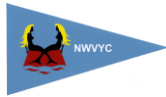


**North West Venturers  
Yacht Club  
Gallows Point, Beaumaris, Anglesey**

**A Profile of the Club**





## North West Venturers Yacht Club, Beaumaris.

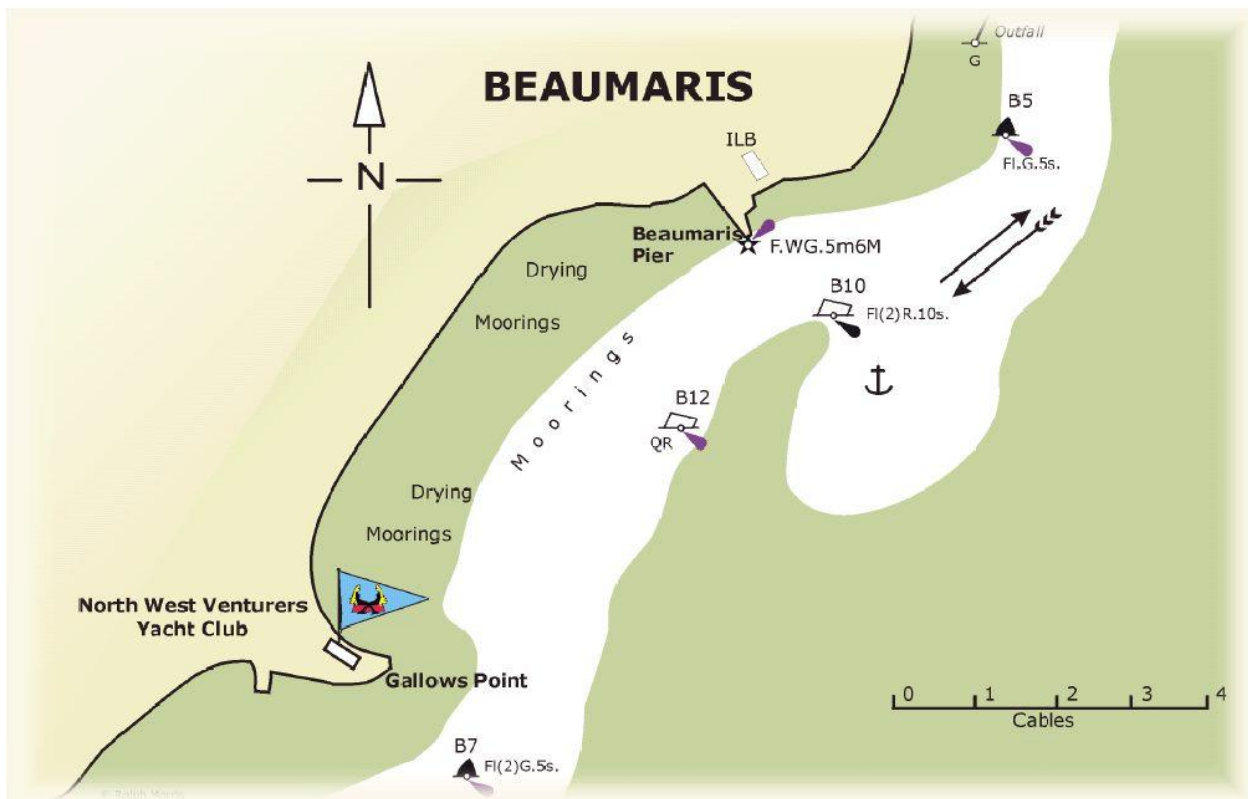
### Origins

The club was founded in 1961 by a small group of local yachtsmen who wished to improve their sailing skills through cruising in company while establishing a shore base to serve as a training facility for theoretical aspects of navigation.

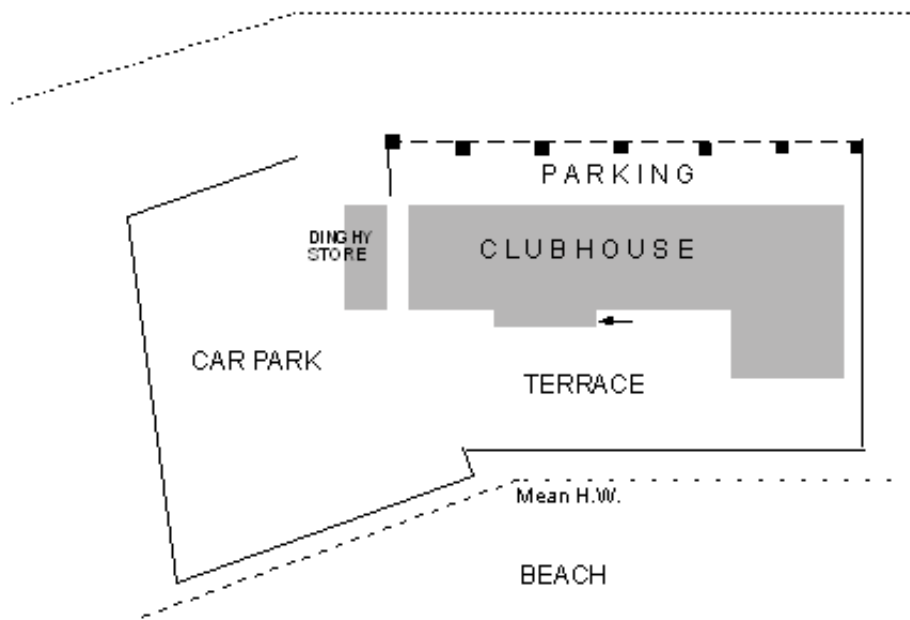
Meetings were initially held in cars at Gallows Point and in members' homes, while boats were kept on moorings mostly off the Gazelle Inn. A Council lease to build a clubhouse was obtained, followed by an agreement to manage 20 or so drying moorings for members in Beaumaris Bay. The club has since developed on the same principles, with the members' average boat length increasing from eighteen foot in 1961 to around twenty eight foot in 2005.

