



# The Seagull

The Journal of the Cramond Boat Club

December 2017

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## The View from the Commodore's Window

As we come to the end of another year we can look back at a lively period for the Club.

The keel-boats concluded their season once again with a successful cruise to Aberdour and a convivial meal in the Cedar Inn. However, as most of you will know, the event was marred by our dinner organiser – David Jamieson – suffering a serious accident, resulting in major damage to his knee. He continues to recover from the operation, but very slowly, and he will remain out of action for some time yet. We wish him well for next year.

Crane-out went smoothly – we managed to avoid the mini-spate that occurred the weekend before. Thanks again to Jeff McLeod, the many other helpers, and the team in the kitchen.

And now the dinghies' Frostbite Series is under way – benefiting, as it did last year, from decent weather conditions and a good turn-out.

One innovation on the social front – courtesy of Angela and Stewart Coulter – was a Halloween Party for the children. Fun and games for all!

Greta and I are, once again, offering refreshments on New Year's Day – but a little later on this occasion.



Halloween Party

## Diary Dates

**Mon 1st Jan, 3pm**  
Ne'er Day Late Lunch

**Fri 26th Jan**  
Burns Birthday Bash

**Sat 31st March**  
Crane In



The Commodore presents prizes at the regatta

With everyone slow to get moving, from 3 pm onwards we plan to provide cheeseboard, ham, pâté, sausage rolls with crusty bread and pickles (all profits to the RNLI). So, after getting up (very) late you have plenty of time for that brisk walk before assembling at the Club to wish fellow members a Good New Year. Of course, the bar will also be open. Do come and join us.

Meanwhile, Greta and I wish everyone a Merry Christmas.

*Andy Walker*

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This year's winter 'Frostbite' race series has proved popular with dinghy sailors, with 14 entrants over four races so far. The weather has been generally reasonable, so we have managed to run two races on each date, giving us 8 races completed and, if we are fortunate with the conditions, we should be able to hold several more. It is a closely fought battle with several races won by just a few seconds after handicaps have been applied.

FB1 turned out to be a tricky start to the series with a south-westerly wind of 12 mph gusting to 24. However, the first 4 competitors finished within 1½ minutes of each other on corrected time, and under 4 minutes in Race 2.

FB2 was another pair of close results with Henry Smith beating Lawrie Elliott in Race 1 by 26 secs and then Lawrie winning Race 2 by 10 seconds from Henry.

FB3 saw some fairly brutal winds – a variable SW, F2 gusting well into F5 which was really too much for Henry and Euan Rogers in the Picos. It was also much colder than the previous races. However, Campbell Calder was back and led the fleet in both races, finishing with two firsts.



## New Members

Welcome to our new members:

### Full

Jack Bedford-Visser  
Andrea Randieri

### Student

George Hackney

### Social

Elizabeth Murphy  
Euan McBride  
Mark Duncan

Campbell again showed the way in the first race of FB4, finishing ahead of Lawrie by 2 minutes. The wind was SW F4, gusting F6. Race 2 looked to be going the same way but the wind started backing to the south and dropping to F2. By the last reach it was very light and variable, so that we had boats on a broad reach and close hauled on the same race leg!

Campbell had established a significant lead, but 20 yards from the finish, he became becalmed and started drifting with the tide away from the finish line, giving Alan Mackenzie, also in a Laser, the chance to gently catch up to within a few yards of Campbell. Then a small gust filled in and Campbell was able to reach the line 20 seconds ahead of Alan. Paul Rogers also gained a lot of ground in his Laser, finishing 4 seconds later with Lawrie close behind.

The current state of play is as follows: Henry Smith, one of our youngest cadets, is leading the fleet in a Pico by 1 point from Lawrie Elliott with Alan Mackenzie a couple of points behind after FB4. Once again, discards are playing an important part so there are still opportunities for many of the competitors to gain a podium place.

I'm not sure about FB7 on Hogmanay – that may become a Free Sail as many of those involved in the Frostbite racing will have family duties to attend to. If it changes, all involved will be notified.

My thanks to all the competitors and safety boat crews for keeping the momentum going and good luck to all the entrants in the final batch of races.

*Drew Pratt*

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As reported in the previous issue, significant engineering works continue to be undertaken at the Fair-a-Far weir. Since that last report the engineers have had to contend with the rise and fall of the river. In particular, they suffered the effects of a short-lived spate which occurred without warning. It resulted in the temporary causeway being breached. Work was delayed while they rebuilt their access route, this time including some additional, higher-level pipes.

