



FORTH CRUISING CLUB

December 2002

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Commodore's Report

Well here we are, the festive season past again and only another four months till the boats go in the water. Also only another four months to do all that work on the boat that you have been promising yourself that you would do, sooner rather than later.

The first thing I want to say is to make a very sincere apology to Jim Simpson. I said at the dinner dance that this was the first trophy he had won in the club. That was wrong. As he pointed out to me afterwards he has won trophies before with his other boat. What I should have said was that it was the first trophy that Jim had won in the club with Katie Mhor. My apologies Jim.

Those people who attended the AGM would know that we are in a very healthy position financially. Circumstances have changed since we first decided to buy a new club boat two years ago. The committee feel that a new club boat is not a priority at the moment and since our main fund raiser, Gordon McKissock is no longer able to take on the fund raising role due to work commitments, the committee have decided that the treasurer is going to put the money into a high interest earning account where it will stay until either the club needs a new boat or the money is needed for other things.

One last thing the estate have extended our lease on the club for another 3 years so we know at least we will be in the club for that time and in the meantime we will look at negotiating a longer lease or look at other options for the club. One of the options we are looking at is to buy the clubhouse but if there are any other suggestions we will have a look at them.

Hope you had a wonderful Christmas and hopefully the sailing season will be better next year.

Helen Crossley Tel. 0131-337 5683

Forth Cruising Club Website !

The sailing club's own website will be launched on Saturday 1st February 2003. Access to club information such as events, club history, how to join, subscriptions etc. plus racing, for sale/wanted items and a forum to express members views will be available. The website is for club members and therefore it is you who can determine what is displayed. Any feedback or requests should be forwarded to me at the following e-mail address or by phone ; smugglerofrhu@tiscali.co.uk Tel. 01383-873077

Gavin Carter

Dates for Your Diary

Racing meeting:

Thursday 16th January

Thursday 30th January

7.30pm at the Clubhouse

See the Vice Commodore's report for details



"Winter doesn't always bring gale force winds & rain...." Photo : K.Bellini

Congratulations !

John Harris – FCC Treasurer and skipper of Armagnac wed his long term fiancée and crew member Mandy Murray at The Golf View Hotel in Nairn on Saturday 30th November.



Bill Watson

It is our sad duty to convey the news that Bill Watson, a club member for very many years, died in October. Bill raced his Leisure 17 Ecilop (Police backwards) very successfully not only at Limekilns but also up and down the entire length of the Forth. Bill was an ex police officer and when he retired became an attendance officer for the Local Authority. Bill's widow Jean lives in Inverkeithing.

Peter G Gargett

Vice Commodore's Report

I hope this section of the newsletter will become a regular feature. Having responsibility for club racing fixtures there should be sufficient material to keep me going. I have a number of new, and I hope, innovative ideas or suggestions to add to the racing programme and for these to achieve any degree of success requires your support and participation.

As a first step, I have reconvened the Vice Commodore's sub-committee and am pleased to report that, David Tullis, Bill Carty, Ken McNeill and Jim Simpson have volunteered to assist me. It is also my intention to hold two get-togethers for those of you who wish to or are prepared to be persuaded to participate in the racing programme next season. The first meeting will be held on **Thursday 16 January 2003 in the clubhouse at 1930hrs.** A second opportunity for those who can't make the 16th will be provided on **Thursday 30 January**, same time and venue. Light refreshments will be served. I invite you to attend this meeting so that you can put forward your own ideas and suggestions for what you would like the club to offer. Please come along, if only to be sociable and we can discuss anything at all about racing - none of it needs to be taken too seriously.

Whilst the majority of the Club's trophy events were not over burdened with large numbers, they were run, and for interests sake, here are the season's full results in place order with owner's name and boat's name:

- **Rae Trophy**, K.Downie/I.Girvan, Paladin, 2nd D.Crossley in Panache and 3rd, J.Simpson in Katie Mor.
- **Driftwood Trophy**, Bilge Keel, G.Bell,in Meggie, D.Crossley in Panache followed by W. McAlpine in Louise. Fin Keel, K.Downie/I.Girvan in Paladin, and J.Johnstone in Yvana.
- **Everett Trophy**, K.Downie/I.Girvan in Paladin, 2nd J.Simpson in Katie Mor
- **Masson Trophy**, J.Simpson in Katie Mor, K.Downie/I.Girvan in Paladin, W.McAlpine in Louise. D.Crossley in Panache and P.Whetton in Fyne Thyme.
- **Regatta, Pa Billings Trophy** for Bilge Keel P.Whetton, G.Bell and D.Crossley, followed by K. Bellini in Cordelle, W.McAlpine followed by J.Harris in Armagnac. Pa Billings Trophy for Fin Keel G. Blair, Andiamo and J.Simpson.

