



The Seagull



The Journal of the Cramond Boat Club

December 2018

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The View from the Commodore's Window

As we come to the end of the year we can look back at another busy season for the Club. And you will see from the report on the AGM that I am still here as Commodore! So, for the time being I continue to offer views from our harbourside house.

The keel-boats concluded their activities in the usual fashion with a successful cruise to Aberdour and a convivial meal, this time in the Woodside Hotel. Crane-out (unlike Crane-in) proceeded without alarm and, with a prompt start, everything was completed by early afternoon. Jeff, as banksman, again performed a sterling service, as did the team in the kitchen. And now the dinghies' Frostbite Series is under way.



Drew Pratt's daughter, Helen, splashing the champagne on Tiger Shark

The season was rounded off with the annual Prize Giving, very well organised by Sailing Secretary, Campbell Calder.

The evening once again brought together club members with our Affiliate Group – the Cramond Scouts – which injects a healthy proportion of youngsters into our activities.

As many will be aware, following discussions over the condition of the Club's rescue boat (*Blue Shark*), the Committee agreed that this should be replaced.

Diary Dates

Mon 31st Dec, 12pm
Hogmanay Party

Fri 18th January
Burns Bash

Sat 6th April
Crane In

Sat 12th October
Crane Out

I am delighted to report that the new RIB was delivered at the start of November. It was duly launched and, with the assistance of some traditional champagne, named *Tiger Shark* – in the presence of a fine rainbow.

The Club is particularly grateful for a very substantial anonymous donation from a member, directed at a range of upgrades to the specification of this boat.

In the course of the holiday period the Club will be open for members to get together and enjoy some seasonal gatherings. Further information will follow from the Bar and Social Conveners.

Meanwhile, Greta and I wish everyone a Merry Christmas.

Andy Walker



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2018 has been a successful sailing season with reasonable support across the dinghy and cruiser fleets which we are hoping to build on for the 2019 season.

The dinghy Spring Series had 10 competitors over all the races and was a close-run affair with George Hackney and your Sailing Sec tying for first place, George taking it in the final race result with Campbell second and third place going to Alex MacAulay.

The Summer Series saw 14 competitors taking part with the highest turnout for a single race being 10 dinghies. Alex MacAulay came storming to the front with first overall, with Campbell Calder in second and veteran dinghy sailor Angus Forsyth, showing he still sails quickly, finished third.

The Autumn Series also enjoyed good support with 13 competitors taking part and a top turnout of ten dinghies. Once again, George emerged in first place with Keith Driver taking second. In third place, we had our most committed sailors of the season, Paul and Bettina Sizeland in their Wayfarer *Ketchup*.



The Dinghy Regatta

Our Regatta was a great success with a total of 13 entries. Saturday's racing was very tricky for both the competitors and the race committee alike with the course having to be reset for each race. At the end of the first day's racing the Laser fleet was headed up by Lawrie Elliot with George Hackney in second and Keith Driver in third place. The handicap fleet had Henry Smith in a Pico leading the way with Alan Mackenzie in his Stratos sitting second and Alvin Barber lying in third.



Sunday brought a strong breeze from the northeast ... with rain! The stronger conditions put a few competitors off, but those that started had some great sailing. Many also had multiple swims, keeping the safety boat crews, led by John Kenworthy, very busy.

Lawrie dominated the Laser fleet and took first with George sailing Campbell's Laser *Boudicca* in second and Keith taking third overall.

The handicap fleet was dominated by young Henry taking first in a Pico followed by Alan in his Stratos (Alan displayed some fine swimming skills on Sunday afternoon) and Alvin finishing third in his Heron.

A special mention must go to Alasdair Mackay and Callum Smith sailing the club Wayfarer. They did not get in the prizes but took an excellent first place in the last race when the breeze was really up, well done boys!

I would like to thank Alastair Johnson, Angus Forsyth and Drew Pratt for their expert assistance on the committee boat and Alastair for providing *Pegasus 2* for this. The safety boat teams, led by John Kenworthy did an excellent job, particularly on Saturday with multiple course changes being required, big thanks to all. Finally I would like to thank those that came out to race. Get next year's regatta pencilled into your diaries now (provisionally 15/16 June) - let's make next year's regatta even bigger!