Subsequently, the river's been up and down a few times with

relatively minor damage only. The picture shows it in an intermediate state, with the new pipes doing their job.



Meanwhile they have been getting on with the main works. Repairs have been completed to the weir crest, with replacement masonry filling the gaps that had appeared over the years. The additional water flowing through gaps of that type indicate a lower barrier height and attract the fish to try a jump. I saw a sizable salmon attempting just this a couple of months ago! It reached two-thirds of the way up but was not seen again.

Meanwhile the new fish-pass – to which they wish to divert the fish – is now rising from its foundations, above ground.

All this activity going on gives me an excellent excuse to get some exercise up and down the River Almond Walkway. I shall continue to monitor progress with interest.

*Andy Walker*

## Lockers

The Committee is considering installing sets of small lockers, suitable for the secure storage of valuables such as phones and wallets, etc.

We are interested to hear from members whether this would be viewed as a useful addition to our facilities.

The idea is to ensure that small items can be safely locked away whilst we are out sailing or undertaking other activities. These lockers would not be suitable for larger items such as clothes, jackets, etc.

Please let the Commodore know if you would like to see this go ahead - it will give us some idea of the numbers of lockers we might require.



## Prizegiving

There was a good turnout on 11th November for the annual parade of Club silverware and Champions at the prizegiving. In addition to the dinghy and keelboat racing and regatta prizes, the Commodore presented awards and certificates to:

- 8 Sea Monkeys at stages 1 to 3
- 12 cadets at stage 4
- 3 adults at level 1-2
- 4 adults dinghy day sailing
- 3 powerboat level 1-2
- 3 safety boat
- 9 windsurfing beginners

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Paul Rogers reported on another great achievement by Cramond Scouts in gaining first place at the Scottish Scout Regatta.

After an excellent buffet provided by Stewart and Angela, the awards continued with the presentations:

- Brass monkey trophy 2016 to Lawrie Elliot
- Cleland cup for the dinghy spring series to Alan Mackenzie
- HK Brown trophy for the dinghy summer series to Lawrie Elliott
- Matilda Cup for the dinghy Autumn series to Campbell Calder
- Pechtoot Shield for the dinghy weekend A series to Euan Rogers
- Cranmer Cup for the dinghy weekend B series to Matt Lanigan
- Tulloch Bowl for first overall in the regatta to Campbell Calder and Alan Mackenzie
- Garvie Shield for Best Cadet in the regatta to Henry Smith
- Best trainee to Matthew Mill

It was necessary for the Commodore to hand over the presentation ceremony to Ian Hellewell for the cruiser awards, due to the 3 keelboat trophies being won by a certain Andrew Walker in *Exisle*. He graciously admitted that the results belied the closeness of the racing.

Finally, after a democratic vote by those present, the Wooden Anchor was presented to Alan Mackenzie for politely stepping aside and falling into the river in front of the most people. Well done everybody!

*Alvin Barber*

## Burns Night

Do you like to have an enjoyable time with congenial company, great food, live music and song?

Following last year's successful Burns Birthday Bash we're planning to hold BBB2 on Friday 26 January 2018 in the clubhouse.

This is a provisional date but you should probably get it down in your new year planner.

Once again Bob Sharp and Ian Helewell are organizing the event so they'd probably appreciate all offers of help.

Places are likely to be limited so when further details are announced and the list goes up get your name down quickly.



## Monday Work Parties



As reported in the last issue of the Seagull, the Monday squad have been putting in the hours to enable the new moorings boat, which is replacing the leaky old tin boat, to be finished in time for the moorings maintenance weekends in the new year. The old gentlemen have even been working extra days, not just Mondays.

As you can see from the picture, this is not a simple clean-up and paint job, but a major re-fit – almost a rebuild – to accommodate the rack and heavy rollers for supporting the ground chain while it is inspected and serviced. All manner of cunning devices have been designed, developed and deployed to make the winter chain gangs an easier and smoother operation.

As usual, Davie Mackay has had the near impossible task of co-ordinating the efforts of Eddie, Jeff, Dave, Hamish and others. Herding cats would be easier.

