



Golden Lion

The West Lancashire Yacht Club Newsletter



Founded 1894

November 2020

Travellers' Tales



December 1st and 15th

Zoom 8.00-9.00 pm

Club members share some exhilarating and daring adventures on the Seas and Oceans.

Tune into the Tuesday Zoom meetings and let them take you away to distant parts...

Watch out for the email with the Zoom links

You can also request a link from
subscription.secretary@wlyc.org.uk



Commodore's Report - November

Hi Everyone

It's been a changeable couple of months regarding Covid regulations, since I last wrote, and currently we find ourselves back in full lockdown mode, so many Club activities have been put on hold. However, things are still happening at the Club.

The end of October saw a good turnout of fourteen boats compete for the Monkhouse Cup. It was great to see such good support for the race from sailors young and old. Race winner was Steve Blackburn who was awarded the Ships Log Trophy and the Monkhouse Challenge Cup was awarded to Martin Cooper and his crew daughter Charlotte.

Rob and Mike Pickering are running e-sailing racing on Thursday nights, and they've also organised a virtual Vendee Globe race, which started on Sunday November 15th. It's not too late to join, so contact them for details if you're sitting at home and your paddle fingers are itching.

Anne Rushton has organised a set of Zoom events over November and December to keep everyone entertained and in contact. The first has already happened, a sailing version of Any Questions which was held on November 17th and had a panel of sailing champions in the guise of Tim Harper, Bob Caton, Charlotte and Martin Cooper, answering your questions. This was well attended and a great success and the following events are Travellers' Tales on 1st and 15th of December. Many thanks to all concerned for their help in these get-togethers.

Our AGM on December 10th will be a Zoom meeting and Ian Hughes has sent out a notification of this – please let him know if you expect to attend. I am sorry that we will not all be able to meet together in person, but unfortunately we have to adapt to the strictures of the Covid guidelines.

This is my last report as Commodore, in what has been an unprecedented year. I seem to have spent most of the year dealing with Covid regulations and preserving the financial structure of the Club, rather than developing it as I would have liked. However, taking a broader view, there are many things that have happened during the two years of my Commodore-ship, of which I am very proud. I am grateful to have been given the opportunity to be Commodore of WLYC and I hope that I have helped in developing the Club for the future and that I hand it on in good shape. I close with a very special thank you to the members who make up the Executive Committee. The Club could not run smoothly without this dedicated group of people, and I thank them all for their help and support throughout the past two years. I wish my successor well and I am sure that the Club will continue to thrive in 2021.

Sail Safe

Dr Richard Stubbs
Commodore WLYC
the.commodore@wlyc.org.uk

The Lunch Time Launchers set Club Members a challenge of creating rhymes to amuse us during Lockdown. Below is just a sample . . .

Oh dear how I hate to be locked down
It certainly doesn't suit me
I miss all my family and good friends
And there's no-one to argue with me

I long for a face to face chatter
An exploratory walk by the sea
I've painted, weeded and gardened
Just with breaks for coffee or tea.

My hair is so long and so straggly
It will soon have to be in a bun
My clothes are extremely casual
No need to get dressed up for fun.

I've tried to be friendly by zooming
The chins and the wrinkles show clear
But the talk is a little disjointed
And it's real people that I want to be near.

But wait 'til we're told it is ended
We'll be out to go where we may wish
But I'll try hard to always remember
And appreciate my first restaurant dish.
(Angela Abram)

A sailor whose eyesight was failing
Instead of a mast used a railing
He pushed down the pole
Which made a big hole
And now he's not sailing, he's bailing.
(Martin Breach)

There was a young (!) fellow called Stuart,
Who said "What? - Sailing ?- I can do it"
He sailed back and forth,
From the South to the North
And thought piece of cake - is that all?

But the LTL said, "Stu - you're doing quite well"
"Have you tried this and that to improve."
Well no, said the lad
But I'll try it by Gad
And now you should see that lad move...
(Stuart Dundas)

We're all fed up being at home
But try to be cheerful, not moan
We all love the water
But know that we oughta
Stay safe and just chat on the phone!
(Helen Stubbs)

There is a Vice Pres. called Porter
Who loved to get out on the water
But now infirm there's still salt in his veins
Went sailing but shouldn't ha' oughter
(Bob Willetts)

I'm missing my friends on the lake
They laugh when I make a mistake
I'd never fall in
As the water looks grim
And I'm scared that there might be a snake

I'm missing the toasties and cake
And the galley team know how to bake
The VR racing is fun
But I don't get the sun
Or the joy of leaving you in my wake

