

43 Hanover Street,

EDINBURGH, 2.

14th August, 1969.

The Honorary Secretary,
Forth Corinthian Yacht Club,
1 Granton Square,
EDINBURGH, 5.

Dear Sir,

Forth Dragon Fleet

I have been handed a copy of your Club's Newsletter, dated August 1969, and which has been put out by you, and I am now writing to you in my capacity as the Dragon Class Secretary.

I was absolutely appalled to read the remarks in the Newsletter in particular the paragraph as follows:-

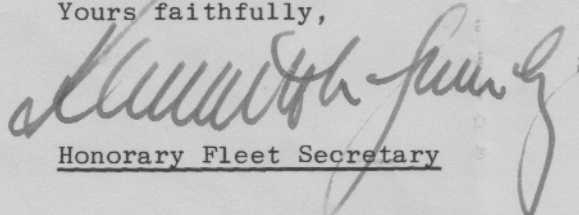
'Although the entries were not all they could have been, the Dragon and Loch Long fleet were conspicuous by their absence - just a donation would have done, perhaps they feel that they do not need the service of the R.N.L.I. I sincerely hope they won't have to fire a red flare in earnest. The last time there was a demonstration of flares it caused enough red faces in certain quarters.'

In the first place such criticism is quite uncalled for and unnecessary and can only but cause tremendous ill-feeling. I have already spoken to several members of the Dragon Class who, in fact, drew my attention to the Newsletter and I may say that they were quite incensed by the remarks made by you.

It might interest you to know that for many years the whole of the Dragon Class and the whole of the Loch Long Class have entered for the Royal Forth Closing Regatta which is in aid of the R.N.L.I. and regardless of whether or not they start ~~or not~~ the entry money automatically goes to the Lifeboat Institution. In the last few years entries of 45 to 50 boats have been quite common and the Regatta is run without any fuss or nonsense or cost to the R.N.L.I. other than the provision of a few pennants.

By making such snide remarks and inferring all sorts of other things you are merely fostering a strong feeling of ill-will and unless your Club issue an apology for this appalling statement I shall be forced to advise our Class to refrain from participating in any races run in the future by your Club.

Yours faithfully,



Honorary Fleet Secretary

JCW/MSR

29th August, 1969.

K.L. Gumley, Esq.,
Honorary Secretary,
Dragon Class Yachts,
Royal Forth Yacht Club,
1, Boswall Road,
Edinburgh.

Dear Sir,

I am very pleased to find that my Newsletter is being read. I should point out however, that this letter is not the F.C.Y.C. Newsletter it is the Secretary's Newsletter, and it is in no way censored by my Committee, therefore to ask for an apology from my Club for the article you refer to is out of the question.

My Newsletter is my business and I cannot see how a statement of fact can foster ill-will, if anything it clears the air and brings problems out into the open.

I did, in fact, know that the Dragon Class and Loch Long Class had an event for the R.N.L.I., and by your own admission have had a very good support numerically in the past, so if you feel my remarks were snide, I in turn feel that the absence of these yachts come under the same terminology. Be honest about it these yachts are sailed hard throughout the season in points series etc., that when they are not being sailed they are conspicuous by their absence and bound to make for comment.

I personally have very strong feelings about the service provided by the R.N.L.I., and I feel that they are worthy of every bit of support that we can give them. Anything we do in this way is very small recompense for the hazardous and arduous job they do.

As Honorary Secretary, Dragon Fleet, you say that you will be forced to advise your class of yacht to refrain from participating in any races run by the F.C.Y.C. I believe the word is 'boycott' a word brought into our language by an unfortunate Irish gentleman of this name. I said earlier in this letter it does bring problems out into the open.

In conclusion, I only hope you will accord this letter the same space on your Club House Notice Board as you gave to your letter to me.

Yours faithfully,

J.C. Wilson
Honorary Secretary