Issue 143 May 2011

the Venturer

Newsletter of the **North West Venturers Yacht Club**
Gallows Point, Beaumaris, Anglesey, LL71 8EJ

Events

What's Inside?

50th Anniversary Year

Sat 14th May	Cemaes Bay. OOD John Stanley Arabella
Sat 21st May	**50th Anniversary Celebrations.** Grand Parade of Sail followed by a Disco and buffet in the evening. Refreshments are available from clubhouse. Please ensure all bookings for Disco and/or Buffet are completed **by May 13th at the latest.** See event noticeboard on website www.nwvyc.org.uk for further details
Sun 22nd May	Trilogy Trophy. OOD Lee Downes, Helian
Sat 28th May	Isle of Man. Seamint Trophy & start of early Summer Cruise. OOD Des Founds, Stargazer
Sat 4th June	Abermenai and cocktail competition.
Sat 11th June	Moelfre, James Berry, RNLI Day
Sat 18th June	Llanddwyn, family weekend
Sat 25th June	Porth Wen
Sat 2nd July	Porth Dinllaen
Sat 9th July	Family Fun Day at clubhouse

Dressing Overall

Commodore's Comments

I'm writing this in the clubhouse having had our first sail of the season in Snowbird after launching from Dinas on Easter Sunday. Glorious sunshine to Abermanai where we spent the night along with Skye and Parmelia. All went well and my tidal calculations meant we could dry out for a comfortable night. However, during the night the wind went Northerly – I knew that it would but thought nothing of it!

By morning, Snowbird had swung and parked her transom overhanging the shingle beach. Checking the tide tables, I discovered that the afternoon's tide was about three quarters of a metre lower than the early morning's and I imagined that we would probably be neaped for at least four days!

By early afternoon, all the other boats, including Skye, had left leaving just Parmelia and Snowbird still firmly aground. Slowly, slowly the water came back but whilst

continued overleaf

The making of the tapestries

Parmelia started rocking to the waves Snowbird stayed firmly glued the bottom. After a slightly anxious further half hour, Snowbird started to sway slightly so engine 'on' and 'in gear', 'harden up' on the anchor chain, increase revs and imperceptibly at first, we edged forward and were finally away – one hour later than planned and requiring a fast motor to the Swellies to get through slowly against the ebb.

Why, you may ask, is that little tale of any interest to us? Well, the moral is "try and remember all the lessons hard earned in previous seasons and forgotten during the dark days of winter"! Take proper notice of forecasts and think harder about what you're up to until your sea-legs and sea-sense properly return!

Finally, an appeal – our next 'big event' is the GRAND PARADE OF SAIL coupled with the afternoon's on-shore 'fizz' and strawberry cupcakes fuelled viewing of the spectacle and the evening's marquee based catered buffet and disco. Please, please, please make sure to book your places for the afternoon and evening 'do's with Rear Commodore Christine and your boat's participation in the Grand Parade of Sail with Vice Commodore Glen. A lot of hard work is being put in, let alone expense, to make these events especially memorable in this Anniversary year and we do need to know who's coming to what very, very, soon!

Finally, finally, congratulations and best wishes to John Lomas and Jan Preston (Soay) on their forthcoming nuptials.

Paul Mountford
Commodore

Menai Vice

Glen Warburton, Vice Commodore.

Astrador Cup - Saturday 30th May

We've had some great weather so far this year - we finally managed to get Genesis in the water after fixing a minor but horrible problem aboard. All fixed now, so Stan dumped us on the beach and we prayed the engine would start (after fixing bow and stern lines of course). All was well, so I patted myself on the back as this was the first year I did a full service on the engine (out of guarantee now!). The cost of attending the diesel engine maintenance course organised by the club has probably saved me a over a hundred pounds - it gave me the confidence to try doing it myself. Taking the prop off was stressful, but it appears that Genesis still goes forward instead of back when the throttle is applied (and the prop hasn't fallen off!).

The club is in full panic mode for the 50th Anniversary Celebrations now. Certain members of the Committee have been virtually doing a full time job organising this event. This will be a spectacular day, my only regret is that I cannot take place in the Sail Past AND be onshore to watch the proceedings! I am looking forward to seeing the video in the evening though - which will no doubt be another great social occasion.

