



## Commodore's Comments

### ***WLYC is moving forward***

We're working on the future of our Club. The Executive Committee aims to deliver and enhance sailing and social benefits, to engage current members and welcome new members. We know we need to evolve by adopting innovations and providing funds for development. Over the last year the Committee has developed a *Forward Plan*, with input from Club members and is working on a series of initiatives. We'll be keeping you up to date with our progress through regular updates in the *Golden Lion*.

### ***Membership benefits***

Several of our initiatives relate to improving benefits for members. We want to ease access to sailing opportunities for novices, by making available more times for collaborative Club sailing, as Ian describes in his article, so that more of us can be confident to get out on the water.

To reduce barriers to newcomers, we have eliminated joining fees, in common with many sailing clubs. Training will be open to non-members at a higher cost, and the non-member differential will be reimbursable on joining. We will re-establish a regular Open Day to attract newcomers. We're looking to inspire younger members by supporting race training and running competitive Open events. Our calendar of social events will also evolve to meet the needs of all generations.

### ***Clubhouse***

We have invested substantial funds in refurbishing the Clubhouse in recent years. The focus in the last year was on modernisation of the bar area and renovating the front façade, and this work is still ongoing. The aim is to make our premises attractive both for Club members and to maximise external hire opportunities, which can generate significant revenue and help keep subscriptions as low as possible.

Increasing use of the Club by members and non-members, and an expanded calendar of sailing and social events, may allow us to extend the opening times for bar and galley, which currently depend on the hard work of our volunteers.

### ***Club organisation***

We're looking to adopt the Sailing Club Manager (SCM) system during this year to help administer membership, Club communications and the calendar of events, in a way which is readily accessible to members and non-members. SCM will also be a platform to improve the marketing of the sailing and social benefits of membership. We'll introduce a structured way to facilitate volunteering according to the interests and skills of members and establish succession planning processes to encourage the next generation in the running of the Club. The Committee will continue to review the legal structure of the Club to ensure it is fit for purpose and that financial and other risks for the Club and its members are controlled.

As time goes by, we will seek to increase cooperation with other lake users, including Southport Sailing Club and Waterside Lodge, and consider expanding our water-based sports offering if opportunities arise.

### ***Tell us about it***

The Committee is eager to hear from all members of the Club. Please get in touch with us if you have ideas and want to get involved in the future development of WLYC.

**Richard Westlake – Commodore**

The Club is looking for nominations to the position of

## WLYC TRUSTEE



### TRUSTEE ROLE

- LEASHOLDER ON BEHALF OF THE CLUB
- FIVE YEAR TERM

*Contact a Committee member for more information and to register your interest*

*Deadline for nominations: 31<sup>st</sup> May 2024*

### NOMINATIONS

WLYC is seeking 4 new Trustees to replace those who are now retiring. The position is open to all adult members with a commitment to the Club's ethos and its future development. Prospective Trustees would need to study the land lease with Sefton Council and understand its terms.

## Sailing at WLYC

Some members of the Club have not waited for better weather before starting this year's sailing activity. Alan Tickle, RC Fleet Captain, recently hosted a successful radio-controlled TT event for the Dragonforce and Dragonflite classes, on behalf of the Club, which is reported elsewhere in this edition. Social sailing has continued over the winter and some of our hardier sailors have been taking part in the Southport SC Snowflake series. Travelling further afield, we have our Junior members Poppy Bedwell (in an Optimist) and Henry Burton (in a Topper), doing winter training with their RYA Regional Training Squads.

