



Watermouth Yacht Club

Berrynarbor, Ilfracombe, North Devon, EX34 9SJ

51° 13' N 004° 05' W



AHOY

Newsletter June 2019

Commodore's Column

Hello Shipmates,

Well, here I am and very pleased to be in the Commodore's seat at the beginning of an exciting new season. It had a very good start and hopefully when the weather settles into summer mode we can start to enjoy our boats.

I would like to welcome our new members and relish their enthusiasm, and looking forward to any new ideas for WYC. The first BBQ of the year was well supported and very much enjoyed. Our thanks go to Mike & Kay for their wonderful presentation and excellent culinary skills enjoyed by all.

I have just left the harbour, boats being launched, Storm in a Teacup bustling and an air of delight by just being at Watermouth. I hope it is going to be a fantastic season, everybody achieving their aims, enjoying the outdoors and staying fit and healthy. Please don't forget however, if any mishaps are worth giving us all a chuckle pass the information on to Geof for inclusion into the next Ahoy edition.

Regards and happy sailing/boating/fishing to you all,

Robert Johnson, Commodore

New Members

Welcome to new members Mike Watkins with his boat "Moby" which is a Colvic Watson.
Chris and Jen Woolley with their boat "Giddy" which is a Sea Master 23.
Wayne Peters with his boat "Aries" which is a Sadler model S25 mk III,
Stephen Farmer with "Selina" which is a Colvic 26.
Ian Clemetson with his boat "Jessander" which is an Ultra Fisher model Dory.

We look forward to seeing you all in the club and around the harbour. Hopefully it will be a good season.

Carol Gell

Treasurer's Report

Flaming June, no not Leighton's masterpiece, is finally here with rain enough to spare. I'm sure we're all looking forward to July already!

Financial activity is following its familiar path with subscriptions still trickling in and income from the first social event helping our balance. A big thank you is extended to Mike and Kaye Corner for putting on this year's first bar-b-que which was extremely well attended. Thanks too, as always, to all who helped.

The committee has looked at bar prices and concluded that spirits and wine should increase slightly this year to keep pace with costs. It is in fact the first rise in any of our bar prices since 2015.

Headline figures at the time of writing are as follows:

Income

Subscriptions (inc mooring premium)	£ 3,696.00
Bar	£ 366.80
Social	£ 320.30
Showers	£ 162.80

Expenditure

Insurance	£ 1,032.68
Moorings	£ 690.00
Sailing and RYA subscriptions	£ 175.00
Utilities	£ 238.59
Maintenance	£ 300.80
Cleaning	£ 191.29

I look forward to seeing you all at the harbour and on the water soon.

Steve Barron

Social Events

We had a really good BBQ on June 8th thanks to Mike and Kaye Corner and the members who helped, so be sure to note the dates of the next BBQ's.

We would be really grateful if any members can assist with the upcoming BBQ's.

A pudding or two would be much appreciated too ☺

Sat 20th July at 1930

Sat 24th August at 1930



Club Maintenance

Rendering of the Club House will start on Monday July 22, which will greatly improve its appearance and significantly reduce ongoing maintenance.

This will not affect access to the Club during the process but please be aware that to facilitate the rendering, **the 4 x power sockets on the outside wall will be removed on the prior weekend.**

They will be replaced during week commencing 29th July. The 4 x power sockets in the boat park (gully) will still be available.

Geof Pierce

We all know Watermouth is a beautiful place and maybe take it for granted so this atmospheric photo, taken by Moira last year, is a timely reminder.



"To desire nothing beyond what you have is surely happiness. Aboard a boat, it is frequently possible to achieve just that. That is why sailing is a way of life, one of the finest of lives." **Carleton Mitchell**

The Angle Incident

This incident occurred about twenty five years ago, and is indelibly printed in my memory!

My sister Gill and my brother in law Alan decided to join me on my annual passage to The Milford Haven. We had a glorious sail from Watermouth to Dale in hazy sun and a force 4/5 easterly wind. We had hoped that the wind would drop later in the day but being sod's law, it didn't. So instead of having a large choice of places to anchor at the entrance to the Haven we were left with none in an easterly wind. There are a couple of bays right in the entrance on the east side but they are wide open to the south westerly swell which although was less on that day because of the wind direction, is ever present.

