



the Venturer

Newsletter of the **North West Venturers Yacht Club**
Gallows Point, Beaumaris, Anglesey, LL58 8YL

Events

- Sat 28th April Sail in company through the Swellies. Destination Llanddwyn (or somewhere south!) OOD Ian Hynes
- Sat 5th May - Astrador Cup (Puffin Sound -> Holyhead) and
Mon 7th May Walton Shield (Holyhead -> Llanddwyn).
OOD Jerry Jago
- Sat 12th May Night sail through the Swellies. 01:30 start. OOD John Hull on Safari
- Sat 19th May James Berry Trophy. Port Wen. OOD Colin Pattinson.
- Sat 26th May Rhoscolyn. OOD Glen Warburton

What's inside



Early season photos and reports

Commodore's Corner

Finally the months of back breaking work ironing the sails, weeks spent anti-fouling, whole days spent polishing the propellor have paid off and the season has started. We launched Genesis almost fully prepared for the season; stocked up with Beer and Wine (forgot about water, food, bedding and clothes) and tied to a fresh riser.

A trip to Caernarfon Victoria Dock and we are once again prepped for an Atlantic crossing (to the Isle of Man). Except for the weather - I'm sure I read somewhere that experts are predicting the coldest May ever. So that gives us hope for some warm weather as the experts are consistently wrong. Perhaps they are experts in something other than weather.

Something that surprised me was the number of Venturers who have taken advantage of the expanded capacity at Victoria Dock. A veritable sea of NWWYC burgees greeted us as we sat in the Galeri sipping our Lattes (well, Carolyn did; I prefer Coffee). The long and early weekend we had for Easter was well and truly seized by the NWWYC for this first club trip.

Our Winter events culminated in the Start of Season party which was incredibly well attended with short work being made of the barrels of beer on tap. It was great to see so many boats already launched - perhaps it's the feeling you get if asked the question "when are you launching" and you can point at your boat on her mooring.

A lot of us will be taking part in the Sailing Programme while some of us have boats further afield, flying the burgee in far off places. We hope to be taking part in many club barbecues on the coasts around Anglesey ourselves, with a short Summer Cruise early in the season.

All that remains is for me to wish everyone a very safe and enjoyable year of sailing. See you on the water!

Vice Pudding

At last we have reached the start of the sailing season. How nice it is to drive down into Beaumaris and once again see boats lying on their moorings (albeit but a few at this early stage). Already, we have seen the first of our weekend cruises set off in (unfortunately) not so clement weather. However, the Venturers are a hardy bunch and it takes an awful lot for the determined amongst us to be out off. As I wasn't one of the aforementioned 'us' I don't know (at this stage) how far boats got, but it seems already that Mother Nature will not allow us to follow our set programme thereby putting the OOD to the task of setting an alternative route. Practice makes perfect OODs....keep at it !

Mistral is not yet launched but we are ready to go and are just waiting to hear our mooring is ready and waiting. Hopefully, we will be on the water in the next week or so, as I expect, will many of you.

It's good to see members making use of the blog area on the events notice board on the new website. It helps OODs and members plan ahead if they know early of participating boats and even goes towards helping especially new members make the decision of whether or not to go – the more names up there, the more you are likely to want to participate. There are forum areas as well which allow you to set up a discussion on your summer cruise or weekend plans or indeed anything else. If you haven't done so already go and explore and maybe add your bit. The more people use it the sooner we'll all get the hang of it.

Last year, mainly due to bad weather, quite a few of our trophies ended up residing in the club house un-awarded for 2012. I am hoping this year will be much better and that we can award most if not all of our trophies. You don't have to be an Ellen McArthur or a Robin Knox Johnston to enter or even win a NWVYC race - **OK**, some (a few) are won on skill, others by luck and good judgement and even a few because of low race entries! The important thing is to have fun and enjoy it! Mike Butterfield is our yacht handicapper this year, so if you don't know your handicap or would like it checking, please contact him - details are in the yearbook and on the website.

Talking of trophies and looking somewhat ahead, this year (once again), we (that is the Sailing Sub Committee and I) have decided to split the awards ceremony into two. The first ceremony will be held at the End of Season Party and will mainly be the awarding of racing trophies. The second ceremony will be at the Annual Din-

ner Dance and will include the ROCK TROPHY, together with Club Service awards and Log Trophies. There are a lot of trophies up for grabs. To win, all you have to do is participate. If you are not a racer, why not write a log of your summer cruise, or maybe you will be eligible for a service award just by your contribution to the club in helping out and just being there. Don't forget we have trophies for our junior members too – specifically a log trophy and a service trophy. Remember, you have to be in it to win it.

