

LIFT-IN

Saturday, 4th April has been provisionally booked for lift-in day. As always many hands are needed if the operation is to be a success. A 7.30 a.m. start is needed to remove the fence and clean the yard. The crane arrives at 8.00 a.m. and we start paying from then so it pays us to be ready in time.

MOORINGS

There is a great demand for moorings as usual and it would be of assistance to the Harbour Committee if all boat owners who intend to use the Harbour complete the enclosed form. The form should be completed even although you already have a mooring. Please return the forms to either Robin Fowler or myself.

SECURITY

Members will have noticed the improvements to the gate in the south yard and if you have not already obtained your keys from Colin Campbell for the north yard - now is the time.

There are still dinghys, trailers and other pieces of equipment in the yards which cannot be identified. Will members please mark your gear with the name of your yacht.

BOAT OWNERS NIGHT

The next Boat Owners Night on Friday, 6th March is to be a quiz night. If you recall we held two highly successful quiz nights last year and Gus Tait the 1980 nautical mastermind is acting as quizmaster this year. Teams from the R.F.Y.C., Queens Margarets Yacht Club, Port of Leith Boat Club, S.I.N.K. and the Edinburgh Civil Service Sailing Club have been invited to take part. 1st Prize a bottle of the crater.

SAILING

I also enclose a copy of this years Club Fixture List which in addition to our usual races includes a Fair Isle Race. If there is sufficient interest we intend to have a race round Fair Isle and return to Fraserburgh. A race direct to Fraserburgh for inshore yachts will be run in conjunction with the big race. Another departure from tradition is the Bell Rock Race on 13th June (not 26th July as shown in the F.Y.C.A. fixture list) which will finish at Dundee. We hope that members will leave their yachts at Dundee, moorings will be available, and the next weekend join the R.F.Y.C./R.T.Y.C. North Carr race from Dundee to Granton.

The most popular cruiser race in the Forth is the Bass Rock Race finishing at Dunbar which will be held on Saturday 6th June. The dance this year will be held in the Victoria Ballroom. (I know we said that last year - but this year we will). Over the past few years an average of 40 boats have taken part, lets try to get at least 60 this year - so go to it and persuade your friends. There is a predicted log race associated with the Bass Rock Race. Motor boat owners need not feel left out.

The R.N.L.I. race should be good fun, the Queen Margaret Yacht Club are interested in joining the race which will be followed by a raft up of yachts for a muster in either Wardie Bay or the West Harbour. We are trying to fit out the Linklater as a floating Bar.

Jack Gillies, the Sailing Secretary is still looking for adventurist types to take part in a cruise to Stirling in April. This may be your last chance to make this historic sail - the powers that be are building a bridge over the river a few miles before Stirling.

How is this for a bargain - a single payment of £5 will enter you for all Club races with the exception of the R.N.L.I. In the next Newsletter I will enclose a complete set of racing instructions for all our races and if you wish to take advantage of this offer an entry form which will enter you for every race will also be enclosed.

I will publish another Newsletter with more details of the races later.

FUTURE EVENTS

Unfortunately, Richard Demarco has commitments in U.S.A. during March and a suitable date could not be found for his talk before the sailing season. However, we will try to arrange a date some time in next Autumn.

FURTHER ADVENTURES FROM THE CENTENARY RACE

GADIE, skippered and crewed by Angus McIntosh sailed his usual seamanlike race. She had a few nerve-racking moments in the inner passage at the Farne Islands when the lack of wind and strong tide caused more than some concern. The Sunday gale started to rise in the early hours while Gadie was about 15 miles from the finish. However, Angus made it into Harbour just as the seas were beginning to turn nasty. His proudest moment came on Sunday afternoon when he sailed up the Tyne under storm jib and Seagull. The crowds thought he was Donald Cowper, the lone round the world yachtsman and gave him a rousing welcome. Angus acknowledged the cheers with his usual aplomb.

I have promised Jack Gillies the skipper of Seapad that I will not mention how he retired into Seahouses or how the population of Seahouses had to lift Seapad onto a trailer or how the wheel fell off the trailer at midnight or how it took him a week to get her home or his wife comments ???

Read next month's exciting instalment for more gripping tales of the sea.

Final Note

The Harbour Secretary has asked me to remind those intending to moor their boats in the Harbour this summer that mooring will not be allocated to anyone who has an outstanding harbour account.

C.L. Hellewell
Feb. 1981.