



The Seagull

The Journal of the Cramond Boat Club

December 2014

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Commodore's Jottings

Once again we look back on another eventful year and forward to 2015.

Crane-out went smoothly and without fuss despite a lengthy break while we waited for the tide to turn. We were amply fed and watered during the break and thanks again to all the volunteers who assisted with catering and sent home baking for the day. Thanks again to Jeff and Hamish for all their hard work in organising everything and ensuring that we finished without any mishaps.

We'd an entertaining evening at the end of October with "Diaz Brazil" who provided music of a warmer climate to ease us through the autumn. It was lower key than some of our musical evenings but a refreshing variation nonetheless. Well done Reggie!

Ian Hellewell, ably supported by Phil Chester, once again organised the prize-giving which this year also featured prizes won by the Scouts – and hadn't they done well this year. We're really lucky to have their support and active participation in the Club and they'll hopefully go on to become some of our senior members in the future. Their enthusiasm is a credit to them but also to the Scout leaders who give them so much encouragement. There was a large spread laid on by my wife Liz and Jess King and everyone tucked in heartily after the close of the formal part of the evening.



The Frostbite series has been well supported and though we lost one race to weather, the last weekend's weather was sufficiently kind to allow us to run two races before the wind finally died. There was some close competition in both and it's to be hoped that weather is similarly good for the remaining races.

This will be my last contribution in my present capacity as Andy Walker was elected as your new Commodore at the AGM. Congratulations to him and I trust you will all lend him your full support. Alex Tulloch was elected as the new Dinghy Park Convenor and will doubtless also have your full support. As usual the Club continues to be in a healthy financial state due in no small part to the efforts of our treasurer Keith Conway.

There was a request at the AGM that the Club obtain a trophy cabinet to display some of the magnificent trophies that members compete for. We're grateful to Alex Robertson for confirming that P. J. Green contractors would contribute to the supply of the necessary cabinet to the Club.

Plans are well in hand for the children's Christmas Party on the 7th December, though there weren't many names on the board at time of writing.

It's been a long four years in some respects, in others it's passed in a flash but it's been a privilege to have been able to serve the Club and I think in the Committee it is in excellent hands. We really would benefit from volunteers stepping up to the vacant committee positions though, rather than leaving it to others to shoulder the additional burden.

May I wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy, Healthy and Prosperous New Year, fair winds also for 2015.

See you at Crane in on 4th April if not before.

Euan Drysdale, Commodore (retired)

Diary Dates

Sat 4th April
Crane In

20 - 23 August
ECSW, Port Edgar

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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@yahoogroups.co.uk. In addition, you can contact the sailing committee using the group address sailcomm@cramondboatclub.org.uk

Office Bearers

		<u>email title</u>
Commodore	Andy Walker	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	Alex Tulloch	dinghy park
Training Officer	<i>position vacant</i>	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

As you will notice, there are a number of vacancies. If you think you can contribute in any way, please contact the Commodore to discuss how to get involved - don't assume someone else will do the work. In any club run by the members, it is vital that everyone takes their turn to help to run the show. Otherwise ... there simply is no club.

New Members

Welcome to our new members:

Full

Rachel Marjoribanks

Social

Alan and Joyce Forsyth
Tracey Keitch
Norman McColm
Jess King



Geological History of Cramond

What to do at Cramond over the winter? Well, why not explore the geological history of the area? No, really - this is more interesting than you might think. In fact, Lothian and Borders Geoconservation have produced a leaflet in conjunction with Cramond Heritage Trust outlining the geology of the area, covering Cramond Island, the foreshore at Cramond and the Dalmeny Estate and up the river to Grotto Bridge.

Free copies of the leaflet should be available at the Maltings (open April to September) but it can also be downloaded from www.edinburghgeolsoc.org/downloads/lbgcleaflet_cramond.pdf.

It seems that a walk around the shore and river will take you on a geological journey from Olivine microgabbro to Carboniferous sandstone by way of sedimentary planar cross-bedding and of course isostatic uplift. Told you it was interesting. And did you know there are coal seams on the Dalmeny foreshore?

Well you probably guessed, because there was a recent news story about the discovery of a massive coal seam in the Firth of Forth, with estimates of up to 335 million tonnes of coal under the seabed. (<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-scotland-scotland-business-29987033>) The energy firm Cluff Natural Resources has plans to build the UK's first deep offshore underground coal gasification (UGC) plant, but whether it goes ahead is anyone's guess as there is already plenty of opposition on environmental and safety grounds. If it does happen, it could have a big impact on other users of the firth, so we will watch with interest.



News Snippets

More Weather Data

The Forth Ports Website now shows live tidal and meteorological information for the ports of Grangemouth, Rosyth, Leith and Dundee. This data can be found under the marine section of the Forth Ports Website <http://www.forthports.co.uk/marine/live-met-information/>.

