



FARWIND

Newsletter of the Forth Corinthian Yacht Club, June, 1999

Development of Granton Harbour

Please read the following very carefully. The development proposals for Granton Harbour could be the most important thing the Club faces this Millenium.

Will Rudd gave an informal presentation to Council on the evening of Monday 14th June, to explain the state of the plans for the development of Granton Harbour. Will is a member of both FCYC and RFYC and has prepared the plans as a marine engineer for the benefit of sailing in the Forth.

The plans have evolved from the two previous failed bids for funding. The current ones, which have already been through several cycles of discussion with Forth Ports, envisage **a marina in the West Harbour run by the two clubs and building up to 350 berths in stages.** There will also be mooring space as well as a slip and a large area for storage. The commercial vessels will be moved out. Some of the recent landfill in the West harbour would be removed.

The plans also entail **infilling the East Harbour** to about level with the public slip, building houses on the land and creating a very large land-locked pond, notionally for dinghy training, at the head of the existing harbour. The remaining space in the East harbour would be available for moorings (50 plus).

There is actually a phase two development which would extend the infilling along the eastern side of the harbour, but this does not seem likely in the foreseeable future. There will also be a new access road running at right angles to the existing road to the Middle Pier at about the position of the North Yard.

Council made the following comments for transmission to Forth Ports via Will Rudd:

1. Filling in the East Harbour beyond the line of the existing plans is unacceptable. Many members feel strongly that *any* reduction in sailing area is unacceptable.
2. The pond is not likely to be a useful feature.
3. It is difficult to commit ourselves to a marina in the West Harbour without funding being in place.

Other points were made including the importance of retaining cheap moorings (this was felt to be the responsibility of the two clubs) and the risk of dangerous surges in a NE gale in the West Harbour (a floating breakwater is proposed).

Forth Ports currently do not have planning permission for any development in the East or West Harbour so the first step will be for them to apply for this. It was felt that other organisations (residents groups, RSPB etc.) would object to the infill of the East harbour.

An open meeting will be held on Granton Harbour Development as soon as decisions need to be made.

In the meantime Council welcomes your comments and information.

From the Club Newsletter 17 years ago

"Most of you will have read or heard about plans by a new company, Granton Development Company, to erect a Marina Village on infilled land at the south end of the East Harbour. The firm has asked the club to give up our leases on the north and south yards and on the water so the scheme may proceed."

Deja vu, anyone?

Overleaf, please consider some additional factors which have been drawn up by some club members on the subject of Granton Harbour Development.

Perhaps you will agree with the issues raised; perhaps you will disagree. Perhaps you will think up some more essential issues that no one else has considered so far?

You will have opportunity to have your say at the forthcoming open meeting, date to be announced.

WORK PARTIES

The North and South yards are in desperate need of a good clear out and tidy up. There will be work parties on the following dates (ie Tues/Thurs rest of month when no evening points). All members need to tidy cradles, label gear (especially dinghies), and help dispose of rubbish. Big wheelie bins will be arriving shortly.

Let's meet at 7.30pm.

Tuesday 29 June
Thursday 1 July
Tuesday 13 July
Thursday 15 July

Tuesday 10 August
Thursday 12 August
Tuesday 24 August
Thursday 26 August

Granton Harbour Development

More Food for Thought

By the time you read this, the plans for the development of Granton Harbour should have been announced. Many members of the club, particularly those with small boats, are concerned in case the changes adversely affect our use of the harbour and feel that we should identify our needs so that we have criteria against which to evaluate the proposals.

The ideas below are not meant to be definitive or in order of importance but rather to raise issues that we feel need to be borne in mind. Granton Harbour is not reaching its potential. However, the provision of new facilities needs to be constrained by the need to capitalise on the existing good features.

