



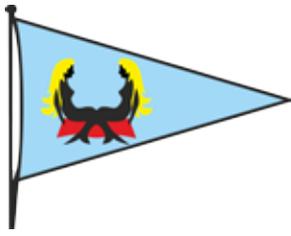
North West Venturers' Yacht Club

Club Profile



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North West Venturers' Yacht Club

Introduction

Some fifty years ago, on the 8th October 1961, the North West Venturers Yacht Club was formed by a small group of yachtsmen who believed that considerable cruising distances could be covered by small production yachts, provided that the boats were both adequately equipped and handled by crews who were reasonably well trained. The main objectives of the club were thus set and have remained unchanged over the past fifty years. They are, as originally stated in the first edition of the club newsletter "*The Venturer*" (January 1962) as: "**to encourage and develop cruising in small sailing boats and the principles of navigation and seamanship.**"

Today the yachts may be larger with better equipment and modern navigation aids enabling greater distances to be cruised, but the crews are just as vulnerable unless they are competent to handle and navigate their craft safely. This principle is as important today as it has always been. At the time of its formation the club consisted of some ten members and four boats. Since that time it has grown to 260 members with 140 listed yachts, and is still increasing.

Location

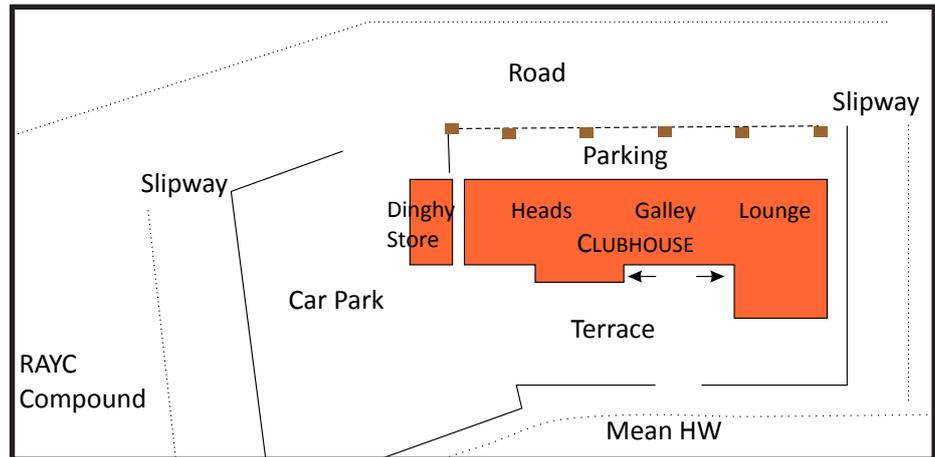


The club is situated on the north beach toward the south eastern end of Gallows Point, with views from the galley and lounge windows across Beaumaris Bay and the moorings. The site was leased from Beaumaris Town Council in 1964, then from Anglesey County Council as the management of the island changed. Most recently, in 2011, the Club's 50th anniversary, the lease for the whole of Gallows Point was transferred by the council to ABC Power Marine.

Clubhouse

The Club's site is approximately 50 x 20 sq.metres which is just big enough for a single storey building (total approx.. 300 sq metres). There is a patio in front of the clubhouse facing Beaumaris Bay, and space for parking at the side and to the rear of the clubhouse. Members' hard dinghies are stored on the shoreline above high water mark. A small external 'cupboard' creates an Oar Store.

The original Clubhouse was opened in 1964 and has been extended twice since that time. The full story of its development and the various efforts to gain grants, may be found in the Club's Anniversary book "Fifty Years of Cruising Success". There are plans to extend the Clubhouse further to enable larger events in the Clubhouse. This is dependent on lease and rent arrangements with the new landlords (ABC).



The existing Clubhouse comprises:

- Lounge, with seating for 80 people, a Chart Collection and a small bar which is stocked and opened for social events only.
- Galley, with a couple of cookers, microwave and all the paraphenalia needed to satisfy crew returning from a passage - or a social event for 100.
- Heads, with shower cubicles.
- Dinghy store - an elderly container fitted out to hold up to 30 folded inflatables.
- Assorted storage areas for oars, consumables and regalia.



Membership

Our membership rules stem directly from the Club's origins - sailing to (relatively) distant places and staying overnight. Consequently potential members should own a vessel which can handle the Anglesey winds and tides and can be slept aboard. How comfortable that might be is entirely the decision of the owner, but we anticipate vessels to have cooking and toilet facilities which can be used in a seaway, and a couple of berths. We have several 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 individual owners of boats kept beyond the Menai Strait area.
- *Anchor* – for members of ten years standing who no longer sail but wish to remain in contact with the club.

To accommodate people who are associated with the Club, but who may not have a yacht, there are various other special memberships awarded at the behest of the Management committee.