Club Work Parties

Winter work parties at the club will take place on 24/25th January, 7/8th February, 14/15th March and 28/29th March. Look out for your personal invitation to attend!

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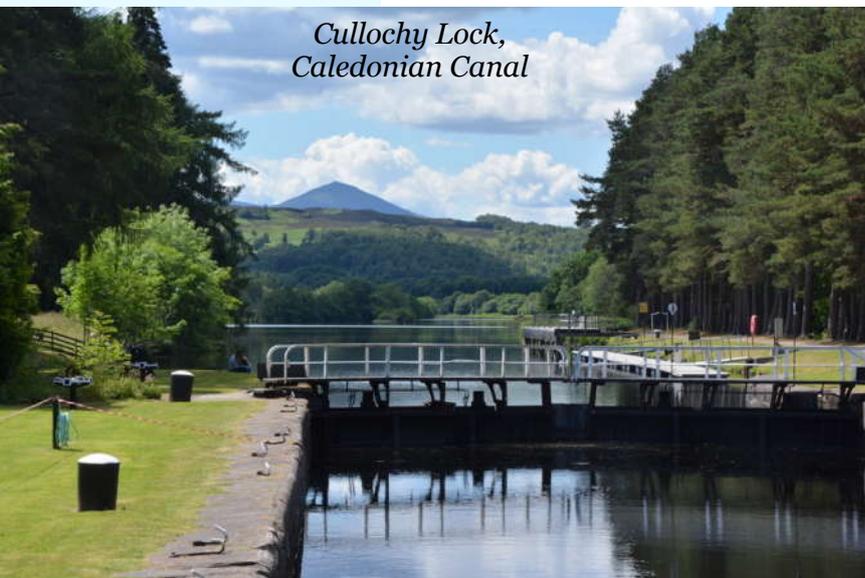


It seemed no time since the return from Findhorn that bags were packed in preparation for the summer holiday. On Friday 27th June the two crews assembled in Findhorn. The Hampson family were on *Stravaig*, while on *Melita*, Sam and Alastair were accompanied by Sam's cousin and wife, Niall and Libby. Over an evening meal in Findhorn Yacht Club plans for departure were discussed. The previously aired plan of a 04:00 departure was abandoned (due to threats of mutiny) and a late morning slot was agreed instead. The downside of this approach was that we wouldn't make Inverness on Saturday so we would head for Avoch instead.

Final departure preparations were completed and at 13:00 we slipped lines and headed out on the ebb. It was an overcast day with a light north-easterly breeze but there was concern about the swell hitting the beach which can be a problem for vessels entering and leaving Findhorn.

Melita had the honour of leading the way, as the inbound track was still on the chart plotter from three weeks earlier. As we emerged from the river the full effect of the swell was felt and a very uncomfortable motion began. The skipper had both eyes on the plotter and depth gauge which was showing worryingly low readings. As daunting as it was, on we went and after what seemed an age the narrow channel was left behind and course was set towards the inner Moray Firth. *Stravaig* set reefed sails while *Melita* unfurled the genoa but we were now heading across the swell in a distinctly unpleasant rolling motion. With some crew on both boats feeling unwell, a plan B was formed and we headed for Cromarty which was just eight miles away. The swell subsided as we got closer and a pontoon berth was available in the harbour. Both crews were relieved to have made it and an evening of good food and the odd drink helped everyone to relax.

*Cullochy Lock,
Caledonian Canal*



Fortunately the sea had calmed down by Sunday and we had to motor most the way to Inverness as the wind disappeared. After arriving in Muirton basin, Alan's parents arrived with a delicious chocolate cake, then shopping and a barbeque were the order of the day. The canal transit started on Monday with the early opening of the road and rail bridges and by lunchtime we headed out onto Loch Ness in ideal monster spotting conditions (no wind). In true highland tradition the sky to the west was looking darker and halfway down the loch the rain started which then persisted for most of the day. An overnight stop at Fort Augustus was followed by a glorious day. To begin with we were packed in the first lock with four other boats and there was little margin for error. Fortunately there was no contact and off we went, reaching Laggan by late afternoon where we spent the night on the pontoons on Loch Ceann.

Wednesday proved to be very different with a stiff south-westerly wind that built to 30 knots. As the wind increased, a short swell developed and by the time we reached the mid-point of Loch Lochy, forward motion dropped to less than a knot. Eventually we reached Gairloch and despite the weather conditions which had deteriorated with heavy rain added to the wind strength it was decided to continue to Banavie. As all the pontoons were full we were allowed to tie up to the wall instead.

The following day was decreed a rest day, and while the *Melita* crew went off to investigate the (limited) delights of Fort William, the Hampsons occupied themselves with several activities including a trip to Mallaig by steam train.

