

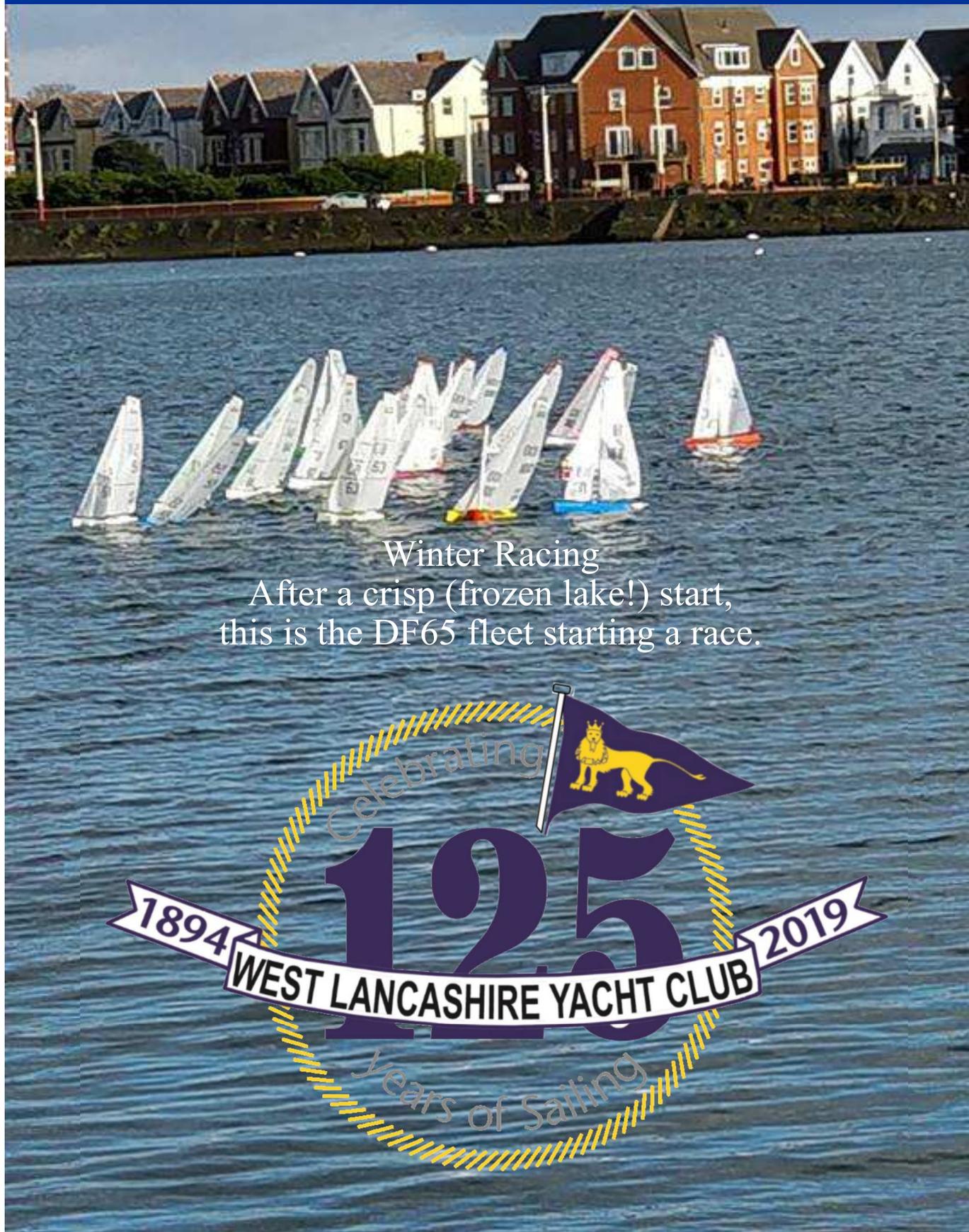
Golden Lion



The West Lancashire Yacht Club Newsletter

Founded 1894

March 2019



Winter Racing
After a crisp (frozen lake!) start,
this is the DF65 fleet starting a race.