Weekend sailing details are now on the website, however, looking forward to the weekends in May, we (briefly) have the following:

May 5th & 6th

The Astrador Cup and Walton Shield are both up for grabs this weekend, however, if you don't want to race this is a good long cruise. Holyhead Marina and Llanddwyn are the planned destinations with Jerry Jago on Ocean Mood as your OOD.

May 12th

A night sail through the Swellies with John Hull on Safari as your OOD. This I am told is quite a spectacular sail and John heartily recommends it if you haven't already tried it. Personally, to me, night time is for sleeping! Sorry John, unless I can be persuaded otherwise, I will either be in my bed or bunk!

May 19th

Sail or race to Porth Wen. This is for the James Berry Trophy and Colin Pattinson on Alfresco is your designated OOD. Porth Wen is a beautiful anchorage, very sheltered and a sun trap (weather permitting) - one of my absolute favourites.

May 26th

To Rhoscolyn this weekend with Glen Warburton, your Commodore on Genesis. Having never been there myself I am not qualified to give you my opinion, however, I have heard both Glen and Carolyn describe it as absolutely beautiful.

See you all soon I hope.

Chris Hynes
Vice Commodore

View from the Rear

Start of Season Party March 31st

The end of March brought gloriously warm and sunny weather to Gallows Point along with the unmistakable whiff of anti-foul in the air as members prepared themselves for launching.

Several boats were already bobbing on their moorings whilst the Clubhouse was given its annual Spring Clean on Saturday morning organised by Ralph Pierce, our House Officer.

The SOS Party in the evening was by most accounts, very enjoyable with the local Bishopsgate Hotel providing delicious food and our own accomplished chefs gave us an array of cheeses, puddings and sweet treats, all for £8 per head. My thanks are due to all those Venturers who helped in the Galley, all our pudding chefs, Sue Beestone and social committee members and thanks to our bar staff.

Our Sailing Captain, Bob Scott, organised the grog for the eveninga firkin and a pin of Rampart Ale from Conwy Brewery with nearly all of the 72 pints and 36 pints respectively, consumed by members and guests. Thanks to Bob and Carol.

Once again, we had a good number of Venturers , at least 80, enjoying the evening, exchanging tall stories and experiences. Overheard were snatches of conversations eagerly discussing exotic destinations such as La Rochelle, Rathlin Island, Baltimore, Scilly Isles, Loch Fyne, Sweden, Waterford, Porthmadog and even Conwy!

The next official 'do' will be June 16th when we will be hosting Traeth Coch so until then...,here's to fair winds and weather for 2012 and remember that wherever you take your boat, make sure your brain gets there five minutes earlier!

Alison Pattinson
Rear Commodore
alisonpattinson@aol.com

Handicaps

Do you have a handicap?

(Mind how you answer that one if you know what's good for you - Ed ;-)

The season is upon us again and you will have seen in the program the Club has a series of races organised.

Racing is on a handicap basis and the handicap used is the Portsmouth Yardstick Number system. This is administered by the Royal Yachting Association, and it is based on the observed speed of yachts as opposed to a guess of speed based on measurement of the boat.

There is a databases of yachts, which is not extensive, but the system allows all boats to sail together with a handicap being estimated for boats that have none listed.

The NWVYC has appointed me Mike Butterfield as it's handicap officer, and any handicaps can be checked with me or you can apply for me to obtain one for your boat.

A sheet of information is enclosed which will help me if you were able to get it to me. An electronic version of this is available on the club website

(www.nwvyc.org.uk) - follow the "Programme" link from the main menu, then "Races", then "Handicap".

Complaints or comments on handicaps listed on the Web should be addressed to me and not the boat owner as their accuracy is my responsibility not theirs.

It does assist if handicaps are located before racing but this is not a bar, as we want as many members to enjoy participating as possible.

Winners are established by applying the handicap to the Elapsed time to produce a corrected time for the race, the lowest corrected time wins!

Good Racing!

Mike Butterfield Handicap Officer
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Red Diesel and the EU taxman

Following a conversation with Donald Marshall, we both went off to find out what impact the changes which came into effect on 1st April 2012 would have on Club members.

Since 2008, as we all know, at least 60% of the duty levied on 'road' diesel, has to be paid on all diesel used on boats. Thus the red diesel we buy from marinas and harbours should be priced at a lower level than road diesel to reflect this concession. (Is that a flying pig I see before me?!). You must also sign a form saying that you are only using x% of the fuel you buy to propel the boat. You fill in the percentage figure yourself in case you want to admit to using more than 60% for the engine! If you do this, the supplier will probably keep you talking while he summons "the men in white coats".