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A hush fell over the clubhouse on Saturday 18th November, it was games night and the competition was about to begin. A nervous cough, the creaking of cranky joints then gasps of awe as the prizes were revealed. Someone was heard to mutter, "I don't believe it." Quickly teams were selected and captains named: Rosina for the Badders, Martha for the Sailors and Fee for the Boozers. The hooter hooted and the games were on!

It would be tedious to describe the scene, sufficient to say that if you are familiar with Chaos Theory then this would have been the opportunity to witness it in practice. In vain the MC stamped his foot, blew his whistle and rang his bell, the games had a life of their own. The thunder of dominos slamming down drowned the shrieks of anguish from the pool table. Exocet table tennis balls screamed across the hall scoring the occasional strike on sweat-streaked draught players.

Finally the exhausted competitors slumped to their seats and the team score sheets were evaluated. These sheets, compiled by the captains, are now shortlisted for the modern fiction category by the Booker Prize committee. Not a single game had been lost by any member of the three teams!

The impasse was solved and the MC's nervous breakdown avoided, by Norman Donnelly's timely quiz. Norman compiled the questions and put the teams through the wringer in his own inimitable style. And the team winners were – long pause – the Badders. (Who says bribery doesn't work?)

Next, our very own treasure, Julie, served up a pasta and pizza supper with all the trimmings. How good was the food? If you think Lewis Hamilton is fast, think again, that food disappeared at a rate only NASA can measure.

Then the individual competition commenced. Table tennis gave way to curling. Early nerves had faded leaving only a steely determination to win. Previous loyalties dissolved, it was dog eat dog and not pretty to watch. The rules were simple: the winner stays on until deposed and the last man or woman standing (or sitting in the case of doms and draughts), was the winner.

The battle was fiercest in the curling; wives deposed husbands and vice versa, nobody had a friend, it was carnage. Your scribe is totally unable to say who won what, all he knows is that he has a shaky picture of the winners grinning in triumph and flaunting their medals.

But the night was not yet over, there was still the Giant Jenga. Steady hands are needed and Kay McB's were the shakiest as she destroyed the tower. It was good to see her brought down a peg as she seemed to have won everything else.

Time now for BIG THANK YOUs to: Kenny Blair for supplying the pool tables (one with working nav lights and a compass!), Jen for bringing the heavy bags of sporting gear at the last minute, Mike Haynes for manning the bar and Julie for the food and tidying up, Norman for stepping in with the quiz.



Sorry if I've missed anyone. Sadly, Stewart and Angela Coulter who had done all the organising and supplied most of the sporting gear couldn't make the night due to a sudden family illness. Had they been present they would have received a well-deserved standing ovation.

*Ian Hellewell*

## Vandalism

Some time over the last weekend in November, *Pegasus II* was broken into.

Fortunately, no major damage was done and nothing obvious was taken.

Nonetheless, this is a warning that we need to remain vigilant and ensure we make it as difficult as possible for people to get on board or inside our boats.

Boat owners should detach boarding ladders and should not leave valuable items, such as outboard engines, on board.

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## AGM and New Club Committee

The AGM was held, as usual at the end of November. Reports were provided on all the Club's activities and the accounts were approved. The Officers and new Committee members for 2016/17 were also approved. I take this opportunity to thank all the Office-Bearers and Committee members for their hard work in the course of the last year.

We have had a new Treasurer this year after Keith Conway stepping down. As reported last year, Keith had been Treasurer for something like 20 years and the Club was keen to recognise this outstanding service. I was able to report to the AGM that the Committee had agreed the presentation of a case of wine. As Keith was unable to be at the AGM, I delivered it to his house the next day; always nice to play Santa!

The club owes everyone who takes on these various responsibilities a great debt of gratitude. Particular thanks go to Alan Hampson at the end of his extended period as Moorings Convenor, and also to Alex Tulloch for his spell as Dinghy Park Convenor. Alvin Barber has taken over the latter role, with Campbell Calder kindly agreeing to come onto the Committee as Sailing Secretary. Jeff McLeod and Hamish Sutherland are fulfilling the role of Moorings Convenor as a joint endeavour. My appreciation to all concerned.