Many congratulations to all the winners and thank you to all of you who participated. Neither the Pathetic Paddle nor the Ladies Trophy was awarded this year, unfortunately. I am very keen to ensure that the Ladies event is run next year. This is a beautiful trophy, arguably the best or, one of the best, in the Club. So, ladies, please attend the meeting, view the trophy and let me know the format of race which would suit you and get you out on the water racing. Never mind the old man, just tell him you need the boat for just one day in the year!

Racing is by its very nature, generally a less than sociable activity. One suggestion I would like to put forward is that, in conjunction with Austen Gourdie, Social Convener, we could provide a social event, immediately after all races. If there is a demand for it, this social event could also be held during the race for those who wish simply to socialise, spectate and support the participants. At the last committee meeting consideration was being given to the possibility of re-introducing the bar. Watch this space. I look forward to seeing you on either the 16th or 30th January. Please make every effort to attend. I would appreciate it. Please feel you can 'phone me at home anytime should you wish to discuss any matter.

Peter G Gargett. Tel. 01592 840 553

Treasurer's Report

New members and careful cost management of funds meant a small surplus of £1,330 (33%) was realised against the fiscal 2001 performance. Although five members left the club between 1st September 2001 and 31st August 2002 (the subscription year), increased subscription income from new members in 2002 (financial year) improved by 22% to £7,596. Although subscriptions are by far the largest source of income for the club, social events hold future opportunities especially with our very own 'naked chef' Austen leading the way .

John Harris Tel. 01383 731177



Club racing at its best !



Favourable conditions allow Paladin to fly her kite.....

International Festival of the Sea

This festival is coming to Port of Leith from 23-26 May 2003. Volunteers are required to help on the waterfront during the festival. Duties will involve assisting in control & administration of the festival fleet. See letter on club notice board for more details.

Rear Commodore - Piers & Moorings

For those members that have visited the Club over previous weeks, the unstinting efforts of our small but keen workforce (around 6 of us) - that is the Sunday morning shovel leaners – has achieved a fair amount so far. If you readers are in need of a little exercise and a laugh or are feeling guilty lying in the bunk on any **Sunday** am please come and join the 'fun'. Work starts at **0945 and we flake out at 1230**. I have quite a wish list this winter which can only be achieved by members turning up. I'm also needing skilled help as well as 'diggers and demolishers'!

The ever increasing list runs roughly as follows :--

- New garden path - now in hand with concreting to do
 - Two additional water taps and power 'bollards' around car/boat park - now in hand with numerous holes dug to try and find and utilise old water pipes and connect cables. (any qualified mains electricians about?)
 - Remove pulley blocks from davits over winter & paint both davits
 - Investigate why pier end davit gets stiff to operate
 - Relocate some sinkers in harbour to cater for bigger boats
 - Replace some of the rock marking poles
 - Fix the ladders at the pontoons
 - Make additional ladders
 - Fix the window covers on starting box
 - Modify the pontoons to make fending easier and safer
 - Replace the deepwater mooring with one that can be easily used and trusted
- Not to mention occasional help required by both Clubhouse and Boat RC's



Fyne Thyme

Phil Whetton Tel. 01383-872691

Social Convener's Report

My first year as Social Convener is complete but you will have to put up with me a little longer as my sentence has been continued. Crane-in, I consider to be a social event that brings us all together on a single day as does crane out. On both days you managed to scoff your way through 88 bacon roles, 30 sausage rolls, 33 plates of stovies, 29 plates of corned beef hash and 1 gallon of soup.....well done !

We kicked off with the Commodores party in great style. The evening was well attended and the atmosphere throughout the night was fantastic....in fact all events throughout the season had quite a buzz ! Our dinner dance was held at the Elgin Hotel again and we sold 65 tickets. I took a gamble and put on 'Rooster' (a rock band) and boy did we rock the night away. When then last song was announced, none of the party go'ers were ready to leave the dancefloor, and so the band played on.

