

Commodore's Comments



Thank you Colin!

We start this special edition of the Golden Lion by recognising the great contribution made by our Boatman Colin Appleton, who has been made an honorary member of the Club.

Keeping you informed

Communication with Club members is an important task for the Committee. There's more news in this edition on the initiatives which form part of the

Forward Plan for the Club. We're highlighting the membership drive and the Club Open Day on 27th May. Ian Hughes describes how we are seeking to generate additional revenue through Club hire. He also presents this year's Training Programme. Ian Donaldson provides a progress report on maintenance and investment in the premises. And we've provided an update on this year's Open Sailing Events, including the 24 Hour Race in September, and the GP14 and Streaker Open on 5th May. Please let us know if you wish to participate in any of these activities.

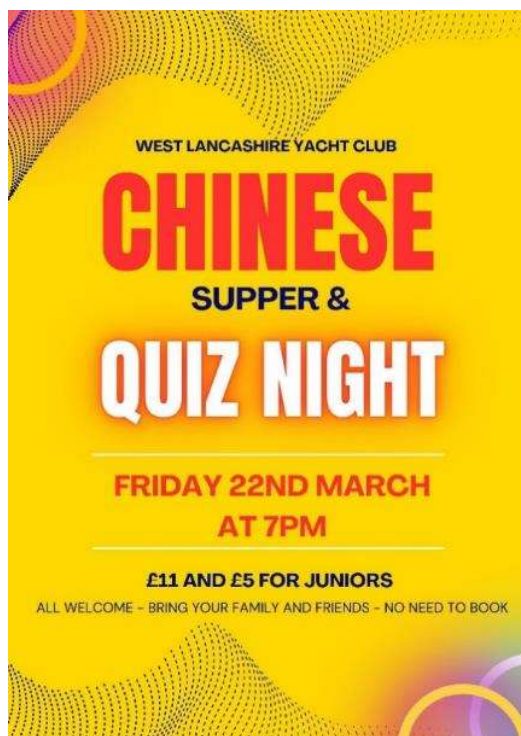
Trustee nominations

We continue to seek nominations by 31st May for the four positions of Trustee to replace those who are standing down. We own our Clubhouse and lease the land from Sefton Council, the Trustees being signatories to the lease on behalf of the Club. This valuable service by Trustees to fellow Club members allows us to retain the Club's current unincorporated status. To provide assurances to prospective Trustees, the Club will ask future Trustees to serve a limited five year term with the option to stand down with 12 months' notice. Please let a member of the Committee know if you want to know more.

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



WEST LANCASHIRE YACHT CLUB
CHINESE
SUPPER &
QUIZ NIGHT
FRIDAY 22ND MARCH
AT 7PM
£11 AND £5 FOR JUNIORS
ALL WELCOME - BRING YOUR FAMILY AND FRIENDS - NO NEED TO BOOK



BOATS & BITS

SALE

WANTED: Unused sailing equipment and clothing, in good condition

- SELL with 20% commission to the Club or
- DONATE for the benefit of the Club
- BUY those sailing essentials at a bargain price!

Drop your items for sale at the Club on:
Wednesday 20th March – 12:30 to 13:30
Thursday 21st March – 20:00 to 21:00
Saturday 23rd March – 13:00 to 13:30

SATURDAY 23RD MARCH 14:00

The bar and galley will be open for drinks & snacks.

Items will be labelled with your name and contact details. Large or high value items will be returned.

Please contact **Anne Rushton** for further information: 07715 056620

Colin Appleton, Club Boatman, Retires



Next time you're down at the Club, take a look at the control tower. You probably know it was constructed in 1967 to Vic Basil's award-winning design but you may not be aware that the commemorative plaque on the tower was made by Colin Appleton. Colin's fabrication expertise was honed over many years working for Sheet Metal Services in Litherland, and these skills were put to good use during his time as Club Boatman. There seemed to be no limit to what Colin could fix and we are grateful to Colin for the many hours he spent tinkering with boats and engines to keep them in good order.

His skill on the water is equally legendary. Gill Pinch recalls a daring rescue in the surf off Ainsdale Beach. Whilst racing on the tide, the wind got up and the Enterprise she was crewing with her husband capsized, the mast driving into the sand and snapping. Gill and Graham were trapped under the mainsail for a few terrifying moments before Colin's reassuring voice was heard above the storm. Taking charge, Colin helped 'right' the boat and towed it to shore, before quickly putting back out to sea to rescue

several other boats in similar distress.

Colin's family is responsible for manufacturing the cannons which start the 24-Hour Race, scale replicas of those recovered from Henry VIII's flagship, the Mary Rose. Colin recalls accompanying his father on a VIP tour of the historic ship to present one of the guns to Margaret Rule, the archaeologist most associated with the project to raise the vessel from the Solent in 1982. Colin was given a behind-the-scenes tour and enjoyed the privilege of getting up close to the wreck and he recalls being allowed to draw one of the longbows on display – much to the envy of less distinguished on-lookers.

