

FAIRWIND

Spring 2016

Forth Corinthian Yacht Club

Annual lift-in another 'spectacular' success

Commodore's BRIEFING



This year's lift-in on 9th April was another spectacular success, with a total of 34 boats and four masts lifted into the harbour in just under eight hours. Again the weather smiled on us. Though it was dull at first, the sun soon came out and shone for most of the day. Most importantly, there was no rain!

Due to an exceptionally low tide one or two boats ran aground after being lifted in but it was simply a matter of waiting for the tide to come in a little before they could be taken round to the East Harbour.

'We should have had another four boats and a mast to lift,' said George Mackay, Harbour Secretary, 'but late call-offs meant we had at least an hour to spare from the original schedule.'

The crane arrived at the yard on good time at 6.45am and was set up to start lifting by 7.50am. All the lifting was finished by 3.30pm. It was then a matter of the crane packing up and all the boats and trailers that had been put outside the yard the day before being pushed back.

'Thanks to all who turned out on the Friday, who turned up early before the lifting started and who stayed after the crane went away,' said George. 'Special mention should be given to the ladies who served rolls, tea and coffee all day—Linda Pennycook, Eve Mackenzie and Frances McDougal I also think the crane operatives and Lachie McMillan need a mention. It's a long day without a lunch break, grabbing rolls and coffee on the hoof.'

Welcome to *Fairwind* Spring 2016 It is good to see our popular periodical magazine *Fairwind* back in circulation again!

Sonja Brodie in recent years, as Editor, built *Fairwind* up into a wonderful publication, before she sailed off on a great sailing adventure. Our valiant Jim Glass has kept things ticking over but is now busy being Honorary Treasurer and developing our website. I am therefore delighted to welcome John Hunter as new *Fairwind* Editor and know with your support it will become again a great read!

We have had a good social programme over the winter months and I hope you have now completed all your grand refit plans and are looking forward to a great sailing season.

You will have seen our website is developing well and we plan to continue improving it to help members keep up to date with club activities and news.

Let us hope for better sailing weather this season—we are due a good summer!

I am looking forward to seeing you all on the water.

Frank Martin
Commodore

DID YOU KNOW ... ?

... that when the eastern breakwater at Granton Harbour was being built in 1853, the outer 1000ft was built first, using stone from Granton Quarry. The stone was brought along the western breakwater, then taken across to the new section via a wooden bridge!

NEWHAVEN COASTAL ROWERS

The new boat being built by the Newhaven Coastal Rowers is fast taking shape. It is a Wemyss skiff and is being put together at Chris Early's 'Woodsavvy' workshop near Crieff. It is anticipated that it will be ready to launch this summer.

While the existing boat, The Wee Michael, needs a crew of five, the new boat (as yet nameless) is designed for one or two rowers (or scullers), with or without a cox, and can even be sculled by a single person!

The rowers are currently looking



to expand their membership. If any Corinthians are keen to get out of the harbour on a windless day, email Newhavencoastalrowers@gmail.com.

TRINITY SEA CADETS

We may be a small unit without affluent parents but we punch well above our weight—and we are looking forward to another successful year in 2016

Petty officer cadet Laura Wharton was awarded the prestigious Leadership Award for 2015 after her attendance at the Leadership Course at Britannia Royal Naval College at Dartmouth.

Last year the cadet summer camp was held at the Weymouth Sea Cadet Centre and it was so successful in terms of the training provided and the enjoyment by the cadets that we will be going again this June. The camp will allow the cadets to take part in RYA courses in sailing, powerboating and windsurfing, as well as kayaking, climbing and mountain biking.

The Sea Cadet Corps offers a variety of choices and experiences to young people between the ages of 10 and 18. For more information on the unit please contact the Commanding Officer, Walter Lewis, or the Chair of the Management Committee, Graham Russell, both FCYC members. The unit can also be contacted through our Facebook site at Edinburgh Trinity Sea Cadets and Royal Marine Cadets or at info@trinityseacadets.org.uk.

Graham Russell, Trinity Sea Cadets

From BEGINNERS TO

Martin Palmer and Pam Strachan share
sail round the canals of Scotland



Firstly we want to thank the members of Forth Corinthians who gave us help and support on this trip. We have been sailing with the club for about eight years and enjoy adventure but this trip's passage planning was daunting.

Our trip took 563 nautical miles, went through 84 locks and three canals and used 40 litres of diesel.

