

Commodore's Comments - Hello to you all from this special edition of the Golden Lion. To those of you who are working, and those of you who are in lockdown, I send my best wishes and hope that you are all staying safe. There is still plenty happening 'virtually' at the Club, with news of our Sport England Powerboat grant coming soon, eSailing on Tuesdays and Thursdays 'Club nights', and regular Wednesday video chats by the LTL group. I would encourage you to join the Club's Facebook group, (strictly for Members only) in order to keep in touch with your fellow Members. The Facebook page is currently sharing sailing gossip, quizzes, junior training material and just plain old-fashioned chat. Read all about these topics in this newsletter and stay happy and healthy until we can return to our Club.

Dr Richard Stubbs – Commodore WLYC

Head of Sailing - With the Club shut and no actual sailing on the lake we needed a substitute, the answer (for some) was eSailing. Mike Pickering (helped/hindered by dad Rob) worked on setting up our eSailing using Virtual Regatta Inshore. By the end of March there was a group of 20+ members who were interested. The first series was sailed on Thursday 2nd April. Now was the time to read the instructions and watch some useful RYA online videos! Before and after each evening's racing we even have a virtual bar open using Zoom (bring your own!), when sailors can meet and give excuses for their performances. Non-sailors are also welcome to join in for a chat. See results so far on the Club website (Sailing/results page eA & eB series). Note how well the 3 juniors are doing! – Kristian, Henry & Jamie. Radio Controlled yacht sailors are also doing well in the e-Sailing, notably Skip Reaser.

Looking forward: WLYC have been invited to enter up to 3 teams of 3 eSailors in an **Inter Club Team eSailing Racing Championship** organised by **Island Sailing Club** (Cowes) and sponsored by Mermaid Gin. The event will run throughout May on a round robin basis. Each team will sail against every other team. Mike is working on the details as I write. Also, we are working on a **WLYC series of class racing in May**. If you want to know more about eSailing please email Mike /Rob on virtual.sailor@wlyc.org.uk Currently the sun is out and there is a nice breeze, we certainly miss the sailing and friendships at the Club. Hopefully next time I write we will be able to get you off your computer seats and into your real boats on real water.

Tim Harper - Head of Sailing



E-Sailing Club Champion

We have our West Lancs YC e-Sailing Spring Club Champion!

Jonny Sinclair (JAWSRACING) displayed some impressive sailing skills to win Sunday evening's (19th April) five race event. Jonny will now go through to regional finals against other RYA NW Clubs, and then hopefully onto RYA national Spring e-Sailing Club Championship Finals at the end of May. Good luck Jonny!

The RYA British Sailing Team and British Youth Sailing have issued a number of videos to help the boating community make the most of their time off the water. To keep spirits up and improve your sailing tactics and techniques, there are videos available for both adults and juniors, please go to **YouTube link #sailfromhome** to access the videos. The **RYA videos** include: ***The Monday Motivation Show**, ***Tune- in -Tuesday** for tactical tips and insights ***Workout Wednesday** for youths and juniors ***Knowledge Thursday** for British sailing team coach and sailor insights.

Sport England Grant – something to look forward to!

I'm delighted to tell you that Sport England have awarded us a grant of £6,000 towards a new Social Sailing project. Working in partnership with the U3A and Southport Sea Cadets, we will be offering taster sessions for older adults aimed at getting inactive people into regular sailing activities. Epic Events (who run the Southport Triathlon and similar events) and The Southport Hesketh Round Table (who organise the Mad Dog Race) have also contributed to the project, which will include buying a new safety boat and running a Powerboat Instructor Course.



We will be starting the project as soon as it is safe and appropriate to do so and Sport England are holding our grant until we are able to get back on the water.

Ian Hughes - Hon Sec

Vic Basil obituary

We (Louise and I), joined West Lancs with our families about the same time in the early 60s as Vic joined with Don Davis, with whom he sailed. At the time, they were winning regattas around the Mersey region, especially in heavy weather, and were rather heroes to we younger members. I remember too the glamorous girlfriends, and Vic's red Sunbeam Alpine sports car.

As well as being a star sailor, he was the Club's architect for our then new premises on the lakeside, and he also designed the Control Tower, for which he won a Civic Award. (He was to become a prominent architect in the north west, with practices in Liverpool and Manchester.) Vic served the Club as Rear Commodore, and then as Race Officer for many of the early years of the 24 Hour Race. Always amiable, but nonetheless perceptive, he was a good man to have on your side. He joined briefly our then Merlin Rocket fleet, before going on to a GP14 in which he won the Club's class trophy.

When he moved to Royal Mersey (having left Liverpool for the Wirral), he kept in touch with his West Lancs' friends, and several of us were invited to sail in, and in his absence, to borrow, his boats there, and we continued to meet him at sailing events. Latterly, after he had stepped down as Commodore of Royal Mersey, we would meet at Kindred Clubs events; it was always a pleasure to see him. He was at the Club in 2014 to celebrate the restoration of the award-winning Control Tower, and again in 2019 to recognize his election as an Honorary Member.

Tony Halliwell



Vic Basil is front right
Don Davis, centre
Ian Donaldson, left
Commodore 2013/14

Offshore Sailing - Not surprisingly, the Commodore's Cruise / Flotilla sailing in the Ionian Sea, in May, was cancelled by the charter company. We were all looking forward to the adventure, but it was not to be. However, the possibility of organising a Club Cruise in UK waters may be more feasible. Options that spring to mind include the West Coast of Scotland, or a return to the Solent. Let's see how the "unlock" plans develop.

In the meantime, if you want to consider an RYA Offshore Navigation Theory course, provided through a reputable Online School, please contact me (*Rob Pickering - see Club Handbook for contact details*). Possible 10% discount for WLYC. Courses offered include:

- Day Skipper Theory
- RYA Coastal Skipper / Yacht Master Offshore Theory
- RYA / MCA Yacht Master Ocean Theory

Rob Pickering - Offshore Captain

Keeping in touch during lockdown!



Some of the WLYC Lunch Time Launch group meet on Wednesday afternoons at 2pm, using the free Zoom App. (Zoom runs on computers, tablets and mobile phones.) We meet for a max 40 minutes (free Zoom time limit) online chat from the safety of our homes. Managed and hosted by Bob and Eleanor Mehew, it's a most enjoyable catch up of events both personal and sailing related. If you would like to join us in our weekly meeting, please contact Bob or Eleanor via their phone number in the Club Handbook. They'll help set you up and give you the link to the meeting. The Lunch Time Launch group also has a WhatsApp group for messaging - lots of laughs. Everyone is welcome to join in, contact

Chrissy Howorth for an invite to join this WhatsApp group. There are other WhatsApp groups in the Club, such as the WLYC Super Sailing Crew (SSC) Tuesday evenings sailors' group. Do keep in contact with other Members for a chat, and ask for help anytime.

Bob & Eleanor Mehew

WEST LANCS YACHT CLUB - 24 HOUR RACE 2020 - EVENT UPDATE

At West Lancs we are closely following the Government Guidance to stop the spread of the Covid-19 virus. We are also monitoring the approach being taken by the RYA to the postponement/cancellation of competitive events.

This year's 24 Hour Race is already scheduled to take place a little later than normal, over the weekend of 19th / 20th September, with the site opening on Friday 18th. Our key concern is the health and safety of our own members, volunteers, and of course our visiting competitors and supporters. However, in view of the timescales, **we remain optimistic that the event will be able to go ahead on 18th to 20th September.** **24 Hour Race Committee** West Lancashire Yacht Club 10 April 2020

