



The Seagull

The Journal of the Cramond Boat Club

June 2015

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The View from the Commodore's Window

Summer seems to come earlier and earlier. A spell of good weather arrived just in time for Crane-in – at the start of April – and lasted long enough for those keel boat owners, who were fortunate enough to get their masts and sails up promptly, to enjoy getting on the water in some warm sunshine.

Subsequently, the season seems to have gone into reverse and through May and early June we have suffered some wintery temperatures, plus a series of gales that have been perfectly synchronised with planned events on the water. This has led to abandoned races and cancellation of the “Shottie with a Yachtie” (can somebody come up with a better name?!). And the opening cruise to Aberdour was undertaken in cars! As I look out of my window once again the wind is whipping up white horses and another good afternoon tide is at risk of passing unused. Here's hoping for an early turn for the better.

Very many thanks to all concerned with ensuring that crane-in went smoothly. Particular thanks go to: Hamish and Geoff; to Calum and Gordon in the tug boats; to the catering team; and to everyone else who helped on the day.



The view from the Commodore's window on the evening of Crane-in

Meanwhile Alex Tulloch, our new Dinghy Park Convener, has been getting to grips with the dinghy park. Various work sessions have ensured efficient organisation of the space available. We can all help from here on by only using allocated spaces and, importantly, not bringing anything along – whether they be boats, trolleys or trailers – without prior agreement (and, where necessary, payment!) This applies more generally to all of the Club premises; please ensure that the relevant club officers are consulted ahead of any items being brought in. The responsible Committee members do an excellent job of looking after the clubhouse, workshop, storage sheds and dinghy park and need our full cooperation if we are to keep everything functioning and ship-shape.

Between the gales we have managed a couple of keel boat races and the dinghy fleet has been active. Indeed one evening saw a fleet of 20 dinghies with the cadets, Scouts and others enjoying a rare spell of better weather. A great sight.

With the lighter evenings, the clubhouse bar is proving more popular. Mike and his team of volunteers do a great job in opening up the bar on Friday evenings – in addition to the usual weekend sessions. All members are encouraged to come along to enjoy good company in what must be one of the most attractive locations on the Forth, while simultaneously supporting the club.

The attractions of the clubhouse are also recognised by club members, and others, when they make reservations to run their own functions. Earlier this year saw a party held for Calum Calder's grandmother – on the occasion of her 100th birthday. An excellent example for us all!

I hope by the time you are reading this summer will have arrived and we are able to enjoy all the events schedules in our programme. Wishing everyone fair skies and following winds,

Andy Walker

Diary Dates

Fri 19th June

Scouts Horse Race Night

Sat 4th July

Music Night

Sat 18th July

FCC cruise to Cramond

20th - 23rd August

East Coast Sailing Festival,
Port Edgar

29th - 30th August

Cramond Dinghy Regatta

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The Catering Team



Crane-in once again saw the catering team swing into action to keep everybody fed and watered throughout the day. Following precedent, an excellent job was done by all – those working in the kitchen on the day together with those folk who stocked up in advance and contributed home baking.

The day started off with a round of bacon rolls for those who had missed breakfast (or fancied a second!) The activities then moved on seamlessly through morning coffee, lunch and afternoon tea. Never mind getting the boats in the water, this is a great social occasion which brings everyone together to kick off another sailing season.

As the wife of the new Commodore, Greta Walker found herself at the sharp end of the arrangements but very ably rescued by many old hands – including Jess King, Christine Chester, Gillian Conway, Gillian Muir and Susan Nimmo.

Many thanks to everyone who contributed to what proved to be an excellent day. And with plenty left over those was ample food available for lunch on the Sunday morning clear up, the following day.



Dinghy Sailing

After a slow start to the season and many cancelled races, the weather improved to provide some great sailing, particularly for the dinghies. No fewer than 15 dinghies started the race on 23rd May, a mix of experienced veterans and new cadets. The Pursuit race on 9th June was a real driftathon, with just the faintest of breezes testing the racers' light-wind skills. A delayed start meant they finished in fading light and a very picturesque sunset!



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New Members

Welcome to our new members:

Full

Judith Crawford
Stuart Ferguson
Stewart Coulter

Family

Paul Vincenti &
Tracey McKinstrie

Junior

Max High
Oliver High

Under 26

Jonathan Graham

Social

Hugh & Fiona Balderstone



2 Views of The Opening Cruise

The glorious spring weather that followed crane-in allowed boat owners to prepare their craft for the season ahead but came to an abrupt halt as soon as the 'S' word (sailing) was mentioned. The week before the opening cruise started with the hope of decent weather but by the Friday the warning of an unpleasant easterly wind dashed many plans. And so it was on the Saturday morning when the forecast showed lousy weather for Saturday and awful weather for Sunday.

