



Watermouth Yacht Club

Berrynarbor, Ilfracombe, North Devon, EX34 9SJ

51° 13' N 004° 05' W

AHOY

Newsletter June 2016



Commodore's Column

Dear friends,

I cannot believe it is time to write another article for the Ahoy, time flies by.

The Club has now come to the end of the carvery season. I think that all those who came thoroughly enjoyed their Sunday lunch times, Sue, her Mum and I certainly did. My thanks go out to Moira and all her team for making it a great success, the tables always look good when laid up, thanks also to Mike for his supplies of table cloths.

The season has been slow to start, I think mainly due to the cold weather that we have experienced since Easter but there seems a lot more activity now.

THINK SAFETY

**ARE THE FLARES YOU CARRY THE CORRECT TYPE FOR THE AREA YOU SAIL IN
ARE THEY IN DATE?
ARE YOUR LIFE JACKETS SERVICEABLE?**

Simon Kemp

Don Johnson



It is with regret that we inform you of the passing of a previous Commodore, Don Johnson who was Commodore in 1989. Both he and his wife spent some years as active committee members and Commodores of Watermouth Yacht Club. In the early 1990s they relocated from the area and, unfortunately, the club.

Treasurer's Report

What a difference a little sunshine makes! A few days of good weather and boats are being launched, people are sporting sun tans and shorts; could this be the start of the summer we've all been waiting for?

Club financial activity so far this year has been routine with the exception of having to relinquish our Community Amateur Sports Club (CASC) status. Unfortunately, the CASC qualification criteria were amended within the April 2015 budget and we, in common with many other yacht clubs, were not able to satisfy the new requirements which came into force this year. However, whilst we have lost the ability to recover Gift Aid, we do now qualify for Small Business Rate Relief which exceeds the rate relief applicable to a CASC. At the moment, the overall effect of these changes is probably revenue neutral but the future situation with Small Business Rate Relief is one which may change.

Headline figures at the time of writing are as follows:

Income

Bar (current balance following initial restocking)	£ 602.92
Social	£ 880.50
Membership subscriptions (inc mooring premium)	£ 3819.00

Expenditure

Sailing & RYA subscriptions	£ 169.00
Club mooring fees	£ 720.00
Insurance	£ 1065.25
Maintenance	£ 546.31
Gas, electricity and water	£ 242.97

Cash at bank £13275.65

I will post a detailed breakdown of the account on the notice board from time to time but should anyone require further details, please let me know either in person or via the club email account: watermouthyachtclub@gmail.com

I think that's about it for the time being so on with the sun cream, off with the mooring lines and have a cracking summer!

Steve Barron

Club Maintenance

Just a short report on the maintenance side of the club. As I mentioned in the last Ahoy the flag pole is now up and the first flag was flown after the carvery on the 24th April. I think it has turned out to be most satisfactory so my thanks go to Geof for the time he put into the painting and all the others who helped to step the pole.

I have now replaced the lights on the gable end of the roof facing the harbour, so you have no excuse now not to be in the bar when it opens, Keith is always happy to take your money!

Sorry this is a bit short but I have only just come back from a holiday in Scotland.

Simon Kemp

Watermouth Picture



In March of this year the club was approached by Debbie Wickenden, family member of our founding president Alan Wickenden, and offered an original painting of Watermouth Harbour.

Painted in 1974 it shows a harbour from a gentler period in history, albeit only 40 years ago. Needless to say we were delighted to accept her kind offer and you can now see the painting in the clubhouse.

Social & Coming Events

BBQ's at WYC **9th Jul, 13th Aug, 10th Sept** (7:30pm 2nd Sat each month)

Quiz Night **30th Jul 7:00pm for a meal before the quiz**

Fishing Competitions **9th Jul, 13th Aug, 10th Sept** - details will be displayed at the club

IYC Lundy Race **20th Aug**

Club Cruises	25th Jun	HW 0958	8.4M
	9th Jul	1011	8.3M
	23rd Jul	0904	9.0M
	6th Aug	0907	8.8M

Note any cruising is dependent upon the weather and sea conditions, these are only proposed dates. Please make contact as indicated below or meet at the clubhouse on the preceding evening to agree destination(s). We will cruise as a club, however, you are responsible for the seaworthiness of your boat and your capability at sea. The skipper is responsible for the safety of all those on board.

