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## Dates for your diary

**Sunday 12 January, 7:30pm – Thurso Club - Scalextric Night – knockout racing competition** - making a return after several years. Fun for children of all ages – including parents! Roy has track and cars, but if you have more you can lend, please contact Roy on 895646. Small entry fee. Bar.

**Friday 28 February, 7:30 for 8pm – Thurso Club - Annual Dinner Dance and Prize giving.** Disco, Bar.

**Saturday/Sunday 28/29 June – Midsummer Regatta**

**Saturday/Sunday 13/14 September – End of Season Regatta**

**Friday 3 October – 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Dinner Dance** – An extra one this year to celebrate as close as we can to the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Club's formation – 9 October 1953.

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## 2002/03 Committee

Commodore	Mark Raffle	01847 894132
Vice Commodore	Malcolm Lord	01847 896885
Secretary	Andrew Grant	01847 895906
Treasurer	Jim Kelly	01847 895698
Sailing Secretary	Pen Lewis	01847 841353
Training Secretary	Vacant	
Junior Representatives	Glen Foster, David Scott	
Parent Representatives	Alan Scott, Derek Thoms on	
Committee	Roy Donn (Principal) 01847 895646	
	Guy Newson, Nicola Pearson,	
	Kath Lewis, John MacKenzie	

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Child Protection Officers Connie Ryan, Jim Kelly

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## 2002 AGM

A condensed report of the AGM is given overleaf. At the AGM Steve Foster was elected as Training Secretary, but after the vote on the proposal for unsupervised junior access to the Club decided to resign from his committee position. Steve has contributed to the Club for over a decade, including 2 years as Commodore, but always with a strong focus on training, particularly for juniors. The Club has good reason to be grateful for all the work Steve has done on its behalf.

This means, of course, that we now seek a new Training Secretary. Anyone interested in filling this position, or who would like more information, please contact Mark Raffle or Malcolm Lord.

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## Communications

At the AGM it was felt that communications with members needed to be improved, and that the local press should also be used more for publicising the Club's activities. We did produce a short article about the AGM, which appeared in the Caithness Courier on 4 December. The article now appears on the Club's website, or if anyone prefers a photocopy of the cutting, please contact Mark Raffle. It is intended to submit further articles to record appropriate events. This newsletter is intended to be the first of a regular series, as near to monthly as I can manage. To assist us, we are asking people to supply their home email

addresses if they are happy to receive information this way. You can do this on the latest membership forms, or direct to [commodore@pfyc.org.uk](mailto:commodore@pfyc.org.uk). We also have the Club website, which will be kept updated, and have copies of all the newsletters and press articles.

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## Newsletter contributions

I believe the newsletter will be more varied and interesting if more people are willing to contribute. I would be grateful to receive contributions at any time, in any form, but the preference is for email to [commodore@pfyc.org.uk](mailto:commodore@pfyc.org.uk). Narrative logs, stories, competitions, photographs, training or travellers attended, people joining or leaving the club, or any other interesting information, or suggestions. In this 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary year, I would particularly welcome any reminiscences of times gone by in the Club.

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## 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary calendar

Starting with a suggestion from Nicola Pearson a small team has been set up to arrange the production of a calendar to be sold during the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary year. The calendar will be for 2004, and will have several photographs for each month. The team – Nicola, Malcolm Lord and Andrew Grant – would be pleased to receive a selection from your photographs of PFYC sailing. Your photographs will be returned. There will be a small prize for the photograph judged as being the best submitted.

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## Garage bookings

If you would like to use the clubhouse garage to work on your boat, you can book in weekly blocks by contacting Mark Raffle. There is a small weekly charge to cover use of power and light.

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## Interested in instructing?

The Club would like to get some more people qualified as instructors to ensure we retain enough to run our annual training courses. Enthusiasm and a sense of humour are the most important requirements. If interested, please contact Roy Donn for further information on how to qualify.

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## Father Neptune Trophy

For anyone who doesn't know this trophy, it is awarded for frequent, or (preferably!!) a single spectacular, immersion in Neptune's Kingdom. So – if you want to nominate someone for this trophy, just in case no-one else witnessed the entertainment, then please contact Mark Raffle or Malcolm Lord.

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## Farewell

John Simmons, Alan Lowther and Martin Stenhouse are all leaving, or have already left Caithness for work elsewhere. We thank them for their contributions to the Club, and bid them farewell and best wishes for the future.

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## And finally...

I wish you all a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year, and hope to see you early in the New Year at the Scalextric Night.

Mark.

## AGM Report

The Annual General Meeting was held on 20 November 2002 in the Thurso Club, with a good attendance. With the Commodore, Doug Shanks, still hurrying back from a visit south, the Vice Commodore, Mark Raffle, took the chair for most of the meeting. The minutes of the 2001 AGM were accepted.

Treasurer Jim Kelly reported that the Club is in a financially sound position, with £6,300 in the bank, an increase of £1800 over the year. From this total £5,500 has been set aside towards the cost of a replacement guard boat. This is not immediately required, but it is thought prudent to start making provision, as the boat is now approaching 20 years old. Membership numbers are high, with significantly more received in subscriptions than in 2000/01. There will be no increase in membership subscriptions for 2002/03. The Club also intends to register as a Community Amateur Sports Club with the Inland Revenue. This is a scheme which allows the Club to reclaim income tax on any donations, with only a simple form to complete. The accounts were accepted.

