



# The Seagull

The Journal of the Cramond Boat Club

June 2009

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## Diary Dates

**Sat 21 June**  
Family Fun Day

**4 & 5 July**  
Weekend Cruise

**5 & 6 Sept**  
Annual Regatta

**TBA Oct**  
75th Anniversary Dinner



*Cramond sea monkeys prepare to go sailing*



## Sailing Sec's Ramblings

Well the sailing season is well underway and we've had some glorious days' racing; weather for the Master Mariner trophy was cracking, with the sunscreen the order of the day rather than waterproofs for once.

As far as the racing goes so far, congratulations to Dave and Eddie in Talisker for the yachts A series and the Master Mariner trophy, and to Campbell Calder for the dinghy A series. We've had a good range of boats out for all the races this year, so long may it continue.

Friday 29th May supplied the finest weather of the sailing season so far with a beautiful summer's evening. As a result there was an excellent turnout of dinghies for the Free Sail, all enjoying a few hours in brilliant sunshine and a light north-easterly force 2-3.

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Eight dinghies were out: Challenger (Joe), Kestrel (Iain), Topper (Kay), Laser (Andrew), Laser Radial (Lawrie), RS Tera (Jamie), GP14 (Campbell, Kris and Kenna) and the club Wayfarer.

And now a quick reminder of upcoming events:

"Family Fun Day" / "Sailpast" / "Lets-get-everyone-on-the-water-day" or whatever you want to call it is on **21st June** this year so let's try to get as many members as possible in as many boats as possible and have a great club day, with a BBQ on Cramond Island.

The weekend Cruise is on the **4th and 5th July**. The destination will depend on the wind on the day, but we hope to get some new cruising types out to benefit from the wisdom (?) of some of our older hands on cruising to somewhere else on the Forth.

And finally the Annual Regatta on the **5th and 6th of September**. We are once again in the Forth Yacht Championship Series for 2009 and hopefully this will attract a few more visitors to come and join us for the festivities.

Well that's all for now so hope to see you all out on the water as often as possible.

*Trevor McKay / Campbell Calder*



## Burns 250

The winter club nights seem a long time ago now, but the last one on 20th March was a bit special as we were entertained by Kev Thompson with his one-man show celebrating the life of Robert Burns in his 250th anniversary year.

Kev is a renowned expert on Burns and a member of the World Burns Federation. His hugely impressive and entertaining show consists of stories, songs and recitations of the bard's work, delivered with passion and humour. It was a well-attended evening and was enjoyed by all.

As usual, many thanks are due to Dave and Anna Innes for organising this and the other winter club nights.



## New Members

Welcome to all our new members:

### Full Members

Marcin Sewera  
David Evans

### Student Members

Piotr Wojtczuk  
Anna Basista  
Michael Barber

### Social Members

Hugh Kerr  
Isla Browning  
Helen Cameron



## Cruise Liners in the Forth

The following cruise liners will be anchored by Hound Point during the summer of 2009, if you want to sail out and have a look:

<u>Date</u>	<u>Vessel</u>	<u>Length (metres)</u>
30 May	Eurodam	285
02 June	Rotterdam	238
09 June	Norwegian Jade	294
04 July	Crown Princess	288
28 July	Crown Princess	288
09 Aug	Maasdam	219
13 Aug	Eurodam	285
20 Aug	Azamara Journey	181
21 Aug	Crown Princess	288
02 Sep	Crown Princess	288
26 Sep	Emerald Princess	288
17 Oct	Queen Mary 2	345

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We have made some important changes to the channel marker poles and race marks recently.

