

# SEAS THE DAY

Volume 2 Issue 3 June 2026

## TROPHIES

We owe a great vote of thanks to Peter Gargett who has researched and catalogued ALL of our club trophies. He has created two folders which will be available for perusal (in the clubhouse, please don't remove!) on the shelf with the trophies. Lorraine has been a star by polishing the trophies so that they look magnificent! Thank you, too!

Each trophy has a story, a history of their evolution and an insight into the club and our newsletters will share some of these going forward.

So our first retired for now trophy is.....

The Tancred Cup.



Named after the Tancred navigational buoy off Crombie Pier, this series trophy was jointly contested each year by Blackness Boat Club and Forth Cruising Club. Introduced in 1997, the event was held intermittently for a variety of reasons until 2018.

It would be wonderful to see this trophy resurrected and travelling back and fro across the Forth!

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

June 6<sup>th</sup> Evening Race  
2/Sternchase 1900.

June 14<sup>th</sup> Driftwood Race 1230.

June 20<sup>th</sup> Out and Back Cruise  
0900 Destination unknown!

June 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup>: FCC Regatta  
and Raft Race

July 5<sup>th</sup> Masson Race 0800

July 6<sup>th</sup> Evening Race 3 1900

July 11<sup>th</sup> Cruise in FCYC

July 12<sup>th</sup> Duff Cup 3 and 4 1200

July 19<sup>th</sup> Distance Race 0840

July 26<sup>th</sup> Sternchase 2 1300

August 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Overnight  
Cruise to Aberdour

October 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup>: Crane Out

November 7<sup>th</sup>: Dinner Dance

November 26<sup>th</sup>: AGM

# CRANE IN

We were given variable weather conditions for our crane in weekend this year. The winds got up a bit on the Saturday but Sunday was glorious.

The crane in and outs are a time when there is a real vibrancy about the clubhouse, with everyone present and everyone working towards a shared goal.

The work that goes into a smooth crane in is immense and Bob and the committee ensure that everything is in place to maximise the chance of a smooth weekend.

We have notices to residents, insurance chase ups, crane arrangements, briefings, task allocations, catering teams...the list can seem endless.

But these two legends are getting a mention this year! No matter the weather Russell and Marion will be ensuring safe entry to the site.



Thanks to Bob for arranging a big boat backdrop for crane in too!



# BOOKS WITH BENEFITS

For all Scottish library card holders there is one major benefit that can be overlooked. This is the free access to Press Reader, an app that gives access to newspapers and magazines from around the world.

A quick browse shows access to:

- Yachting Monthly
- Yachting World
- Motorboat
- Sail
- Sailing Today
- Classic Boat
- Boat International
- Practical Boat Owner

There are several other publications from other countries too.

If you have a library card and have not accessed Press Reader, have a go. Any issues can be resolved by popping into your local library who can help with PIN numbers etc.

## FCC Library Book Review

**Ocean Conquest by Bob Fisher and Barry Pickthall.**

**This 1993 official story of the Whitbread Round The World Race (now called the Ocean Race) has sumptuous photography making it well worth a peek.**

**Available on the shelves at the top of the stairs. Please DO NOT be tempted to recreate the photo on page74 in any way!**

## COMMODORE'S CHATTER

I've just finished reading an article in Yachting Monthly about abandoned boats, which is topical as our Club is soon to provide the labour and expertise to crane the abandoned boats out of Charlestown Harbour.

The abandonment of boats is of course connected with the second-hand boat market, a boat that is unsellable surely faces a greater risk of abandonment. I don't wish to distress our members who are trying to sell boats at the moment, but my observation is that immaculately maintained boats sell quickly but boats in average condition are dropping greatly in price to make a sale.

Where am I heading with this? Well, it's the Club policy of charging 150% of Port Edgar fees when boats are left out of the water for more than a year. Unfortunately, without some policy in place we are very vulnerable to collecting stored boats, as our fees are comparatively low. Our current policy though is proving to be unworkable.

Two years ago, Blackness Boat Club decided to include the cost of crane hire into their membership fees, which are now set at £500. For members craning their boats into the water there is really no change in ownership cost but there will of course be an impact for boats that are not craned in.

At this year's AGM the Committee would like to propose that we use a similar membership fee structure to Blackness and I've written this ramble in the hope of gaining feedback on our proposal. If the proposal was agreed there would be the opportunity to pay the membership fee on a monthly or instalment basis via our new GoCardless system.

**Did you know you can tell the difference between male and female ants by dropping them in a glass of water?**

**If it sinks – girl ant. If it floats – boy ant!!**



## BRILL - IANT TO SEE

There are some really heartening things that happen. The story of Brill is one of these. She was sold in May 2025 to Jo McFarlane whose 85-year-old dad, Douglas, then took her maintenance in hand. Douglas could often be found aboard as he tackled one job after another. Fast forward to this:



Brill afloat with Jo on her first ever sail on her boat and John and Kally Leiper sharing sailing advice and giving local knowledge. This is when we know our club really is fantastic. Never be afraid to ask for advice – helping each other is what we do best!

