

56° Forth



FORTH YACHT CLUBS ASSOCIATION

SUMMER 2000 No.3

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For comments, criticisms and contributions.

CHAIRMAN'S COMMENTS

With the exception of those taking part in the Port Edgar Autumn and Winter series the 2000 season is now almost over. I hope you have all had an enjoyable and successful season.

At the time of writing the FOG and FIG series and the Dinghy championship are completed and the results are given later in this newsletter. The Forth Yacht championship completes with the Carl Dyson Regatta on 7th and 8th October after which we are into the Port Edgar Autumn and Winter series.

This year we developed the Forth Yacht Championship with three new combined club regattas – Mickery, West and Fife – which were all successful in their different ways. I'm glad to say, these are confirmed again for 2001.

Still on racing, ECSW on the Tay was full of sunshine and good winds and the Forth did itself proud with overall wins in the three racing classes and many other excellent performances. More than 20 Forth yachts made the passage to the Tay and had an excellent week as guests of Royal Tay Yacht Club.

Five Port Edgar yachts also travelled to Cork Week and acquitted themselves very well in a high quality, competitive fleet and the Forth also chalked up a class win at West Highland Week.

Fixtures for 2001 were with a few exceptions, confirmed at the FYCA fixtures meeting on 19th September and Jim Scott will shortly be circulating the final programme to member clubs. At this meeting it was also agreed to set up a small working group to investigate a five year event programme to enable clubs to plan further ahead. This will be of particular benefit to those clubs bidding for travellers events and those holding events with tidal constraints.

The FYCA muster at Anstruther was, once more, a great social success with about 80 Forth yachtsmen (and women) enjoying the usual warm welcome from the Anstruther folk and a report on this event appears elsewhere in this newsletter. This event combines both racing and cruising fleets in a single social event and it is disappointing that few individual clubs on the Forth actively support it. Please try

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social event and it is disappointing that few individual clubs on the Forth actively support it. Please try to keep the 2001 date clear of other conflicting events and consider whether you can schedule this event into your club programme.

A report on the current state of the Forth and Clyde canal development is included in this newsletter and this will also be the subject of a report to the Autumn Delegates Meeting. With the opening of the canal for May next year this is a particularly relevant issue. FYCA is currently discussing, with British Waterways, the proposed eastern entry arrangements to the canal which have been giving us some concern.

I mentioned the Port Edgar autumn and winter series. As I am sure you know, this is one of the most successful and enjoyable yacht racing series anywhere. Autumn and winter conditions can be some of the best of the year and these Sunday racing series are organised to Port Edgar's usual high standard. For those who can realistically defer their crane-out day, an autumn stay at Port Edgar is an excellent excuse to extend your season.

May I wish you all, both afloat and ashore, fair weather and good fortune for the remainder of 2000.

Bill Cochran.

Chairman, Forth Yacht Clubs Association

ANSTRUTHER MUSTER

Well if you didn't go to the Anstruther Muster you missed out on a fun weekend. Saturday saw the day start off with a gentle breeze but lumpy seas. After going through a squall somewhere in the middle of the day the wind dropped but the sea remained just the same. This proved to be a problem for the crew on Jezebel. I think they spent quite a bit of time hanging over the side and it wasn't because Jim Scott was shouting at them to get their weight up.

For those of us who were racing it was a long slog and most of the fleet did not make it around May Island. On entering Anstruther harbour we found a gaggle of boats tied up along the pier. The majority of which came from Port Edgar and Limekilns. I know us bods at Limekilns are not renowned for our serious interest in racing but when it comes to a good sail and a bit of socialising you can guarantee there will be a boat from Limekilns there, in fact there were five, racers and cruisers.

The whole idea of the muster is to encourage boats to go to Anstruther and use their spanking new pontoons. For the more competitive there is the May Island race on the Saturday and the Andrew Thomson Trophy race back on the Sunday. For those who like to take it at their own pace it is a very scenic cruise with the opportunity to stop off at places such as Inchcolm and Inchkeith for a spot of lunch before heading onto Anstruther.