Saturday 7th December was our Christmas party. The clubhouse was at full capacity - a Christmas meal with all the trimmings was thoroughly enjoyed and the clubhouse was looking very festive with Christmas tree and decorations.

To close I would like to thank the committee for giving me the freedom to get on with things 'my way'. Most of all I would like to thank the club members for the support and attendance which made each social event a success, because without you it doesn't work !

Austen Gourdie Tel. 0131-335 3923

New Editor - Newsletter

Welcome to the December edition of the sailing club newsletter. Along with a new look to the newsletter comes a new editor. Claire & I have been members since January 2000 and can be found on 'Smuggler of Rhu'. We are enthusiastic to keep communication flowing and members up to date with the newsletter and the soon to be launched website !

Any feedback or requests are welcome, please contact us by e-mail or phone.

Gavin & Claire Carter

smugglerofrhu@tiscali.co.uk Tel. 01383-873077



Secretary

AGM

26 members attended the AGM on 31st October. There was nothing particularly contentious this year and the meeting was over relatively quickly. After a gap of a few years we now have a Vice Commodore. Peter Gargett has taken on the job and promises some "innovative thinking" on the club's races! Denis Sullivan has stood down as Rear Commodore (Clubhouse) and was thanked for his contribution of the last few years. John Dougal is taking over.

COMMITTEE

The committee for 2002/3 is:

President - Ian Girvan

Commodore - Helen Crossley

Vice Commodore - Peter Gargett

Rear Commodore (Clubhouse) - John Dougal

Rear Commodore (Pier and Moorings)-- Phil Whetton

Rear Commodore (Club Boats)-- Dave Paterson

Cruising Convener -- Willie McAlpine

Secretary -- Roger Richard

Treasurer -- John Harris

Social Convener -- Austen Gourdie

NEW BOATS

Just arrived on the pier is Ken and Jenny McNeill's new boat, a Hunter 26 "Solitaire", with their old boat "Sunfish" transferring to Andy Griffiths and family - so anyone interested in "Monty 2"? Happy sailing to both.

WELCOME

A warm welcome to the new members who have joined recently. Jason Bowler and family from Tillicoultry have the Skipper 17 which appeared in the harbour in the last few weeks before crane-out. Robert and Sandra Ovens from Charlestown own "Benison" a Cox Marine 27 motor-sailer.

Cruising Convener's Report

My highlights of the 2002 sailing season were the Masson trophy which successfully combined some excellent racing with relaxed cruising and the Inchkeith Cruise with a walk around the island visiting 'Inchkeith Charlie's home' giving us superb panoramic views of the Forth !

The cruising calendar worked around the club's racing calendar last year. In 2003 I am keen to create a revised cruising calendar making optimum use of tides and will be liaising with our new Vice-Commodore to ensure that further integration of racing and cruising can continue into 2003.

Willie McAlpine Tel. 01259 760934



2002 Season winners

PRIZEGIVING

The club trophies presented to the 2002 season winners at the dinner dance were ;

Rae Trophy -Paladin, I.Girvan/K.Downie

Everett Trophy -Paladin, I.Girvan/K.Downie

Regatta (fin keel) - Andiamo, G.Blair

Regatta (bilge keel) -Fyne Thyme, P. Whetton

Driftwood Trophy(fin keel) - Paladin, I. Girvan/K.Downie

Driftwood Trophy(bilge keel)-- Meggie, G.Bell

Masson Trophy -- Katie Mor, J.Simpson

BOAT INSURANCE

Incidents during the storms of last winter showed that accidents could happen while boats are laid-up as well as when on the water, or during craning (not all scenarios are covered by the crane's insurance). The requirement in the Club Rules for minimum third-party cover is there to protect the interests of all members, and the public.

THE CLUB IN 2002/3

Club membership has had a net loss of 5 in the past year and now stands at a total of 73 memberships, which include 7 Life Memberships. The 51 boat owners produce a club fleet which comprises 57 boats: 44 Sailing Cruisers, 4 Motor Sailers, 3 Motor Boats and 6 Dinghies.

Roger Richard

Tel. 01383-872492



The closing cruise to Blackness.

