



# The Seagull

The Journal of the Cramond Boat Club

September 2015

## In This Issue

- [Commodore's Jottings](#)
- [2015 Dinghy Sailing](#)
- [CBC Dinghy Regatta](#)
- [Granton Harbour](#)
- [Sailing Taster Session](#)
- [Puffins, puffins, puffins](#)
- [The Wedding](#)



## The View from the Commodore's Window

As the season approaches its end we can look back at a very mixed year. The better weather seemed to have been in June and September – but something went seriously wrong with July and August! As a result a lot of events were either cancelled or significantly disrupted. However, Cramond sailors are a hardy bunch and those keen on getting on the water can always find an opportunity – time and tide permitting.

The competitors in the open dinghy regatta managed to race, despite some very blustery conditions on the Saturday (see report). And you can't stop the youngsters from having fun in the water (literally).

Forthcoming events, at the time of writing, include: the Anniversary Party to celebrate 50 years since the opening of the Clubhouse, the closing cruise across to Aberdour, crane-out on 10 October, and Prizegiving. Talking of prizes, you will have seen that we now have a Trophy Cabinet beside the bar – thanks to the generous efforts of Alex Robertson. So we can now display the fine collection of silverware accumulated by the club over the last 80 years.



Work has been proceeding on Clubhouse maintenance – many thanks go to the considerable contributions of members – and another attempt is planned to improve the rain resistance of the shed roofs.

Finally I draw attention to consideration of our future sailing programmes. I am keen to ensure that we tailor our on-the-water events to suit the preferences of members. It seems that racing is no longer as popular as it once was. Perhaps it is the type of races, or series, that we run or maybe sailors are just less competitive these days. I would welcome any comments that members have on this topic.

Wishing everyone well,

*Andy Walker*

## Diary Dates

**Sat 10th October**  
Crane Out

**Sat 14th November**  
Annual Prizegiving

**Sun 29th November**  
Annual General Meeting



- [Commodore's Jottings](#)
- [2015 Dinghy Sailing](#)
- [CBC Dinghy Regatta](#)
- [Granton Harbour](#)
- [Sailing Taster Session](#)
- [Puffins, puffins, puffins](#)
- [The Wedding](#)



The Dinghy Spring Series was well attended, with a particularly good turnout from the club's junior section, the Cramond Cadets. Consistent attendance was the name of the game, and those who turned up the most finished in the top positions. The results are as follows:

Position	Main Fleet	Cadet Fleet
1	Alex Tulloch	Emma Wilkinson
2	Alan McKenzie	Adam Wilkinson
3	Lawrie Elliott	Fergus Davidson
4	Ed Willet	Hannah Kistruck
5	Campbell Calder	Euan Rogers
6	Tom Brady	Sorcha MacIntyre
7	Keith Driver	Lauren Gunn
8	Annemarie McRury	Keir Logan
9	Paul Rogers	Ian-Finlay MacIntyre
10	Sorn Wilson	Ritchie Gardiner
11		Ben Galloway
		Tom Kistruck

The Dinghy Summer Series was poorly attended due to the poor weather. The Ladies race was won by Lauren Nimmo, with Katy Henderson in second, Susan Nimmo in third and Kay McBurney fourth.



## CBC Dinghy Regatta

Saturday 29th August dawned fair but with a strong south-westerly wind blowing offshore across the Drum Sands. It was the weekend of the Cramond Boat Club Dinghy Regatta and everything was ready. *Dabchick* was set up for its role as Committee Boat, crewed by Ian Hellewell, Phil Chester, Cadet Alex Campbell and Drew Pratt as Race Officer. The inflatable race marks were inflated and the clubhouse was decorated with the club flag and bunting.

Eight boats turned up to race, including one visitor. Six youngsters from the Cramond Cadets were taking part, helming Picos, crewing on the National 12s or helping on the committee boat. A triangular course was laid offshore from Barnbogle Castle and the first race got underway. A strong south-westerly gave the dinghies a hard beat towards Dalmeny House and then a couple of exhilarating reaches down to the lee mark before beating back up across the start line which was used as a gate in order to record lap times. With 3 laps for the main fleet and 2 for the Pico, it took about 50 minutes to complete and was quite tiring.



The second race followed the same course and with gusts reaching up to F6, took slightly less time. Graeme Knox, a regular visitor from Forfar, took 1st place honours in both races in a Laser with Ed Willett in his National 12 and Lawrie Elliott in his Laser each taking a 2nd place.

Sunday saw lighter SW winds and the course laid out to the west of Cramond Island. With a 6.0m high tide due, it was realised that one of the channel poles would be covered and present a hazard, so one of the rescue fleet attached a buoy which has been left in place until a more suitable solution is applied. The same layout of a triangular course was set but with shorter legs as we were keen to run 3 races.

