



FAIRWIND



Newsletter of the Forth Corinthian Yacht Club, Summer 2013

Summer Is Here*



*well it was when Fairwind went to print

A new sailing season is upon us, and not far behind, a new issue of Fairwind! We've got a round up of Social Events, the early season racing results, and a piece on the current status of the club with regard to ensuring its long term future in Granton. And of course some other pieces cleverly designed to fill four sides of A4 for your delight and education (yes, it's true: we have a *Twitter* account).

It's worth making mention here of the Tuesday 'Training on the Water' events which are open to all members - get in touch with Frank Martin if you'd like to attend. It's a good way to meet other members and you don't even need a boat. Check the Club Handbook for dates - there are additional copies of the Handbook in the Bell Block if you need them. And don't forget that the

club continues to have a social evening every Monday in the Bell Block, so drop in and bring a bottle if you wish (just keep your eye on it once opened).

Let's hope that we get a good spell of weather and we can all enjoy the summer to its full. Fairwinds!

For Your Diaries

Edinburgh Regatta: 22 & 23 June

The Edinburgh Regatta includes a separate Fleet - Cruiser Class, based on our Friday White Sail format with a few simple variations and some longer courses to try to get more people, who do not normally race, out to join in the fun. Please have a think about it - it would be great to see a few more FCYC yachts on the water !

Stories, comments, photos -
forthcorinthians@gmail.com

Social Events

Although we may think that our season started at lift in on April 6th (for the record, 35 boats were lifted in, one lifted out and two were lifted over) members have enjoyed a number of well-attended and successful social events over the Winter, thanks in no small part to our Social Convener, Pam Strachan.

After a rollicking Christmas Party and Prizegiving, the Trinity Bowling Club hosted a hardly more sedate affair: The Annual Burns Supper with some jaw-droppingly excellent entertainment...



On Saturday 16th February we enjoyed a Double Bill with Iain Gray talking about his voyage in Aros More to the Faroe Islands and the reminiscences of Ian Dawson (well, those he could remember) on his two week Pub Crawl in Maxine. That was followed a couple of weeks later by a Quiz Night with our resident Quiz Master, Paul Taylor (yes, with jaw-droppingly (again) obscure questions), and later in March by an evening of Sea Shanties.

Pam is already planning a major event towards the end of the season, and we'll look forward to that in the next issue of Fairwind. Finally, no prizes for guessing this duo....



Granton Developments

by the Commodore, *Paul Taylor*

I thought I should do my best to bring members up to date with the efforts being made to secure the club's long term future in Granton.

As most of you will know we lease both our yard and half of our moorings from Forth Ports Authority. We lease the rest of our moorings from the Royal Forth Yacht Club who in turn lease them from Forth Ports. We have a very short lease on the yard and an annual lease on the moorings. Clearly this situation is unsatisfactory. We tried to address the yard problem in 2011/12 by attempting to purchase Plot 7A., the empty land to the west of our yard. Unfortunately an offshore investment company took that piece of land as part of a job lot. We have since then been trying to negotiate with Forth Ports to buy part of the Middle Pier to create a permanent base for the club. Initially they would not consider our offer as they were hoping that the Middle Pier would be used as the southern terminus of a new passenger ferry to Fife. Inevitably the ferry has failed to materialise but now Forth Ports have involved themselves with a developer. They have sold PIP Asset Management the option on various parcels around the harbour, including, according to PIP, the Gunpowder Store and other bits of the Middle Pier. Forth Ports are unwilling to negotiate with us while they have hopes of a golden future with PIP. In the meantime PIP have lodged a planning application for the Granton area which includes creating a marina in the west harbour, turning the Gunpowder store into a clubhouse to be shared by the Granton clubs and making parts of the Middle Pier available as a community boatyard. It is suggested that PIP have only made this application so that they might renew their options with Forth Ports.

We have responded to this impasse in a number of ways. In the past Forth Ports have been unwilling to speak seriously to a variety of individual clubs. We have now, with the RFYC, the Port o' Leith Motor Boat Club and a commercial operator formed the Edinburgh Harbours Users Group, covering both Granton and Newhaven Harbours. The Users Group has met a number of times and has submitted its comments on the recent planning application to the council. Representatives from this group have also met with the Scottish Divisional Director of Forth Ports to discuss a more sustainable future for the harbour. There are indications that FP is now more willing to look at other solutions to the harbour problem, should the current prospective developer fail. The engagement of the Port with the Users Group is very positive.

There is a growing understanding that our club's problems in Granton are greater than just achieving a boatyard: the harbour is silting up, the timbers on the pier are rotting away. There is a danger that Forth Ports might just fence off areas for "health and safety" reasons. We do not want Granton to become the next Bo'ness or Methil. The harbour requires investment: its current owners have no commercial interest in it and thus seem unwilling to invest. The Harbour Users Group

is at a very early stage in exploring the implications of trying to turn Granton into a Harbour Trust. Trust status would mean separation from Forth Ports, the ability to raise investment funding but also responsibility for the liabilities: the breakwaters, the middle pier and the rest. The Corinthians would be one of the stakeholders in any future harbour trust. The route to trust status is very long and requires parliamentary approval. It does not provide a short term solution to our problems.