Having filled the tank (at 60% duty) before going abroad, it was generally accepted that you could lawfully use the fuel where ever you went, on the basis that your purchase was in accordance with UK Law. It was a grey area since, in reality, the laws of the country in which you were sailing always took precedence – a fact

of which Belgium, in particular, took advantage.

The recent change has simply made it pretty clear that you really don't have a leg to stand on if the host country takes exception to your use of discounted diesel!

However, the BMF has issued advice to its members and its tone would suggest that governments which were understanding about red diesel prior to April 2012 are likely to remain so: but since 'the government' is represented by a single Customs official at the point of entry, there is ample room for interpretation and new Case Law!

A sample template of the words needed in your declaration when fuel is purchased (as issued by the BMF) can be found on the Club website in the 'Documents' section. It would seem to be prudent to have a recently dated copy available at all times when abroad, showing not 60%, but 100%, of the fuel as intended for propulsion.

Ralph Morris

Start of Season Working Party

A HUGE

“THANK YOU”

*TO ALL WHO CONTRIBUTED TO
The Big Clean-Up on 31 March 2012*

*Ralph Pierce
Honorary House Officer*

What's in a name?

Once again Détente's launch day came upon us, about three weeks earlier than we would have liked. As we use a mooring belonging to the Caernarfon Harbour Trust we lift out and in at Caernarfon, making use of the communal crane hire. This gives us economical winter storage, but it does have a down-side in that we have to be ready to lift in on a particular day, set by the Harbour Master. This is always before Easter, so that the car-park can be reclaimed for the start of the summer tourist season. There is no choice – you are lifted in whether you are ready or not.

With launch day set for Monday, 26th March, we were already in minor pre-launch panic mode which had been increasing since mid-February. Détente had once again relinquished her engine into the dubious care of the Chief Engineer, whose winter project this time was to replace the dodgy engine mountings. As well as having an untried newly-repaired starter motor to fit to the engine, everything else was as usual: the “to do” list remained much as it did last year – only the essentials (Okay – only the antifouling) actually were completed when we had our minor disaster. On the Wednesday before Launch Day, Chief Engineer suffered an injury when operating the hoist to lower the engine back into place, and ended up with six stitches in his right index finger. It is an understatement to say we were a little tense in the following few days, as between us (with Phil “instructing” me where to wield the spanners and screwdrivers) we managed to get the engine back onto its mountings, fix a broken stop cable, fit the starter and reattach the prop. shaft, new stern gland and propeller in time for Launch Day.

I recall that last year we had similar stress levels – this time it was me who was injured, having cracked a rib the day before launching when I slipped on the boat and fell against a cleat. And the weather on launch day was really horrible and saw us making several attempts in a Force 6 with wind against tide to pick up the mooring (and keel-haul the dinghy – don't ask). Not an experience I wish to repeat ever.

It occurred to me that our boat possesses a most inappropriate name. Détente is French for Relaxation. And over the years we have thought of plenty of alternate names for her – “Sea Cow”, “Dirty Old Mare”, “Old Bag” and “Spring Panic” are but a few that come to mind.

This year, with a high pressure system settled well over the UK we have had a record-breaking week or two, and launch day dawned bright and sunny with but a gentle zephyr of a breeze whispering out of the South West. With Charlotte and Paul as crew, Détente was launched without a hitch. The engine started at first attempt (could this be a record?) and we set off on the five mile trip up the Straits to Felinheli to pick up the mooring. As soon as we cleared the Afon River, up came the sails, engine switched off and we goose winged gently in the warm breeze. Perfect.

And how relaxing it was.

Phil Orr

A warm NWVYC welcome to our new members

As the new sailing season gets underway (well we've got Osprey launched anyway even if we haven't been further than the Gazelle yet!), I'd like to take this opportunity to give a warm welcome to all those who are new (or returning) to the Venturers this season.

Since October last year, the following members have joined (or re-joined):

Peter & Joy Bennett	Avalon (Jeanneau 37)
Peter Kay	
Ian Partington	Juniper (J Europe 35.25)
John Menzies	
Roger Wilkinson	Tilly (Cornish Crabber 24)
Paul & Rhiannon Gash	Pelican (Sunray 21)
Andy & Sharon Hibbs	Fantasma (Van de Stadt 26)
Graham Jones	Sizzler (Colvic 28)
& Noreen George	

Stephen & Lesley Fraser	Callista (Newbridge 21)
Syd & Joan Bowen	Sea Quest (Van Der Stat 29)
David Goldstein	Windlass (Marcon 25)
Brian & Susan Oulton	Nauta (Custom 50)

I'd like to wish all new members (and the not-so-new), a really good season, and hope to meet you all at the Club events at some time over the summer.