The instructors I miss most of all,
Mike, Bob, Dave and Lucy like to bawl
They shout where to go
And "speed up" or "go slow"
And their praise makes me feel 10 feet tall
(Jamie Grace aged 10)

I'd prefer to be gybing, ducking under the boom
Instead have to remain in my room
With thoughts of my GP,
Feeling rather weepy
Thank goodness you're all there on Zoom
(Anne Rushton)





Sailing Matters - November

Head of Sailing

For the Monkhouse Cup end of season race, 14 boats made it onto the water. The earlier forecast of strong winds had put a number of people off planning to sail. In the event there was very little wind, but it was also very wet. Congratulations to Steve Blackburn as winner of the race overall, and Martin &



Charlotte Cooper were awarded the Monkhouse Cup.

A Prizegiving occasion will be arranged for all this year's prize winners when people can actually meet up.

We had planned to continue some racing on Saturdays through the winter, the idea being not to have a fixed programme but, dependent on the weather and interest, activities that could include: Racing, or Coaching from World Champions. Sadly, Covid had other ideas. The Club has had to shut completely, and no sailing can take place at the moment.

In the meantime there is e-racing on Thursday evenings, kindly organised by Mike Pickering. Please see Mike's contact details on page 10. Or for the more ambitious sailors I understand you can still join the Virtual Vendée Globe. Following the actual race there is an extract from the blog by Pip Hare overleaf. She visited the Club earlier this year.

We are currently planning a full programme of sailing to go in the Handbook for next year, and I'm discovering just how much work goes into this process. As you will appreciate, planned sailing events may or may not happen. We'll see if some impromptu racing, or coaching times can be arranged as things open up more. Watch out for Mailchimp messages, and announcements on Facebook WLYC Members' Group. Until then, we look forward to the days when we can all get back on the water and fully enjoy our sport.

Tim Harper
Head of Sailing

RYA North West Region

12 November 2020



The RYA North West Region Team has a new Chair, Louise Halliwell, (of WLYC) following the Annual General Meeting that was held virtually for the first time. A number of new members were also welcomed onto the team.

As part of the meeting, a newly created video explaining the way the team operates and how it fits in with the main structure of the RYA was given its first play.

It is available on the NW YouTube Channel <http://rya.org/nvty50Ci9cc>



We had a lively and entertaining **Zoom night** on Tuesday 17th November. For those that missed it, we were treated to Anne Rushton hosting **Any Questions** with a panel of WLYC Champions, Tim Harper, Bob Caton and Charlotte Cooper (aided by dad Martin). Some entertaining banter and a great deal of useful knowledge was shared.

Q What got you into sailing?

Martin & Charlotte – encouraged by an Uncle who built Finns in his living room. The whole family are passionate about sailing and, together, have 132 years of sailing experience.

Tim – as a youngster he was dragged around with his sister Sarah, by Dad Ron Harper, and sailing has been his life ever since.

Bob – encouraged by a woodworking schoolmaster at SSC, he practised, crewed for Ron Harper, sailed with others at University, and travelled the world with his sport.

Q What's the best position to start a race and how do you stay there?

Go where everyone else is and stay there. Practise just staying still, then accelerating from a start position. Find a transit marker - in a race of 100 boats you can't see the start line, so focus on a marker, like a tree on a hillside, or a fixed mast, and find it early.

Q Who should be in charge of tactics the Helm or Crew?

Unanimously all said joint decisions. Teams train and work together and understand that both have advantages of sight and experience. On a trapeze the crew has a great advantage of seeing wind shifts out at sea, but both are busy so both are on the look-out. Communication is essential, but practice means you are able to anticipate what the other will do. If you are crewing for someone new – do what the helm says.

Q How best to over winter a boat?

Take it home if you can, keep in the garage, or somewhere dry, and dry it out slowly, upturned with a heat/light bulb, or other form of gentle, occasional heat underneath. If you have to leave it at the Club ensure it is fastened down well and that the boat next to it is also secured, as it can damage yours. Find a sheltered spot or tie down at three points and, if the mast is up, secure around the shrouds also. Tim is always happy to deal with repairs!

Q When rounding the mark, you're ahead, and you've just tacked, who has right of way when the boat behind comes up on the inside claiming "windward boat keep clear"?

Just don't allow this to happen. Do all your preparation for going around in advance, get as close to the mark as possible and turn on it. Tack as tight as possible. Practise, practise, practise.

Q How to keep fit in the winter for sailing?

Through the RYA the Youth side have an online work-out programme of 3 x 45 min sessions each week. Those that don't keep fit notice the difference after the first day of on the water training. They realise they need to stay strong to manage a whole week's training, and the best stick to it. Bob cycles and walks, Tim just keeps going.

