



FORTH CRUISING CLUB

www.forthcruisingclub.org

April 2007

29

30/04/2007

NEWS !

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Inside

Dinner dance update from Norah
Financial performance from Christian
What did you miss at April's AGM? See John's minutes!
2007 cruising commentary from Sean
Repairs & maintenance from Phil
Jim's 2007 Racing calendar.

Security code

The security code for the front door of the clubhouse will change on **Tuesday 1st May 2007** to;



Crane in 2007

Website Update

A statistics tracker has been added to the foot of the 'home' page on the club's website. Double click on 'view my stats'

and you will find yourself able to analyse how often the site is visited along with various other metrics.

A new page has been added to the site recently called 'weather and tide'. This will allow members access to specific local weather conditions and forecasts such as Leith, St. Abbs Head and St. Andrews. A tide prediction feature will give members 7 day forecasts of tides at Rosyth, Anstruther, Eyemouth and Arbroath.

Development is planned for a members discussion forum. More details to follow at a later date.



2006 Cruising Log Competition

Last year's cruising log competition winner was announced at the Commodore's party last month. Ronnie and Fiona Simpson provided an excellent description of their cruise aboard Crystal Clear through all three canals. Their log can be accessed via the website;
www.forthcruisingclub.org/cruising/

The Ouzo Report

The Marine Accident Investigation Branch (MAIB) have published their report into the collision or near collision of the 25ft yacht Ouzo with P&O's ferry Pride of Bilbao on 21 August 2006 off the Isle of Wight.

Various yachting publications are publishing condensed versions of this report this month, however all recommend that sailors read the full report as it contains much useful information. To access the report, see www.maib.gov.uk or phone tel. 02380 395500 and they will send you a hard copy.

Rod Licence Proposal

Boat owners may soon need to carry a licence to carry fishing rods aboard their boats if the Environment Minister David Miliband has his way. This could be introduced as early as 2009 and overturn a right to fish the coastal waters off Britain for the last 800 years.

Scottish Traditional Boat Festival

(29 June - 1 July 2007)

Looking for a nautical spectacular this summer, then Portsoy is the place to be. A fantastic display of the largest collection of traditional boats in Scotland will grace the harbour of Portsoy as the annual Scottish Traditional Boat Festival returns. The only event of its kind in the country and now in its 14th year, the colourful and dramatic 3 day festival combines maritime, music and entertainment. This year the festival plays host to the finale of the Moray Firth Flotilla 2007; a unique, one off project set to be the largest maritime event to take place in Scotland in 2007. The Flotilla will see up to 60 traditional boats sailing around the coast from Wick and ending their journey in Portsoy to coincide with the opening of the Scottish Traditional Boat Festival. More info; www.scottishtraditionalboatfestival.co.uk or call 01261 842951.

SOCIAL CONVENER REPORT

Since taking over as Social Convener, I have been impressed by the support network within the club to make each event such a success. There is a core group of people who have always been there, with advice and encouragement. As such I feel that we have a good 'Social Committee' with the result that each event has been very successful.

Burns Night—27 January 2007

The "Burns Night" was well attended and many contributed in a personal way to making the event very memorable and extremely entertaining. Clearly, we are lucky with the long standing musical talent in the club. Sean, John, Denis & Willie made the evening very special and even I had a go although I cannot compare myself to the level of their musicality and talent. The food was also excellent and everyone who either peeled the tatties, turnips, or just helped in the kitchen made it quite a smooth operation from start to finish. Ian Elder did a fine job as "Master of Ceremony". We felt that the charge to everyone was fair and it also allowed us to make a small profit.



The Crane In also went smoothly and I have to thank everyone who helped in the kitchen to ensure that I did not completely incinerate everything. I have since become a vegetarian!!

Commodores Party—21st April 2007

Most recently, The Commodore's Party too proved a massive effort from everyone to make the evening a cracking night. The costumes were brilliant, and it was nice to see so many who had entered into the spirit by dressing up. The food again, was the result of several people, not just me. Hopefully, none felt the worse for wear. On Sunday I returned to discover that all the clearing up had been done so thanks to all for that too.

Overall, I would like to thank each and every member of the club for all their support not just to me but to the club.



What's the collective noun for pirates?... a mutiny...?



Ronnie & Fiona Simpson—receive their trophy for the Cruising Log



Willie McAlpine—best dressed pirate.. receives his bounty.