The armaments were also the cause of a hospital visit when the gunpowder he was loading into a cannon flashed, causing burns to his face. Fortunately, his father and brother were on hand and no serious injury resulted. On another occasion, challenged to see how far a projectile would travel whilst testing the firing mechanism outside the Clubhouse, Colin was delighted when a squash ball disappeared over the Lakeside Inn.

After many years of service, Colin has decided the time has come to retire from his duties as Club Boatman. The Committee is delighted to make Colin an Honorary Member of the Club, and we hope he will remain a familiar sight around the Club now that he will have more time to devote to sailing his RC laser.



WLYC Cruise – Corfu
May / June 2024
Want to try Cruising
around the Ionian & Corfu?
Interested? Email Rob Pickering
offshore.captain@wlyc.org.uk



Welcome to the following
who have joined the Club
this year:

Edd and Ayo Barley
Diane Chapman
James Taylor

Premises

Last year a small, but enthusiastic, team worked on the backlog of external maintenance required on our Clubhouse and boathouses. Excellent progress was made, and I hope that you have noticed the improvements.

Before....



After....



However, there is still a long list of jobs that need doing.

We are looking for volunteers to join the team – the more the merrier! If you have experience in the building trade, or are a DIY enthusiast, that would be great, but there are plenty of jobs that just require a willing pair of hands. Please contact me if you would like to get involved.

Ian Donaldson - Rear Commodore Ian.donaldson2@hotmail.co.uk

** We are looking for a local roofing contractor with experience of flat roof repairs. Please let me know if there is a business you can recommend.

Training Update

You've probably heard that our former Training Principal has opted for a life on the ocean wave. Sub Lieutenant Mike Gribble has been so busy training RN Officer Cadets that he has reluctantly had to step aside from his role as WLYC Training Principal. Over the last few years Mike has spent more time at the Club than at home, and his boundless energy, enthusiasm and unrivalled wit have been a tremendous asset. Mike assures me he isn't actually going anywhere, and his help and support have been invaluable as he hands over the reins.



Mike is instructing RN Officer Cadets on a Level 2 Powerboat Handling Course in January.

First Aid



At the beginning of March, Rob Pickering took 12 students through the RYA's First Aid Course. Tailored to provide First Responder assistance to sailors, the course is invaluable in teaching CPR skills and providing first-hand experience of using the Club's Automated External Defibrillator (AED).

Assistant Instructor Course

In February, four of our Youth Members distinguished themselves on an Assistant Instructor Course. Braving the cold, they put their Instructors to shame with their sailing skills, as they began their RYA Dinghy Instructor careers. Congratulations to Henry, Jamie, Kristian, and Oliver, who will be helping with our Junior Training Programme, which begins on Saturday 6th April.



Powerboat Skills and Refresher Days



Thanks to all who came to our Instructor and Powerboat Helms Skills Refresher Days on 9th and 16th March. Our fleet of powerboats, including our brand new Pans Marine P430, were out on the water under the watchful eyes of our Chief Instructor Powerboats and Bosun, Greg Walker, and Powerboat Instructors Mike Gribble, Neil Mackenzie, and Tim Harper. Practising our skills is an important part of the continuing Professional Development of Instructors, Powerboat Helms and Safety Boat Crews, to uphold the RYA's high standards of training required to maintain our hard-earned status as a Recognised Training Centre.

Junior Training

This year we are again embracing the RYA's OnBoard scheme offering free taster sessions to entice young people aged 8 – 17 onto the water. If you have friends and family interested in trying sailing, please bring them down on Saturdays from 12.00 noon until 2.00pm. The concept is to encourage young people to discover the joys of sailing, and recruit our next generation of Members. Please come down to the Club on Saturdays, to support our Training Team and welcome prospective new members.

Ian Hughes - Training Principal

Clubhouse Hire

Have you thought about hiring the Clubhouse for your special occasion? As a valued Member of the Club, you benefit from special rates and priority booking. Over the past year the Club has been hired for birthday parties, wedding receptions, anniversaries, and funeral commemorations.

We have one of the finest views in Southport with free parking, a parquet wooden dance floor and a traditional bar. Our Clubhouse is a great asset, but lies empty for much of the time. Elsewhere in this edition of the Golden Lion you will see the importance of making best use of our facilities.



Hiring out the Clubhouse to non-members for external events is always a bit of a juggling act, as we look to maximise our income and keep our subscription rates as low as possible, whilst balancing the desires of all of us to get out on the water. After all, we are a sailing club!

