



# Watermouth Yacht Club

Berrynarbor, Ilfracombe, North Devon, EX34 9SJ

51° 13' N 004° 05' W

# AHOY

## ***Newsletter March 2017***

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

Dear Members,

The days are thankfully drawing out now and I look forward to seeing a few more people around the harbour as it has been very quiet for some time.

This is the last Ahoy before the A.G.M. and you should have received your paperwork by now. We would welcome any nominations for committee so if any of you feel that you would like to join, please put your names forward, the committee is not a "closed shop"!

Moira is starting her carveries in March and it will be nice to see the club back up and running again. Please come along, it is always a very sociable and pleasant way to spend a Sunday lunch time with good company and good food.

The R.Y.A. have asked us to bring to our members notice the fact that there have been several serious incidents involving carbon monoxide so I have put this in my safety message at the end of my column. Please take time to read and think about this as it is very important.

I hope that 2017 will be a good season both for the club and for sailing.

THINK SAFETY – Carbon monoxide poisoning- Please remember that this can be a killer.

This could come from many sources but one that worries me is the gas cooker inside a boat as this has no flue to remove the products of combustion. Please make sure that you have plenty of ventilation when cooking on board. Have you considered fitting an ALARM? These can be purchased for as little as £6 which is cheap if it saves your life. Main symptoms of carbon monoxide poisoning- Headaches – Nausea – Breathlessness – Dizziness – Collapse – Loss of consciousness- please think about it.

Do you have a gas supply on board? Please make sure this is tested and always keep an eye on the flexible hose from the cylinder to the regulator.

Are the fire extinguishers you carry the correct type and are they serviced and up to date?

Are the flares you carry the correct type for the area you sail in and are they in date?

Are your life jackets serviceable?

***Simon Kemp***

### ***Membership***

Welcome to Anthony (Tony) Carpenter with his boat "Kwafie" a Pegasus 800.

We look forward to seeing Tony in the Club and the harbour.

***Carol Gell***

## **Social Events**

**Sunday Carveries** (12:45) Sun 19 March

Sun 2 April

Sun 16 April

Sun 30 April

Please book with Moira to avoid disappointment

Tel 01271 865001 (answer phone) or Mob 07870 229 886

**Boat Race** Sat 15 April Lunch at 13:00 Boat Race at 14:00

**AGM** Sat 15 April at 20:00

**Bar-B-Ques** (at 19:30) Sat 3 June

Sat 1 July

Sat 5 August

Sat 2 September

**Sailing** IYC Lundy Race

27 May, details and entry form on IYC website <http://www.ilfracombeyc.org.uk>

**Club Cruises** No dates yet but watch this space, with new sailing members and suitable weather, maybe we can do a few cruises this year

## **Club Maintenance**

I have done a few jobs in preparation for the club opening.

I have now fitted the new extractor fan in the Gents toilet and also the new upstand to the shower base, I hope this will now keep the water from running out into the toilet area. PLEASE TAKE CARE WHEN USING THE SHOWER NOT TO TRIP OVER IT.

As I am sure you are all aware, a new £1 coin comes into use at the end of March. I have had to replace one of the electric meters as it was not possible to convert it to the new coin. Please note that both meters will now take the old or new £1 coin as well as the £2 coin. The shower timers will need to be modified to accept the new coin but I cannot obtain the kits to convert them for a few weeks yet. As they will only take the new £1 coin once modified, I will not change them over till the new coins become common place. The 20p coins will still be accepted.

Please don't forget that the lock will be changed at the A.G.M. so bring your old key along.

All for now,

**Simon Kemp**

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

Springtime is always a busy period for the club's finances. Large bills, including insurance, mooring charges, bar restocking and subscriptions to sailing bodies, all fall due early in the year. At the same time, receipt of subscriptions help to keep the balance sheet in trim and me from anguish!

The club's financial health improved last year and a figure of £15,145.45 was carried forward. Whilst this figure may be a little short of the comfort zone that has been traditionally enjoyed, it is a huge step in our recovery from the debt of just a few years ago. I make no apology for repeating that none of this would have been possible without the many hours of hard work, freely given by committee and members alike.

With your continued support, I am hopeful that this year will see our financial situation progress further and the possibility of improvements soon turning into reality.

I look forward to seeing you all at the forthcoming Annual General Meeting and social events, and trust that a safe and enjoyable season is had by all this year.

***Steve Barron***

## ***A thank you and other musings***

I would like to take this opportunity, although I apologise that it is a little belated, to thank all of you who came to Alistair's funeral and also for the many cards and messages I and the family received. Geof Pierce gave a wonderful tribute of Alistair at the funeral which we as a family so appreciated. Special thanks also to Keith and Moira for the words they wrote in their card about how much their friendship with Alistair meant to them, it was very moving and such a comfort to me. On a practical level they both gave Anastasia's hull a clean and polish – no mean feat. Keith recently so kindly serviced her engine ready for the new season.