We set off Sunday 29th June, from Granton to Carron Basin. Next morning



we started off through the Forth & Clyde canal but took three days to get to Bowling in the Clyde Estuary. We love the canal but two episodes of clogging weed dented our appreciation. Most-up, we set off to Holy Loch, arriving on Thursday afternoon, to survive a storm during a sleep-deprived night, luckily on the pontoon.

We sailed off to Rothesay for a Sunday break. Rain was forecast later on Monday so we left early afternoon for our first anchored night at Wreck Bay in the Kyles of Bute. We visited Tarbert for one night that turned out to be two as a 22-knot northerly made getting to Ardrishaig impossible. Then it was off and through

the Crinan Canal, which now operates the locks for you since Scottish Waterways lost some of its grant and has increased fees by 100 per cent! This speeds things up, however, so two days later we were through and we took a day off to gear up for the scary-by-reputation Dorus Mor. After a misty start we set out for Oban and had an eventful sail changing trip up to Kerrera Marina. Pam liked this sail the best with its tidal currents.

After a break we sailed down to Easdale then anchored in Puilldohran for a beautiful evening. Dunstaffnage was next for a couple of nights before pushing off to Lochaline for an incredible sail topping 6.5 knots for a couple of rainy days. We tried to get to Paul's mooring

Improved moorings

It was a very productive and busy year for the 174-year lease on the yard with improved facilities in partnership with the Royal Forth Yacht Club (RFYC) and the Forth Harbour Marine Company Ltd, an improved lease agreement with the Forth Ports for moorings in the east and west harbours.

With the new agreement Corinthians no longer have to pay for the use of the Royal Forth. The downside is we now have to maintain the previously serviced moorings ourselves.

The west harbour moorings have also been re-arranged and split between the clubs. The drawback here was that the new arrangement resulted in one-off additional work required this winter.

Working together with the RFYC, most of the moorings in the west harbour were lifted and repositioned to maximize the use of the east harbour. Again with RFYC help, the previously leased east harbour moorings were serviced and handed over for maintenance in the coming years.

TO INVERNESS



the wonderful memories of a five-week
Scotland and the Great Glen.



in Salen but had to turn back to Oban with engine trouble, however we had a wonderful sail down the Sound of Mull.

Engine fixed we returned and set out for the Corpach entrance to the Caledonian Canal. The next day it was up Neptunes Flight to Laggan. The Caledonian Canal is so wide and has such interesting boats in it, but we weren't too keen on Loch Ness as it seemed dead. We needed to get out of Inverness early morning for the tide which pushed us under the Kessok Bridge at 8.5 knots! We motored to Lossiemouth and took a day off. Then it was a lovely sail to Whitehills on a southerly reach but it stopped us getting round Rattray Head so we left the boat for a week of favourable

weather.

We rounded the tip to Peterhead and stayed the night, carrying on to delightful Stonehaven. What a contrast! We chummed up with pals we'd met for the next leg to Anstruther at 50 nautical miles.

We were just ahead of a storm, but had a great sail down, only to be hit by a violent squall as we got near the harbour. We scraped out the next day and got into Granton in the early afternoon of 2nd September.

It took us five weeks sailing over nine calendar weeks, as we had to return to an aged cat. There were ups and downs aplenty but some wonderful memories we'll treasure. We're going west again this year. Will we never learn?

mooring lease agreed

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RFYC) through Edin-
agreement with Forth
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moorings in the west
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or FCYC to own and

For the record we now have 41 east harbour, 8 south slip and 20 west harbour moorings to maintain.

The Harbour Committee consists of George Mackay, John McLaren, Ian Dawson, Robin Fowler and Mark Hartswood. In event of emergency or mooring related advice please contact one of the team.

With the additional mooring responsibilities it is even more relevant that I remind boat owners requiring a mooring in Granton Harbour that they must take part in work parties whether it is on the water or in the yard. This year we had a fairly good turnout from the membership but inevitably it was the same faces that turned out in all weathers. It might be that the regulars like to get cold and wet or just use the sessions to save money on gym fees but without them we could not call ourselves a self-help club.

Please join with me in thanking the regular attendees and if you have not attended a work party look to how you might do so in the future.

George Mackay, Harbour Secretary

Carrier gets ready to go

The new Queen Elizabeth class aircraft carrier currently being assembled at Rosyth Naval Base is expected to leave the Forth in the fourth quarter of 2016. Look out for it! A full survey of the Forth has been carried out by the Royal Navy in preparation for its departure.

