



The Seagull

The Journal of the Cramond Boat Club

March 2015

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The View from the Commodore's Window

The latter half of last year (2014) was significant for me in two respects – Greta and I (eventually) moved into our new home in Cramond, and I had the honour of being elected as the new Commodore for Cramond Boat Club. After four years of outstanding service to the Club, Euan Drysdale stood down and I take this opportunity, on behalf of all club members, to thank wholeheartedly Euan and also Liz, who has contributed hugely as Lady Commodore, for the excellent work they undertook over this extended period.

Coming in as the new boy, I am immediately struck by the enthusiasm and dedication: of the Officers of the club; of the other Committee Members; and all the other members who give their time and expertise so generously. Organisations such as ours only survive on the back of the voluntary effort provided by our active membership. I look forward to making my own small contribution over the forthcoming period.



I am very pleased to report that one of our vacancies – Training Officer – has now been filled by Lawrie Elliott, who I am confident will, again, do an excellent job in this role. In addition, Euan Drysdale continues his work for the club, looking after the rescue boat rota. Many thanks go to both.

For those of you are unaware of the details of our house move, we are now based next to the Club, in the house formerly occupied by Past Commodore Benjie Dawson. This gives us an excellent opportunity to keep a close eye on what everyone is doing!

The New Year started off with us running our own event – in the form of the Commodore's Lunch. More correctly, this should be described as the Commodore's Wife's Lunch as it was Greta, with considerable enthusiasm, who set about providing the soup and bacon rolls. Twenty five members came along to wish each other a Good New Year and partake of the luncheon fayre. It proved to be a very pleasant way to start off 2015.

With the weather being uncooperative on New Year's Day, it was the end of the week before the dinghy sailors could get out for their first sail of 2015. But they have continued to show the seasonal keel boat sailors, such as myself, how the fine waters available to the Club can be enjoyed all year long.

Diary Dates

Sat 4th April
Crane In

Wed 15th April
Meet the RYA, RFYC

2nd & 3rd May
Opening Cruise

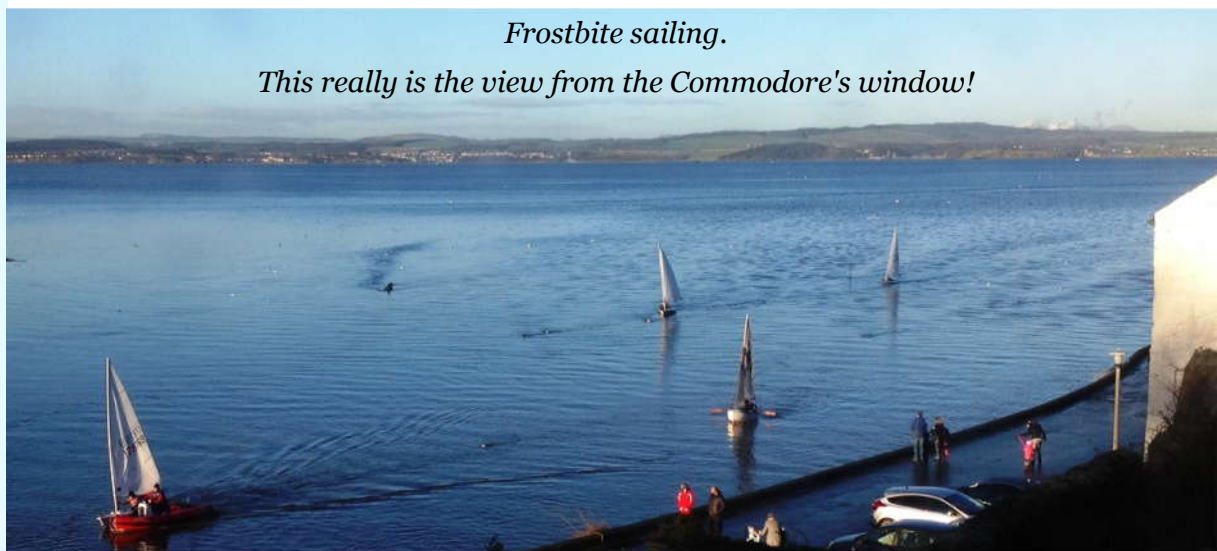
20th - 23rd August
ECSF

29th - 30th August
Cramond Dinghy Regatta

Sat 10th Oct
Crane Out

Frostbite sailing.

This really is the view from the Commodore's window!



