



Watermouth Yacht Club

Berrynarbor, Ilfracombe, North Devon, EX34 9SJ

51° 13' N 004° 05' W

AHOY



Newsletter November 2019

Commodore's Column

Here we go battening down the hatches for the end of a delightful season. We enjoyed good weather until the rains came in October and forgot to stop! What a fabulous season it was with strongly supported, well organised events together with new club members welcomed.

As I write this, the first snow has fallen on Dartmoor and Exmoor so it looks like winter is arriving early, however we will sail through Christmas, the New Year celebrations and before we know it the snowdrops, followed by daffodils will be appearing and we will be off to enjoy another great season.

Once again, may I offer a big thank you to all whose contributions have made our club such a great one. As this is the last Ahoy this year, I send seasonal greetings to everyone, albeit a little early. Take care and a very happy, healthy 2020.

Robert Johnson

Membership

Welcome to new members Matthew De Havilland who has bought Cleo a Macwester 27 she has been on the hard for a little while and it is good to see her having some TLC. Also welcome to Colin and Kaye Wright and family Red, Frankie and Freddie who have 'Take Two' a Fairline Mirage, we look forward to seeing you in the club and on the water.

I welcomed Jonathan Pearman in the last Ahoy but did not have the details of Little Dizzy she is a Dockrell 27 Wing Keel.

It has been an excellent year for new members twelve altogether (this is not counting partners and families).

A happy Christmas and prosperous New Year to one and all.

Carol Gell

Treasurer's Report

Christmas is nearly upon us and no, I don't know where this year went either!

With the exception of routine utility bills, club financial activity for the year is drawing to a close. The figures below will be subject to minor amendment before year end but offer a broad picture of the club's current financial position. Further works to the exterior of the building are planned but in all likelihood, those costs will feature in the 2020 account. I am pleased to say that we will be able to take this ongoing project in our stride.

Headline figures at the time of writing are as follows:

Income

Subscriptions (inc mooring premium)	£ 4,350.00
Bar	£ 1,451.50
Social (Inc laying-up dinner)	£ 1,383.49
Showers	£ 291.41

Expenditure

Insurance	£ 1,032.68
Moorings	£ 690.00
Sailing and RYA subscriptions	£ 175.00
Utilities	£ 613.19
Maintenance	£ 5,386.94
Cleaning	£ 191.29

Cash at bank (current account)	£10,410.59
Cash at bank (reserve account)	£10,000.00

Thank you for your support throughout the year and I wish all members and their families, a merry Christmas and an exciting new year....for all the right reasons that is!

Steve Barron

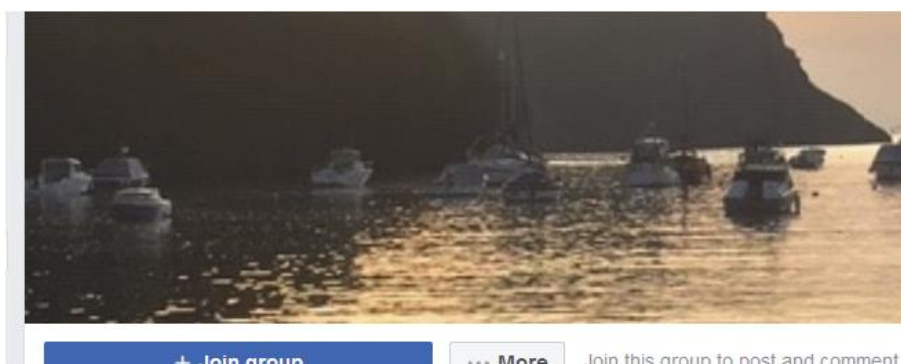
NEW WYC Facebook page

Our old WYC Facebook page has been discontinued because it was linked to Moira’s personal Facebook account. However, I am delighted to let you know we have a new Facebook presence thanks to Tania Hall who has set it up as an independent ‘Facebook ‘group’.

If you are already on Facebook you can find it by searching for **Watermouth Yacht Club** in the Facebook search box. If you are not on Facebook then this link will get you there

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/501883867035814/>

When you access the page for the first time, you have to click on the **+join group** button to become a member of the group.



This is very different to the old WYC Facebook page because it is interactive and **anyone who is a member of the group** is able to add their own posts and photos. Unsurprisingly, anything contentious or offensive will be removed.

We hope this will become a useful tool for all of us because, for example, when we post notices of WYC events you can click on the **'I'm interested button'** and we will get an idea of how many people are likely to attend.

