

# 56° Forth



FORTH YACHT CLUBS ASSOCIATION

Web Site – <http://www.fyca.i12.com>

JUNE 2000 No.2

E-mail – [fyca@i12.com](mailto:fyca@i12.com)

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Contact:- Helen Crossley, 48 Cowan Road, Edinburgh, EH11 1RJ

Tel:- 0131-337 5683. For comments, criticisms and contributions.

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## CHAIRMAN'S COMMENTS

This is the second edition of the FYCA newsletter. I'm glad to say that the first edition was well received and I hope we can build on this success.

The first of the new joint regattas, the Mickery Regatta, was dogged by lack of wind and only one race was possible. There was, however, a healthy entry and the event was well organised and a social success. At the time of writing I am looking forward to the West Regatta and hoping this will have better luck with the weather. The third of the new regattas the Fife Regatta 2000 will be held on 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> August. Four other existing regattas are included in the Yacht Championship Series and are detailed in the handbook.

You may be interested to note that the IYRU conference, hosted by RYA, is to be held in our area (Edinburgh) in November and a number of our members are assisting in its organisation. This is the big one – every three years – and delegates are likely to include Royals and heads of state.

The major racing event this year is, as always, East Coast Week, to be held on the Tay. The three ECSW venues are all very different especially the Tay with its tidal waters and “yellow jacket”. From a packed Royal Tay bar, the camping site barbecues, the mooring ferries and Royal Tay 10, to the beach café, this is an excellent event and the favourite of many. Racing on the Tay is a challenge but also fun. I recommend it to you so keep the week of 16<sup>th</sup> – 21<sup>st</sup> July clear. The Forth feeder race starts on 14<sup>th</sup> July, otherwise cruise up on the Saturday and visit Anstruther with its new pontoons.

The new pilot book is now progressing well and is scheduled to be published by the end of this year. I hope to be able to provide a release date in our next newsletter.

I knew my wish (in the first newsletter) for perfect conditions throughout the year was “wishful thinking” and so it has proved to be. Let us hope that all the poor sailing weather has now been used up and the rest of the year will be all sunshine and force 3.

Good Sailing,

Bill Cochran.  
Chairman

# Racing Report

## Forth Inshore Group

<i>Races</i>	<b>Winners</b>	
	Fast Handicap	Slow Handicap
Bass Rock Race	Alouette	Lynes
Bass Rock Return	Cavalier	Lynes
Mazzoni Trophy	Alouette	Lynes
Over One Tide	Cavalier	Smithereen
Bosun's Locker Trophy	Absolutely	Lynes

The next event is the Blackness Challenge on 30th July.

## Forth Offshore Group

The first event in the Series was the East Lothian Yacht Club's Bell Rock Race on 16th/17th June and was won by Alouette in the fast Handicap Division.

The Series continues with the inaugural Eyemouth Trophy Race on 7th July followed by the East Coast Sailing Week opener on Friday 14th July and finishes with the Scotsman Trophy in September.

## Regatta Series

The Mickery Regatta 20th/21st May winners.

Fast Handicap                    Rhett Butler from Port Edgar

Medium Handicap            Lynes from Port Edgar

Slow Handicap                Eliza from Cramond

The Fisherrow Regatta 3rd/4th June was won by Shamal from Fisherrow.

The next event in the Series is the West Regatta on 24th/25th June.

**Details of all results can be seen on the FYCA web site at [www.fyca.i12.com](http://www.fyca.i12.com)."**

## FORTH FOCUS

### **ELIE & EARLSFERRY SAILING CLUB**

Located at the Harbour in the idyllic seaside village of Elie, Elie & Earlsferry Sailing Club offers a warm welcome to all visitors to this part of the Forth. Although the Clubhouse was built only five years ago, it has recently been extended by adding a conservatory style extension to the clubroom which offers superb views across Elie Bay and an extension to the 'wet' area which effectively doubles changing and shower space.

The club has a very healthy membership of around 150, who enjoy the wide variety of sailing activities and social events in the club calendar of events. Activities on the water include dinghy sailing instruction from our fully qualified instructors, dinghy racing and cruiser racing. The Social scene encompasses a wide range of events, which include Burn's Supper, regular suppers after racing, a summer BBQ, fund raising nights and our annual Christmas Party. During the winter nights members put on presentations on a variety of subjects from sailing in Greece to navigation instruction.

Visitors to Elie will find three visitor berths in the harbour and very safe anchoring in the Bay. During your stay you will be offered the use of our club toilet and shower facilities and will be welcomed to any events that are on in the club while you are here. With the refurbishment of the Granary at the Harbour, fresh water and electricity will be available to the visitor berths in the summer of 2000.

Cairns Birrell  
Elie & Earlsferry Sailing Club

## CANAL UPDATE

Scottish Lowland Canals Update.

The big project is cracking on at the rate of over £4million per month. I recommend a bike trip on the towpath this summer to check out the action and watering holes. Progress is visible in the reopening of the Union canal from the A801 near Polmont to Wester Hailes at Edinburgh (or the reverse for those escaping from city strife) including the M8 underbridge and full access to Ratho Inn; while on the Forth and Clyde, the A80 is half lifted to the 3 metre air clearance, locks and bridges are complete from Falkirk via Kirkintilloch to Clydebank. The Falkirk Wheel is still in design mode but the new Westward extension of the Union to pass under the railway, Antonine wall and tarworks and the connection into the river Carron at Grangemouth are both well started. The tidal entry up the Carron estuary, even after the dredging, will require careful passage planning! Removal of contaminated silt is still a big job and the full dredging to 2.3 metres will not be completed until after opening in May 2001. The guaranteed water depth of the Forth and Clyde will be only 1.8m at opening. Air draft will be 3.0m; max beam, 6.0m; max length in the locks, 20m. British Waterways intend to have the same charging structure as exists on the Crinan and Caledonian canals and will have a common pass for those of us who wish to do the triangle trip through all 3 in a season.

Proposed full fees per metre length for power vessels for F&C are:

- 3 day £15.20 (that will allow one way through passage)
- 28 day £22.0 (which would allow passage both ways and a fortnight's cruising on the Clyde and a little berthing time in the canal)
- 9 months £63.0 (which will allow for berthing in the canal and unlimited use of the canals, but sewage holding tanks and a few other special features are required on your vessel).

50% reduction is proposed in the first year of operation.

Check with BW at 1 Applecross St Glasgow G4 9SP. 0141 3326936.

Enjoy your cruising, Andy Carnduff.

## EVENTS ROUNDUP

<i>WHAT</i>	<i>WHERE</i>	<i>WHEN</i>	<i>WHO</i>
Fixtures Meeting	Forth Cruising Club	Thurs 19 Sept	01383 823373
Autumn Delegates Meeting	Royal Forth Yacht Club	Thurs 16 Nov	01383 823373

## BITS AND TACKLE

The current edition of the FYCA handbook is now available through your club or from local chandlers. It contains information on the FYCA and its member clubs, race details including handicaps, cruising notes and tide tables.

The Anstruther Muster is on 2/3 Sept. Meet in Anstruther after the May Island Race. There will be prizes for the best dressed boat, the smallest boat and the boat that has travelled the furthest.

If you want to know more about the canal there is an exhibition on at Callender House Museum, Falkirk. Full report in the next newsletter.

## FYCA COMMITTEE

Chairman	Bill Cochran	01592 890261
Vice Chairman	David Suttie	01383 822758
Hon Secretary	Willie Allan	01383 823373