



# Royal Welsh Yacht Club Bulletin

## November 2017



ALERT - it's on it's way and you know what I mean - the big green and red pleasure machine aka.....CHRISTMAS!! So please remember to register with easyfundraising and raise some club funds as you conduct your festive shopping - just click the logo at the bottom of this page to start the registration process - please remember to search for Royal Welsh Yacht Club and not RWYC. A big thank you to Ned Coackley for his article on Mediterranean cruising, the second instalment will be in the December bulletin. A final reminder to all about the AGM and Annual Dinner on Saturday 25th, further details at the end of the bulletin.

Coming up at Porth yr Aur - [all events from 8pm unless otherwise stated](#)

### **NOVEMBER**

Mondays - music night Tuesday's - Cribbage/games Friday - Quizzes Monday afternoons 1-3pm - craft sessions

**Friday 10th** - Quiz hosted by Richard.

**Saturday 11th** - Autumn Internationals - Wales v Australia kick-off 5.15pm.

**Saturday 18th** - Autumn Internationals - Wales v Georgia kick-off 2.30pm.

**Saturday 25th** - Autumn Internationals - Wales v New Zealand kick-off 5.15pm.

**Saturday 25th** - AGM & Annual Dinner and Dance at the Victoria, Menai Bridge. Timings to follow.

### **DECEMBER**

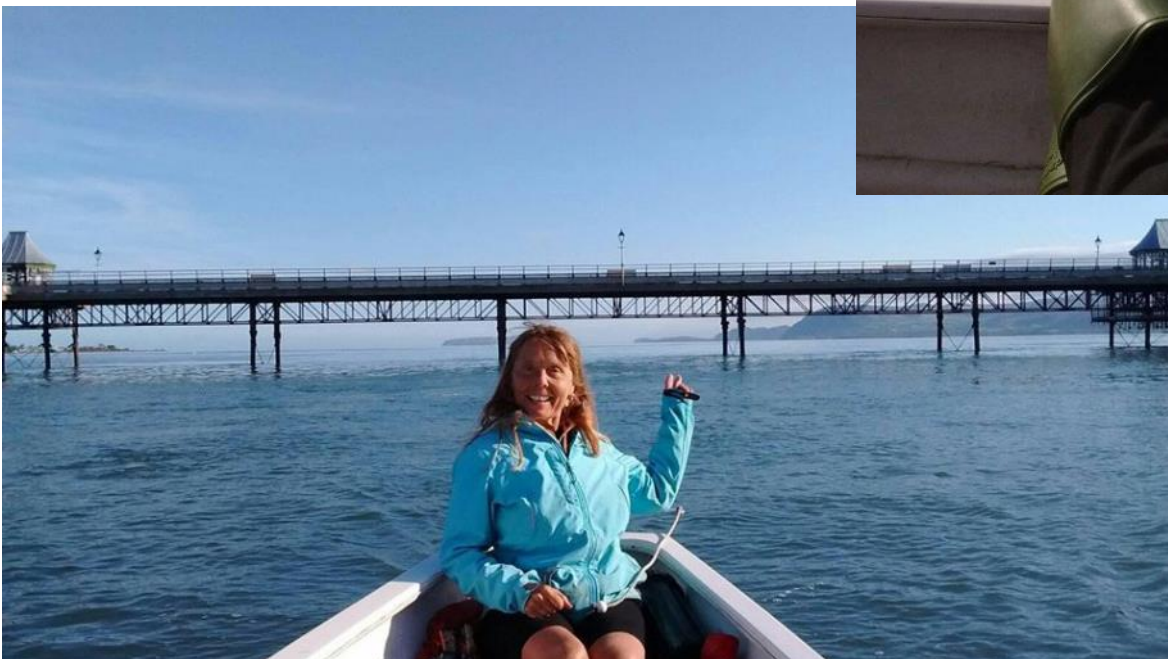
**Saturday 2nd** - Autumn Internationals - Wales v South Africa kick-off 2.30pm.

