

Royal Welsh Yacht Club Bulletin

December 2017



A busy festive social program awaits the brave so feel free to get stuck in. The annual dinner and dance on November 25th was very well attended so a big thank you to all for making it a successful evening. A final reminder please to make the most of [Easy Fundraising](#) to swell the club coffers. The bulletin contains the second and final instalment of Ned Coackley's Mediterranean odyssey and thanks again to Ned for his amazing contribution. Nadolig Llawen pobll!

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

DECEMBER

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

Friday 8th - Quiz with Richard

Tuesday 12th - Mince pies and mulled wine

Wednesday 13th - Will Pound makes a return visit to the The RWYC - 7.30pm

Friday 15th - Pop Up (Tony) in the Main Bar - 4pm onwards

Saturday 16th - Pop Up (Tony) in the Teggaty Bar - 7pm onwards

Saturday 16th - RWYC Christmas Party—limited places so please book beforehand with Mo.

Monday 31st - New Year Party - details TBC

JANUARY

Friday 12th - Quiz night

Saturday 13th - Beetle drive

Saturday 20th - Welsh meal for Santes Dwynwen (Night of Love) Main Bar, cost £15

Saturday 27th - Burns Night

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](#)

Tony's Facebook page can be found at this [link](#) and has more info on menus etc for the Pop Up events. Some of the Pop Up events are privately arranged so please check first with the [Social Secretary](#) or Tony via his [Facebook page](#).

New Members

The procedure for processing applications for membership includes a stipulation that the application must be posted on the noticeboard in the clubhouse for a minimum of two weeks before being presented to the Management Committee for approval. At this year's AGM it was proposed and agreed that, in addition, details of new applications will be published in the next available bulletin. Thus making the information available to all members not just those who visit the Club. Here is the first notification under the revised procedure:

Deb Critchley - from Rhosgadfan - Full membership - Proposed by Angela Evans: Seconded by Peter King

A warm welcome to our newest members from all of The RWYC:

Andy & Marianne Pinnock - Rhyd Ddu

Will Pound

Will Pound is coming back for another house concert at the RWYC - Caernarfon. He is an international star of the folk world and still on the rise and we are very lucky indeed that he really enjoys coming to Caernarfon and playing for us. Those who came in February will want to come again, for those who don't know of his playing please go to the following links:

<http://willpound.com/> <https://www.facebook.com/events/2010798525832620/>

We have limited space (60 people including staff) so please buy tickets early; there will be no door sales on the night. You will be able to pay cash in advance at the bar (Graeme or Sarah) or to Neil or Meg Browning email or paper receipts will be given and a ticket number allocated £10

or if you prefer please use bank transfer and tag the entry with 'Will Pound', stating how many seats you want (details below):

Details - Wednesday 13th December - 7 for 7.30pm Tickets £10 11-00-19 00881153

If your system allows you to put in a reference with the payment, could you please put Will Pound plus your name (important). When this has been done, please email Meg at: meg@neilandmeg.com and I will allocate ticket numbers to you by return email. NB: Tickets are £10:75 if bought through the ticketing agency link due to the costs of that service, so it is a good idea to pay cash or bank transfer! <https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/nm-house-concerts> Any problems ring Meg on 07788 684 677

Kind regards,

Meg Browning

Annual Dinner Saturday 25th November



Rowing News

Regular rowing has continued though the deteriorating weather of the last few weeks has started to impact on the frequency of launches from Plas Menai's slipway. A maintenance day will be undertaken on Wednesday 13th December at Plas Menai with a string of jobs to be done:

Reinsert rubber around the gunnels

Clean and scrub the boats of debris

Sorting the wheels on the trolleys

Re-roping the trolleys

Check foot blocks for wingnuts and rubbers

Check gates

Check oars

Check pumps

Fit new combination lock to ISO container

All and any are welcome to assist - kick-off is 9.30am.

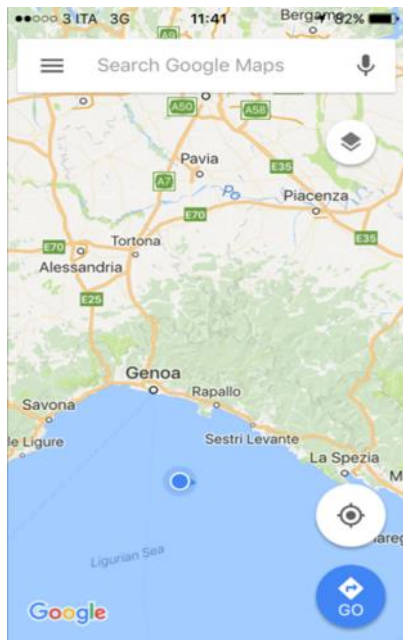
Plas Menai have also informed Bethan that there have been two attempts at a break in to the storage area of our boats in the last two weeks. Men with bolt cutters have been disturbed in their attempts to cut their way in. Whilst Plas Menai are doing what they can to keep the area safe (changing the padlock barrier and installing more CCTV) we need to be vigilant with our boats and equipment. We have been asked to ensure that we lock securely our containers and make sure that everything that can be put in the container done so. With this in mind please lock the barrier securely when boats are taken out on the water.