New Members

Welcome to our new members:

Full

John Purves

Family

Howie and Jennie Stansfield

Under 26

Fraser McMillan

Student

Fraser Lamb
Jamie Calder

Social

Ryan Beattie
Morag Bisson

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Lifting the Race Marks

On Saturday 24 November an intrepid crew of Alastair Johnson, Angus Forsyth and your sailing sec set off to lift the race marks. Conditions were perfect with no wind when we collected the outer marks and a gentle northerly when we got the inner marks. In pleasantness terms, this job ranks close to that of doing the mooring chain so thanks are due to Alastair and Angus for helping with this and to Hamish Sutherland for preparing the work boat *Hammerhead*.

Safety Boat Woes and Delight!

Once again our RIB *Blue Shark* was prone to engine problems throughout the season and thanks are due to Dougie Pringle who put in a huge amount of work to keep the boat going until the end of the season.

So without a doubt the highlight of the season has been the purchase of our new RIB *Tiger Shark*. Again thanks are due to Dougie Pringle, Drew Pratt and John Kenworthy for their time in researching and arranging the spec for the new safety boat. Thanks are also due to the main committee for supporting this very positive statement about the forward thinking of the club and the anonymous benefactor who contributed to the purchase cost.



Finally

I would like to thank my sailing committee for their support in organising club sailing throughout the season. We are looking forward to a cracking season in 2019 and some dates for your diary are:

- Crane In – Saturday 6 April
- Dinghy Park work party – Sunday 7 April
- Dinghy Regatta – provisionally 15/16 June
- Winter work party – Sunday 6 October
- Crane Out – Saturday 12 October.

See you on the water.

Campbell Calder, Sailing Secretary

FESTIVE BAR OPENING

The clubhouse bar will be open at the following times over the festive period:

Mon 24th Dec (Christmas Eve)	5pm to 8pm (if enough demand)
Tue 25th Dec (Christmas Day)	Closed
Mon 31st Dec (Hogmanay)	8pm to 1pm Party and nibbles (list in clubhouse)
Tue 1st Jan (Ne'er Day)	To be decided

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Frostbite Racing

There is always a risk in running a winter race series for dinghies, as the weather can play havoc with race scheduling. After a successful frostbite series last year, this year's series has not been nearly as lucky, with either too much wind or too little.

The first race on 21st October saw several hardy souls prepared to give it a go in fairly strong conditions. However, as the race continued, one of the Lasers suffered a major gear failure and required urgent assistance from the Safety Boat. In the meantime, the wind was steadily increasing in strength, reaching gusts of 34 kts. With the Safety Boat otherwise detained, it became unrealistic for the race to continue and reluctantly it was decided to abandon it rather than risk any further problems in the worsening conditions.

The second race in the series didn't even start with the wind gusting to 29 kts before anyone even thought about launching. So far, a dismal start to the series.

The third race actually happened! Light winds from WNW saw 3 dinghies completing 2 races without mishap and thus got the series under way.

On 2nd December, the wind was so light, the speed of the current and tide would have dictated what direction the dinghies went in so the race was cancelled.

The next race on Saturday 8th December was also canned as the wind was forecast to be still hitting 30 kts by the lunchtime launch, having reached over 45 kts earlier in the morning.

Let's hope that FB6 on 22nd December, the last in the 2018 Frostbite series, will be run. With only 2 races completed, there is still a chance for our dinghy sailors to compete. The current leader is Lawrie Elliot with Keith Driver in second and Paul Sizeland lying third.

Drew Pratt

Santa visits CBC

Once again, Santa was kind enough to take time out from his busy pre-Christmas schedule to visit the children of Cramond Boat Club.



And as usual, he arrived by his special water sleigh, to the delight of the assembled children!



The Dolphin Tragedy

During a training session in August, the club Picos were joined by a pod of dolphins - just a short way offshore.

While a common sight on the west coast of Scotland, this is rare in the Forth, and may reflect how clean the water has become in recent years.

