

The Council would wish health wealth and happiness for 1983 to all members and families.

The Annual Dinner Dance in the Merlin was the first occasion on which we heard Bob Sandison speak as Commodore and he promised to keep the Club in as good heart as Colin Stoddart had left it. Mr. McKenzie of Royal Forth was kind to us (with the possible exception of the Secretary) and we were honoured at the top table by Mr. Angus Flockhart, Commodore of Port o' Leith MBE and Mr. Ian Crawford, Secretary of FYCA and their ladies. As was to be expected the night went very well and it seemed all too soon when the last waltz was called. Congratulations to all involved.

Sailing members have continued their winter programme. The Club policy is to encourage installation of VHF sets in all boats and the lecture by the Alexion firm was well received. It is worth noting that they offer 10 per cent discount to members who have a letter of introduction from the Secretary and might allow more if we placed a bulk order. The visit to Leith Navigation Service at the Lock in the Harbour was well attended and thanks are due to Capt. Alan Childs and Denis Jack for staying to deal with us. On consecutive Fridays we had the FYCA prize-giving (whose highlight for us was the presentation of the Young Yachtsman of the Year Trophy to Keith Fowler!) and our own prize-giving which saw Aquila and Jura head the honours though so good has the handicapping been that most boats picked up something. Mrs. Stoddart, wife of outgoing Commodore Colin (El Commodore) Stoddart presented awards at the FYCA "Do" and Mrs. Maisie Sandison took the same role at our own ceremony. On both occasions the bar staff did us proud and strangers went off with a good impression.

Apart from the Dance, Social Members have been active and the Halloween Night was, by all accounts, bewitching. Christmas was roundly celebrated by all ages and a well-worn Santa staggered from party to party, including the OAP dinner at which Bill Gilbert masterminded a sensible seasonal raffle in which the main prizes were canned (as were some winners, notably one whose forebears may have come from Sunny Italy!); the Christmas Social which was on Christmas Eve lasting into Christmas morning, giving good excuses for exchanges of kisses (or mere handshakes if you were out of favour at midnight); and the Childrens Christmas Party. The latter was again put on for the younger ones while their older brothers and sisters were bussed up to the King's Panto. For Santa (just sailed in from Fife, you understand!) it meant a bumpy ride down from the Quay side aboard a balloon-decked trolley pulled by the least likely surrogate reindeer - Vice Commodore Bob Campbell and Council member John Hughes, whose yardmate, Angus McIntosh lent a hand in the trolley's preparation.

This month sees our first recorded attempt at a Burns Supper and rumour has it that various members are practising in secret. If anyone present remembers any or part of it perhaps they would let the Hon. Sec. have details (if publishable). The Boat Owners Night on the 14th was a visit to Trinity House.

Members who go to the now famous Lower Largo barbecue will be sorry to learn that Capt. and Mrs. Welsh had a bereavement. So too has Mr. and Mrs. Angus Flockhart. On a happier note, it is confirmed that "Bonnie Jean" hopes to add to her crew. Congratulations and best wishes to the Inglis family.

Mr. Ian Hellewell, not all that long back from the British Virgin Islands has again got itchy feet and has landed a two-year contract in Macao with Cable & Wireless. We wish him well. Returning just in time to take over the Harbour Accounts from Ian is our duly elected convenor, Robin Fowler, who was on the Indian Ocean at the behest of S.B.Offshore.

His account of Diego Garcia (which is actually a British administered Island housing a top secret US base and not a Mexican bandit) make TV's "Tales of a Gold Monkey" seem almost believable. For a pint or two he'll tell all (or nearly all !!!). Mary was pleased to have him back though he missed Keith's big night and then was two days late for Christmas.