If you want to contact please call Moira 01271 865001(ans. phone)
or 07078 229 886 or email at watermouthyachtclub@gmail.com

WYC Dinner/Dance **Sat 29th Oct**

There are also some events at Clovelly through the summer which may be of interest, including, Maritime Festival Sun 17th Jul & Lobster & Crab Festival Sun 4th Sep
More info at <http://www.hartlandpeninsula.co.uk/events-festivals-arts>

Membership

We have had quite a few new members since the last Ahoy and it is nice to be able to welcome them to the club and harbour.

Gp Capt Nicholas Le Dieu and Gill at the moment they do not own a boat and are new to sailing, if anyone can offer a sail I am sure it would be appreciated. We have already met them as they have been to a carvery.

Tony Puddle many of you will already know as he has been about for many years. Tony has bought "Chymel" a Project 25 and although he is not planning to put her in the water he is spending some time on her.

Simon and Emma Phillips are from the Cardiff area, their boat is "Curlew" a Hurley (sorry I do not have any more details).

Alan Best who now owns "Quest" a Macwester Rowen 22. Quest has been about at the Harbour for as long as I can remember. Alan and his son are working on her and says she will not be going in the water this year as there is still much to do.

Richard and Lin Coggin with their boat "Penny Lass" a Snapdragon 26 Richard has been working hard on her over the last weeks and I believe is launching soon if he has not already done so.

Trevor and Alison Sharples with "Jupiter" an Oqueteau 645 Day Fisher, Trevor is interested in fishing.

Anthony Massotti and Kerris Bradford with "Zante" a Micro Plus 501 fishing boat, Anthony is also interested in fishing.

It is really good to see new members who have different interests, we look forward to meeting you and seeing you in the club. Hoping for a good Sailing and Fishing season."

Carol Gell

The Confessional

Where forgiveness comes for free if you tell us your sins



One mad year many years ago, I decided to remove the name board on the stern of Rouselle when she was in the far corner in the deep gooey mud. The plate's held on by two hidden bolts through the transom with nuts on the inside in the aft cabin. Having removed the nuts I positioned myself on the aft deck, in a crouched position and leaning out over the transom, armed with a large screwdriver to prize it off. I quickly realised that I couldn't see the plate as the transom sloped away beneath me. It was therefore necessary to get my head under the pushpit rail and lean out as far as I could, still in the crouched position. Suddenly before I even got the screwdriver

behind the plate I realised that the weight of my upper chassis exceeded the weight of my lower portions, (unlike the present time), and being totally overbalanced I gracefully completed a double backward flip with half a turn and landed on my back in the deep gooey mud below. The screwdriver landed by one ear and the nameplate landed by the other.

'Yuk, muck, glorious muck, and do you know luckily there wasn't a soul in the harbour to witness the only time I left Rouselle without going down the ladder.'

The old seadog

Captions for Competition No 6



- Philip Langford Get back here !
- Will Strawbridge Today swimming fully clothed, tomorrow sky diving from a crane.
The Harbour Master pushing the boundaries!!
- John Culley Didn't work for King Canute, either
- Brian Jones Blast I've left the keys behind !
- Simon Kemp Where did I leave the digger?
- Richard Hildred I'm sure I dropped 50p here somewhere
- Mike Jarvis picked **Where did I leave the digger** as the winning caption, so there's a free pint waiting for you Simon

Wild Thyme Flooded !

John and Wendy Culley flew out from Gatwick on the 15th May to commence their 4th season of sailing and exploring the Ionian Seas and Islands. Arriving at Preveza airport, then collecting their arranged hire car before driving 2km to the Ionian Marine boatyard across the water from the Port of Preveza.