Pontoon closure

The pontoon is to be closed temporarily for maintenance work and repairs. Contrary to previous expectations it will not be closing completely, however. Sections will be closed at a time to repair connecting pins, woodwork and floats. A new pontoon will also be slotted in to replace a worn-out one in accordance with the ongoing maintenance schedule. 'We will also be repositioning the pontoon anchors and chain as required,' said Harbour Secretary George Mackay.

Channel restriction

Closure of one or other of the channels below the new Queensferry Crossing is expected to begin in May as the final stage of construction of the new bridge begins. The weekly schedule can be found at <http://mit.fcbcjv.co.uk/DeckDeployment/index.html>. Vessels approaching the bridge are encouraged to call on channel 8, the working channel, to find out which is closed. There have been a number of unfortunate infringements of the safety zone, which is there to protect sailors. The bridge is expected to be completed in October/November.

Granton regatta

Preparations are now well under way for this year's sail/row/run regatta, organised by Newhaven Coastal Rowers in collaboration with Forth Corinthians. It will take place on 18th June and if last year's event is anything to go by will be a huge success.

Bridge safety

Five incidents involving recreational craft were reported last year, the most serious infringements of the bridge safety zone being a collision between a RIB and a yacht, two dangerous manoeuvres in front of an oncoming tanker and a single hander knocked overboard in a gybe off Inchkeith (who was lucky to survive).

DID YOU KNOW ... ?

When it's completed the new Queensferry Crossing will be the tallest bridge in the UK. The current tallest is the Forth Road Bridge!

Events Calendar for 2016 sailing season

As you will see from the Events Calendar below we have over 30 planned events during the sailing season. Whether you are a 'full-on' racer or just want a quiet day out on your boat, I hope there will be something there for you.

At the time of writing, most of us were still trying to fit out and get the masts up. Over the past few days the yard has been a hive of activity and as is the way with our club it is plain to see that there is a fantastic camaraderie, with helpers and advisors (so many advisors ...).

In any recent compilation of the most used terms one might find 'it wisnae me', 'it's no mine', 'Ah widnae dae it that wye', 'it's upside doon', 'Pull that rope', 'What rope?' and 'Ah'm gled that's no ma boat'. However, as Corinthians we get through and somehow enjoy the pleasures of boating!

And now the boating part of club membership is upon us. It is time to put away the magazines, the books, iPads, tablets etc that have kept us going in the past few dark months and get out there on the water.

You will hopefully find what information you need in the handbook. I will email the membership from time to time to gently encourage folks out. I am hoping for good sailing weather this season. I am assured that it can only be better than last year! So let's see a 'Corinthian Fleet' out there on the Forth. Good sailing!

PS: There might be prizes for the biggest cock-up since lift-in, rigging issues, leaky craft etc. What do you know that should be shared? Contact John Hunter for inclusion in *Fairwind*.

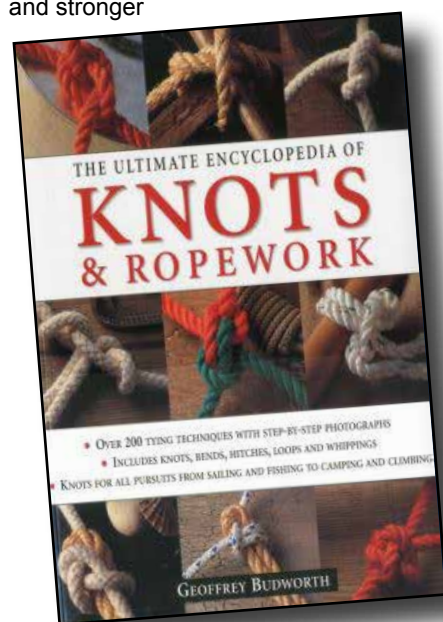
Eddie Myatt, Sailing Secretary.

