



# **The Royal Dee Yacht Club**

Bicentenary Dinner

The Long Room  
Eaton Park  
17 September 2015

**Peter Ryan**



## Welcome

What a great 200 years it has been for the Royal Dee Yacht Club.

As well as celebrating, we should take some time to reflect on what The Royal Dee Yacht Club does and has done as a Club both historically and in 2015.

Our purpose is, and has always been, to promote yacht racing and support sailing in the Northwest of England and Wales. Membership of the Royal Dee has always been by invitation. Those invited to join may have achieved something special in their yachting life; they may give a lot to the pastime of yachting or perhaps they are just an outstanding sailor. It is hoped that each member who accepts the invitation will bring to the Club their own particular skillset which will assist the Club in achieving its purpose.

Over the years, as members we have had world champions, national champions, circumnavigators, designers, international race officers, boat builders and coaches to name a few. Hand on heart, we should be proud to be members and know in what unique company we are in when we become a member.

So to all of you, both members and non members; thank you for your support for and interest in the club; for your years of hard work and effort to support sailing activities both locally and globally; for your great company through the years but most of all for joining us tonight in this wonderful venue to celebrate our special anniversary provided by Their Graces the Duke and Duchess Of Westminster. Their Charity the Clatterbridge Appeal will be receiving a donation from the Club.

To mark the 200th year, all members will receive a specially commissioned silver lapel pin depicting the new Wolf's head, which we hope will be worn with pride. All present tonight will receive The Royal Dee 200th Anniversary water glass.

From Officers Royal Dee Yacht Club



### **Sweet cure**

Marinated salmon, watercress vichyssoise,  
lemon and horseradish,  
Seaweed cracker

2014 Kleinloof Sauvignon Blanc, Paarl, South Africa

### **Cheshire rare breeds**

Fillet of beef,  
salt cheek ravioli, smoked onion,  
truffles, roots and shoots

2014 Visconti della Rocca, Etichetta D'Oro, Primitivo, Apuglia, Italy

### **Arabica**

Valrhona chocolate tart,  
flavours of coffee

### **British artisan cheeses and pairings**

The Royal Dee bicentenary port  
Churchill's Quinta da Agua Alta Port 1987  
Coffee and sweetmeats



## **Welcome**

Commodore, Derek Matthews

## **Grace**

Vice Commodore, Callum Edge

## **The Loyal Toast to our Queen**

Rear Commodore, Charlie Jones

## **To Toast our Guests**

Rear Commodore, Charlie Jones

## **Reply**

The Royal Dee Yacht Club 200 years  
Commodore of the Royal Alfred Yacht Club  
Barry MacNeaney

## History 1815-2015



### ***1847 Racing Cutters of The Royal Dee Yacht Club rounding the buoy by Henry Melling Commodore***

The Royal Dee Yacht Club celebrates its 200th Anniversary this year along with the Royal Yacht Squadron; membership of both Clubs being by invitation only.

The Club was founded in 1815 by a small group of yachtsmen on Hilbre Island in the river Dee, to promote yacht racing and the sport of sailing; this still remains the main focus of the club. There has never been a club house, in the past meetings were held at: Trinity House on Hilbre Island; The Hop Pole Chester and Mostyn Arms Parkgate. Present day meetings are held at hotels, yacht clubs and members' houses.

The Club Flag was originally a white burgee with red anchor and the Club uniform was: Waistcoat and Trousers, blue or white, according to the season; short blue P Jacket with anchor buttons; black Neckerchief and black Skull Cap with badge (red anchor on buff ground); blue Surtout or blue dress Coat for dinner; Club Officers (Commodore, Vice commodore, Secretary and Treasurer) were distinguished by having Gold Tassels to their Caps and initials of Office in gold thread on the same.

The club was granted Royal Patronage on November 1st 1847 and received a warrant for its own defaced Blue Ensign of The Sovereign's Fleet being 'A crown over a wolf's head erased, lower half gules' and the Burgee, blue with a Crown over a Wolfs Head as the ensign.

The Chester Chronicle November 5th 1847 reads: "The Dee Yacht Club has now the right to assume the prefix of 'Royal', as our Most Gracious Majesty the Queen Victoria has honoured this infant association of nautical amateurs by becoming the Patroness."

In 1927 Royal Warrants were withdrawn for all yacht clubs but reinstated in 1985. By an oversight at the Admiralty, The Royal Dee Yacht Club was omitted from the list. After a campaign by our Commodore at

the time, Captain Richard Yeoward, a replacement warrant was issued in 1997. This was celebrated at our Trafalgar Day Dinner.

The Royal Dee YC organised a regatta in 1830 at Parkgate on the River Dee where there was plenty of water and when Parkgate was a bigger port than Liverpool! Those who know Parkgate today, with the marshes spreading almost to Wales, would not believe it.

During many of its earlier years the Club held its regattas at Hilbre Island, however in more recent times it has been involved in the Menai Strait Regattas. In the late sixties, The Royal Dee helped to establish Irish Sea Offshore racing with the Royal Ocean Racing Club and The Irish Sea Offshore Racing Association. The Club still supports ISORA and provides some prestigious trophies; the impressive Wolf's head Trophy presented by David Pearson, a past Commodore, is the overall winner's trophy.

The Menai Strait Regatta is a very important part of our annual programme and again the Club provides a number of trophies which represent much of the Club's history.

The Royal Dee Irish Sea Offshore Championship 2015, a new event and part of the Volvo Dun Laoghaire Regatta, is run with the Assistance of The National Yacht Club. This year The Lyver Trophy race from Holyhead to Dun Laoghaire, which was run in association with Liverpool Yacht Club and RORC, formed part of the series. It was followed by offshore day races, with the courses planned to ensure that the daily prize giving was well attended.

The Club also participates in team racing, organising a Keel Boat event at Plas Menai in the Autumn and has entered a team in the last two Wilson Trophies, with great success.

The annual dinner on St George's Day, which includes the AGM, is an important date for members and their guests to get together. The cocktail party, held during the Menai Strait's Regatta, is another opportunity for members to socialise with others and like minded guests.

Members today meet regularly around North Wales and Cheshire organising the events of the Club fulfilling its purpose. The Club now communicates largely by email and through its website, as it moves into its third century.