The skippers of *Melita* and *Bramble* discussed travel options, and reluctantly agreed that sailing over was not going to be a popular choice with the crews, therefore alternate plans were made. As the train journey to Aberdour is less than 30 minutes we agreed to meet at Waverly Station at 17:00. We arrived early for dinner so took a walk down to the harbour to greet our fellow club sailors. But there were no Cramond boats and we could soon see how unpleasant the weather was so we retreated to the Cedar Inn for refreshment. The Cedar was strangely empty with a limited supply of beers so it may be between owners. We didn't stay long before heading along to the Aberdour Hotel where a number of the Cramond party had already assembled.

Twelve brave souls had ventured out, though only John Bean made an attempt by sea. A very pleasant evening followed, with decent food and good company. Those who had arrived by train took advantage of not having to drive though an early departure was made to ensure we didn't miss the train, which was surprisingly busy. It's a sign of the times, that although we were going home after a night out most other passengers appeared to be heading to Edinburgh to begin their partying.

It was a different opening cruise but worth repeating if necessary. Perhaps next season we should leave the opening cruise to mid-summer just in case the weather improves! Or maybe we should just organise the opening cruise to The Ship Inn at Melrose or any other landlocked nautically-named hostelry!

Alastair Miller

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Meanwhile John Bean was showing he was made of stronger stuff! This is his view:

Although my Prelude 19 Jenny is based at Cramond Boat Club, I am also a member of Queensferry Boat Club (QBC), whose annual shakedown cruise was scheduled for the same day as Cramond's cruise to Aberdour. So I left Cramond in Jenny on Friday with a plan to stay overnight in Queensferry, join the QBC shakedown cruise and peel off to Aberdour in time to catch the tide and the evening meal in the Aberdour Hotel.

A brisk easterly wind took me to Queensferry harbour but there was no room there, so I settled for a pontoon berth in Port Edgar with all tides access. The forecast was for rising easterly wind, so on Saturday I gave up the QBC event and set off at 0800 to carry the last of the ebb through the bridges and get to Aberdour before the wind got too strong.

By the time I arrived in Aberdour, the wind was very strong and the boats on the moorings were rolling their bilge keels out. No shelter for Jenny there and no access to the harbour before about 1300, so I turned and ran under a small headsail back to Port Edgar. But then Jenny was pooped by a large wave, soaking the engine! So I switched on the VHF and started planning an entry to Port Edgar under sail.

Luckily things were a little quieter west of the rail bridge and the engine started readily. I was secured by 1200 and walked along to QBC clubhouse to see about the shakedown cruise only to meet a group members coming the other way having decided that this was no weather for sailing. I agreed and so finished up driving to Aberdour to enjoy the company of 11 other CBC members. None of us had sailed, but we enjoyed a good, if sober, night.

John Bean

Stuck In The Mud

When things go wrong ...

One evening, *Maud* had engine problems so she was temporarily attached to a spare mooring at the end of the East trot.

The following day Paul attempted to get her going but she ended up on the mud.

Arion offered assistance to tow her back to her mooring but her propeller was snagged by a rope and both boats ended up ashore.

Fortunately the snagged rope was removed easily at the next low tide and both boats were safely returned to their moorings.



Cramond Sailability

Volunteers Needed!

Can you spare some time to help spread your enjoyment of sailing? For some time now Cramond Sailability, CBC's section for people with disabilities, has been experiencing dwindling membership, but a shortage of volunteers is hampering our recruitment of new members and is also greatly limiting the number of sailing sessions we are able to offer.

Essentially our volunteers provide whatever extra assistance members require to get out on the water, at all levels from purely recreational through to serious racing. For example, they help out by taking prospective members out for taster sessions, coaching newbies, crewing for a visually or mobility-impaired helm in races, or simply skippering our dayboat on informal sail-arounds with a mixed-ability crew.

At present we specifically need:

- **Dinghy sailors (or shore-based helpers)** – to assist our wheelchair-bound chairman Graham rig, launch and recover the Challenger trimaran. This may even suit non-sailing folk who might be interested in volunteering. In particular, we would like to compile an email list of regular club sailors willing to help with launching and recovering on an ad hoc basis, especially on Freesail dates. A couple of days before a scheduled sailing event, Graham would then send out an email to ask who is also planning to sail that day and can help out. After a sail, it always takes a few bodies to pull the trimaran up the slipway with Graham in it! You would not need to join the Sailability group to help in this way.
- **Volunteer skippers** – to take our members out in the Hawk 20 dayboat, usually for around 2-3 hours at a time. For this you would need to demonstrate reasonable sailing and boat-handling skills (to the level of RYA Day Skipper would be ideal, but formal training is not essential).
- **A bosun** – to look after the maintenance side of things, especially during the winter, and ensure that the Challenger and Hawk stay in tip-top condition.