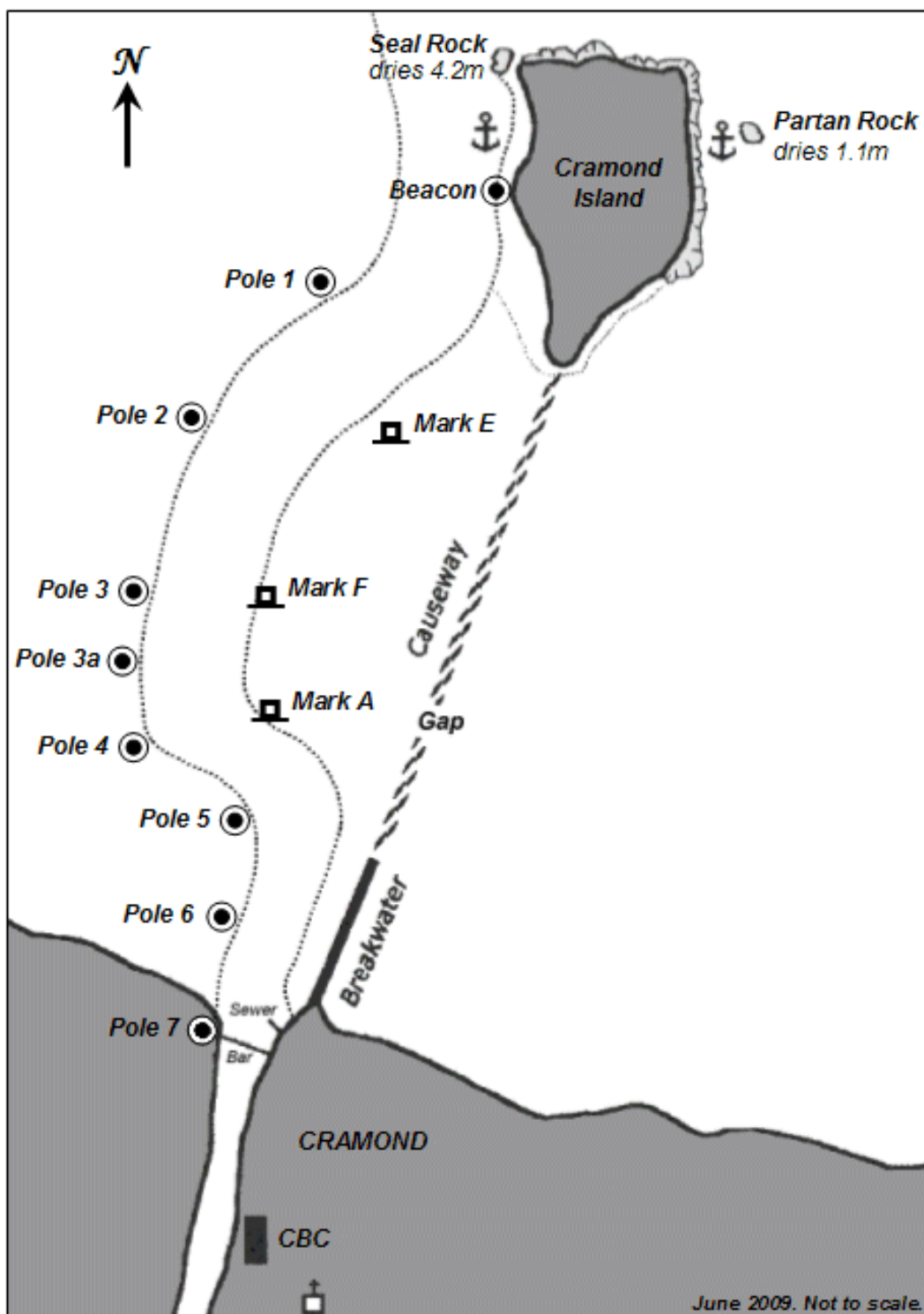
### Channel Poles

Last year, a new white pole between Poles 3 and 4 was established. This serves 2 purposes: firstly to mark the start of the deeper water channel out to Z mark (see below for more details), and secondly to act as a finish line for races. It is therefore known as both Pole 3a and the Finish Pole.

Many of you will have noticed a new yellow pole this season on the west side of the river channel near the island. With its bright yellow top mark it's fairly easy to spot from the island and is designated as Pole 1.

The beacon on Cramond Island was previously called Pole 1 but this was slightly inconsistent as it marked the east side of the channel while all the other poles marked the west side.

So the new sequence for coming in to Cramond still uses the beacon on the island as a start point, then head for the new Pole 1 and follow the rest in sequence as before. As usual all caveats about the channel moving during the year still apply but this should make it easier to find your way in or out, particularly at the beginning or end of the tide.



## New Boats

A few new boats have appeared on the moorings this year:

*Bramble* (Ron McCreath)  
*Moonlighter* (Alvin Barber)  
*Melita* (Alastair Miller)  
*Shikari* (Robert Wilkinson)  
*Tachum* (Chris Carr)

Welcome to them all and good sailing.