## TREASURER RECEIPTS

For Stef, please contact him via [forthcruisingclub.treasurer@gmail.com](mailto:forthcruisingclub.treasurer@gmail.com)

Ensure there is a clear reference when making a transfer.

If receipts or paperwork are left at the bar at The Bruce Arms, send an email to highlight this to minimise the chance of things getting lost.

## WELCOME TO OUR NEW SOCIAL MEMBERS.

A big hello to John Nicolson who is joining us. He has previously owned an ETAP 23 at Port Edgar and is now on the look out for a new boat!

Glad to have you on board to Alan Dingley who regularly crews on Whimbrel and lives in Charlestown.

Delighted to welcome Jennifer Page who has a lifelong interest in sailing and a wealth of knowledge to share.

## WhatsApp Groups

Is there anything more heartening than seeing the messages on WhatsApp going back and fro in answer to a member's query? The community doesn't need to be physically together to enjoy the wisdom of some salty old dogs!

## RAFT RACE

**We are still looking for rafters to represent the club! See poster attached to email for details. Get those family youngsters involved!**

## COMMODORE'S PARTY

This year's extravaganza was a fiesta of colour amongst a rather cold and gloomy evening.

Our Commodore had selected a Mexican theme, mainly because his wife can turn her hand to a chilli easily, and that was that.

We had frozen ice pop cocktails, Mexican mariachi band music and tortillas. We also had an unlimited supply of tequila which our rotating bar staff were keen to offer.

The highlight of the evening was planned to be the pinata! Excitement levels were high in the Hart household – where could it be safely placed, how could we keep people safe as they attempted to smash it and are Celebrations better than Quality Street?

No worries! Douglas McFarlane led the charge with a good swipe, Jo McFarlane delivered a knockout blow and the pinata was finally felled by an enthusiastic Natalie Gray, who is seen here wearing the poor thing!





### **SPOTLIGHT ON...Peter Gargett**

**Peter joined FCC at 16 in 1967 and currently sails a Catalina 320 from Port Edgar. He has also served on the committee in three separate posts and is responsible for our trophy inventory.**

**First Sailing Experience:** My very first exposure was as a baby when my family sailed from London to Singapore, where I spent most of my time at HMS Terror and on many Royal Naval vessels - when we had a navy. My first hands-on sailing came at 13 during a Sea Cadet course at HMS Lochinvar, (Port Edgar) learning to crew and helm whalers, Bosuns and RNSA dinghies.

**Most Exciting Sailing Experience:** Not a sailing one per se, but on a motor yacht. In my early 20s in 1972 when working at Rosyth Dockyard, I was asked to help crew a 50ft motor yacht belonging to a family friend, Lt- Cdr. "Nutty" Mills who lived on the boat and was relocating from Rosyth to Portsmouth with his partner Tricia, a BOAC stewardess. As the yard was on strike at the time I readily agreed. As well as an engineer there was me - deckhand and general dogsbody.

The trip was exciting from the start! We left Burntisland in a rising wind but by North Berwick it was a full gale, seriously knocking us about forcing us to spend the night in NB harbour. The excitement didn't end there. The run down the east coast brought every kind of weather, including thick fog, necessitating various stops for fuel, food and rest.

I was kept well fed by Tricia and expertly drilled at the wheel by "Nutty". While each stopover was memorable, Hartlepool was particularly so, - we could smell it long before we saw it! About half way through the journey, I received word the yard was resuming normal duties, so unfortunately had to cut my trip short. Anchored and fog-bound off Great Yarmouth, where I was to catch a train home, "Nutty" was unsure of his course for a safe approach. So, when a coaster sailed past he immediately upped anchor and gave chase, radioing for a compass bearing into the harbour, which, thankfully, was duly provided. So ended my exciting, educational and somewhat exhausting offshore voyage.

**North or South Forth Coast:** Most definitely the north side and, in particular, the East Neuk harbours. The north coast harbours may be smaller and trickier to enter, but their character, history and scenery make them endlessly rewarding.

**Dream Sailing Destination:** Fortunately, I've already lived it - sailing a 16ft catamaran inside the outer reef in Mauritius. Exploring the crystal-clear turquoise lagoons and white sandy beaches dreamlike experience, only lacking Fleetwood Mac's *Albatross* playing on smart headphones (not invented then)- I'll need to go back and do it again!

FOR SALE -**Seadog 30 Ketch Motor Sailer 'Jacarah'** For Sale – £10,000 Contact Robert Peebles on 07766585739 for further information/viewing. **Further details on club website.** All contact details are in the Members' Section of the website.