



The Seagull

The Journal of the Cramond Boat Club

June 2013

In This Issue

- [Commodore's Jottings](#)
- [Training Bulletin](#)
- [Outboard Engine Thefts](#)
- [Club Art](#)
- [Music Nights](#)
- [Weather Forecasts](#)
- [Powerboat Safety](#)
- [Sailing Snippets](#)
- [Email Etiquette](#)
- [Shottie With A Yottie](#)
- [Strike A Light](#)
- [The Perfect Clubhouse?](#)
- [Birthday Party](#)

Diary Dates

29th July - 1st Aug
East Coast Sailing Week,
Port Edgar

Sun 18th Aug
Novice Regatta



Commodore's Jottings

The season has started quietly so far, the weather continuing cold and uninviting. The early season weather hasn't been as kind as we'd have hoped, still very cold and blustery though there are now signs of improvement.

Unfortunately as many of you will be aware, there was a fatality on the Forth recently when a dinghy capsized while being sailed from Cramond to the new owner's home club in Limekilns. The boat had recently been purchased and whilst the weather had seemed quite good, there was a heavy sea and the wind gusts were pretty strong at times. It would appear that the sailor had been in the water for quite some time before he was rescued but he was already suffering acute hypothermia.

This incident serves as a timely reminder to all, of the dangers that can arise from our sport. Assessment of the conditions according to skill levels, appropriate clothing and safety equipment, means of communication and possible requirement for rescue cover being just some of the factors we should always consider.

Unfortunately I have also to report that there have been a couple of outboard motors taken from boats on their moorings. We have been getting some exceptionally low tides of late and coupled with the recent warm dry weather, this has presented opportunities for easier access to the moored boats than normal. Wherever possible, motors should be secured with suitable locking devices or any means that makes the illicit removal a noisy and time-consuming task.

There's no perfect answer and hopefully this has been an isolated incident but we can't be too careful.

Meanwhile, work continues around the club with new heaters fitted upstairs in the function hall. On the social side we've had a couple of enjoyable music nights and there are more planned for the rest of the season.

Let's hope that the recent weather develops into a sustained spell with good sailing conditions and I look forward to seeing plenty of boats out on the water.

Euan Drysdale



- [Commodore's Jottings](#)
- [Training Bulletin](#)
- [Outboard Engine Thefts](#)
- [Club Art](#)
- [Music Nights](#)
- [Weather Forecasts](#)
- [Powerboat Safety](#)
- [Sailing Snippets](#)
- [Email Etiquette](#)
- [Shottie With A Yottie](#)
- [Strike A Light](#)
- [The Perfect Clubhouse?](#)
- [Birthday Party](#)



Despite cold and windy weather, determined dinghy sailors and their instructors have been out learning to sail at Cramond. Six brave souls started the RYA Level 1 & 2 dinghy sailing course at the end of April and beginning of May. While the weather was wonderful on the first day, things got more interesting after that, including a close shave with the teeth (if that's not too much of a mixed metaphor.) Our trainees will be completing their training sessions in the next few weeks.

We also have fourteen Sea Monkeys aged between 8 and 14 years who are either starting or continuing to build on their sailing skills up to RYA Stage 3. Early in May, six attended an excellent weekend at Lochore Meadows in Fife, to have a taste of sailing in more predictable, inland waters. This meant that when they came along to their first Sea Monkey session at Cramond in June that they were raring to go. There are 8 Sea Monkey sessions this season and we're hoping the weather will be kinder than last year.



Sea Monkeys enjoying capsizes drill in the Almond, always refreshing for a dip at this time of year.



Annemarie MacRury, Training Officer

New Members

Welcome to our new members:

Social

Mark Rowley

Junior

Lauren Duffy



Outboard Engine Thefts

As most of you will be aware from recent emails, there has been a nasty spate of thefts of outboard engines from boats on the moorings. *Lady B*, *Maud*, *Haitian* and *Expresso* all seem to have been targeted and outboards expertly removed. The club RIB, *Blue Shark* was also released from its mooring although it appears to be undamaged.