Q Where is the best place to secure a flotation device to stop inversion on a capsized?

At the very top of the mast, the higher up the better to save inversion. A handy tip from Martin, instead of expensive devices, a 6 pint plastic milk bottle made watertight with duck tape, raised to the top of the mast, is cheap and just as effective as any special system.

Continued on page 11

The Vendée Globe - Solo Round the World Yacht Race

With Offshore activity very restricted during yet another Lockdown, there remains little offshore sailors can do but follow the fortunes of the 33 sailors in the **Vendée Globe as they race solo round the world:**

Les Sables-d'Olonne ... Cape of Good Hope ...

... Cape Horn ... Les Sables-d'Olonne

Of particular interest to us is Pip Hare, who visited WLYC last March just days before Lockdown 1. As one of 6 female skippers in this gruelling, 3 month race, she is sailing Medallia, a non foiling IMOCA built in 1999 (one of the oldest yachts in the race). As I type she has had 6 days at sea and is now passing Madeira having already experienced some challenging weather to test her skills and endurance.

Here's an article from Pip's Blog written on Thursday 12 Nov - Day 4/5

All good on Medallia, we are currently gliding along in 10 knots of wind, flat seas, and have spent the whole night fighting off La Mie Caline (Skipper: Arnaud Boissieres), which finally overtook me about 30 minutes ago.

Yesterday was a tough day, it was full on constant work. Eventually I saw 50 knots, just as the front finally passed overhead, at around 0700 yesterday morning and the change was brutal. The sea state after the front was horrendous, not helped by the fact it takes about an hour to empty the ballast out of the bow of Medallia and so not only were the waves big, breaking and coming from strange angles, but we pretty much either went through them, due to having not enough sail up and too much weight in the bow - this meant every time I tried to do anything on deck, I was constantly dealing with huge, slow moving walls of water that were big enough to lift me off my feet as they came down the deck. They also filled up the cockpit multiple times.

The work just never stopped, and I struggled with energy, eventually having to accept the fact there was not enough fuel in my tank to grind out the mainsail reefs, I went from three reefs to a full main on the 'granny gear' watching the sail slowly inch up the mast and promising myself tea and a rest when it was all over. but it never seemed to be over, moving stacks, emptying ballast, bailing out the bow, which got filled with water by a rogue wave as I got the down wind zero on deck, then all of the checking for damage post 50 knot front.

We came out of it quite well. I have some damage to a furler drum, which is superficial, the J3 tack-line has some significant chafe and I am going to need to get sewing today, there were some funny noises coming from the back of the boat and I discovered that one of the rudder quadrants had worked loose, so I had to climb in the back with sockets and spanners to pinch them both back up. I think this will need to be a weekly job, we had similar problems on the TJV, and Alan told me he had the same.

The water ballast tank is leaking which is disappointing but not fatal, just more work for me. We really thought we had nailed the leaks before the start, but apparently that has always leaked, even Bernard Stamm said it leaked.

Eventually when everything had been checked and changed, and the boat was once again in a good configuration for conditions, I settled down for a sleep, only for my AIS alarm to go off as La Mie Caline was behind me and on collision course. We have been fighting it out all night and I've had a chance to take a couple of naps. In reality I was pretty glad when Arnaud eventually pulled ahead - I mean it's great to be battling with a foiler, but I really, really needed some sleep.

Today, the breeze will go further forwards, and I expect to peel to the jib any minute now. I have a full jobs list of sewing and splicing to get through in the final post front clear up. I need to get some sleep, and eat more or I will be stuck in the granny gear for the rest of the race.



I've noted the warnings about tropical depression Theta and there she is, right in our path. the tricky thing about that is going to be negotiating what happens afterwards as it appears to have sucked all of the wind out of the surrounding areas. I need my brain to be out of the granny gear by then.

Pip Hare

For further news see Pip Hare's
Blog <https://www.piphare.com/blog> and / or follow her
Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/PipHareOceanRacing>

Rob Pickering
Offshore Captain

Vendée Globe Update - 23 November - as we go to print

British sailor Alex Thomson's hopes of winning the Vendée Globe suffered a significant setback after he was forced to slow down to carry out repairs to structural damage to his yacht Hugo Boss. He has now slipped down to fifth place, still working on those repairs.

Pip Hare is just crossing the equator, now in twentieth position, working her way up the fleet again.

