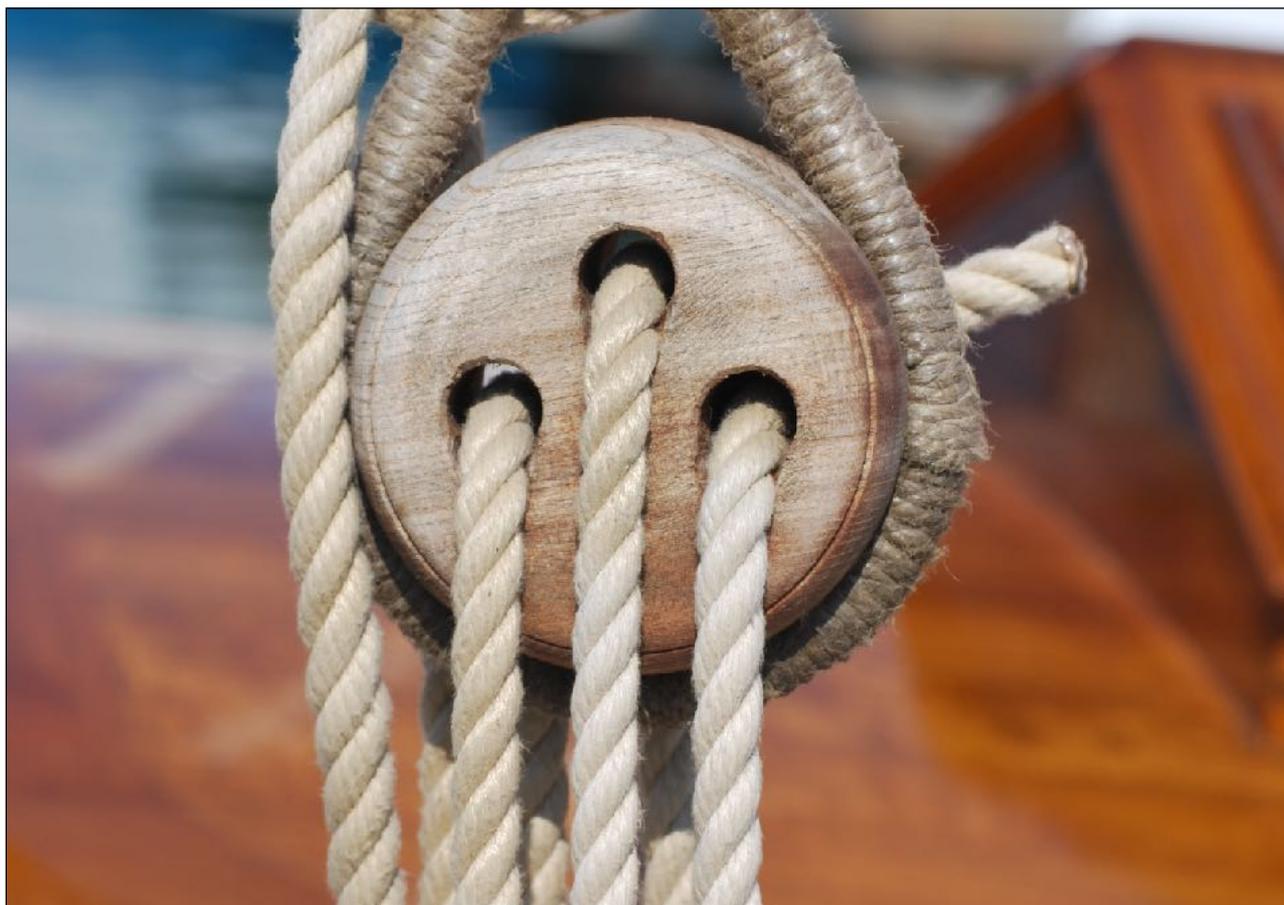

Nobby Owners Association

Annual Report 2019 / 2020

22 February 2020



REPORT

The year commenced with the first Crossfield's Conference which was organised by Alasdair Simpson of Arnside Sailing Club, an Old Gaffers Association member to celebrate the maritime heritage of Arnside.

Naturally focussed on Morecambe Bay Prawners our gaff-rigged fishing boats and their derivatives, the 70 delegates were made up of many of our members who own, crew and enjoy these historic boats.

An exhibition of photographs and the presence of the Crossfield family, some of whom had travelled from their home in Canada, made for a remarkable conference.

Early Spring Social

A visit to Scarborough staying in The Grand Hotel on the seafront, which regrettably did not live up to its name. The hotel had seen much finer days and did not lend itself to our group size for community dining. However the coach trip to Whitby was good. It's always a favourite and enjoyed by everyone.

Our Season's Sailing

The weekend of 31 May - 2 June and members with their boats attended the International Mersey River Festival. Some eight boats in attendance, Spray, Phyllis, Sara Ann, Comrades, Anna Ellidi, Jean, Hearts of Oak and Polly, everyone making some new friends as we opened up our boats for the visiting public.