This is all very unpleasant, particularly for the boat owners, and raises a number of questions. The most obvious is: how did the thieves get to the moorings? In the case of *Blue Shark*, it is clear that one of the rigid tenders to the north of the clubhouse was cut loose from its chain. These tenders are always vulnerable to attack, and while no security measure can ever be perfect, owners should certainly check their setup, and provide the most substantial and robust chains and padlocks possible. Modern bike locks are rated with bronze, silver or gold security levels so it may be worth investing in some high-spec kit.

The dinghy park does not seem to have been affected in the recent attacks, but in the past, thieves have used small dinghies from the park to access the moorings. So dinghy owners should also check what measures you have in place for securing your boats and consider if it needs an upgrade. Paddles, dagger boards and other kit should not be left inside boats in the dinghy park.

It does appear that outboard engines have been specifically and professionally targeted. This has happened before, and I suppose outboard engines must have a good black-market sale value. As Keith Conway ruefully observed, the theft was so expertly done that the damage to his boat was minimal, and outboards are reasonably easy to replace (assuming the insurance pays up). However, we should remain vigilant. I understand the committee are reviewing the club's security measures and will report in due course. In the meantime, commiserations to those who have suffered.

In This Issue

- [Commodore's Jottings](#)
- [Training Bulletin](#)
- [Outboard Engine Thefts](#)
- [Club Art](#)
- [Music Nights](#)
- [Weather Forecasts](#)
- [Powerboat Safety](#)
- [Sailing Snippets](#)
- [Email Etiquette](#)
- [Shottie With A Yottie](#)
- [Strike A Light](#)
- [The Perfect Clubhouse?](#)
- [Birthday Party](#)

Tea & Coffee

There are now in-date sachets of milk (both full fat and reduced fat) in the kitchen with the tea and coffee.

Could members who use this facility please help to keep the area clean and remember to leave some remuneration in the container provided.



Club Art

You may have noticed the appearance of two new pictures on the club walls. Towards the end of last season I was approached by a couple who were out walking on the quayside and asked if we might be interested in a couple of paintings of the club and the river.

Apparently the lady's father had lived in Cramond and probably purchased them at exhibitions of work in the Cramond Kirk Hall. As the couple had no wish to keep them they wondered if the club would be interested in acquiring them.

The one on the stairway was painted by a George Duguid, but we know nothing more about it.



The one in the function hall however was painted by Kirkland Main, Professor at the Edinburgh College of Art, who is a local resident still living in Cramond.

They were both painted in the early 1970s, though the one on the stairway appears to have been inspired from earlier photographs as the boats are of designs that perhaps pre-date the period when it was painted.

This painting was in its original frame which really didn't do it justice so I arranged to have it re-set in a similar frame to the other one.



Please take time to have a look at them next time you are in the clubhouse.

(Apologies for the poor quality of the photos here - the paintings seem to have been mounted behind the world's most ultra-reflective glass!)

Euan Drysdale



Friday Night Is Music Night

There have been some entertaining musical evenings in the club recently. A diverse collection of guitar players, led by Tom Brady, have provided an eclectic range of musical styles from the Eagles to the Beatles and from country and western to blues and folk.

The quality of playing and singing has varied from excellent to embarrassing (the latter when your editor had a go) but it's all been good fun and appreciated by the Friday night club stalwarts. What's more, nibbles and snacks have been provided, thanks to the indefatigable Haynes clan.

On Friday 14th June the music was provided by Reggie Dias and his Brazilian-Scottish fusion band, proper musicians who play regularly at various venues around Edinburgh and even have CDs for goodness sake. The club swayed to a Latin rhythm (now there's a sentence no-one's ever written before) and a good time was had by all. Numbers were boosted by sailors staying on their boats overnight so it was a busy bar. If you haven't heard these talented musicians before, check out their music, list of gigs and CDs on www.diasbrazil.co.uk.