Cruising the Med - Ned Coackley - continued

We conclude Ned Coackley's excellent article on Mediterranean cruising.....

Navigation was of course to a meticulous standard.....sometimes like this.....



.....and sometimes like this

Loano was once again the destination, partly because Mrs Theo had spotted a retail opportunity in a charming novelty shop in the form of tiny pink boxes, ribbon and sugared almonds to be assembled and presented to guests when leaving no. 2 granddaughter's upcoming christening. The saloon became a little industrial in the days that followed. Loano in sight and dodging round a supertanker heading for Savona, we had the 'chute up making almost 2 knotswhen Mrs Theo pointed out a large power boat on constant bearing. So far not being overly impressed with Med rules re large wake / small boats, Mrs Theo altered course while I dropped the chute. Hmmm...still on constant bearing, hmmm...looks like grey topsides, hmmm.....looks like a lot of aerals on the wheelhouse and then the 'Oh S--t !' moment when you realise it's the Feds in something probably wearing an Oerlikon or .50 cal at least.



Mrs Theo rushed below for a bit of lippy and a quick brush of the hair (handsome officer / uniform / suntan routine) as our new Italian friends loomed over our port quarter and said something NOT including 'Bongiorno, benvenuti di Italia !' 'Inglesi', responded the skipper with a smile while keeping an eye on the gunner. Officer at the bow responded with 'where is your Flag ?' In perfect English - which was the clue. I interpreted this as meaning WHAT is your flag or WHERE is your country. Having been through the explanation of defaced blue ensign many times (are you Australian, Royal Navy etc.....?), I rehearsed the many smug responses available when Mrs Theo, now a vision of loveliness, appeared from below, pointed to the stern and cried 'NED !!!!!' in that loud, matrimonial, attention grabbing way.

Smug thoughts evaporated instantly as the officer really did mean 'WHERE is your flag ?' A bare stern and empty flagstaff socket was now the embarrassing scene to talk our way out of. We guessed that the mizzen sheet flopping about in the fickle wind had caught the ensign and consigned the whole lot to the deep. No national flag in territorial waters / possible people smugglers - where's the old Red Duster when you need it ? – these were lightening speed thoughts as I dived below muttering 'Scusi, Scusi'. Mrs Theo put the face paint and wide smile to good use with a little maritime flirtation across the waves ending with the spare ensign flying from the mizzen topping lift. Phew....., smiles and waves as they roared away. How did the Guardia Finanza spot us from so far away ? Our radio gives the MMSI number when interrogated, maybe a foreign boat coasting along gave them an excuse for a trip out that morning.

Happy landing in Loano a few hours later and after a warm welcome from Marina staff we found a small restaurant in town and enjoyed watching an extended family celebrate granny's birthday. A long day followed to a berth at Fontvielle, tucked under the palace cliff at Monte Carlo, round the corner from Port Hercule, the more recognisable Marina in Monaco.

Mrs Theo's birthday next day so a celebration was called for. There was a small stock of presents and cards previously taken aboard courtesy of our St Raphael friends and a night out on Monaco would hit the spot.



A cocktail on the promenade, a little shopping including some birthday earrings followed by a seafood and steak aboard prepared by yours truly. During the second aperitif on the aft deck it was noticed that a returning dive boat party, then a workboat crew, judging by their vocal enthusiasm were – curiously - sharing Mrs Theo's birthday too. How nice thought I, until Johan the workboat skipper moored up alongside enquired if I always wore a pink pinny in the evening ? Haha.

Johan was part of the Dutch crew working on the foundations of the second Monaco cruise liner pier and suggested that a beer later on at the bar across the road would be a good idea. Birthday celebrations continued into the night and as we crept out of Fontvieille next morning Johan was still comfortably curled up on a few lifejackets on his engine hatch.



Homeward bound after a refuel in Port Hercule, weather still fickle but St Raphael a comfortable days' worth away. Out of St Raphael on our way to Sausset Les Pins, Cap Camarat again took on a Spaghetti Junction-like manifestation. Dive boats and sports fishers were scattered across the corner like a minefield. We gently threaded our way through only to be overtaken / barged off course by 2 elderly gentlemen and femmes motor sailing a Beneteau 50 without a care in the world. A couple of glasses of lunchtime Rosé probably made raising their gennaker at this point seem like a good idea but not to us as their bow swung up to windward and missed our flagless stern by not a lot. Divers and fisherfolk carried on Sunday activities with Gallic shrug.

