



The Seagull

The Journal of the Cramond Boat Club

June 2014

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Commodore's Jottings

Well, the sailing season is well under way now after a speedy and incident-free Crane-In. My thanks again to everyone for ensuring that we got the boats into the water without any mishaps. The usual Dinghy Park work party followed on the Sunday and trailers were shoved about and the dinghies placed ready for use. As usual, very grateful thanks to Jeff McLeod and Hamish Sutherland for the preparation work and oversight on the day and to the catering team who ensured a steady supply of sustenance throughout the proceedings.

Although the weather hasn't always seemed ideal there has been some very good racing so far. A National 12 event was planned for the weekend of 24th and 25th May but possibly due to it being a bank holiday weekend there were only four boats to take part. Unfortunately on the Sunday the weather was particularly rough, and with one boat sinking and another having capsized a few times, the decision had to be taken to abandon sailing. It was probably just as well as an hour or so later a downpour that arrived would probably have sunk the remaining boats! Thanks to Dougie Pringle, Alex Tulloch, Drew Pratt, Mel Farquharson, Mike Haynes and Paul Aslett for their assistance beforehand and on the day.

Also on 24th May we had "Burt and The Bacharettes" booked to play for us. Again, possibly because it was a bank holiday weekend, attendance wasn't as big as we'd hoped but the band by all accounts lived up to their advance billing and those who did attend had a great evening and were well entertained. We definitely need to have them back again.

Diary Dates

16th - 19th July
East Coast Sailing Week,
Royal Northumberland YC

9th & 10th August
Edinburgh Regatta

16th & 17th August
Anstruther Muster

23rd - 24th August
CBC Dinghy Regatta

Sun 7th September
Forth Bridges Flotilla



The following weekend saw a "170th Birthday Party" for Chris Paul (aged 90) and Charles Dick (80)! My grateful thanks to Mike Haynes and Bob Sharp for organising things behind the scenes, in conjunction with the respective families and members.

A huge spread was laid on and a scratch band led by Norman McFarlane with Gordon Gooch on drums provided music. There was a tremendous atmosphere and everyone enjoyed themselves.

Meanwhile work continues around the clubhouse, new windows were installed at the south end of the function room – thanks to Eddie King for organising this. Racking has been built in the sail store link to tidy up the Sailability property.

Euan Drysdale

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New Members

Welcome to our new members:

Full
Angela Hughes

Social
Catherine Pick



Training Bulletin

The RYA Training Inspection took place during the Sea Monkeys session on Saturday 14 June and the Club successfully received accreditation. Thanks to the instructors, Sea Scout instructors and rescue boat support for their hard work in preparation for the inspection.

Training is well underway with a small and enthusiastic group of beginners getting out onto the water and sometimes getting wet. The RYA Powerboat training took place in March with six trainees and some half decent weather. It wasn't

too cold and the sessions were successfully hosted by instructors from Cramond Sea Scouts.



This year we have twelve Sea Monkeys enrolled with a good mix of Club members and Sea Scouts. The Sea Monkeys have managed to get on the water every session so far and are making great progress, rigging and sailing but particularly with tidying the changing rooms!

We had a number of enquiries for the RYA Dinghy training, but the dates in April were difficult for some prospective members. Nevertheless, we have had a couple of trainees who are working on their RYA Level 2 over the summer. The timing of adult dinghy training is always an issue and any suggestions as to when and how it could be improved are welcome.

Between the Sea Monkeys, Cadets and Freesail sessions there seems to be a good number of enthusiastic dinghy sailors working to improve their skills and racing technique.

Annemarie MacRury, Training Officer



ESCW Changes

For many years, East Coast Sailing Week has been the premier racing series on the east coast, alternating between the Tay, the Forth and Northumberland. However, numbers have been falling, particularly when the event is not on the Forth.

