

KIRKCALDY

- update from a site visit 17 October 2006

New flats with balconies now fringe the West side of the inner and outer harbour. It is hoped that being overlooked by up-market housing will improve the security of moored craft. The harbour remains a very useful refuge.

The Kirkcaldy Boat and Sea Angling Club has been relocated and occupies the yard and the "Hull Shed", a brick transit shed at the North West end of the inner harbour opposite Hutchison's Flour Mill (marked "Grain Silo conspic." on the chartlet). The club website has excellent photographs of the harbour showing the new buildings:

<http://www.kirkcaldyboatingandseaanglingclub.org/index.htm>

There is no slip at the club. Craft are lifted out of the water by hired crane.

The steps and ladders seen were all usable with care but the West side of the inner harbour South of the boat club is fenced with new waist high iron railings without gaps or gates, an access difficulty for alongside berthing. In the inner harbour landing is most convenient at the steps at the Club yard but these must be kept clear for club use. The far West wall of the inner harbour is corrugated concrete and overhung so is best avoided.

The small slip in the outer harbour at the root of the South pier is the only slipway in the harbour but is serviceable. It is marked on the chartlet but not annotated. This slip is very steep and short so only of much use on high spring tides. A large turning block attached to the sea wall serves to emphasise its steepness. It is necessary to keep ones traction off the slip on level ground. The sheave of this block is rusted solid and cars park in front of it. It is suggested that anyone using the slip bring their own block and use the existing one as an anchorage point. If intent on using this slip a low water recce is recommended. The wave spend rock jumble of the West side of the outer harbour extends below the end of the slip.

The fence marked on the chartlet to the West of the slip is in fact to the East and is two fences, not one. However both have been breached so there is access to the South pier. One reason for the double fence is that the large brick shed on the South pier is unstable, a large crack being visible in the brickwork of the North East corner. The edge of the pier is becoming overgrown with willow herb, is slippery with moss and has no toe rail. However the shed is open at both ends providing access away from the edge.

Water can be obtained by request at the Boat Club and the forecourt of the Richmond Motor Company (car sales only – no fuel) at the foot of the High Street. Fuel is a good walk away up the hill, ask locally for directions.

Kirkcaldy has all town centre facilities including two tackle shops at the harbour end of the High Street. For more general information see:

<http://www.standrews.co.uk/fifelinks.htm>

The town has much interesting history. Its museum and library by the railway station and town trail are worth the walk.

The Tourist Information Centre is located at the harbour end of the High Street. For enquiries e-mail:

Kirkcaldy@visitfife.com

Blue Spindrift
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