Passing the Calanques we decided there was enough light left to make it to Sausset-Les-Pins and with a good forecast for tomorrow 90 miles direct to Gruissan would finish the trip. But the 90 nms was across the Golfe du Lion and Meteo France was telling porkies. Still, we were on holiday, Marseille was a short train ride away and there was varnishing to do. However, 4 days tied up between 2 French boats does not ease the symptoms of 'Get-home-itis'. We got to know the local shops, markets and port staff and finished with an impromptu pot luck (à la Française) on the Nauticat as the following day's weather was looking good and we all needed to move on.

Still blowing at 0500 but at 0600 the port side French boat left. Mr Meteo France came good at 0800 but we were now late for a daylight passage. Nicely spaced marinas would still allow us to get across the Fos and a good part of the Golfe so off we went - motor again. Our port side overnight friends were heading west like us and we passed them having lunch drifting in the flat, sunny calm. A small current flowing with us along the Camargue dunes improved groundspeed so we decided to continue to Sète for the night. This was not to be when an advance call found all their pontoons were out for refurbishment - we were now a bit stuck. Calm seas and a full moon were encouraging which gave us an ETA Gruissan of midnight, 3 hours after dark. We tied up at the Capitainerie, quaffed a little vin rosé and slept well before

docking in our own berth the next morning. Did we have a good trip ? Most certainly ! All in all, 850 nm not one of which was under sail alone. €1000 + diesel, €800+ fees and 200+ hours on the engine.

To finish the season we went back to Sète, through the 5 bridges and onto the Etang de Thau for a long weekend. Mussel and oyster farms in the shallow lagoon praised by Rick Stein in his trip along the Canal du Midi. Friends visited, a very fishy meal in a harbour side resto and an earlier than desired return to Gruissan due weather window and bridge opening times. Sails off and engine service in November. Bon Vent !



Awards made at the AGM

Pritchard Cup	Extensive Cruising	Nomad of Chester	Charles Williams
Sanderson Cup	Isle of Man	Okavango	Sue & Rob Hancock
P & J Watson Cup	Porthdinllaen & back	Simo	Dave Majski
Samoyra Cup	Holyhead & back	Aslan	Geoff Hilditch
B & M Farah Cup	Rhoscolyn & Porthdinllaen	Nora Harfield	Mark & Carol Walton
C & G Cup	Caernarfon Bay	Kestor	Bill & Lee Bishop
Lawrence Cup	Firth of Clyde	Cante Libre	Karl & Henrika Behler
Limefleet Salver BB	Southern Irish Sea	Liquid Asset	Eric & Jane Crowther
S & A Weekes Bowl	Ladies Helm	Dawn Waters	Trisha Heyes
Denys Owen Cup	Regatta Points	Gypsy Lady	John & Ann Nightingale
Dickies Cup	Rowers Mileage		Brian Roberts

2018 Annual Subscriptions

Please note that the recent reminder letter had a typing error in the Direct Debit link details. It should read

<https://pay.gocardless.com/AL0000K9PTCRA5>



Photo: RLNI

Lobster Pots and Yacht Safety

Poorly marked lobster pots and fishing gear are a hazard to coastal sailors. Fishermen, too, report the loss of expensive gear as a result of entanglements. In one year alone the RNLI has dealt with 295 incidents of fouled propellers, and many encounters go unreported.

At the Cruising Association we think it is time to find a new solution, particularly one that is cheap and practical for our fishermen, and we are petitioning for a government consultation with all interested parties.

If you support our campaign, please:

- Sign the petition
- Report incidents to lobsterpots@theca.org.uk, and fill in the RYA form
- Tell your friends, family and club members

Sign the petition before time runs out!
(Closing date 12th March 2018)

<https://petition.parliament.uk/petitions/200001>

See: www.theca.org.uk or
Email: lobsterpots@theca.org.uk

Management Committee Members for 2018

Commodore	John Judge
Vice Commodore	Sarah Roberts
Immediate Past Commodore	Barry Powell
Rear Commodore	Martin Barritt
Hon. Secretary	Beverley Taylor
Hon. Treasurer	Malcolm Jones
Deputy Treasurer	Margaret Crozier
Hon. Sailing Secretary	Chris Jones
Hon. Rowing Secretary	Bethan H Jones
Hon. Membership Secretary	Mo Judge
Hon. Social Secretary	Brian Roberts
Committee Member	Richard Hanlon
Committee Member	Kate Jones
Committee Member	Clive Haycock
Committee Member	Trevor Wilson

2017-18 Volvo Ocean

Race



Click the photo or this [link](#)

easyfundraising
.org.uk

RWYC DIARY - <http://www.royalwelshyachtclub.org.uk/diary/>