We had already arranged with the yard that a ladder would be in place to access Wild Thyme as she is a Fin Keeled Westerly Falcon 34 drawing 1.5m (5') so when ashore in her cradle it is a good climb to reach the cockpit. Everything looked fine, we had left her as always with her fitted cockpit tent in place, to keep out the wind borne Sahara sands that find their way in everywhere in the Spring.

We had also as is the norm shut down and isolated all electrics and mounted solar panels, and securely bunged all outlets/openings to prevent wasps getting in and building nests, which they are prone to do.

So up the ladder goes Wendy to open up the main hatch whilst I unload our 5 bags/cases.

Then I hear an anguished cry, and Wendy calls down in a very shocked manner that "We have a very serious problem.

Climbing up to join her and see what seems to be the problem, I was shocked to find the interior of Wild Thyme was flooded completely almost up to bunk level, and the water looked black and oily, and the floorboards were seen to be floating.



Took a while to gather our thoughts, then thought I must try to get some water pumped out, only the manual bilge pump was usable so we set to work for several hours, and also rigged up two hoses siphoning water. It took at least 4 hours to see any perceptible change in level. I just wanted to get the water level down sufficiently to be able to enter and get a closer look and take photographs. Eventually we achieved this, but I found I was not able to take any photos yet as the lens immediately fogged up on entering the cabin. We managed to get some hatches open and the air cleared a little enabling some photos.



We could then see that we had an absolute disaster on our hands and my initial thoughts were that Wild Thyme was “written off”, at which stage I thought I had better contact my insurance company. I also contacted the surveyor who had done our initial survey and who lives on a Westerly Yacht in nearby Lefkas Marina. And he kindly came across and confirmed my initial thoughts that we may indeed be looking at a write off. But with the boat still half full of water and floating debris it was too early to properly assess, wait until we hear from our insurers, as they may appoint him. Fortunately we have a good insurance policy with Navigators and General “Westerly Owners, scheme, and following an email they responded next morning that they had appointed an independent surveyor and he was an Athens based Greek Surveyor who was travelling from Athens to be with us the next day. I was initially filled with dread at what would turn up but could not have been more wrong.

Next morning bang on the arranged time appears Costas (Mr Constantine Vassilos Markopouliotis) and what a lovely guy. Excellent English as he trained as a Naval Architect at Newcastle University, and married to an Irish girl, and boy does he know his stuff, he has a Moody 40 himself and turns out is a friend of an acquaintance from Malta whom we met via our friends John and Carol Boulter, which very much gave us a head start in getting along. A quite extended mutual friendship but by golly it paid dividends to have that little bit extra in a relationship.

He very quickly arranged for a team of contractors from Lefkas to call on the Monday morning and to begin emptying the yacht, and I do mean empty, not just the remaining water but EVERYTHING ABOARD, and there is a lot of it.

We inherited a very well stocked and equipped boat from the previous owners who had her for 9 years, and as is my way, I quickly started adding equipment and spares, over the next three years.

The plan was to bring in a shipping container and plonk it as near to Wild Thyme as we could but alas, all the spare shipping containers in Greece have been taken and are in use providing emergency refugee accommodation, one was located in Athens at a high cost, and the insurers were going for it. But I approached the yard management who by now were very aware of the situation, and they offered the use of a large lockable steel storage shed at a very reasonable cost.

I was surprised later to hear comments from other boat owners who just assumed that the boatyard would be unhelpful. How wrong those folk are, it's all a question of approach I must say that we have generally found the local Greek people of the Ionian region to be very generous and hospitable, particularly toward the English, (just glad we are not German).

After the bulk of the water had been evacuated we set about clearing out Wildthyme, it took myself and Wendy 2 days then another day with the help of 4 guys the contractor sent. It was very depressing to see our belongings in that state, much of it was immediately binned, everything else placed on pallets for removal by forklift to our store.

We of course became homeless, but our friends John and Carol offered us accommodation aboard "Aquatint" their Westerly Corsair 36 that was in the adjacent boatyard, we kindly accepted their offer for two nights, as they were due to launch the following day. We then got ourselves booked into a hotel across the water in Preveza for 10 days which I hoped would be sufficient time to get things sorted.

