

Masthead

Fitting out Issue

2009



Editorial

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The week leading up to crane-in saw Royal Forth members involved in a variety of interesting events. – one wedding and two General Meetings.

First of all, congratulations go to the new Mr and Mrs Rogatchevskie whose wedding reception took place at Royal Forth on Saturday, 18th April.

Lotte, daughter of George and Fiona Brown, is well known to members, having been sailing with her family since childhood.

We wish the young couple every happiness and hope they will visit the club whenever they are in Scotland.

During the following week, two General Meetings were held; At the first, club members voted to invest in two Hunter 707s for members' use in keelboat racing, training and leisure sailing. This new venture is being enthusiastically piloted by Kevan Gibb and we look forward to seeing the boats on the water in the near future.

The second General Meeting, held immediately after, involved a rule change in the case of a vacancy arising, to allow election of a Commodore, Vice Commodore or Rear Commodore to take place at a General Meeting other than the Annual one.

This was unanimously carried.

Liz Tulloch
Editor

Clubhouse

Club Hours

The core summer bar hours will be effective from 28th April until 18th October.

They are:-

Tuesday – Thursday	5pm – 9pm
Friday	Noon – 2pm and 5pm – 9pm
Saturday & Sunday	Noon - 8pm

The bar will open for additional hours throughout the year for special events and race nights etc. Meals and light snacks will be available in the club throughout the summer during these hours. We are pleased to announce that Eva will be returning to the club once again to be with us during the summer season.

The Clubhouse carpet was cleaned recently at a cost to the Club of £300. Accordingly, we want to keep it clean for as long as possible. There is now a sign on the staircase asking all members to refrain from wearing work footwear and clothing in the lounge.

Brian Robertson.

Winter Activities.

This seems an appropriate place to thank all those who contributed to our series of Winter Talks and those who organised them.

They were much appreciated and valuable in bringing members together during the quiet season. Members particularly enjoyed the 'new' Forth Bridge presentation and Kenneth Gumley's talks about his travels.

Yachting journalist, Andi Robertson, who had only arrived home on the morning of 18th March from covering the Vendee Globe, gave us a full account of the coverage of the event despite having to cope with technical hitches.



Andi Robertson
Yachting Journalist

From our Vice Commodore



**Edinburgh Regatta
2008**

After a long winter it is great to have the sailing season stretching out ahead.

Tom Wilson and the Sailing committee have put together an excellent programme with a variety of racing and the perennially popular cruises to Aberdour.

Mark Primrose and the Harbour Committee have worked hard getting the moorings and the club boats ready.

The new Handbook is looking good and thanks go to Douglas MacDowall for his work on this essential publication.

The House Committee has not been idle either and, amongst much else, the new door entry system is in place and the web cam up and running again.

Now if we can find a committee to organise some summer weather we will be all set for the season!

June promises to be a busy month with the German Helgoland fleet arriving from about the 3rd of June. The Baltic 60, Hexe, is entered and is likely to be the first to arrive.

A convivial evening is planned for the Saturday night when Trinity Occasional Pipers will be on parade and more music during the evening. Food will be available so do come and enjoy what is always a pleasant evening with our German guests.

On the following week, the Orkney race sets off, and I hope they all get better weather to make the trip this year. The start is on Thursday evening and it would be great to have some boats out to see them off.

To round off a busy fortnight, the Sparkman and Stephens Association have chosen Edinburgh for their AGM. More visiting boats for this, two expected with the Helgoland fleet, some from the south coast and it is hoped that Tenacious, the Custom 61, will be coming for her first UK visit following her well documented restoration and definitely worth a walk down the pontoons to see.

Thanks go to the large number of Club members who volunteer to make everything happen. I look forward to seeing you all on the water.

**Fiona Brown
Vice Commodore**

Generous Bequest to The Seagull Trust

It was revealed this month that Mr William Turnbull, 'Badger' who died last year, bequeathed £25000 to the Seagull Trust.

He had always taken a keen interest in the Trust, assisting on the boats when he was home from the sea and when he retired he developed his interest in the Canal and became a Skipper.

This generous donation was presented by Marshall Napier.

Harbour Matters

Tales from the Mud Worms

Many of you will be happy to pass quickly over this item to more interesting articles on high adventure sailing, snappy new boats and who are the high profile sailors of the season but I will continue regardless.