I decided we would anchor close under the cliffs on the east side of East Angle Bay. Having done so and cut the engine we were subjected to all of the noises of the adjacent fuel refinery. Alan said, 'I don't think we can stick this all-night Brian. Is there anywhere else?' I replied, 'Well we could try the west side of Angle Bay. It's not very wide so there shouldn't be a problem and it's very rural over there as you can see.'

'Good idea', said Gill. 'It will certainly be quieter than here.' So we lifted the hook and slowly motored over to the other side. There are a few rocks in the middle that are visible at low water so we had better keep inshore a bit as we don't want to clobber that lot,' I said. After a few minutes we had safely crossed the bay and hadn't quite reached the area where all the boats are moored opposite the pub when we came up to a couple of old boys in an anchored open boat. 'This would be a good spot Alan,' I said, 'but we'll have a word with those guys in that boat first.' As we closed with them I called out, 'Could you tell us what the bottoms like?' One old boy said, 'Well tis better now that we've put a coat of paint on it!' Well we looked at one another in total amazement and I remarked, 'Well there's just no answer to that is there?' So we drifted away a little and anchored.

All was well until high water approached and then we seemed to get a lot of swell from somewhere. Rouselle started to do her slow roll movement which was not unbearable but if we could find somewhere else it may be better. 'I'll tell you what, I said, there's a harbour at the end of this creek, the other side of those moorings. I have a large chart of that area. I'll dig it out.' There, on the west side of Angle bay there's a decent sized harbour. 'If we creep in through the entrance we may be able to moor to the wall out of this wind and swell.' And so as it was by then high water, we slowly motored through the moorings and into the harbour. Unfortunately the inside of the wall had crumbled away, so we couldn't moor against it. 'What's plan B brother?' Said Gill. 'Well, I said, there's a stream here. If we could find the bed we could anchor fore and aft, in it.' 'I'll get a Decca fix off this chart' said Alan. 'You'll be lucky, Decca's not that accurate and this chart is about a hundred years old,' I said. Alan replied, 'I see what you mean. Decca puts us in the middle of Freshwater Bay which is three quarters of a mile south of us.'

We hunted around trying to look as if we knew what we were doing, as there were three old boys on the adjacent church wall who were watching us intently. After five minutes or so prattling about with our tallow filled sounding weight, we came upon a spot that we thought was the centre of the stream. As we were totally in the lee of the wall and out of the wind we put the main anchor down and as Rouselle lined up facing South to North, we put the stern anchor down. We commented that this must be right as Rouselle is lying in the current of the stream. Out came the Gin and tonic as we celebrated our good fortune in finding a quiet spot for the night!

After we had consumed our supper we all moved out into the cockpit. Totally unconcerned I noticed that the old boys on the church wall, who had gone away, had now returned with a few more pals. About a quarter of an hour later, after another round of coffee and G and T, I noticed that the stern was on the bottom but the bows were still going down. We looked at one another in alarm as the bows went down and down, and down. Eventually when at an angle of thirty degrees the downward descent stopped. There was a big cheer from the church wall and a much waving of walking sticks!

As the tide left the harbour we saw our two anchors right in the middle of the stream bed. We had ignored basic seamanship, no doubt dulled by the gin, of seeing a boat down when you know you're going to dry out in a new area. Had we been alert we would have known that the depth of water at the stern was considerably less than the bows and that the boat had slewed round as the anchor chain had slackened. As it was we were now moored on the mud bank facing down into the stream.

We gathered every bulky item that we could find to put under the front end of our berths so that we could hopefully get some sleep. The fun came at 3.30am when Rouselle floated..... We all fell out of bed!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

Brian Jones

Old Watermouth

When Moira stood down as Secretary she passed on some folders with documented history and photos of 'old' Watermouth. I will include some of the photos in future Ahoys. I'm also thinking of reprinting and laminating the documents and returning them to the Clubhouse for all of us to enjoy - but it might take me a while !

