



Regatta start – Steve Arkley

New Race Secretary

Andrew Grant has now taken over as Race Secretary from Pen Lewis. Pen has been working in Aberdeen, but found that it was proving difficult to act as Race Secretary from such a distance. Thanks to Pen for his contribution to this post, and thanks to Andrew for stepping in to cover this vacancy.

Dates for your diary

Returning to sailing If you haven't sailed for a few years, and would like some help returning to the water, contact Malcolm Lord (Tel 896885) or vicecommodore@pfyc.org.uk to register interest for a returners session.

Saturday/Sunday 26/27 July – Talmine - CANCELLED

Unfortunately, there have not been enough people expressing interest in this event to make it worth holding. The event will not now take place.

Saturday 23 August – Thurso Bay Raft Race

This is the annual race organised by the Coastguard. The club normally assists by providing guard boat cover, as well as making the Club facilities available to participants at the end of the race. Club teams have also entered rafts in some previous years.

Saturday/Sunday 30/31 August – Junior Intercounty Challenge. This year, will be held at the Orkney Sailing Club (Kirkwall). Can PFYC retain the trophy for another year? Northlink Ferries has offered further sponsorship for this event, in the form of a discount for ferry crossings for PFYC members travelling to Orkney. Juniors (under 16 for this event) who are interested, please contact Malcolm Lord (Tel 896885) or vicecommodore@pfyc.org.uk. Any indications of assistance offered by parents would also be welcome. It is likely that the party will travel across on the Saturday morning, returning Sunday afternoon. Accommodation for Saturday night is likely to be Youth Hostel or camping, as the Orkney Sailing Club premises are not available this year for this purpose.

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

After the success of the Midsummer Regatta, it is not planned to change much for the End of Season Regatta. We already have volunteers to do the catering (thanks to Fiona Sutherland and Nicola Miller). We also already have £100 sponsorship from UKAEA.

Friday 3 October – 50th Anniversary Dinner Dance – To celebrate as close as we can to the 50th anniversary of the Club's formation – 9 October 1953. Dance to Half Canned.

Castlehill Race

After one rearranged date, and a further postponement due to a problem with the guard boat, the Castlehill Race was eventually held on Sunday 20 July.

Welcome

The Club extends a warm welcome to our recent new members – Willie Cumming, the Hume family, and Barbara Smith.

Farewell

Mandie and Barrie Cran and their family will be leaving the area shortly. In only a little over 2 years here, both have contributed greatly to the Club – Barrie was on the committee last year, and has continued to pursue the possibility of pontoons this year. Mandie has run keelboat courses last year and this year, and also the Short Range Certificate conversion courses for about 10 people. We wish them well for the future.

Cruising crew

The following people are available as cruiser crew – they would be pleased to hear from you if you can offer them a sail – Bob Ives (Tel 01955 651236) Daniel Heywood (Tel 01847 803119, mobile 07788 410053)

Midsummer Regatta

The Midsummer Regatta was held in Thurso Bay on Saturday and Sunday 28-29 June. Although the Midsummer Regatta is an annual event, this year is the Club's 50th Anniversary, and the regatta was the focus for celebrating the anniversary on the water.

Saturday saw more than 30 boats turn out – most of them to race, but some just out for a sail to enter into the spirit of the occasion – including Barrie Cran in a pram dinghy which made an Optimist look big! We were also delighted to see some former Club Members back for the event – John and Kath Kinney, and Peter Forsythe. Geoff and Joan Cullington also travelled to attend the event, and the photographer - Steve Arkley of Sailshots – is another former Club member. All photos in this newsletter are by Steve Arkley, and are to be submitted to Yachts & Yachting and possibly other sailing publications.

On Saturday a backing wind had the Club safety boat working hard to reset all the buoys for the course before both races. The Club safety boat was assisted by 3 others, provided by the Sea Cadets, Sea Scouts, and Diving Club. All 4 safety boats were kept busy by many capsizes during the races on a very breezy day. Andrew Grant, ignoring the stern warnings not to pass between the committee boat and the inner distance mark, did just that after capsizing on top of the committee boat. Could he be trying to win the Father Neptune trophy again?

