



The Seagull

The Journal of the Cramond Boat Club

December 2013

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Diary Dates

Sat 25th January
Band Night

Sat 29th March
Crane In

26th - 27th April
Opening Cruise

10th - 13th August
ECSW

23rd - 24th August
Cramond Regatta

Sat 11th Oct
Crane Out



Commodore's Jottings

Another season come and gone and the New Year looms ahead.

Crane-out went quite smoothly though we did have to take a break to allow the water level to rise sufficiently to manoeuvre the larger boats into position for craning. There were no mishaps and the whole process was completed in fairly quick time. Grateful thanks to Jeff McLeod and Hamish Sutherland for all the hard work in organising everything.

It looked a one point as if we weren't going to manage a Prizegiving this year. Then up popped Ian Hellewell, and with the assistance of Eddie King and Phil Chester, organised a great evening. They were ably assisted by Piotr Wojtczuk and Anna Basista running the slide presentation. Ian even introduced a new way of the awarding of the most coveted prize by asking members to vote for the Wally of the Year from a short-list!

My wife Liz and Jess King had prepared a large sandwich/finger buffet which appeared to be enjoyed by all, again many thanks to both and to their helpers on the night. And particular thanks are due to Bob Sharp who generously sponsored the costs of all the food. The evening finished with music supplied by our own Reggie Dias and his Brazilian combo.

The AGM was not as well attended as might have been nevertheless my address and the treasurer's detailed and succinct report were duly delivered. Both reports remarked on the fact that we haven't had a full committee complement for the last couple of years, so we don't have surplus funds to throw around. Yet through the valiant efforts of a number of members assisting the committee, we have achieved numerous improvements, and we're still afloat!

Sadly thereafter some of the questioning became somewhat heated and intemperate.

In the immediate aftermath of the AGM I was approached by some committee members and asked to reconsider my decision not to continue in post. In the circumstances, having had their backing on many occasions over the last three years I considered that they deserved the same support in return. I have therefore offered to serve for a further 12 months.

As stated earlier we've achieved an incredible amount with scarce resources over the last couple of years, and I'm extremely grateful to all those members who've come forward and volunteered their services to take on particular tasks. I look forward to working with you over the next twelve months to ensure that we continue to make progress.

In the meantime, on behalf of the committee, may I wish you all a Very Merry Christmas and all the Very Best of Health, Wealth and Happiness for the New Year.

Euan Drysdale, Commodore



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Why sail in the winter? Well because it's different to summer. It's colder and sometimes windier. The gear you have to wear is so much more restrictive. You can't tell from the trees how windy it is, which forces you rely other signs such as the wave patterns or knowing what force 4 sounds like when blowing through the bare branches. There is less wildlife around. The light is different and sometimes it seems grey and a bit hostile, particularly when sleet or snow falls, spray flies and capsizes threaten!



However all of this draws out a small but growing band of enthusiastic sailors and those rescue boat drivers and crew to partake in our Frostbite series. Why? Well because it calls them out into the great outdoors when perhaps a more rational choice would be to stay put. The challenges are greater and being exposed to these conditions are fantastic. This year we've had on average seven boats out on each Frostbite race and great support on the rescue side. Some races have been cancelled because of high winds (35mph), but others such as that on Frostbite 4 were quite calm with the sun making an occasional appearance.

So far the participants have included Paul Rogers, Alan McKenzie, Reginaldo Dias, Katy Henderson, Keith Driver, Tom Brady, Susan Nimmo, Joe Findlay, Campbell Calder and Lawrie Elliott, with the rescue crews Dougie Pringle, Euan Drysdale, Kay McBurney and Paul Rogers

Here's to winter sailing and power boating and the joy each brings!

Lawrie Elliott

New Members

Welcome to our new members:

Full

George Laidlaw

Social

Norman Donnelly



Clubhouse Matters

Work Parties

Work parties will be required over the winter months to carry out a number of tasks around the clubhouse premises:

- Cut back and remove all the foliage and collected rubbish behind the clubhouse and sheds to prevent dampness.
- Clean out front and rear gutters to clubhouse.
- Repair rotten window beads at high level on the south elevation above the stairs.
- Touch up external paintwork on roof railings and metal bars on front windows.
- Check internal paintwork on windows and doors as required.

Dates for work parties will be arranged in due course, but if anyone is keen to wield a spade, saw, shears or paintbrush, please get in touch. Some of these tasks require the assistance of the "younger and fitter" members but all will be welcomed when the time comes.

Waste Disposal

The law on waste disposal is changing for businesses. From 1st January 2014 the Waste (Scotland) Regulations mean that all organisations, big or small, will have to recycle their plastic, metal, glass, paper and card or risk a fine. Most food businesses will also have to recycle food waste.