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## Race Marks

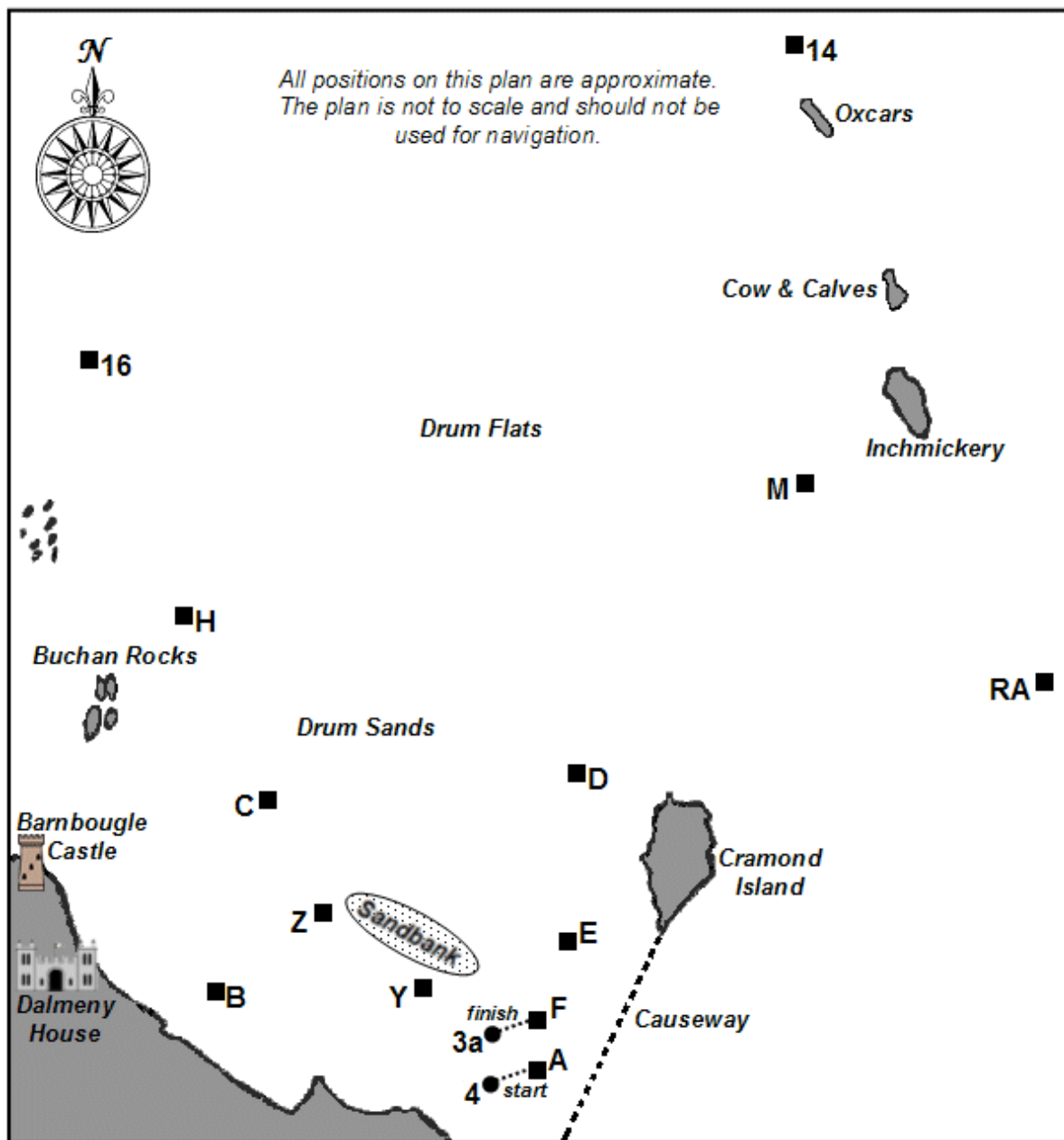
Mark N off the north end of Cramond Island has been removed as we keep losing it.

Mark D to the north-west of the island has been moved this year, as a large sandbank has built up on the route out of the river channel to D, so at the moment we are tweaking the position to give it the best chance of not having to move it for a few more years.

E mark has been moved slightly south so it is no longer on the east bank of the river channel.

F mark (which confusingly is currently a buoy with the letter N) is situated to the north of A and is used to mark the east end of a race finish line, with Pole 3a at the west end. It should be noted that marks A, E, and F should not be used as channel markers as they do not necessarily indicate the edge of the channel – use the poles as described above.

Marks Y and Z mark the safe passage to the south of the big sandbank, and are they moved around every year as the sandbank moves. This year they are further south than previously. A line from the finish pole (Pole 3a) to the south of Y and Z should keep you in deeper water clear of the sandbank.



All this means that we have not published the GPS positions of all the marks in this year's handbook as they tend to move, and those that are published cannot be guaranteed. Mind you the Mk 1 eyeball is probably still the best way to work out where the marks are!

*Trevor McKay*

## Rosyth – Zeebrugge Ferry

The new Norfolkline ferry operation from Rosyth to Zeebrugge commenced on 19th May, almost exactly a year after the Superfast service ended.

The *Scottish Viking* sails 3 times a week on Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday, arriving at Rosyth at approx 1300 and departing at approx 1700.

