

FAIRWIND

Wooden Boatfest



Photo: Liz Tulloch

A tapestry restorer who dreamed of bringing Newhaven Harbour back to bustling life saw it all come true on May 23 when 7,500 people thronged the area for the first Newhaven Wooden Boat Festival.

John MacLean is the dreamer and Port O' Leith Motor Boat Club made it all possible, 500 years after the port produced the Great Michael.

The event was well supported by boat owners and sponsors alike. And the Corinthians pitched in, too!

Among them was Graham Russell with his Drascombe Lugger *Nokomis*; Chris Dutfield fielded *Full Moon* which he brought down from Port Edgar; Phil Gilmer (who had acted as Liaison Officer for visitors to Edinburgh Marina) was displaying

Jura; and the Linklaters mustered their 1969 Lerwick built Orkney double-ender *Beosetter*.

Other Corinthians lent a hand. John Moore (a dual member) was well to the fore; Alex Tulloch (who is a member of so many clubs he can't remember them all) did sterling work in the RFYC small RIB; Pip Hills (owner of the Loch Fyne wooden fishing boat, *Clan Gordon*, about which more elsewhere) was there in an advisory capacity and the familiar voice on the microphone between the many fine musical acts belonged to Stewart Boyd.

The Port O' Leith Motor Boat Club are to be congratulated on the success of the venture. They are now considering when (not if) to do it all again!

BOATJUMBLE

- Pip Hills, bon viveur and well-known rake, has finally got what seems to have become his life's work - the wooden Loch Fyne fishing boat, *Clan Gordon*, into the water. For tales of how he selected the tree for the mast near Grangemouth, felled it and dragged it to the water's edge and floated it down to Granton set aside a complete evening (or three). Pip Pip Hooray! (You may need another evening or two for the unexpurgated story of *Clan Gordon's* first outing . . .)

- Another wooden boat enthusiast - Vic Saunders - has been held up with progress on *Witchcraft* with a recalcitrant pump. All is now in hand but the cheerful chippie thinks he will have to ballast down the bow due to the weight in the SAAB engine. His other 'hobby' is restoring the fibre-glass bilge keeler *Aquabrik*. Anyone who saw her condition in the yard before Vic applied T.L.C. and paint in equal measure would hardly recognise her!

- Work on *Grandee*, the Grand Banks cruiser, which has taken over Melvin Bond's spare time since he sold the restored and renamed *White Maa* to celeb and engine enthusiast Robbie Coltrane, has slowed. The flywheel came off but three bolts didn't (Ernie Coulter will be able to sympathise sincerely) and the gearbox seems to have seized.

- Making ready for sea, and possibly a slow circumnavigation is Frank Mallard, who says all he awaits is his wife's early liberation from the Education Department. *Dannsa na Mara* will go 'round the top' of Scotland and call in to Ireland in time for a family wedding.

- Also gearing up (and finding a frightening lack of space for all their new purchases) are Ann McNeil and Tim Wright who have entered *Blue Blazer* in this year's Banff-Stavanger race. The boat has, of course, already done the passage under the Corinthian burgee.

- John McLaren and Paul Lough's First 345 *Belle Ile* has made it round from Rhu in one piece apart from a ripped main and a nasty spot on John's duvet cover. Unscathed after tangling with two fish farms, the Ballachullish Bridge and Anstruther Harbour wall, this yacht is obviously of stout Corinthian stock.

racing round up by earl ross

May racing was typified by extremes of weather, from the no wind situation of the Wilson Cup which saw the whole fleet retire, to the long period of strongish North Easterlies resulting in the cancellation of our annual race to Dunbar and back, due to potential difficulty in entering Dunbar Harbour safely. And in between we had thick haar.

There is not much to say about the Wilson Cup. Six boats drifted as far as the Herwit and then we all packed in. Needless to say, the wind died and in almost immediately the engines were fired up.

Congratulations to all competitors who made it to Anstruther in the Royal Forth May Island FIG in nil visibility. Hooray for GPS!