Offshore Logbook - November 2020

Virtual Vendée Globe



For those of us who have the dream of completing the Vendee Globe, but prefer to have normal sleep patterns and stay warm and dry, Virtual Regatta Offshore have an on-line version of the race. [See <https://www.virtualregatta.com/en/offshore-game/>]. Over 800,000 have already joined! Of those 5 are from WLYC, plus Greg Thomas from Southport SC. Like the real race some of us have gone high

tech and kitted our yachts out with all the "go faster" bits of kit like foils and high-tech sails, others have decided to be more purist and sail non-foiling version (like Pip Hare's).

VRO provide the weather and sea state as close as possible to the real world to enable the virtual sailors to develop their strategies / tactics, then navigate the passage. To date those sailing virtually have already experienced the extremes of weather and sea states to push their yacht along at the fastest possible pace, yet without the worries of sea sickness, damage and capsize. None of us have gone aground (yet). We all set the yacht's navigation software to allow us to maintain our presence in the real world. However when we return to the virtual yacht a few hours later there is that risk the weather has changed completely from the forecast (no change there!); we were now dead-in-the-water, or worse, going backwards away from the ideal track.

To add interest and bring a local perspective to the virtual Vendee Globe, we have a Southport Marine Lake Leaderboard, that aims to summarise the fortunes of those from WLYC and Southport SC who are in the virtual race. From the exasperation of being virtually dead in the water, to the exhilaration of foiling at 22kts around the eye of a storm, the challenges, plus the elation and frustrations have been experienced by all of us. Having spent a couple of exciting days in strong winds we are now entering some intellectually challenging light wind days south of the Canary Islands while we wait for the NE Trades winds to be established so we can speed on southwards past the Cape Verde Islands and on into the South Atlantic.

Despite that we are well into the race, VRO are still accepting helms to join the virtual race. Those joining late are added to the race midway up the fleet and with a likely 9 – 10 weeks left to race working your way up the fleet is certainly a feasible objective.



If interested contact VRO at:

<https://www.virtualregatta.com/en/offshore-game/>

Once you have joined the race - ie once you have registered with VRO, why not register for our Leaderboard

<https://forms.gle/hhS9T4qznycRuyYU8>

Rob Pickering

Offshore Captain

offshore.captain@wlyc.org.uk

Inshore e-Racing in Lockdown 2

Frustrated with the lack of sailing on the Lake? Why not join (or re-join) the WLYC group of e-Racers.

During Lockdown 1 and beyond, we organised for Club members Inshore e-Racing April – July. We ran over 80 separate e-races divided into 8 separate series on Tuesday and Thursday evenings. Often, we welcomed more than 20 competitors; it was enjoyable and challenging for all. Just like dinghy sailing on the lake, each helm aimed to win each e-Race but, if their good fortune was being frustrated, they could still aim to pass the boat ahead while fighting off the competition behind. It was good to see the young and old, the experienced racer and novice; but remember we were all beginners at the virtual game. As regards coping with the necessary on-line gaming skills, we all had a steep learning curve; however youth was a definite advantage!

The top honours for the overall Lockdown 1 season of 8 e-race series (eA to eH) are summarised below: (note for a series win helms were awarded 1st - 3 Series Points; 2nd - 2 Points; 3rd - 1 Point)

Mike Pickering: 2nd eB; 1st eC; 3rd eD; 1st eE; 2nd eF; 1st eH.
Total Series Pts 14

Ben Hill: 3rd eA; 1st eB; 1st eD; 2nd eE; 3rd eF; 2nd eH.
Total Series pts 12

Martin Blunt 2nd eC; 3rd eE; 1st eF
Total Series Pts 6

U-18s

Kristian Barker: 1st eA; 1st eB; 1st eC; 3rd eD; 1st eE; 1st eF
Total Series Pts 16

Henry Burton: 2nd eA; 3rd eB; 3rd eC; 2nd eD; 3rd eE; 1st eG.
Total Series Pts 10

Jamie Grace: 3rd eA; 2nd eB; 2nd eC; 1st eD; 3rd eF.
Total Series Pts 8

Club E-Racing

With Lockdown 2, we have re-introduced e-Racing on Thursday evenings: sign-on (virtually) by 19:00 with the first start at 19:15. We have also invited Southport SC to join us, bringing back memories of the previous joint series in past years.



The plan is to have 3 e-Races back to back, in the comfort and warmth of our own homes, with the boats all packed away by 20:00 at the latest. The software we use is "Virtual Regatta Inshore" and for voice and text style communications we send you an invite to join "Discord". Both sets of software are free to use in the basic form, and you can race for no extra fee.

For all the e-Racing this season (including the 24 Hour e-Race) we must thank Mike Pickering for the technical inspiration, design, management, and being Principal Race Officer / OoD for over 150 e-Races since April.

