



### Annual Dinner and Prize Winners

The annual dinner took place in the Thurso Club, a good night was had by all despite the bad weather and the band not making it through from Wick, a Disco was cobbled together and the party went on. Prize winners (right) are listed below:

- ☞ 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday (Fast) Lady Anne Trophy  
M. Lord
- ☞ 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday (Slow) Nutshell Trophy  
G. Foster.
- ☞ 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday (Fast) Mackay Cup  
B&G Newson.
- ☞ 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday (Slow) Town Improvements  
Cup D. Scott.
- ☞ 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday (Fast) St. Clair Challenge  
Bowl D. Lord.
- ☞ 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday (Slow) Enterprise Cup  
D. Scott.
- ☞ Thursday Series (Fast) Sprague Cup  
D. Lord.
- ☞ Thursday Series (Slow) Sibster Cup  
D. Scott.
- ☞ Phimster Pursuit Phimster Cup  
S & J Foster.
- ☞ Castlehill Race Cameron Cup C. Ryan.
- ☞ River Race, Dounreay Cup G. Foster.
- ☞ Father Neptune Trophy G. Henstridge.

### Skiathos

On these gloomy winter days I often turn my mind back to sunny days spent cruising the sunlit blue seas of the Aegean. In June we flew out to Skiathos in the Sporades Islands to charter Sophia, a 34ft Jenneau Sun Odyssey, for two weeks lazy island hopping. The airport runway at Skiathos is scarily short, being built across a narrow neck of land, and with brakes screeching, the plane stopped just short of the sea. We grabbed a taxi down to the harbour and were dropped off at the Fresh Bar, where the yotties hang out. While the crew sat back and enjoyed a beer, we sent our skipper, Mark, off to find Sophia or her owner Panos. A few minutes later he'd found them both on a nearby pontoon where Panos was replacing the linen and replenishing the drinks cabinet with ouzo and metaxa. Sheana and I bought some provisions while Mark and Bill had a blether with Panos over a beer before he left to catch the Dolphin hydrofoil to Volos where he is a schoolteacher. We cast off and had a brisk sail east to the little port of Glossa on the island of Skopelos, where we watched a beautiful sunset from a waterfront taverna and feasted on grilled swordfish and prawns with some good local wine. The days continued in the same vein - some nights were spent in a deserted bay where we'd have dinner on board listening to the goats bleating on shore and fish splashing in the darkness. Others were spent tied up to the quay in a lively little village where the shops and bars were open 'til all hours. The sailing was fun - plenty of wind most days, once reaching the bottom of a force 7. James (aged 4) loved it and quickly got the hang of steering, and his grandpa wished he'd gone there forty years ago! (We celebrated his 73rd birthday in Skiathos

### Endeavour Award

Endeavour Award was presented to Alan Thompson.



### Racing Red Badge Awards

RYA Red Badge awards were presented at the dinner dance to: Glen Foster, Dan Rae, Iain Thomson, Douglas Canavon, David Scott, Alan Thomson and Mathew Phimister

### Regatta Dates 2002

- ☞ Midsummer Regatta, 22nd / 23<sup>rd</sup> June.
- ☞ End of Season Regatta, 21st / 22<sup>nd</sup> Sept.



town during a thunderstorm). We were woken early on our last morning by the strange sound of men's voices shouting in unison. I looked out through the hatch and saw a couple of hundred guys in white outfits doing martial arts exercises on the beach only a few yards from where we were anchored! It turned out to be a worldwide convention for martial arts experts, which was taking place that weekend. We set off home feeling bronzed fit and relaxed after an ideal holiday. This summer we'll be cruising the Orkney Isles rather than the Greek Isles, but I'm sure we'll be back one day - it's a very addictive lifestyle!

Panos can be contacted at [www.odysseysailing.gr](http://www.odysseysailing.gr)

Ishbel Raffle

### Small club, big welcome

When we sailed into Scrabster harbour on the north coast of Scotland, sandwiched between the Dounreay nuclear power station and the Pentland Firth, we did not expect to be there more than a couple of days. We were pleasantly surprised when the Harbourmaster made us extremely welcome and handed us a key to the Pentland Firth Yacht Club so that we could use the showers and 'facilities' there during our stay.

The PFYC is a very small club, but has a nice clubhouse tucked away in the far corner of the fishdocks, and they simply throw the door open to any visiting yachtsmen who are members of an RYA-affiliated (or any other national authority) club. It's immensely kind, because otherwise you are reliant on the Seamen's Mission, which is only open during the day, closing at 1730hrs. The facilities at the PFYC may not be to five-star hotel standards, but they are adequate, and it's a simple bit of understanding and kindness that is really appreciated by cruising folk. Perhaps other, grander clubs could get the message.

Mark Raffle

### **2001-2002 Committee**

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