



# FORTH CRUISING CLUB

January 2004

22

22/01/2004

[www.forthcruisingclub.org](http://www.forthcruisingclub.org)

**NEWS !**

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## Work Parties Restart

Sunday morning work parties will restart on January 25<sup>th</sup>. There is work to be done in the clubhouse as well as on the pier so a wide range of tasks will be available, not just heavy labouring on the pier – so anyone can help.

## Bar Licence

We have recently had our application for a bar licence approved. This means we no longer have to ask for a special licence every time we want a function, which had limited us to four occasions per year. The committee has still to decide how and when the bar will be open but a reasonably regular basis is envisaged, together with any sailing/social events. The success of the venture depends, of course, on your support.

Keeping it running is really beyond the capacity of one man (even if he is Austen!) and so if you would like to offer your services to help please let him know.

## Bar Open—Saturday 31st !

With the new licence Austen intends to have the bar open on Saturday evenings. The opening night will be on 31<sup>st</sup> January, from 6pm to 11pm. No special function that night but come for a drink (or several) and chat.

## Welcome

Welcome to new member Tony Spence and family, from Cairneyhill, who have a Linder aluminium dinghy.

## First Aid Classes

There was good support for the idea of putting on a sailing-oriented short first aid course. The course dates are confirmed for 3 Thursday evenings on Feb 12th, 19th and 26th. Those who put their names on the list will be contacted to confirm. If you meant to add your name but never got round to it let Roger know as with a few extra there may be a possibility of expanding to two courses without increasing the cost too much.

**John Dougall**

As you will probably know, John broke his leg badly in a fall during crane-out. He is obviously in members' thoughts as news of his progress is often asked for. It was a serious break and required some time in hospital. He is now recuperating at home, though still requiring check-ups, and is still restricted in mobility. However, he hopes that by the time the boats go back in the water he will be able to sit in the back of a boat, even if not to do much. There is now a substantial amount of metal in his leg but he has been reassured it is non-ferrous, so rust should not be a problem and he should not cause compasses to misread! Ian Maul has replaced John as Rear Commodore (Clubhouse).

## Bill Carty

At the AGM Honorary Life membership was conferred on Bill in recognition of his long association with and support of the club. Bill has been an enthusiastic member of the club for more than fifty years and over the years has carried out a great deal of work for the club, both physically on work parties and organisationally on the committee, including being Commodore.

## Dates for your Diary—2004

Work Parties Restart	25 January
Bar open	31 January
AGM	to be confirmed
Crane-in	3 & 4 April
Driftwood Trophy	15 May
West Forth Regatta	19 & 20 June
Limekilns Regatta	28 & 29 August
Crane-out	23 & 24 October
Dinner Dance / Prizegiving	13 November
Mulled Wine Night	4 December

## Dinner Dance & Prize Giving

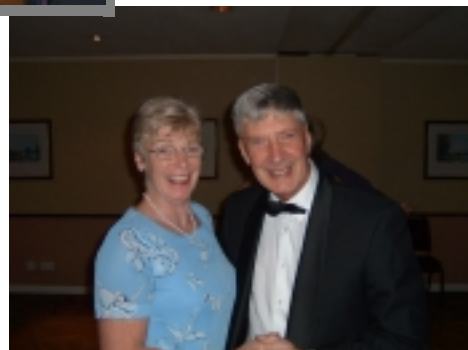
The Dinner Dance in November was a great success and the Queensferry Lodge provided an excellent meal and service.

With over 100 attendees, the whole evening was thoroughly enjoyed by a wide range of club members, The great mix of entertainment led to a lively evening with the party going on well into the night.

The table below shows the well deserved recipients of the trophies presented on the evening.



Trophy	Description	Recipient
DRIFTWOOD	Open event (bilge keel)	Gordon Bell
DRIFTWOOD	Open event (fin)	John Johnstone
EVERETT	Club only	Derek Crossley
MASSON	Club only / two tides	Jim Simpson
PA BILLING	Club only / Regatta (fin)	Jim Simpson
PA BILLING	Club only / Regatta (bilge)	Gordon Bell
RAE	Club only / 1 <sup>st</sup> race season	Gordon Bell
TANKRED	Inter club with Bo'ness Boat Club	Awarded BBC
LADIES	Club only / lady helm	Helena Paterson



## Rear Commodore Piers & Moorings

Looks like it's that time again so here goes -- albeit somewhat brief

Now the boats are all settled for the winter and those that are working on them are quietly beavering away please spare a little time to help with the planned Club improvements. This winter's work programme has got off to a slow but steady start which means my list will probably not be fully achieved.

For those of you that can spare a Sunday morning - 0945--1230 approx - we are currently working on the pier fixings for ladders (there's 10 altogether) and the top of the garden path/patio/barbeque area.

Other work to be carried out includes:

Rock/stone removal in harbour to clear lines between the new green/white poles  
2 new sinkers to be dug in  
Repairs to the pier  
Davits to be painted  
Some ladders/handrails to be made then fixed

The Brucehaven mooring allocation is now in hand so watch out on the Club noticeboard come mid January. (You'd be surprised at the number of members who forgot to complete the back page of the Boat Registration form - but I'll be magnanimous as usual).

