

## FORTH CORINTHIAN YACHT CLUB

### AUTUMN NEWSLETTER

OK, OK, I take back all I said about the weather in the last issue. Anyone can make a mistake .... just ask Pitreavie! The foul blast that hit when the USS America was here and swamped the Admiral's barge produced a rescuer in time of need in the shape of Bill Ballantyne who scooped up an officer from the Forth. Full marks, Bill.

The sailing season is now over and the last two races held were the Wickes Stern Chase and the RNLI race both won by Aquila who also takes the Long Series award. Shikari is the Best Newcomer, narrowly beating Whimbrel. Sulinka was "Most Competitive Yacht".

It would no doubt be a surprise to a few that Ernie Coulter's smile appeared in the latest issue of "Yachting Life". I am sure that both of us had forgotten that we'd sent a copy of the Radio Forth Trophy handover ceremony to that publication. Still, nice to see it!

The picnic planned (on the notice board at least) for Inchkeith on Sunday, September 12th had to be transferred northwards and landwards to Craigton Park, St. Andrews, where in spite of the gale which threatened to scalp John Hughes, a small party of diehards mustered to eat their cold chicken and ham salads cowering down behind a hedge where the ducks thought they ought to get a share until scattered by Bill Lees's dog. The display of seamanship on the ornamental lake at the Dutch Village was more like an outing by the Vulgar Boatman than the crisp bladework we have come to expect of Bob Campbell and yours truly. Those spectators who asked the wives about us were told that we were from, variously, the Royal Forth, or RAF Leuchars. Apologies to both those august bodies.

Blazers, mostly new and some even with the correct colour of buttons, were much in evidence at the AGM on October 11th when Colin Stoddart stood down as Commodore and was replaced by your actual and factual Bob Sandison. Bob Campbell was elected Vice Commodore and the Rear Commodores, Klaus Dressler and Jack Gillies were re-elected as were the slim and tonic Treasurer, Bill Oliver and the garden gnome Secretary, Stewart Boyd. Graham Mitchell (of Aquila fame) is the new sailing secretary; and while Robin Fowler was re-elected in absentia as harbour convenor it is nice to know that Ian Mellewell is to stand in for Robin until his return. A brief presentation ceremony took place at the close when Colin Stoddart, who was re-elected to the Council was surprised to hear some very kind words said about his period of office.

The first Boat Owners' Night (open to all interested in sailing) was a great success when the film "The Riddle of the Sands" was shown to a pleasantly large and appreciative audience. Sadly there were few entries in the photographic competition but these will be judged and the winner announced in due course, probably at the prize-giving.

The rest of the winter programme (all carefully arranged folks!) is as outline at the AGM but for your diaries here it is again:

- Friday Nov. 5th Boatowners Night with live VHF presentation.
- Friday Nov. 12th Forth Yacht Clubs' Association prize-giving here
- Friday Nov 19th The real thing - our own prize night here
- Friday Nov 26th The Annual Dance at the Merlin, Morningside Road.
- Friday Dec. 3rd Boatowners' Night. Muster at Club 7.30 p.m. for car convoy to visit the radar of the Forth Navigation Service at 8.00 p.m.
- Wed. Dec. 15th is the night we host our own OAPs to dinner.
- Sat. Dec. 18th sees the Xmas party and Panto outing for the kids
- Friday Dec. 24th Social here to mark Christmas Eve.
- Friday Jan. 15th we hope to arrange a visit to Trinity House.
- Friday Feb. 4th is the Quiz starring Gus Tait as Magnus Magnusson.
- Friday Mar. 4th we intend to run another successful Film Night and on a Saturday near that date we hope to visit the SAR section at RAF Leuchars

By now the lift-out is history except that it means that bills for cramage and winter storage will be out soon. Thanks to those who participated in so many ways and worked a long hard day for the sake of all. Black marks to those who sallied up and saw only to their own vessel's needs. Crane days need team effort! The heart-stopping slip in the slings which occurred with one North Yard oldie is something those who were present will NEVER forget and proved that Angus McIntosh could still have a career as a sprinter.

In the South Yard, Joe Nicol, looking like a somewhat frantic canary in his bright yellow oilskins, managed well and it was a pity that the crane was unable to cope with the three largest boats but Joe has this in hand. Odin suffered damage in the gale the preceeding Wednesday and it was sad to see the boat we all knew as Sting reduced to matchwood after her battering on the breakwater.

I am indeed sorry to report that Council has found it necessary to instruct our lawyers to take action against members for non-payment. Often what angers Council more than non-payment is a lack of reply to any communication. No-one likes to appear unduly hard but everyone should know the club policy by now.

After what has been a relatively good season on the water may I wish you, on behalf of the Council, a tolerable winter as regards weather and a convivial time in the clubhouse. For those who have never been seen there the best navigational directions are 1) Make for Granton Square, 2) Look for the North-west corner, 3) Insert keycard, 4) Announce yourself, 5) Sign in guest(s), 6) Enjoy, enjoy.

S. J. BOYD  
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