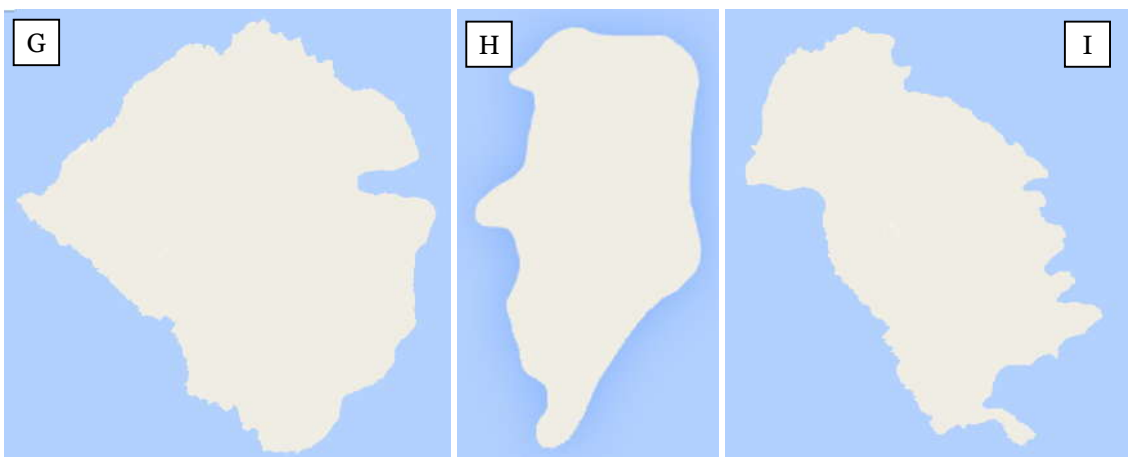
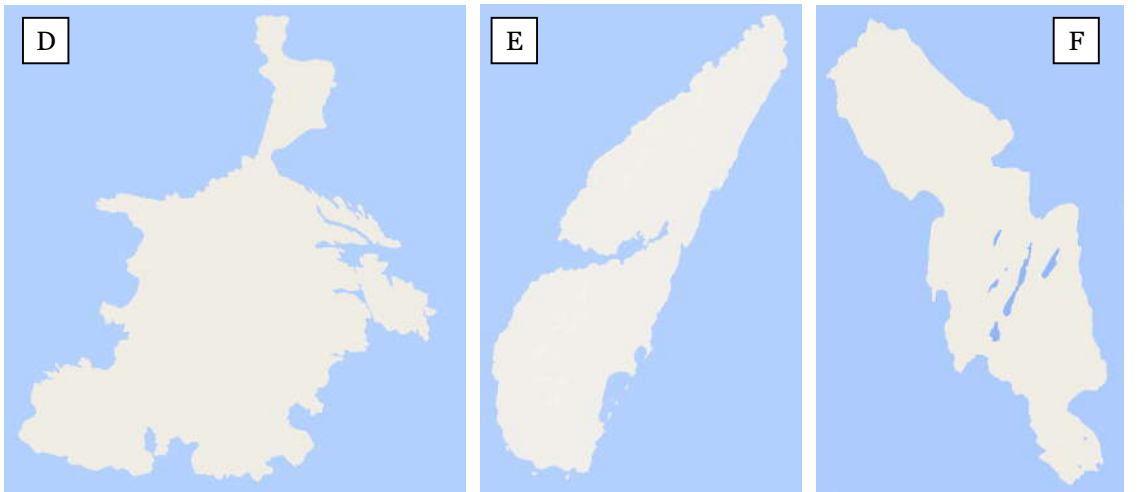
We will of course provide a thorough briefing and show you exactly what needs to be done, and in the case of the Hawk, also a familiarization sail. You can offer as much or as little of your time as you like. Any support you can give will be much appreciated! If you would like more information, please contact Kay McBurney (number in the handbook) or email sailability@cramondboatclub.org.uk.

Kay McBurney, Hon. Sec. Cramond Sailability

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Your editor has recently been taking part in a regular pub quiz in a vain attempt to keep the brain cells functioning, and a picture round gave me an idea for the Seagull. CBC members are smart and well-travelled seafarers, so how many of these Scottish islands can you identify? There may even be a small prize for the first person to email me with all 12 correct!



Dad Dan Jibb

Many of you will remember Dan Jibb, who was sailing secretary at the club for many years.