The new Committee comprises:

| <u>Office Bearers</u>        |                                 | <u>email title</u> |
|------------------------------|---------------------------------|--------------------|
| Commodore                    | Andy Walker                     | commodore          |
| Vice Commodore               | Dougie Pringle                  | vicecommodore      |
| Rear Commodore               | Hamish Henderson                | rearcommodore      |
| Hon Secretary                | Stephen Aird                    | secretary          |
| Hon Treasurer                | Stuart Ferguson                 | treasurer          |
| Sailing Secretary            | Campbell Calder                 | sailing            |
| <br><u>Committee Members</u> |                                 |                    |
| Membership Secretary         | Jim Stuart                      | membership         |
| Moorings Convenor            | Jeff McLeod & Hamish Sutherland | moorings           |
| Dinghy Park Convenor         | Alvin Barber                    | dinghy park        |
| Training Officer             | Lawrie Elliott                  | training           |
| Bosun                        | <i>vacant - duties shared</i>   | bosun              |
| Bar Convenor                 | Mike Haynes                     | bar                |
| House Convenor               | Dave McKay                      | house              |
| Social Convenor              | Stewart Coulter                 | social             |

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](mailto:cbc-committee@yahoogroups.co.uk). In addition, you can contact the sailing committee using the group address [sailcomm@cramondboatclub.org.uk](mailto:sailcomm@cramondboatclub.org.uk)

*Andy Walker*



## Training Report 2017

It's been another busy year for sail training at CBC. We had a successful RYA inspection and the club received the licence to provide windsurfing beginner courses. Thanks to Daren Smith (CBC) and Paul Rogers (Scouts) for working so hard to achieve this status. It strengthens the bond between the Sea Scouts and Cramond Boat Club.

Talking of the Sea Scouts, we're pleased to report that they won the sailing prize at this year's National Scout Regatta (again). We also had another extremely good weekend with the Scouts at Cumbrae in the last weekend of March with winds up to a force 7. Brilliant stuff! Another weekend is planned for May 2018. All kids are welcome.

### Sea Monkeys (RYA Youth Training Programme)

Twelve young people registered for the Sea Monkeys. The following certificates were awarded:

- Stage 1: Scott Aitken
- Stage 2: Joshua Chapman, Eilidh Newlands
- Stage 3: Amy Newton, Lewis Bright, Ellie Newton, Henry Smith, Matthew Mill (voted trainee of the year)

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### Cadets (RYA level 4 Youth Training)

We had 12 cadets this year. Six already have Stage 4, while the remainder made significant progress towards Stage 4.

### Level 1 and Level 2 Dinghy Sailing

Three adults registered for the course. All were awarded certificates at level 1 and level 2: Thomas Nickson, Annalaura Vacca, Alexander Macaulay.

### RYA Day Sailing Programme

Seven adults registered for the course. RYA Day Sailing certificates were awarded to George Taylor, Paul Sizeland, Adam Wilkinson, Tim Cooper.



### Windsurfing (RYA Beginners)

Six young people and three adults were trained.

### RYA Power Boat & Safety Boat

Five people registered for the courses in winter 2016/17 and a further six in the autumn of 2017. The following certificates were awarded:

Power boat 1 & 2: Andy McLennan, Craig Fleming, Connel McLennan (with endorsement as under 16!), Kenny Baird

Safety Boat: James Kistruck, Fergus Davidson, Piotr Wojtczuk.

### RYA First Aid Course

We will be running this in February 2018. All welcome – please contact me for further details.

Finally, a big thanks to everyone who worked hard to make the training successful:

- Drew Pratt, Paul Rogers, Alan Mackenzie, Darren Smith for instructing.
- Andrew Wood, John Kenworthy, Euan Rogers and Greg Smith for safety cover.
- Dougie Pringle and Campbell Calder for keeping the boats going.
- The parents for practical support and getting their kids involved.

*Lawrie Elliott, Training Officer*

[Lawrie.elliott@gcu.ac.uk](mailto:Lawrie.elliott@gcu.ac.uk) mob: 0750 410 2348



## 4 Times In One Year

*The last issue of the Seagull included a brief report on the unfortunate fate of Dabchick 2. The man himself takes up the story in the immediate aftermath of the dismasting ...*

With the mast now an inverted V and the shrouds, halyards, sheets, topping lift, aerial, genoa and foil all wrapped under the hulls in one unholy tangle it was time to warn the coastguard that we were a hazard to shipping in the middle of the deep water channel. "We'll send the lifeboat," was the response to our 112 call on the mobile. This was this first time I'd had to call the Lifeboat in nearly 50 years of sailing. How was I to know I'd be doing it another twice within the next 3 months?