Commodore's Report - March 2019

Hello to everyone from me. I am proud that you have chosen me to be the new Commodore of the Club. I am easing myself into the Commodore's seat and getting used to wearing my new blazer and tie. Many thanks to Richard Barnes for his stewardship of the Club. I hope that I can emulate his good work.

Although we are in a rather fallow period for sailing, things are still happening at the Club. To cheer up January there was the traditional Burns' Night celebration organised by the Social Team, which was enjoyed by all who attended. Over the weekend of the 2nd/3rd of Feb the Radio Control section held the first Dragonforce TT event of the season, at which I was encouraged to see RC sailors from all over the country. Many thanks to Alan Tickle and his team for arranging this event. On Saturday 2nd of February Chris and I attended the Annual Dinner at Blundellsands Sailing Club, one of West Lancs' Kindred Clubs. Chris remembers many happy times at Blundellsands as a child with her mum and dad, so it was very much a trip down memory lane for her.

I have been making changes to the Executive Team in order to match the needs of the Club over the next couple of years. The objectives that I have set myself are to grow the membership of the Club over the Dinghy, Offshore and RC sections, and to improve the financial position of the Club to allow more investment in facilities.

My two guiding principles will be:

Excellence – I want WLYC to be the best at everything that it undertakes

Inclusion - I want members to work together to grow the Club for the mutual benefit of all

Let me introduce my posse to you:

Jo Henderson – is the new Vice Commodore. She is currently the Sailing Secretary and will be taking over the role of Head of Sailing at the beginning of April. We welcome Jo to the Executive.

Rob Pickering – is currently Head of Sailing, and will transition to Offshore Captain at the beginning of April. I have asked Rob to try to expand the Offshore section within the Club. Additionally, he is responsible for the coordination of the 24 Hour Race. A very important role for the Club.

Jerrold Carr – our Rear Commodore is the new Head of Business and Premises. This is a new post which recognises that the Club needs to make money from its biggest fixed asset – the Clubhouse. Jerrold and his Team will develop the hire of the Club to local businesses and societies in order to fund the Club's sailing activities.

Christine Howorth - is the new Head of Membership. Firstly she will be responsible for looking after our greatest asset, our existing members, and organising them within the Club. Secondly she will be tasked to increase our membership across all Club activities and ensure that new members are welcomed into the Club and retained.

Julie Ashworth – will be the Head of Marketing and Communication. Marketing and Communication is vital to publicise all activities at the Club – both within the Club and externally and I am recognising this by asking Julie to focus her considerable talents on this task. Her team will work with all sections of the Club, but especially with Membership and Business.

Dave Porter – is the Dinghy Captain, responsible for all aspects of dinghy sailing. I have asked him to re-establish our Junior Captain post and to look after The Ladies who Launch section.

Gill Pinch – will continue as Hon Treasurer, looking after the financial health of the Club.

Ian Hughes – will continue as Hon Secretary, keeping us all in order (especially me)

I am still looking for a new Event Manager/Head of Social. If there is anyone out there who wants to take this on then please step forward, as the sociability of the Club is very important to us all.

A few things that I would like to ask of you. Firstly, if you haven't paid your membership subs can I ask that you pay now before the sailing season starts. The Club has to fund the up-coming season and your fees are vital to us in securing the Club's bank balance. Secondly, can I ask that you return your data protection permission form, to allow the Club to publish your contact details to other Club members in the Club Diary (even if you don't make this year's diary). We are a Club of volunteers and it is vital that members within the Club can easily contact each other.

This is the Club's 125th year and we will be celebrating with a Regatta planned over the weekend of 8th/9th of June. Please come and join in the activities and help make the Club's birthday special.

Finally, I am a very affable, open and approachable person. If you have things about the Club that you want to discuss, then please feel free to talk to me about them. Alternatively if you just want to say hello and buy me a drink at the bar then I am always available.

Dr Richard Stubbs

Commodore

the.commodore@wlyc.org.uk



Sailing Matters - March 2019

As I write this article it's a bright, dry, and blustery late January day with snow threatened in the forecast for Tuesday – Thursday. The 2019 Club Handbook is finished and is about to be sent to the printers (Hurrah!). Like last year some Club members and friends have been generous in their sponsorship of the handbook by placing adverts. The aim was to provide an income stream to cover as much as possible the costs of producing the handbook. I trust you'll agree we have managed to maintain the image and style, while keeping the content relevant, appropriate and in a

logical format. It is not an easy document to bring together and my thanks go to all the contributors, editors, advertisers, and proof readers.