Keep a lookout if you're near the main channel at these times!

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The March edition of *Yachting Monthly* carried an article listing 40 top sailors' pubs around the UK. There were just 5 in Scotland – Otter Ferry at Tighnabruich, The Old Forge at Inverie, The Mishnish Hotel in Tobermory, The Byron Darton on Sanda (remember John Bean's report on this remote pub in the Sept 2008 Seagull) and Tigh na Truish on Seil Island. This got me thinking, not least why anyone would list the Mishnish in their top 400, never mind top 40.

For most of the last 16 years, I have spent a week each summer sailing around the west coast of Scotland on glorified pub crawls, so I thought I would enlighten you with my own, highly subjective, best 5 (and worst 5) sailors' pubs on the west coast. I should add the caveat that many of these visits were some time ago, so the places may have changed a lot since then. This is also a wonderful opportunity for a shameless plug of my cruise [website](#).

### Alastair's Top 5 West Coast Pubs

Old Forge, Inverie	Totally cut off from civilization, but amazing place, always busy with interesting people, impromptu music, excellent and exotic food, and great selection of draft beers.
Eilean Iarmain Hotel, Isleornsay, Skye	Great little pub in a picturesque village, busy with locals and tourists. Excellent atmosphere, good food and fine local beer.
Badachro Inn, Loch Gairloch	A hidden gem, with great beer, good service and splendid food, particularly the local seafood.
Lochmaddy Hotel, North Uist	Friendly, busy, popular place with huge helpings of food, hot showers and large drying room – perfect after a long, wet thrash across the Minch.
Isle of Coll Hotel, Arinagour, Coll	Nice little bar, friendly staff, showers, superb food.

### Alastair's Worst 5 West Coast Pubs

Dunvegan Hotel, Skye	A plain, bare 1960s-furnished room with peeling wallpaper, taped bagpipe music, and fizzy beer.
Mishnish Hotel, Tobermory, Mull	Perhaps the best-known sailors' pub on the west coast, and the most over-rated. Tacky bar, unhelpful staff, toilets and showers in need of renovation, appalling pub food.
Misty Isles Hotel, Dunvegan, Skye	Small, dirty pub with loud jukebox and awful food.
Lord of the Isles, Craobh Haven	Giant, empty, artificial pub in an artificial village.
Aultbea Hotel	Empty, dull, old-fashioned bar with tartan carpets, tartan curtains, tartan beer and no atmosphere.

Well that was nice and controversial. I'd love to know your opinions. More importantly, what are the best watering holes in the Forth? How do the various Ship Inns compare? Which quaint Fife fishing village has the best ale? And where can you get the best pub grub within a weekend sail from Cramond? Please let me know, and we will definitely have a follow-up article in a future Seagull.

## Erik Koren

After many years of outstanding service to the club our Saturday barman, Erik Koren, has decided to retire.

Erik only started because he filled in one day for his son who used to man the bar while a student ... his son never came back and Erik stayed for six years!

His wonderful service and friendly manner will be sorely missed and he will be a hard act to replace. I am sure everyone will wish him all the best for the future.

His last day is Sat 20th June, and there will be a small presentation at 4pm, so please come along to say farewell.

And a warm welcome to Karl, our new Saturday barman.



## Club Limo

The photo's a bit fuzzy, but this was spotted in Yorkshire by the Hon. Sec.

Perhaps we should acquire it as the Commodore's official conveyance?





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In the last Seagull I explained that we intend to replace the ageing pictures in the function hall with some newer photographs of sailing and club activities. With modern digital photos, it is possible to blow up photos to a good size for framing and displaying on the wall.

I therefore asked you to send me any photos showing club life, and we have now ploughed through just under 7,000 photos which cover up to the end of 2006! A selection of the better ones have been posted online - see <http://www.flickr.com/photos/cramondboatclub>.

Following nominations by the committee, this batch has been further whittled down to produce a shortlist of 12 which are shown below. We need to select 6 of these to be enlarged for the hall. And this is where you all come in!

- Prints of the 12 shortlisted pictures will be displayed in the clubhouse for you to view and then vote on your favourite 3 on a list beside the pictures.
- Alternatively you can go online to view the shortlist [here](#) and e-mail me at [vicecommandore@cramondboatclub.org.uk](mailto:vicecommandore@cramondboatclub.org.uk) with your top three photos (using the numbers 1 to 12 in the photo description).
- The deadline for votes will be 31st July.
- Although we applaud enthusiastic voting, no multiple votes to get your own boat up there please!
- In the event of a tie, the committee will make a casting choice.

