



# Watermouth Yacht Club

Berrynarbor, Ilfracombe, North Devon, EX34 9SJ

51° 13' N 004° 05' W



# AHOY

## *Newsletter May 2015*

### ***Commodore's Column***

Spring is here! The Swallows are back, the sun rises earlier each day, and sets later. As I write - 23rd April - there are only 9 weeks (or so) until the longest day! So brush yourselves off and let's get on and around the water.



Your club is open - the Easter activities were successful and a welcome start to the club year. By the time you read this there will one Carvery remaining on 17 May - so don't miss out!

The 2015 Social Calendar accompanies this Ahoy! We look forward to seeing you at as many events as possible as your support makes them even more successful. We have planned BBQs on the first Saturday of each month so they become habit forming! The popularity of the Quiz grows year on year, and this year the Annual Dinner & Dance reverts to the usual format which we hope you will enjoy.


Colin has organised several Fishing Competitions and we will continue to try to have a couple of Club Cruises.

Elsewhere in this Ahoy you will see we need to have some volunteers to paint the outside of the Clubhouse and treat the wooden railing of the patio. We have a shed, we have the planning permission, so we may need some able bodies to get it in place and allow us to use it to the benefit of the club. We need volunteers for these jobs which will enable us to employ professionals to resolve the leaky roof, something beyond the ability & probably inclination, of your Committee.

Don't forget the caption competition – it is just a bit of fun to which we hope you will respond and bring a smile to everyone's face.

With the Ahoy! in mind – there won't be an Ahoy! if Geof doesn't receive anything to put in it. So please, a couple of lines or paragraphs, is very appreciated. It doesn't have to be centred around sailing, cruising or fishing, it doesn't have to be serious or comedic. Holidays, recommendations, anything at all, if it can come with a picture that would be excellent.

<http://www.watermouthyachtclub.co.uk>

 Watermouth Yacht Club

Email [wyc@email.com](mailto:wyc@email.com)

\*\*\*

## **28th March 2015 John Annear 1928 – 2015**

We have heard today, with great sadness, of the passing of our President, John Annear.

John had been associated with Watermouth Yacht Club for many, many years. He was always available to provide legal advice and for a long time was a very active Commodore, steering us through what were sometimes trying periods in the club's history. We will miss his appearances at our social events. We will miss his sense of fun and his obvious glee when he was



required, on special occasions, to fire his cannon and hear the 'boom' reverberate around the harbour.

John's knowledge of naval history and events was expansive, as were his memories and anecdotes of Watermouth before, during and after WWII.

John was always, but always, caring, considerate and supportive both to individuals and to the club, and can only be described as the ultimate gentleman.

### **Club Maintenance**

There is not much to report on maintenance through the winter, as some of you will have noticed I have replaced one of the electricity meters as the old one packed up. This new one is digital and takes £1.00 and £2.00 coins. Please be careful when feeding the meter as if the coins go in the wrong slot you will lose them.

The roof is awaiting the attention of the builder but we now have a leak over one of the windows which will need investigation.

As I said in my last report the club masonry needs a coat of paint and the wooden handrails need sanding and a coat of Sadolin. It looks to me as if the easiest way to do the handrails would be to remove them from the galvanised ironwork to avoid damage. I am about to buy the paint, if anyone can spare some time and bring along a paintbrush please let me know Tel. 01271 882890 or [john.kemp4@btinternet.com](mailto:john.kemp4@btinternet.com)

The flagpole collapsed in the winter and we are looking out for an old mast if anyone has any ideas. Happy boating this season.

**Simon Kemp**

### **New Members**

Welcome to new member Graham Dallison who has bought Jason and welcome back to Graham and Alison Farmer with Lisa Jayne, a Snapdragon 670. We look forward to seeing you in the club. Thank you to all who have paid their membership and for those of you who have not paid as yet, attached is renewal membership form".

Looking forward to a good season.

**Carol Gell**

## ***Treasurer's Report***

Another boating season is upon us, the smell of anti-fouling abounds and some brave souls already have their pride and joy moored and ready to go. If only I could be that quick!