For those of you who don't already know, Anastasia now has new owners, Rod and Lotte Lindenbaum. They used to be our immediate neighbours in Silver Street, Braunton and have given us so much valued support during Alistair's illness. Alistair hoped they might buy Anastasia and he would be absolutely delighted to know they and their three children will enjoy sailing her and that she will remain at Watermouth.

Alistair loved Watermouth – the friendships he made, just being able to get into the car and pop down to the harbour for a sail, just to chat, do odd jobs on the boat or potter around. Before coming to Devon we had lived in London for 27 years and this meant we usually had to go quite a journey to reach our mooring. Initially we had a mooring off the River Swale on the east coast at a place called Conyer Creek. This had channels with withies sticking up to enable one to reach land and get ashore. It certainly wasn't easy and there was thick mud everywhere and I mean really thick mud. If somehow you managed to get out of the channel you could be in trouble, the tide had to be just right. We then moved to a mooring on the River Medway at Chatham. Alistair had seen a piece in Practical Boat Owner written by the then Chatham Yacht Club's secretary Tony Peacock. They had moorings available and were seeking new members. Alistair contacted him and our small boat Bilbo (20 ft.) moved to a new mooring. It was still a long way to travel, but most weekends, in the summer, weather permitting, off we would go. We made particular friends with two families, who also had children, one family being the Peacocks and we have remained in touch with them. In the summer together with them we would sail over to Holland. I have very happy memories of those times and the Dutch people. While based in Chatham we sold Bilbo. We purchased a 27foot cruiser racer that we named Dawn Treader. Unless you have experienced being on a small boat with two adults and two growing children for three weeks holiday you probably cannot imagine just how much we appreciated our new boat. She was a lovely boat, apart from Alistair we could actually stand up in her and she could really move fast through the water. Tony had a Sadler 25 and often we would race the boats, which was great fun. From Chatham we were able to explore many of the east coast rivers with the Deben being our favourite. After a few years at Chatham Alistair moved the boat to a mooring near Portsmouth. This gave us the opportunity to sail to places new to us. This was a very good move as we were able in the summer to go over to the

Channel Islands. I usually went across to St. Peter Port by ferry with Fiona (Alison having flown the nest by then) but we always came back with him. We loved sailing in and around this area and generally visited Guernsey, Herm, Sark and Alderney. Alderney for us became a very special place and we seriously thought of retiring there, but our girls were horrified to think of us going so far away and persuaded us not to go. Only once did we go over to Jersey and on our return journey to Guernsey we found ourselves in really inclement weather with gale force winds, which had not been forecast. I remember feeling very scared and for once I did exactly as I was told without question. What a relief it was to arrive back safely at St. Peter Port and to have a finger mooring. Often in the summer it was not unusual for boats to be rafted together up to 7 or 8 deep in the outer harbour and this could be quite uncomfortable. On another occasion not far from Alderney we found ourselves unable to see further than a few feet due to a thick mist which had come down. We ended up alongside a local fishing boat that had dropped anchor for safety reasons. When the mist lifted we found we were dangerously close to rocks – but thankfully all was well and we were soon on a buoy in the harbour at Alderney in brilliant sunshine.

In 1998 we moved to North Devon. The Dawn Treader we sold prior to us coming here as she had a deep fin keel and this would have been unsuitable for the North Devon Coast and a drying out mooring. It wasn't until 2002 that we bought Anastasia and this was after looking at quite a number of boats. Alistair felt she was an ideal boat for teaching our grandchildren to sail in and this proved to be the case. I have to confess that by this time I wasn't overly keen on taking up sailing again, but as I knew Alistair was clearly missing sailing, it was a hobby he clearly loved and he was a very able sailor, so these were the deciding factors. As Wendy Culley said to me shortly after his death, "Anastasia was the other lady in his life." I didn't mind her in the least, she contributed to Alistair's happiness and that for me was all important.

I would like to keep in touch with friends at the club. Watermouth has been an important part of both of our lives, friendships made and many happy memories.

***Dee Bell***

### ***Caption Competition No 10 - it's him again !!***

Now here's an unusual pose for Keith .....



Please send captions to [watermouthyachtclub@gmail.com](mailto:watermouthyachtclub@gmail.com)

## Captions for Competition No 9



- Will Strawbridge I know the pot holes in North Devon are getting deeper, but this is ridiculous
- Graham Farmer 21st century bathing hut? – now let's see them get it home.....
- Mike Corner Waiting for the tide!
- Keith Andrews Is this the way to the Yacht club?
- Phillip Langford Trust you to put the sandwiches in the boot!!
- Simon Kemp I wonder how many extra knots he gets from the tailgate sail"
- Sue Kemp Extreme wading and off-roading?
- Dave Allen Keith, yes Lizzy may have had a dump in the back of the car, but don't be such a wuss as to wait for high tide to flush it out of the boot!