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Later in the month the Club hosted a less than conventional Burns Night, combining the Address to the Haggis with the excellent band, Mike and the Mushrooms. Many thanks go to Reggie Dias and Mike Haynes (our Social and Bar Convenors) for producing vast quantities of haggis, neeps and tatties – and to all the other helpers, for their hard work, making it a hugely successful evening.

January and February also saw the start of the weekend Moorings Maintenance sessions – with Alan Hampson (Moorings Convenor) getting good support from members braving the cold early morning starts. At the time of writing, it is good to be able to look out at two rows of buoys neatly awaiting the spring re-launch.

I do hope we shall be able to continue providing good company and good boating opportunities throughout the year. Wishing everyone fair skies and following winds,

Andy Walker



Riverside News

Bollard installation

Members will have noted the construction of a bollard barrier between the entry gate to the riverside and the riverbank wall. This has been installed by Edinburgh City Council to stem the flow of traffic along the beach front at Cramond. However, the Cramond Boat Club have access through these bollards to the outer slip and beach for our sailing events.

Two of the bollards are metal, square in shape, and can be unlocked and pushed down into recesses in the road. There is a catch at the bottom of the bollard that allows it to be pushed down into the hole provided, once the padlock is removed. The padlock can then be secured to a loop on the top of the bollard. This will allow access for dinghies, cars with trailers and even the ice cream van.

The club has been provided with 3 keys by the council to open these bollards. The keys will be kept in the following locations.

- Rescue boat cellar
- Committee room
- Downstairs in the entry hall to the club.

The bollards do not need to be closed after each dinghy passes. They can be kept in the open (down) position while access to the outer slip and the beach is required. When passage is not required we should always return the bollards to the up position but we don't have to re-lock the bollards while the event is on. The individual responsible for opening the bollards and re-locking them at the end of a session will be the rescue boat skipper or Race Officer of the Day.

The key in the entrance hall will be available to individual members. Any member unlocking the bollards MUST ensure that they close them after passing through; re-lock them after bringing their boat back in; and return the key to the clubhouse. At present, we do not intend to create a comprehensive set of rules to govern the locking and unlocking of the bollards as we hope that this guidance and common sense should suffice.

CBC Parking Permits

The arrival of the bollards reflects the Council taking more of an interest in vehicle access to both the promenade and the riverside.

Cramond Boat Club members have access to the area around the clubhouse and quay wall for loading/unloading and parking, both in winter and summer. However it is very important that we can show we are exercising proper control over the vehicles gaining access and parking.

To this end the CBC Committee asks all members to ensure that they have purchased and are displaying the CBC Parking Permit on any motor vehicle that they intend to park on the Cramond riverside area. These permits can be purchased from the bar for £1. They are issued to individual club members and can be used with more than one vehicle.

We shall be auditing the CBC Parking Permits to ensure we have a full record of members holding them. This will put us in a stronger position should we be approached by the Council for evidence that permits are being properly managed.

On a related issue, members are reminded not to park alongside the benches which are situated on the grass verge of the riverside. We must ensure an unrestricted view of the river for occupants and avoid any undue criticism. Members cooperation in all this is welcomed.

Hamish Henderson, Rear Commodore

New Members

Welcome to our new members:

Full

Leanne Haynes
Rebecca Morrison
Ernie Coulter

Junior

Michael Urquhart
Callum Grant
Beatrice Davidson
Charlie Campbell
Samuel Cooper

Social

Graham Carberry
Justin and Rosalinda
D'Agostina
Yeo Chony
David Bryce
Charles Dick
Fergus Morrison

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Great progress has been made by the winter work parties this year with just about all the jobs completed by early February. The weather gods looked favourably upon us, while the river, though on the high side, was still workable.

Good preparation, thanks mainly to Hamish and Davie, meant that everything was ready for the first work party to make a flying start on the East trot. The chain was on the tin boat in no time and we were off up the river. After a few moorings we started to hit increasing amounts of debris on the risers, and were eventually brought to a complete standstill by a reasonably sized log. With the help of the dinghy sailors in the shore party we eventually managed to get it free and dragged into shore.



After further delays with a couple of slightly lesser logs, it began to look unlikely that we would complete the East trot in a day.

However, after a period of intense activity re-positioning the risers in front of the clubhouse, and a quick re-fuel on

chocolate bars the team decided to go for it, driven on by the thought of a later start the next day. We made it back down to the river bar just before the rising tide would have made it impossible to re-join the chain. Then it was back to the clubhouse for a well-earned if late lunch at 3pm served up by a rather anxious Reg who was also helping prepare for the evening's Burn's supper.