Therefore, in an attempt to re-invigorate the event, the steering group has been considering plans to move to a new four year cycle. This proposed cycle would mean that the event would be held on the Forth every two years, alternating between the Tay and Northumberland on the other years.

If this is accepted by all the member clubs, then the schedule would be as follows:

2014: Northumberland (Blyth, 16th - 19th July)

2015: Forth (Port Edgar)

2016: Tay

2017: Forth (Granton or Port Edgar)

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Did you watch the BBC TV programme on 6th May about the Kelpies? If not, try to find it on the internet. It starts off with aerial shots of these massive and impressive structures then takes you into the story of the vision and determination of the artist/sculptor Andy Scott, who brought these mythical beasts to life, and already they have become another international tourist attraction to rival the Falkirk Wheel nearby.

The original idea was to have them on huge hinged platforms so that the heads moved up and down as water was pumped in or out of the sea lock. This led to some canal workers nicknaming them "The Nodding Donkeys". However, there were too many practical problems with that idea and now the Kelpies are built on solid ground on either side of a new lock leading into the Forth and Clyde canal from a new canal section at the river Carron just south of the M9 motorway bridge.



Anyone who has used the old sea lock will know there was a very short time window to enter the canal and pass under the road and pipe bridges on the river Carron, particularly if you had to lower your mast at Grangemouth Yacht Club.

Well Scottish Canals have now built a new sea lock just before the first pipe-bridge, with a mast crane similar to the one at Bowling, but much smaller (sensibly.)

This leads into a new section of canal parallel to the river which passes under the Kerse Road at a new lifting bridge, then through a tunnel under the M9 giving access into the Kelpies basin. The new canal and sea lock now give a generous 2 hours access each side of high water. The attached photo shows the approach on the new canal under the motorway, with the Kelpies towering majestically beyond and the river Carron on the right.

The Kelpies were officially inaugurated with a dazzling display of lights and fireworks on the evenings of 17th and 18th of April, attended by tens of thousands of spectators. Since then, over 150,000 people have visited the site to see the amazing sculptures.

I had hoped to take *Jester* into the new sea lock in April then on to the Kelpies, but there was never any information about the opening date, and personal family matters have curtailed our boating activities so far this year.

If you are planning to use the canal this summer, you need to give the canal people plenty of warning of your intended transit dates which can be done through the canal booking service phone number. Also talk to the guys at the sea lock as they will update you on the current situation (not just the official spiel from head office) and will give practical advice on approach and times etc.



Finally, best of luck, take your time and enjoy the canal.

Dave Innes

Clean Clubhouse

The vinyl flooring in the entrance hall and on the stairs has been given a deep clean, and the carpet in the bar area has been cleaned.

Any badly marked or damaged tiles will be replaced soon.

So please try and ensure your shoes are reasonably clean when entering the clubhouse.

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A Swinging Evening ...

... was definitely had by all who came along on Saturday 24th May to hear the wonderfully monikered Burt and the Bacharettas. As their name suggests, the core repertoire of this talented six-piece combo are hits penned by the song writing team of Burt Bacharach and Hal David, mainly dating from the 60s and 70s.

We were therefore treated to renderings of classic songs such as *Always Something There to Remind Me*, *Can't Take My Eyes Off Of You*, and *Do You Know The Way To San Jose?* You know, the sort of cheesy songs you pretended to hate at the time, but somehow, almost 50 years on, you somehow know every word of the lyrics! Glancing around the room, you could see everyone's lips moving in sync with lead singer Diana Saunderson, who delivered the songs in impeccable style.

Speaking for myself, I particularly liked the old Dusty Springfield and Petula Clark numbers such as *Anyone Who Had A Heart*, *I Only Want To Be With You*, *Couldn't Live Without Your Love* and *Downtown*. But as well as a string of well-known Bacharach-penned evergreens, the band also featured other popular chart-toppers of the era such as *Son Of A Preacher Man*, *These Boots Are Made For Walkin*, *Diamonds Are Forever*, Aretha Franklin's *Call Me* and the early Tom Jones hit *It's Not Unusual*.