And finally, if you still have any suitable photos, please send them in me at [vicecommandore@cramondboatclub.org.uk](mailto:vicecommandore@cramondboatclub.org.uk) and they'll be considered along with the next batch of some 8,000 photos that we have from 2007 onwards!

*Dave Lines*



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## Miracle Donation

Recently the Club was very fortunate to be donated a Miracle sailing dinghy by Andy Hunter. Andy has been a club member for a number of years, but unfortunately has had to stop sailing dinghies due to a back injury. As a result he kindly offered his boat *Miranda* to the club.

The Miracle plugs a gap in the Club fleet, being suitable for lighter adults or teenage children, and we are looking forward to it joining the racing and training fleets regularly.

Andy has also launched a new business recently called *storybikes*. He is offering guided cycle tours with stories and folklore to enhance the experience. There are some of his leaflets on the table below the notice board or you can look up his website [www.storybikes.co.uk](http://www.storybikes.co.uk).

*Campbell Calder*



## Cramond Folk Club



The **Cramond Folk Club** is a new venture which has started meeting in the Cramond Boat Club on the last Wednesday of each month. The first two meetings were attended by 15-20 people, some of whom performed, some listened and everyone joined in at some point.

We had everything from traditional folk music to skiffle, including Scottish, Irish, English, even Greek songs, and a few sea shanties (as we were in a boat club.) In addition to songs, there were fiddle tunes, tin whistles and poetry readings. It was all wonderfully informal and great fun, and it is hoped to build on the initial success.

The club is taking a short break over the summer while people are on holiday but will resume in the autumn. If you are interested in coming along, look out for notices in the clubhouse.

## Roof Furniture

Many thanks to Bob Sharp and Colin Macartney for the kind donation of tables and chairs for the terrace.

Perfect for all those barbecues and sunny days enjoying the atmosphere.



## Dinghy Park

I will soon be organising a tidy up of the storage container in the dinghy park, and will be looking for help from other dinghy sailors with this. Work party dates will follow. If you have any unlabeled items in the container please contact me as soon as possible. Items for which an owner cannot be found will be listed and probably sold later in the year to raise money for the club, as well as free up space in the container.

*Campbell Calder*

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## Naturewatch

A recent report by Scottish Natural Heritage said that Scotland's seabird numbers fell by 19% between 2000 and 2008, with the greatest declines on the east coast of Scotland. Apparently this is due to a shortage of food due to a drop in the number of small fish, such as sand eels. This in turn is caused by rising sea temperatures.

On the other hand, my own experience suggests there is actually more bird life than usual in the Forth. On my last sail of 2008, at the end of September, I saw a black, long-necked bird (possibly a cormorant) and a large bird with dark grey back, light grey underside and fan tail (possibly a fulmar but more likely a great black-backed gull). It wheeled around the boat for a while looking very impressive.

As you can tell, I am no ornithologist, but I keep thinking I should know more, or at least keep a bird-spotting book on board. Sailors really ought to learn a bit about wildlife, because we are often privileged to see things which the general population don't. 10 or 20 years ago there was so much sewage in the Forth that nothing much seemed to live there, but nowadays we get a lot of seals and a great variety of seabirds in addition to the ubiquitous gulls – gannets, guillemots, razorbills, puffins, kittiwakes, and even the odd fulmar and arctic tern. Sea eagles have recently been re-introduced in Fife and spotted on both sides of the Forth and on the Bass Rock. And I'm sure many of us have seen the herons on the river bank opposite the clubhouse.

When sailing on the west coast of Scotland, I have seen puffins, cormorants, gannets, herons, terns, lots of porpoises, the occasional dolphin, and on one memorable evening in Lochmaddy, an otter playing on the shore.

It would be interesting to know about any wildlife spotted by Cramond members in the Forth (or further afield). Please let me know, particularly if you get any good photos, and I'll try to do a follow-up in a later Seagull. Perhaps we'll start our own Naturewatch!



*Nova clipart collection*

## Acknowledgements

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

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## C.B.C. 75th Jubilee

The Cramond Boat Club was founded at a public meeting on 27th October 1934, which means that the club is 75 years old this year. That's not a bad achievement for a small club, and well worth celebrating.

The committee is planning a series of events during the 12 months starting from October this year to mark this important anniversary. Currently planned:

- Jubilee Dinner at a venue to be confirmed, as close as possible to 27th October 2009.
- Jubilee Regatta 15-16 May 2010, which will be a bigger event than our usual regattas.
- Open Day in summer 2010, to publicise the club and attract new members.

More details and further events will be announced in the next edition of the Seagull. If any club member has any good ideas for how we might mark this milestone, please contact the club secretary.