This means that the club must be very careful about what goes into the wheelie-bin. All members must ensure that they don't put things like paint or antifouling tins, oil or any other contaminants (including the items above) in our bin, or risk the club being fined.

We are also investigating the possibility of getting a lockable bin or some other method of securing our existing bin.

Eddie King, House Convenor

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New Club Committee

The new club committee, elected at the AGM, is listed below. Note that individual committee members can be contacted by email using their [title @cramondboatclub.org.uk](mailto:title@cramondboatclub.org.uk), while the whole committee can be contacted using cbc-committee@yahoo.co.uk.

Office Bearers

		<u>email title</u>
Commodore	Euan Drysdale	commodore
Vice Commodore	Dougie Pringle	vicecommodore
Rear Commodore	Hamish Henderson	rearcommodore
Hon Secretary	Alvin Barber	secretary
Hon Treasurer	Keith Conway	treasurer
Sailing Secretary	<i>position vacant</i>	sailing

Committee Members

Membership Secretary	Mel Farquharson	membership
Moorings Convenor	Alan Hampson	moorings
Dinghy Park Convenor	Paul Aslett	dinghy park
Training Officer	Anne-Marie MacRury	training
Bosun	<i>position vacant</i>	bosun
Bar Convenor	Mike Haynes	bar
House Convenor	Eddie King	house
Social Convenor	Reginald Dias	social
Cramond Sailability Rep	Kay MacBurney	sailability

In the absence of a Sailing Secretary, if you have any concerns or suggestions to do with the sailing side of things, you can contact the whole sailing committee using the group address sailcomm@cramondboatclub.org.uk



Forth Bridges Festival 4-13 Sept 2014

Sailability

Cramond Sailability's AGM will be held in the clubhouse on Sunday 19th January at 2pm.

All members are welcome.

As you may know, 2014 marks the 50th anniversary of the opening of the Forth Road Bridge. This makes me feel very old, as I can actually remember going on the old ferry when going to visit my granny in Aberdeen before the bridge was built. It was an all-day expedition.



I dimly recall the opening of the bridge by the Queen and also King Olaf of Norway (no idea what he was doing there), and driving along the brand-new dual carriageway from Barnton to the bridge, with the central reservation being used as a coach park.

Anyway, enough of your editor's childhood memories. To celebrate the Semicentennial, there is to be a 10-day festival of events in early September. This will include trips up the bridge towers, a biker rally across the bridge, the world's largest outdoor lunch, a torchlight procession, a rowing regatta, an outdoor concert and many more cultural events, culminating in a 50th birthday firework display on Saturday 13th September at 8pm.



But the most interesting event from our point of view is a Boat Flotilla on Sunday 7th September. The official blurb says that, "different kinds of crafts, including tall ships, pleasure boats, warships, private yachts, ferries, motor-boats and canoes will all sail under the bridges" which sounds like fun (and a chance to test out COLREGS at close quarters). I have no idea yet how you get involved, but I will keep you posted as more details are announced.

For further festival details, see <http://www.forthbridgesfestival.com/>.



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Well, with just 2 races being completed, it was a series, but only just! We had 6 days planned for racing this year for Cadets (including a regatta), with 2 or 3 races happening each day. During what most people remember as one of the best summers we have had in ages, unfortunately whenever "Cadet Racing" appeared in the club calendar - the weather turned against us. (It's just as well all our practice / free sail sessions went ahead as planned so we did get some good sailing in).

The first 3 planned racing days (and the regatta) were cancelled completely due to very strong winds. When we finally made it out on the water after our "start racing" talk, on what looked like a promising sunny afternoon, competitors managed to complete only one lap of the first race before a fog bank unexpectedly descended, and all were sent ashore before we lost anyone in the mist! The last race saw blustery conditions, so only one start happened that day also.

The controversy did not end there. Only two races were sailed in the series, and both Katherine Aird and Emma Wilkinson had managed a 1st place and a 3rd place each, giving equal scores. The racing rules of sailing dictate that if competitors are tied on points in the series, the winner is decided by positions in the final race - so congratulations to Katherine who was 1st overall, with Emma 2nd and Fergus Davidson in 3rd place in the series. Full results are below.



Thanks to all who helped with Cadets this year - race officers, safety boat crews, instructors / coaches, shore helpers and dinghy sailors in general for help and encouragement given to the Cadets - you know who you are and your efforts are very much appreciated. This simply would not happen without your support and enthusiasm.