Summer Cruise

We set-off for Scotland via the IOM and Northern Ireland, visiting the harbours of Port St.Mary (IOM), Peel (IOM), and Carrickfergus (NI). The next day, we passed the most dramatic cliff walk in Europe, The Gobbins, host to one of the most geologically diverse landscapes on earth. Puffins, Guillemots and Razorbills crowd the cliffs during breeding season. The Kittiwakes too are a striking sight and Cormorants lining the cliff as they dive deep for fish. To sail past the foot of the cliffs was an experience not to be missed.

Passing the Maidens to starboard en-route to the little harbour of Glenarm we were welcomed in the local hostelry to some Guinness refreshment and a Chinese carry out delivered to our table with full cutlery provided by the pub.

Next we set-off crossing the North Channel passing close by Sanda Island to port. Ailsa Craig, far away to starboard, rises over 1,000 ft in the middle of the Clyde, and dominates the view on most days. Our arrival in Campbeltown provided suitable rest, refuel, refreshment and a pleasant visit to one of the local Distilleries 'Springbank'.

Our next departure took us along the coast of Arran, passing Lochranza before setting a course for Largs. Next day we headed up the Clyde passing Cloch Point Lighthouse before heading east to Dumbarton Castle. Our berth for the next couple of weeks was to be at Sandpoint Marina on the River Leven, famous for the

building of the fastest tea clipper in the world, the 'Cutty Sark'.

We also visited Holy Loch (by a fast RIB trip) and later Glasgow all courtesy of a good friend who lives in that part of the world. At 40 knots just a little quicker than our wooden boats!

On our return, some two weeks later, we sailed down the Clyde towards the Isle of Bute, berthing overnight in Port Bannatyne. The following morning we entered East Kyle to sail the Kyles of Bute which is without doubt one of the most scenic passages in the world. After leaving the Kyles we ventured into Loch Fyne to enjoy the facilities at Portavardie, an exceptional marina.

A motor sail, as the Clyde was as flat as a pancake to Troon saw us enjoy one of the best meals of the trip. Good company, some cocktails, good wine and a huge seafood platter which satisfied everyone in the group. The following morning we set-off on our return journey planned with an overnight at Girvan.

Morning dawned, breakfast consumed and time to start the engines to leave port. Alas the boat 'Phyllis' would not engage gear and after a quick diagnosis the gearbox was suspected. With no technical support available, as the Scottish Wake's Weeks had just started, and as time and tide waits for no one, the boat was left. The crew joined 'Spray' for our return back to homeports.

Long passages saw us back within a couple of days via an overnight in Peel (IOM). 'Phyllis' was later sorted and is currently in Largs Marina for the winter months.

Regretfully an unkindly series of health issues and commitments with crews resulted in the remaining season being effectively lost. Events at Conwy, the Menai Straits and sadly the IOM Traditional Boat Festival were all missed.

Autumn Social

Our weekend away and the coach took us to Aberystwyth. A stop over at Cae Dai Trust 50's Museum was the highlight. Good accommodation and evening entertainment was enjoyed by all. The return coach trip back was however long winded due to the flooding of roads and the re-routing back to Liverpool.

Lottery Application

The Lottery Application for the restoration of four Nobbies stalled a little during the year. Changes in the method of grant application has made for several changes on the advice of the lottery personnel. In particular an application for one boat at a

time will be looked upon favourably. The application has been rewritten to accommodate lottery application changes for one project. Mystery II is the nomination as she's ashore already at Liverpool College.

I'd like to thank Paul Clarke, sub-committee chairman, Albert Hogg and Tom Middlebrook for their perseverance with the details of the application and dealing with the lottery. As the project's paperwork has now been completed, Paul Clarke has now finished his work on the sub-committee.

New Club Nobby

In December 2019 the Association took delivery of another Nobby, renamed from 'Pride' to the 'Pride of Liverpool'. A GRP replica of the 'Sir William Priestley' from moulds done by Eric Burquist. She came FREE from a Lincolnshire benefactor with her deck broken up but remarkably with virtually all the gear needed to restore her quickly back to full sailing condition.

Complete with engine, gearbox, mast boom, bowsprit, blocks, sails etc. Some deck work and TLC should soon have her sailing again. Currently berthed in BluePoint Marine Liverpool Docks. A paper has been sent to all members about the project so it's hoped we can all help in any way we can and get the project finished for 2021. The original hull and deck which the Association owned has been sold and remains at West Cheshire Sailing Club.

Our 2020 Programme

Our programme has been sent to all members and we look forward to meeting everyone during the year. Our next Social is 24 April, Cleethorpes. Numbers are limited so it's first come first served.

Finally

The Association is managed, as best we can, by three officers and a committee. I'd like to ask everyone to show their appreciation, in the usual manner, for the work done by your committee over the year.

Kevin Goulding