13th September. As always help will be needed from the whole club to make the event a success. If you are new to the club or have helped in previous years and would like more information on the activities needing volunteers, please contact myself either on my home phone number (refer to the club membership book) or email [24.hour.race.ceo@wlyc.org.uk](mailto:24.hour.race.ceo@wlyc.org.uk) .

*Chris Nixon*  
WLYC 24 Hour CEO

## What's On at WLYC

The Sailing Season is well underway and this year the WLYC seems to be buzzing even more with energy and vitality, both on the water and in the Club House. To support the fabulous surge in new membership House Committee has a busy agenda for 2015, and we hope you enjoy the events we have planned.



**5<sup>th</sup> June's** Cheese and Wine Party is set to be a really special evening. Louise and Tony Halliwell have personally selected some of the excellent wines that France has to offer and are bringing them back from their travels for us all to taste. Their reputation for "knowing their wines" will make this a really exceptional evening. The wines will be paired with French Cheeses and a fun quiz - so do come along and bring your guests at £10 a head it's an evening not to be missed!



**4<sup>th</sup> July's** Summer Party will be another spectacular Dinner and Dance. An American style evening, some fabulous dining accompanied by the sounds of deep-south blues, and rock and roll. Dance the night away for an evening that will end with a bang! All for £20 a head - great company perfect location!



**BBQs** are high on the summer agenda - thanks to Paul Kellett who has miraculously re-engineered a previously rather scary heap of metal into a sleek out door cooking machine. Join us, Callaghan's award winning sausages, burgers and the sunshine on August Bank Holiday and in the WLYC VIP seats for Air Show extravaganza.

There will be some new Club Regalia out in June, so do get kitted out before the 24 hour race - there's 2 weeks delivery on personalised kit.

House Committee is all about bringing everyone in the Club together, to enjoy being with like-minded people, have fun and support the club. We always need extra help – so if you would

like to join our team - or if you have a great idea for a new Club Event, please do let me know.

See you on the water and in the Club House

*Chrissy Howorth*

## Offshore Captain's Logbook

### Offshore Training

Following a theory course in the club and a practical course in the Solent, Tim Stephens is a qualified Day Skipper. He has now booked his cruising holiday with the family in the British Virgin Islands. Well Done Tim and have a wonderful holiday!

If any club members are interested in shore based or practical offshore sail training; please contact me.

### Offshore Cruise - 19<sup>th</sup> To 27<sup>th</sup> September '15

WLYC have had yet another brilliant offer from Rubicon 3 and exclusive to our club, to fill an Clipper 60. We can now join SY Hummingbird on a 9 day passage from Oban to Dublin 19 - 27 Sep '15, 10 Berths available for WLYC members and their friends & family.



- The overall charter fee £5,500 will be divided equally between us ie (£550 each) The normal fee is over £900 per berth so we have a considerable saving There will be a couple of Yachtmaster Instructors on board

No previous sailing experience is necessary  
Individuals can use the passage to qualify for your RYA Competent Crew

For those with Comp Crew already what a brilliant opportunity to add large yacht handling + sea miles to your logbook / sailing CV

To take advantage of this exclusive offer I'll need an early response so I can guarantee to Rubicon 3 that we'll take the block booking;

To register interest please contact / email (details below)  
Interested? Email me on [offshore.captain@wlyc.org.uk](mailto:offshore.captain@wlyc.org.uk)

or ring 07932632112

*Rob Pickering*

## **Offshore Sailing Quiz**

**Competent Crew.** A skipper is about to anchor in 5 metres of water. What is the suggested minimum length of anchor chain to use?

**Day Skipper.** In UK does a sea breeze normally back or veer during the day?

**Yachtmaster Offshore.** A vessel sounds 4 short blasts. What is its meaning?

**Yachmaster Ocean.** You are on starboard tack and notice the starboard cap shroud bottle screw is almost undone and likely to part. What is your first action?

- For answers please see page 13

## **From Zone Squad to National Squad**

I completed my second year in the zone squad last year, then after doing well in the qualifiers I was invited to join the RYA UK Junior Squad. This was an amazing achievement. It would enable me to train with the best people. We also had a new coach this year (Natalie Lloyd) she is very keen on fitness and nutrition. Eating mars bars on camp is a crime!!!

Transitioning to national squad was a big step; here they now focus more on boat speed, tactics and maximising performance. Zone squad was all about learning controls and getting from A to B. My experience in the squad so far has been great, the residential camps are especially fun.