Finally, with thoughts turning to developing next year's programme, if anyone has any ideas or suggestions on what worked well this year or what could have been better, please let me know so I can feed in your views. Equally, if anyone would like to get more involved in the organisation of Cadets, please get in touch. It is unlikely that I will be able to continue on the sailing committee next year, so it would be beneficial if another parent would be willing to take on the cadet lead role and represent our views on the group. If you would like to know about what is involved, please ask me.

Robert Wilkinson

Final Results

Place	Boat	Helm
1st	Topper	Katherine Aird
2nd	Laser Pico	Emma Wilkinson
3rd	Laser Pico	Fergus Davidson
4th	Laser	Keir Logan
5th	Laser Pico	Lewis Petrie
6th	Terra Pro	Jamie Calder
7th	RS Terra Sport	Adam Wilkinson

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Food Hygiene Certificate

If any club member could like to gain the REHIS Food Hygiene Certificate or would like to renew an existing certificate, please get in contact with our new Social Convenor, Reg Dias.

The club will help to arrange training and pay for the certificate.

This certificate is legally required for the preparation of food for club members in the clubhouse kitchen.



This year the weather has been kinder, warmer (eventually) and generally better for those participating in and delivering dinghy sailing training. Thanks to all the club members and Cramond Scout leaders who support training activities and provide rescue cover for training sessions.

Sea Monkeys

In total 14 children registered for the Sea Monkeys this year, of which 9 participated regularly. A weekend course for beginner sailors held at Lochore Meadows in Fife on 11th and 12th May gave six young people a chance to experience wet and windy conditions on the water. Perfect practice for starting to sail dinghies at Cramond! This initial taster was followed by eight training sessions at Cramond, including two consecutive days at the start of June which were particularly successful. This gave everyone a chance to consolidate their skills and develop a feel for the dinghies, the wind and the sea. Training was provided by Lawrie Elliott, Darren Smith, Kay McBurney, Drew Pratt and Alan MacKenzie. Four Sea Monkeys achieved RYA Stage 2 and four other members achieved RYA Stage 3.

Cramond Cadets

The aim of the Cadets is to enable young members who have achieved RYA Stage 3 to improve their skills and to integrate into the club's wider sailing programme. Cadet sessions proved popular this year - see Robert Wilkinson's separate piece about the Cadet Race Series.

RYA Dinghy Sailing Level 1&2

Four Dinghy Sailing Level 1&2 training dates were held in April and early May, with six participants. Challenging conditions and a capsized incident didn't put off these beginner sailors and initial dates were followed up by a couple of other training sessions. Three trainees achieved RYA Level 2 and three achieved Level 1.

Powerboat Level 1 & 2

Powerboat training this year has focused on developing skills and appropriate care, maintenance and use of the new rescue boat engine. If CBC members are interested, a Powerboat Level 1&2 training will be held early next season. Provisional dates are 1st / 2nd March and 15th / 16th March 2014, also involving any interested Cramond Scout leaders. Contact me if you are interested in this training.

RYA Training Centre Inspection



For CBC to retain its RYA Training Centre status, an annual inspection is required by the RYA. This took place on Saturday 6 July during a Sea Monkey training session and I'm pleased to report we passed with just one action on the club's Child Protection Policy. The inspection was very thorough, lasting five hours and comprising land and sea-based observation and assessment. Thanks to Lawrie Elliott and Drew Pratt for co-ordinating and supporting the inspection visit.

*Annmarie MacRury,
Training Officer*



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In the absence of a Sailing Secretary, Ian Hellewell took it upon himself to organise the annual prizegiving bash in November.

When I say organise, I mean he used his usual dogged determination, endless cajoling, bare-faced flattery and a little bribery to persuade lots of other people to do all



the actual work: Eddie King to sort out the trophies, Phil Chester to set up the hall and be odd-job man, Sam Miller to present the prizes, Liz Drysdale and Jess King to prepare the grub, Piotr Wojtczuk and Anna Basista to collate and present the slideshow, Doris Hunter to run the raffle, and even Campbell and Jamie Calder and Reg Dias to provide the musical entertainment.



So what did that leave Ian to do? Well, apparently his job was to wear a really bad-taste tie, stand in front of the trophies and talk a lot, which after all, is what he does best. He waffled at length about all the racing events, and wittered in some detail about the trophies, and announced each of the winners in roughly the right order.

In short, he was informative and amusing, turning what can sometimes be a fairly dull procession of predictable winners into a proper awards ceremony. Ian even introduced a touch of the X-Factor by asking those present to vote for the award of the wooden anchor for Wally of the Year.

Most importantly, Ian also encouraged a lot of members to turn up, which is the key to any successful event. And it can't be denied that the event was a huge success. The hall was packed - at least 80 people were present to celebrate the successful racers and trainees. The buffet was extensive and excellent, and the raffle raised a lot of funds.