	DAY	DATE	EVENT	HW (BST)	START (BST)	RACE OFFICER
1	SAT	09 APR	LIFT IN	04:34	07:00	G MACKAY
2	WED	27 APR	Training on the water 1	18:56	19:00	All welcome
3	SAT	30 APR	Parade of Sail (Commodore's Regatta & BBQ) (Wardie bay)	08:51	12:00	All welcome
4	SAT	07 MAY	Port Edgar Stern Chase	15:46	13:00	An Cala
5	TUE	10 MAY	Training on the water 2	18:16	19:00	All welcome
6	FRI	13 MAY	Friday White Sail 1	21:10	19:00	Apparition
7	SAT	14 MAY	Bass Rock (FIG div 1&2)	09:17	11:00	Belle Ile
8	SUN	15 MAY	(JPR 1) Marsh & Surry Cup	10:27	10:30	RFYC (?)
9	SAT	21 MAY	Ladies Race/BBQ Aberdour	15:22	12:00	Smij
10	SUN	22 MAY	Cruise in Company 1	15:57	TBA	All Welcome
11	WED	25 MAY	Training on the water 3	18:27	19:00	All welcome
12	FRI	27 MAY	Friday White Sail 2	19:12	19:00	Misty Blue
13	THU	09 JUN	Training on the water 4	18:47	19:00	All Welcome
14	FRI	10 JUN	Friday White Sail 3	19:35	19:00	Ouzel
15	SAT	11 JUN	(JPR 2) Wilson cup/West cup	07:42	11:00	Foillan
16	SAT	18 JUN	FCYC Sail / Row / Run	14:12	TBA	All welcome
17	SUN	19 JUN	Cruise in company 2 (Father's Day)	14:55	TBA	All welcome
18	FRI	24 JUN	Friday White Sail 4	18:17	19:00	Malin
19	TUE	28 JUN	Training on the water 5	20:55	19:00	All welcome
20	SAT	02 JUL	Bell Rock Trophy (ECSW Feeder)	13:42	11:00	TBA
21	TUE	12 JUL	Training on the water 6	21:25	19:00	All welcome
22	FRI	15 JUL	EDINBURGH REGATTA (Feeder race)	17:10	TBA	PEYC
23	SAT	16 JUL	EDINBURGH REGATTA	12:50	TBA	All Welcome
23	SUN	16 JUL	EDINBURGH REGATTA	13:42	TBA	All welcome
24	SUN	31 JUL	Cruise in company 3	13:30	TBA	All welcome
25	SUN	07 AUG	(JPR 3) Jubilee Cup	18:27	TBA	RFYC (?)
26	FRI	12 AUG	Friday White sail 5	22:37	19:30	Maxine
27	SUN	14 AUG	Cruise in company 4	12:17	TBA	All welcome
28	SUN	21 AUG	(JPR 4) Scott Shield / Crawford cup	17:40	TBC	Eclipse
29	FRI	26 AUG	Friday White Sail 6	17:34	18:00	An Cala
30	SUN	04 SEP	Wickes Trophy- Stern chase	14:19	12:00	TBA
31	SAT	10 SEP	(JPR 5) Inchkeith Trophy	08:57	13:00	TBA
32	SUN	18 SEP	Cruise in company 5	16:47	TBA	All welcome
33	FRI	23 SEP	Dunbar folk Festival	20:35	TBA	
	SAT	24 SEP	Dunbar folk Festival	09:20	TBA	
	SUN	25 SEP	Dunbar folk Festival	10:47	TBA	

BOOK review

Just because you can tie a beautiful bowline and a shapely sheet bend doesn't mean you know all there is to know about knots. There's always more to learn and the book under review here, *The Ultimate Encyclopedia of Knots and Ropework* is a good place to start.

Ropes and knots have been with us since neolithic times. The first crop grown by European hunter-gatherers was flax to make ropes with, not a grain for food. Nowadays most ropes are made from synthetic fibres which tend to be lighter and stronger



than their size-for-size vegetable equivalents. The book explains the various types of rope that are available—laid, braided, plaited, sheath-and-core—and the advantages and disadvantages of each.

There is a little more on ropes—breaking strengths, care of cordage and so on—but the bulk of the book is devoted to knots, over 200 in all. The knots are classified into five categories: angling/fishing, boating/sailing, caving/climbing, general purpose and outdoor pursuits.

Among the knots used by mariners we find bends such as the bowline, the anchor and the siezing, hitches such as the clove, mooring and pedigree cow(!), as well as knots such as the figure-of-eight, the sheepshank and the fireman's coil

All things considered, this is an excellent book, clearly written and well illustrated. It's available from Amazon for £12.99. A good buy.

The Ultimate Encyclopedia of Knots and Ropework, by Geoffrey Budworth (2014) is published by Hermes House, London.