On the Saturday night there was a prize giving reception in one of the local halls where sandwiches and pies were provided. The prize for the smallest boat to get there went to Lynes from Port Edgar. Paladin from Limekilns won the prize for the furthest travelled boat, just beating Alouette by one pontoon width, both of them are berthed at Port Edgar. And the one for the best dressed boat went to a local Anstruther boat.

After the reception a number of us retired onto the pier. John Murphy the owner of Alouette had brought a rather large BBQ with him and as he insisted on telling me, sparkling wine chilled by the ice on board. Is he really a serious racer?! At least he managed to intoxicate the local police with his charms when

they came to tell us it was illegal to drink on the pier.

Sunday dawned with a light westerly wind. We had an easterly on the way there! As the morning progressed the wind got lighter, at least the sea was not as bad as on the Saturday. The light wind meant a long sail back but it was warm and sunny so very pleasant.

The May Island race was won by Blyth Spirit in the fast handicap fleet and because of the weather, or was it the smell of the Anstruther fish and chips, there were no finishers in the slow handicap fleet. The Andrew Thomson Trophy was won by Lynes with Cavalier in second place and first in the fast handicap group.

If you weren't there this year then I thoroughly recommend it for next year. The date to put in your diary is **Saturday 8th and Sunday 9th September 2001.**

RACING REPORT

FORTH INSHORE GROUP

| <i>Race</i> | Winners | |
|-----------------------|-------------------|---------------|
| | 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 | Abso\$**%*?lutely | Lynes |
| Blackness Challenge | Rhett Butler | Lynes |
| Gavin Adamson | Blyth Spirit | Lynes |
| May Island | Blyth Spirit | No finishers |
| Andrew Thomson | Cavalier | Lynes |
| Four Inches | None | None |
| Queen Margaret Trophy | Abso\$**%*?lutely | Lynes |

The Four Inches race at Dalgety Bay did not start due to a lack of wind.

Overall winners of FIG

Fast Handicap Cavalier from Burntisland Sailing Club sailed by Bill Cochrane.

Slow Handicap Lynes from Port Edgar Yacht Club sailed by George Fyfe.

FORTH OFFSHORE GROUP

| <i>Race</i> | Winners |
|---------------------|----------------|
| ELYC Bell Rock Race | Alouette |

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| | |
|---------------------|------------|
| Eyemouth Trophy | Rovicus |
| FCYC Bell Rock Race | Hops |
| Scotsman Trophy | Roundabout |
| | |

Overall winner of FOG

Roundabout from FCYC sailed by Brian Pennycook and Ed North

REGATTA SERIES

| <i>Race</i> | Winners | | |
|----------------------|----------------|--------------|------------|
| Mickery Regatta | Lynes | Rhett Butler | Eliza |
| Fisherrow YC Regatta | Shamal | | |
| West Forth Regatta | Lynes | Rhett Butler | Slippi Gin |
| Fife Regatta | Naiad | | |
| Edinburgh Regatta | Hops | Kiral 111 | Lynes |
| Cramond BC Regatta | Billy Bean | Eliza | |
| Carl Dyson Regatta | | | |

The Carl Dyson is still to be raced but the favourite to win is Lynes sitting with 5 points from four results.

FORTH DINGHY CHAMPIONSHIP

| <i>Race</i> | Winners | | |
|----------------------|-----------------|--------|-------------|
| | Helm | Class | Club |
| Dalgety Bay SC | Gavin Fleming | RS 400 | DBSC |
| East Lothian YC | Gavin Fleming | RS 400 | DBSC |
| Largo Bay SC | Not sailed | | |
| Fife Regatta | Gordon Bissett | Laser | Kinghorn SC |
| Elie & Earlsferry SC | Gordon Bissett | Laser | Kinghorn SC |
| Carl Dyson Regatta | Richard Cumming | RS 600 | DBSC |
| | | | |

Overall winner of Dinghy Championship

Gavin Fleming from DBSC sailing a RS 400.

Details of all results can be seen on the FYCA web site at www.fyca.il2.com.