For those of you taking part in the Sail Past, please refer to the web site for instructions. We have a clear course in mind, and there are free commemorative Burgees for all those taking part. Made from the finest Egyptian Silk, with gold leaf inserts and diamond encrusted embellishments, of course (according to the Bosun). Don't forget to place your orders for the code flags for the full Sail Past effect! If you haven't registered yet there's still time, just drop me a line by telephone, post or that new fangled email. Or indeed, Facebook!

This is the first Menai Vice since the season started, so here's hoping the season will continue the way it started!

Glen Warburton
Vice Commodore

Note from Sailing Captain Lee Downes: the Astrador Cup and Walton Shield have now been postponed until August. The latter will be on the Sunday of the Bank Holiday weekend.

Why do Venturers tow their dinghies? This is why!

Rear View

Chris Hynes, Rear Commodore.

People say the older you get the faster time goes by. It seems only a few days ago I was sat here writing for the last Venturer and here I am at it again (on a bank holiday weekend!) wondering where the time has gone. I'm not oblivious to this rapid passage of time, I'm not, I'm only too aware and so can only conclude I must be getting old.

Our Start of Season went off with a BANG! The working party was extremely well attended with new and old members mucking in alike. Thanks go to Derek for the organisation and delegation of tasks proving that there is proof in the old adage - many hands make light work. We also saw a lot of new members at the New members Forum, and now that the season is fully underway, I look forward to seeing you joining in our cruising and social events.

The Start of Season Party followed these events and once again I am pleased to report a brilliant turn out. The theme was optional 60's style fancy dress and it was great to see the efforts that those who chose to dress up had gone to. I thought everyone looked fantastic and it was great fun (even if we were the entertainment!).

Lady Penelope Hynes

The feedback on the supper catered by the Bishopsgate was super. The food was delicious and even though we managed to feed more than we catered for, there was still enough to go round. As the evening progressed, the 60's music was turned up and the lounge turned into a disco. My thanks to all the usual crew who willingly give their time and assistance to ensure a successful night and thanks to all of you for joining in.

As May 21st our **big Grand Parade of Sail day** looms ever nearer. Our initial ideas have materialised into plans which are now being pulled together ready to put into action. We have a steadily growing list of volunteers offering help on the day but it's never too late! Also remember if you are joining in the sail past you need to let Glen know.

MORE IMPORTANTLY

If you are intending to join in the buffet and disco following the sail past you must book either on the website or directly with me prior to May 13th.

EVEN MORE IMPORTANTLY

If you have not pre-booked by the above date, you will not be catered for.

Keep your fingers crossed for fine weather which will put the icing on the cake and hopefully make this a very fine occasion that will be remembered for a long time.

Chris Hynes – Rear Commodore

Dear Reader……

50 years old! Definitely cause for celebration. As still-fairly-new members we feel privileged to be part of these celebrations, and to be part of a dynamic forward-looking club. So many members have contributed in that time in their own ways to make the Club what it is today. To move the Club forward in the future, we must continue to welcome new members, and to value the diverse contributions they have to offer.

I don't have a crystal ball to see the next 50 years, but the coming few years promise plenty of opportunities for members to get involved – not just with celebrations this year, but clubhouse developments, etc.

I do forsee 'interesting times' (no doubt with controversy or at least heated discussion on some subjects).

So, I'd like to give a welcome to all new members (apologies for not being able to mention you by name as I don't have the up-to-date list), and to say "Welcome to the Club. Please do get involved, it's your club to take forward into the next 50 years."

We look forward to a successful day on May 21st.

Ed and Margaret Hopkinson

NWVYC 50th Anniversary

Up and Coming Events

Saturday 21st May 2011
THE GRAND PARADE OF SAIL, CELEBRATION BUFFET AND DANCE

Chris needs final numbers for the refreshments and buffet by 13th May at the latest. See the website www.nwvyc.org.uk for booking arrangements and payment facilities.

Saturday 9th July 2011.
Family Fun Day

We are holding a family fun day at the clubhouse on Saturday 9th July as part of the 50th Anniversary programme of celebrations. Whilst the tides don't entirely preclude sailing activities that weekend, boats on drying moorings in the bay would need to be off by 08:30, and couldn't get back until 16:00 the day after. Some of us wanted a lie in, but still have some fun! Those without yachts would not be able to take part in the Family day at Abermenai, hence having a Family Day at the Clubhouse.