Presently (2012) the Club has some 170 memberships, and about 250 people who use the clubhouse with varying frequency throughout the year. Limited membership information is held on the Club's Access database, which eases the tasks of creating mailing labels, receiving subscriptions and maintaining Dinghy Store data. Members who resign can be identified and, if they wish to re-join the Club, Entrance fees are waived.

Events

Sailing

During the sailing season, the Club holds some form of event on most weekends. They are centred around overnight anchoring/berthing in one of Anglesey's bays/harbours/marinas, but extend to longer cruises over the Bank Holiday weekends, a two or three week Summer cruise and a few races. Boats in the fleet who wish to race are given a Portsmouth Yardstick rating, which encourages animated banter for weeks after a race has finished.

Unlike most yacht clubs, our races are not simply fixed start races around the cans. We have a few of these but there are also races to test navigational skills and passage planning using the tides to best effect. The *Trilogy Trophy*, for example allows yachts to start at any time during a time window and sail any course to the destination. The shortest (handicap) time wins.

Reflecting the fact that it is primarily a cruising club, there are trophies for the best Log, the best child's Log, the longest (distance) cruise around Ireland. Other cruising trophies include reaching St Kilda - and hitting rocks (The Rock Trophy)!



Social

Somewhere between 40 and 100 people show up at most Club social events. The galley is overworked with food brought in by members or from one of Beaumaris's many hostelrys. Sometimes there are party games, sometimes a presentation of a cruise and sometimes a talk by a well known speaker (such as John Goode, a founder of "Sailing Today"). Sometimes they simply provide a focus for members carrying out maintenance on their boat and in need of a break.

Annually the Club holds a Dinner Dance for members to desport in unfamiliar attire and for the trophies to be distributed. That's eight cruising trophies, two Club Service awards and eight trophies for races.

Communications/Publications

The Club has three primary mechanisms for helping members to keep in touch with each other and with the Management Committee.

The Venturer is the Club newsletter and was first published in 1961. It has changed shape, content and size over the years and is presently being published about six times a year in a format established by Ian Rodger. It is known throughout the UK and has been cited in magazines. Its production has moved from 'gestetner' machines in the secretary's lounge to a slick operation sending computer files to printers who copy, collate and post the newsletter to all members on the database.

Each year, the Club also publishes its Yearbook with guidance to members and basic contact information.

Since 2000 the Club has maintained a web site. Originally static it now provides a means of two way communication between members planning their cruises or sharing their experiences of a cruise. It provides essential links to the sort of tidal, chart and pilotage information needed to sail the somewhat difficult waters of the Irish Sea.

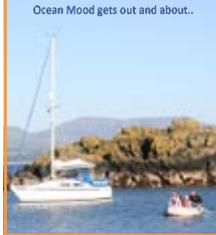
In 2011, when the Club reached its 50th anniversary, "**50 Years of Cruising Success**" was published to record a full version of its history. The book is available from the Bosun's Store.

Two Club members are writers of maritime books; "Fearsome Passages" and the "Irish Sea Pilot" were conceived by David Rainsbury, whilst Ralph Morris is responsible for "Cruising Anglesey & adjoining waters". The books are published by Imrays and as a result, through the Bosun's Store, the Club enjoys favourable terms for the purchase of any Imray or Admiralty publication.

Issue 137 July 2010

the Venturer

Newsletter of the North West Venturers Yacht Club
Gallows Point, Beaumaris, Anglesey LL58 5YL

Events	What's Inside?	
June 25th 1100 Cruise to Porth Wen with Ray Wilton on Caretta plus Trilogy Trophy Race for those who wish to race	 Club Cruise Write Ups	 The Racing gets Underway
July 3rd 1200 Cruise to Pen y Parc with Chris on Mistral plus Cocktail Competition - see Chris's article		
July 10th 1000 Cruise to Porth Eilean with Dave Clough James Berry Trophy Race	 Ocean Mood gets out and about...	Plus: Beaumaris Lifeboat News Member Adverts and Bosun's Corner
July 17th 1300 RNLI Day plus briefing by the lifeboat crew in the clubhouse on Friday evening (Paul on Meander)		
July 24th 0900 Club Regattas Menai Strait (with Malcolm / Glen) Host Traeth Coch Sailing Club, Catered Supper		
July 31st 1000 Two Week Summer Cruise - Cardigan Bay with Glen on Genesis. Meeting on Friday evening 30th All Times in UT		

Menai Vice

The 2010 Sailing Season has got off to a flying start, helped by the excellent weather we've had. All the Officers of the Day have done a great job, and we've seen lots of new members getting involved every week with the club. As far as I know, Ocean Mood has attended every club event this year, and the enthusiasm of new members is what the club is all about. Despite their best efforts, the Met Office have been unable to prevent Venturers getting out, even though they seem to include the numbers 2,3,4,5, and 6 in every one of their so-called "Predictions". Thank goodness there are other sources such as WindGuru and buoy data available online.

