SEAS THE DAY

Volume 2 Issue 5 October 2026

What's Up

It seems hard to believe, that only a few years ago, the FCC didn't use WhatsApp to share information and updates.

The Racing and Crew, Cruise and Maintenance groups started in June 2023 with the Social group starting in March 2026. Other, short life groups have been created, specifically to deal with issues such as the library or bar volunteers.

The purpose of the race group and cruise groups are self-explanatory but it is the social group that hosts information such as items for sale and upcoming events of interest that is worth a look.

WhatsApp groups are only as good as the content shared so don't be shy. The social group is ideal for sharing things you think other members might be interested in. Thanks to Keith for flagging up the start of the Golden Globe Race!

The Crew, Cruise and Maintenance group often shares footage of local trips. The example of the Colquhoun brothers sailing through a feeding frenzy was fantastic. The momentary sense of panic from so many whales and seals was well caught through the dialogue!

Please do consider sharing your thoughts, footage, suggestions etc in the groups. It is also lovely to see comments from club members who may not be often at the club.

It helps keep the club alive!

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

October 10th and 11th Crane Out
November 7th Dinner Dance
November 26th AGM

Nautical Blethers

Two talks by the Royal Scottish Geographical Society seem particularly relevant this year.

Charlie Connelly, author of the bestselling travelogue *Attention All Shipping: A Journey Round the Shipping Forecast* is talking in Dunfermline in December. The shipping forecast has just embarked on its second century and Charlie will reveal the remarkable history of the forecast and describe some of the more out-of-the-way places he visited on his journey around the 31 sea areas of the shipping forecast map.

Orkney based shipwreck hunter Kevin Heath dives into the gripping history of two remarkable vessels, *S.S. Active* and *S.S. Scotia* and their vital roles in Scotland's polar legacy. In 1893, *Active* sailed to Antarctica under Captain Robertson, a daring voyage that helped lay the foundation for Scottish exploration in the South. The ship's legacy continued in *S.S. Scotia*, built for William Speirs Bruce's 1902–04 Scottish National Antarctic Expedition, an often-overlooked triumph of science and endurance. This talk is further afield in Glasgow, Ayr and Helensburgh.

Venues vary so check out their website here:

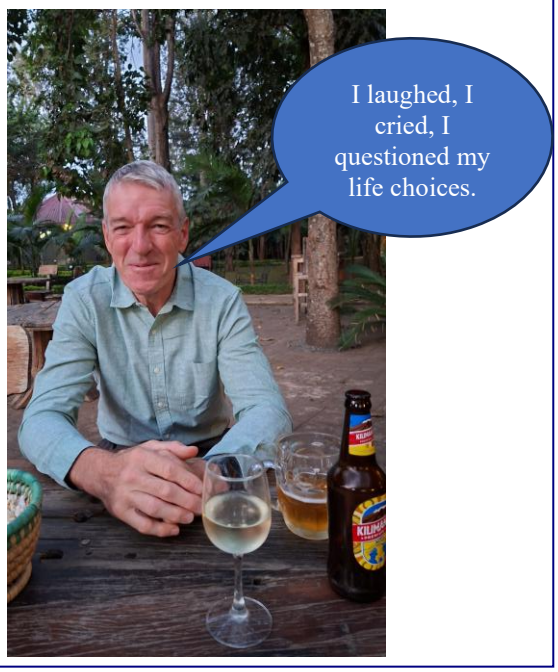
https://www.rsgs.org/

COMMODORE'S CHATTER

This is my last contribution to the FCC newsletter as Commodore, as my two-year term has come to an end and I will be standing down at the AGM next month.

Has my time as Commodore been enjoyable? Unequivocally, yes; That is due entirely to the amazing membership that we have at FCC. We are incredibly fortunate to have such a diverse group of people, willing to volunteer their time and wide-ranging skills. This dedication has never been more evident than within the committee itself; I have witnessed immense commitment from the team and a shared desire to make our club the very best it can be.

Every Commodore and committee bring their own distinct focus to the role. Because of this, I believe that after two years, it is the right time to let someone else take the helm and nudge the Club forward in directions new.



Why do sailors hate buying new hats?

They are afraid of cap-sizing!

😂 😂 😂 😂 😂 😂 😂

THE NO SHIRKY WORKY PARTY

Our marvellous members who contribute to the weekly work party certainly aren't afraid of hard work! Each Wednesday they meet at 10am for about two hours, tackling the sort of jobs that get sometimes get done quietly in the background, such as plumbing or more visible tasks such as building works.

Currently the project underway is the patio extension.

This is another aspect of the club that offers camaraderie and….cake! A little birdie tells me Eva's cakes alone are worth turning up for!

If you fancy popping down to feel the vibe, please feel free to do so. Or catch Phil and ask him more about it. The next project is going to be extending the south dinghy racks. Turn up and find out what uncovered skills you have!

EEK!

There was consternation within the village community in September when it became apparent that a boat had slipped her mooring and was being carried in high winds towards shore.

Our friends at Blackness alerted us to the unfortunate news that indeed, Caroline, had indeed drifted over and found herself on the rocks.

Yet again, FCC members rallied to the call and over the course of the week, Caroline was able to be towed back to Blackness with our club boat. A salutary reminder to keep an eye on your moorings and the weather.

PERSONAL KIT

It may be worth checking that any personal craft and kit around the club have a clear name on it. One zealous member has come a cropper by disposing of the wrong canoe! No names, of course, but you can FILL in the gap!