1. Retain Granton as a harbour of refuge, without compromising any of its current excellent safety features (e.g., that the harbour is accessible at all states of tide and weather.) The uniqueness of Granton's fine harbour cannot be overstressed. It is superior to Port Edgar in many ways.
2. Retain an adequate number of reasonably priced swinging moorings. As now, these moorings should be located where boats can sail onto and off them and out of range of vandals.
3. Ensure that proposed developments do not negatively impact upon the current rich bird and wildlife populations by further depleting feeding grounds, pollution, or other detrimental effects.
4. Retain and improve facilities for launching small boats, particularly trailer-sailors. There should be launching and retrieving facilities useable at all states of tide when boats are afloat. The launch site should be secure so boats can be left unattended on the slip.
5. Ensure that it is possible to berth or pick up a mooring safely under sail.
6. Provide adequate outside winter storage space for both clubs preferably including a roofed space that can be used by boats on trailers, e.g. for painting, engine removal and other activities sensitive to rain.
7. Develop joint premises at the harbour for use by both FCYC and RFYC.
8. Provide more pontoon berths. This

will enhance Granton's attractiveness to the visitor, as well as providing a useful facility for existing members. Increased numbers of visiting boats and more serious competition to the facilities provided by Port Edgar, will encourage further desired commercial boat-related development in the area. It is important that Granton should be able to cater for the existing users as well as events such as the Heligoland race, East Coast Sailing Week and overspill from the Tall Ships.

9. Retain adequate pier-side berthing for large sailing vessels (up to 30 m LOA).
10. Refurbish existing industrial properties, with security, to encourage more useful yacht/boat related businesses to locate there.
11. Repair the slips, harbour walls, the wooden pier and the harbour entrance for safety and aesthetic reasons and removal of all derelict and dangerous buildings including the old race starting box (or build a new one).
12. Provide benches and picnic tables for the public to sit on and enjoy the views together with eating and drinking facilities. Attention must be given to safety so that families can visit without unreasonable danger. Landscape derelict areas where appropriate.
13. Ensure that the harbour, moorings, pontoons and yards are secure (as defined by insurance companies) both from weather damage and theft or vandals.
14. Consider whether longer term action will be required to cope with rising sea levels and an increased risk of storm surges.
15. Improve access by foot, bicycle and public transport.
16. Develop a comprehensive plan for the disposal or recycling of wastes including anti-fouling
17. Improve the co-ordination of management of Granton Harbour, Wardie Bay and Newhaven Harbour
18. Take action to reduce silting up from the landfill in the West harbour.

Message from the Commodore

We're now well into the sailing season and have experienced mixed fortunes in both results and weather. First of all, let me apologise that the Clubhouse has not been open as often as we had planned. This will be rectified shortly and the definitive Club Opening hours are printed below.

Sadly, our Vice Commodore, **Tommy Wilson**, has had to resign from Council due to pressure of work. He will, however, remain involved in both the Edinburgh Regatta and Fair Isle Race 2000. Many thanks to Tommy for his work on the Club's behalf.

Graham Russell has been co-opted as a Council member in Tommy's place.

Brian Pennycook has also resigned his post as Edinburgh Marina pontoon manager, expressing dissatisfaction at the way RFYC dealt with Edinburgh Marina in relation to the proposed siting of the dinghy pontoons. He has been replaced by **Robin McIntosh**.

On a happier note, it's good to see the City of Edinburgh Outdoor Education department using the premises again this year for dinghy tuition.

The two new pontoons are in place and the seasonal dredging has been completed, but please note the channel is only 10 metres wide - it does not extend as far as the line of anchor buoys. (I felt obliged, as your Commodore, to personally test this out...)

Lastly, with debate about future Granton developments and the implications for sailing and the environment gathering momentum, rest assured FCYC will represent your interests on the Forth.

Paul Lough

BAR OPENING HOURS

Monday 6-11 pm
Tuesday 6-11pm
Thursday 6-11pm
Saturday 1-11pm
Sunday 2-8 pm

Race Results

Boat Jumble

Bass Rock Race

Line Honours

Absolutely

Fast Hcap

- 1 *Absolutely*
- 2 *Rhett Butler*
- 3 *Roundabout*

Slow Hcap

- 1 *Kiri* (no surprises here)
- 2 *Talisker*
- 3 *Aquila*

Cruiser

- 1 *Bandrums*
- 2 *Apparition*

Return

- 1 *Kiri*
- 2 *Talisker*
- 3 *Ommadawn*

FIG Results

- 1 *Absolutely*
- 2 *Rhett Butler*
- 3 *Roundabout*

Return

- 1 *Moonwind*
- 2 *Saliant*
- 3 *Maxine*

FCYC Bass Rock

- 1 *Roundabout*
- 2 *Scimitar*
- 3 *Dabchick*

Return

- 1 *Ommadawn*
- 2 *Maxine*

Marsh Cup Winner

Firecrest

Surry Cup Winner

Scimitar

These race results are provided by our race officer: John "we make up the rules as we go along" McLaren.