### The sailing plans for this season are now in place.

- Building on the success of Lunchtime Launch on Wednesdays, we will be introducing more opportunities for skills development and social sailing. 'Let's Launch' will be on Monday evenings and Saturdays as well as Wednesdays. Contact Eleanor Mehew at [lunch.time.launch@wlyc.org.uk](mailto:lunch.time.launch@wlyc.org.uk) to join the WhatsApp group, and find out more. Some of the Club's more experienced sailors will be on hand to offer help and advice.
- The Club racing schedule will be similar to last year. There is, however, an additional trophy to encourage participation in the first Thursday evenings series. The 'A' Series Cup will be awarded to the helm of the winning dinghy of the class having the largest entry in the 'A' Series.
- Our Streaker fleet continues to grow under the expert guidance of Fleet Captain Steve Blackburn, so we'll continue with the current Fleet Starts for Thursday racing. Contact Steve if you want to find out more about the Streaker. For other single-handers, Richard Beswick-Calvert is the Handicap Fleet Captain, and if you are interested in a double-handed dinghy, Clive Porter and Steve Dawson can tell you the merits of the Enterprise and GP14.
- For those keen racers we will be running a joint GP14/Streaker Open Meeting on Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> May. We held a GP14 Open Event for juniors on behalf of Bolton Sailing Club recently, and trialed a Streaker event last year, mostly for our local sailors. This will be the first time we have organised this type of larger event for senior sailors in recent years. Please give the GP14/Streaker Open Meeting your support by participating, or supporting.
- WLYC is in the process of 'testing the water' to see if there is sufficient interest from competing Clubs in the revival of the 24 Hour Race. We'd love to hear from you if you are interested in competing, supporting, or just coming along on the day to watch the fun. We'll update you via the WLYC Bulletin before the end of February.

We have great facilities at the Club for sailing, with plenty of Club dinghies and powerboats. We'll be aiming to improve the dinghy park and launching facilities this season. If you have ideas on how we can help you get out on the water more easily, and more often, please let me know, and if you are willing to help put your ideas into practice, so much the better. Let's get our dinghy park ship shape for the open events we are planning.

**Ian Donaldson – Dinghy Captain & Rear Commodore**

## New Year's Eve



Coming into the Clubhouse on New Year's Eve felt like we could have been entering Neptune's Grotto. Droplets of lights sparkled everywhere, with rainbows of lights flowing over both the tables and floor. When the evening was under way we were invited to come to the most magnificent feast of a buffet, beautifully prepared, and presented on the Snooker table. Many thanks to Jo Henderson, Tim Harper, Cathie Reaser, Mike Gribble, Steve Blackburn for his DJ 'set up' and disco playlist, and others who contributed with the preparations.

What a wonderful welcome at the Club for the New Year of 2024.

## Offshore Captain's Logbook



When you receive your copy of the WLYC 2024 Handbook you will notice on the back cover an advert from Kraken Travel. The prominent key words are "Go Sailing and Support Our Club" This article is intended to explain the concept, and how it could benefit our Club and its members.

Recently Kraken Travel informed us that our Club is eligible for funding through their 'Seagrass Roots Project', which aims to support grassroots sailing clubs like ours. If anyone charts a yacht, or books a berth with Kraken Travel, they can nominate West Lancashire Yacht Club as a beneficiary at checkout. The WLYC (through our Honorary Treasurer) will then receive, direct from Kraken Travel, a 2% cashback on the trip's value on completion of the booked event. Your Committee's intention is to ringfence these cashback funds for the benefit of deserving cases within our Club, to aid individuals who may not otherwise have the opportunity to develop their sailing / racing skills, due to physical or financial barriers.

Kraken Travel have a massive selection of bareboat, flotilla, skippered and crewed yacht charters worldwide, as well as epic sailing adventure tours, mile builders, as well as crew spots for world-class regattas, and even more leisurely tall ship cruises.

You can find more information on what Kraken Travel have to offer at <https://kraken.travel>

For our own Offshore plans in 2024, we hope to put together several events / cruises:

- End April / May a cruise in the Balearic Islands, off Spain
- A cruise in the Solent for younger members of the Club, with the aim of giving them a taste of Offshore Sailing.
- Over the summer a cruise off the West Coast of Scotland, or within the Clyde Estuary.
- End of September / Early October a cruise in the Ionian / Adriatic Sea



**Rob Pickering - Offshore Captain** [offshore.captain@wlyc.org.uk](mailto:offshore.captain@wlyc.org.uk)



## RC Sailing

“Boats on the water please, Ladies and Gentlemen!”

We have had a great start to the Racing Calendar this year and it's not with big boats!

On Saturday 20th January we hosted the DF65 TT, when nearly 30 helms raced 7 races over the day, with 1 discard. As there were too many to start as one fleet, we used a Fleet system whereby we had 2 seeding races with 12 starts, each fleet raced about 17 minutes - a two lap circuit of the course.