Although Dunbar was not possible due to difficult sea conditions, the Shortened Course was sailed with visiting boats taking the honours. Burntisland's *Cavalier* sailed by the Cochrane family, Port Edgar boats *Rhett Butler* and *Jezebel* taking the first three places. *Roundabout* was the best placed of six Corinthian boats in the fleet of fifteen in the FIG with a commendable fifth place. Three RFCYC boats constituted the Cruiser Class which was won by Gabriel Noonan's *Carter Thirty Sirus* (despite rounding the wrong mark and sailing half way to Kirkcaldy)! Commiserations to Dave Loudon's *Quicksilver* who lost out by 19 seconds on corrected time.

Following racing some thirty people, mostly made up of visiting crews spent a convivial and successful (if somewhat controversial) evening in the upper deck (which incidentally added some £300 to the evening's takings) - hurriedly organised by Linda Pennycook. Meanwhile in the main bar a less restrained evening's entertainment was guaranteed by the presence of the irrepressible (that's a nice word for completely trashed) Norrie Anderson, minus

most of his clothes!

A few members have remarked that we should organise a Sunday FIG if we are forced to run the shortened course version of the Bass Rock. I shall take this advice and ensure that next year's sailing instructions includes a shortened course to compensate for the possible cancellation of the Sunday Bass Rock Return.

The Thursday Evening Points are in full swing but turnouts have been very poor. In previous years ten or twelve boats was usual but this season three or four is the norm. Apparently Royal Forth racing too has seen low participation. I will be meeting with Danny Sinclair the RFCYC Sailing Secretary shortly to discuss initiatives to attempt to revitalise the Granton racing scene and to sort out the fixture problems. It would be nice to see more club boats out every second Thursday, particularly as bar opening hours have been extended to 10.30pm on Points Thursdays - support club racing and drinking!

Sunday 7th June saw thirteen boats turn out for the Jubilee Cup Joint Passage Race with RFCYC. Conditions varied from virtually windless for the first three hours, rising to a strong, gusty Southerly at the end which caused numerous problems with assorted spinnakers. Despite having only four entrants, Corinthian boats sailed well with *Roundabout* taking line honours. Robin Brownlie's H Boat *Hummingbird* remains the boat to beat this season, winning the event by 11 seconds on corrected time from *Scimitar* with *An Cala* third.

It was good to see five intrepid and hardy crews taking part in the Marsh and Surry Cups on Saturday 13th June in conditions that could only be described as fresh. That they got a start at all was something wondrous after a complete cock up by the Race Officer. After an

internal enquiry, his excuse was that he was feeling somewhat unwell from a combination of a massive hangover and a committee boat's motion that was a touch on the vomit-inducing side. He who shall remain nameless however apologises unreservedly to all competitors. And so to the racing..... The Marsh was sailed in what must be approaching record time and was won by *Quicksilver* with *Early Bird* a close second. The unrestricted sail class competed for the Surry Cup, although only *Scimitar* hoisted its kite which may have tipped the racing scales in the Commodore's favour. *Roundabout* was second with *Blue Blazer* third. The prize for macho spinnaker hoisting may be a rather splendid trophy but the price is no pocket money for Jack Fenwick who allegedly ripped the large wasp like thing when bringing it down.

HANDICAPS

As we approach mid season it is apparent that the subject which causes more 'cream puffs' and tantrums among racing folk, needs to be looked at. Yes it's handicap review time. It is obvious that some boats are sailing off handicaps which to use the Corinthian vernacular are Mickey Mouse with a large MM. There will be winners and losers but any changes will be made solely on performance factors and will be in the interests of making Club racing more competitive.

WARDIE TROPHY

The second leg of the Wardie Trophy will be sailed on Sunday 23 August at 14.00 hrs. Even if you did not take part in the first leg, you are encouraged to turn out for this 'fun' race. Remember the Wardie Trophy is restricted to boats/skippers who do not normally race. The format for this leg will be the ever popular stern chase.

CREWS in COMPANY

BY GRAHAM RUSSELL

Since the last issue of Fairwind the cruising group has organised three epic voyages.

ELIE

Five boats set off in brilliant sunshine, *Quicksilver*, *Armagnac*, *Cheers Again*, *Swiftsure* and *Polar Major*.