Please feel free to post comments or pictures on WYC events or anything happening at the harbour, whatever you think would be of interest to WYC members. For example, you can use it to let members know if you have anything to sell or if there is something you want - it isn't restricted to boating stuff, so it's up to you.

You can also use it to let members know of other events that may be of interest and I'm sure there will be other uses, so please feel free.

Social Events

No more social events for this year but looking back we had 3 very good BBQ's, a Music Quiz and a Games Night. Thank you to all who came and a bigger thank you to those who put in the work to make them so enjoyable.

Laying up Dinner

The Laying up Dinner was the last of our social events for 2019, it was a great success and very much enjoyed by all. It was good to have so many members supporting the event and we now know for sure the maximum number the clubhouse can accommodate for a sit down meal as we couldn't have squeezed in another person, (41 if you are interested).

This dinner has proved to be more popular than the Dinner/Dance that we used to hold at Ilfracombe Golf Club when we would struggle to get the minimum number of 30 people and has the added benefit that it significantly helps the club's funds.



We all thank Laura, Carol and Del for their efforts in creating such a wonderful table for us to enjoy AND the many others who helped with the preparation, making desserts, organising the tables and chairs. Never mind the clearing up, washing up, hoovering, getting rid of all the empty bottles etc and getting the club house back to its normal state.

Our Guest Speaker was Georgina Carlo-Paat who is the new Harbour Master at Ilfracombe and a local girl having lived in Croyde for twenty years. Georgina gave us an account of her career at sea culminating in qualifying as a Master Mariner, the highest qualification it is possible to achieve in the merchant navy. Georgina has captained all sorts of vessels up to cruise liners. In fact she is qualified to take any size ship, anywhere in the world as Captain - but in spite of sailing ships in many exotic parts of the world, her happiest time was being the captain of a sand dredger on the south coast of England and she now has her dream job as Ilfracombe Harbour Master !!! It was certainly a demonstration that being female is no barrier to what can be achieved.

These behind the scenes pictures show everyone happy in their work and if I re-instate the caption competition, I will certainly use the pic of Del and yes, that is a very big knife she is holding!



Date for your Diary

Just a heads up that our AGM will be on Easter Saturday, April 11 2020. There will be an email reminder with the Agenda and Proposal forms nearer the date.

A different kind of sailing

I'm a bit short on material for this newsletter, (and a picture helps to fill up a page), so I'm going to indulge myself and make no apology for being a huge fan of Alex Thompson. If you haven't heard of him, he is probably the UK's top ocean sailor who has competed in all of the world's most challenging ocean races like the Vendee Globe single handed round the world race and the two handed Jaques Varbre transatlantic race. He has almost always been at the front of fleets but somehow had exceptionally bad luck and not won any of the events. In the 2016/17 Vendee Globe race he hit a submerged object and broke one of his foils so was only competitive on one tack, yet still finished 2nd. In this year's Jaques Varbre Transatlantic race he again managed to find an underwater object which damaged the keel so badly it had to be cut away and the yacht had to be sailed very, very cautiously to the nearest landfall in the Cape Verde island.

However Alex has been very successful in breaking records :-

2007 Monohull (up to 60') **24-hour distance record** with Andrew Cape: 501.3 nautical miles

2012: Monohull (up to 60') **Singlehanded Transatlantic sailing record**: 8 days 21 h 8 min 31 sec

2017: **Monohull singlehanded 24-hour distance record**: 536.8 nautical miles

2018: **Route du Rhum** IMOCA60 Class: 11 days 23 h 10 min 58 sec

The next Vendee Globe starts in 2020 in what are known as IMOCA 60 class yachts. These are at the forefront of yacht design and almost all have adopted 'foils' to lift the hull out of the water to reduce drag and reach speeds up to 40 knots. These 60' race boats are so far removed from what we know as yachts, it's almost as if they have come from another planet.

The picture below is the latest version Alex Thompson's 'Hugo Boss' on trials and doing 30+ knots.



If you want to see more about this new boat, click on these links, (or paste the link into your web browser), for a detailed look at the yacht

<https://www.alexthomsonracing.com/the-hub/>

If you haven't seen how these boats perform in the Southern Ocean, this clip shows his previous Hugo Boss and the French yacht Banque Populaire filmed from a French naval helicopter in conditions I doubt any of us would want to experience.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IPrU6VsLI8c>

And this one is a 'training' clip of his previous yacht in the Med, sailing at over 30 knots !

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Xa_EJMw2I18

Geof Pierce