Glen Warburton's article continues inside

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Submissions for next issue by: 20 August 2010

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Training

Shortly after its inception the Club became the first club to be approved by the RYA as a training establishment and regular winter navigation training courses were run until the RYA changed its policy. As a result the role of the Training Officer was incorporated into the post of the Sailing Captain, and theoretical and practical training became "on-the-job". Recent policy changes by the RYA have re-instated Clubs as a primary provider of practical and theoretical training and the Club is once again a recognised RYA Shore based Training Centre.

We have an active relationship with Beaumaris Lifeboat station, and 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. When operational demands allow, this also includes work with the SAR helicopters from 22 Squadron at RAF Valley.



Representation & Links

The economic impact of the Club on the locality should not be underestimated. We have nearly 150 yachts berthed in and around the Menai Strait (plus the odd circumnavigator from time to time) and the average annual spend by a boat owner is somewhere in the region of £5000, a significant proportion being spent in the shops and restaurants of Beaumaris. All in all, this could amount to 3/4 million pounds. We are well known in the town and in addition to the close relationship with the RNLI mentioned earlier, many of local firms advertise with the Club. With a increasing number of members now living in Beaumaris, we have developed a valuable relationship with the community and the Trade & Tourism association. All Club members are encouraged to support local traders where-ever possible.

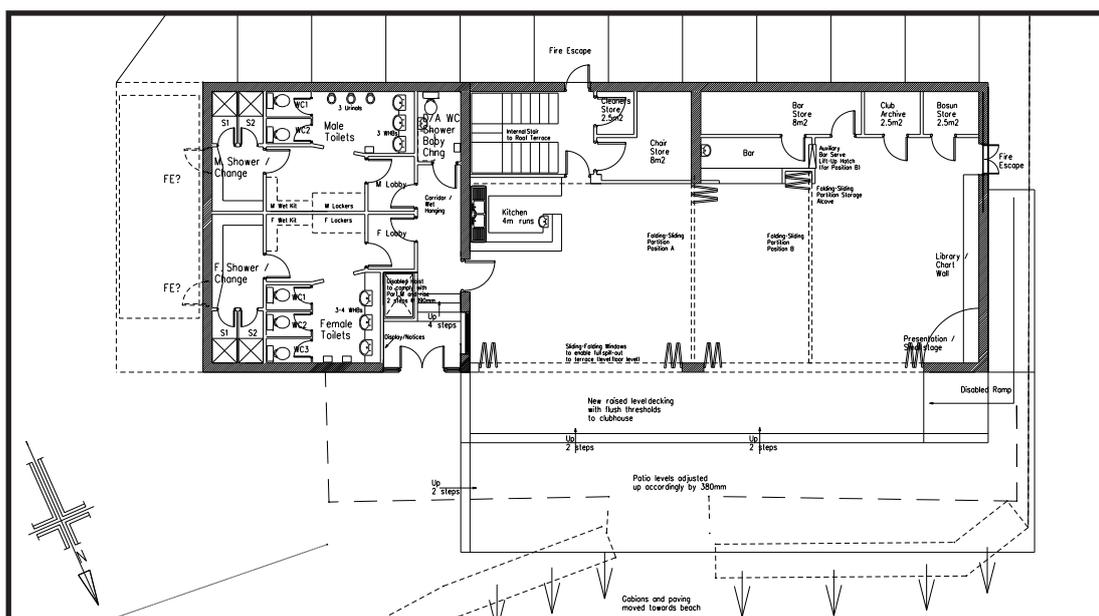
NWVYC is well represented on local and national maritime-related bodies. We are fortunate to be members of the Conference of Yacht Cruising Clubs, an invitation only group, consisting of 19 clubs (including the Royal Yacht Squadron) formed by clubs which published Sailing Directions. "Cruising Anglesey & adjoining waters", which used to be published by the club, earned our invitation in the 1980s.

We have links with Countryside Council for Wales, enabling us to monitor proposals for constraints on sailing activities and we are contributing to the ongoing discussions on the developments of offshore windfarms. We believe that our response to the consultation regarding the closure of Holyhead coastguard station significantly influenced the thinking of some of the key players involved in the process.

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 and Traeth Coch Sailing Club. Further afield we have maintained a strong association with the Manchester Cruising Association.

Longer term Objectives

In the fullness of time, the club intends to replace the clubhouse with a larger building to improve facilities for a growing membership and continue to provide facilities for other charitable, sporting and cultural activities. In order to achieve this, the club needs a long-term lease on the site to justify the investment and a new separate car parking area close by the existing plot. The club has no desire to relocate. The club has no current plans or desire for a permanent bar. The illustration below is just one of several alternatives currently on the drawing board for an improved Clubhouse.



This Club Profile is dedicated to Ian Rodger (1938 - 2006) who served the Club over many years and contributed extensively to the professional nature and presentation of its publications.

Document Control

Date	Version	Details
2003	1.0	Ian Rodger
2006	1.1	Modified and extended
July 2012	2.0	Re-designed and updated,