Some younger members of the audience and those of us with limbs that can still manage a bit more than the occasional trip to the bar to get in more drinks were moved to cavort on the dance floor, providing even more entertainment value for the onlookers. Some couples demonstrated some pretty classy footwork too! And those that weren't actively gyrating, were either humming or foot-tapping along, or even indulging in some lively chair bopping in the case of one very well-known nonagenarian!

In short, a grand evening was had by all and we will definitely have to invite these guys back again soon for another swinging evening Burt-style!

Kay McBurney

Dunbar Harbour

The visitors' berth is now on the east wall on the north side of the bridge. It dries approximately 2 hours each side of HW.

For most visitors this will mean berthing where you can and then moving to the visitors' berth when water permits.

The deepest water is at the first berth you reach on entry, below the castle, so can be busy.

It may be possible to make arrangements to berth temporarily below the castle to make an early departure to carry the flood tide up the Forth.



Shottie with a Yottie

Unfortunately the 24th of May proved to be an inauspicious date for this year's Shottie with a Yottie as skipper after skipper sent in their apologies ... was no-one going to be in Edinburgh that weekend? A quick change-of-plan was called for. So, since the event was primarily aimed at youngsters and there was a cadet session scheduled for the same afternoon, we decided simply to offer shotties to any cadets who fancied a go instead of or as well as their usual dinghy sailing.

The morning of the 24th duly arrived, bringing a stiffish nor'easterly and associated choppy sea under rather grey skies. I for one was very happy to be on the relatively stable platform of Ian's catamaran, while *Shikari* wisely opted to sail under foresail alone.

On *Dabchick II*, our young novice crew mastered winch grinding and helming with aplomb under the well-weathered eye of the old codger, who nevertheless did not miss the opportunity of instilling in them the first rule of yachting: whatever goes wrong, it's always the crew's fault!

In between looking after all the Picos and Toppers out in the bay, John Kenworthy and James Kistruck on the scout RIB *Berserker* did some nifty manoeuvring to transfer cadets between the dinghies and yachts in pretty testing conditions, so many thanks to them.

Thanks also to skippers Janice Wilkinson and Ian Hellewell for hosting the aspiring yotties on *Shikari* and *Dabchick II*, and to Robert Wilkinson and Paul Rogers for liaising with the Scouts/cadets.

Kay McBurney, on behalf of the Sailing Committee

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The first of the three open events scheduled in 2014 to compete for the National 12 Lairwell Trophy was held at Cramond Boat Club on Sunday 25th May. The competitors arrived on Sunday morning to find the weather slightly different from the forecast. While the wind direction was correct (north-easterly blowing straight up the river Almond), the strength appeared considerably underestimated, with 25mph winds being recorded out in the race area.

Nevertheless all five competitors set out. After a tricky launching exercise off of a lee shore, the competitors found conditions out in the race area not much easier with a difficult quartering swell making the reaches quite exciting!

Angus Beyts and Andrew Harris sailing *Reflection* were the last to leave the shore, then decided that discretion was the better part of valour and were also the first to return ashore! As the OOD Drew Pratt attempted to finalise the start line and starting sequence the rescue crews were called in to action as Will Mitchell and Lois Spooner sailing *Not Another Aardvark* fell in, shortly followed by Piotr Wojtczuk and Anna Basista sailing *Fair Lady*. Thankfully the rescue team of Euan, Lawrie and Reginaldo successfully recovered them and their boat to the safety of the shore.

Whilst this was going on Alex and Denise Tulloch in *China Crisis* and Ed Willett and Sarah Smith in *Water Nymph* planed up and down awaiting the commencement of proceedings. However with the wind showing no signs of decreasing, the rescue teams fully occupied and with only two boats remaining it was decided to abandon the race.