Now a bit of background information about how the Radio Control Sailing fleets (RC) race. Having finished the first fleet race, the first 6 helms of the B fleet move up to the A fleet to race. So, if we have 30 boats racing the positions of 22 to 30 (B fleet) are fixed, and then 23 boats race in A fleet and have positions awarded. That will finish one race. Now we start B fleet, which includes the last 6 boats from A fleet. There is a chance those who were the fleet leaders could be racing all day. Luckily for them the OD needs a lunch! It's a big thanks to Tim Long, one of the stalwarts of the DF National TT racing circuit, who was our guest OD for the day. Congratulations to John Tushingham, from Keighley & District MYC, on winning the day with 6 points, and 6 firsts! The day's racing was sailed mostly in the dry, in very healthy winds of 15-20 mph all day, with gusts topping 35 mph! With 4 suits of sails to choose from, most sailed with their smaller "C" or "D" rigs.



Now on Sunday we raced the DF 95's, and John Tushingham was our guest OD. John is not only the designer of these boats, but also a past World Champion, so we were in safe hands. We managed to fit in 8 races, with an early finish! As with dinghy racing, we had 2 discards. The day was much wetter, with the winds getting a lot stronger as the day progressed, topping 46mph! The DF 95 also has 4 rigs to choose from. The blustery wind wrought its attrition on the fleet. Some had broken kit and a few did not have "D" rigs. Because of this, at the start of race 5, we combined the fleets and had single race starts. All boats were on "D" rig - a rig very rarely used. John said that he believes this is the first national race in the world where all boats raced in "D" rigs. From a designer's point of view, he was pleased that almost all boats tacked the course, and did not do survival gybes. Yet again another world first for WLYC, the other time was when the Club held the first DF 95 race!

Congratulations to John Brierley from Birkenhead RS&PC, who won the day's racing with 11 points, including 3 firsts. This was after yesterday, when he came second in the DF 65s, with 6 second places. Directing our Scoring Team was Judith Baldwin, from Redesmere SC, supported by her husband Peter. All dinghy sailors would feel at home racing RC boats, as nearly all the rules are the same!

From within the Club there are lots of people to thank, without whom the weekend would not have been possible, whether they were helping on the day, or helping in the background. Neil Croston with the motor homes. Galley - Kate and Jamie Grace, Cathie Reaser, Jayne Tickle, Lin Caton and Oliver Lea. Oliver also assisted Greg Walker on the water, along with Graham Heap. On the land - Scoring - Bryan Marshall. Observing - Bear Trotter, Michael Harrison and Judith Hawkins, who also helped with Reception. Ian Hughes for opening the Bar, and to the Commodore for presenting the prizes on both days.

A few more helpers from the home team would always be good next year please, so I will be on the lookout as the year progresses.

We have a few members who have both DF65 & 95's who would have liked to represent WLYC racing, but had to work on the land side. Thanks go to Clive Porter, who represented the Club on the water on both days.

Our visitors love sailing at WLYC and consider it one of the best, if not **the** best waters they sail on in the UK. We have provisionally booked an RC weekend event at the Club for early 2025! Sailors came from as far away as Poole, Lincoln and Hampton Court.

If I have piqued your curiosity, RC sailing is on Tuesday afternoons, or in the evenings when the nights are longer, and on Sundays, if there is a demand.

You can contact me on [rc.sailing@wlyc.org.uk](mailto:rc.sailing@wlyc.org.uk) or my telephone number is in the Handbook.

**Alan Tickle - Radio Control Sailing Lead**

## Let's Launch (formerly 'Lunch Time Launch')

The Let's Launch Group meet on Wednesdays **throughout the year**, at 11 am, weather permitting. We welcome more sailors to join us. It's an opportunity to build your confidence on the water, with others around to help. Non-sailors are also welcome to join in our sociable gathering over a packed lunch. Contact Eleanor Mehew on [lunch.time.launch@wlyc.org.uk](mailto:lunch.time.launch@wlyc.org.uk) for details, or to join the LTL 'WhatsApp' group?

## Burns Night Supper and Ceilidh

A number of people have said how much they enjoyed the Burns Night. Some also mentioned they thought the meal was the best ever! Special thanks to Kate Grace, Cathie Reaser and Lin Caton for the lovely meal. Thanks also to the many other helpers who contributed to the evening. Many thanks go to the Speakers, Kit Robinson for the Toast to the Haggis, and Tribute to Robert Burns, with Andy and Anne Rushton giving the Toasts to the Lassies and Lads.