CRANE OUT

Poor Bob was put upon last year to give crane out insights but to be honest he always produces amazing information for everyone so it was redundant!

The crane out draws great interest from the wider community and as folk watch on several questions come to mind.

1. What's thedifference between the different coloured hi viz vests?
2. Why are there different hard hats? Is there a gaffer?
3. Why is that man dangling from the crane?

I'm not sure about who gets chosen to be the purple helmet or indeed why. And all I will say about safety this year is that Roger will be your First Aider for crane out should you find yourself 'hanging around'!

DOWNPOUR DASH

This year's Blackness Dash was held in torrential rain. Seven boats made their way through driving rain to be greeted with cake, tea and a bar! Photos were nigh on impossible during the sail unfortunately.

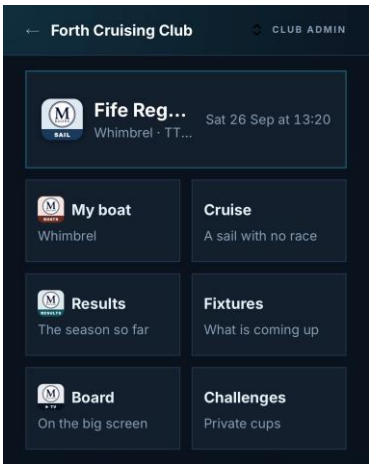
However photographic evidence shows that the event was made even more special with a rendition of 'Happy Birthday' and another cake.

It was even more special as Jenna, Michael and Rhu Walker introduced baby Oban to the club.

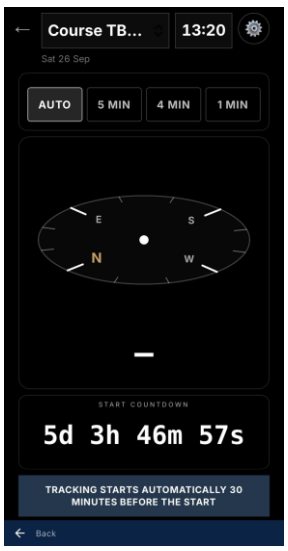
APP- RECIATING THE VISIONS OF MR GRAY

As part of the racing experience, the Officer of the Day, used to be tasked with gathering data, entering it into a spreadsheet before using a complex formula to identify the winner. Here, David Gray, our very own boffin, explains the excellent racing app he has devised to make everything simple and instructive.

"Mylne Racing is a new tool for club sailing, built on the Forth. It takes the parts of a race that happen on the water and puts them in your phone, so that the racing is recorded, scored and shared with almost nothing to do afterwards.



You enter a race on the website, and from then on, your phone takes over. It counts the start sequence down aloud, shows you the line and your heading as you come up to it, and records your boat's track by GPS from the gun to the finish. It reads how far she is heeling, too. Cross the line and the result, corrected for handicap, appears without anyone typing anything in.



Afterwards the track is yours to keep and replay: the lay line you missed, where the fleet split, and what the boat was doing when you gained or lost a place.

It carries the paperwork as well. Each boat has her own page, with photographs, measurements, and her handicap and insurance certificates in one place. You can invite your crew, register with a club, and claim a boat as her owner. There is a cruise mode for the days that aren't races, which records a passage exactly the same way.

For the club, the race officer sets the marks and the course, and the scoring follows the rules the club already uses. Results go out as soon as they are final, and the fleet can be put up live on a screen in the clubhouse."

David has designed an app that can allow those unable to race, to follow the excitement from afar. In truth, the excitement is closer to home.....watching the app evolve as more and more of us use it.

SPOTLIGHT ON….David Leslie

First sailing experiences? I sailed with my dad at 3 years old then from Royal Northern & Clyde Yacht Club, & Helensburgh Sailing Club where "Steven Park" our Olympic Coach was my sparring partner & then taught some promising junior sailors (Luke Patience, Charlotte Dobson etc).

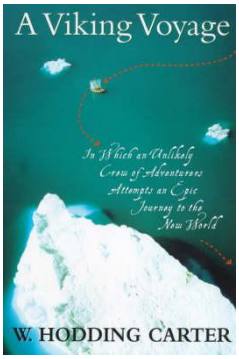
Instructing? I was apprenticed to Silvers Marine as a boatbuilder. In the mid-nineties I trained outdoor instructors for the Singapore Armed Forces. The day I left they offered me the post coaching their Olympic team, which I wasn't ready for……..Wales followed with the giddy heights of "regional development coach" for Welsh yachting/Sports Council Wales being reached.

Work life? After coaching I spent 20 years working Harbour Tugs the last 4 studying at Fleetwood Nautical College & Glasgow Nautical College where I passed my exams. I semi-retired from commercial sea work and have hardly sailed during the last 10 years.

Plans now? My new passion is developing an accessible "One Design" for the Forth. I aspire to be like the Jardine brothers on South Coast, sailing J24's into their 80's.

FCC Library Book Review

A Viking Voyage by W. Hodding Carter.
My first impression was" What a fruit loop. I'm glad he wasn't my husband!"
However, the author writes with great humour and honesty about his recreation of building a full-scale Viking knarr using traditional methods and then sailing it along part of Leif Eriksson's route toward North America.
To say he and his crew were unprepared is an understatement. It's part historical experiment, part midlife adventure, part comedy of errors.
Worth a read!



Committee

As you are aware (because it is in the diary in capital letters!) the AGM is approaching. Thecommittee is not a done deal so if any position proves interesting, please do chat with Roger. There is a role for everyone!

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.