So far we have been to:

- Weymouth (residential in Portland house)
- Rutland (residential on site in the bunk rooms)
- Draycote (non-residential)
- Hayling island (residential on site)
- Pwllheli (non-residential)
- Still to come we have:
- Plymouth (residential)
- Weymouth with the intermediate squad (non-residential)

In my opinion, these camps have definitely helped me to improve my performance and it is definitely something I would recommend working towards, although (if you haven't already) I suggest you would go through the zone squad stage, as this provides all the necessary foundation blocks to build on.

I have also competed in the national series this year with some pretty good results:

- NS1 Rutland 12<sup>th</sup> position out of 124
- NS2 Weymouth Winter Regatta 10<sup>th</sup> out of 140

NS3 Queen Mary 11<sup>th</sup> out of 144  
NS4 Grafham Inland championships 21<sup>st</sup> out of 153

Another achievement that I am very proud of is that I have been selected to join RYA Team GBR at the Irish nationals this year, I am pleased because only 8 people (4 male 4 female) were selected to compete in this event. I will be looking forwards to racing with the team in Ireland.

*Sam Cooper*

## Harry Leigh Supper - Sat 13 June - 1930 for 2000



An evening in the WLYC's own Harry Leigh tradition Supper with friends followed by a short illustrated talk:

*"The Taming of Biscay"*  
Mike Pickering's experiences crossing this challenging bay

For more details see poster in the club.

Cost £10 per person if booked with Phil by Tue eve 9 Jun  
£12 from Wed onwards

## Welcome to the following new members

Tina Barnes (wife of Richard)  
Maria Birchall and Setarah Birchall Rahnama  
Barry Foster and Sarah Carter  
Graham and Mary Francis  
David Jessop  
Stephen Jessop  
Tom Lowe  
Steve Moran (re-joining)  
Norman Parkes and Susan Houghton  
Mark, Nicole and Alexander Van Rij  
Arek Wozniak

## Bonjour a tous

We are making good progress with our house in France. Last week we switched on the water to the two new bathrooms we had installed, and were relieved to find only a couple of leaks in over 100 joints - one due to a compression fitting we had omitted to tighten (fortunately in the sous-sol, so the subsequent brief flood - 'til I got to the stop tap - was limited to the sous-sol concrete floor) and the other due to a defective thread on a compression join - soon fixed with a file. So we are spending our days lowering ceilings, moving doorways, filling, tiling, filling, sticking insulated plasterboard to the internal walls, filling, trips to the building supplies, trips to the tip, and more filling, leaving the real work until the evenings.

These evenings we spend tasting wines to find those good enough for the cheese and wine party at the club on Friday 5th June. To date we have found an excellent Beaujolais and an excellent Sancerre, a good red Burgundy, and a good white Bordeaux. Quite a good red Bordeaux (worth another try if time permits) and 2 Cote du Rhone not really up to snuff. Oh dear, have to try again, and still many others to find. The things we do for West Lancs! Hope to see you on the 5th June, if not before - We hope to be home for the previous weekend.

Amicalement,  
*Tony and Louise*

## Offshore Sailing Quiz Answers

Competent Crew. 4 x depth ie 20 metres (min.)

Day Skipper. Veer till the wind blows parallel to the coastline

Yachtmaster Offshore. It is a pilot vessel engaged in pilot duties

Yachtmaster Ocean. Tack to take pressure off the shroud

## DIARY DATES

### June

Friday 5th Wine and Cheese evening  
Sunday 7th 13.00 Bog Hole Trophy Tidal race Ainsdale  
Road closure @ 9.30am Race of Life (5 & 10K Fun Runs)  
Saturday 13th Harry Leigh Supper 19.30 for 20.00  
Sunday 21st 12.30 Sun 21 Jun - One Day Joint Series hosted by SSC  
Road closure Opening only at 11.30 Triathlon  
Saturday 27th SSC Junior 12 Hour Race

*Please check all timings for road closures on Event days.  
Show your Club diary as proof of membership for access when open.*

### July

Saturday 4th Summer Party  
Sunday 5th WLYC Regatta Ainsdale  
Road closure 09.00 to 11.00 Half marathon

### August

Saturday 15th Topper Traveller Open Meeting  
Sunday 16th RC Laser/Dragonforce Open Meeting  
Sunday 30th Bank Holiday BBQ

### September

Saturday 13th/ 24 Hour Race  
Sunday 14th Weekend  
Saturday 19th Offshore Cruise - 19<sup>th</sup> To 27<sup>th</sup> September  
Saturday 19th/ Southport Airshow  
Sunday 20th Weekend  
Sunday 20th Bart's Bash@ WLYC  
Tuesday 22nd Reunion Lunch 12.30

**Next copy date: Sunday 9th August**

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*Editor: Dave Bower, Assistant Editor: Kathy Robinson  
The views expressed herein are not necessarily those of the editor  
nor of the WLYC Committee.*