Once all safely ashore the competitors decided to abandon any further racing for the day. A lunch of soup and rolls was enjoyed by all amidst some of the post race chat and craic! The bottles of wine which were to be handed out at prize giving were distributed to all entrants ... for turning up! It is hoped to re-schedule the event to later in the year. Watch this space.



Piotr Wojtczuk, Lois Spooner and Alex Tulloch assist Will Mitchell (back turned) to pack up Not Another Aardvark

Sincere thanks to all Cramond Boat Club volunteers who did an excellent job in difficult conditions, and to Will and Lois for making the journey north and showing the local sailors with their wooden boats what a modern carbon fibre National 12 looks like - although poor old *Not Another Aardvark* went home with more holes than she arrived with!

Ed Willett



As recorded in the December Seagull, 2014 marks the 50th anniversary of the opening of the Forth Road Bridge and plans are well underway for the Boat Flotilla on 7th September.

2014

This promises a memorable event, with hopefully hundreds of spectators and photographers keen to capture the occasion. The Firth of Forth will be decorated with vessels of all kinds, including Navy ships, tug boats, yachts and even '*Reaper*', the famous restored Fife herring drifter museum ship.

In the evening, there will be a barbeque at the Port Edgar Marina, from 5pm. There will be a variety of local acts providing entertainment for those involved in the Flotilla, to celebrate a successful day. The Flotilla is now open for all boating enthusiasts to join in, so to register your vessel for this unique event please fill in the entry form [here](#). Places are limited so you are encouraged to register early to secure a place.

Anstruther Harbour Festival, 15-17 Aug

The traditional 'Anstruther Muster', popular with CBC sailors, is the hub of the Anstruther Harbour Festival.

The hospitality marquee on the pier is back this year.

Other attractions include:

- Classic Boat Rally
- Craft stalls, fairground shows, children's' events
- Rowing Regatta on Saturday, with coastal rowing teams
- Model Boat Club exhibition
- Trophies for Furthest Travelled, Best Dressed and Smallest boats
- East of Scotland Boat Jumble on Saturday & Sunday
- *FoodfromFife* event in the Fisheries Museum - Saturday

For more details, see the [ASC website](#).

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Honda Youth RIB Championships

The annual Scottish Finals for the Honda RYA Youth RIB Championships took place on Saturday 7th June at Lochwinnoch. A total of 18 competitors, including two Cramond Scouts representing CBC, were put through their paces using the new Honda Highfield RIB.

Fortunately, the predicted wild weather stayed away until the last competitors had finished although those packing up at the end got totally drenched.



There were two age groups, and the competition was fierce as the winner of each group goes on to represent Scotland at the Championship Finals taking place at Southampton Boat Show in September 2014.

In the 13-16 yrs age group, Scott Stevenson from Cramond finished in second place, only 2 seconds behind the winner Robyn Dougall from the Scottish Powerboat and Yacht Academy, who has won the event twice before.

This was a superb achievement from Scott against some very tough completion and after very little practice.

Granton Harbour

A channel approximately 30m wide has been dredged from Granton harbour mouth to the south end of the pontoon, approximately 2m deeper than previously.

This will provide a wider access window to the Edinburgh Marina pontoon facility.

Good news for deep-keel yachts, but probably doesn't make much difference to CBC mudlarks.

This was Scott's second attempt at the trophy, having taken part a few years ago at Port Edgar when he came just outside the prizes in fourth. This was his last chance to enter as next year he will be too old.

Well done also to Tom Kistruck in his first attempt at the challenge. Although he finished outside the prizes, he put in a really good effort with no faults on his run.



Bar Update

New Bar Staff

We have two new bar staff at the club this summer. Laura Hill-Anderson is from Silverknowes and has previously worked at the Doo'cot in Drylaw so the club should be a breeze. She is planning to be a personal trainer working at a gym in Leith. Catherine Mcilwrick lives in Barnton Park and is hoping to go to University to study Events Management. She has no previous bar experience, but the club isn't the toughest place to start!