As you stare out of the clubhouse window to the harbour on a rain lashed mid-summer sea, spare a thought for what it looks like when the tide goes out. Apart from the boats there is lots of mud and underneath the mud we are reliably informed there are the ground chains that have been there for forty years.

Now while like the “Mary Rose” the mud may be protecting these vital club assets, from time to time there have been breakages which the notable Mr W Thompson has repaired. However, after all this time ,a proper inspection is required and the Harbour Committee have let power go to their heads and asked Bill Simpson of “Conserver” to look at how this could be done.

Over the summer Trot 1 will have the chain lifted and inspected and if it proves to be sound then it will be re-laid with new risers attached. If it isn't sound then new chain will have to be put down with risers.

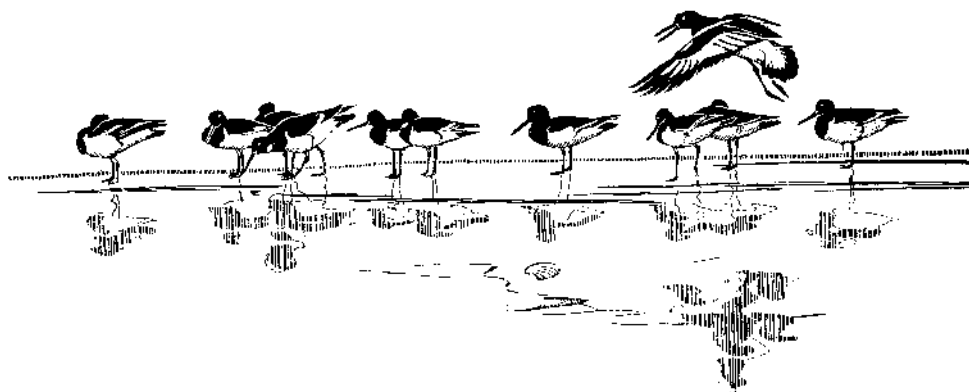
The reason for starting with Trot 1 is that the chain is slightly lighter and a method of lifting and laying can be perfected without having to move numbers of boats. With the experience gained from Trot 1 a gradual inspection of all the ground chains can then take place but ,as with all buried treasure, this process will not be completed overnight and care will need to be taken in regard to costs.

Speaking of costs, over the winter the club has paid to have all the risers checked and replaced where required. There will also be six new moorings laid in the West harbour and work on this is proceeding.

The club has a new pressure washer which will remove slime, seaweed and various molluscs from the slip, as my stinking trousers leg bottoms will testify, so that with regular use the launching and recovery of dinghies can be done without mishap.

Good Sailing

**Mark Primrose,
Rear Commodore**



A Little bit of Pride in our Yard...

With the numbers increasing in dinghies and cadet membership at the club, we would like to make more room for them during the summer months. As an RYA training centre the plan is to make the 'yard' into a recognised dinghy park for members. The purpose for this is to be more organised, for the club to be smarter and in turn attract new members. We hope to host the Scottish Topper Championships this summer and we also need space.

After lift in the yard will be clear of most boats. We intend to use 60% of the park for dinghies. This will mean that all boats not being craned in for the summer will be at the top end the yard. Anything that is requiring storage during the sailing season (cradles, ladders, wooden chocks etc) will be moved into one area.

The new layout would mean all dinghies will have allocated areas for each class, they would be clearly marked and a position in the park reserved for each dinghy. For the larger dry sailed classes such as SB3's we would use the same area at the top of the slip. Any yacht or day boat that is dry sailed will be kept slightly further up the park on the sea wall area, this is so we can maximise the dinghy park area.

One week after crane in we intend to have another yard cleaning session. We would ask that you clearly mark all your belongings in association with your boat (cradles etc) and move these to the new storage area. After this date items left unclaimed will go into another holding area and could run the risk of being skipped.

There is a large number of unused rowing dinghies/tenders in the racks. These will be removed unless clearly marked . The office should have a note of any craft you have in the yard.

Before lift-out all dinghies will be removed and the Park will revert back for boat storage during the winter months.

We would love the club to look tidy and welcoming and thank you in advance for your co-operation.

Douglas MacDowall



The Yard



Racers assemble for the 2007 Orkney Race

Racing, Cruising and just Plain Sailing

Another busy season is about to start and we have something to suit all our members. Our first major event is the James Gibb Property Management Ltd. Spring Series for Dinghies, starting on Wednesday 29th April. This is the second year of this event and we are grateful for the continued support of our sponsors.