Next time there's a Friday music night in the club, please come along - it's a hoot.

In This Issue

- [Commodore's Jottings](#)
- [Training Bulletin](#)
- [Outboard Engine Thefts](#)
- [Club Art](#)
- [Music Nights](#)
- [Weather Forecasts](#)
- [Powerboat Safety](#)
- [Sailing Snippets](#)
- [Email Etiquette](#)
- [Shottie With A Yottie](#)
- [Strike A Light](#)
- [The Perfect Clubhouse?](#)
- [Birthday Party](#)



Weather Forecasts

I have written before about sources of weather information, and the problems of getting really good local forecasts for the inner Firth of Forth. The **UK Met Office** (www.metoffice.gov.uk) obviously provide the 'official' sea area and inshore waters forecasts, which should certainly be checked by mariners before going to sea. However, they tend to be more accurate for the North Sea and outer reaches of the Forth (i.e. east of North Berwick) rather than our own little stretch of water around Cramond Island.

If you like studying synoptic charts for the next few days, these can be found on the Met Office site or on **Frank Singleton's** truly amazing weather site (weather.mailasail.com/Franks-Weather/Home). For longer-term views, I really like the charts on the **European Centre for Medium-Range Weather Forecasts** website (www.ecmwf.int/products/forecasts/d/charts.)

Many of the so-called 'Leith' or 'Forth' forecasts you can find on the web are actually just extrapolations of North Sea data from a global forecasting model. However, **XC Weather** (www.xcweather.co.uk) provides observations from Edinburgh Airport, which tends to produce fairly accurate local forecasts. **Accuweather** used to show sailing forecasts for Leith or Granton, but they no longer offer this, and anyway, I was never convinced by their accuracy.

However, another source of local weather information is available, courtesy of our neighbours over the water at **Dalgety Bay Sailing Club**. They have installed a weather station and have set up a dedicated website for displaying the results (www.dbweather.co.uk). The 'Live Weather' page displays a dashboard of helpful real-time data (wind speed and direction, barometric pressure, temperature, humidity, rainfall, cloud base) - everything a weather nerd could ask for! There are graphs showing wind and rain data over the previous days or week, and even a webcam so you view the current weather at Dalgety Bay for yourself.

I recall a few years ago that the Lines boys (Dave, Nick and Andy) had great plans for installing weather recording devices on our racing marks or the Dragon's Teeth or some such notion, with wi-fi links back to display stations in the clubhouse. Whatever happened to that?



Powerboat Safety

The recent tragedy in Padstow over the May bank holiday highlighted the importance of using kill cords when operating powerboats or RIBs.

The RYA has issued the following reminders and advice about using kill cords:

- Always attach the cord to the driver, ideally before the engine is started, but certainly before the engine is put in gear.
- When changing drivers, turn the engine off before transferring the kill cord from one driver to the other.

Only restart the engine when the kill cord has been securely attached to the new driver.
- Make sure that the cord is in good condition and test it regularly to ensure that the engine stops when the kill cord mechanism is operated.

use your kill cord



It's there to protect you



www.rya.org.uk/go/killcord

Anstruther Harbour Festival, 8-11 Aug

The traditional 'Anstruther Muster', popular with CBC sailors, has now become part of the Anstruther Harbour Festival.

This is a new event incorporating several local organisations including the Anstruther Lifeboat, Anstruther Improvements Association, St. Ayles Rowing Club and The Scottish Fisheries Museum.

There will be a classic boat rally, a coastal rowing event and the usual East of Scotland Boat Jumble.

On land, there will be live musical evenings with a ceilidh and swing bands, a Food Fair with local food producers in stalls on the harbour front, cooking demonstration, kids' amusements and more.

