



FORTH CRUISING CLUB

www.forthcruisingclub.org

January 2005

25

05/02/2005

NEWS !

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FCC Members Survey 2004

Many thanks to all club members who responded to the 2004 members survey. We received a 53% response rate and we're looking forward to receiving newsletter photos or articles from the 15 people who said they would be contributing! Results have been compiled and reports will be published within the next month!

Club boat named

The new club boat had its name chosen at the Commodore's Party. From a long list the winner was *Osprey*, suggested by John and Moira Hoyes (reasoning –it goes fast and plucks things from the water).

Handbook update sheets

Enclosed with this newsletter are two update sheets for your handbook:

Sect 2 – Committee Members

Sect 10 – List of Boats and Owners

The updates covering sailing and social events will be issued later when programmes have been finalised.

Missing

One of the high visibility waistcoats used at craning is missing. It probably got thrown in a car or boat along with a heap of very wet oilies! If you have it could you return it, please.

Also missing, though in a more deliberate way, is the club copy of the Forth Pilot Book which was secured to the shelf at the notice board (and bore a prominent Do Not Remove notice!). If this pricks your conscience then perhaps it might reappear in the clubhouse again?

Clubhouse Painting

Ian Maul, Rear Commodore Clubhouse will be starting Sunday morning painting work parties soon. Anyone who is interested please call Ian on 01383 872294. (ian.maul@btconnect.com)

Jimmy Longley - 'Unencumbered'

Jimmy Longley, a long serving member of the club has forwarded a copy of his cruising log taken from 'Katy Wran' - a 20 foot GRP King Shark Sloop. A copy of the log can be downloaded from www.forthcruisingclub.org, and a copy placed on the notice board for members to read.

Forthcoming Events

There are four events taking place very shortly in the club house.



Clubhouse bar monthly opening — starts Saturday 12th February

Galley team meeting—Friday 18th Feb, 7.30pm.

There is an open invitation for anyone interested in helping out in the galley at social events to come along and chat through some ideas with Ken Porteous. The bar will be open!

Forth & Clyde Canal talk and slide show— 22 February, 7.30pm. With Andy Carnduff from Aberdour Sailing Club.

Nautical Quiz Night— March 16th at 7.30pm

Dates for your Diary — 2005

Bar open	12 February
Galley team meeting	18 February
Forth & Clyde Canal slide show	22 February
Nautical quiz night	16 March
AGM	7 April
Crane-in	9/10 April
Commodores Party	16 April
'Shake out' sail	23 April
Rae Trophy	24 April
Evening Cruise	30 April
Irvine Boat Jumble	1 May
Driftwood Trophy Race	7 May
Opening cruise to Blackness	8 May
Everett Trophy	22 May
Cruise to Lindisfarne	28 May
West Forth Regatta	4/5th June
Cruise to Aberdour	11 June
Cruise to Anstruther	25 June
May Island/Bass Rock	26 June
Crane-out	15/16 October

For more sailing dates - see www.forthcruisingclub.org or await publication of 2005 handbook !

Commodore's Column

This is the first newsletter since the AGM and, as you will see from the handbook sheets, there have been a few changes to the committee. Once again we have managed to get an able committee, with no vacancies, which can continue to run the club positively through the next year. I should again acknowledge the contribution made by the outgoing committee members, particularly Helen who finally managed to disengage herself after the longest-running (and first female) commodoreship in the history of the club. In recognition of this she was presented at the Dinner Dance with a framed photo of the harbour.

We have facilities which are probably as good, if not better, than those offered by any small club on the river, and at a very economical rate. We have done this mainly through the voluntary (though to some on Phil's work parties it might



feel like forced!) labour of the membership. Or at least, as is the case in all clubs, some of the membership. It was encouraging therefore to get such a positive response to the 'Assistance Required' sheet which went out with the membership renewals. Thanks to all who put their names down. I hope you will be able to respond should the call come. Two clichés – "many hands make light work" and "the more you put in, the more you get out"

On behalf of the committee I wish you all the best for the new year – and much happy, and successful, scraping / polishing / gluing / screwing and painting through the winter (do start early) in anticipation of a good and active season, which surely must be better than last.

Roger Richards, tel: 01383 872492 (rogerfcc@zetnet.co.uk)

Rear Commodore Piers & Moorings

Now that all the boats are tidily packed away after being treated with TLC i.e. bottoms scrubbed, hulls polished, insides vacuumed, brightwork cleaned and paintwork touched up, your eyes should now be turning to the Club to see where your endless skills and spare moments can best be utilised.

Remember those forms most of you filled up volunteering your services - well I've got copies and they make good reading! I've especially taken note of those who said they could make **Sunday mornings**. Work parties commence in the New Year and are timed for **0945 - 1230** so all you active, healthy living people will have to forego Full Scottish Breakfasts and newspapers for some necessary exercise.