The £8000 safety vessel is still needed and still quite far off on the horizon. Initial approaches to large maritime firms were politely but firmly rebuffed though through Bill Ballingall (whose heroism was wrongly attributed to Bill Ballantyne in the last issue) we may have help forthcoming from B.P. Approaches have also been made to Edinburgh District Council and to the Scottish Sports Council (who send a friendly interrogator). On both we must just wait.

As waiting is a) non-productive and b) boring your Hon. Sec. received permission to run a Prize Draw for which first prize was a weekend for two at the London Boat Show with accommodation donated by the London Tara Hotel and first class rail return tickets donated by BA Scottish Region and entry by the Show organisers. The winner was Miss Susie McEwing, 16 Broughton Place, who was quite ecstatic when told she'd won. Fourteen other prizes were put up by Council members and the draw raised over £600. Given that time was short (only 4 weeks) the reasonable was fair but many people who might perhaps have bought a £5 book of tickets were unable to make a contribution of any kind. From any who would like to give something direct, the fund is still open (hint, Hint !!).

One or two things came to light during the exercise. People whom we thought were members were found not to have been simply because they had not paid their membership due in September 1982. We are in process of preparing a completely new list (if you have moved could we please have your whereabouts and, if possible a phone number through which you may be contacted). A common excuse for non-payment was "I didn't know it was due" or "I don't know the rate I pay". For those who fall into these categories and don't wish to be lapsed the rates are:-

Full members	£15	+	£2.25	VAT	=	£17.25
Family members	£17	+	£2.55	VAT	=	£19.55
Sailing Associate	£ 6	+	90	VAT	=	£ 6.90
Social Associate	£5.50	+	83	VAT	=	£ 6.33
Cadets/OAPs	£ 1	+	15	VAT	=	£ 1.15

Joining fees are one year's additional subscription (No VAT). Cardkeys cost £2 + 30p VAT = £2.30 (for Club door). Yard keys are obtainable from A. McIntosh (north yard). Boat Owners only. If you want to remain a member you must pay by FEBRUARY 7th on which date Council will ratify the new membership list. LAST CHANCE FOLKS!

Over the last few weeks there has been an increase in theft from the yards. You can help cut this out by locking up your craft; tying down your tender; locking the yard gates; asking strangers to identify themselves and reporting all incidents promptly.

The winning entries in the photographic competition are out for framing and should be hung in the chart room soon.

Graham Mitchell, Sailing Secretary, and his Committee have all but finalised the season's programme and the preliminary dates are as under:

Wed.	April	20th	Evening Points 1
Wed.	May	4th	Evening Points 2
Sat.	May	7th	Scott Shield
Wed.	May	18th	Evening Points 3
Sun	May	22nd	Spring Picnic
Sat.	May	28th	Bass Rock (power/sail)
Wed	June	1st	Evening Points 4
Sat.	June	11th	Surrey/Marsh Cup
Wed.	June	15th	Evening Points 5
Sun.	June	26th	Ladies Race

Sat.	July	2nd	Bell Rock
Sun	July,	24th	Radio Forth
Sun.	July	31st	Jubilee Cup
Sat.	August	6th	Possible muster to Port Edgar
Sat.	August	13th	Quaich (power/sail)
Sat.	August	20th	Miller Cup (dinghies)
Sun	August	21st	Wardie Points
Sat.	August	27th	Fishing Trophy
Sat.	Sept.	3rd	RNLI
Sun.	Sept.	4th	Autumn Picnic
Sat.	Sept.	17th	Wickes Stern Chase
Sat.	Sept.	24th	Closing Muster

Please watch notice boards for any alterations.
Those are still a number of Boat Owners Nights you can support:

Friday	Feb.	4th	Quiz Night
Friday	March	4th	Film Night
Friday	April	8th	Talk on small craft engine maintenance.

and those wishing to visit RAF Leuchars on Saturday, March 5th, 1983 should drop a note giving numbers to Graham Mitchell at the Clubhouse.

If you have any news, do tell me.

S. J. BOYD
HON. SECRETARY

JANUARY 1983