The talented Calder family entertained us before the prizegiving, while the multi-talented Reg Dias and his Scottish-Brazilian fusion band continued the entertainment afterwards, with many people dancing (or at least swaying, depending on the amount of drink consumed from the trophies.)

This was the most entertaining and enjoyable prizegiving held at the club for many a year. Many thanks to Bob Sharp for sponsoring it, to Ian for organising it, and to all those who did the real work.





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On 4th December, SEPA issued a flood warning for the whole east coast of Britain. This was not the usual winter flooding caused by heavy rain and swollen rivers, but a tidal surge in the North Sea caused by a combination of very low pressure, onshore winds and high spring tides. The surge was predicted to roll down the east coast driven by northerly winds.



At Cramond, the tidal rise at high water (about 4pm) was pretty impressive.

The dragon's teeth to Cramond Island were almost completely covered, and there was no beach to the east of the teeth.

The ferry steps and the slipways were awash and water was lapping over the edge of the quay wall by the clubhouse.

Our ever-vigilant house convenor, Eddie King, had already laid sandbags inside the front door, over the shower drain in the disabled toilet and at the door to the link. Then some nice men from Edinburgh council appeared in a lorry and laid a pile of sandbags outside the front door.

In the end, Edinburgh was not too badly affected, but north-east facing coasts of Britain, particularly Yorkshire, Lincolnshire and East Anglia, were not so lucky, with many properties damaged or destroyed.

One of the risks of sailing at Cramond is that our little river mouth is always at risk of flooding (see Alan Hampson's excellent and detailed [article on Summer Spates](#) in the last Seagull.) All members with boats at Cramond should be signed up with SEPA's automatic flood alert text message system. If you are not already signed up, follow the following simple steps:

1. Go to <http://floodline.sepa.org.uk/floodingsignup/>
2. Enter the clubhouse post code EH4 6NY
3. Enter your own email address and phone number (landline and mobile)

For up-to-date information by phone, call the SEPA Floodline on 0845 988 1188 then use the following quick dial codes: Edinburgh & Lothians 23200, Cramond 23210.



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I am grateful to the Cramond Angling Club for this update, as many of their issues are also shared by CBC. I was particularly interested in the proposed pipeline and what long-term effect that may have on the river mouth - Editor.

Salvesen Steps

The Cramond Angling Club (CAC) has very recently been approached to supply input for the proposed replacement option for the Salvesen Steps. This is a result of the last option (a walkway around the cliff) being shelved due to cost and other factors. It is encouraging that our views are being taken into consideration for the latest feasibility study.

Waterfall and Fishladder

The waterfall saga continues although a meeting with the project co-ordinator at Rivers And Fisheries Trusts of Scotland indicated that this project was a long way off due to the original data being inaccurate and issues regarding ownership of the waterfall. At our annual meeting with the Crown Estate we were encouraged that they mirrored our view that the whole structure could be made to work with a more cost-effective repair to the lip and modification of the fishladder. We have been informed that the Crown Estate will act on our behalf using their expertise regarding this matter.

River Almond Walkway

The river Almond walkway also seems to be making little or no progress and our belief is that it will not extend much further than the current path. The airport and nursery on the opposite bank seem to be the stumbling block here. We would be keen for some form of footbridge across the Gogarburn but with this whole area currently under development this also seems a long way off.

Waste Water Pipeline

The main issue we are currently involved in is the new proposed waste water pipeline. This is in the very early stages of planning but if it materialises could reduce the current flow by 40%. This would be a disaster for the river in the summer months. This is a long term project and will not come to fruition for another 25 years.

Weed Control

The club is also pleased to announce that one of our members has recently passed the invasive spraying course and is now fully qualified to deal with the Knotweed, Balsam and Giant Hogg Weed that is lining the banks of the river. Working in conjunction with the invasive programme run by the River Forth Fisheries Trust we can hopefully work together to make a big difference on the river which all users of the amenity will benefit from.

Club Matters



We have very recently obtained permission to install a memorial bench for our founder member Tam (Tommy) Wallace on the grass verge facing the river outside his house at Caddells Row. In preparation for this we have very recently planted 600 bulbs which should be coming into flower around the planned installation date.



We have agreed that the Cramond Falls Café will sell day tickets for fishing on the river from next season.

This is of mutual benefit to both parties and we hope for a long and fruitful relationship.

Finally congratulations to both Paul Buchanan for winning the Scottish National Flyfishing Championship (River) and Ewan Martin for gaining selection to the Scottish National Team to compete in Sweden in the European Championship. A truly great achievement guys.

Millar Haxton Laing, CAC Chairman

Acknowledgements

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

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