Three boats turned back before the shipping lane as there was a bank of fog over the north side of the Firth. *Armagnac* and *Cheers Again* plunged boldly into the mist tacking between the shipping lane on one hand and the Kinghorn sands on the other (you tack when you hear the trains), fighting the foul tide.

Navigation on *Cheers Again* improved when it was realised that the GPS display was in degrees and minutes and not degrees and decimals. However, only *Cheers Again* came out the other side of the North Channel. *Armagnac* had sensibly turned back. *Cheers Again* continued, stopping only for a chart overboard drill (It's lucky the Imray charts are on waterproof paper). At some point sanity took over and the crew stopped fighting the lumpy seas and motored into Dysart for an enjoyable evening in the company of two Royal Forth boats and one from Port o' Leith.

Next day produced even lighter winds and the return by the east side of Inchkeith was under power.

CRAMOND

The next cruise was hastily arranged for one Sunday. Winds again were light so several boats sailed, rowed or motored to the anchorage on the west side of Cramond Island. *Quicksilver* and *Nokomis* were there first as they had motored part of the way. They were joined by *Tillymint* and *Early Bird* and finally by *Swiftsure* which had sailed virtually all the way there. After a relaxing lunch was had by all, a force three south westerly wind suddenly got up and the pleasant anchorage became a serious lee shore. Within minutes all the boats had weighed anchor and were scattered across the firth taking advantage of the wind for a rapid return to Granton.

DYSART

The third cruise was a weekend cruise to Dysart. Although the wind was north-easterly, the worst possible direction for making Dysart, four boats, *Nokomis*, *Swiftsure*, *Two Seasons*

and *Arcady* set off towards Fife with various amounts of sail set. *Arcady* only set its genoa, which we thought was a new approach until it was subsequently discovered that the main halyard had inconveniently disappeared up the mast. *Nokomis* started to ship water over the coaming - a problem in an open boat. As the tide had turned against us by this point Graham, sailing single handed, felt that discretion was the better part of valour and landed *Nokomis* on the sand at Pettycur.

A falling tide on Sunday forced an early (for FCYC) departure, this time with a following wind of about Force 5 and seas that were no smaller than the Saturday. *Nokomis* was first back, with the others were not far behind. *Swiftsure* anchored so close to the far side of the west harbour that some thought she had run aground. Lynn, sailing *Two Seasons* single handed with a misbehaving furling jib and a mainsheet traveller that escaped from its track, was happy to moor alongside *Arcady* in the shelter of the west harbour.

GRANTON DINGHIES

- The recent open day was a great success with fourteen people going afloat and four signing up for future training courses. There were a few more people who came down to Granton but because of the appalling weather decided to stay in their cars.
 - The next try-a-sail day will be held on the weekend of the 4th /5th July. If you or anyone you know is interested in taking up sailing then do get in contact.
 - A team racing event was organised on the 6th June and seven teams competed with a total of 28 boats participating. Thanks to the scratch team from FCYC who took part and thanks to all those people who assisted in any way and made the event so successful.
 - We are planning to hold a second event in September and again if you are interested in joining in either on the water as a competitor or with the organisation then please get in touch.
 - There are Monday Evening dinghy races going on at present and these are open to all. Get in touch with David Darling at RFYC for the dates and starting times.
 - Evening training sessions have begun on a Monday Evening and have proved to be quite popular so far. Courses for Power Boat handling and Dinghy sailing at levels 1, 2 & 3 have been organised for August and September.
- If you are interested in further information about anything to do with dinghy sailing then contact me on 0802 621 741.
- Neville Fenwick

CRUISING in COMPANY Programme

All interested parties should meet in the Clubhouse on the Thursday preceding the event at 7.30pm in order to finalise details. Non-sailors welcome. Enjoy!

JULY

5th - Barbecue Lunch on Cramond Island. Bring your burgers and sausages for a fun afternoon on Cramond Island. (High tide 12.25 pm.)

11th - Elie Open Day
Why another overnighter in Elie to support the Open Day? (High tide 5.00pm.)

