

The wind around the Clubhouse

With a shout of “look out” I watched as the boom was caught by a sudden gust to whip across and strike one of the launch crew members about the ear. The whack was enough to hurt but not draw blood. The yacht was launched, the sailor departed, an ice-pack was administered and the world moved on.

We all know that when a yacht is rigged but still on the trolley the boom is always left to move freely. We all know to either keep our head down or keep a wide berth and an extra watch while the yacht is being launched. So why did this gust surprise everyone.

This event occurred on the up-creek end of our launch ramp. With the wind blowing from North of East at moderate strength it has to flow around both sides of our Clubhouse to meet up again right where you are launching at the up-creek end of the ramp. Our nemesis the wind is never even about the way it flows around the building. One minute it is along the creek side of the Clubhouse then suddenly the next gust is along the front. For a yacht in the danger zone the change in direction is 90 degrees and sudden.

Not something that happens often, just worth thinking about.

Kerry