The race started on time and quickly settled into clear groups with close racing plus spills and gear failures. The wind was still gusting but the direction remained fairly steady, so the race was tight with the first 4 boats crossing the finish line within 2 minutes of each other.

## New Members

Welcome to our new members:

Full  
Ronald Kermel

Family  
Greg, Claire, Henry &  
Julia Smith

## In This Issue

- [Commodore's Jottings](#)
- [2015 Dinghy Sailing](#)
- [CBC Dinghy Regatta](#)
- [Granton Harbour](#)
- [Sailing Taster Session](#)
- [Puffins, puffins, puffins](#)
- [The Wedding](#)

With the wind increasing slightly, the second race was even quicker, and Campbell Calder finished his 3 laps in just 25 minutes followed by Graeme Knox less than a minute behind. The other 3 fast dinghies were again within 5 minutes behind.

For Race 3 we considered a windward-leeward course but reverted to what had been a successful triangular course. It produced the best fleet start of the weekend and remained close right to the end. Campbell again finished first, with Graeme second.



Credit must be given to Euan Rogers, one of our cadets, who continued to improve throughout the day in the much slower Pico and was always in the thick of the racing. Richie Gardiner who sailed a Pico on the Saturday had a difficult first race but, by the second one, was never far away and coped with the much stronger winds very well. The cadet class was won by Euan Rogers with Richie Gardiner in 2nd.

The National 12s had mixed fortunes with gear failures and capsizes ending several races for Alex and Andrew. Ed Willett had one retiral which, with 1 discard being applied, gave him a full race card and 1st place in the National 12 Class and 3rd overall for the Regatta. Campbell Calder took 2nd place overall, an impressive result considering he had been driving a rescue boat instead of

racing on day 1! But the overall winner was Graeme Knox with the most consistent race results.

Thanks go to Ian and *Dabchick's* crew and to the rescue boat crews who were kept busy with mark laying, shepherding, ferrying, towing and general assistance when necessary: Campbell Calder, John Kenworthy, Kay McBurney, Sorn Wilson, James Kendrick, Reg Dias, Stephen Aird, Alvin Barber and Lawrie Elliott.

## Boat Damage

Sadly there has been some vandalism to boats in the dinghy park over the summer, while Aberdour Boat Club report thefts of outboard engines and fuel.

Members are reminded to secure all boats in the dinghy park and not to leave equipment lying in boats, especially outboard engines and fuel.



## In This Issue

- [Commodore's Jottings](#)
- [2015 Dinghy Sailing](#)
- [CBC Dinghy Regatta](#)
- [Granton Harbour](#)
- [Sailing Taster Session](#)
- [Puffins, puffins, puffins](#)
- [The Wedding](#)

Thanks also go to Mike Haynes and his staff for catering and Andy Walker who was tireless in preparing the club, helping with repairs and hosting the prize giving.

Finally, a big thanks to the Cadets who took part in the regatta: Miles Davis, Alex Campbell, Andrew Finn, Matthew Struthers, Richie Gardiner and Euan Rogers. Their participation was much appreciated by everyone.

*Drew Pratt*



## Granton Harbour Development

According to Yachting Monthly magazine, Edinburgh Council is rejecting the latest plans for the re-development of Granton Harbour.



*Image courtesy of Wardie Bay Facebook page*

There have been many plans for Granton Harbour over the last 15 years, but this latest plan from Granton Central Developments includes a 400-berth marina, a community boatyard, improved facilities for local yacht clubs, as well as retail and hotel developments, and new homes for over 4,000 residents.

Apparently, the planning officer's report recommends rejection of the masterplan in its current form. The report states:

*"The application in its current form should be refused. The siting of the proposed retail/leisure/commercial centre in the south eastern part of the site is unacceptable. It is contrary to Edinburgh City Local Plan policy Ret 4 as the scale and type of retailing is not consistent with the role and function of the proposed local centre at Granton Harbour and the proposed retail/leisure/commercial centre could potentially have a significant adverse impact on the city centre or other town centres.*

*The siting of the buildings, and design and configuration of public spaces, roads and footpaths in and adjacent to the proposed centre are unacceptable in design and placemaking terms. The proposals are not based on a comprehensive and integrated approach which draws upon the positive characteristics of the site's waterfront location to create a sense of place. The height, scale and form of development will have a detrimental impact on the wider townscape, and the layout of car parking spaces and pedestrian/cycle routes will not encourage walking and cycling."*

It remains to be seen whether revised plans will be submitted, but it doesn't look like anything will happen at Granton soon.