The Social Sub Committee have been heavily involved in organising and catering for the events so far this year, so they are having a day off for this event, except for the Bar (Christine and her helpers don't mind running that – no surprises there then) which will be open from midday until 15:00, and from 18:00 until late. Lunch will be a 'bring your own picnic', and in the evening the club barbeques will be lit for a DIY barbeque.

I'm still planning the activities for the day, and want to make sure the events are as inclusive as possible whether you are one of our younger members, or one of our retired members. Spectators are welcome, but expect to get involved! Bring as many children / grandchildren and great grandchildren as you can. Let's have the picnic lunch about 13:00, official activities will start at 14:00, and will be over by 17:30 to allow you to recover before your BBQ.

Ideas put forward so far are:

- A game of rounders on the sandbanks (just need to check a few things with the H and S police and the time of low water before we can confirm that one)
- Apple Bobbing.
- Relay Races round the club house.
- Treasure Hunt.
- What's the wind?
- Tug O War (on land and by dinghy).
- Dinghy races (classes for inflatable and rigid).
- Nautical Chairs.
- Wellie Wanging.
- Sandcastle competition (if we end up on the sands).
- Hide and Seek.
- Pack the liferaft.
- Orienteering round the Point.

Have you got any ideas? Remember, the more events we have, the better the fun will be!

We will have to run some of these by age category (but everyone will get a go), and we may even have to have teams – Bilge keel v Long/Fin keel has been suggested. Wooden boat owners could have a separate set of games, such as varnishing by numbers, or guess the number of splinters in a finger. If it's wet we will run some of the games indoors.

What will you need to bring? A picnic, some BBQ food, wet weather gear (even if its good weather) including wellies as they will be needed for one of the relay races (but not the wanging), a dinghy if you have one (no outboards please as that will be cheating) a sense of humour, a towel and a dry change of clothing (as you will get wet at some stage of the afternoon – anyone entitled to a bus pass may be excused, but notes from Parents/Guardians will be ignored). After the BBQ no further official activities are planned, but that doesn't mean to say they won't happen.

I will also need some helpers to organise the actual events on the day – better to volunteer now than be press ganged later.

NB -note the date – Saturday 9th July, not the Sunday as previously advertised in the last Venturer.

Dave Clough – OOD.

Dressing Overall

The hope, and intention, is that, for our Parade of Sail on May 21st, EVERY yacht will be dressed overall – so here are a few pointers. Since we are hoping to have some distinguished guests watching the Sailpast (maybe even a TV crew) and it would be good if we gave the impression that we know what we are doing!

The bosun has sets of code flags (already taped together) which rather settles the issue of the sequence in which they will be flown. However, there is no official order for Dressing Overall. The following sequence has been traditionally recognised as 'the right way'; mainly because somebody a couple of centuries ago decided that they looked more striking that way – and nobody could misinterpret a message from them!

E, Q, 3, G, 8, Z, 4, W, 6, P, 1, I, Code, T, Y, B, X, 1st, H, 3rd,

D, F, 2nd, U, A, O, M, R, 2, J, 0, N, 9, K, 7, V, 5, L C, S

Typically sloops carry **E to 3rd substitute** between the bow and the masthead; ketches usually have **Y to O** between the masts.

Flag Officers have it easy. They wear no bunting at all – just their broad pennants at the masthead.

All Club boats should try to fly their burgees from the masthead – starboard spreaders may be OK for general purpose use, but for dressing overall it is worth trying to get a burgee up with the wind instruments.

If you simply cannot get your burgee to the masthead and were thinking about flying the Welsh Dragon as a Courtesy flag (unnecessary, since Wales is part of the UK for maritime purposes), in theory the burgee would have to go below the Dragon on the starboard yardarm. However, the rules say that nothing must be flown higher than the burgee, nor can any flag be worn superior to a courtesy flag – which means putting the burgee on the port spreader. However, the burgee is a signal flag – and must go on the starboard spreader!

Best to hoist the burgee to the masthead or abandon any thoughts about flying a Dragon.

House flags (RNLI, RYA, Cruising Association etc) go on the Port spreader, in order of seniority. Some would put RNLI above RYA, some may think otherwise.