DINNER DANCE & PRIZE GIVING 2007— DATE FOR YOUR DIARY!**24 November****Keavil House Hotel in Crossford (Mountbatten Suite)****Cost: £26.50 per head**

The following is a sample of the type of menu we might expect on the evening;

Cream of courgette and lemon soup
 Gravlax Shetland salmon / bell pepper / dill vinaigrette

Roast sirloin of beef and wild mushroom fricassee
 Supreme of chicken wrapped in parma ham and sage on a tomato and basil sauce (vegetarian option also available)
 Cajun blacked salmon fillet with a cafe de Paris butter

Bitter chocolate tart/ Strawberry and mascarpone cheesecake/ Cheese and biscuits
 Coffee and mints

This year we've secured an excellent ceilidh band called Shindig who have a wide repertoire of music (not just Scottish) and will provide great entertainment on the night. To reserve some tickets, please contact me.

Norah Black—Social Convener
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2007 Social Calendar

2 June 07	Driftwood Trophy Social
30 July/1 Aug	FCC Regatta
6 October	Crane out
to be arranged	AGM
24 November	Dinner Dance & Prize giving
Dec—To be arranged	Mulled wine night

TREASURER REPORT

Event	Income	Expenditure	Surplus / (Deficit)
	£	£	£
Dinner Dance - 18th Nov '06	1,635	1,427	208
Mulled Wine Night - 9th Dec '06	160	83	77
Burns Night - 27th Jan '07	256	122	134
Total Surplus / (Deficit)			419

Financial performance for recent socials.

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CLUB SECRETARY REPORT

An extract from the minutes of the Spring annual general meeting held on Thursday 5th April 2007 are as follows;

1. the meeting was attended by **28 members** including committee members.
2. October '06 AGM meeting minutes were approved
3. The 2007 sailing programme

Sean Cunningham outlining the proposed **cruising programme** and explaining the reasons behind the format that had been adopted. (See Cruising Convener report for further details).

Jim Simpson confirmed that the Rae Trophy race would take place on Sunday 29th April and not the 26th as promulgated. Jim ran through the **racing programme**, emphasising the Club's Major events and also those of other neighbouring clubs. An explanation of the new format for the East coast long weekend event that has taken over from the erstwhile East coast sailing week was given where its format changed to make it more cruiser friendly – less racing round the cans and more long legs favouring cruising boats. The event would now take place over a long week end (Fri,Sat,Sun,Mon.) Jim also indicated that he could arrange for a Roadshow presentation to be made to the club if we drum up enough support for such an event.

Details of the new arrangements can be found on the FYCA's website. Similarly the forth inshore group (FIG) racing programme had been revised and now included events for cruisers and it was believed more in tune with ordinary boat owners rather than for the racing clique based on Port Edgar. Officer's of the day were also being sought to officiate for various race events. Names to Jim.

4. The Commodore's address

The Commodore opened his address by referring to the lease terms agreed with Broomhall estate regarding our tenure of both the clubhouse and pier. For reasons relating to Broomhall's own finances they could, for legal reasons, only offer the clubhouse lease on a year by year basis so although the estate says that it unlikely to cancel the lease in the foreseeable future, the Commodore did stress that we had no real security of tenure. He went on to say that the pier, however, was on a 5 year lease and moreover the new lease included an extra area of land formed from a bottom section of next door's garden.

Continuing, he confirmed that we had been given authority over the allocation of moorings at the middle (or Town) Pier.

Turning to the subject of the safety boat, he indicated that it would be available alongside the pier in a state of readiness for all the club's major sailing events, to this end the Rear commodore (Club Boats) was seeking to put in place a roster of those qualified, to service this requirement.

Clubhouse refurbishment. Under the terms of the lease the club is required to maintain the building in a 'wind and watertight' condition. There were serious problems with windows throughout the building, the most pressing of which were the first floor south facing windows. The committee had therefore decided to seek costs to replace them and had subsequently received quotations between £***** and £*****. A quotation of £***** had been accepted for their replacement. Renewal of other windows will be investigated in due course.

The Commodore announced that the door security code would be changed on the 1st May. Members would be advised of the new code thereafter.

Cruising Convener

The Commodore informed the meeting that Sean Cunningham had taken up the duties of the post and proposed that Sean be confirmed in the post if he was willing to accept it and if there were no other nominees. There being no other nominees, John Dougal proposed Sean Cunningham be confirmed in the post and seconded by Helen Crossley, carried unanimously.

Bar

The Commodore reported that Ken Clements, who had so effectively run the bar and organised bar staff was now, due to other commitments unable to continue with the task. We now need a volunteer to take over the bar function. The Commodore proposed a vote of thanks for Ken and his team.