After the racing on Saturday a meal was provided in the clubhouse. During the meal, on behalf of the Club, the Commodore presented David and Mary Sprague with a photographic print of the West Coast to mark their 50th wedding anniversary. David and Mary's contribution to the Club, almost since its foundation, was highlighted. David served 2 spells as Commodore, totalling 10 years. He continued to serve the Club after this, in particular by obtaining the grant funding for the current clubhouse. Much entertainment was also caused by the old photographs on display, which are destined for the 50th Anniversary calendar.

In complete contrast to Saturday, Sunday's wind was so gentle that both races had to be shortened to a single lap. Light winds can be very frustrating, and just as challenging as strong, and no single boat dominated the races in the fast handicap. In fact a different boat won each of the 4 races over the weekend, and the

winner – Stephen Taylor (B14), a visitor - was only one point ahead of the second placed boat. In the slow handicap, two boats each won two races, and again the winner – Alan Thomson (Topper) - was only one point ahead. Alan Thomson also took the trophy for the best junior of the regatta.

Caithness Glass had donated a fine glass bowl, which went to the winner of the fast handicap. The Royal Bank of Scotland and Northlink Ferries also sponsored the event.

Malcolm Lord and Nicola Pearson presented the prizes, and Malcolm thanked all those who had made the event such a success, including safety boat crews, trolley-dollies, committee boat team, and catering crew.

The Club is now looking forward to an equally successful and enjoyable End of Season Regatta in mid-September.

Results

Fast handicap:- 1st Stephen Taylor (B14), 5 points; 2nd Steven Shanks (Laser 4000), 6 points; 3rd Geoff Henstridge (Laser), 9 points.

Slow handicap:- 1st Alan Thomson (Topper), 4 points; 2nd Roy Donn (Mirror), 5 points; 3rd Laura Phimister (Topper), 9 points.

John Kinney, Commodore of VISC, presented the Club with a VISC burgee, which can now be found hanging in the main hall.

David & Mary Sprague

As noted in the regatta report a presentation was made to David and Mary. The following letter was received from the happy couple: -

“Mary and I thank you and all the members of PFYC for the gift of the lovely picture to mark the occasion of our Golden Wedding on 4th July. Our thanks to you personally for your kind tribute to our work over the years for the Club. The presentation was a complete surprise to us, and made the Club’s 50th Anniversary Regatta even more enjoyable. Kind regards and thank you all, PFYC.”

R N L I F a y r e

On the afternoon of Saturday 12 July, the RNLI held its annual Fayre in the fishmarket at Scrabster. The Club assisted with setting up on the Friday evening, and by running the bookstall during the event. A fine afternoon kept the fayre busy, and a total of about £3000 was raised.

C o n t a c t s

E-mail addresses – To receive rapid communications, please send yours to commodore@pfyc.org.uk

Newsletter contributions – Send to Mark Raffle by the means of your choice, but preferably by e-mail to commodore@pfyc.org.uk.

C o m m o d o r e s a i l s o f f

The Commodore hopes to be away sailing 25 July – 17 August (weather permitting). Please contact the Vice Commodore if necessary during this period.

V i v S i n c l a i r t r o p h y

Now that it’s time for the cruisers to go cruising again, a reminder of a section which first appeared in the January newsletter. The trophy will be awarded this year for the best narrative bg submitted for a cruise carried out during 2003. Anyone cruising this year may like to know this before they set off. Logs should be submitted to the Commodore by Saturday

10 January 2004 at the latest, and may include text, charts, photographs – or anything else you care to add.

F r e e t o a g o o d h o m e

Simpson Lawrence SL 400 head (marine toilet), second hand. Please contact Barrie or Mandie if interested (896797).

R e g a t t a p h o t o g r a p h s

All photos by Steve Arkley – Sailshots



Start



Shanks brothers



Downwind



G Henstridge



S Taylor