“Sailing Matters” is a regular article for the Golden Lion with the aim of keeping Club members updated with sailing in the Club. It is generally written by whoever is Head of the Sailing Committee. That position is often held by the Vice Commodore. As of 1st April, Jo Henderson will take over the reins as Head of the Sailing Committee; therefore, this is my last edition of “Sailing Matters”. Do not despair. In my capacity as Offshore Captain my intention is to continue to contribute a regular article “Offshore Logbook” – for the first such article see elsewhere in this edition of the Golden Lion.

So, how are the preparations going for the 2019 Sailing Season?

Planning Assumptions for the 2019 Sailing Calendar

In the November 2018 edition of the Golden Lion, I outlined the results of 2 surveys sent to WLYC dinghy sailors.

Racing on the sea at Ainsdale. We had a very positive response to continue sailing on the sea when the tides and Sefton Council permit.

Weekend Racing. We concluded there was an overall preference to racing on Saturday afternoons. Therefore, we have made plans on that basis, leaving open the option of impromptu BBQs or post racing social drinks in the Club on days when the Club is not being used for evening functions.

Trophy Days. A large majority of Club sailors also stated they were “extremely” or “very” interested. However, it was clear that each Trophy Day should have an identifiable character of its own.

At the Club PrizeGiving evening in late November in my review of the year I reported that:

Junior Training. The Sailing Committee had concluded that those juniors who are Club members were being disadvantaged by the overwhelming numbers of non-productive taster sessions. Therefore, the Training Committee together with the Sailing Committee were developing a strategy for Junior Training that focusses more on the Club members to produce more productive and focused training for them, with priority for access to training dinghies and Instructors. There will still be Junior taster opportunities but only on the basis of booked slots between 12.00 and 12.45 on Saturdays.

Adult Training. Last season each Saturday there was a clash for resources between the Junior Training and the Adult Training. Therefore, for 2019 we have moved the Adult training to Tuesday evenings, with a system of bookings with particular

Instructors. This training will be alongside our **Sail IT** coaching; enabling the trainees to appreciate there is coaching support within the Club once the formal training is complete. The intention is to follow up the training / coaching on Tuesdays with snacks and drinks in the Club bar, to enable the new sailors get to know our members.

WLYC was established in June 1894; accordingly, it was highly appropriate that our 125th anniversary celebrations should feature widely in this year's sailing programme: Dinghy, RC Sailing and Offshore.

Published Calendar

With these planning criteria in mind the Sailing Committee have worked hard to put together a plan that provides a varied, rewarding racing programme, together with a formal training programme, plus less formal "Improving Techniques" coaching available. We trust this will lead to fun sailing and fair racing for all. The aim is to provide something for everyone and, in the process, encourage all Club members to meet and join together to produce an active, safe and friendly sailing Club with a social element in all we do.

The complete training / racing calendar is published in the Club Handbook. By 1 March Club members should have received one copy per household through the post; extra copies can be picked up from the Club Steward. The major changes are:

Club RC Racing most Sunday mornings

Club Dinghy racing most Saturday afternoons from 15.00 till about 17.00.

Adult Training courses (**Train-IT**) will be available to Club members using a modular approach. From 7th May these courses will be run on a Tuesday night from 7 -9 pm. **Train-IT** will run along-side **Sail-IT**, for adult Club members to develop and progress their sailing skills. It is also planned to introduce a social element to Tuesday nights with something to eat and drink after sailing.

Junior Training (within the RYA's Onboard scheme) for Club members aims to develop the skills required to: start sailing, become confident and learn to race.

Non-members can 'try a sail' with a 45 minute session between 12.00 to 12.45 on a Saturday by prior arrangement only.

RYA Levels 1 & 2 courses for Club members will run in 6 week blocks between 12.45 and 2.45 on a Saturday afternoon in prearranged groups.

Junior Club members at RYA Levels 3 & 4 will be trained between 3.00 and 5.00 on a Saturday afternoon.

