



Watermouth Yacht Club

Berrynarbor, Ilfracombe, North Devon, EX34 9SJ

51° 13' N 004° 05' W



AHOY

Newsletter April 2018

Commodore's Column

Well, a new season is about to start and there are a few changes to report.

At the AGM on Sat 31st March it was proposed that I become Commodore as Simon is unable to continue in that role. Not sure what I did in a previous life to deserve such an honour, (or maybe it's a case of 'your sins will find you out'), so here is the current line-up of WYC Officers and Committee Members (and their boats) if it helps you to recognise us :-

		Boat Name	Boat Type
Commodore	Geof Pierce	<i>Chaser</i>	Hunter 273
Vice Commodore	Del West-King	<i>Bembridge Rover</i>	Colvic 29
Rear Commodore	Mike Corner	<i>Jeldi Jeldi</i>	Westerly Merlin
WYC Committee	Moira Alsford	Secretary (& everything else)	Moody 27
	Steve Barron	Treasurer	Chablis
	Carol Gell	Membership Secretary	Colvic 26
	Rob & Laura Lake		Allsort
	Graham Farmer		Westerly Konsort
	Robert Johnston		Hellvalian
	Simon Kemp		IP24
	Rachel Pierce		<i>Lisa Jane</i>
		<i>Wisper</i>	Snapdragon 670
			Tyrell Young 29

I find it encouraging that four members have come forward to join the Committee since 2017, (usually it takes a press gang !), so hopefully we can find ways to offer more interest to club members.

I think 20+ members attended the AGM so here is a brief overview for those unable to attend; please note the Treasurer's report which briefly explains the situation re WYC and HMRC as this may have a financial impact on WYC.

There was a debate about what do members want from WYC. The Sunday Lunches & BBQ's are well attended but otherwise, very few members call in on Saturday evenings when the club (and bar) is open. Attendance for the Quiz Night and Pool Competition is disappointing and we seem to have fewer members getting afloat these days. Hopefully we can find some activities to improve this situation and if anyone has any ideas, please, please share them with any committee member. It is a shame that we have such a good Clubhouse and facilities which are used so infrequently

WYC receives quite a lot of correspondence from the RYA about events etc which we don't distribute to members, so maybe it's worth noting these links to the RYA website and Facebook where you can see what goes on:-

<http://www.rya.org.uk/Pages/Home.aspx>

<https://www.facebook.com/RoyalYachtingAssociation>

Membership

Welcome to David Richards who has recently bought "Camelia" a Mirage 28ft. There will be quite a few of you who will remember Camelia, it is good to hear she is returning to Watermouth. I believe David and his wife are intending to work on her over the summer, David will be known to the fishing members of our club.

Looking forward to a good sailing season.

Carol Gell

Treasurers Report

Financial activity for 2018 is now underway with our large early-year bills, namely insurance and moorings, settled. This year also saw the first of the large maintenance bills I have been anticipating and the sum of £938.53 for replacement facias etc has now been paid. I expect further expenditure for cladding works and tree surgery but cannot say with certainty what those figures will be. I will of course make all figures known when at hand.

The balance sheet is very fluid at this time of the year but as a snapshot, headline figures at the time of writing are as follows:

Cash brought forward	£19,796.32
Income	
Bar	£ 27.58 (restocking is still taking place)
Subscriptions	£ 2,590.00
Social	£ 250.65
Expenditure	
Insurance	£ 1,027.68
Maintenance	£ 938.53
Moorings	£ 690.00
Sailing and RYA subs	£ 150.00

For those who were unable to attend the Annual General Meeting this year, I would explain that from September 2017, Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs (HMRC) have taken an interest in our affairs with regard to Corporation Tax. In the course of my written and verbal exchanges with HMRC, it is clear that the club's previous enrolment into the Community Amateur Sports Club scheme, and later deregistration following significant rule changes, placed the club firmly in the sights of HMRC.