### Location

The club is situated adjacent to the north beach toward the south eastern end of Gallows Point.



The site is approximately 50 x 20 sq.metres, originally leased from Anglesey County Council and now handled through ABC PowerMarine, the leaseholders of the whole of Gallows Point. It provides for a single storey building comprising galley area, lounge, showers & toilets, a small store room and lobby area (total approx. 300 sq metres). There is a patio in front of the clubhouse facing Beaumaris Bay, and space for parking up to 25 cars at the side and to the rear of the clubhouse. Members' hard dinghies are stored on the shoreline above high water mark, while a temporary steel container houses inflatables and outboard motors.



The club owns the building, which is based on an original 1960's timber Wernick hut, to which a toilet/washroom block has been added to one end, and a lounge/meeting room to the other, both of similar construction. The whole building is generally in a good condition for its age, apart from the steel supporting frame of the washroom floor, which will require attention in the near future.

Although the building may be expected to remain in good order for a few more years, the club is aware of the need to replace it with a more permanent clubhouse in the longer term.

This should take into consideration:

- available funds.
- the changing needs of younger and future members.
- the reorganisation of the north side of Gallows Point.
- possible collaboration with other tenants (e.g. RAYC) of Gallows Point.

While the proposed marina, if built, may well provide additional membership, or a demand for membership from a different type of boat owner, we do not feel that this should influence our strategy for ensuring the club's future. Therefore, in proposing a replacement clubhouse, we would wish to remain on our existing site, possibly increasing the accommodation by means of an attic within a pitched roof, keeping it within the approved roof height. Architect's preliminary sketches have been drawn showing a possible layout. Priorities for the future would include increased car parking space and a larger secure storage area for inflatables and outboard motors.

## Membership

Membership of the club is open those interested in sail cruising, as our activities centre on cruising under sail, locally each weekend and further afield during holiday periods. There are different classes of membership: *Family* and *Single* – for individuals or partners with or without children, owning a boat with its mooring in the Menai Strait. *Outport* – for individuals who do not own a boat kept in the Menai Strait area. *Anchor* – for existing older members who no longer own a yacht but wish to remain in contact with the club. There are presently about 150 memberships, representing a similar number of boats and about 300 persons who use the clubhouse with varying frequency throughout the year.

We have been gaining a small number of new members annually for the last ten years. About 20% of members live on Anglesey, the remainder mostly in North Wales and Cheshire.





*Visiting yachts haul up for an overnight stay on the beach*

### **Clubhouse**

The present Clubhouse at Gallows Point, overlooking Beaumaris Bay, was opened in April 1962. It has since been extended and now provides galley, heads, lounge and meeting room facilities to cater for an expanding membership. Following receipt of a grant from the Foundation for Sport and the Arts in 1995 a further upgrade took place with an extended foyer and major renovations to the fabric of the building. In 2004 the Galley was refurbished, with the addition of a more relaxed lighting scheme for social occasions.

All members have 24 hour access to the clubhouse, enabling them to prepare food, and to wait for suitable tides and/or weather for going out to their moored boats. Since many of them regularly travel to Anglesey on Friday evening for a weekend's sailing, this is an essential facility.

There are no paid staff which enables us to keep club subscriptions to the relatively low rate of £90 for Family membership (2010).

We hold a number of social events throughout the year, some in conjunction with other local clubs.

Following the implementation of the licensing Act 2003, we have now obtained a Club Premises Certificate, which obviates the time consuming need to apply for occasional permissions. However, there is presently no wish to seek a permanent staffed bar, as it would detract from the valued 'family' atmosphere of the club. The winter social



events are well supported and provide continuity in the programme as well as a meeting point for members carrying out winter maintenance on their boats at the various yards in the area.