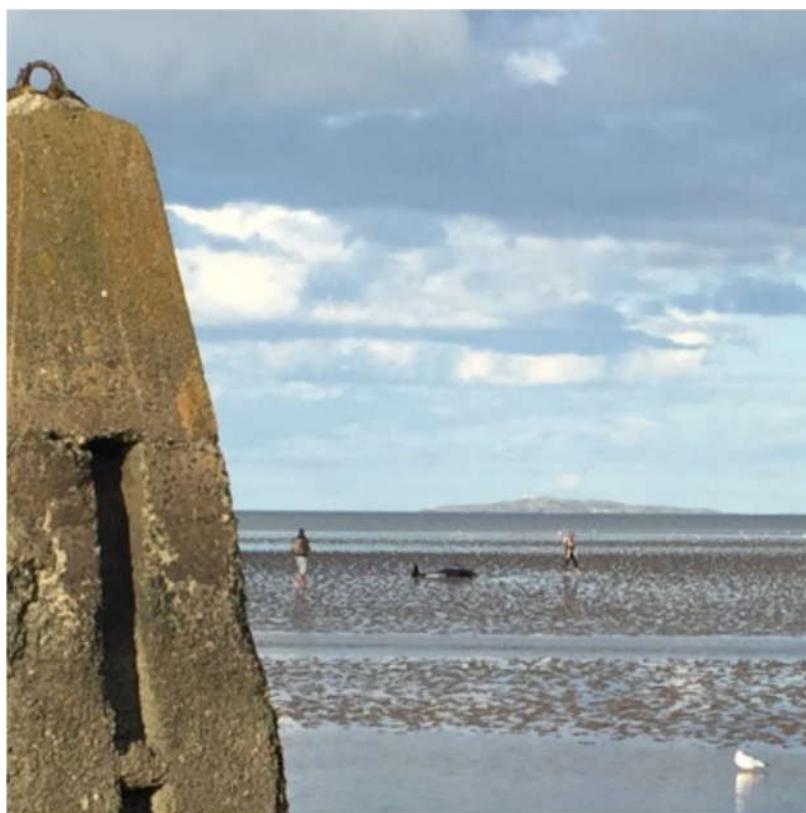
Later that afternoon, as the tide receded, one dolphin chose to stay in the shallows. Eventually it was completely stranded - much to the consternation of on-lookers.

One of them came to the Clubhouse to report the problem and we called the Coastguard.

They, in turn, contacted British Divers for Marine Life Rescue - for which one of our newer members, Alex Burn, is a volunteer.

He duly turned out and, together with the Coastguard, did what he could to help the creature.

Very sadly it was too late and it just remained for the vets to try and determine why it had become so disoriented.



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We have reported regularly in this magazine the efforts and antics of the 'Monday Gang' – an ad-hoc team of super-annuated club members who wobble about the place doing good deeds.

It is easy to take for granted the benefits they have provided to the club, and see this as a sort of 'care in the community scheme' which gets the old boys out of the house. But in the Commodore's address at the AGM, he summarised the work done by the gang during the year as follows:

- New carpet fitted in bar and shampooed each month
- Bar window replaced
- New office cabinets installed in office
- Roof of stairs/sail store washed and gutters cleaned
- Terrace roof cracks resealed, chairs repaired and painted, and plastic seats cleaned
- Toilet repairs undertaken
- Link corridor damp-proofed and floor cleaned and repainted
- Entrance hall and stair painted
- Light in cupboard under stair installed and front door lock replaced
- Workshop floor sealed and two coats of paint applied, workshop re-organised and compressor installed
- Mast crane and bar depth gauge in river repainted
- Dinghy trolleys and barrow repaired
- Rusted trailers and scrap wood cleared from dinghy park and weed killer applied
- Ongoing refinements to new mooring boat.

That is an astonishing amount of work accomplished by a small team of volunteers. Just imagine the cost to the club of getting all that done professionally.

Since the AGM, new House Convenor Kenny Baird has continued to corral the gang, and their work rate continues to astound. What geriatric-defying drugs are these guys on? In the last two months, they have:

- Replaced various faulty light bulbs and tubes within the premises
- Sanded, scraped and filled various exterior window frames in preparation for paint application
- Filled and disposed of 10 rubbish bags with waste from around the premises
- Fixed a temporary timber cover over the interior of a cracked window pain in the hall .
- Collected and disposed of fallen leaves from roof terrace.
- Swept and mopped the workshop floor and cleaned the sink
- Removed, sanded, scraped, varnished and painted the large exterior club sign.



Monday Club reach new heights to replace blown window

They even got in the Christmas mood, sifting and separating donated Christmas decorations from an integrated Christmas lighting system, then hanging the decorations throughout the upper floor.

Members should be very grateful for all the unseen work done by these guys. Many thanks to Eddie King, Jeff McLeod, Hamish Sutherland, Gus Robertson, Davy McKay and anyone else I have omitted in error. If you are free on a Monday, come along and help them!