The Opening Regatta on Saturday 9th May, will, for the first time in a few years, feature two handicap classes for keelboats. Thursday 11th June sees the second running of the Orkney Race. We are expecting a good entry and at least one boat from Orkney will be coming down to take part. Several cruises to Aberdour have been planned and these always prove popular.

The Sailing Instruction booklet is now available to those who intend to take part in our races. It also contains a list of Race Officers, Royal Forth Drivers, Safety Boat Drivers and Assistants. This year we have slightly changed the method of designating the Race Officer. In some cases the boat has been named rather than the individual. If you have not been allocated a duty and feel you would like to help out, please contact a member of the Sailing Committee.

Once again this season we will be using handicaps as issued by the Forth Yacht Clubs Association. If you would like to take part in the racing, but do not have an FYCA handicap don't worry, we can provide a temporary handicap, just contact the Sailing Secretary. We will again be operating a 'White Sail' allowance for those not wishing to use a spinnaker or cruising chute. Application forms for the allowance are available at the club notice board and should be returned to the Sailing Secretary. Please note that we will require a new application for this season.

Safety plays an important part in our racing and we use the FYCA Safety Regulations in all our events and these are available in the Sailing Instruction booklet. There have been a few changes to the regulations this year, the main one being that a VHF Radio, fixed or handheld, must be carried whilst racing. All owners should familiarise themselves with these regulations and ensure that they can conform to them. Any owner that feels they are unable to meet any of the requirements of the Safety Regulations should speak to the Sailing Secretary, as it may be possible for exemptions to be given from specific regulations.

On Wednesday 6th May we will be holding a pre-season update for Race Officers, however anyone interested in racing is welcome to come along.

Tom Wilson
Sailing Secretary

Safety at Sea

Awareness of measures necessary for your own and your crew's safety is an important part of sailing.

A demonstration of safety equipment was recently given at Port Edgar by Guthrie Stewart of Forth-sail and several important points emerged.

First, please make sure that your lifejacket is efficient and ready to work. It must have a crotch strap attached. This is a very necessary piece of kit for without the strap the jacket will float up on top of you which is useless.

Straps can be obtained at the Bosun's Locker.

In an emergency do not pull the inflation cord before entering the water as there is a risk of injury.

At a lifejacket clinic manned by the RNLI, I found that mine had recently been added to the recall list by Seago. I sent it back and received a new one by return. This is good service

The RNLI also demonstrated the use of flares and gave advice on their use.

Liz Tulloch



No crotch strap fitted



Strap fitted



Lifejacket Clinic

Dinghy Racing Season Begins

The James Gibb Property Management Series will again launch Dinghy Racing Events at Granton when they host their Spring Series on 29th April.

The Dinghy section grew considerably last year and it is hoped that, weather permitting, some of those who made their debut on the racing scene last year will graduate to taking part in a real series.

This was a great success in 2008 with visitors coming from Dalgety Bay, Loch Tummel, East Lothian and Largo Bay and the Club looks to have similar results this year.

If you haven't already signed up for this event, do so now. It's a great opportunity to get yourself and your boat into racing trim. - but hurry up, there's not much time left.



Calling All Dinghy Sailors

Tuesday Evening Training

Evening training will commence on the water for all willing participants on Tuesday 5th May at 6.15 for 7.00pm.

Activities take place in the club Toppers and RS Vision with assistance provided for beginners and more experienced dinghy sailors.

Everyone who is interested in attending Tuesday evenings over the year is invited to the club on Tuesday 28th April to sign up and to assist with boat preparation.

Thursday Dinghy Evenings

This year dinghy evenings are programmed for every second Thursday commencing 14th May.

Where possible the format will be that of short fun races for all interested with assistance given where appropriate. This is also an opportunity just to come along and sail, knowing you will have company and a rescue boat in the vicinity of the racing.

It is hoped that participants in the Tuesday Evenings will be able to develop their own skills and benefit from a less regulated format

Stewart Robertson and Charles Morton..



RYA Coaches at Granton

RYA Coaching Course

An RYA Coaching Course was held in Granton Harbour during late March, attended by Stewart Robertson, RFYC Senior Instructor, Kevan Gibb Largo SC & RFYC Instructor, Ben Wilcox, Kenneth Laing and Euan Lyall, all assistant instructors from East Lothian.

David Frame from Cumbria National Water Sports Centre ran the course.

The event was conducted in Toppers in lively sailing conditions but with bright sunshine. All passed successfully and are ready to put their skills at the service of their clubs, etc.