Non-alcoholic Beer

We have a small quantity of Bavaria Beer for a trial at the bar. If you would like more of this, please let me know.

Food Waste

I would like to remind members that Food Waste should **not** be put in the bin in the kitchen. There is a designated bin marked **Food Waste Only**, which is normally removed by myself after the weekend. However, members should also consider helping out by taking their waste home with them.

Mike Haynes

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Visit from Benji Dawson

There was an air of quiet anticipation on Wednesday 30th April when a few members gathered to welcome our old friend and fellow member, Benji Dawson and his "minder" – daughter Faith. Newer members may ask who? So let me shed some light on why we felt the visit was special.



Benji joined the club about 50 years ago when he and his family moved into St Margaret's, the big red stone house above the steep garden overlooking the river and club moorings. From this vantage point he could keep his eye on the boats and club activities.

Benji served on the committee for a number of years and was Commodore from 1972 to 1974. However, for many years over and above that he became the unofficial (and unpaid) river harbourmaster until he and his wife Katrina moved to Ullapool several years ago to be near their eldest son Topher and family.

Apart from looking out for the boats, Benji also looked out for the members, and if someone had broken a fitting, lost a bit or couldn't get something to work, Benji would disappear into that magical workshop of his, then some time later sidle up to the person and quietly say "would this do the trick?". Invariably "this" was just what was needed!

His pawky sense of humour was also legendary and there are numerous stories to tell, but another time! Suffice to say it was a very happy gathering with many chuckles and reminiscences to while away the afternoon.

It was lovely to see you again; Benji and we all wish you well on your return to the family in Ullapool.

David Innes



CBC Sailing Events Calendar

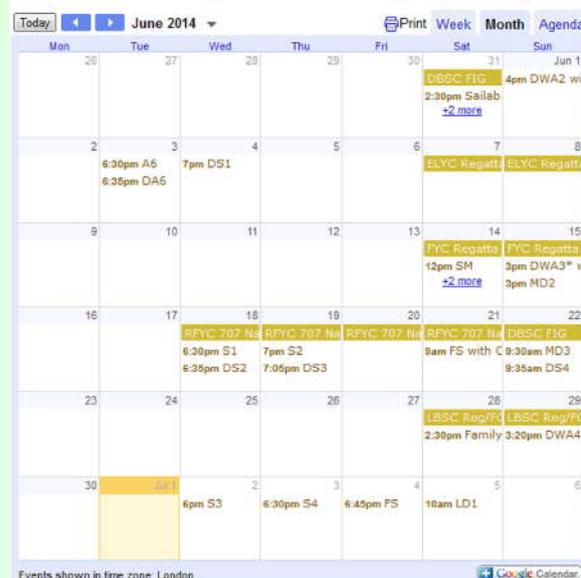
Those of you who are not hooked on modern technology, look away now. Those of you who are, you probably already know this ...

If you use an electronic calendar such as Google Calendar or Outlook, you can import the dates and times of club sailing events into your own calendar to save having to check old-fashioned bits of paper.

Just go to the Calendar page on the [club website](#). If you use Google Calendar, click on the **+ Google Calendar** button at the foot of the date grid which will ask you to log into your Google account and add the CBC calendar to your own. If you use another calendar application, click on the **ICAL format** link at the top of the date grid and you will be asked to choose which application you want to use (e.g. Microsoft Outlook). Simple!

Now you can have easy access to club events from your computer, tablet or phone whenever you want! Who says the Cramond Boat Club is old-fashioned? Many thanks to Trevor Mackay and Piotr Wojtczuk for setting this up for us - if you have any problems with it, Piotr will be happy to help.

To subscribe to this calendar, you can use the following link: [ICAL format](#).



Acknowledgements

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

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