Why not join us on Thursday evenings? Contact Mike Pickering on:

<https://chat.whatsapp.com/KmAEEg1qXE4CNImGhTlcD5>

Rob Pickering

WLYC needs your help!

If you shop online, please could you sign up to easyfundraising to support West Lancs Yacht Club.



It's completely free and a really easy way to raise money – you just use the easyfundraising site to shop online with more than 4,000 well known online stores like Amazon, Argos, John Lewis, ASOS, Booking.com, eBay, Boden, and M&S, and when you make a purchase, the retailer sends us a free donation, at no extra cost to you.

We want to raise as much as possible, so please visit our new easyfundraising page at <https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/westlancsyc/> and click 'support us'.

20 UK Sailing Clubs already benefit from easyfundraising, it's simple and secure.

Thank you!

Club Handbook 2021 - will you be in it?

Preparations are well in hand for next year's Handbook which is a key resource for the smooth management of the Club's sailing and social activities. It is important and helpful that information it contains is as up-to-date as possible.

Please take a moment to check the details we have about you in the current Handbook. If you have moved house, changed your phone number, email, or have sold/bought a boat since January 2020 please let me know.

If you joined the Club before January of this year, it may be that you are not listed as a Club member in the Handbook. Data Protection legislation requires that we have a **completed consent form** from you. We need this to allow us to publish your contact details. If you wish to be listed in the 2021 Handbook, please get in touch (by email to membership.secretary@wlyc.org.uk or by phone – see Handbook) and I will send you by email, or as hard copy, a consent form for completion.

All changes in contact details should be notified and completed consent forms returned to me as soon as possible, and no later than 31st December. Thank you.

Ilush Bricknell

Any Questions . . . Continued



Q Do good crews make good helms?

Helms should crew and crews should helm to fully understand the mechanics of each position, but people have different strengths. It's important to both crew and helm with different people and learn from their strengths, whether they excel as heavy weather, or light weather sailors – watch what they do, then do it better yourself.

Q How to win?

Keep positive all the time, even if you have a bad start things will always change - wind shifts can give you an advantage. Have small goals and aim to pass one boat at a time. Stay positive at all times and win in bite sized chunks.

Q Have you ever sailed in too windy weather or ever been scared?

Be prepared and use the meteorology services to check the weather, but a race will always be called off if not safe. The general consensus was that strong winds were exhilarating, great fun and to be embraced. At sea it is often easier than on the lake, as the waves take you with the wind, so the apparent wind is less, and you have somewhere to go to get out of trouble, whereas on the lake you hit a wall. The suggestion is - practise controlling the boat in high winds and have fun.

The time went far too quickly. Thank you so much to Anne for arranging this and our Championship panel, who were both informative and entertaining.

We look forward to the next Zoom, which is Travellers' Tales with global navigator Bob Willetts and Channel swimmer Vicky Lea, on December 1st – a night not to be missed!

DIARY DATES

December

Tuesday 1st Traveller's Tales 1 - via Zoom conferencing
Thursday 10th **AGM 20.00** via Zoom conferencing
Tuesday 15th Traveller's Tales 2 - via Zoom conferencing

**Planned events are subject to change
due to any current restrictions on Club activities**

2021

January

Friday 1st **New Year's Day** - Bank Holiday - **Happy New Year**
Tuesday 5th RC Club Racing - 14.00 - continues weekly
Wednesday 6th Lunch Time Launch - 11.00 continues weekly
Sunday 17th RC Sailing 10.00
Sunday 31st RC Sailing 10.00

February

Tuesday 2nd RC Club Racing - 14.00 - continues weekly
Wednesday 3rd Lunch Time Launch - 11.00 continues weekly
Sunday 28th RC Sailing 10.00

March

Tuesday 2nd RC Club Racing - 14.00 continues weekly
Wednesday 3rd Lunch Time Launch - 11.00 continues weekly
Saturday 6th **Club Spring Supper**
Sunday 7th RC Sailing - 10.00
Saturday 27th **Fitting Out Race** 14..30 and Supper 19.00 for 19.30
Sunday 28th BST begins
Sunday 28th RC Fitting Out Race - 11.00

Notice of Meeting

**West Lancashire Yacht Club
Annual General Meeting
is on Thursday 10th December 2020
at 20:00 hours via Zoom online meeting**
The Minutes of the 2019 AGM are available in the AGM booklet.

Next copy date: Sunday 17th January 2021

golden.lion@wlyc.org.uk

Editor: Kathy Robinson, Assistant Editor:

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