The weather forecast was not promising for Friday with wind and rain forecast but it was supposed to improve as the day progressed.



Stravaig pitching in Loch Lochy

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We set off down Neptune's Staircase and reached the Corpach basin by 11:30, however a pause to refuel turned into an extended stop as the weather deteriorated. Eventually we decided to go, but getting off the quay was a challenge as the wind pinned *Melita* to the wall. Fortunately the crew of the RNLI lifeboat that was also leaving appeared and manhandled us into the lock while Max played coxswain in the warmth of the lifeboat's cabin. Once out of the sea lock it was a relief to find the conditions much easier than anticipated though the headwind meant motoring down to the Corran Narrows. By then the wind eased and sails were hoisted as we headed down Loch Linnhe. Our day's destination was Bishop's Bay in Loch Leven, and by the time we passed under the Ballachulish Bridge and dropped anchor, the sun was breaking through as the clouds lifted to reveal our magnificent surroundings.

The following day there was a short sail as we tacked down Loch Linnhe for a stopover at Linnhe Marina in Dallens Bay. The early arrival meant there was time for some shore-based activities in the sun such as walking along the cycle path to Castle Stalker. The sun was still shining on Sunday and we headed up the Sound of Mull to Lochaline to make use of the excellent new pontoons and facilities. Monday saw another shorter day and a lovely sail to Tobermory where the advantage of an early arrival was apparent as we grabbed the last two available pontoon spaces. It was a beautifully warm summer day as the delights of Tobermory were explored including sampling of the local ice cream.



Bishop's Bay, Loch Leven



Puffins on Lunga

Tuesday was to be a day off, and while Niall and Libby headed for shore and a trip to Calgary, Sam and Alastair opted for a boat trip to Staffa and the Treshnish Isles. The main attraction on Lunga is a colony of puffins that have no fear of humans and will approach to within a metre so and you don't have to be a wildlife photographer to great some great pictures. After lunch it was time to return to the boat for the fifteen minute crossing to Staffa and an hour ashore before the return to Tobermory. This was a memorable trip on a beautiful day.

With only a few days remaining until the end of the holiday it was time to head back to the mainland. It made a pleasant change to have a tailwind as we set off to Oban Marina on Kerrera for the night. On arrival some went for a walk down the island in the sun though we didn't get that far before having to return for supper. The following day's destination was Puilladobhrain which is only seven miles away so the day started with a trip to Oban on the free ferry to get supplies. By the time we beat down to the Firth of Lorne against the tide to Puilladobhrain we had covered 23 miles rather than the seven! *Melita's* tender was inflated for the first time since leaving Cramond, and we decanted to one of the small islands forming the western side of the anchorage. The barbeque was lit and we enjoyed the views and sunset as the food cooked – and no midges! All too soon it was time to head back to *Melita* and as we did, Alan and family appeared from their trip to the pub for supper.

There was an enforced early start the next morning after the skippers read the cruising guide to identify the best time to head south and by 07:00 the peace and quiet in the anchorage had been shattered as the engines were started and anchors raised. It was another glorious morning but there was not a breath of wind as we headed down the Sound of Luing. With a calm sea the full effect of the tidal current could be seen as boat speed suddenly increased from 4.5 to 9 knots. Fortunately the passage planning had been correct and before long the two yachts passed through the Dorus Mhor and into quieter waters. The lightest of breezes appeared and sails were hoisted for the last time on the trip on a dead run up to Ardfern where we arrived at 12:00.

*Melita and Stravaig
in Puilladobhrain*



Both crews relaxed in the afternoon before supper at the Galley of Lorne hotel marked the end of the joint cruise. Next morning *Stravaig* headed off in the rain to Crinan by herself as *Melita* was to stay in Ardfern for a month.

Alastair Miller and Alan Hampson

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Once again, our very own 'old man of the sea' Ian Hellewell took the helm for the annual prizegiving at the end of November. And like last year, he was ably supported. Anmarie MacRury presented the prizes, Eddie King sorted out the trophies, Piotr Wojtczuk presented the slideshow, Anna Basista took photographs, Jess King and Liz Drysdale organised the buffet and Phil Chester had the toughest job of all – keeping Ian in order whenever he lost his place in the script (which was quite a lot.)

2014 seems to have been a better year for dinghy racing than cruisers and it was good to see the Cadets and the Sea Monkeys getting their awards. It was also interesting to hear all about the tremendous success of the Cramond Scouts winning so many trophies at the Scottish Scout Regatta at Lochgoilhead. (As a footnote, it was particularly poignant for your editor to see again the overall winners trophy which the Cramond Scouts won back in 1974 when he was a young Sea Scout at Cramond!)



Ian's stories were amusing (if not always entirely related to the proceedings), particularly when he introduced the contenders for the Wally Award and asked us to vote for the winner. It is comforting to know that so many club members are prepared to embarrass themselves for our entertainment.