Don't forget - as with the website, the *Venturer* magazine exists for the Club and its members - so whatever you'd like to share with us, photos, articles, please send them in to editor@nwvyc.org.uk and I'll do my best to include them in a future edition.

Good sailing for 2012.

Ed Hopkinson
Osprey

Cemaes Bay - 14th April

The second weekend of the season was to be Moelfre, but due to wind forecasts from the NE, mainly F3/4, it was decided to go for a day sail towards Cemaes Bay, and see how thing went from there, Helian had new crew members of Steve Maclean and his partner Sarah who could only sail for the day due to commitments on Sunday.

Yachts game for a good sail over Red Wharf Bay were Zygo, with just Tim on board, Ocean Mood, Avalon and Helian. All yachts left their moorings at 0900 and tacked up to Puffin sound, where we then set a course for Point Lynas, with most yachts having their first reef in the sails.

The seas off Point Lynas were calm, as was East Mouse, with Zygo saying he was going to turn off Amlwch and return to his mooring.

Avalon, Ocean Mood and Helian pressed on to to Middle Mouse, with the tide turning and just starting raise the wave height, with the time approaching

1330 we headed on to Llanbadrig Bay for lunch and plan our next move. It was very pleasant in the Bay - just as well with Helian replacing the impeller due to two bro-

ken vanes and no water going through the engine. Fortunately soon fixed that.

Ocean Mood decided to stay for the night, so Avalon and Helian set off with a warning that it would be a bit lumpy around Middle Mouse due to the slight wind against tide, and the wind blowing a good F4/5 from the NNE, and it was a bit lumpy, but still made for a great sail back to Point Lynas with ground speeds of 10.5nts. Lynas was fairly calm, as was the passage back to Puffin with the wind slowly dropping off to between 8/12nts.

On our arrival at Puffin we lowered our main sail for the passage back to the mooring with Avalon following suit. In the evening Zygo, Avalon and Helian tucked in to a 'Chinese' in the club house after having a pint in the Liverpool Arms :-)

Ocean Mood left Llanbadrig mid morning on Sunday, and also had an excellent sail back to there mooring, so all in all, another good Venturing weekend.

Lee.
Helian



Club Mooring

CLUB MOORING B53 AVAILABLE

The club has a drying mooring, in Beaumaris Bay, available for rental. Preference is given to new members, who do not already have a suitable mooring and would therefore have difficulty participating in club events.

There are some conditions attached, one being that the member is actively on the Anglesey Council moorings waiting list. Should no such member require the mooring then consideration would be given to renting it to any other member in need.

The mooring is a drying mooring in position N53.15.559, W004.05.833. Access is at approximately half tide and like most of the similar drying moorings, floats (unless you are the Titanic) in time to reach the Swellies for slack water.

Please contact

Bob Scott,
Sailing Captain

for further details.

All in one place - Club website progress



Development has continued on the Club website, with the aim of adding in a wide variety of information, photos, reports, items for sale etc.

- Year's Programme
- Training courses
- Forthcoming Events Blog
- OOD Guidance for each event
- Cruise Planning
- Cruising trophies
- Race Instructions & Handicaps
- Anchorage data (from the pilot)
- Tidal Atlas
- List of charts
- Notices to Mariners
- Weather links
- AIS Data links
- Digital *Venturer*
- Member's Update
- List of new applicants
- List of Members & yachts
- Who's Who in the Club
- Policy documents—Constitution, OoD role etc
- AGM and Committee Minutes
- Red Diesel Declaration
- Mandatory SOLAS & Log samples
- Online Application Form (New members)
- Scran bag
- Bosun's Store
- Suggestion Box
- Technical help forum
- Tool exchange
- Equipment information exchange
- Planning your own weekends
- Photo galleries
- Weekend Cruise reports
- Cruise Logs
- Fifty Club

Most of these are in place, some are still being developed and need input from members. The web site is yours and its success will depend on how much you add to its content.

Please take a look and let us know what you want included.

www.nwvyc.org.uk

North West Venturers Southern Branch ??

OK, not that far south really, but with the opening of the new pontoons at Victoria Dock Caernarfon, there's been a sudden influx of Venturers and their boats. Our roving reported (and new



Once a Venturer always a Venturer

Soay skipper and crew settle into marina life

'southerner') Dave Clough has been observing life for those who've decided to adopt the civilised life (?) there.

Easter Weekend Miscellany



Easter weekend at Llanddwyn



Thanks to Nigel and Ann Hackney (Silvan) for these 2 beautiful views from Easter weekend's sailing.



Abermeni - Easter Weekend