Committee Members

The Commodore praised committee members for their efforts on behalf of the club, especially: Phil Whetton, Norah Black, John & Moira Hoyes, those partaking in the winter work parties. This was supported by the meeting.

Queries arising from the report.

Helen Crossley enquired

1. If the lease were to be withdrawn what would happen? The Commodore responded that we presently had no contingency plan.
2. Had we considered buying the pier?- not at this time, but we had a commercial cost estimate of £*****.
3. What style of windows would the replacements be – like for like.

5. Election of President

There being no other nominations, Sean Cunningham proposed that Ian Girvan be re-elected to the position. Seconded by Philip Whetton. Carried unanimously.

6. AOB

Treasurer had circulated sheets showing a financial breakdown of three earlier club events (Dinner/dance; Mulled wine night; Burns Night.) that returned an overall profit of £418.98.*

Social Convener similarly, had circulated a set of menus which had been negotiated with the Keavil House Hotel, asking the members for their comments.*

(*Post meeting note both documents to be posted on the club's web site to enable members to peruse and subsequently comment at their leisure.)

7. From the floor

Ian Smith raised the subject of club membership cards, saying that other clubs had them which allowed reciprocal use of facilities and asking if we had considered doing something similar. Helen Crossley responded, saying that we used to have cards, subsequently producing a card that had been issued by the club some years earlier. The Commodore undertook to examine the viability of any scheme and Ken Bellini volunteered to produce any necessary art work.

Sean Cunningham enquired over the matter of sweatshirts bringing to the meeting's notice that the list for those expressing an interest was now full and suggesting that we both source a supplier and put up an extension list to record other people interested. Again the Commodore undertook to review the matter in committee.

On a similar theme Ken Bellini asked if the sale of burgees could be promoted at crane in.

Gavin Carter raised the matter of installing a web camera looking out over the jetty, after some discussion during which it emerged that the majority of the work could be undertaken by club members, the ongoing cost to the club for a broadband link would be approximately £17/month, Gavin would probably be able to find a Machine to support any installation. It was also believed that any such installation would not only improve security but would enable members to assess weather conditions remotely. Once again the Commodore undertook to take the matter into committee.

The Commodore closed the meeting at 20:40

John Hoyes—Club Secretary
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CRUISING CONVENERS REPORT

In drawing up this cruising programme I have tried to build in some degree of flexibility as to destinations. As you all well understand, the wind and weather must be taken into account in devising any sailing plan. It is therefore inappropriate to be too specific about cruising destinations until as near the event as possible. That is why I have included cruising areas rather than nominated ports of call.

For the purposes of getting a draft plan together I have divided our cruising waters into the four general areas;
 Inner Forth the area between the rail bridge and Kincardine Bridge.
 Middle Forth east of the rail bridge to Inch Keith.
 Outer Forth eastwards from Inch Keith to the limits of Forth Navigation.
 North Sea out with the area of Forth Navigation.

I wish to make a special pleading to members to consider evening cruising in the Inner or Middle Forth areas along with overnighing at our own harbour. Boats can be moored alongside the wall, the three pontoons or on their allotted moorings. Among the facilities to be enjoyed, at no extra charge, are the club lounge, toilets and showers. From long experience, even in the days when John and I had to work for a living, I can recommend this type of cruising. I hope this idea will appeal to lots of members and I look forward to receiving your feed-back. In particular, I would like to know whether we could nominate Tuesday or Wednesday of each week as our preferred night.

For the North Sea cruise. I would suggest, cruising via Granton/Port Edgar to an East Neuk port, then doing a day sail around the May Isle and Bass rock, perhaps calling at North Berwick, returning to the East Neuk, followed by another day sail around the Bell Rock and back to the East Neuk, returning home via Granton/Port Edgar. Given suitable weather we are talking about five nights away, of which three would be spent in the East Neuk port of your choice. I am, of course open to your suggestions about other destinations in the North Sea and I would be very pleased to provide a means whereby members can publish their intentions along with invitations for others to join in.

Shake Out Cruise - Wednesday 18 April

This event went ahead on Wednesday as scheduled. The weather was far from pleasant and only two boats mustered on the water; namely, "Jessie M" and "Forth Centaur". The wind was mainly SW 5. Steve White had Alex Birrell crewing and I had John Dougal. We managed to get a sail with the mizzen and half a jenny rigged. An All Stations report that a yacht was drifting out of control near Rosyth diverted us for a while until the Forth Bridge Rescue boat reported that the single crew was sailing under a well reefed foresail towards Port Edgar. Picking up our moorings in a brisk wind and very high tide was interesting but both crews coped well. Lets hope that future events will be better supported.