## Islands Quiz Answers

Many thanks to those of you who sent in answers to the islands quiz in June's Seagull.

I'm afraid I can't afford a prize (unless you want to take my knackered old boat off my hands and fix it \*) so you'll just have to make do with the warm satisfying glow of knowing you got them right.

For those who are interested, the correct answers are

- A Arran
- B Isle of May
- C Great Cumbrae
- D Barra
- E Jura
- F Bute
- G Rum
- H Cramond Island
- I Hoy
- J Inchcolm
- K Eigg
- L Tiree

\* That's not a serious suggestion. On the other hand, if you make me a reasonable offer ...

- [Commodore's Jottings](#)
- [2015 Dinghy Sailing](#)
- [CBC Dinghy Regatta](#)
- [Granton Harbour](#)
- [Sailing Taster Session](#)
- [Puffins, puffins, puffins](#)
- [The Wedding](#)



Cramond Sea Scouts were very fortunate to receive some funding from the Senga Munnoch Charitable Trust and as a thank you, wanted to host a session with a local disability group to share the fun and thrill of sailing. The Sailability section of Cramond Boat Club very kindly agreed to help run a taster session with Leonard Cheshire Disability.

Leonard Cheshire aims to enable people with disabilities to live as independent a life as possible with support where necessary. The charity has over 21,000 people who use their services in 150 units throughout the UK. It also provides a Skills Break resource which can be used by people who stay out, with LCD expanding staff's reach to enable people with disabilities to lead a fulfilling life. Cramond Sailability encourages and supports people with disabilities to participate in sailing and to share the enjoyment so many people get from being on the water.

On Sunday 16th August a very nervous crew from Leonard Cheshire Disability arrived at Cramond Boat Club not quite knowing what to expect.

Michael, Lucy, Clare, Jay, Darren, Vicky and Carol split into two groups. One group on *Meuwe*, Cramond Sailability's specially designed keel boat with easy-to-use controls for a wide range of disabilities, and the other group on *Hammerhead* which is a rigid hull powerboat, normally used for working parties, but ideal for the job in hand. Thankfully the weather was perfect for a calm and dry sail.



## Shortest Cruise?

After their epic cruise round Scotland last summer, Alastair and Sam Miller decided on a slightly less adventurous destination this year. So here is *Melita*, anchored on ... er ... the Drum Sands.



Both vessels circled around the bay taking in the sights and those that wanted got to helm *Meuwe* and get the full experience. The conditions were perfect and didn't give any of the guys any cause for concern (well apart from the mention of crocodiles on Cramond Island!) This allowed an easy transfer between *Meuwe* and *Hammerhead* on the water so that each group could experience powerboating and sailing.

The Cramond Boat Club cadets were also out sailing

that day and were ironically wishing for stronger wind as they wanted more of a challenge. Their loss was our gain!

After all the excitement on the water, everybody, including the cadets all retreated to the boat club roof for some refreshments. Cadet parents Cathy and Mairi did a fantastic job with the BBQ and served up some amazing burgers with lots of wonderful deserts. Sugar heaven! Surprisingly there weren't any left overs as the word got out!

It's easy to forget how lucky the Sea Scouts are and the opportunities they are given. So it was great to share the enjoyment of sailing with others that wouldn't normally get to sail.

A special thank you to the guys and girls from Leonard Cheshire Disability for coming along, Kay for helming *Meuwe*, Scouts Euan and Tom for crewing, and the Mums for some top grub!

- [Commodore's Jottings](#)
- [2015 Dinghy Sailing](#)
- [CBC Dinghy Regatta](#)
- [Granton Harbour](#)
- [Sailing Taster Session](#)
- [Puffins, puffins, puffins](#)
- [The Wedding](#)



My anticipated retirement treat of a west coast cruise in July was ruined by the massive hike in charges by the new owner of the canals, so the East Neuk was to benefit from my holiday money this year. And about time too!

Sunday 19th July saw me motor-sailing in *Seahorse* over to Aberdour on the evening tide, wishing that I had bought a new pair of waterproof trousers. However Aberdour was its usual peaceful self and the Cedar Inn welcoming. No reception on the VHF, so I checked the cable, which came away in my hand. Now the great thing about Aberdour is it has a train station. A return ticket to Dalmeny cost considerably less than a stop in Port Edgar and I returned with a nice new plug from BlueV. Got that fitted (must remember solder next time) and had time for a walk in the rain to Silver Sands.

On Tuesday, with a forecast of SW force 5-7 and showers I left for Anstruther. The wind never got above 5 but the showers certainly arrived. It's funny how protective you get of your chart plotter when the visibility decreases to sod all. Fortunately it cleared by the time I reached Elie and the only hazard was the forest of lobster pots off Anstruther. Not advised at night!