For more details, see www.anstruthersailingclub.org.uk/

- [Commodore's Jottings](#)
- [Training Bulletin](#)
- [Outboard Engine Thefts](#)
- [Club Art](#)
- [Music Nights](#)
- [Weather Forecasts](#)
- [Powerboat Safety](#)
- [Sailing Snippets](#)
- [Email Etiquette](#)
- [Shottie With A Yottie](#)
- [Strike A Light](#)
- [The Perfect Clubhouse?](#)
- [Birthday Party](#)



Dinghy Maintenance Day

Picture a bunch of very busy bees on a Saturday morning in April: we sorted out sails and tidied the shed store, we hosed down boats and scrubbed covers, we rigged and de-rigged, we inspected, repaired and tweaked, we replaced missing bits, tightened screws and untangled control lines, and generally lavished much-needed TLC on all the club's dinghies.



Every man and his dog helping out

park shed a thorough clear-out. So many thanks to the dozen or so hard-working members who mucked in so magnificently.



*Post-makeover:
yes the shed can be
this tidy – now can
we keep it this way
please!*

In short we licked the fleet into shape for the new season and gave the dinghy

Sailability

At the end of April our Hawk *Meuwe* enjoyed a brief outing to an Open Day at Lochore Meadows Country Park. Blessed by perfect weather conditions, the event was reportedly a great success, with members of our sister organization Fife Sailability taking both disabled punters and their friends and family out for short sails in *Meuwe*.

Race Marks and Poles Update

All the channel poles are now back in place. The GPS position of the 1st pole to starboard coming in is 55 59.51 N 003 17.89 W. All the race marks except for C are also now out. There is a temporary buoy marking the position of Z.

Kay McBurney

RNLI Collection

The two R.N.L.I. collection tins on the club bar were recently taken to the R.N.L.I. shop at South Queensferry for emptying.

The local treasurer reported that the grand sum of £216.57 (along with the occasional washer and button) was collected.

She was delighted and wished to thank the members of the club for their kindness.



Email Etiquette

As I'm sure most of you are aware, there are a number of ways of contacting CBC members by email. All members who have notified their email addresses to the club and agreed to its use for club purposes, may be contacted via one of the following email groups:

cramond@yahoogroups.co.uk

for all club members

cbc-committee@yahoogroups.co.uk

for all committee members

cbc-moorings@yahoogroups.co.uk

for all members with boats on the moorings

cbc-dinghies@yahoogroups.co.uk

for all members with boats in the dinghy park

If you want to send a message to club members, think carefully about who you want to reach. For example, if the message is about a dinghy sailing event or only of interest to dinghy sailors, don't use the 'all members' group, use the dinghy group.

And if you want to reply to a message sent by a member to one of the groups, think about whether you want to reply to all the people in the group or just to the person who sent the original message. Some email systems have an annoying habit of sending replies to all the original recipients by default, so check where your message is going before hitting the 'Send' button.

- [Commodore's Jottings](#)
- [Training Bulletin](#)
- [Outboard Engine Thefts](#)
- [Club Art](#)
- [Music Nights](#)
- [Weather Forecasts](#)
- [Powerboat Safety](#)
- [Sailing Snippets](#)
- [Email Etiquette](#)
- [Shottie With A Yottie](#)
- [Strike A Light](#)
- [The Perfect Clubhouse?](#)
- [Birthday Party](#)



Shottie With A Yottie

After a gap of several years, the Sailing Committee decided to resurrect our popular Shottie with a Yottie event which gives newbies a chance to try out big boat sailing. While there was little uptake from actual CBC members, we attracted a lot of interest from our affiliated Cramond Scout Group, with 20 enthusiastic Scouts and 2 dads signing up for a shottie.



Come the evening of 31st May, our six volunteer yachts set off in quick succession out into the rather gusty breeze.

Due to the high demand, some swapping about between the Scout RIB *Berserker* and yachts was necessary, but all added to the fun on the night.

Some yachts ventured right across the Forth, with *Exisle* even managing to get round Inchcolm and back for 9pm.