Meanwhile the dinghy sailors had striped and serviced the race marks. A reduced team on the Sunday made it out to check and resurrect the channel marks, and chop up the logs dragged in from the moorings.

The second weekend also got off to a good start. It took a little longer to recover the chain and get the winch started but then they headed off up the river in sunshine. With far less debris on the risers, the team made good progress, and with few changes to make, everything was checked and reconnected soon after mid-day.



Before heading out in the rescue boat, Calum established that the trailer couldn't take his weight and left Hamish and I with the job of rebuilding the front of the trailer using a bit of the old angled fence post from the dinghy park. Hopefully, this will last a few years!

The dinghy gang, armed with a chainsaw headed out to tackle the large tree that is stuck out by the teeth. However, once up close it became apparent that it was beyond the scope for the chainsaw, and that even if it had been possible to slice it up the bits would have been too big to move. The log is now buoyed at both ends so don't be tempted to pass between them! After a gentle start the next day, the shore chains were re-connected and a few other jobs ticked off.

Thanks again to all those who helped out and for those of you who missed out on the fun, there is still the opportunity to help at the post crane-in clear up on 5th April. Look forward to seeing everyone at the appointed start time for crane-in on the 4th.

Alan Hampson

East Coast Sailing Festival

East Coast Sailing Week has been renamed "East Coast Sailing Festival" to reflect the fact that it is held over four days rather than a full week.

The dates are Thu 20th to Sun 23rd August, and the venue is Port Edgar.

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Cramond Scouts visit the RNLI

The RNLI provide a fantastic service and one which I hope none of you ever need to call on! The level of professionalism and dedication is remarkable, and even more so when you consider that they are all volunteers.



Last month the Cramond Sea Scouts had the opportunity to visit the RNLI station at South Queensferry to meet some of the crew, learn more about the RNLI and get to clamber all over the lifeboat.

It was a great opportunity for the Scouts to see first-hand what is involved. It was clear they were all in awe of the work the RNLI do and especially the calibre of the lifeboat and the amount of kit needed.

The Sea Scouts took the opportunity to donate £200 to the RNLI to show their support for a great cause. This was one part of the funds raised at the Scout duck race in 2014 (the rest being used to maintain the Scout boats) so thank you to everyone for your support at last year's event.

Following that success, we'll be doing it all again this year, only even bigger and better. Please put Saturday 13th June in your diaries for the 2015 Scout duck race. Details of the event, including how to sponsor a duck, will be posted on www.cramond-scouts.org.uk/noticeboard.html after Easter.



Paul Rogers

Crane-In

Crane-In is on Saturday 4th April.

Hamish Sutherland will be organising the event on the day, with Jeff Mcleod responsible for the lifts, as banksman.

The crane is booked for 11.00 am so boat owners should aim to be down by about 10.00 am.

Please do not park cars near the club as this restricts crane access.

Ideally, use the public car park.

But note that the Saturday morning "park runners" start to leave the car park from around 9.30 am, making access down Cramond Glebe Road very restricted.

Further details will be circulated to members.



Meet the RYA: Wed 15th April, RFYC

Gus Lewis (RYA Head of Legal and Government Affairs) and Stuart Carruthers (RYA Cruising Manager) will be hosting an evening for recreational boaters and answering your questions. Come along to an informative and entertaining evening to find out first-hand how the RYA is representing your interests on a range of issues, including:

- The impact of offshore renewable energy on cruising
- Safety matters; PLBs, life jackets, RYA SafeTrx app etc.
- Carriage and disposal of pyrotechnic flares
- E-borders
- Harbour Directions
- Marine Protected Areas

All recreational boaters in the area are invited to attend. You do not need to be an RYA member or a member of the Royal Forth Yacht Club. The club bar will be open from 19:00 for refreshments and a free light snack provided part way through the evening. The more formal part of the evening will start at 19:30 and conclude around 22:00.

Places are limited. To reserve your place please email cruising@rya.org.uk with "Edinburgh Talk 15/04/2015" in the subject line. Please include your name and the number of places you would like to reserve. If you are an RYA member please provide your RYA membership number and if you are a member of a club in the region please indicate which club.