I hope that members and their boats have wintered well. The club certainly has and I'm sure that members will have noticed the new seat coverings and paintwork inside. A big thank you to all who helped.

This year's large outgoings are now behind us and I'm pleased to say that club mooring charges have been pegged for this year. I have also managed to secure a reduction in our insurance premium and energy tariffs are little changed. Unfortunately, it has been necessary to raise some bar prices but those increases have been modest.

The club's social calendar has started well with carveries being well attended. There are more to come, along with many other functions planned; all of which help our club, keep us in touch and are thoroughly good fun.

Headline figures at the moment are as follows:

**Cash brought forward:                   £8,545.47**

### **Income**

Subscriptions (inc outer moorings)   £2,981.00

*Note, approximately 1/3 of membership subscriptions are overdue!*

*A Membership Renewal Form is attached in case you have not paid*

Social   £ 435.00

Bar   £ 132.03 (suppressed due to restocking)

### **Expenditure**

Insurance premium                     £1,032.00

Mooring fees                             £ 720.00

Misc   £ 197.93 (planning application for shed)

Maintenance                             £ 306.38

Sailing and RYA subscriptions       £ 164.00

Utilities                                   £ 129.59

Cleaning                                   £ 84.00

**Cash at bank                             £9,525.21**

For a full snapshot of the account, please see the club notice board.

I hope the forthcoming season is an enjoyable one and I look forward to seeing you all soon.

***Steve Barron***

### **Caption Competition No 2**



Lots of captions for this one, thank you and the winner, chosen by the guy paying for the drink, (Treasurer, Steve), is Julia Field

Well done Julia, please claim your free drink from Keith next time you are in the club, sorry, next time you are at the club!

Julia Field      John reassured his friend the braces weren't too tight!

Simon Kemp    Love at first sight

Alan Bosely    "Shall we dance"?

John Culley    1 Next dance is the "Gay Gordon's"  
2 I thought we had to be bare chested and have our trouser leg rolled up  
3 Don't you think we should have told our wives?

Peter Slade    1 Mike says to his partner, "I hope you washed your hands", John retorts "specially for you"  
2 The lady in the black dress is saying "It's about time those two came out of the wet locker"!

### **Caption Competition No 3**

There's a lot of scope for this one

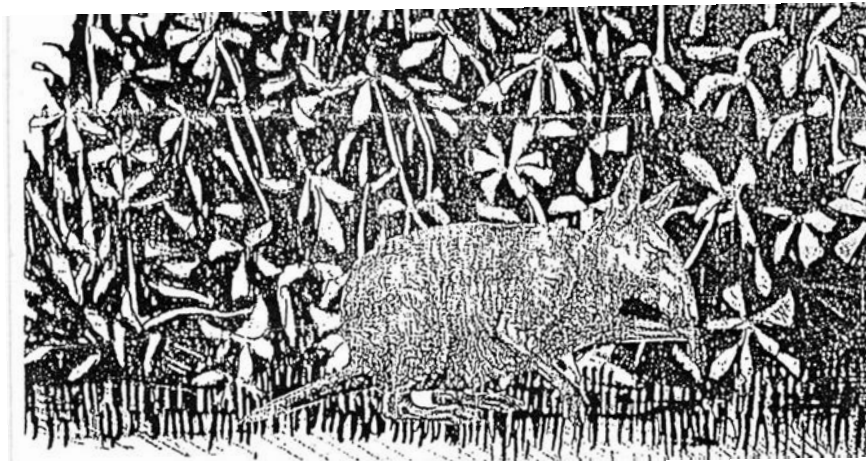
Captions to [geofpierce@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:geofpierce@tiscali.co.uk)

Can anyone provide a photo for the next Ahoy ?



## ***The Lundy Boggit***

I had never heard of this but Steve Barron assures me it is true and backed it up with a very old and tatty press cutting, which didn't copy very well, so I re-typed it.