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The annual prizegiving on 17th November started with a roundup of the year's training. The following certificates were awarded:

Sea Monkeys (RYA Youth Training Programme)

Stage 1: Anna MacRury

Stage 2: Gabriel Sizeland, Daniel Smith, Jack Roland

Stage 3: Joshua Chapman, Eilidh Newlands (voted trainee of the year)

Cadets (RYA level 4 Youth Training)

Stage 4: Alasdair Mackay, Calum Smith

RYA Level 1 & 2 Dinghy Sailing

Level 1: John Purves



RYA Windsurfing Programme

Youth Stage 1: Matthew Struthers, Joshua Chapman, Daniel Smith, Daniel Sizeland

Youth Stage 2: Miles Davis, Lewis Bright

Adult Start Windsurfing: Alan Mackenzie

RYA Power Boat & Safety Boat

Safety Boat: Emma Wilkinson, Tom Brady, Campbell Calder

It was also noted that Iain Finlay MacRury, who started as a Cramond Sea Monkey many years ago, successfully completed his RYA Dinghy Instructor course at the National Training Centre, which is a tremendous achievement, not just for him but for all those involved in sail training at CBC.

Paul Rogers then reported on another great achievement by the Cramond Scouts in gaining first place at the Scottish Scout Regatta at Lochgoilhead (again!)



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The dinghy racing prizes were presented next:

- Brass monkey trophy 2017 to Lawrie Elliott
- Cleland cup for the dinghy spring series to George Hackney
- HK Brown trophy for the dinghy summer series to Alex MacAulay
- Matilda Cup for the dinghy Autumn series to George Hackney
- Barton Trophy for the Cadet series to Alastair McKay
- Tulloch Bowl for first overall in the dinghy regatta to Lawrie Elliott



After a break for the buffet, the awards continued with the keel boat racing:

- Belhaven trophy for the cruiser A series to Alastair Miller
- Laidlaw cup for the cruiser weekend series to Dave Jamieson
- Inchcolm plate for the cruiser middle distance series to Andy Walker
- Lafter trophy for the cruiser ladies race to Kay McBurney
- Master Mariner Cup for the Master Mariner race to Alan Hampson
- Lumley Bowl for cruiser trophy race to Dave Jamieson

Finally, after a democratic vote by those present, the Wally Award was presented to Doris Hunter for wrapping Jay's tripping line round her keels. Don't know what the fuss is about, I used to do that most weekends. Personally, I preferred the Wally nomination of the rescue boat crew who required rescuing!

Hogmanay Musical Event

Monday 31st December 8pm – 1am

Light snacks



£5 per ticket

Tickets from Bob Sharp, Social Convenor
or Mike Haynes, Bar Convenor

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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 2018/19 were also agreed. I take this opportunity to thank all the Office-Bearers and Committee members for their hard work in the course of the last year. I must also thank Debbie Pringle for all her work, over many years, looking after the bar cash and a number of other financial aspects of our operations.

Despite considerable efforts otherwise, I have to report that I remain as Commodore. I have agreed to keep things going until we can persuade someone else to step up. All members are invited to consider our options in this regard.

The club owes everyone who takes on these various responsibilities a great debt of gratitude. Particular thanks go to: Dougie Pringle, who has stepped down as Vice-Commodore after six most valuable years in this role; Stephen Aird, who completed a highly effective and efficient three years (again!) as Honorary Secretary; Davie McKay, for a very successful stint as House Convener; and Stewart Coulter (with Angela) for his two years as Social Secretary.

Hamish Henderson has moved up from Rear to Vice-Commodore, with Davie McKay taking over the vacated position. Alex MacAulay has joined the Committee as Honorary Secretary, Kenny Baird as House Convener, and Bob Sharp as Social Secretary. The other Committee members have very kindly agreed to continue in their various roles. My appreciation to all concerned.

To summarise, the new Committee comprises:

Office Bearers

		<u>email title</u>
Commodore	Andy Walker	commodore
Vice Commodore	Hamish Henderson	vicecommodore
Rear Commodore	Dave McKay	rearcommodore
Hon Secretary	Alex MacAulay	secretary
Hon Treasurer	Stuart Ferguson	treasurer
Sailing Secretary	Campbell Calder	sailing

Committee Members

Membership Secretary	Jim Stuart	membership
Moorings Convenor	Jeff McLeod	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	Kenny Baird	house
Social Convenor	Bob Sharp	social

Note that individual committee members can be contacted by email using their [title @cranonboatclub.org.uk](mailto:andy@cranonboatclub.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@cranonboatclub.org.uk

Andy Walker

Acknowledgements

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

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Club Merchandise

Many years ago, we used to have a range of polo shirts, sweatshirts, fleeces, baseball caps, ties, etc all embroidered with the club logo.

Our new Rear Commodore, Davie McKay, is looking into re-stocking a range of club clothing.

Polo tops would come in at £15, sweatshirts at £20 and hoodies may also be an option.

If you are interested, contact Dave directly.