The winner chosen by Dee Bell is Will Strawbridge, well done Will, I think this entitles you to a free drink at the club

### **For Sale**

**Cruising Chute** with snuffer made by Quay Sails (Poole)  
In good condition, luff 11M, foot 5M, leech 10.5M  
Would probably suit 30' yacht  
£250 to club member or will put on eBay  
Contact Moira to view at Club House

### **Antifoul**

Unopened 3 litre tin of XM PX4000 navy 'hard' antifoul  
Price on tin £59.95, yours for £35  
Contact Simon 01271 882890

### **Electric Hostess Trolley/Food Warmer**

As new, including 3 x glass Pyrex dishes with lids  
Dimensions (closed) w72cm x d38cm x h78cm  
£50, (new circa £175)  
Contact Moira to view at Club House





## Leather Furniture



2 x 'Stressless' Paloma leather reclining swivel chairs with foot stools, £50 each and matching 2 seat sofa, £100

Willing to sell sofa separate from chairs

Collect from Ilfracombe

Contact Geof on 01271 864100 or [geofpierce@outlook.com](mailto:geofpierce@outlook.com)

## ***The Confessional***

*Where forgiveness comes for free if you tell us your sins*

I confessed last year and the year before but I confess to having nothing to confess, (so far), this year ! Some of you must have had a calamity, (or two), from last year that you would like to share, so come on and tell us, remember, you are among friends ☺

## ***More from Andrew & Rika on Brillig***

With adjusted compass and a new GPS, we hopped to Brittany, France, Europe with a small weather window. We received a lovely welcome from the harbour master of Camaret (Falmouth was uncomfortable!); free mooring, free shower, code to use bin and free WIFI on board! Tidied up and stocked up, we left to Galicia – the 5<sup>th</sup> crossing of the Biscay. It took us 4 days; 1.5 days in thick fog – having heard fog horns but seen nothing – then 2 days of freshened up north easterly with lumpy sea - the motion was mixture of pitching and rolling. We wondered this was tough doing or we became too old. Though having such hard time, I couldn't help smiling because I was truly away from the UK – no more immigration, miserable weather and nasty family! Plenty dolphins came along Brillig, cheered us up.

Galicia was stunning, we could have stayed there as land seascapes inspired Andrew's painting desire. Then a probable weather window came with light north westerly, we left La Coruna and couldn't progress as waves were lump, having wasted the half day's effort and went back to the same port.

We were beaten. Nevertheless our second attempt was successful with light northerly on High Pressure all the way down to Algarve in mid-November. In 4.5 days of easy and nice sailing – sunny afternoons, moonlit nights and not so cold - we were in Alvor, Portugal. Now we are ready for Nick's 70<sup>th</sup> birthday party on Rio Guadiana on 13<sup>th</sup> December.

Nick Skeats has built his own designed steel yacht "Wylo II (32 feet" in 1980), has done numerous circumnavigations single-handed and the plan of the ship is still on sale, many sister ships of hers are sailing around the 7 oceans. Andrew met Nick in 1983 in the Caribbean, an old friend of his.



Still 60 miles east, 20 miles upriver to go; we waited for right wind but didn't come. Ran out of time, on Saturday we decided to motor-sail against easterly at night when it drops on. The weather we expected came 1 day later; we made 2.5 knots in 24 hours instead of 4 knots in 15 hours, missing to catch the tide to go up the river. Just after midnight, we entered Rio Guadiana. Struggling through, we arrived at Alcoutim, Portugal and Sanlucar de Guadiana, Spain on 12<sup>th</sup> Monday lunch time.



We received warm welcomes straight away; Andrew was remembered as Yachting Monthly's artist with a Japanese wife. It is much healthier to be with happy, content people, people with common sense.

Nick's party was terrific; 6 Wylos anchored and his good friends gathered up on 53 feet "Spirit" (Paul, Emma and 2 daughters) – drinking. Then tied Spirit to Wylo II to have Rum tasting competition, the party went on until twilight. With going out tide, we all had dinner at "Riverside Tavern" in Alcoutim.

Many musicians played, the party was fantastic. Listening to live music and talking to yachties, I reflected between my life in Ilfracombe and being a foreigner, transferring myself to another change, it was like a dream. Here, these are people with experience, including Andrew and I!

Visiting Sevilla is only the plan in 2017 at the moment.

***Andrew and Rika on Brillig on Rio Guadiana, Portugal/ Spain***