## What's On at the Club

**2024**

### February

Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> **Annual Club Dinner**  
Tuesdays RC Sailing from 13.00 – continues throughout the year  
Sundays RC Sailing from 10.00 - continues throughout the year  
Wednesdays Lunch Time Launch from 11.00 - continues throughout the year

### March

Saturdays 9<sup>th</sup> & 16<sup>th</sup> Instructor Refresher Days 09.00  
Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> **Round the World Supper and Quiz Night 19.00**  
Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> **Boats and Bits Sale 13.00**  
Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> **Fitting Out Race 14.00 and Supper 17.00**  
Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> SSC Easter Egg Cup  
**Easter Sunday BST Begins**

### April

Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> Class race A1 19.15 (Early start)  
Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> Let's Launch 11.00  
Junior Sailing 12.00  
Handicap Race April 1 + 2 15.00

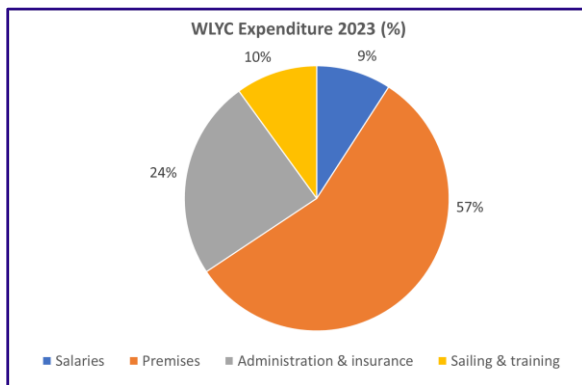
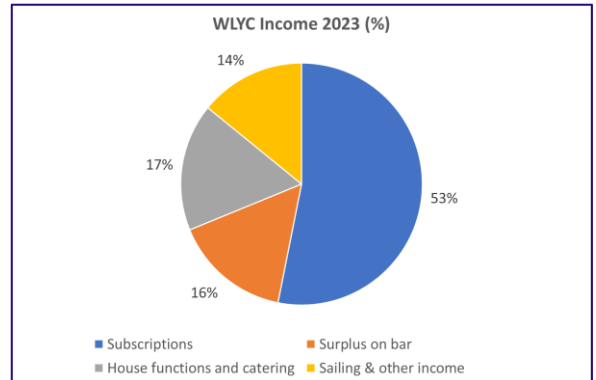
The Club Handbook for 2024 is out now.  
Each household is sent a copy.  
More copies are available at the Club.

**Welcome to the following  
who have joined the Club**  
David and Julie Hallgate

## Update on Club Finances

At the recent AGM we provided an update on the Club accounts. WLYC has come through the pandemic and its aftermath with solid finances, despite the very significant impact it had on our structure and activities. Now we need to make sure the Club's funds will support our future development. An important part of the *Forward Plan* is a set of initiatives which can contribute to strengthening the Club's finances. They include working to build membership, and generating revenue from increased Club hire, and the return of Open Events, such as the 24 Hour Race. In this article, we're providing a summary of the main areas of income and expenditure.

Most of our income currently comes from membership subscriptions. Income from functions, catering and the bar accounts for another third, and we generate sailing income, including training and events, which also contribute to the bar surplus. During the pandemic we received government support, but had to streamline our activities, reducing Open Events and sailing income, though events like the RC TT contributed positively. We are planning to increase income through events and Club hire.



Most of our costs relate to the operation and maintenance of the Club premises, administration, insurance and depreciation, with a smaller percentage for sailing and training, while salary costs have been reduced. In the last year higher inflation has impacted operating costs and refurbishment spending has been increased.

Our Club premises are a valuable and under-utilised asset – Club events for members to enjoy, and increased venue hire, as well as Open Events, are

essential, to fund operation and maintenance of the facilities.

Participation by Club members in Club events, voluntary activities, and duty rosters with fellow members, is both enjoyable and essential to the Club's success. By maximising use of the premises and minimising payroll costs, the Club can contain subscription costs, and offer the sailing and social benefits which ensure Club membership remains highly attractive, for current and prospective members.

Please let the Committee know if you want to know more about Club finances. Further details of the accounts are provided in the AGM papers, and are available on request.

**Gill Pinch - Hon Treasurer**

**Richard Westlake - Commodore**

**Boats & Bits Sale**  
**Sat 23<sup>rd</sup> March 14:00**

Is your garage full of unused sailing equipment?  
 Have you got sailing clothing in good condition that you have no further use for, or have grown out of?  
 Then our Boats & Bits Sale is the perfect opportunity to declutter!  
 \*\*Further details will be issued shortly in a Club Flyer & posted on the WLYC Members Facebook page\*\*