



Watermouth Yacht Club

Berrynarbor, Ilfracombe, North Devon, EX34 9SJ

51° 13' N 004° 05' W

AHOY

Newsletter May 2017

Commodore's Column

Dear Members,

Another uneventful AGM has passed by with no changes to the committee for the 17/18 year.

I must confess that it worries me how much longer the present committee members will be prepared to carry on with their duties with no new younger people coming forward to run the Club. My thanks to the members who made time to attend and also those prepared to serve another year.

We have had our first meeting to discuss the running of the club this summer so look out for the various events and let's hope the weather is kind for whatever plans you have for the coming months. Please continue to support the club so the treasurer can keep the figures looking good.

I would like to wish you all a very good summer and please think of your safety out on the water.

THINK SAFETY – Have you serviced your engine after a long damp winter before returning your vessel to the water? It is much easier than trying to fix a problem at sea with the boat rocking and rolling around and the chances are it will let you down just when you don't want it to happen.

Are the batteries good in your carbon monoxide alarm?

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?

All for now,

Simon Kemp

Membership

Welcome to new members Peter Tysall with his boat "Alxcidon" which is a Robert Clarke 5 Ton.

Also John and Annie Crossley with their boat "Little Blue" which is a Westport Pilot 4, Motor/Fishing boat.

We look forward to seeing you in the club during the season.

A reminder for those of you who have yet to pay your membership fees, these were due on 1st March, it would therefore be much appreciated if you could put this at the top of the to do list.

Looking forward to a good sailing/boating season."

Carol Gell

Ted Manley 31/3/28 – 6/6/16 aged 88



On the 6th of June 2016 we lost a lovely man who many will remember throughout North Devon. Ted Manley was mainly known for his profession as a Musician playing many instruments but focusing on his love for keyboards.

His love for the sea was hereditary as his father and most of the family started as engineers working out of the ship yards in South Wales. Where Ted would end up travelling the world aged just 18 months.

Ted spent most of his weekends either maintaining his boats in the harbour or fishing off shore. Owning many boats ranging from power boats to yachts to clinker hull fishing boats.

Ted never forgot the harbour but wasn't well enough to travel back.

Ted and Jean moved to Ross on Wye in 2009 to be nearer to Spencer and Julie, where Ted would see his last few years with us, still keeping in touch with the world on the internet, a genuine and wonderful silver surfer.

Next time you have a few minutes spare, have a seat on his bench and remember Ted and Biggles, his Jack Russell. Ted will be sadly missed by friends and family.

Spencer Manley

Social Events

Bar-B-Ques **Sat 3rd June**
 Sat 1st July
 Sat 5th August
 Sat 2nd September

Quiz Night **Sat 19th August**

Pool Competition **Sat 16th September**

Dinner/Dance **28th October (provisional, to be confirmed)**

Club Maintenance

The new back door lock seems to be working well apart from one or two very minor hitches. Please remember you only need to touch the 'fob' against the keypad to unlock the door; you will hear a click as it unlocks.

Please Do Not enter numbers into the keypad.

Unfortunately we have had a bad start to the year with the deep freeze packing up, then the boiler developed a fault in the burner and needed new parts only to break down again two weeks later and this time required a new condensate pump. Let's hope that it is now OK.

The third problem, the emergency flood lights in the bar area failed when I carried out the monthly test so I have ordered replacement batteries for this. I hope this is the end of the failures!

My next job is to sort out the patio in preparation for the good weather, the weeds have started to grow so I think a dose of weed killer is needed.

As you may have noticed the Club has a new seat donated by Ted Manley's family which is a nice addition to our outside seating.

I look forward to us all having a good season,

All for now,



Simon Kemp

Treasurer's Report

Summer is nearly here and the harbour is beginning to buzz once more along with our club. Large annual charges are behind us and I'm pleased to say that social events to date have contributed substantially to the club's financial health. I am hopeful that the forthcoming bar-b-cue season will help further.

On the other side of the balance sheet, we have been particularly unlucky so far this year with two boiler repairs and a replacement freezer being required. Total maintenance costs at the time of writing have all but accounted for the entire surplus from social events. I sincerely hope that there are no more little surprises like those for a while!

Headline figures are currently a moving feast but the following snapshot will give an outline of the club's early season position.

Income

Subscriptions (inc club mooring premium)	£ 3,490.00
Social	£ 923.11
Bar (suppressed due to re-stocking costs)	£ 102.80

Expenditure

Insurance	£ 1,070.00
Maintenance	£ 910.66
Club Moorings	£ 690.00
Sailing and RYA Subs	£ 175.00
Cleaning	£ 102.00
Utilities	£ 90.45
Cash at bank	£16,673.96

I wish all members and their families an enjoyable, but above all, safe season and look forward to seeing you all soon.

Steve Barron

Caption Competition No 11

I don't have anything local this time, (which is probably a relief for Keith), so maybe this could generate a few captions



Club Cruises

Here are a few weekend dates when we might be able to sail somewhere in company, weather depending! These are Saturdays when HW is around 0700, so we have til circa 0900 to leave our moorings and get back on moorings circa 1900 on Sunday.