17-18th - Bell Rock Race
For those of you who have the experience, have a go in the cruiser class of the Bell Rock Race. An overnight trip out to the Tay estuary. Great experience if you want to start venturing further afield.

18-25th - East Coast Sailing Week

26th - Ladies Race
This culminates in a Barbecue on Inchcolm, so encourage your wives/girlfriends to take the tiller. (High tide 5.30pm.)

AUGUST

1-2nd - Anstruther Quaich
This overnight stop in Anstruther is great fun. Bring your friends and family. If you don't want to race, a group can cruise up together. (High tide 10.00pm - you can lie in on Sunday morning!)

8th - Evening Cruise
A romantic evening cruise - bring your partner! Soup in the club first and then a trip to identify lights and navigation marks in the dark. (High tide 3.30am.)

16th - Day Cruise to North Berwick
(High tide 10.00am.)

23rd - Safety Day

An afternoon of activity on the Forth practising safety techniques. Barbecue on the pier so invite everyone. (High tide 4.30pm). Look out for further details nearer the time. NOTE: This event may be re-scheduled to coincide with next week's Regatta.

29 - 30th - FCYC Regatta

SEPTEMBER
6th - Lunch in Sheltered Anchorage

Come and take some Rotarians for an afternoon sail followed by a Barbecue on the pier or buffet in the Clubhouse - approximately 20 visitors are expected. (High tide 3.30pm.)

13th - Day Cruise to Course
A mystery trip to test your navigation skills and helmsmanship! Take some lunch and company. (High tide 8.30am.)

19-20th - Overnight Cruise Round the May Island

Time to put your new found night-time skills to the test, together with a bit of passage planning.

(High tide 3.00pm.)

26- 27th - Carl Dyson Regatta (Port Edgar)
Cruise up to join the festivities at Port Edgar. (High tide 7.00pm.)

OCTOBER

10th, 11th, 17th & 18th -
The International Certificate of Competence is recognised throughout the world for yacht chartering. Instructor Alan Gay has agreed to provide an assessment for 3-4 people per day on one boat for £30 per head. Note: you should already be competent, this is an evaluation of your skills as Alan is not allowed to both instruct you and assess you. First come first served.

Contact Sam Bartlett on 467 0215.

**DEADLINE FOR
NEXT FAIRWIND**

**Monday 17 August
Copy on disc,
please, to
Sarah Price.**

more...

BoatJumble

- It would appear there are still some club boats the wrong RFYC moorings. Could any member who has been allocated moorings on this trot please check with the Harbour Secretary that they are using the correct one. Contact George MacKay on 663 7194.
- Also all club members are asked to be extra vigilant about security in the yards. Please make sure gates are not left open/unlocked etc, as they have been found in this state a few times.
- It is occasionally possible to circulate information concerning the club fast via the internet. If any club member has an e-mail address not currently known to the editors, and would like to receive information in this way, please mail Fiona MacIntyre (FionaMcIntyre@compuserve.com) or Sarah Price (sprice@icbl.hw.ac.uk).

FOR SALE

- * *Kirsty II*, Achilles, 24ft fin keel. Mariner 8 OB, new main, new furling jib, spinnaker, cooker. £2999.
- * ShipMate Senior, 17ft dayboat, lifting keel, spinnaker, main and genoa, 5hp Mariner. £1000 with trailer.
- * Further details on both boats from Gabriel Noonan on Port Seton 812025.

- Despite objections from slower moving sail powered craft, the new Forth Jet Boat got her licence on May 5th. She offers 15-minute trips at high speed in the most congested area of the river at £10 for adults and £3 for children. She operates from beside *Maid of the Forth*, Hawes Pier, South Queensferry. Keep a sharp look-out!
- The winner of the first Corinthian Quiz was C. Marshall, 3 North Gyle Park, Edinburgh. Pick up a copy of the next one from the bar - 25p for each one taken (or, indeed, photocopied at work).

- Colin Campbell has returned to the fold, and re-joined the Forth Corinthians after 18 years. He has sailed down a Westerly Pageant from Fortrose. Also returning, after an absence of 3 years, is David Haldane, Jack's son. His original reason for leaving was banking exams and pregnancy. Both problems are now overcome.

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



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