Before and after the ceremony, we were entertained to some very civilized music from Enid Forsyth, Ellie Logan and Keir Logan.

Thanks to everyone who contributed to a successful and enjoyable evening.



CBC Prizewinners 2014:

Dinghies

Series	Trophy	Winner	Boat
Dinghy A	Cleland Cup	Ed Willett	Weter Nymph
Dinghy S	H K Brown Trophy	Cambell Calder	Boudicca
Weekend A	Pechtoot Shield	Ed Willett	Mr Incredible
Weekend B	Cranmer Cup	Alex Tulloch	China Chrisis
Dinghy Regatta	Matilda Cup	Piotr Wojtczuk	Marengo
Cadet Series	Barnton Trophy	Keir Logan	Pico
Cadet Regatta	Garvie Shield	Emma Wilkinson	Bella
Frostbite Series	Brass Monkey Trophy	Lawrie Elliot	Salty 2
Best Trainee	Trainee Trophy	Ben Galloway	
Power Boat	Power Boat Plinth	Scott Stevenson	

Cruisers

Long Distance	Louis Gumley Cup	Jim Dougall	Pegasus 2
Cruiser W	Laidlaw Cup	Dave Jamieson	Talisker
MD Series	Inchcolm Plate	Dave Jamieson	Talisker
Cruiser Log	Drambuie Cup	Alastair Miller	Melita
Wally Award	Wooden Anchor	Callum Birrell	



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Being the holders of the 2013 overall National Sea Scout Regatta trophy, there was an air of optimism as the Scouts left Cramond to defend their title. This year's regatta was held on 27/28 September at the Lochgoilhead Scout Centre. A team of 6 Scouts, 6 Explorers and 4 Leaders were hand-picked to represent 82nd Craigmmond (Cramond) Sea Scouts against approx. 120 children from various Sea Scout troops from across Scotland, participating in sailing, kayaking, canoeing and power boating events.

The first day brought some gusty winds, swinging almost 90 degrees at times. However, the Cramond sailors were well-equipped to cope having experienced a typical southerly at Cramond. This, combined with some great starting tactics, saw them crush the opposition. We came 1st and 2nd in both heats, which meant four out of six participants in the final! The Explorers were equally dominant with 1st and 3rd places in their heats.

The kayaking has been a strong event for Cramond in the past and both the Scouts and Explorers soon laid down the gauntlet with a mixture of 1st and 2nd in their heats. In the canoeing heats, two teams were entered from both Scouts and Explorers. Both A teams cruised through to the final with style, and to their credit the Scout B team managed a very respectable second.



The afternoon saw the first of the finals for the Scout and Explorer single-handed sailors. The wind dropped away as the Scouts started but the Cramond sailors were on fire and led the way from the start. Unfortunately Ben was distracted at the finish line by the judges and he was robbed of first place despite a protest. However, behind him was a procession of Cramond sailors ready to take 1st and 2nd! The Explorer final saw a great battle between the two Cramond sailors, and despite Mark's dinghy falling apart, TWICE, he continued to press Fergus but in vain and came a respectable 2nd with Fergus the winner.

The second day was windless so sailing was replaced by paddling, which was no disappointment to the Cramond double-handed pairs, who were victorious in their heat and also in the final!

The Scouts kayak final saw Lauren and Lewis battling it out around a very long course and an extremely determined but very tired Lewis took the victory. The 3 Cramond Explorers had to battle hard with an Explorer from 1st West Lothian troop. Unfortunately Mark Baker was pipped at the post with Mark Lowther and Fergus right behind to scoop 3rd and 4th. However, the two Mark's and Fergus had their revenge in the canoeing final with a brilliant victory.

Throughout the weekend the Scouts were able to try their hand at powerboating, being timed around the RYA Honda RIB challenge course. To our amazement, and Fergus's, he scooped the fastest Explorer time and even better, the fastest overall time. Very impressive driving!

The competition for the Scouts overall trophy was extremely close and unfortunately they lost by 4 points. A fantastic achievement to come so close against such strong opposition. The Explorers however had done enough to secure the Explorer overall trophy! So that left the overall regatta trophy and the result was close, but the balance just tipped in favour of Cramond Scouts. Superb achievement and a job well done!!

We finished with an incredible eight trophies, and some great prizes from Tunnocks, Arnold Clark, Scottish Kayaks, Gael Force Marine and Sailingfast. We are very proud of the Scouts, and this is a result of all the hard work they put in, but also a testament to the effort and time that the Cramond Boat Club, Longcraig Scout centre and Cramond Scout leaders/helpers put in to help the Scouts develop their skills. Thank you guys, we couldn't do it without you.

Paul Rogers

Acknowledgements

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

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