Sat 24 June	HW 0645	9.3M
Sat 8 July	0621	8.2M
Sat 26 Aug	0948	8.7M
Sat 9 Sep	0842	9.3M

More dates are possible if we use the Club Outer Moorings but I know this makes it difficult for people who live away from Watermouth to get their boats on/off the outer moorings on Friday/Monday. However, those of us who are local, (and not working), could take advantage of any good weather/tides anytime in the week, so if you feel like an overnight trip to Lundy, Clovelly, Oxwich or anywhere else, please let me know and I'm happy to ring round and see if anyone else is interested.

Ice creams are now available in the galley freezer. Please put the money in the tin



Captions for Competition No 10



Will Strawbridge

Robust, full bodied, with a hint of raspberry - now let's talk about the wine

Philip Langford

You should know by now - SHAKEN not stirred !

Simon Kemp

It's a good job it's not the kids gold fish bowl.

Richard Hildred

Think I'll have a nice cup of tea next?

The winner (again !) is Will Strawbridge, picked his time by Rachel Pierce
Well done Will, keep em coming !

Coleridge Way - in the footsteps of the romantic poets - May 2017.

I have had in mind for a while to tackle the Coleridge Way, a long distance walk from Nether Stowey in Somerset to originally Porlock, but Post Foot and Mouth was extended to Lynmouth.

As a walk is not complete without a dog, I planned to take Lizzie, with me. I did some research and there are places along the way you can stay along with your dog. However, this was ruled out as I found the fees seemed to be excess of £55/60 per night. Over 3, or possibly 4 nights that ramped the cost up somewhat. So in my wisdom (?) I decided to wild camp where and wherever. I think wild camping is not strictly permitted in National Parks. If done properly however, excepting flattened grass etc., there should be no signs that anyone has been there.

I collected together all of my kit including a specific tarpaulin, no tent due to the weight. The overall weight is critical because I have to carry food for Lizzie. I postponed my start from the Tuesday after Easter because of the drop in temperatures, particularly during the night time. Two weeks later, May 2 and Keith takes me to Nether Stowey, near Hinckley Point power station in Somerset. I intend to walk east to west, towards home. I start walking just before nine am with Lizzie on her lead and a rucksack on my back. She stays on the lead for the next three days and nights! Reason being, she chases deer and does come back but in her own good time.

There are so many sheep with lambs I am not prepared to take any chances.

Immediately we have to climb a hill, the first of many! I have climbed some hills in my time, but over the next couple of days that is all I seemed to do! One after another and another and yet another!

The route is marked by means of a quill pen which makes it easier and makes me wonder who put them there and who maintains them.

Bivvies are in all of the wooded areas so people do make use of our country side. We pass Alfoxton Hotel, now not a hotel but obviously once an imposing building with sadly some boarded up windows, derelict tennis courts, an overgrown walled garden and stable blocks etc. There were some cars around but no signs of life. It all looked a bit sad. We reach Bicknoller and in the community shop we enjoyed a



cup of tea albeit from a machine and shared a pork pie. I wasn't carrying anything other than water so this was very welcome.

Our next village on the route will be Monksilver but we pass St. Audries estate with a beautiful little church and deer park. It was so hot they were all lying in the shade of a huge oak tree; I was walking in a short sleeved t-shirt and worrying about getting sunburnt!

We then crossed the West Somerset railway line and onwards into open country side, as we did so we heard and then saw a steam train on its way to Minehead. We went through the village of Monksilver, where I had planned to make our first overnight camp and up a horrendous hill. My water was getting really low and I took a risk of filling one of my bottles from a path side stream. The water looked clean and tempting but as I looked up, Lizzie was stood in the stream above me and she has a habit of drinking and then peeing in her water supply! Great! However, after tipping that water out I found the stream originating from the rocks a little further up the track. It tasted ok so I took the chance.

At the top and in the woodland we made our first camp and I was quite proud of it as I have not used just a tarpaulin before. It was cold overnight and Lizzie (bless her - not!) was up and out at every noise she heard. She heard a lot... I came close to throttling her!

However, we survived and the next morning (very early, we had been waiting for daylight) apart from some squashed Bluebell leaves, no one would have known we had been there.



We were walking to Luxborough, Roadwater and then Cutcombe (close by Wheddon Cross) for our next night. We passed through beech woodland walks and green lush valleys, it is a beautiful landscape. I was surprised to see bailed straw at one point, a bit early? Obviously not.

As we left Luxborough, up a steep hill, we passed Chargot House, yet another run down mansion type house, although this one did appear to have some residents.



Just short of Brockwell we descended into some woodland again and as the next section would take us up onto the open moor, and I had a blister I decided to camp here. To say we were tired was an understatement! A slightly different style of tent this time, but it worked well. At one point in the evening a pair of riders passed us and they didn't see us and had no idea that we were watching them. It turned out to be so cold overnight, it was not nice at all. Lizzie didn't get up so often but we were again pleased to see the dawn! At one point I was shivering violently and knowing this could signal the

onset of hypothermia I began to think I should call it a day.