Seriously though, the Club needs helpers to keep its costs and hence its fees down. Wellie boots and gloves, preferably waterproof (that's gloves I'm referring to but waterproof wellies are of course also helpful) are the order of the day but there is always time for 'idle chat and shovel leaning!'

A few of the jobs lined up this winter are:

Pier repairs - especially at the outer end

Rock/stone clearance from all over the harbour - especially down the far side

Renew the outermost rock marker pole

Strengthen all three pontoon chain fixings

Add a non-slip matting to all three pontoons to make them safer to walk on when wet

Paint the davits

Remove all the dodgy ladder/chain and fendering at the new 'visitors berth.'

Manufacture/replacement of the final ladders including the one at the pier end davit

That is to name but a few necessary items of maintenance before we even get round to the 'nice to haves'!

Hope to see as many members as promised but don't forget your loyalties must also be shared with Clubhouse work.

Phil Whetton Tel. 01383 872691 (phil.whetton@btinternet.com)



Social Convenor

Hello Sailors and social animals. Welcome to a new year of frolics in the club house bar and other places.

Firstly, though I'd like to use this opportunity to highlight the success of Austen Gourdie as social convenor during the last 3 years or so. His enthusiasm and effort held no bounds and he sure to be missed by those who attended his gigs. Thank you Austen from all of us, and I'm sure I'll have to take you up on your offer of help when I get stuck.

Yes folks, he's a hard act to follow, but bear with me. First on my agenda is to offer you alcoholic beverage, soft drinks (boring!), culinary delights if you get hungry, and the chance to socialise and talk about boats or waves or ropes or something, as your bar will now be open for business. "Fair enough" I hear you say, but "when?".

Well, it has been suggested to me that one Saturday per month is ample. However, I feel members would tend to either forget or otherwise committed when the single monthly opening occurred. Clearly, weekly is the option that gives all members the chance to decide for themselves when to visit. Therefore to test the waters, I have split the difference so the clubhouse will be open every second Saturday from the **12th February**. If well enough attended, every Saturday is on the cards.

I am at present seeking live entertainment for your periodic edification (bet Austen never used words like that!) in the clubhouse itself and to cater for the expected hoardes of people, I am actively liaising with the Committee to find ways of increasing floor space within the room itself. I'll keep you informed of progress.

There will also be informative social gatherings on some week days: for example, interesting talks, slide shows, demonstrations etc. Probably to do with boats or waves or ropes or something. Sure beats pole dancers—eh guys?

The FCC sailing programme has now been posted and as you know drink and food go hand in hand with some of those events. Top all that off with the fixed calendar of FCC extravaganzas like the Commodores Party, mulled wine night, dinner dance etc, throw in a few ad hoc surprises throughout the year and why would you want to be anywhere else?

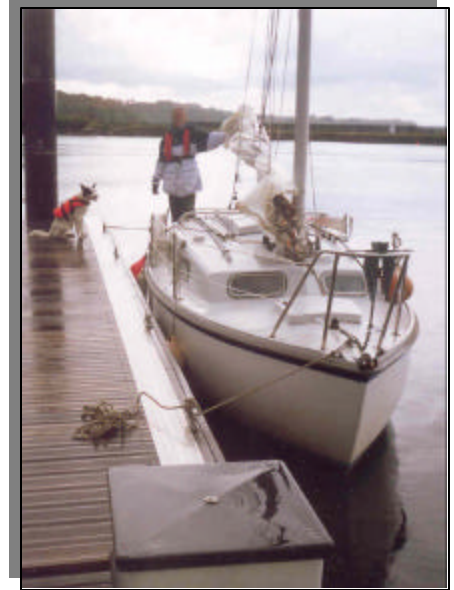
I urge you, fellow revellers, to watch out for further news, emails, stuff through your letterbox, the club notice board (in the garden in case you haven't noticed), the newsletter and maybe you'll pick up your phone to find me on the other end touting for business.

I feel confident that you'll find the bar a warm, welcoming and relaxing place to be in the coming year so to those who for one reason or another have not found it possible to attend many or any 'do's' in the past, I appeal to your sense of fun to give it a go. Bring your friends along. Make the effort. You will enjoy yourself. That's my goal. And to the regulars, I call upon you to continue to fill our till with money and encourage any new face to return by mixing freely and keeping your bad jokes and sea stories to a minimum.

Remember falling over IS permitted within the club, providing you are smiling when you hit the deck. So Spend! Spend! Spend!

By the way, my name's Ken. I'm the new social convenor and I'm happy to be given the opportunity to entertain you. See you on the sunny side.

Ken Porteous
Tel: 01383 724329
(ken.brodie@btinternet.com)



Would you like to buy a burgee?

If so, please note your name down on the list in the clubhouse notice board. The more we buy the lower the cost!

If you can't get to the clubhouse, give me a ring. **Kenneth Belinni tel: 01383 872866**



Cruising Convener

Some more info on the cruises from last year.