We found ourselves to be virtually the only guests in this family run hotel, that is until the following day when coachloads of young girls booked in ,taking part in a choral festival and could be heard at all hours practising in the corridors, Preveza is a lovely old Greek City with a fine tradition of Arts and Culture. We have previously attended several events involving the "Armonia d Preveza"

I was concerned that the provided store although it had appeared to have been made "Snake Proof" did show evidence of rodent activity, so we then scoured just about every hardware store and big supermarket buying up storage boxes with lids, and ensured everything that might be nibbled was secure.

The next week was spent going back and forth to Wild Thyme, meeting contractors and surveyor, and arranging quotes for the various work needed to bring her back to A1 condition.

As can be seen from the photos, the flood has indeed caused a great deal of damage, not only up to the water level, (all varnish below that level has blistered or lifted), but also the rest of the boat content was effected just by the extreme saturation of being closed up for several months with that amount of water inside, so all upholstery, (bunks & curtains, stored clothing) has been soiled badly. A lot of spares and tools and electrical equipment were stored in low level lockers and were ruined. Other clothing in hanging lockers is affected, all the varnished woodwork is damaged. Two out of our four battery banks were underwater, so have to be replaced including the cabling.

Very fortunately the water level stopped just short of the Volvo engine dipstick entry and thus has not entered the engine, although the starter motor and alternator are being checked, having now been removed.

Initial cleaning has been done and quotes for renovation have now been approved this week (8.06.16) and after drying out, work will start in early July in stripping/repainting insides of all lockers etc. and bilges, and varnishing every bit of wood there is a lot (Westerly used a lot of teak)

All Bunk cushions curtains will be renewed, including our cockpit cushions as they were stored below for the winter. We are currently looking at dozens of cloth samples at home.

All damaged boat inventory items and our personal effects we shall be reimbursed for as we replace them.

The storage fees and the yard fees will be paid for until she is re-launched. (Hopefully September)
We unfortunately have to pay for all Mechanical and Electrical work as these are NOT covered when a boat is laid up except if caused by a "Sudden Inrush of Water" ours is classed as a gradual intake of water. Still I think we have not done too badly overall.
And because we are insured via Westerly Owners Assoc. our No Claims Bonus remains intact.

Retrospectively we now know the cause of the flood.

The surveyor carried out a hosepipe test of the deck and it was found that "Wildthyme" was laid up slightly more "bows -up" than is usual, this caused rainwater to flow aft. They do suffer pretty torrential rains in the winter with a usual amount of 1m per m2. compared to about 100mm here. Some water entered via the deck anchor/winch well as it was driven to the rear of that locker and found a crack in the fibreglass permitting entry into the anchor chain locker and on into the bilges. We were however pretty sure that could not account for the volume of water and have since found another entry via a tear in the bottom front apron of the sprayhood directing rainwater under the main hatch garage and coaming, which apparently one or other of the deck fixings has become loose.

We are flying out to Greece shortly to remove and refit the complete hatch garage and sprayhood coaming to ensure this cannot re-occur. We shall also ensure in future that when she is laid up she is exactly level.

We are very sorry to have had to disappoint friends and family who were to have joined us at various times this summer, perhaps we can do it next year.

A rather comical climax on returning home though, having expected us to be away for 5 months, our youngest daughter kindly offered the use of our bungalow to store some furniture for a friend who was in desperate need, but on hearing of our imminent return managed to squeeze it all into our spare room, not sure how she managed it.

And so here we are enjoying a lovely UK summer here in Clevedon, our 1st in four years and we have just returned from a lovely woodland walk where we were very pleased to see some beautiful young Roe deer, so life is good. Hope to get down to WYC very soon.

John and Wendy Culley

Caption Competition No 7



Please send captions to
watermouthyachtclub@gmail.com
or geofpierce@outlook.com

Something of local interest



A DVD with ten colourful short documentaries filmed on boats along the North Devon Coast.

Lively stories told by local fishermen, skippers, coxswains and crew

Available in the club house for £10