Finally, for the sake of completeness – **the ensign**. As I'm sure everybody knows, we fly the red ensign. Nothing else is legal. If you have a ketch, remember the burgee must be higher than the ensign, so you can't fly the ensign from the mizzen crane unless the burgee is at the masthead.

Simple! Finally, finally, if you cannot hoist the mainsail when you are Dressed Overall, take the Sail Past without the main.

NWVYC 50 Club

Following the first draw report in the last Venturer, we had 1 more draw in March and the Start of Season Mega Draw. In March only 1 of the 3 numbers drawn had been sold, so 2 of the numbers now become NWVYC numbers. The winners were:

1st – N.W.V.Y.C - £50
2nd – Don Marshall - £20
3rd – N.W.V.Y.C. - £15

At the Start of Season Party the £150 mega draw was won by Debbie Cassidy. She was standing at the bar when the result was announced, so how much of it she has left I don't know! By the time you read this the April draw will have taken place – full details in the next Venturer.

There are still some numbers left – please contact the Bosun by phone, e-mail or in person. Remember that as well as the monthly prize draws there is the mega draw for a single prize of £150 at the End of Season party.

Dave Clough bosun@nwvyc.org.uk

Club Moorings B173 and B53

By the time you receive this Venturer, the club's victualling mooring (B173) in front of the clubhouse should have been serviced and in commission. For 2011 it is a white market buoy with a pick up buoy marked NWVYC Victualling only. The rope strop should have been replaced with a chain following complaints from some members about it being muddy. There is likelihood that the chain will also be muddy……

If talking to potential new members about moorings, please don't forget that the club now have a fully maintained drying mooring (B53) further into the bay available for use for 1 season by new members for a 1 off fee who are on the council waiting list. Please contact any member of the Committee who will advise you who to contact for further details.

Definitely Not The Sewing Circle!

A tale of:

6 people....

5 banners....

4 Weekends....

3 Sewing Machines....

2 cans of fabric Glue....

…..and.....

1 woman (and her Ironing Board!)

"We need some decorations for the clubhouse for the 50th anniversary" Chris said, "maybe some streamers or flags …..or something....."

"I'll have a chat with Maria" I said, "She's been seen her with her sewing machine in the clubhouse from time to time."

No idea where it came from – but I had an IDEA (dangerous I know – but I do occasionally get one). The IDEA was for a series of hangings for the clubhouse (and anywhere else really) which would celebrate what we are about as a club and which could be brought out on festive occasions when we feel the need for a little decoration – but which could be stored away without taking up too much space in between times.

"I've got a sewing machine" said Georgina, "I'd like to help".....

……..and so it came to pass that after several phone calls, a flurry of e-mails and a meeting in the clubhouse the great banner exercise got underway.

The ideas for the banners grew from a number of photographs and pictures we collected of our favourite haunts. The execution of these ideas was always tempered by the need to have something simple enough for most of us to sew.

We need to thank:

John Stanley – for his outstanding design skills and intricate work on Ebb and Flo (and for making sure we didn't make the designs TOO simple!)

Maria Stanley - for an extraordinary amount of sewing and for making sure we all kept at it (though she did get a new sewing machine out of it – hers having suffered terminal failure during the first weekend of sewing)

Georgina Clough - for the inspired introduction of fabric glue, without which we would possibly never have completed the task – and also for doing an incredible amount of nifty work on her super-duper machine sewing a lot of the lettering.

Josh Hollingworth - for helping us cut things out and even trying a little ironng

And lastly – but definitely not least **Christine Hines** - for valiantly turning up with her ironing board (and **Ian** for transporting them and going out for chips) and ironing hundreds of fiddly little bits of fabric which make up the rocks, boats, buoys, lighthouses etc which apperar on the hangings. All this in between doing her Rear-Commodore bar-stocking duties.

The hangings were great fun to make – and were the result of team work in the best Venturers tradition. Everyone who had a hand in their making was crucial to the success of the work – and it's nice to know that the results of our labours are appreciated, even admired.

Of course it did mean that we could spend weekends in the warm clubhouse when hardier souls were working outdoors on boats - I wonder what excuse we can think of next winter?

Sue Beetlestone
Mentor

See back page for other photos of the banners.

Bosun's Corner

ABC Discount Weekend – 9th/10th April

Following the success of the discount hour in March ABC ran a whole weekend exclusively for NWVYC members. They were pleased with the results, and hopefully it will happen again next year. Just a reminder that ABC now stock Musto and International Products.