Martin Coles Harman, (owner of Lundy between 1925 and 1954), was an enthusiastic naturalist who will be remembered especially for his part in the founding of the Lundy Field Society and for a number of attempts to increase Lundy's stock of wild animals. Many of these were unsuccessful, for instance, his efforts to introduce a herd of Red Deer which made a very rough landing and became very aggressive. After several attacks on visitors they were culled and, perhaps through inbreeding, the species dwindled to final extinction in 1962.

A pair of Rock Wallabies presented to Mr Harman in 1928 was perhaps a more ambitious introduction and everyone was pessimistic about their chances of survival, but indeed, these two creatures were responsible for the origin of the now famous Boggit, for it was from the first Wallabies that the Boggit evolved.

On their introduction to Lundy both Wallabies bounded away and were not sighted for a time. At the end of May in 1929, the body of one of the Wallabies was discovered in an old well and it was assumed that its' mate would not survive.

There were no more sightings until 1933 when, to everyone's astonishment, a visiting naturalist observed 3 on the eastern side of the island, close to the VC Quarry. Sceptics were promptly silenced by the discovery of a dead baby Wallaby near Brazen Ward and from then on, the Wallabies became a common feature of Lundy and their regular appearances are well recorded in the Lundy Field Society's records and Log books of that time.

Prior to the war, Professor I. E. Ballaw conducted a survey and study of the Lundy Wallabies and established there was a colony of nearly 20 frequenting the east side of the island which was more sheltered and provided cover and browsing areas. What was even more remarkable however, was that the Lundy Wallabies were slowly adapting to their environment. In a comparative study with Wallabies in Australia, the Lundy Wallabies were found to be smaller. Ears, legs and noses were all shorter and it was obvious that Lundy was developing a dwarf version of the Wallaby.

During the war years, little time could be devoted to the study of the Wallabies on Lundy and it was not until the early 1950s that Prof. Ballaw was able to return to the island for further research. He was astonished to find an acceleration of the development of the 'dwarf' Wallaby. Though he could only locate 9 Wallabies, they were becoming markedly different to those introduced to Lundy over 25 years ago. Unlike its ancestors, the Lundy Wallaby was now a short, stocky, thin legged species with long ears and a very pointed nose. Instead of being a middle sized member of the Kangaroo family, the Lundy variety was almost a midget. It had almost totally adapted to the peculiar environment of the east coast with its dense Rhododendron forests, low bracken, rocky crags, bogs and streams. Strangely, the Lundy Wallaby had also developed the habit of wallowing in the bogs

adjoining the small streams on this side of the island and for this reason was nicknamed 'Boggit' The name stuck and the animal has since always been known as the Lundy Boggit.

Nowadays, it is a shy retiring creature and the casual visitor would be extremely lucky to catch a glimpse of it. As more visitors came to the island, the Boggit only browsed in the early morning and late evening, also, cutting down the Rhododendrons has reduced its safe cover. It is rapidly becoming a rare and secretive animal, a nocturnal recluse.

It is thus not unusual that most sightings have been recorded near the Marisco Tavern late at night where the Boggit come to gather scraps to supplement its meagre diet.

Should you see a Boggit, please observe it carefully and do not attempt to approach it. Their bite is quite nasty and necessitates treatment on the mainland. Boggit hunting is banned on the island and, for this reason, all torches and nets will be confiscated on arrival if not handed in to the Warden.

### ***Fishing Competitions***

I would like to inform Members of the Yacht Club that the Angling Section competitions will take place on the following dates, weather permitting

Dates are as follows, Trophy and prizes

1. Sat 20th June Mackerel bash. Heaviest bag of Mackerel caught on a four hook mackerel rig. Entry fee £5.00 per person, book in at harbour office. Fishing from 10am to 6pm.
2. Sat 18th July. Heaviest individual bag of dog fish. Entry £5.00 per person, book in harbour office. Fishing from 10.30am to 6pm.
3. Sun 16th August. Best specimen Bass or Pollock. Entry fee £5.00 per person, book in at harbour office. Fishing from 10am to 6pm.
4. Sat 12 September. Best specimen fish any fish excluding dog fish and mackerel. Entry fee £5.00 per person, book in at harbour office. Fishing from 10am to 6pm.

