



Fishguard Bay Yacht Club



1947 saw the start of Fishguard Bay Yacht Club however the story of the quay starts some 200 years earlier!

The original quay was built by Lt. Samuel Fenton R.N about the middle of the 18C. Samuel Fenton had developed the "Scadarn" fishery and exported cured fish to the Mediterranean. He bore the cost of building the quay and insisted on the principles of a "Free Port" i.e. no fees were charged.

After Samuel's death in 1796, his nephew Richard Fenton inherited the estate, built Glyn Y Mel and continued the shipping enterprise.

In 1859 an act was passed for the improvement of Lower Fishguard Quay, a sensible scheme which empowered the Fishguard Harbour Company to issue 600 shares of £5.00 each and the company was empowered to levy tolls on vessels using the harbour and resulted in the quay being as we know it today.



In 1946, the building was advertised for sale, in the County Echo, by Spillers Flour Millers for £400.00 (A lot of money in 1946). Interest in purchasing the building for the formation of a new yacht club led to George Williams and Gwyn Morris (Kettering) negotiating terms with the firm which resulted in the deal being clinched for somewhere in the region of £250.00.

In 1947 the F.B.Y.C was formed with the following officers: Harry Dodd, Chairman; George Williams, Secretary and Ivor Strawbridge Treasurer.

The first subscription of £1-1s-0d was paid by Ivor Strawbridge on 14th April 1947. A loan fund was opened for the purchase of the premises and by 19th September 1947 sufficient had been raised to permit the purchase of the premises.

As membership increased, a Constitution was drawn up, a club rule book was produced and the annual fee set at £1-1s-0d. The club burgee was designed, based on red, white & green with the Fishguard Herring across the centre with the motto "URGETE INTREPIDE"

The first "Laying up Supper" took the form of a dinner at the Commercial Hotel (now the Abergwaun Hotel) at which 45 members were present on that night in October 1947.

Around 1952 a decision had been made to adopt the Redwing and F.B.Y.C members purchased 8 boats built by Pearn of Looe at a cost of £212 each. However, the weight of the Redwing and the lack of a good low tide slipway made its handling difficult at Lower Fishguard, and the Redwing was replaced in 1959/1960 by the purchase of 4 Albacores, (costing about £250.00 each), which being lighter could be easily handled by two people.

In 1954 F.B.Y.C played host to many famous actors from the Moby Dick film unit which spent several months in the area. About (1960), the possibility of building a slipway on the seaward side of the jetty was raised and there being no objections from the Board of Trade, this slipway was built and paid for by the F.B.Y.C.

In July 1964/5 the Fishguard & Goodwick U.D.C acquired the quay, made repairs and eventually completed parking spaces for cars and boats.

Over the years the Yacht Club has been the scene of many happy and memorable social occasions; innumerable parties, quiz nights, whist drives, a Bridge Club and the Annual Christmas Draw. Many of these functions, including the Laying Up and Kitting Out suppers, continue to this day.

The Yacht Club buildings were constructed in 3 phases; the Western end and the black shed in 1875 with the centre section added later. The seaward end of the club premises was let to the Aberaeron Steam Packet Company Ltd. by the Yorke Estate for a term of 99 years from 15th March 1898. The Aberaeron Steam Packet Company went into liquidation in 1917 and the lease transferred to Spillers & Bakers Ltd. (Later to become Spillers Flour Millers). Between 1931/34, coasters were still arriving from Liverpool, Bristol or Cardiff to Spillers Flour Depot on the quay and during the war years (1939-1945) it was still used as a food store.