As ever, friends and family are most welcome to come along and take part. If you have anything for the Monthly Bulletin please submit via the [Hon Sec](#)

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## Rowing News

Though the clocks have changed back and the evenings have crept in, the weather has been generally kind and allowed rowing to continue at a brisk pace. Some glorious evenings have made for memorable rows and crews have also ventured out in the daytimes, as far as Bangor Pier on occasion. Angie also had her 50th birthday in October and she'd like to pass on her many thanks to all who contributed be it by coming to the party, assisting with the party, loaning marquees, baking cakes, bringing food and finally for all the generous gifts she received.



## Cruising the Med - Ned Coackley

A lot of work on the boat over the winter so we were in good shape for a 6 week cruise from Gruissan east along the French coast, round the Gulf of Genoa to Elba, across to Corsica then back to Gruissan, that was the plan. Experience from last year encouraged us to begin earlier for the cooler weather, lower marina charges and fewer tourists outside the main holiday months which all pointed to May.

The varnish had taken a beating over the winter but with 4Lt of 'Epifanes extra UV' finally sourced, there was ample time to smarten the woodwork before mingling with the Superyachts at the posh end of the coast. Downsizing / house selling / buying caused a small delay but by 15th we were off. This time it would be just Mrs Theo and me with no 'must do' dates or ports in the calendar. Med experience was beginning to show with the boat well stocked with diesel, bottled water, a new sunshade arrangement, Italian-made prop antifouling and an electronic gizmo to automatically choose 240v when on shore power, the Brits were ready to take on the Med.



About 6 hours out of Gruissan the French Air Force decided to wish us well with a flypast by the Patrouille de France, how nice of them. Otherwise, the coastline from Gruissan to Marseille is not that interesting so a couple of 12 hour days saw us once again in Frioul island with its over-spill marina for crowded Marseille. A shorter leg then took us past the Calanques and onward to the island of Porquerolle - where Drama Dept intervened in the script. I had never fallen off a boat in 50 years until now, but being a little fatigué and out of condition, mooring up took its toll. We have found that the Nauticat 33 turns into a beast when maneuvering in a cross wind and the best way to control it especially when trying to pick up a pendile, is to come in bow first so at least the thruster keeps that end in the right place. But hurrying to get lines on, a loop to few in the wrong place and a slippery coaming on the adjacent boat saw the skipper unexpectedly enjoy-

ing an evening dip in the med. Mrs Theo did exactly the right thing and neatly showed the 'Naughtycat' who was the boss while Le Skipperrr scrambled out of the water wet and slightly miffed.

Now, you might think that an observer on the pontoon would be inclined to offer assistance in some way but maybe it was the Blue ensign that upset the motor yachtsman from Alsace as he commenced to explain that a hitch is the correct way to attach a dockline. Mooring advice continued as a bloody and bruised self climbed up the dock wall breathlessly explaining it was not the way we do it en Grande Bretagne. Further advice flowed which could have resulted in Mr Alsace also enjoying an unexpected immersion in the dock until a barked command by Mrs Alsace saw calm restored and a tactical withdrawal. Are we having fun yet ? So, Porquerolle was struck off our Christmas Card List and we departed early next morning once again under iron topsail. With marinas every 30 miles or so, now we could go as far as we liked, when we liked. But no wind again so autopilot / 5 knots / sunbathing / varnishing became the order of the day on our way to St Raphael.

Cap Camarat is a busy turning point for coastal traffic heading toward the Côte D' Azur and as we approached we were paying attention to a sleek Aussie 70 footer tacking back and forth across our track. As they finally crossed ahead the delivery crew emphatically enforced the 'motor gives way to sail' rule in the heartwarming 'my boat's bigger / faster than yours' Aussie way. Our friends from Alsace passed close by a few minutes later with an impressive wake and several honks on the horn (are they turning / sinking / want to say sorry ?????) but a smile and a wave showed we were fellow Mariners at last.

St Raphael vieux port could not take us but the town Marina could and in went. Mrs Theo's childhood holiday spot saw us there 4 days while the wind blew and we enjoyed good facilities, the town, beach and restaurants. Some old friends living locally came for dinner on the aft deck on a warm Mediterranean evening....isn't that what it's all about ?....hard to beat. Round the corner past Cannes, ilès des Madeleines and Nice into Villefranche Marina which is built on the old arsenal used by various navies over the centuries and latterly the U.S. 6th fleet.