Race coaching will be run in organised groups throughout the year.

Junior Club members not involved with training can develop their skills through practise on the water, in either hired Club boats or their own boats, or join in Club racing if at a sufficient skill level.

Use a Club Dinghy Scheme. Provided they are not required for Club training purposes, the Club owns several dinghies available for hire on a session basis:

Oppies, Toppers, RS Visions, RS Quests, RAS Fevas and a Wayfarer

Previous incidents of opportunistic theft have highlighted security issues that, for the time being, limit the complete access for Club members. Read more about the scheme in the Club Handbook

Principal Planned Sailing Events 'til 1 April:

Saturday 9 March – Pre-season WLYC Instructor Day

Friday 15 March 19.00 for 19.30 – Club Supper followed by a talk by Mike Pickering – “Atlantic Sailing – How to cross the pond (almost) in one piece”

Sat 17 March - Bring your Boat Down. In preparation for the season’s start, move your boat to the Dinghy Park and Club sailors will be at hand to help you rig your dinghy.

Sat 23 March 14.30 – Fitting Out Race & 19.00 Supper

Sun 24 March 11:00 - RC Fitting Out Race

Sat 30 March:

12.45 - Junior Training starts

15.00 – Club Racing Spring series 1 & 2

Sun 31 March – British Summer Time Starts

And that’s just the start! We have a very busy sailing season planned for all but remember sailing is a resource limited activity and that includes people. We are a “Members Club” that is run by the members for the members. To make anything happen we need volunteers – Old sailors, new sailors, non-sailors, anyone young or old - for: Race Management, Training (trainers and assistants / admin), Coaching (coaches and assistants), Scoring, Safety / Rescue (drivers, crew and maintainers), Galley Catering, Sailing Committee plus invaluable support from the Membership, Marketing, and Social Committees.

You don’t have to be a sailor to contribute. If you want to be involved contact:

Head of Sailing Committee	– Jo Henderson - vice.commodore@wlyc.org.uk
Offshore Captain	- Rob Pickering - offshore.captain@wlyc.org.uk
Dinghy Captain	– Dave Porter - dinghy.captain@wlyc.org.uk
Sailing Secretary	– TBA - sailing.secretary@wlyc.org.uk
Training Principal	– Mike Dorr - training.principal@wlyc.org.uk
Training Secretary	– Cathie Reaser - training.secretary@wlyc.org.uk
Junior Training	– Sarah Hill - junior.training@wlyc.org.uk
Scoring	– Martin Butcher - results.admin@wlyc.org.uk
RC Sailing	– Alan Tickle - rc.sailing@wlyc.org.uk
Ladies who Launch	- Judith Kirkby - ladies.who.launch@wlyc.org.uk
Safety / Rescue	– Skip Reaser - safetyboat.admin@wlyc.org.uk
Catering -	Stella Pettifer - catering.chairman@wlyc.org.uk

Looking forward to seeing you down at the Club
Rob Pickering
Acting Head Sailing Committee

On the Social Scene

New Year's Eve Ball

Many thanks to Christine Howorth and the House Committee, the Breakfast at Tiffany's décor set the scene for a fantastic evening. The delicious meal was created by Stella Pettifer and the Catering Team, and thanks also go to the members who kindly donated the many delightful desserts.

Burns' Night

Burns' Night was celebrated actually on his birthday this year. After some spirited toasts to a haggis, the bard himself and both lassies and laddies, virtually everyone was up on the dance floor for the rest of the evening. Thanks especially go to Christine Howorth and Louise Halliwell for providing the traditional fare for the night.



At New Year
The retiring Commodore
Richard Barnes hands over the
Flag of Office to the new
Commodore Richard Stubbs



Burns' Night dancers stepping
heel to heel and toe to toe.



West Lancs Yacht Club
is 125 years old in 2019.



Some of the older boats sailed at West Lancs.
The Flying 10
Sailed on the Marine Lake.
There is half of a Flying 10
beneath the bar in the Clubhouse.
The Seabird Half-Rater
was designed for sailing off Southport pier.



John Neil

John first became involved with boats whilst doing National Service by the Red Sea. He was a joiner by trade, so an officer soon appointed him to look after the boats. He became hooked.

