



# Watermouth Yacht Club

Berrynarbor, Ilfracombe, North Devon, EX34 9SJ

51° 13' N 004° 05' W



# AHOY

## *Newsletter September 2019*

### *Commodore's Column*

Well! What a fabulous season, not over yet ☺

The club house is looking ship shape and Bristol fashion with its revamped exterior together with craftsmanship from Simon, Steve and Geof and thanks go to them for their endeavours.

Many thanks also go to Les for the lovely floral displays which make the club house patio look cheery and delightful.

Three excellent, well attended BBQs have been thoroughly enjoyed by all, again all due to the efforts of members and friends, luckily accompanied by fabulous weather each time.

We were most honoured to welcome visitors from NDYC at the last BBQ which made for a very lively evening indeed. Thanks must be expressed here to all who managed the high attendance numbers, i.e. front of house, behind the scenes and those providing delicious salad and dessert contributions.

Carol and Richard Gell were greatly missed at the last event and sincere get-well wishes have been sent in the form of cards and flowers to Carol, hoping her excellent recovery continues and we see them both again very soon.

New club members have been welcomed and best wishes go out to everyone hoping the summer lasts throughout September so that we can enjoy the last of the season to its fullest.

***Robert Johnson***

### *Membership*

A warm welcome to new members Marcus & Tess Blackmore who have brought their Seawolf 26 yacht, 'Ambler' to Watermouth from Porlock Weir.

Christopher Harding who has bought Graham Farmer's Snapdragon 670, 'Lisa Jayne'.

J Pearman who is bringing his yacht 'Little Dizzy' to Watermouth from Watchet, sometime soon.

We look forward to seeing and meeting you at the harbour and at our club events.

***Carol Gell***

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

Much has happened since I last tapped out my update, not least of which is the completion of the first stage of our planned building maintenance works. I'm sure you will all agree that the clubhouse is looking better now than its former faded self. More works will follow after the summer season which should see the building fit to face the elements for years to come.

Costs so far incurred are reflected below and I am pleased to say that we are in a position to complete future works from current reserves.

Headline figures at the time of writing are as follows:

### **Income**

Subscriptions (inc mooring premium)	£ 4,128.00
Bar	£ 1,172.38
Social	£ 718.30*
Showers	£ 228.01

\* Does not include surplus from BBQ held on 24 August 2019 (this will be included when costs are reconciled)

### **Expenditure**

Insurance	£ 1,032.68
Moorings	£ 690.00
Sailing and RYA subscriptions	£ 175.00
Utilities	£ 399.12
Maintenance	£ 4,938.52
Cleaning	£ 191.29

The season is now drawing to a close but let's hope that September is kind to us all!

***Steve Barron***

## ***Social Events***

The last BBQ on Sat 24<sup>th</sup> August was the best attended yet with 70+ people, including 3 boats that came round from NDYC at Instow and stayed over for the weekend. We couldn't have had better weather as it was very warm right through the evening.

Many thanks to Robert & Carol for coping with almost twice the usual number, and of course, thanks to all who helped by providing food and/or helping with the event.

What is a 3 hour event actually takes about 1½ days in total to organise, prepare and clear up.

The guys from NDYC enjoyed it because we received the email below and it looks like they are keen for more interaction between our clubs.

*Hi Geof*

*We had a great time thanks and lots of discussion since we have been back about visiting you again. Richard Williams will be in contact regarding your members visiting us. It can be a sail over or by road and hopefully we can arrange something before the end of the season.*

*Barry*

*Secretary NDYC 01271 861390*

## ***Upcoming Events***

**Music Quiz 20:00 Saturday 28th September**

**Songs, Titles, Artists, Albums etc, 1960's to 80's**

**£2 per person to fund Prizes & Finger Food**

**Games Evening Saturday 12th October**

**19:30 for 20:00 start**

**'Killer' Pool and other games**

**£2 per person to fund Prizes & Finger Food**

**Laying up Supper 19:30 Saturday 26th October**

**This was a very, very enjoyable evening last year with excellent food and good company**

**2 Course meal followed by Cheese & Biscuits**

**£12.50 per person, max 40 people**

**Booking essential to [watermouthyachtclub@gmail.com](mailto:watermouthyachtclub@gmail.com)**

### ***New Boat Tribulations !***

Carole and I have enjoyed an extended (slightly unplanned but please read on!) tour of the south coast of Britain following the purchase of a 2004 Merry Fisher 850, newly named Betty Boo. We set off in good spirits from Chichester harbour to embark on a tour of some new and some previously visited ports around the south coast, taking in the Scillies weather permitting, then up along home to Watermouth.