2007 Cruising Calendar

14-Apr-07	Crane in
18-Apr-07	Shake out cruise
22-Apr-07	Cruise Inner Forth Area
28-Apr-07	Open Cruise to Blackness
11-May-07	Cruise Inner Forth Area
22-May-07	Cruise Middle Forth Area
09-Jun-07	Cruise to Fisherrow / Inchkeith
22-Jun-07	Cruise to Anstruther
07-Jul-07	Cruise Middle Forth Area
20-Jul-07	Cruise North Sea Area
18-Aug-07	Anstruther Muster
15-Sep-07	Cruise Inner Forth Area
23-Sep-07	Close cruise to Blackness
06-Oct-07	Crane Out



Sean P Cunningham—Cruising Convener
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VICE - COMMODORE REPORT**2007 Racing Calendar****Date Event Name**

26-Apr-07	Rae Trophy
19-May-07	Mickery Regatta
02-Jun-07	Driftwood Trophy
16-Jun-07	Everett Trophy
23-Jun-07	Fife Regatta
30-Jun-07	FCC Regatta
01-Jul-07	FCC Regatta
20-Jul-07	East Coast Week
28-Jul-07	Aberdour Regatta
05-Aug-07	Masson Trophy
25-Aug-07	Edinburgh Regatta
26-Aug-07	Ladies Race
15-Sep-07	Cramond Regatta
22-Sep-07	PEYC Regatta

Jim Simpson—Vice Commodore
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jim@simpson-katie.freeserve.co.uk

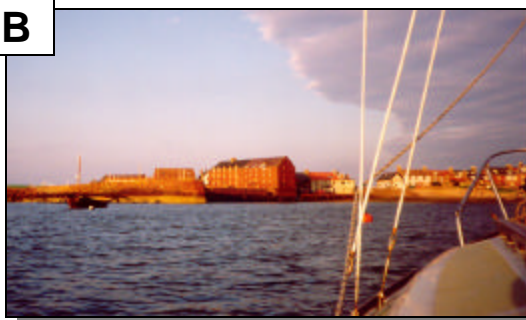
New Chandlery at Upper Largo

A new chandlery called Upper Largo Chandlery opened in March advertising a wide range of sailing equipment and clothing plus marine engineering services. This new supplier is welcome to our Fife coastline although early reports suggest their level of stock is low reflective of a new business.

5 Main street, Upper Largo, Fife
Tel. 01333 360217

SEAN's "identify the spot competition!"

We don't know what the prize is... email Sean with your answers to find out!

A**B****C**

Sean P Cunningham—Cruising Convener
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REAR COMMODORE PIER & MOORINGS REPORT

Another season underway and I've been quietly busy with some members over the winter months doing work to keep our facilities up to scratch. The major winter task was to repair the pier wall after the December storms nearly pushed the north pontoon into the club basement! With tons of loose soil and rocks removed and tons of concrete mixed over numerous Sundays by the stalwart team and steel reinforcing added, the job was completed by the end of march. Mustn't forget to mention the coffee and biscuit suppliers!!



We now have a west cardinal to mark the southern end of the spit of rocks to the east of the harbour. It is yet to be re-erected as the rocks couldn't take its weight and it capsized! The plan is to also have other cardinals on the Dolphin and rocks off Limekilns main pier.



Other more boring bits are the site is being tidied post crane in. Unused cradles/ trailers are to be placed at the far end of the walled boat park, ladders removed from the Basement store - its the rubber dinghy store during the season - and any wood that is left to be taken off site if still needed.



The boats are now in the harbour with one or two places not taken up and one or two still vacant. I've had a random look at chains and all but one are ok - I'll not say whose here!

Please note that the owners of any boats arrived/yet to arrive since last August's registration forms were issued and who have not registered them need to do so via the Club sec. The Club insists



ALL boats on Club grounds are registered and insured at least to third party.

On a 'lighter' note other work to achieve over the coming season is to lift the large coping stones at the foot of the pier end back on top and to replace the two depth gauges.

The deep water mooring buoy is now back on and can easily be used by slipping a line through the hard eye of the mooring strop.

Have a good season and give me a shout if queries or probs arise.
 Phil Whetton—Rear Commodore (Pier & Moorings)
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Editor's note:

I am keen to get newsletter contributions from everyone. Please contact me if you would like to input to the next edition. I also require photographs. Thanks to Ian Girvan, Denis Sullivan, Willie MacAlpine and Sean Cunningham for photographs in this newsletter.

Gavin Carter Tel: 01383 873077 Email: smugglerofrhu@tiscali.co.uk