SATURDAY 17 JULY – GRANTON REGATTA

Departed Limekilns in quite a stiff westerly under fore sail making 7.5 knots SOG. LOUISE made Granton at 1905 in just over 2 hours. CORDELLE was already berthed on the new west pontoon along with another 20 or 30 other boats there for the racing. We still managed along side her. The east pontoon was full so plenty of people about making merry in the marquee supplied with bar and band. The next morn didn't tempt us onward to the East Neuk so we returned homeward for a brisk wind over tide motor sail.

SATURDAY 31 JULY – ABERDOUR

We arrived late at limekilns at 1250 to see 4 masts disappearing eastwards into the mist. Calm conditions prevailed until eventually, off Aberdour, a good westerly breeze picked up. The intrepid (boat names withheld) turned south for a bit of good beam reaching prior to hurrying back to Aberdour for the bottom of the tide. FINE TYME, MAVERICK, CORDELLE, ROANNA, SOLITAIR and LOUISE joined SULIE in the harbour and were all snugly tied up when the real adventures slipped in. Al and his motley young crew navigated CRYSTAL CLEAR along side. Aberdour was buzzing with their fete but we managed to find an eating-house. Early next morn (1000) three boats appeared to have slipped a bit earlier, 0600 by all accounts, to catch the tide. Wind picked up by the afternoon and the remaining left Aberdour for a brisk reefed sail home.

FRIDAY 20 AUGUST – ANSTRUTHER MUSTER

Intention - a night passage to Anstruther. Four boats took the bait and ANTELEX, ARMAGNAC, LOUISE and SEAHORSES left PE about 2200 hrs after topping up with chilli con carnie, courtesy of Mandy. The donk pushed us along until 0020 when the breeze picked up from the north. "Finished with engines" and then a cracking beam reach cutting through the darkness leaving that luminous trail behind in the water. Arrived outside Anstruther at 0445 and tip toed into inner harbour "parking" along the wall in 3m of water. TAO already there. Lots of rafting up during Saturday mostly while we were at the pub – returned to find 4 boats on the outside of Louise – oh well here until Sunday. The muster was better than ever with over 100 boats attending.



Left Sunday at 0930 for home and against the tide for the first few hours so the donk was fired up. Plenty of boats around us including the racers charging south west very close into shore. Wind picked up making a great sail south of the "Herwit". 1545 and under the bridges.

Over and above these planned passages were the usual short trips to Port Edgar for over nighters and numerous ad hoc outings usually planned at the last moment.

For 2005s cruising it is intended to revisit Holy Island and further south. The planned date will be around 30th May. It is also hoped to venture further up the east coast in July or August to Arbroath, Stonehaven or perhaps the Murray Forth.

Any comments, suggestions, alternative destinations – Call me.

**Willie McAlpine Tel. 01259 760934 / 07789 045907
(willmcalpine1952@aol.com)**

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.

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

Rear Commodore—Club Boats

Would members who have left inflatable dinghies in the basement please remove them by **15 February 2005** as we require the building empty to extend dinghy storage. If they are not removed by this date, we will slash them and throw them into the river! (only kidding—we won't slash them).

It is important that everyone who has articles in the basement has identification attached to them.

Kenneth Bellini Tel. 01383 872866

New Members

Welcome

We have had a number of new members recently. So welcome to the club to:

Alistair and Christine Bryce from Dalgety Bay (Westerly GK24, *Hocus Pocus*)

Malcolm Russell from Dunfermline (Dufour 24, *Breeze*)

Mike and Olive O'Sullivan from Dollar (Sadler 25, *Merrymaker*)

Kevin Russell and Claire Randall from Alloa (Westerly Pageant, *Seakatt*)

Fiona & Ronnie Simpson from Falkirk (Sunspot 15)

Hugh Angus from Limekilns

James Swan from Oakley



Bo'ness Harbour Redevelopment

An ambitious £150m redevelopment of Bo'ness waterfront was announced in November to create a new leisure and housing development around a restored harbour. The plans include a marina for leisure craft using the Forth & Clyde canal, waterside restaurants, a hotel, shops, car parking and 700 new harbour front homes.

For more info see www.myfuturesfalkirk.com

Langlands of Whitby Cruising Log - Oban to Limekilns (the long way!)

Douglas Milne owner of 'Langlands of Whitby' and Alex Birrell, left Kerrera (Oban) on 15 September 2004 arriving home eight days later at Limekilns after a white knuckle ride around our northerly coastline. The following is a short extract to wet your appetite;

Day 2 : "With the wind blowing a Force 8 around Ardamurchan Point it was difficult to concentrate on the scenery, even more difficult for Dougie who was at the helm from Tobermory to well up The Sound of Sleat until we reached Isleornsay where we stopped for a lunch break, to allow us for the gates (tide) being open at Kyleakin to turn in our favour. During our stop at Isleornsay (third attempt successful to tie up to a swinging mooring) we used the well earned break to grab 40 winks, which lasted for about 3 hours (GREAT!) "

Their cruising log and photos are available on www.forthcruisingclub.org, and a hard copy of the log will be made available on the club notice board.