John started sailing at West Lincs in the early 1970s, with a self-built Enterprise called April Lass. In the late 1970s he went into partnership with John Boydell, with a Vivacity called Vici. This was kept on moorings off Southport pier.

He was an adventurous sailor, happily taking his 3 daughters off to Wales, around Anglesey and the Menai Straits. There were trips with friends to Scotland, Cornwall and the Scilly Isles, or further afield to Spain and Portugal.

John's skills as a joiner meant he was able to assist around the Clubhouse, either with manpower or materials. He helped build the bar, the sliding doors dividing off the snooker room and an early Information Hut for the 24 Hour Race. He was regularly involved with the preparations setting up the site for the 24 Hour Race. Known to be a good cook, during the Race itself he and Bob Abram were particularly noted for their eggs and chips frying. Over 240 eggs at breakfast time was a regular Race requirement.

In more recent years on Club nights he could usually be found playing snooker. Sunday afternoons would find him with some of the more senior Club members (the Old Fogeys) sharing a glass or two and putting the world to rights. Born in Glasgow, and having retained his Scottish accent, he was always much in demand on Burns' Night for making speeches.

John died in December in hospital, after a short illness. He was a true gentleman, a loving husband, father and grandfather. His presence at the Club is much missed by his many friends. Our thoughts are with his daughters Helen, Mairie and Alison and all their families.

A quick reminder before the sailing season starts

The Club sailing instructions state that all boats need third party insurance for at least £5,000,000 and, for sailing on the Marine Lake, a current Lake Licence. Also please remember the Dinghy Park is not Club land, it belongs to Sefton. To park your dinghy there you will need a Dinghy Park permit from Colin Poole – the Lake Licensee.



What's On WLYC Spring 2019

24 Hour Nostalgia Film Night Thursday 7th March 7.30 for 8.00 pm

The BBC film of the 1983 24 Hour Race when Force 10 gales stopped the event. Plus a 1998 film of the Race starring some younger ??? Club members.



Throw off the Covers Fitting Out Race Supper

Saturday March 23rd
7.00 for 7.30 pm

Family Meal following the Race
to celebrate the First Race of the Season

Off Shore Dinner Friday 15th March 7.00 for 7.30 pm

Dinner & an entertaining talk by
Mike Pickering
'Atlantic Sailing -Crossing the Pond
(almost) in one piece' – Mast Climb shot.



Push the Boat Out WLYC Open Day & BBQ

Sunday 28th April from 11.00 am
Come and help or just join in, enjoy
a sail & the BBQ & welcome friends
and new members

Town Cup Race & Victorian Afternoon Tea

Sunday 26th May 3.00 pm
A Sumptuous High Tea



125th Year Celebration Regatta June 8th and 9th

Two days of sailing. A fun,
family event topped off with a
big party on Saturday Night



Offshore Logbook - March 2019

On 6th June 1894 the first general meeting of West Lancashire Yacht Club, was held in the Scarisbrick Hotel on Lord Street. They laid down our Club rules that still state:

‘The primary object of the Club shall be the encouragement of amateur yacht and boat sailing.’

What is planned for Offshore Sailing in our 125th year?

Several Club members have their own yachts / motor cruisers berthed overseas and over the winter they have been drawing up plans for the new season; although how Brexit develops may cause a few amendments!

Those who race their own yachts / keelboats are considering various events including:

The 100th Midnight Race (Tranmere to Douglas IoM)

The 3 Peaks Yacht Race (Barmouth to Fort William via Caernarvon and Whitehaven to include a run up Snowden, Scafell and Ben Nevis

ISORA racing in the Irish Sea

Dublin Bay Regatta

Welsh IRC nationals at Pwllhelli SC

Abersoch Keelboat Week

Cork Week

Cowes Week (as well as regular “round the cans” series racing in the Solent)

Dartmouth Regatta

Fastnet Race



Maintenance underway

And away from UK / Irish waters

Middle Sea Race

Antigua / Caribbean Regattas

The Bermuda Race from Newport Rhode Island to Bermuda (the world’s oldest regularly sailed ocean race) is a biennial event sailed in even years (ie the next race is in 2020) – so next year maybe!