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 visitors 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

RYA REPORT

FYCA have responded to many of the referrals from the Scottish Office via RYAS in respect of works below high water that may affect the navigation of yachts about the Forth. In the main they are technical in substance and have mostly been concerned with the replacement and upgrading of outfall pipes from the various sewage treatment plants.

East of Scotland Water is committed to a clean sea policy and to stop the discharge of raw sewage into the estuary. There is a fairly rigorous monitoring system in place and water quality is improving quite markedly. The Almond, not noted for being particularly clean, has seen the return of salmon into its upper reaches, but it is still pretty dirty.

The one referral that is of interest was for the consolidation and protection of the infill at Granton West Harbour which would enclose the area and make good the Western Jetty thereby providing the protected area in which the proposed marina would be situated. It is important to note that the terms of reference on any referral to FYCA is on navigational grounds only. Environmental, planning and any other aspect of the works are not in our remit. We await developments here with interest.

SSI at Largs is now fully up and running and is attracting major events for 2001. The performance of our top sailors in Oppies, Toppers and Lasers as a result of the coaching schemes are proving successful by the quality of the results as reported in Yachting Life. Our medal hopes at the Sydney Games are, as they say in bowls, looking on, and the Scottish Team in the Commodores Cup signalled the revival of a Scottish Admirals Cup team in embryo.

As the Forth and Clyde Canal is scheduled to re-open in May next year, the Royal Scottish Motor Yacht

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Club are looking to increase membership throughout Scotland and would welcome new members from the Forth.

Contact Norman Holywood via RYAS office.

Graham Crawford 0131 657 1012

RYA rep

Canal Update

The big project is cracking on at the rate of over £4million per month. I recommend a bike trip on the towpath to check out the action and watering holes, particularly while parts of the canal are empty so you can see the cross section and side slopes. The Falkirk section between the Union Inn and Camelon and down to the sealock at the M9 are good for this. Progress is visible in the reopening of the Union canal from the A801 near Polmont to Wester Hailes 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 to Clydebank. The Falkirk Wheel is still in design mode. But the new westward extension of the Union canal, which will 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 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, guaranteed depth in 2001 is 1.8m.

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 £22.00 (which would allow passage both ways and a fortnight's cruising on the Clyde and a little berthing time in the canal)

9 months £63.00 (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).

A 50% reduction is proposed for 2001, 25% in 2002 and the full price in 2003.

Check with BW at 1 Applecross St Glasgow G4 9SP. 0141 3326936. Website www.scottishcanals.co.uk.

Enjoy your cruising

Andy Carnduff. 01383 860306

Inland Waterways rep

EVENTS ROUNDUP

| <i>WHAT</i> | <i>WHERE</i> | <i>WHEN</i> | <i>WHO</i> |
|--------------------------|------------------------|--------------------|-------------------|
| Autumn Delegates Meeting | Royal Forth Yacht Club | Thurs 16 Nov | 0131 657 1012 |
| Spring Delegates Meeting | Dalgety Bay SC | Mon 19 April 2001 | 0131 657 1012 |
| East Coast Sailing Week | Granton | 15-20 July 2001 | 0131 552 3452 |

STOP PRESS

Gordon McKissock from Limekilns is organising a lecture session from British Waterways on the Canal, 1 hour lecture, 1 hour questions. Details as follows.

Queensferry Lodge Hotel (north side of Forth Road Bridge)

Wednesday 1st November 2000 7.30pm – 9.30pm

Cost £1 (any profit will go to RNLI)

Initial contact Gordon McKissock 01383 872870, tickets will be available from Port Edgar YC, Aberdour BC, Dalgety Bay SC and Blackness BC.

There will also be a presentation at FCYC at the end of Nov.

FYCA COMMITTEE

| | | |
|----------------|-----------------|---------------|
| Chairman | Bill Cochran | 01592 890261 |
| Vice Chairman | David Suttie | 01383 822758 |
| Asst Secretary | Graham Crawford | 0131 657 1012 |
| Treasurer | Hugh Fisher | 01592 873375 |