Our club is represented on a number of levels across the Scottish yachting and recreational boating world: on the Forth Yacht Clubs Association, on the Forth Forum, on the general council of the RYA Scotland and on the Scottish Parliament's Cross Party Working Group on recreational boating and marine tourism. The Granton issue is now discussed on all these levels. The main agenda item at the September meeting of Scottish Parliaments Cross Party Group will be "Focus on the Forth". Both Forth Ports and Edinburgh City Council are being asked to attend. There is a growing realisation that marine tourism brings with it a lot of money and that facilities for recreational boating do act as a catalyst for regeneration. Yachting facilities on the West Coast have greatly benefited from "Malin Waters" (google it), an initiative by the Scottish and Irish Governments that has attracted European development funding to improve marine tourism facilities. There are new marina facilities sprouting up in a number of places in the west. It would be greatly to our benefit were there to be such an initiative on the East Coast.

All this talk of Harbour Trusts and Scottish Parliament initiatives is about a very long term change in attitudes towards marine tourism and decent boating facilities in Scotland's capital city and it may indeed turn out to be no more than talk. In the short term we continue with our short and unsatisfactory lease on the yard. The threat of the ferry has gone away and the developer currently interested in the harbour has made generous provision for community boating in their plan. We will continue our dialogue with the Port reminding them of our willingness to buy land on the middle pier. We have developed more positive relationships with the main stakeholders in Granton and by creating structures that will allow partnership working to take place we have opened the way to better co-operation with the Port. We have considerably strengthened our network which should increase our resilience should our position be threatened.

Should any member wish any further information regarding what steps we have been taking to secure the club's future or should anyone have suggestions as to other avenues that we might explore then please contact me.

The Season so Far

Opening Regatta and Parade of Sail – 27 April.

Despite very light and variable wind eight yachts started. As the fleet jostled for position for two hours it became clear that no one would complete the full course with the time limit and the Race Officer shortened course near East Gunnet. Three Yachts crept



Opening Regatta: Eclipse

on nip and tuck to the finish with ECLIPSE edging into 1st Place, followed by KASHANGI II taking 2nd by a whisker from GUSTO coming in 3rd. A yard BBQ after sailing, which started in the sunshine, was enjoyed by all, until typically the cold wind returned with a vengeance, resulting in a mad rush to shelter in the Bell Block.



Stern Chase: Corsair

Port Edgar Stern Chase – 04 May. Despite very blustery conditions four yachts started. With winds gusting over 30 kts on the nose CORSAIR and GUSTO wisely retired after a hard slog to windward which clearly would not get them to Port Edgar within the time limit. When CORSAIR turned off the wind it was a beautiful sight to see her winging gracefully back to harbour. I wish I could say SMIJ and MISTY BLUE had a hard fought race but I can't, MISTY started ahead and

stayed there, opening up her lead to finish a clear first and take the Stewart Salver.



Stern Chase: Smij



Stern Chase: Misty Blue

Scott Shield (JPR-1) - MISTY BLUE and SMIJ represented the Club racing against three RFYC Yachts in the first Joint Passage Race of the Season. Ruby Black did some sharp tooting, assisted by her parents, to ensure the race got off to good start. Once again the fleet was faced by strong and gusty winds but all finished the course in tight formation. Overall results still to be published but without doubt MISTY once again thrashed SMIJ to take the FCYC Scott Shield.



Bass Rock Race

Frank Martin

Cruising About

One of the most cheering sights at lift in was seeing Mark Arkless's HoneyBee 28, Corsair, finally back in the water. No one can have failed to have seen Mark working tirelessly on her in the yard over the past couple of years, and the result of his efforts is there for all to see - one of the most beautiful boats on the water anywhere, without a doubt.

Friday 10th of May saw the return of Aros More after the damage it suffered last September. You can read more about it on Iain's blog at www.arosmore.blogspot.co.uk/

And our very own Pete Sherlock is back on the water, albeit over the west coast, on his new boat, the LM 32, Nancy Larsson (to be confirmed!) Meanwhile our intrepid commodore, the media savvy Paul Taylor, is planning the next step in his quest towards world domination and the yachmaster of the universe certificate. He's taking Ian Dawson for a fun sail from Southern Ireland to the North of Spain - over 600 miles without sight of land. Let's hope they rub along!



The return of Aros More

And the summer's other big event is the return of the Brodies on Fettler (1st July?) - they're currently on Guernsey. You can keep abreast of their progress home via their blog at www.sailfettler.blogspot.co.uk/

But to the big question - will Misty Blue win every competition going? We have the answer - a resounding no! The inaugural Long Keel Cup was held on Saturday 1st June and Corsair won overall - 2nd equal was Aros Mor and Hyskier. Misty was nowhere to be seen! Now there is talk of another cup which may expose another one of Misty's weaknesses - the Bilge Keel Cup!

Welcome!

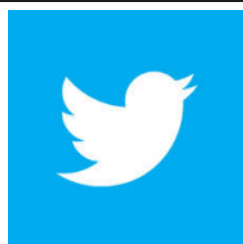
A warm welcome to Falko Burkert, who has arrived with his Hilliard, Mari Posa.

Falko, who originally hails from Heilbronn, near Stuttgart, is a Konditormeister - a state qualified master pastry chef. You may have seen his cafes and bakeries in

Gullane and Brunsfield. If you're not acquainted with them, I'd urge you to get along there - they're very good indeed. No more sausage baps at lift-out - it'll be Black Forest Gateau all round from now on!



Twitter!



Members will be delighted to know that we now have a Twitter account! Yes, you can now follow Forth Corinthian YC @ForthCorinthian and keep up to date with all the news (once we get the dinosaurs on the committee 'up to speed')!

And finally, from the Christmas Party in December 2012...



Prizewinners 2012