First port of call was up to the marina on the Beaulieu River for a night, then around to Weymouth x two nights, Teignmouth x two nights (hidden gem but no facilities whatsoever apart from pontoon mooring), then Brixham where we were joined by my daughter, grandson Jack 6yrs and granddaughter Eva 3yrs staying in an apartment in Dartmouth – original plan was to meet them in Dartmouth but the wind had got up and the sea wasn't inviting, hence they joined us via ferry, bus and we then joined them the next day. Suzanne was allowed (she insisted!) to be captain of Betty Boo up the Dart to Ditisham and back, much enjoyed! Off they went back home and after enjoying Dartmouth we continued our trip around to Salcombe, very nice for two nights then planned to set off for Fowey. Oooops! steam, smoke, ouch!!!

We were just around the headland and problems enforced a tow back into Salcombe by an obliging fisherman, shadowed by a slightly larger vessel who worried that 'Chelsea Cat' was a little underpowered for the job but she wasn't and we were welcomed by the harbour crew and safely buoyed up. Engineers were called upon, inspections were made and 'hmmm, looks like head gasket to me' was the estimated verdict. Next day engine dismantled, heads and chins scratched and rusty pistons, not head gasket, were the culprits. After discussing the fors and againsts for repair/replace with John (SMS Marine Engineers) a new engine was ordered and future plans made. Betty was then towed to the boat yard, hoisted onto the hard where myself and Gary, a most obliging knowledgeable chappie with a great sense of humour worked to fit the new engine. Carole & I lived on her during this time and Carole covered most of the public footpaths whilst Gary and I toiled on engine fitting, around the Salcombe area – not such a bad place to be stranded and the weather was fabulous, thank goodness. After three weeks there we knew the daily habits of the local egrets and herons very well 😊

Our journey continued after thorough checks were made and assurances given, Fowey was lovely, as was Falmouth though the sea had become lumpy. Betty was well and the engine was smooth and all was sound. Sea settled and weather forecast good so off we set to Newlyn and enjoyed the new facilities there. Time to press on as the weather forecast wasn't looking too good so we set off for Padstow to fuel-up and then pressed onto Ilfracombe where she was lifted out and taken to Watermouth by lorry the next day as we were wanting to avoid any prop damage on drying out there. Her legs and a prop guard are now in place and she will live happily then at Watermouth.

We are busy with family visits throughout August so little trips will be the order of the day and as soon as it's just us two again we will make our plans for during September, and we have a virtually new boat now to enjoy.

**Robert Johnson**

### **Club Maintenance**



Anyone notice the rusted corners, rust streaks, cracks and flaking paint have disappeared ? The clubhouse has been professionally rendered with a very durable coating and now looks in excellent condition. Some have said we it would have been cheaper to do it ourselves but as no one volunteered, the Committee felt the best option was to have it done by a professional and believe it is money well spent, especially as it eliminates exterior maintenance for the next 15-20 years.

You are probably aware the keyfob reader at the back door stopped working. Thanks to Steve, a new reader was fitted within a couple of days but will not read your existing keyfob. If you haven't got your new keyfob yet, please get a new one from Keith when you are next at the harbour.

We have replaced the two electric supply boxes on the side of the club as the old ones were suffering from UV damage and were becoming unsafe. We will replace the two electric supply boxes in the boat park later this year.

### ***Help Required***

Most of us tick the box on the Membership and Renewal forms as being willing to assist with the running of the club.

Currently, there are three of us taking turns to run the Bar on Saturday evenings and we really do need another person so it doesn't become too onerous on the rest of us when one (or sometimes two) of us are on holiday or have other commitments.

Also, the Club needs help with cleaning; at present Dell is volunteering to Hoover, mop the floors, clean the showers and toilets once a week but it is unfair for this to fall on just one person.

Is anyone willing to share this with Dell ?

In the past the Club has paid a member for a few hours on a weekly basis and would be happy to reinstate this if someone is willing to take it on.

In either case, please contact me at [watermouthyachtclub@gmail.com](mailto:watermouthyachtclub@gmail.com) or call me on 01271 864100 or 07807 496210

Thank you

***Geof Pierce***