

June

SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING

A special general meeting of the Club was held on Monday, 1st June and the members thanked Mr. Ian Hellewell for his energetic and able assistance over the past two years. Ian who works for British Telecoms in Edinburgh is going out on secondment to the Bahamas Government to tour all the islands and draw up a forecast of future telephone use to help in the planned growth of services there.

For those of you who do not know me, I am the short, hairy, garden gnome with the pipe who can be found in the Chart Room most Monday nights and at weekends aboard the G class Cruiser - Sulinka with my partner Bill Lees who is a somewhat larger and older version.

The highlights of the meeting were mostly financial and after discussion the following new rates were adopted:-

Subscriptions - Full £15, Family £17, Sailing Associate, Country and Associate membership to remain as at present £6.

It should be pointed out, however, that at present there are no vacancies for Associate members.

Mooring and storage charges are to be increased by 40p per foot to £2.50 per ft. and electricity charges will be increased to £5 with a charge thereafter for the use of power tools. Heaters may not be used

The Treasurer reported that though the Club was in good heart financially, the above increases have been occasioned by the very heavy increase in rent and rates applied by the Forth Ports Authority and Lothian Region respectively. At time of writing your dauntless Commodore is about to 'sally into battle' with the first mentioned body.

SAILING

The sailing season has got off to a good start with the Scott Shield being hotly contested and was won by Keda, skippered by Bob Campbell and his young son Robert. The Marsh Cup attracted a big entry and was another nail-biter with on this occasion Seapad being the winner, closely followed and handicapped by Yetey. Most members will know, of course, that Seapad won this race as Jack Gillies is not one to hide his light under a bushel. The Surrey Cup had to be postponed and will be raced on a later date to be announced. The Ladies Race attracted the usual large entry despite the atrocious weather which ranged from a flat calm to flat calm with pouring rain to light winds with pouring rain. Two circuits were sailed - says a lot for the ladies stamina. Yetey led all the way except for occasions when he was passed by Aquila, particularly in the last 5 yds of the Race. A pleasant prizegiving and social followed in the Clubhouse.

The Bass Rock Race attracted a record entry of 43 boats and the staggered start with the small handicapped boats starting before the large handicapped proved very successful except with the Capt. of Vanessa who found his passage into Leith Docks obstructed by all but 3 of the large handicapped fleet. Congratulations to the three gentlemen, shame on the others! The race was sailed in a brisk south westerly which varied in strength from zero to force 5 which allowed most yachts to finish well within the allowed time, although all were startled at the sight of the Commodore jumping up and down at the edge of a cliff. Many prayers were not answered and he appeared at the very successful celebration dance in the Victoria Ballroom.

The customary cheque for £100 was handed over to a grateful lifeboat skipper but the winners were less fortunate. The Commodore having become tired and exhausted due to the various exertions discovered that he had mislaid the necessary awards. Rumour has it that Ian Hellewell is to be body searched before being allowed to leave the country.

During the sail back in a very brisk south westerly, conditions were not as comfortable as they could have been. Spirit of Venture ended up in Anstruther. Bohian, skippered by the familiar figure in butchers trousers, decided to stay in Dunbar and continue the celebrations. The Morag went to Cockenzie and Sulinka had the dubious honour of being fired at by the N.A.T.O. fleet for encroaching into a mine sweepers operations area. W.I. Lees said "Whose bloody river is it anyway". The smallest boats to compete were Yaler and Mairhi Ahn and did very well to get back to Granton in the conditions. Congratulations to Tommy on winning the small handicap class. The Dryborough Cup for the most ambitious cruise by a Club boat is up for grabs. The longest cruise to date is from Renfrew to Granton via Cape Wrath and the Orkneys - beat that!

HARBOUR NEWS

Moorings - whilst everyone is now in the midst of enjoying what sailing the weather will allow, it must be remembered that the same weather can play havoc with moorings. It is, therefore, in all boat owners interests that moorings should be checked periodically throughout the summer for wear and tear, etc. Repairs can be carried out by the Harbour Committee if required and in case of emergency contact Mr. A.B. McIntosh who will arrange necessary repairs.

Security - as usual we must be ever vigilant regarding the security of our yards and mooring area. It is of utmost importance that the yard gates are shut behind you and a watchful eye kept over all boats and equipment belonging to members.

FORTHCOMING ATTRACTIONS

A barbecue will be held at Lower Largo in July and this year Mrs. Welsh is donating a cup for this event and Mr. Callachan is also donating a bottle of whisky.

The Quaich trophies to Anstruther and the Fraserburgh Race - details from Jack Gillies and the notice board.

McIntyre Fishing Trophy - this trophy will again be competed for the heaviest fish caught over a given period through the weekends fishing. This usually takes place off the May Island and the boats stay in Anstruther on Saturday night and the weigh in on Sunday lunch time. The date is still to be arranged but I hope it will be sometime in September when we can get all the large yachts and motor cruisers to take competitors when all the holidays are finished.

A letter was received from Phoenix Club thanking us for the £50 raised when we raffled a large St. Bernards Dog. A sample of the goods produced by the Phoenix Youth Club can be obtained from Mrs. Drummond on applications. This is your opportunity to contribute to the year of the disabled.

British Association of Industrial Editors

Members of the Scottish Branch are going to sample a short day sail ending with a picnic on one of the islands of the Forth. The most likely date is Saturday July 4th. Volunteers with boats able to take two or three passengers please contact the Secretary.

A Mr. R.A. Dunbar of 4 Prospect Bank Terrace believes that his maternal grandfather William T. Surry who died in 1937 was a founder or at least early member of the Club and Mr. Dunbar thinks that at one time a portrait of his ancestor hung on the staircase. Anyone with any memories or records should contact the Secretary.

Wednesday evening may soon be Video Night as it is hoped to show selected films between 7p.m. and 9 p.m. Watch for more details !