- Forth Yacht Clubs Association Handbooks are now available from behind the bar - price £5. They contain useful information about most of the yacht clubs/harbours/facilities on the Forth.

- OSPREY - Wooden Hull in need of substantial repair. Mast and two sets of sails (including spinnaker) in good condition. Trailer. Twin compasses plus sundry spares. Price negotiable. Contact: Mrs C Farquhar - evenings - on 0131 666 1737.

- Phil Chester's acquisition of a new boat prompted the question; was it the first for the club? (May Fairwind) Bill Ballantyne suggests Alistair Main's *Snowgoose* (previously *Carina*) was launched new with full ceremony in 1983. The Commodore reckons it was something called *Happy Zelda*, way back in the mists of time.

- Willy Barr's Hunter 701, *Firecrest*, is in Granton after a tired and emotional homecoming cruise from Port Edgar, ably assisted by First Mate Ed North.

- Gerry Mason now knows why the slip is so named, and the Barr brothers' performance in the *Roundabout* tender is worthy of repeat at the Festival Fringe.

- During the now-typical mob-handed assault on *Beosetter* by the Linklater family prior to lift-in, it came to light that Jane Linklater is to marry again this month (she was widowed 21 years ago with the death of Lawrence - then club secretary - after whom the workboat is named). Very many congratulations! Who knows, maybe the *Beosetter* workforce will be doubled next year to include the extended family?

- As *Fairwind* goes to press, the Club is still looking for part-time bar staff (contact Linda Pennycook) and a cleaner (contact Ed North).

- Graham Russell sent this extract from Scottish Wildlife:

"Some of the under-recorded species, such as the dingy skipper and green hairstreak have flight periods in May and June, so help is urgently needed."

I am not sure I have seen any green hairstreaks but I have seen several skippers giving all the indications of flight this month. But dingy? Surely not, must be another species.

- Support your local charity St Columba's Hospice is urgently looking for volunteer drivers to bring patients between their home and the hospice one morning or afternoon a week. If you think you might be able to help, please contact Mrs Gill Hamilton, St Columba's Hospice, Challenger Lodge, Boswell Road Edinburgh EH5 3RW, phone 0131 551 1381.

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From the FCYC membership application forms - the new ones asked for hobbies/interests/occupation etc. As usual the Corinthians couldn't resist getting their oar in . . .

Under occupations:

- **Ernie Coulter** - "retired with a smile".
- **Ian Hellewell** - "brain surgery (part-time) & facetious remarks".
- **Alastair Main's** hobby? - "Getting in the way."
- And **Stewart Boyd** filled in his boat name as "Early Boat" (not the starts I've seen - Ed.)

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What will Granton Harbour look like in two years... in five years... in ten years...? Have we never had it so good, or is the best yet to come?

Please keep up to date with news of Granton Harbour Development. The Council is keen to hear your views and will announce the date of the open meeting in the near future.

☆ **Linda Pennycook** for donning some sturdy Marigolds and cleaning the Bell Block to such a degree that surgical procedures can now be carried out on the floor of the gents.

☆ **Howard Thomson** for developing the racing rolling handicap programme (almost).

☆ **Colin Campbell** for continuing his sterling work on Dumbo, mostly needed because Ed "it came off in my hand" North had broken things.

☆ **Tim Wright** and **Ann MacNeill** for clearing the rubbish from the North Yard. A still fragrant Ann took it all to the tip in her car (car may not be so fragrant though).

☆ **Brian Pennycook** and **Ian Dawson** for dragging the club computer and databases into this century. Very soon

now, for the first time, all club records - membership, harbour, boats & finance - will be held there. Please bear with us while this task is completed.

☆ **John McLaren** and **Ian Dawson** for the sailing instructions.

☆ **Norrie Wilson** for the Club Handbook - well done.



Gold stars to ...

The deadline for the next issue of *Fairwind* is 23rd August. To submit writings, please contact: **Sarah Price** (0131 229 0029 or sprice@icbl.hw.ac.uk) or **Fiona McIntyre** (0131 313 2488 or FionaMcIntyre@compuserve.com).

Contributions should be on disk or emailed and saved in ascii or text format. If this is not possible, however, please phone to discuss and send your writings to the Clubhouse.

If you buy bits for your boat anywhere else in Scotland you're probably paying too much!



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