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*Untangling the mast on Dabchick*

Thanks to Ben Muir, my resourceful and muscular crew, who untangled the mess and had it stored on deck in double quick time, we were underway before the lifeboat arrived. It was the lifeboat helmsman's last call on the Queensferry station and he was so grateful that this incident involved a yacht instead of a Cramond Island taxi run that I hadn't the heart to refuse his offer to put a crew aboard. This lad was so keen that his first action was to whip out his knife and slash the guard wire lanyard, new this season, that had been so beautifully spliced by Phil Chester.

The good news is a fractional rig replacement is on the stocks so fingers crossed for 2018.



*Midnight Caller at Dunstaffnage*

Three weeks later I was on a little weekend delivery trip from Crinan to Dunstaffnage on board *Midnight Caller*, a trawler-type motor cruiser. Passing Insh island, we picked up a "Pan" message from Stornoway coastguard. The weather was horrendous, a strong SW wind against tide was kicking up a heavy confused sea, and visibility was varying from a 1/4 of a mile to 1 mile as cold stinging rain showers came battering down.

We had passed a small yacht motoring back, we thought, to Craobh Haven and it was this that was the subject of the call. Apparently he had lost steering and power. *Midnight Caller* is a sound sea boat but bounces a bit in the conditions we were experiencing, and a single engine and small rudder make precision steering difficult. So we were reluctant to offer a tow.

We told the Coastguard we would take station on the yacht and stand by to tow her

in an emergency. Stewart Coulter (CBC's social convenor) volunteered to leave the cabin and prepare a long tow line, getting soaked in the process. We took a trial pass to windward of the yacht, a Beneteau 22 and noted the twin rudders swinging wildly and the small outboard motor getting swamped in the breakers. The single sailor in the yacht, an older man, looked weary and tired then terrified as a rogue wave lifted us down threatening to swamp him.

We circled for about 35 minutes till the Oban lifeboat appeared. They didn't try to put a man aboard but managed after a bit of a struggle to get a line secured and pulled the casualty back to Craobh.

A month later back on *Midnight Caller* we had left Dunstaffnage on another weekend jolly to take her to Corpach. Our skipper Paul calls these jaunts his "Care In The Community" obligations. Jack Haldane, Ernie Coulter and I, his octogenarian crew, don't care. The plan was simple: up early, breakfast on the move and get through the Corran Narrows before the tide turned. A lovely morning, clear skies, tea made, bacon sizzling, bread buttered, haunting highland scenery, engine purring - bliss.

A discreet cough from the engine compartment was enough to make Paul jump to lift the hatch, shouting, "Stop button quick!" The button was pressed but there was no reaction, the cough now galloping consumption. There was a final grating "Aargh" then the engine seized to a stop and we sat silently rocking in the remnants of our wake.

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No need to panic, yet. 60m depth under us but we were very gently drifting inshore. We made the decision to call the Coastguard, run out the anchor ready to drop when we reach 20m, and eat our brecky. However, the anchor chain did not want to be readied, as our earlier adventure off Insh had folded the chain over on itself. It took the efforts of three of us to free it. We had been using a laptop as a chartplotter and when the coastguard asked for our position it died (not plugged into ship's power). It's a sad reflection on our reliance on electronics that instead of going to the paper chart to give our position, I fired up an app on my mobile unaware that its default setting showed Lat and Long in decimal degrees, something that gave rise to a little confusion later.



*Midnight Caller under tow*

We had time to enjoy our delayed breakfast before the lifeboat appeared and then we enjoyed a 9 kn tow back to the marina, and were impressed by the crew's seamanship manoeuvring us into our berth.

So that's it three lifeboat incidents in three months. Or four if you count my Wally award last year (cadging a lift to the steps in the river). And four times a year is enough for any man.

*Ian Hellewell*

## Acknowledgements

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

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# Yoga

## At Cramond Boat Club



New Hatha Yoga Class starting in February 2018  
Wednesday Mornings 11 am – 12 noon

**Beginners and Intermediate Level**

There will be taster sessions on Wednesdays 10<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> January  
with the 6 week block starting on 7<sup>th</sup> February 2018

**For further information or just to chat contact me on the following:**  
**MOBILE: 07801 661388 email: [sheila@broomlee.com](mailto:sheila@broomlee.com)**

My name is Sheila McLeod and I am a social member of CBC. I have been running classes for some weeks at the Boat Club and would like to offer this opportunity to all members and friends. Please give me a call if you have any questions.