**Contribution to the local economy**

The club members own something over 130 boats from about 17’ to 40’ in length and the majority are kept in and around Anglesey when in commission and ashore at local boatyards (Gallows Point, Dinas, Dickies and Holyhead) in the winter. The average spend for a boat owner is probably in excess of £2000 on their boat, the majority spent locally and in addition members support local pubs, restaurants and shops, so club members probably contribute over £250,000pa to the local economy.

**Other facilities**

A ‘temporary’ dinghy store (steel container) enables members to store their inflatables and engines between visits, for an additional annual fee. This facility is well over-subscribed, and we hope to lease a larger shed from the Council when the redevelopment exercise at Gallows Point is completed. This would release valuable car parking space which the store presently occupies.

The club no longer administers a group of moorings in the bay. Members hold individual licences from Y.M. Council for drying moorings in the bay, or increasingly, for deep-water moorings as far away from the club as Menai Bridge and Port Dinorwic. Custom and Practice has been that ‘club’ moorings may be transferred within the club when they are relinquished, rather than being made available to the steadily growing public waiting list, and we are anxious that this situation should be formalised and improved upon, since moorings adjacent to the clubhouse are most important for reasons of safety as well as convenience. The more effective use of mooring space and its administration in Beaumaris Bay must remain an important issue for both ourselves and the Royal Anglesey Yacht Club in the immediate future.



## **Sailing**

The original premise; that cruising in company with others made for greater safety and provided moral support for the not so experienced, still holds good. Local cruises are organised on most weekends of the season, together with longer cruises on the Bank Holiday weekends and an annual long distance cruise for all those able to take their holidays to suit.

Although principally a cruising club, early rivalries and exaggerated claims about boat speeds led to a number of (almost) friendly races, Later, trophies were given by members as prizes, and the racing programme has developed into a number of handicap events, now organised into a series of races throughout the season.

## **Representation**

NWVYC is well represented on local and national maritime-related bodies. We are fortunate to be members of the Conference of Yacht Cruising Clubs. an invitation only group, consisting of 19 clubs (including the Royal Yacht Squadron). who produce significant local pilot books.

*'Cruising Anglesey and adjoining waters'* is edited by Ralph Morris (a club member) and was published by the club for many years before an advantageous publishing and distribution arrangement was reached with Imray's. It is the definitive small boat pilot for Anglesey and to date over 5000 copies have been sold worldwide. There are links with CCW through the North Wales Coastal Group, enabling us to monitor possible constraints on sailing activities around environmentally sensitive coastal areas, and we are contributing to the ongoing discussions on the developments of offshore windfarms. We are also represented on the Liverpool Bay Sailing Association, giving us access to trends and changes in racing practice.

With a increasing number of members now living in Beaumaris, we have developed a valuable relationship with the community and the Trade & tourism association.

There is a regular dialogue, and some programme participation with other local clubs – The Royal Anglesey Yacht Club, The Royal Welsh Yacht Club, North Wales Cruising Club, Traeth Coch Sailing Club. Further afield we have maintained a strong association with the Manchester Cruising Association.

## **Management**

A committee of management is elected annually at the A.G.M., as are the Flag officers for the coming year.

## **Training**

Shortly after its inception the club became the first to be approved by the RYA as a training establishment and regular winter navigation training courses were run until these became available at local colleges. Later, the role of the Training Officer was incorporated into the post of the Sailing Captain, and theoretical and practical training is now covered in subject-specific sessions, mainly during the winter. The club again became an RYA shorebased training establishment in 2008 and aims to run RYA shorebased courses each winter.





*Training: An RNLI flares safety demonstration*

We have an active relationship with Beaumaris Lifeboat station, the Lifeboat Operations Manager and two of the Deputies all being club members. There is an annual training exercise with the lifeboat crew enabling both club and crew members to develop the specific skills needed to deal with situations arising from yachting emergencies. In some years this has also included work with the SAR helicopters from 22 Squadron at RAF Valley.

### **Social**

Recognising that no Club can survive and thrive on its business function alone, there has always been a strong social content in the programme, with barbecues and similar events both at ports of call and at the Clubhouse. In keeping with the tradition of so many Clubs we also hold the slightly more formal event of an Annual Dinner and Dance at the Bulkeley Hotel, at which the club silverware is awarded for contributions to the social and cruising character of the Club, and to race winners.

### **Publications**

A club newsletter is posted to all members some eight times a year, giving information about programmed sailing and social events, developments in local sailing facilities, and promulgating information relating to other groups and bodies with which we are associated. The Club Yearbook is published in March, listing all members and their boats, as well as the programme of events for the coming year.

We also maintain a lively website ([www.nwvyc.org.uk](http://www.nwvyc.org.uk)) which attracts new members, provides guidance to sailors intending to cruise in this somewhat 'difficult' sailing area, and generally helps to promote us as a leading cruising organisation in the north-west

*This club profile is dedicated to Ian Rodger (1938-2006) who first prepared this document and served the club over many years.*

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Gallows Point Beaumaris, Anglesey LL58 8YL