Italy next and we were back onto the Imray chart as 'Bloc Notes' run out at the France / Italy border. Not a lot of port / Marina info to go on for Italy, but Imperia looked good and a 10 hour day saw us tied up by very helpful Omaggiatore from the port office. Rumour control had warned us about unofficial cousins of these guys further south who encourage yachtsmen to pay 'gardiennage' or find themselves adrift just before arriving back after dinner ashore. We had a great time everywhere in the Golfo di Genoa, no problems at all. But how cultured and civilised Italy is ! Where else would you find a Town Committee to govern Ice Cream standards ?

We stopped worrying about weather, some days not even checking. The 'full on or nothing' winds of our local west France area had changed to sun / calm with occasional puffs early and late in the day. Motor sailing when we could but 1400 rpm / 5-6 knots became the standard and planning speed in this non-tidal part of the world. A stop at a swanky Marina in Loano found vacant berths and Italian yachtsmen complaining of high fees, but the weather was great and the vino great too.

Needing to get across the Gulf meant a 14 hour day to La Spezia. Allowing time for a niceaah mealaah the otheraah sideaah we slipped lines before dawn and motored / motor sailed our way to the 6th ( but prettiest ) of the Cinque Terra villages, Porto Venere at the entrance to La Spezia harbour. Post race (honestly!!) drinks for the Castle to Crane crews



*Sunrise.....*

*.....Sunset*



By now now we were wondering how many more beautiful harbours, friendly welcomes, sunny days and 5 star meals we could handle. Affogato was an astronomic, gastronomic discovery and convinced the skipper that you could have too much of a good thing. Seeing bus loads of Japanese tourists descend on these heavenly spots confirmed that it was time to turn round and head home leaving Corsica for another time.

A variety of marinas are available so we planned to head north up the coast towards Genoa staying close inshore to catch a good view of the famous Cinque Terre villages. Sailing / weather conditions still the same and well presented by the Italian Air Force / Met Office website available on the Internet by mobile phone. Positioning for a dawn swoop into Portofino meant a nightstop in Chiavari which obliged another affogato....ok, ok,....but ya gotta try the one with Marsala wine topping.



No response to a radio call to Portofino to enter, so a nose around between the Superyachts in this chocolate-box beautiful harbour was over by 06.00 - before crossing the Golfo again.



To be continued.....

**Cake Corner (not a regular feature - fear naught!!)**



*Angie's 50th Birthday cake courtesy of Debbie Thomas*

*A submission from member Anthony Harwood-Jones*

(If you would like Cake Corner to become a regular feature please submit your photos to the [Social Secretary](#) who will be thrilled to sift through your submissions)



## 2017 Annual Dinner and Dance

The RWYC Annual Dinner and Dance which is on the 25<sup>th</sup> November 2017 at the Victoria Hotel in Menai Bridge. The cost of the evening will be only £29-99 per person.

As well as the dinner itself, there will be raffles, dancing and entertainment along with good companions with tales of the year's big fish stories and fun. This is one event not to miss!

If you want to stay at the Victoria for the evening you can book direct with them on 01248 712309 or by [email](#) . Unfortunately you can't book via Easy Fundraising for this one.

Please contact me (Brian Roberts) on [bjr\\_bjer@hotmail.com](mailto:bjr_bjer@hotmail.com) to book your place and leave your menu choices, remember places are limited and it will be on a first come first served basis. Please pay a deposit of £10-00 directly into the clubs account 01943538 Sort code 30-90-43 or over the bar remembering to leave your name so we know who has paid. November will soon be upon us so don't delay.

Brian

Menu choice:

To start

Smoked Salmon pate or Melon

Main choice

Roast Beef or Chicken Supreme or Leek and Mushroom Crumble or Vegetable Stroganoff

Desserts

Pavlova or Profiteroles or Apple and Blackberry Crumble with Cream

Followed by tea or coffee and mints