The Editor

Helgoland to Edinburgh Race Open Meeting Monday 4th May 7.30pm

This year we will again welcome yachts from Germany taking part in the 21st Helgoland to Edinburgh Yacht Race. The yachts leave Helgoland on Monday 1st June and most will arrive from Thursday 4th until Friday 5th June.

We organise a finish line for this event which is laid just north of the harbour entrance and we run a radio safety watch and log and provide finish times for competitors. This runs for around 48 hours from Wednesday night . This service is run by members in shifts and ideally a member of each shift should have a radio licence. It is run mostly from the comfort of the clubhouse with visits to the pier end to acknowledge finishers.

There is a very social element to the stay in Granton. The members offer help to the crews so that they get the most out of their visit. The clubhouse will be offering breakfasts, lunches and suppers for tired hungry crews. The showers will be working overtime and as they all arrive the regatta office swings into gear for 4 days of busy action. We organise euro exchange for beer money, sail and other repairs, diesel, act as a tourist office, book car hire, bed and breakfasts, organise flights home and offer club goods and special commemorative clothing for sale. If there are German speakers out there we would be very glad of any help you can give.

For entertainment we have organised a bus tour for Saturday followed by a BBQ in the evening. If there are any musicians out there we would welcome you down to the yacht club on Saturday evening as our German guests have made a special request for music of all sorts and would like to sing along.

Want to sail back? In the tradition of past years it may be possible for members to get a berth on a yacht on the return leg or if a member wishes to be the first one to race there then come along to the initial evening to register interest .

There will be a meeting on the evening of **Monday 4th May from 7.30pm** please come along to find out more about how you can help. If you want to help but can't come along that night please ask either Tom Wilson, race finish line or Cathy Sedgeworth, regatta office team how you can help.

E-mail contacts **Tom Wilson:** tomwilson.smithereen@blueyonder.co.uk
Cathy Sedgeworth: cathy_sedgeworth@blueyonder.co.uk



**Some of the German racers
On Edinburgh Marina Pontoons**

Sparkman & Stephens Association Visit to Edinburgh

12/14th June 2009.

The Sparkman & Stephens Association have chosen to visit Edinburgh this year to hold their Annual General Meeting and Gala Dinner.

Hosted by Royal Forth Yacht Club, the event will have a Scottish Highland flavour and will take place from 12th –14th June, allowing for a gathering of S&S yachts and enabling some of the Dutch and German members competing in the Helgoland Race to attend.

An interesting programme is planned starting with racing on the Forth on the afternoon of Friday 12th. In the evening there will be a Champagne Reception on board the Royal Yacht Britannia where they will be welcomed by Hamish Mackay, Chairman of RYA Scotland.

Saturday 13th June sees the visitors exploring Edinburgh's historic sights and holding their Gala Dinner in the New Club when there will be a guest speaker after Dinner

On the final day, Sunday 14th the Annual General Meeting will be held in the Royal Forth Club-house at 10 am followed by a lunch at the Loch Fyne Seafood Restaurant in Newhaven. A sail under the Forth Road Bridge is planned for the afternoon and the weekend comes to a close with Edinburgh's celebrated Ghost Tour.

The Yachts..

At the latest count, the following yachts are expected to arrive at RFYC in June. The list gives a good example of the diverse range of designs and materials used in the construction of S&S yachts built over the years.

Besides being designed by Sparkman & Stephens, they all have one other thing in common, they are all very pleasing to look at.

Shenanigan of Hamble	She33	1978	Grimsby
Sherpa	She 36		Burnham on Crouch
Tenacious	Custom 61		Enkhuizen, Netherlands
First visit to UK having just been fully renovated in the Netherlands.			
Tramp of Airlie	Custom 45		Grimsby
Admirals Cup Design flush decked racer built for the Italian Team			
Sasha	Custom 42		Hamburg, Germany
Sasha will be taking part in the Helgoland Race on route to S&S AGM			
Rubicon	Tartan 34		Hamburg, Germany
First Tartan 34 to be constructed in the States, she will also be taking part in the Helgoland Race.			
Rumbuster	S&S 36		Edinburgh.

Waiting for the crane

As we get ready for launching day, it only remains for us to hope that the weatherman is kind and sends a quiet, sunny day and the harbour is full of boats again.

Thanks go to all contributors to this issue

May I take this opportunity of wishing you all good sailing in 2009.

Liz Tulloch
Editor.