After the peace of Aberdour, the ghastly piped music of the Ainster Fair 30 yards away on the pier was a bit irritating. Why can't they change the tunes? Local members welcomed me and helped me to move to a "better" pontoon. After I bent a stanchion and broke my rubbing strake at low tide I wondered how bad the first one was.

The next 2 days of force 6 winds encouraged me to stay put, but it was dry and I walked the coast path to St Monans one day and Crail the next, both with tantalizing views of the Isle of May. I bought a cod in Cellardyke, and fried it for dinner. I recommend the Boatshed bar, or the Haven in Cellardyke where there is a good fishmonger, not that you are short of choice.

At last on the Friday, warm sunshine and a F2 from the west, off I went to the Isle of May. The sea on the east side was covered in puffins, which show the same traffic sense as pigeons on land. With 4 tour boats from Anstruther and North Berwick moored in Kirkhaven it was a bit tight, being low tide, but they were very nice and used the RIB as a fender for me.

It was party time, with kids getting their faces painted (to look like puffins

of course), but I soon got away from the crowds to find the birdlife. No need, it comes to find you. I was pleasantly surprised by the way the RSPB balance the protection of the birds with the desire of us public to get close to them. It was perfect timing; the puffins leaving their burrows and returning with fish for the young "pufflings" which only come out at night so were not to be seen.

Afterwards I saw on the news that pufflings were being found hiding all over North Berwick. That's true by the way. I think they were following the painted children thinking they were their mummies. Great views too of the kittiwakes with their eggs and chicks on the cliffs and the arctic terns nesting on the ground. I feel very lucky to have visited the May on such a perfect day. It is a very special place and worth waiting for the right conditions, if you can, but don't leave it until the birds have left.

I had to get away before the tour boats but that gave me time to sail under the cliffs before heading slowly to Elie. It's about 30 years since I was in Elie, and the Ship Inn has gone upmarket. Fully booked all night, and no fish and chip shops (well no shops at all), so back to *Seahorse* to open some tins. Otherwise Elie is still lovely.

Next day, the prospect of starvation and a forecast of mostly easterly wind, drove me to head home. We motored most of the way in hot sunshine, watching the rain pour down on Edinburgh and Fife. Until I wanted to anchor off Inchkeith for dinner, when the squall came to get me with cold wet gusts and the wind swung round the compass. So it was into Granton to finish off my stores while waiting for the late tide. I finally crept over the bar on the neap tide in a lovely sunset.



*Seahorse squeezed into Kirkhaven*



*Sea of puffins*



*Better feed the kids, I suppose*

- [Commodore's Jottings](#)
- [2015 Dinghy Sailing](#)
- [CBC Dinghy Regatta](#)
- [Granton Harbour](#)
- [Sailing Taster Session](#)
- [Puffins, puffins, puffins](#)
- [The Wedding](#)



Saturday 5th September saw the Clubhouse being used for the wedding of Neil Ackerman, grandson of former Commodore Bengé Dawson. The day was blessed by sunshine and light winds. It was just as well that the weather was fine, as the ceremony itself was held in the open air on the roof terrace, overlooking the river.



*The bride being piped from the carriage to the Clubhouse*

Despite Neil currently staying in Orkney, this was a real Club event. The bride, Amy, is the daughter of Alasdair Malcolm and granddaughter of Blair Malcolm; both of whom were active CBC club members in their day.

Amy caused quite a stir amongst the tourists, walkers and boaters by arriving in a carriage pulled by two horses, complete with top-hatted driver and footman. A great sight.

The terrace continued as the venue for the reception, during which the bride and groom were photographed by the riverside – and also in the Commodore's garden (where Neil had been a regular visitor during the time his grandparents, Bengé and Katrina, lived there).

Finally, the party moved into the clubhouse for dinner.

Throughout, Mike Haynes and his bar staff performed sterling work providing bottles of wine, dozens of glasses, and drinks from the bar.



*Wedding guests enjoying the Clubhouse terrace*

And the opportunity was taken for Bengé to meet up with numerous old friends. It was good to see him back at the club on such a grand occasion.



*Bengé with his granddaughter Ruth, one of the bridesmaids*

## Acknowledgements

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

## Contacts

**Seagull Editor:**  
[seagull@cramondboatclub.org.uk](mailto:seagull@cramondboatclub.org.uk)

**Club Committee:**  
[cbc-committee@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:cbc-committee@yahoo.co.uk)

**Club Members Email List:**  
[cramond@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:cramond@yahoo.co.uk)