50th Anniversary Memorabilia

I still have a few Battle Flags, Tide Clocks, Commemorative Books and Pin Badges left. Please order sooner rather than later.

As announced in the last Venturer there is a new clothing item available – a 50th Anniversary N.W.V.Y.C. tour T shirt. Available in Navy or Black with the 2011 sailing programme printed on the back, I only have a limited stock and won't be ordering any more so please place orders now. Don't forget to mention the size required.

BACK

Bosuns Boat Care Range

May well be past that time of year again, but rubbing compound, polish, cleaner, teak restorer, yacht wax and express cleaner all available - £3 each or 4 for £10.

Almanacs / Charts

Another reminder to please get any orders you have in to me as quickly as possible. Lead times for deliveries from IMRAY do take a little longer in May, and that combined with me perhaps not coming up the club house for the occasional weekend, and going on our own summer cruise in June may mean a 3 or 4 weeks wait for delivery. Most popular items are normally in stock, but only 1 or 2 of each. Note I do not have any 2011 Almanacs left in stock, but can obtain to order.

Don't forget that you can obtain all Admiralty and RYA publications through the Bosuns Store at a discount as well!

If you are going on one (or both) of the summer cruises please order your Pilots and Charts promptly to ensure availability.

Cruising Crib Sheets

A reminder particularly to newer members that the Bosuns Store stocks a set of Cruising Crib Sheets. Originally produced by Ian Rodger, they come in a set of 5, A4 laminated, and cover Anglesey, Isle of Man, Irish Sea, Cardigan Bay and Mull of Galloway/Solway Firth. An indispensable guide to navigation to have on your yacht. Priced at £5 per set of 5.

Southampton Boat Show

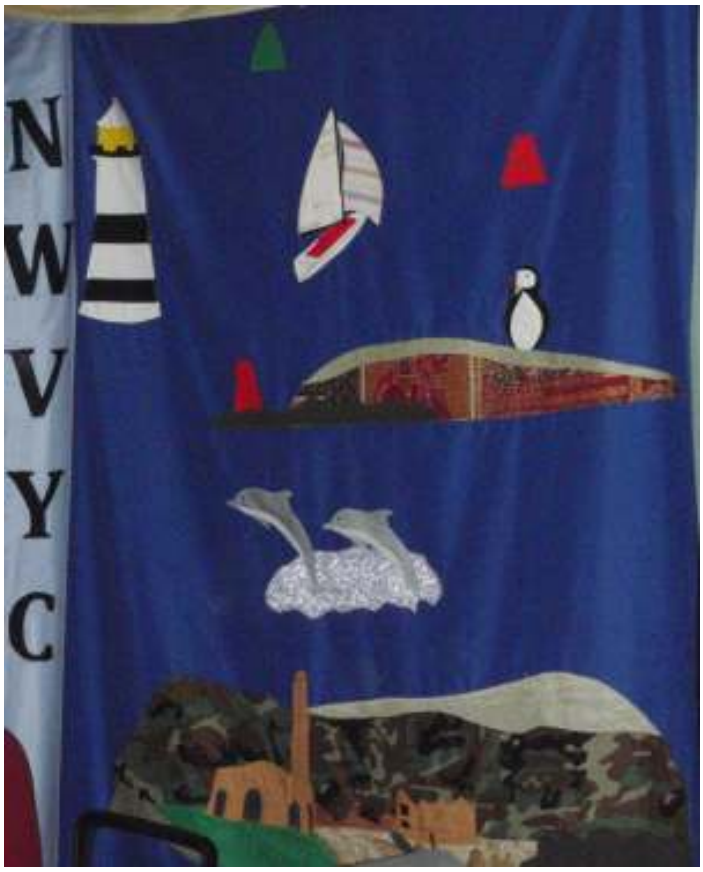
Don't forget the Bosun hopes to be in a position to offer a "can't buy cheaper" promise on all tickets purchased via the Club.

Dinghy Store

There is the current 2011 listing now up in the clubhouse, and there has been some movement on the waiting list. The current waiting list is;

50th Anniversary Banners

Beaumaris Bay and Gallows Point (not to be used for navigation!)



Porth Wen

Ebb and Flo