



Watermouth Yacht Club

Berrynarbor, Ilfracombe, North Devon, EX34 9SJ

51° 13' N 004° 05' W



AHOY

Newsletter June 2014

Commodore's Column

Dear Members,

Watermouth Yacht Club, your club, continues to struggle through these tough economic times and with a generally aging membership – obviously I include myself – it is a concern for the future of the club.



As our members age they are deciding to give up their boating and therefore the club, and it appears that younger people are not taking up seafaring activities. It is my opinion that they prefer to experiment with many different pastimes rather than make the significant investment in a boat and who can blame them. The membership for 2014 is one of the lowest I can remember.

In addition there is the problem of geographics i.e. although Watermouth is located in one of the most beautiful locations, it requires transport to get there. Historically Watermouth YC has benefited from the fact that we had/have a number of members who do not live locally and when visiting, stay on their boats for the whole of the weekend and use the clubhouse. However, as the membership decreases and the costs of fuel rises, the numbers of these members and people frequenting the clubhouse are much reduced and therefore the bar population is at times pitiful.

Watermouth YC depends upon all of the members and I would like to ask all of you to use the club bar, spend just a few pounds and it will make such a difference. Watermouth YC is non-profit making, so all the monies made go back into the club. Please consider attending the social events, 3 BBQs, a Quiz and a Pool night, plus a Buffet Supper and a Dinner with a ceilidh band. If we can increase the numbers at even just a couple of these events Watermouth YC can continue to be viable.

As an aside, the weather over the weekend of the 14/15th June was particularly glorious and many of the fishing fraternity were able to thoroughly enjoy the sunshine and their fishing. It also saw Wayfarer motor (no wind unfortunately) up to Lynmouth on the rising tide, evening meal in the Rising Sun and return with the outgoing tide to Watermouth – very civilised!

Thank you to Doug & Sally (Aragorn) for the photo of Wayfarer at Lynmouth.

“He who lets the sea lull him into a sense of security is in very grave danger” Hammond Innes, Novelist
Maira

Treasurer's Report

As I sit tapping out these few words, the rain is lashing against the window and the trees just beyond are bent nearly double; ah, it must be summer!

It is at this time of the year that I breathe a sigh of relief, satisfied that our major annual liabilities are now behind us. The boating season is about to start in earnest and it is my hope that conditions are not only kind to us all at sea, but also lead to bumper support at the various functions that are planned.

With an eye on those functions, I am happy to say that bar prices this year have for the most part been pegged again. Those items subject to increase are few and the amounts have been small. It is fitting that Keith should receive special mention at this point, for not only securing a new beer deal that has made this possible, but also serving it and enjoying it all in that order! I'm sure he would welcome your company on Club nights to share the experience!

The Club has been without a contingency reserve for some time and it is fortunate that we have not been hit with large unexpected costs. I am hopeful that this year will mark an upturn in the Club's financial position and it is my aim to rebuild that contingency from this year onward. I cannot do this alone but with your support, I'm sure that we can meet the challenges that lie ahead.

Account activity is beginning to pick up with headline figures as follows (a full account snapshot is periodically updated and available on the Club notice board):

Cash brought forward	£4,132.50
Income	
Subscriptions (inc mooring premiums)	£3,715.00
Social	£ 590.50
Bar	£ 36.86 (balance suppressed due to re-stocking)
Expenditure	
Insurance premium	£1,189.73
Mooring fees (inc replacement buoys)	£ 778.20
Misc. (inc liquor licensing costs)	£ 208.00
Maintenance	£ 147.69
Sailing and RYA subscriptions	£ 157.00
Utilities	£ 258.28
Cleaning	£ 144.00
Cash at bank	£5,566.69

I wish you fair winds, plentiful catches and above all, a safe and memorable season.

Steve Barron

New Members

Welcome to new members Ken and Mia Henesy with 'Spirit of Aeolos' a Moody Eclipse 33 which they are refurbishing and have renamed as 'Camino' before sailing her to the Mediterranean.

Hopefully, this lovely weather will continue and an enjoyable summer's sailing can be had by all.

Carol

Social Events

This weekend 28/29 June Club Cruise

High tide is 07:30 & 8.5M on Saturday so Westwards towards Lundy, Clovelly, Tenby or Oxwich seem to be options, subject to weather, of course. Call me on 01271 864100 asap if you are interested or have a destination preference and I will try and co-ordinate with everyone

Sat 5th July	BBQ - come and enjoy the food, the company and support the club
Sat 2nd August	BBQ
Sat 16th August	Quiz Night & light Supper
Sat 6th September	BBQ
Sat 20th September	Pool Evening
Sat 4th October	Buffet Dinner & Guest Speaker
Sat 25th October	Dinner/Dance with a Ceilidh Band

Geof Pierce

Club Maintenance

I am writing this report on a bright and sunny morning, summer has arrived.