Other Offshore sailors are planning various offshore cruises on charter yachts: bareboat and flotilla in the Caribbean, Mediterranean, Canary Islands or planning a cruise in UK waters.

Club Cruises

Offshore Sail Training (theory and practical)

It is clear there is far more offshore sailing by Club members than is at first appreciated by many in the Club.

The nature of the Offshore section means their activities are far less visible to others in the Club, but while we are not intentionally an exclusive group, arguably we do need to improve the section’s profile within the Club to offer opportunities and encourage others in the Club to try offshore sailing and hopefully go on to develop their skills

The Club does not own any yachts / keelboats, but we do have experienced offshore sailors and skippers. We can provide offshore shore based instruction, but any RYA practical courses would have to be sourced through sailing schools. Similarly, most Club organised / encouraged offshore cruises would have to be booked through charter companies. Such events could have different aims:

Introduction to Offshore Sailing eg weekends out of Conway
Exploring Offshore coastlines eg Scottish Western Isles / Devon, Cornwall, Scilly Isles / Cross Channel to France and Channel Islands / Solent Area
Bareboat or Flotilla Sailing in the Mediterranean / Caribbean
Practical Courses through RYA sailing schools in UK and Overseas (Mediterranean, Canaries, Caribbean)

Apart from some shore based training, this is a very broad-based task often well outside the Club's own resources; therefore, perhaps we should focus our efforts by:

Providing encouragement / advice to introduce Club members to offshore sailing.
Organise talks and presentations for all in the Club to provide a forum whereby like-minded members can meet.

Make a note for your diary **Friday 15 March** Club Supper followed by talk by Mike Pickering (who has crossed the Atlantic 5 times)

“Atlantic Sailing – How to cross the pond (almost) in one piece!”

Suggesting options for individuals and groups to consider – almost like a travel agency.

Developing links with:

other Sailing / Yacht Clubs.
Sailing Schools.
Charter Companies.

If you have any interest in being kept informed of Offshore Sailing developments and opportunities, please get in touch with me (see below) or contact either Dave or Gayle Rooney, or Chrissie Howorth

Looking forward to seeing you down at the Club and Offshore

Rob Pickering
Offshore Captain
(M) see handbook
(E) offshore.captain@wlyc.org.uk

Welcome to New Members

Isaac Dickinson (son of John and brother of Jake)

Toby Henderson (husband of Jo and father of Finlay and Sophia)

Will Hughes (son of Marc, re-joining)

Bob Mehew (husband of Eleanor)

Alex Stubbs (son of Richard Stubbs and Helen Stubbs, re-joining) and his partner Georgia Twist-Pactor

DIARY DATES

March

Saturday 2nd	RYA Dinghy Show - Alexandra Palace, London
Sunday 3rd	RC Sailing Open
Wednesday 6th	Ladies Who Launch - 11.00
Thursday 7th	Nostalgia Film Night - 19.30 for 20.00
Saturday 9th	Pre-season WLYC Instructor Day
Friday 15th	Offshore Supper and talk - 19.00 for 19.30
Saturday 16th	Bring your Boat Down - help with rigging available
Sunday 17th	RC Sailing Open
Saturday 23rd	Fitting Out Race - 14:30 and Supper - 19:00
Sunday 24th	RC Fitting Out Race
Saturday 30th	Junior Training starts 12.45 and Club Racing 15.00 Spring 1 & 2
Sunday 31st	BST begins

April

Wednesdays	Ladies Who Launch - 11.00 - continuing each week
Thursday 4th	Series A1 - Plus Buffet Supper - 19.15 - Early Start
Thursday 11th	Series A2 - Plus Buffet Supper - 19.30 - Regular Start Time
Sunday 21st	Easter Sunday - Easter Egg Cup
Sunday 28th	Push the Boat Out Open Day and BBQ from 11.00 BBQ 12.30

May

Sunday 26th	Town Cup Race
Sunday 26th	Victorian Afternoon Tea - 15.00

June

Saturday 8th + Sunday 9th	125th Year Birthday Celebrations Regatta weekend
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Next copy date: Sunday 19th May 2019

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Editor: Kathy Robinson, Assistant Editor:

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