Feedback from the Scouts has been extremely positive, along the lines of "had a fantastic time", "a real buzz", "great experience" and "absolutely loved it." Scout Leader John Kenworthy commented "special thanks to all the skippers for providing this great opportunity, which incidentally, counts towards the adventure challenge badge."

So our thanks to everyone involved in the organizing and doing - especially the skippers and crews of *Espresso*, *Hannah*, *Melita*, *Lafter*, *Exisle* and *Shikari*, as well as the crew of *Berserker* for their superb water-taxi service. Special mention also to John Kenworthy for all his assistance with registering and allocating Scouts to boats.



Kay McBurney, on behalf of the Sailing Committee

Happy Birthday

The Old Codger himself, Ian Hellewell, recently reached another landmark birthday (he does seem to have a lot of them, doesn't he?)

He celebrated in style with the Sunday afternoon crowd at the club where he was showered with more cards and presents than he probably deserved, and downed rather more rum than he probably intended.

Anyway, many congratulations to the auld yin from all your friends at CBC.



Strike A Light

After discovering that some of the flares for the club safety boats were out of date, I decided to hand them in for disposal at our 'local' designated Coastguard station, which for us is now St. Andrews. To avoid similar trips by other club members, I offered in the last Seagull to take any other out-of-date flares with me when I surrendered the club ones.

However, I did not anticipate such an enthusiastic response. I thought that there might be one or two lying in someone's boat or garage, but I had soon accumulated a total of 64 flares of various types and ages!

They were duly handed in to the Coastguard who requested that I congratulate one of our members on having one of the oldest flares that they have seen in some time: a white rocket flare with an expiry date of February 1983! So well done everyone ???

Joking apart, this does highlight the difficulty in disposing of old flares (or Time-Expired Pyrotechnics to use the official term). There are now only 17 Coastguard stations in the UK who can accept them, and only by appointment. I believe some manufacturers and chandlers on the south coast of England will take them but only if you buy new ones. So it is not surprising that people have them lying around for years. Perhaps the new generation of laser flares will make the old ones obsolete in due course.

Dougie Pringle

- [Commodore's Jottings](#)
- [Training Bulletin](#)
- [Outboard Engine Thefts](#)
- [Club Art](#)
- [Music Nights](#)
- [Weather Forecasts](#)
- [Powerboat Safety](#)
- [Sailing Snippets](#)
- [Email Etiquette](#)
- [Shottie With A Yottie](#)
- [Strike A Light](#)
- [The Perfect Clubhouse?](#)
- [Birthday Party](#)



The Perfect Clubhouse?

Believe it or not, this is the clubhouse of the Loch of Skene Sailing Club in Aberdeenshire, spotted by your editor while on holiday in the area in April.



Part of a grand, twin-towered entrance lodge to the extensive grounds of Dunecht House, the clubhouse includes changing rooms, an enclosed boathouse (with portcullis), a roof-top viewing terrace (with battlements) and a race management station (with sentry towers). Surely every sailing club should have one of these!



Birthday Party At The Club

In March I was discussing with Debbie and Dougie Pringle the possibility of having a party for my 70th birthday. Initially I wondered about a marquee in my garden, when Debbie suggested The Cramond Boat Club, which she offered to book on my behalf.



What a fantastic venue it turned out to be. I am grateful my friend Helen, not only for doing the catering for me, but also for decorating the hall to give it a bit of wow factor. And the chair lift made it possible for me to ask friends who would have otherwise been unable to attend.



My guests were most impressed with the club and many asked if it was possible to procure the hall for functions. It was certainly an added bonus to have the bar available.

My invitation said no presents, but we managed to collect over £500 in donations to the R.N.L.I.

Many thanks to the boat club committee for all their help and to the staff that provided the service.

Sally Ray

Acknowledgements

Except where stated, all photos are by club members and reproduced with their permission.

Contacts

Seagull Editor:
seagull@cramondboatclub.org.uk

Club Committee:
cbc-committee@yahoo.co.uk

Club Members Email List:
cramond@yahoo.co.uk