All Club Members welcome, also open to non-members. Would love to see as many of you Anglers support the Yacht club.

Good fishing

***Colin Goodyear***

### ***Club Cruises***

Here are some dates for weekend Club Cruises, weather permitting, of course.

	<u>Float Time*</u>	<u>HW</u>	<u>Height (M)</u>	<b>* for most boats just behind the breakwater</b>
Sat June 20	0730	0917	8.4	
Sat July 18	0628	0820	8.7	
Sat Sep 19	0818	0956	8.1	

As quite a few members are retired, we could arrange a cruise during the week when tides & weather are suitable.

Maybe those interested can share contact numbers and we could arrange a trip at short notice?



## ***The Confessional***

"Cello".....June 2014. Near completion.

Having spent considerable time with the mast on tripods, down the side of the yacht club...rewired down the centre for the vhf, masthead tricolour, wind speed vane, deck lighting, steaming light...together with new standing rigging and all new halyards...it was lifted across with the crane and finally stepped into the tabernacle. Now once again resplendent as a "Macwester 27 Yacht", not the familiar "shrouded and covered hull" of what was the Macwester 27, known as "Cello" for the past somewhat 10 years !

Having taken on most of the rebuild and redesign myself...you will doubtless understand my sheer excitement at the mere possibility of "Cello...finally going afloat! So it was with great urgency and excitement that on my next visit to the harbour the

following week, I did manage to locate on board "a sail" ...Oh yes...the genoa, the very same "red genoa" that was the mark of "Cello".

As it was midweek and not a lot of people around and the wind was gentle, I got onto the topsides and hanked on the head of the sail from inside the bag with a shackle. So with my left hand feeding the sail onto the foil of the roller reefing...and my right hand hauling the halyard aloft from the winch on the mast, the sail began to "peel out" of the bag and travel skywards.

AS THE SAIL PEELED OUT OF THE BAG.....there was a sudden realisation...THE SAIL WAS GETTING NARROWER ! OOPS ! ... "ITS HANKED ON...UPSIDEDOWN...! So...with this realisation, and a quick look around, the halyard in the right hand was "dropped" and both hands were employed to bring the Genoa to a very unceremoniously...zip to the deck. PHEW, (good job no one was around on that occasion!)

Having found the "head" of the sail...finally...I proceeded to feed it onto the foil once more. Again using the right hand to haul it aloft on the halyard.

In what seemed..."no time at all"...the rather smug feeling of "cracking the problem" and getting the Genoa to fill in its right configuration... The silence around me was broken, from the stern end of Cello and out of sight below...a voice was heard to comment..."I SEE YOU HAVE GOT THE GENOA ON THE RIGHT WAY UP...THIS TIME" !

Oh yes...be assured folks, the CCTV we have in the harbour really is most useful.

THANKS KEITH...(without whose help, on many occasions I am so pleased to know as a friend), your smile of satisfaction is etched on my memory!

My pleasure to record this and I wish you all many happy hours of sailing, fishing etc....in your boats.

***Mike Jarvis***

It is said that "Confession is Good for the Soul", so, would someone else like to share an experience when they have not performed at their best ?



**Social Calendar 2015**  
**BBQs, Quiz Night,**  
**Annual Dinner & Dance**  
**Mega Book Sale**  
**Cruising & Fishing Comp.s**  
**Please see the calendar enclosed!**

Here's a snapshot of coming events and there is a year planner attachment to pin up wherever you will see it

Sun May 17	Carvery	Sat Aug 15	Club cruise
Sat June 6	BBQ	Sun Aug 16	Fishing Competition
Sat June 20	Fishing Competition Club Cruise	Sat Aug 22	Quiz Night & supper
Sat July 4	BBQ	Sat Sept 5	BBQ
Sat July 18	Fishing Competition Club cruise	Sat Sept 12	Fishing Competition
Sat Aug 1	BBQ	Sat Sept 19	Club cruise
Sun Aug 2	Mega Book Sale	Sat Oct 10	Dinner Dance at Ilf Golf Club