I have done a few minor repairs around the Club and have put some grass seed down on the bank along the back of the club, I hope it germinates before the birds get a taste for it.

I did mention in my last report about items being left on the paths around the club being a hazard, unfortunately this is still happening. This may be non club members so if you see anyone leaving items please ask them to find somewhere else to put them.

With regard to the club dinghy rack please make sure your name is on your dinghy as we are going to have a clear out.

Sue and I are preparing the questions for the Quiz night, so please make a note on your calendar - Saturday 16th August. Please join us and bring any friends along for a good evening, the more people that take part the more fun it is.

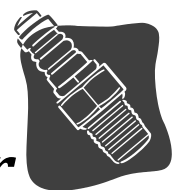
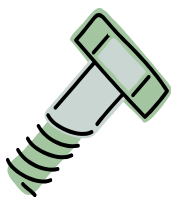
All for now, enjoy your boats while we have this good weather.

Simon

Fishing Competitions

Colin Goodyear would like to arrange a series of fishing competitions for Club members this year. The form they will take is not yet decided but it would be helpful if those members interested contact Colin with their ideas and suggestions. Colin can be reached via email colingoodyear@btopenworld.com or better still, please have a chat with him at the harbour.

Competition details, when available, will be displayed on the Club notice board and distributed by email.



Chandlery at the Harbour
See Keith 01271 865422 / 865001

A Bit of History



This photograph was taken by my brother Brian in the late 1960's and shows Mr Billy Parkin inside the small stone building built into the cliff on the seaward side of Keith's office, (it fell into disrepair some years ago and was finally made safe when Keith pulled down the remains of the front wall about 3 years ago).

It wasn't Billy's home, of course, just a haven where he spent most days in his retirement with a fire going, the kettle on and chatting with visitors to his den.

I believe the building was originally a forge to do the metalwork when at least two wooden ketches were 'stretched' by cutting them in half and inserting a 'middle' section.

Billy's father had the magnificent name

Shakespeare Parkin; he had a brother Fred and a sister – more about her later. Some members may remember Billy's son, Peter Parkin, who in the 1970's lived with his wife and children in a good sized wooden boat moored high up at the top of the harbour beach, by Keith's office.

Like most of Combe Martin's menfolk, Billy spent many years at sea in a variety of roles and served in Minesweepers during the war – some, I am told, were converted to Paddle Steamers!

In later years Billy used to maintain and skipper an 18' clinker built open motor boat called Venture; it was built in the West Country and owned by Mr Follet, a former Combe Martin School Teacher who became a College Lecturer. He was also a published poet and married to Billy's sister.

Billy and Mr Follet used to enjoy fishing together in Venture, mainly in the evenings when conditions were suitable

Dave Gough

Dave,

I found this very interesting and out of curiosity, I took a photo of the building as it is today and you can still see the fireplace behind where Billy was sitting



How much do you value your life?

18 April 2014 the Police reported that one man died and another was hospitalised after their small fishing boat capsized in Bideford Bay.

At 11.30 BST, the conditions were set fair, 2 hours ebb on a spring tide with plenty of water in the main channel and a light NE (offshore) wind, ideal for a pleasant day fishing.

Two guys, in their 30's, out for the day with their dogs – and yet one of them died. What caused the boat to capsize has not been established yet, but it has been reported that they were not wearing lifejackets, they had no VHF radio, no flares or other safety equipment on board.

As yet there has not been an inquest so the final conclusion as to 'how' has not been made, as to the 'why', we will probably never know!



I see many of my friends and acquaintances, both fishermen and sailors, routinely row out to their boats and then leave Watermouth not wearing lifejackets.

Please reconsider.

Moira

Ahoy Magazine

Can I ask what WYC members would like to see in the Ahoy?

My stash of articles is about to run dry, so the next Ahoy will be a very short one unless we get some input from members - anything about boating, fishing, personal experiences or local/historical like Dave's article.

Maybe a 'Confessional' as we've all done some daft things at some time – I'll even go first in the next issue.

Would the ladies like to contribute something e.g. boating from a female perspective, what you like or dislike about what is a mainly male orientated pastime, recipes even?

What would encourage you to participate more frequently?

One topic suggested by Steve Barron is to share boating Apps or programs that you may have on your computer or mobile phone – there are lots out there e.g. Weather apps/web sites, Tidal data apps/web sites and sites of general boating interest. Do you know YBW Forums have a Bristol Channel section which you might find interesting <http://www.ybw.com/forums/forumdisplay.php?73-Bristol-Channel-forum>

What do you use, please let me know, geofpierce@tiscali.co.uk and we will share it in the next Ahoy.

Geof Pierce