Training Secretary Steve Foster reported on the various training activities through the year, starting in November and December 2001, when 6 juniors gained their RYA Red Racing Awards. During May development squads were held within the club, split into single and double-handers, variously aiming at the RYA red or white youth racing awards – 18 people participated, with almost as many coaching at various times. Two Fireballs were bought by juniors, and the sails modified for reefing to build confidence during the early stages. However, by the end of the season, both boats were being sailed confidently with full rig. For the first time in over 12 years the basic dinghy training course was not run, owing to the right instructors not all being available at the right time. Mandie Cran stepped in to lead what we believe was the first keelboat course in the Club's history. Four sailors successfully completed the course, and the Club gained RYA recognition for keelboat training. Three new guard boat drivers passed the powerboat level 2 course. Thanks to the efforts of Roy and Christine, the Club also achieved RYA recognition for disabled sailing. Members agreed Steve's proposal that the Club should send a gift and card to Donnie Meldrum on his retirement to recognise his many years of running Topper training in Scotland.

On behalf of Sailing Secretary Steven Shanks, Roy Donn reported that the addition of a second race on Sunday afternoons, and adoption of the "5-4-1-go" start sequence had both proved popular. The numbers racing varied as usual, but overall attendance was good, with the juniors being particularly well represented. The regattas were well attended, with excellent conditions, but the Phimster Pursuit had to be cancelled owing to high winds. The juniors, sailing in Toppers, won the Inter-County Challenge trophy from Orkney for the first time since 1988. Geoff Henstridge was congratulated on a very creditable result in the 2002 Laser Masters World Championships at Hyannis Yacht Club, Cape Cod, USA, finishing 38<sup>th</sup> out of 76 with a best individual race position of 19<sup>th</sup>. The Sea Scouts and Sea Cadets were thanked for providing rescue cover to support the Club guard boat. John MacKenzie was thanked for stepping in as Sailing Secretary when Steven Shanks went to university.

Doug Shanks arrived in time to deliver his Commodore's report. He thanked the committee and everyone who had helped with the running of the Club over the last year. Particular mention was made of Pen and Kath Lewis for their organisation of food at the regattas and other socials. The annual RYA inspection of the Club was successfully completed in May with

no recommendations. Members were reminded of the importance of securing the clubhouse and compounds on leaving. A very successful dinner dance had been held, despite the wintry conditions which prevented a number of people from arriving - including the band! A number of topics were mentioned which were separately discussed later in the meeting. Doug advised the Club to think carefully before taking on too many different tasks in its 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary year. He concluded by thanking the Club for its support during his 2 years as Commodore, and wished the new committee well. Doug was thanked for all his efforts as Commodore.

The elections for the new committee then took place – results are reported overleaf – and the new Commodore took the chair.

A proposal was then presented by Steve Foster to allow juniors aged 16-18, agreed by the committee, to have unsupervised access to the Club facilities. The primary aim was to develop these juniors ready for full membership, and at the same time allow the Club to benefit from their contribution. [The proposal is not discussed in detail here – all Club members should have received a copy with the AGM notice. Further copies can be made available if required.] The committee had discussed the proposal at length at more than one meeting, without any firm conclusion being reached, but agreed that the topic should be discussed at the AGM to find members' views. A number of members expressed the view that the aims were laudable, but remained unconvinced that unsupervised access should be required. The main concerns centred on insurance and legal responsibility, in an increasingly litigious society. The proposal was discussed at length, with all present being given the opportunity to comment. A show of hands gave a tied result, upon which the Proposer felt that the matter could not be realistically pursued without the full support of the Club.

For the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary it was proposed to hold the normal annual dinner dance in February, and that this would once again be in the Thurso Club. It was intended to hold a further dinner dance close to the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Club's formation on 9 October 1953, which would probably be in a different venue. There were no objections to these proposals from those present.

The new Commodore noted the difficulty with running the dinghy training course, and suggested that the Club should attempt to get some more people qualified as instructors.

Barrie Cran has been assisting Owen Pugh on the proposals to install pontoons in the harbour, and reported on progress. The Harbour Trust would probably wish the Club to arrange installation, but may take over the maintenance. It was noted that the Trust are currently preoccupied by the delays to the new ferry pier. After some discussion it was agreed that work on the proposals should continue, at least to the point of establishing feasibility. Although Barrie is expected to be posted elsewhere this year, he agreed to continue this work until then, for which the committee is very grateful.

Questions were then invited from members. David Sprague asked about a number of cups which did not seem to have been awarded recently. It was believed that the Club still had these cups, and the new committee would review their award. David also noted that there had been no recent newsletters for members, and that it was a long time since there had been articles on the Club in the local press. It was suggested that the Club should submit more regular reports, in the same way that other local sports clubs do. The new Commodore undertook to improve these communications.

The new Commodore thanked everyone for their attendance and attention during a long meeting, and then closed the AGM.