Camp made - dog tired - and that's just me!!!!

Cold water and another biscuit to start and we were walking towards Webber's Post by six ish. From this point on I took no photos at all, photography obviously didn't come into my mind. At Webber's Post there were several cars parked up, presumably the occupants had been camping as

well or perhaps they were up to see the larks etc. We walked down into Horner Woods and passed the house of our friends, Sally Gregory, but being 7.30 a.m. I didn't think I should knock on their door! We climbed again and then for the first time since getting out of the car at Nether Stowey, I got a telephone signal. I called Keith and in talking to him I decided that it was time pack it in; I don't think I could have endured another cold night under canvas even though I have the right gear - I don't intend to kill myself just yet and certainly not Lizzie.

We found a cup of tea in the convenience shop at Porlock, ate another packet of shortbread between us and waited.

I have seen on this trip, Blackcaps, Yellow Hammers, Cuckoos, Kingfishers, Ravens, Tree creepers, Deer, and so much more. We have walked 30+ miles and I am sad that I couldn't get to Lynmouth, but we could not face climbing up out of Porlock - that was one hill too far!

Moira Alford

MY FRIEND REG (AND EVERYONES FRIEND REG)



I first met Reg more years ago than I care to remember. I had not long bought Seawolf when I got talking to Reg and Ken (Jelfs) on the beach and discovered that they both loved sea fishing. A date was set for us to go fishing – that as they say was that; the start of at least 20 years of good company and fun.

I make no apologies for talking about Reg and Ken in the same breath as they were compatriots in fishing and fun; I never knew what they were going to do next.

One afternoon I had arranged to take them fishing and when I got there I was greeted with the sight of them on the back of Ken's boat, arms raised aloft and swaying from side to side. It transpired that they had been drinking White Lightning cider most of the morning!

Whilst on the topic of White Lightning, let us not forget Reg's wheeze in which we all co-operated to give Ken's boat a 'makeover and name change to 'White Lightning' – it looked impressive (I'm sure Nick Knowles would have been impressed!!).

Reg as we all know was all over the harbour when he was not fishing, helping lift boats and chatting to everyone. Never slow to help if he was needed and of course spending time looking after his beloved Chymel that he and Jo spent so much time on.

When we were fishing Reg was brilliant. After I upgraded his fishing kit he caught as many fish as everyone else and often more than most and still found time to make the tea. Another of his jobs on board Seawolf was to pull in the anchor rope, that is until I found out how old he was. He was always just one of the boys!

One annual event that Team Seawolf thoroughly enjoyed was the Ilfracombe fishing festival; 10 days of solid fishing. The competition between Reg and Ken was something to behold especially as prizes and monies were involved – but as always it was good natured 'joshing'. We as a boat always did well in this competition.

I remember so well those nights in the clubhouse that were such fun, seeing how much damage we could do to a bottle of Glenmorangie and laying plans for the next day's fishing.



In remembering Reg let us not forget Jo, his rock, who I know must miss him dearly. She used come fishing with us occasionally and always caught more than Reg, which was good for a bit of banter, but whether Jo was fishing with us or not she always made sure that we all left with a packed lunch. Jo did her best to keep Reg on the straight and narrow, but I fear that I assisted by Ken and on occasions Mike Watkins sometimes led him astray.

Reg as we know in recent years had not had the best of health which curtailed his boating activities and visits to Watermouth. I used to visit him regularly at home in Taunton and the first topic after the usual pleasantries was to update both he and Jo about what was going on in the harbour.

We will all have our endearing and enduring memories of Reg which will last through time. I do not think we will ever see a character like Reg again and I regard myself as fortunate to have known him and above all to be able to have called him 'my friend'.

Alan Field

Brillig Update March 2017

Hello Ilfracombe people, Hope you are well and happy.

We have news; Auntie Val and June's memorial stone arrived Marlborough cemetery in January. Now 2 sisters are re-united with their parents peacefully. We made Auntie Val's wish again.

Andrew has got a studio! It's on the lower level of our friends' house in Alcoutim, by the end of April. Nice natural light and space, he is happy, painting. Tony and Clare also offered me to bring my piano there, so I can play and leave it.



In a month time, Andrew returns to Rosemary for 2 weeks. Tidy up the house and visit solicitor. I am afraid that he won't visit all of you but you may see him in during his stay - from 5th to 19th April. I will be on my own, very exciting!

The weather here is very nice, hot, sunny and dry, many wild flowers are opening. We go up the river to have BBQ on this Sunday with friends.

We are now getting ready to move west and near Cabo Sao Vicente. When the Azores high is established shape a course for the Azores, just under 1000 miles if the wind serves. The plan is to visit the small ports through the islands and return to mainland Portugal at the end of the summer with lots of materiel for our next Exhibition.

Rika Shortland