**Phil Whetton Tel. 01383 872691**

## Treasurer's Report

The statement of accounts presented at the AGM showed a smaller surplus of income over expenditure than in the previous 2-3 years.

Expenditure over the 2003 / 04 season is anticipated to be higher this year due to essential maintenance of the Clubhouse, and the increase in rent now cutting in to its full amount.

This alone will probably result in at best a break even situation at the end of the year with a shortfall looking quite likely.

With the purchase of the new club boat, the end of season result could be a shortfall of as much as £9,000. With the above, the fact that subs have not increased for at least 3 years, and the uncertainty over the future of the Club in mind I proposed an increase to subscriptions of 20% on all membership categories with effect from 01/09/04.

This proposal was accepted by the membership.

**John Harris**

## Rear Commodore—Club Boats

As a new member of the committee I would like to take this opportunity to thank my predecessor for all his hard work and commitment, and to assure you that I hope to continue where he left off.

### Club Boat

As you are aware, the new boat type has been agreed upon by the majority and it is just a case of sourcing one at the budgeted price. Since David's investigations, the cost has gone up due to inflation and problems at the factory that made the hulls, so that now the cost is higher than was expected. I shall continue to source a suitable craft and assure you that there will be a safe and working boat at the start of the new season as far as my remit is concerned, and the best deal will be sought.

### The Basement

Those of you who have been down working on your boats or on the Sunday working parties, may have noticed a few changes to the shed.

**Ladders** : If your ladder is not stowed at your boat, please help by returning them to the rack at the rear left of the shed.

**Rubber Dinghies** : I have moved the scaffolding back in order to make more space, and once I have completed shelving it, dinghies may be stowed on the rack. I shall have this completed by the start of the new season.

**Engine Oil** : You may have noticed that there are drums provided for your old engine oil. Feel free to use them, and once they are full I shall have them disposed of. Incidentally, if anyone can supply me with a 45gal oil drum I would be most grateful.

**Outboard Test Tank** is now outside for your safety and convenience.

Thank you for your attention, and I would like to wish you all the best for a Happy New Year.

**Alan Browne**

## MORE NEWS.....

### Dave Paterson

Dave stepped down from the committee at the AGM after an unusual 11 years continuously in post. This was marked by the presentation of a suitably engraved tankard during the Mulled Wine Night (which he then generously filled with whisky as the wine was long gone!). His place has been taken by Alan Browne.

### Blue Flags

The FYCA has asked the club to publicise the Save the North Sea campaign. The UK has recently signed up to promoting the Individual Blue Flag for boat owners (based on a similar idea to the Blue Flag award for beaches and marinas). This is a European wide initiative to get boat owners to follow a responsible code of environmental conduct. There is no cost to sign up although if boat owners want to fly a small pennant flag there is a cost of £15.

The campaign is to be formally launched early next year, however, in the mean time you can get information - and sign up - by visiting [www.savethenorthsea.com](http://www.savethenorthsea.com) and following the Individual Blue Flag links to the UK.

### Another Centaur !

Newly arrived at the pier, and unfortunately too late to have been included in the handbook, is Ian Maul's new boat - a Westerly Centaur called "Maverick". We'll soon have to open a sub-section of the club for Centaur owners. Perhaps we'll actually have some class racing! "Kelpie" is still looking for a new home, so if you know someone who would like a Swift 18, with trailer, contact Ian.

### Sea Cadets

The Club was approached by the Rosyth Sea Cadets who are looking for a new location to operate from. They have premises at HMS Caledonia for land-based activities but require somewhere for water-based activity as the current arrangement at Dalgety Bay is not proving suitable (due to frequency and nature of DBSC activity restricting the cadets' opportunities). They have dinghies, canoes, and a RIB rescue boat - so their main interest is the slip, dinghy park and changing room.

### Sea Cadets continued...

There are 35 cadets (age 12 up) and 7 adults, and must always have minimum ratio of 1 officer to 5 cadets. Parental consent forms have to be signed on every occasion a cadet attends. Discipline is naval type and very good.

They expressed an interest in participating in the regatta and other races, helping at work parties and other suitable tasks, and would man the RIB on occasions when it would assist us.

The Committee discussed this and decided that there could be benefits for both organisations (we would get greater activity at the harbour, a workforce, access to their fast rescue boat, and a possible source of crews and future members) and therefore it was agreed to offer them Corporate Membership. Should any members of the organisation wish to make use of the club at any times other than official Sea Cadet sessions then they will need to join the club in their own right, under the appropriate membership category.

### Editor's note:

I am keen to get newsletter contributions from all club members, not just the committee. Please contact me if you would like to input to the next edition.

Gavin Carter,

Tel: 01383 873077

Email: [smugglerofrhu@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:smugglerofrhu@tiscali.co.uk)

### PS New Crew Member for 'Smuggler of Rhu'

Rory Alexander Carter was born on 19th December 2003 weighing in at 8lb 8oz, - everyone is well. Whilst Rory's position on the boat is guaranteed, Smuggler's skipper was heard to comment that he looked like foredeck material !