However, since the club is what is known as an 'Unincorporated Association' and operated on the basis of mutuality, a dormancy concession was asked for to eliminate the need for annual nil returns. HMRC's response to this request was to demand a copy of our 2015 account and a copy of our constitution. At this point the whole issue became less than clear insofar as our dissolution clause is concerned. HMRC Business Income Manuals (freely available online for those interested) point to the fact that our original dissolution clause, giving all remaining assets to the RNLI, fails the mutuality test and thus the assertion is that the club must be trading on a commercial rather than a mutual basis. This of course is far from our reality and places numerous other clubs, not only sailing related, with similar clauses in the same ambiguous situation to befall us.

The original constitution was based on a RYA template that, according to recent verbal advice from their financial director, was intended via the dissolution clause (giving all remaining assets to the RNLI) to thwart the possibility of opportunists seeking to dissolve the club for personal gain. However, that advice contradicts the online advice from the RYA which concludes that the requirement of HMRC, that all remaining assets be divided equally among qualifying members at dissolution, is in fact correct. With this latter point in mind, it was therefore considered expedient to amend the constitution to allow for distribution among qualifying

members at dissolution. The likelihood that the club could be vulnerable to 'carpetbaggers' is remote since the only assets available upon dissolution would be cash, stock and removable items, the building passing to the harbour owner(s) either upon dissolution or at the end of our lease. The constitution was so amended by authority of the members present at the Annual General Meeting.

In the meantime, the club has received further HMRC demands for returns for 2016 and 2017. Those returns have been provided but as yet, and in keeping with HMRC's tardiness and appalling customer service, I have not been appraised of any further action.

Perhaps all I can say to conclude is, I am sure there will be more so please watch this space!

Steve Barron

Social Events

Sunday Carveries at the Club house - 12.45 p.m. -ish, two courses of genuinely home cooked food

Sunday 29th April

Sunday 13th May

Numbers are limited so please book to avoid disappointment

email watermouthyachtclub@gmail.com or call Moira 01271 865001 (answer phone) / 07870 229886

More events, BBQ's etc to be scheduled

Moira

News Flash

Magnums are back in the freezer, £1 each, money in the tin please

Club Maintenance

We have a quote for cladding the harbour facing wall of the clubhouse but are still waiting on a quote for cladding the rest of the outside of the Clubhouse; we really have to do something as the rendering is starting to deteriorate and look very unsightly - whilst it won't be the cheapest option, it will be a massive visual improvement and minimise ongoing maintenance.

Two of the trees behind the clubhouse are in urgent need of pollarding as a branch came down in one of recent gales and narrowly missed a telephone cable, (which could have been costly to us), and one tree may have to be taken down completely as it could be rotten and unsafe, tree surgeon will advise. We have accepted quotes for both scenarios and are waiting for work to commence.

Geof Pierce

Harbour Happenings



Coming soon to '**Storm in a Teacup**' is a loyalty card to all boat owners at the harbour. 'The Harbour Card' will allow you to have 10% off your food or drink order. The cards are being printed at the moment and should be here soon, please pop in to the Boat Cafe for more details. Look forward to seeing you all!

Laura

Caption Competition No 14

Mike Jarvis *Now I know why the heads wouldn't empty*
Simon Kemp *This seems to be an expensive way to grow your own Laver*
John Culley *You know that cheap antifoul Keith had*
Sylvia Tabor *A bearded mariner*
Richard Hildred *I know a really good anti-foul supplier - they are ever so cheap*
Philip Langford *OMG I need a good shave*

And the winner is Mike Jarvis - chosen this time by Rachel



Help !

After 5 years and some 20 WYC Newsletters, I'm finding it harder these days to find enough of interest for the Ahoy; you will notice it's down to 5 sides this time. It is a Members newsletter so it would be really helpful if members could contribute in any way, or have any ideas or suggestions as to what to put in the Ahoy. If you have any interesting pictures or stories you would like to share, please, please let me know.

Geof Pierce

Caption Competition No 15

I struggled to find anything relevant to Watermouth this time but then I remembered this old pic that is on the WYC, (defunct?), website.

I have been assured that it is a 'photo-shopped' picture and that no boats were harmed in the process.

Also, it isn't necessarily Keith driving the crane in case anyone were to include Keith in their caption.