In recent weeks we provided a safe, secure venue for a joint 18th birthday party, and we hosted a boxing tournament when Southport Stars made a welcome return to WLYC. Both events were very successful and brought in much-needed revenue.

We are delighted to welcome Southport Off-Key Choir who will be using our facilities for regular rehearsals on Wednesday evenings throughout the year. And Southport Sea Cadets continue their partnership with us on Tuesday evenings during the sailing season.

Over the last year or so, a hard-working team of volunteers led by our recent Past Commodore, Tim Harper, has modernised and redecorated the bar area, and we have invested in additional cleaning and maintenance. We have also engaged the services of a Professional Event Manager, Kerry O'Connell of Flair Events, to help provide much needed experience and support.



Upcoming Club Hire Events

On Wednesday 3rd April we welcome newlyweds Harriet and Sam; we host 90th birthday celebrations on Sunday 7th April, whilst on Friday 12th April we're the venue for a 21st Birthday Party. For more information about holding your own event please do get in touch.

Ian Hughes - Honorary Secretary

The Club is looking for nominations to the position of

WLYC TRUSTEE



TRUSTEE ROLE

- LEASEHOLDER ON BEHALF OF THE CLUB
- FIVE YEAR TERM

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

Deadline for nominations: 31st 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 will need to study the land lease with Sefton Council and understand its terms. Trustees may give twelve months notice that they wish to stand down.

Volunteer for the Galley

Many members enjoy volunteering for their Club and we particularly need your help to share the workload on Saturdays in the Galley. We're also hoping to expand the Galley service to Club nights on Thursdays, if the demand is there, so that sailors can get hot food before or after racing. Please let us know what food options you would like, and if you can take a turn in the Galley.

A duty rota will be posted on the Club notice board, to which members can add their names, or email the.commodore@wlyc.org.uk if you want to lend a hand.

Our Club members play a vital role volunteering to support catering for Club events, and we're looking to complement their work with catering partners for some of the Club's social activities, as well as for the external Club hire. We will make sure there is always scope for members to volunteer to run or support the catering for our Club social and sailing events, whether on our own, or in collaboration with external service providers.

Club Open Day - 27th May 2024

Reserve the date!

We're hosting an **Open Day on Bank Holiday Monday 27th May** and we hope you'll want to be there. The Club is launching a number of initiatives to build membership and share the sport we love with others. Hosting Open Days each year, in line with the RYA's 'Discover Sailing' initiative, is a significant way we can achieve this.

Please lend your support by volunteering to help on land or on the water. We need around ~20 volunteers on the day to make it a success. The things we need help with organising or staffing are:

- Preparing marketing and publicity materials
- Information Stand somewhere in town the weekend before, to draw a crowd
- Welcoming and receiving visitors on the day
- Help with on the water activities, sailing; powerboats; radio-controlled sailing
- Running one of the tables in the Clubhouse to showcase the benefits of membership, including, for example, sailing, racing, sail training, social events, radio-controlled, offshore, bird-watching; history of the Club.
- Running a BBQ and the Galley

Email the.commodore@wlyc.org.uk if you want to lend a hand. Pulling together we'll make this a successful and fun event for everyone. All members will be very welcome to come down on the day to introduce friends, chat with visitors, or just enjoy the Bank Holiday.

Ian Donaldson – Dinghy Captain & Rear Commodore



Compete in the WLYC 24 Hour Race for your Club!

Create some lifelong memories

The Club hopes to enter 2-3 boats in the race, including at least one GP14 and one Enterprise.

There will be 8-10 team members per boat.

Will you be there? Don't miss out!

Interested?

Contact Ian Donaldson, Dinghy Captain,
ideally by 31st March.

Practise team sailing for the WLYC 24 Hour Race

Compete in the
LLSC Sunrise to
Sunset Race
for your Club!



Southport Sailing Club

Compete in the
SSC Junior
12 Hour Race
for your Club!

WLYC 24 Hour Race

The 24 Hour Race is a very special, iconic event which sets the West Lancashire Yacht Club apart. We can be proud that competitive sailors are eager to return once more and support the UK's premier dinghy sailing endurance race. Along with our Streaker and GP14 Open event on Sunday 5th May, the 24 Hour Race will bring renewed excitement to our racing calendar.



Many of our own Club members know the event very well; others are new to it. As we prepare for the 53rd edition to take place on Saturday 21st and Sunday 22nd September, this interim update explains some of the working assumptions for this year's event and we'll issue further updates during the year.

We'll retain all the spirit and excitement of the traditional WLYC 24 Hour Race on the water, whilst streamlining some onshore facilities. In many cases we'll follow the tried and tested template of years past. What is going to change more significantly is that, in common with the spirit of the times, we'll adopt an innovative, collaborative model in running the event, sharing some of the organisational load and learning from the best practice of other sailing clubs and organisations.