Now in teacher in darkest Englandshire, Dan still keeps in touch with many CBC members.

We are delighted to report the birth of his daughter Lucy Ann on 19th March.

Congratulations!

But he really should have sent a better photo ...



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On Saturday 6th June, 4 Cramond Scouts representing both Longcraig Scout Centre and Cramond Boat Club took part in the 2015 Honda RYA Youth RIB challenge at a wet and windy Lochwinnoch in Renfrewshire.

The blustery conditions were very challenging, with gusts over 30 knots. However, this did not dampen the enthusiasm of the 17 competitors in two age groups, 8 to 12 and 13 to 16. Start numbers were drawn from a hat, competitors were briefed and by 10am the competition was underway. Each competitor had time to get familiar with the boat followed by 2 timed runs on the challenge course.



Our first competitor, Jack Brady, was in the younger age group representing Longcraig Scout Centre. On his first 2 runs Jack hadn't noticed that the engine was trimmed up so the judges decided to allow him 2 more attempts. At the end of the day Jack's fastest time gave him fourth place overall, unfortunately just out of the medals with a very respectable time of 1:55.15.

At this point a problem developed with one of the RYA RIBs. The boat had to be taken out of the water to be repaired but was soon back in action after a fuel problem was fixed.

Our next competitor, Euan Rogers, was competing in the younger age group. While on his first run the strong wind whipped the boat round during the reversing manoeuvre and he hit the reversing buoy, which came loose and drifted away. As a result Euan only recorded one complete timed run and managed 8th place overall.



Our penultimate competitor Andrew Finn was competing in the older age group, although still only 12 years old. In a tightly fought contest two excellent runs resulted in a 7th place just 2 seconds behind 6th place and only 10 seconds behind 5th. The additional 15 seconds of penalty points he collected on the way made all the difference.

Our final competitor, Fergus Davidson showed everyone how it should be done, with two excellent runs. His final run was met with a spontaneous round of applause from the parents and Scout Leaders spectating on the shore.



A tense time followed while the last competitor from nearby Largs SC did her best, but penalty points were her downfall. This left Fergus in an outstanding second place in his age group only 10 seconds behind the eventual winner from St Andrews SC.

Well done to all the boys who did extremely well in such a tight competition. The lesson for next year is, avoid the penalty points. Second place for Fergus really quite an achievement considering the comparatively limited time he had to practice. We look forward to next year when more practice will make perfect! If you want to test your skills next year then contact the CBC training officer to book your place for the 2016 heats.

John Kenworthy, Cramond Sea Scouts

Slip Cleaning

The slipway has been gathering mud and weed as the weather gets warmer.

The *Talisker* boys gave it a thorough blast recently but it really needs done regularly.



A new rota will be published shortly, so look out for your name on the list and write your allocated date in your diary.

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CRAMOND SCOUTS HORSE RACE NIGHT

Cramond Boat Club

Friday 19th June 2015, 7.30pm to 11pm

Tickets are £8 and include dinner



Come and support The Cramond Explorer Scouts raising money for the Explorer unit and the charity **The Kilbrandon Fund**. You might even win big!

During the night there will be 8 races with 8 horses in each. Simply place a £1 bet, get a drink at the bar and if your horse comes first, collect your winnings!

Ever wanted to own your own race horse? Now you can! In addition to £1 bets, horses can also be bought in advance for £5 for the chance to win a special prize. You get to name the horse, it will then be randomly allocated to one of the 8 races, and if it wins its race you win the prize. This is a great way to take part and show your support even if you can't make it on the 19th - we will deliver any prizes that your horses win.

In addition to the racing there will be a raffle draw and a Dutch-themed quiz (in honour of our Summer Camp).

Raffle Prizes

- 4 night stay at Loch Tay - Heart's Stadium Tour - Bicycle Service at Hart's Cyclery
- Round of golf at for 4 at Bruntfield - 4hrs of tattoo time - Meal voucher at La' Rusticana
- Family membership at Barnton Park Tennis Club - Super Jam Goodie Hamper
- Tickets for Magners Summer Nights starring The Waterboys - and lots lots more!

The ticket price of £8 includes dinner, so come along on the 19th, have some food and a drink, place a bet, support a great cause, and have fun!

All ages are welcome. Tickets and £5 horses are available from Explorer Scouts and Leaders or send an email to cramondexplorers@gmail.com with your name and contact details (and name of any horses you buy) and we will reserve a space at the door and allocate you a horse.

Acknowledgements

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

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MUSIC NIGHT

Saturday 4th July

8pm to midnight

Featuring 'Stretchcase'

Tickets £5