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There has been some recent concern about the impact on the river Almond of a major new housing development at Cammo, in terms of drainage and sewerage. At a meeting of the Cramond and Barnton Community Council in January, Bill Elliot from Scottish Water explained their policy on planning applications for new developments like the one at Cammo. This is to have an assessment of the impact on the development on the sewerage system, and, if that indicates that improvements have to be made to the system, the developer will have to pay for them.

No assessment has yet been carried out for the Cammo development, since Scottish water can only demand it as a condition of planning consent - they cannot object to a planning application. There is therefore little to be gained by objecting to this development of the grounds of drainage capacity.

I would expect the Cammo development to have a separate drainage system, with the surface water draining to the River Almond and the foul drainage going to the sewer, which goes past the clubhouse. I do not know if Scottish Water have fully analysed this sewer, but like any combined sewer the problems come from the amount of surface water already going into it, from older housing and roads.

It is possible that Scottish water will consider the foul discharge from the Cammo development will have little impact, and since the sewer only surcharges during storms, that may be right. It would however be worthwhile asking for the results of the assessment; bearing in mind that it will not be done until after the development has planning consent!

All surface water systems now have to be treated with attenuation storage before discharging to a watercourse, so the impact on the River Almond should also be minimal.

I also asked about the quality of the River Almond due to sewer discharges from the many sewage works upstream and storm overflows. Mr Elliot was not aware of any proposals by Scottish Water for action on this. I know that action will only be taken on SEPA's instruction so it is SEPA who must be lobbied for that.

Alvin Barber, Hon Secretary

Syzygy

Look out for extremely high tides on Saturday 21st March.

A rare astronomical event, when the Sun, Earth and Moon are co-aligned (called a syzygy) occurs at the vernal equinox this year.

The Leith tide tables show a range of 6.1m on 21st March.

But in Avonmouth on the Bristol Channel, a range of 16.8m is predicted!

The same syzygy will also result in a solar eclipse which should be visible in Edinburgh between 8.30am and 10.30am on Friday 20th March.



Training Update

ARE YOU INTERESTED IN POWER BOAT OR SAIL TRAINING?

If so we have a number of RYA courses running at weekends for adults and kids during 2015.

Power Boat

This covers the RYA Power Boat 2 course and we may consider running the RYA Safety Boat course subject to demand. The Power Boat 2 course is for beginners and the Safety Boat Course is for those with more advanced skills and experience. Slots are available on the weekends of the 7th and 8th March and the 14th and 15th March.

Sea Monkeys

This covers the RYA Junior Sailing Curriculum and for those 9 years and over. By the end of the course (stage 3) your child will be able to sail a boat independently and join our Cadet programme to enhance their skills. The dates are:

16th and 17th May
13th June
11th July
15th August
6th and 26th September

Adult Sail Training

This covers the RYA Level 1 and 2 Course for beginners and will set you up to sail independently. This or equivalent experience is required to sail or club boats. Slots are available on the 18th and 19th of April, 2nd and 3rd of May and the 16th and 17th of May.

Please note you must be a member of Cramond Boat Club to join all courses. Junior memberships are available. If you are interested, please get in touch.

Lawrie Elliott

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Burns Night

An excellent Burns and band night was held in the clubhouse on Saturday 24th January.

The traditional haggis, neeps and tatties (properly piped in and addressed) was followed by the now legendary band Mike and the Mushrooms, catering for all tastes!



The Club was throbbing – both with a full house and the excellent music.

Many thanks to social convenor Reg Dias for organising and catering, and all those who contributed to a very busy and successful night.



Cruise Liners in the Forth

The following cruise liners will be anchored by Hound Point during the summer of 2015, if you want to sail out and have a look:

Date	Vessel	Length (metres)	Date	Vessel	Length (metres)
18 May	Royal Princess	330	24 July	Marina	239
30 May	Royal Princess	330	29 July	Royal Princess	330
11 June	Royal Princess	330	10 Aug	Royal Princess	330
4 July	Eurodam	285	20 Aug	Seven Seas Voyager	206
5 July	Royal Princess	290	22 Aug	Royal Princess	330
8 July	Britannia	330	3 Sep	Royal Princess	330
11 July	Royal Princess	330	5 Sep	Splendida	333
18 July	Celebrity Silhouette	315	4 Oct	Norwegian Star	294

Of these, the most interesting seems to be the *MV Britannia*, the brand new flagship of P&O Cruises, which has just been officially named by the Queen before entering service on 14th March. It features a 94-metre Union Jack on her bow, claimed to be the largest in the world!



Acknowledgements

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

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