The RYA have been extremely helpful in advising us on race management and generating publicity for the event at the RYA Dinghy Show in February. We're grateful to the GP14 Association who are managing online entry for teams sailing both Enterprises and GP14s, and the Enterprise Association have also supported the publicity.

We expect to run the event with a minimum of 40 and a maximum of 75 boats, with both GP14s and Enterprises. We're asking all clubs which enter a team to provide some trained resources, to help us make the event safe and enjoyable, though we anticipate WLYC members will play a lead role in each area in which the visiting clubs contribute resources to the duty rota, including powerboat, timekeeping (observing), scrutineering, reception, site management, first aid and race officials. Budworth Sailing Club have stepped up to help organise the duty rota together with the competing clubs. It's going to be teamwork and all the more fun because of it. Being able to count on this generous support, and the enthusiasm of the clubs who want to take part, has given us the confidence to proceed with the event.

We're working closely with Southport Sailing Club (SSC) on results reporting. Roger Smith of WLYC and Dave Baxter of SSC and their teams will run the hybrid Baxter-Smith scoring system for both the SSC 12 Hour and 24 Hour Races, so that we can keep learning and adjust the system based on the experience of each event.



We will need to provide some entertainment, catering (likely to be largely outsourced) and sanitation facilities, as well as the race management and essential safety infrastructure. Administration will be online to a great extent – our ambition is to be paperless – and this could include advance registration and race declarations taking place online - with details still to be worked out. If this proves to be possible, it will also help us to manage the workload on the day.

Accommodation will be limited for visiting sailors since Waterside Lodge will be unavailable for camping this year. There may be a small amount of shelter and camping space in the dinghy park, and beyond SSC's clubhouse. We will ask the council to provide extra parking spaces and encourage visiting teams to use camper vans. In order to maintain our own sailing season

through to the Monkhouse Cup. It's our hope to accommodate Club members who are regular sailors wishing to keep their boat in the dinghy park. We'll update Club members on the detailed plans nearer the time.

This team race provides club sailors a different level of challenge, fun and experience. It complements the other two great dinghy sailing endurance events hosted by the hardy sailors of the northwest of England. Leigh and Lowton Sailing Club (LLSC) are welcoming club teams to Pennington Flash in Greater Manchester, for the Sunrise to Sunset (S2S) Race on 8th June. It will be a chance for sailing clubs to practice ahead of the WLYC 24 Hour Race in September, and we hope WLYC will be able to enter a competitive boat for the LLSC S2S, as well as competing again in the National Junior 12 Hour Race, hosted by Southport Sailing Club (SSC) on 29th June.

All Club members are very welcome to participate in the event as competitors, supporters and/or spectators. This is a good time to express your interest if you have not already done so. If you wish to lend a hand before, during or after the 24 Hour Race, please contact the Commodore, Richard Westlake. If you wish to compete in the Streaker and GP14 Open event, the LLSC S2S Race, the SSC Junior 12 Hour Race and/or the WLYC 24 Hour Race, please inform the Dinghy Captain, Ian Donaldson.

Ian Donaldson – Dinghy Captain

| WLYC Calendar – Upcoming Events | | |
|--|---|---|
| 22 MARCH | 19.00 | <i>Chinese Supper & Quiz Night</i> |
| 23 MARCH | 14.00 | <i>Boats & Bits Sale</i> |
| 30 MARCH | 14.00 & 17.00 | <i>Fitting Out Race & Supper</i> |
| 31 MARCH | 10.30 | <i>SSC Easter Egg Cup</i> |
| 06-07 APRIL | All Day | <i>GP14 Championships at Staunton Harold SC</i> |
| 04 APRIL Thursday | 19.15 (Early start) | <i>Class race A1</i> |
| 06 APRIL Saturday | 11.00 12.00 - 1400 15.00 | <i>Let's Launch Junior Sailing Handicap Race April 1 + 2</i> |
| 27 APRIL | All Day | <i>Junior Travellers at Delph SC</i> |
| 05 MAY | All Day | <i>Streaker & GP 14 Open Event at WLYC</i> |
| 11 MAY | All Day | <i>Junior Travellers at Hollingworth SC</i> |
| 18 MAY | All Day | <i>Junior Travellers at Filey SC</i> |
| 18-19 MAY | All Day | <i>GP14 Championships at Bassenthwaite SC</i> |
| 26 MAY | 12.30 & 15.00 | <i>Town Cup Race & Afternoon Tea</i> |
| 27 MAY | All Day | <i>WLYC Open Day</i> |
| 08 JUNE | All Day | <i>Junior Travellers at Winsford Flash</i> |
| 08 JUNE | Daylight hours | <i>Sunrise to Sunset Race at Leigh & Lowton SC</i> |
| 29 JUNE | 08.00 – 20.00 | <i>SSC 12 Hour Race</i> |