

Dear Colleague,

The Club has been most active, especially in merry making, over the period since the last issue. Now that the jollying has settled down for a bit I, on behalf of Commodore Campbell and the Council, wish all our members . Happy New Year - and Fair Winds for those that want them!

The computer has come up with a number of names of people who seem to have forgotten to pay their subscriptions!. As you know this Club runs on the assumption that everyone pays- and pays promptly. If you wont pay a little on time then the subscriptions must be increased to give us income.

Since I last wrote the events of note have been the Halloween Social at which not a few got wet outside as well as inside; the Ladies Bring and Buy Sale, which raised a nice sum, just over £100 for the Safety Boat Fund; the Sponsored Walk, which raised nearer £200, several blisters and hopes of romance in at least one instance.

Your Club Eggheads - Ex-Commodore Bob Sandison, Gordon Taylor, George Laird, and Captain Gus Tait entered the McEwan's - R.N.I.B. Quiz. A late substitution had to be made when Bob withdrew but they acquitted themselves well against Post Office Bowling Club at home, before going out in an away tie at the exclusive (and damn lucky) Morningside Club. Sponsorship money ought to be paid at the Bar by now so that W.S.Oliver, Hon. Treasurer, can send off our cheque!

Alec Piell of Ben Line gave the address to the November Boat Owner's Night in a witty and self-deprecating way, though he more than held his own when he came under some very pointed questioning from some relaxed late-comers! The Sherry he brought went down equally well!

The Club's only semi-formal function - The Annual Dance - went extremely well and only one complaint was recorded. The Salveson Ex-Whalers (who took a table) recorded their enjoyment, and we have had glowing thank you letters from Royal Forth, Royal Northumberland, Port of Leith, Dunbar and the R.N.R. who were our top table guests.

The prize-giving saw the Main Deck packed to capacity for what was a fine night, (helped in no little measure by the now expected high standard of catering laid on by Sylvia & Co.) Alex Shuttleworth took the opportunity to pass round the hat (actually it was mine!) for the Radio Forth Charity Auction and it's just as well I've a big head for he got in some £47!

Crews from Aquila; Amron; Sulinka and Willy Nilly attended the Largs Cruising Seminar at Inverclyde and all learned something useful e.g. use your hot tea bags as pot scourers or how to sail in a two-man race of over 100 days without having to talk to your partner.

The December Boat Owner's was given over to the R.Y.A. Video Presentation and a short "Save Leith Nautical" plea from the Vice-Chairman until 9 p.m. when the Forth Yachts Clubs Association held their prize-giving, at which the first recipient of the Ian Crawford Memorial Prize was Nick Thomson. Mrs. Crawford made the presentation with commendable grace and Nick was clearly moved by the whole thing. Again our Club caterers come in for praise.

ne Social Committee too, are in line for plaudits. At the O.A.P. Christmas Social they cooked and served a very fine dinner. The recipients - all in their best Bibs and Tuckers - were a credit to the Club. They literally danced the night away.

The kids Christmas Party started slowly to the music of a last minute volunteer organist- George Milne, Harbour Convener - but soon reached top tempo when the new Santa appeared in Granton Square aboard "Wee Jean" (alias H.M.S. Hernia) all decked out and pulled by Bill Ballantyne and John Hughes. On his return Santa was towed by a mismatched set of rheindeer - the Commodore and Vice-Commodore. Both are recuperating at time of writing.

The Christmas Socià, (always restricted to members) was an embarrassing sell-out. Rab Paget and his Social Committee could have filled the hall twice over. For those who were disappointed why not "book early for Christmas" this year?

Saturday, December 29 (not 19 as on the tickets) saw the Annual Prize Draw with the 2 - night Stakis Hotel stay going to Mr. & Mrs. I Watson, 29, Hamilton Drive, Portobello, and the Dinner for two at the Glenburn Hotel; Currie, to Mrs. A. Jones, 152, Pilton Ave.; the 40oz. Whisky (donated by W.S. Oliver) went to Peter Sherlock of "Barbey" and Mr. D. Temple and Mr. Ian Cadger each won a case of beer, donated by George Semple of S S N's internal newspaper "Tartan Star". Other prizewinners were as follows:-

- 6th: Mr. Cleaton, 121 Stoneyhill Terrace, Musselburgh.
- 7th: George Scott, 7 Mountcastle Drive.
- 8th: Mr. Flannigan, 65 Restalrig Rd. South.
- 9th: Ian Inglis "Bonnie Jean".
- 10th: J. Currie, 10 Piershill Square West.
- 11th: M.F. Coates, 8, Newbattle Terrace, Edinburgh.
- 12th: J. Murray, ? West Granton Grove.
- 13th: S. Flockhart, Duddingston Park.
- 14th: Moira Bathgate, c/o Colin Cairns of "Storm Cloud".
- 15th: Jim Dignan, 3 Granton View.
- 16th: E.C. Robertson, 56; Ivanhoe Road, Cumbernauld.
- 17th: George F. Kemp of "Whimbrel".
- 18th: David Rolland, 8, Royston Mains Place.
- 19th: Wattie Richardson, Longniddry.
- 20th: Graham Mitchell.

The draw itself raised just short of £1000 and the Committee would like to thank those who donated prizes; those who sold tickets, and those who bought them. We should now be able to purchase the vessel and have some £1500 to equip her. THANK YOU.

Work on our Harbour Work-Boat has slowed lamentably since it left our hands and went to the engineers for fitting-out. Rear Commodore Fowler has praised our own work parties, led by George Milne, for their efforts- and the lone paint splattered social member whose wife wishes him to remain monogamous (I think thats what she said!)

Bill Ballantyne has retired from daily contact with Peter Sherlock but has been putting in sterling work on the fences in both Yards to improve security. Other schemes are also under consideration, including a marginal increase in size of the North Yard but more of these in an other issue!

Rear-Commodore Graham Mitchell (winner of a dinky pair of blue stockings in the Draw!) and Tam Wilson have the training and sailing for the new season ready. More details later.

The first Boat Owner's of the Year is to be a presentation by the Salveson Ex-Whalers on Jan 11 at 7.30p.m. for 8 p.m. In view of our long affiliation please turn out!

The next social event is the Burn's Supper on Jan. 25. This revived tradition is well worth a visit. Plans are in hand now for a night to remember. Tickets soon from Rab Paget, the Bar or Council Members. Places are again limited so book now!

Friday, February 1st is our Film Night. See you there!

On March 1st we have our annual Nautical Quiz, now named BRAINWAVES, at which we shall be defending the trophy donated by Sailing Secretary, Tam Wilson, from broadsides by S.I.N.K., R.F.Y.C., Port Edgar, Civil Service S Dunbar. Fun and fact, all in one night!

April 5 is our Sailing Seminar at which we learn (or relearn) how to get over the line (start that is) before "Aquila" and over the finish before "Barbey" !!!

Thats all folks!

STEWART BOYD.
Hon. Secy.