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## Norman Phimister

Our thoughts are with Norman and his family after his recent road accident. We wish Norman a speedy recovery.

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## 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](mailto:vicecommodore@pfyc.org.uk) to register interest for a returners session.

### Sunday 22 June – Castlehill Race

Keelboats only. Sorry – no dinghies.

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

Come and help to achieve our aim – 50 boats on the water for the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. There are enough boats – we just need people to sail them all. Briefing at 1200 on Saturday in the clubhouse, with the first race at 1330. Fast and slow handicaps. Singlehanders £15, double/multihand £20. These entry fees include an evening meal at 1800 on Saturday (**if you want alcoholic drink – please bring your own**), and lunch at 1300 on Sunday. Non-sailors welcome (£5 for meals only, £3 for under-12s). Club boats available for hire at £5/day (£1/day for juniors) – to book please contact Andrew Grant (Tel 895906) or [secretary@pfyc.org.uk](mailto:secretary@pfyc.org.uk). This will be generally first come, first served, but preference will be given to those who were on this year's dinghy course. So far we have sponsorship from Caithness Glass (a prize), The Royal Bank of Scotland (a donation), and NorthLink Ferries (discounted travel for competitors from Orkney).

### Saturday 12 July – RNLI Summer Fayre

This is one of the RNLI's annual fundraising events, in the Scrabster fishmarket 1400-1600. Offers of assistance for helping the RNLI to man the stalls or providing things to sell, please contact Mark Raffle (Tel 01847 894132) or [commodore@pfyc.org.uk](mailto:commodore@pfyc.org.uk).

### Saturday/Sunday 26/27 July – Talmine

As advertised in March newsletter. So far, there have not been many positive indications of interest, without which the event will not be viable. Anyone interested please contact Pen Lewis (Tel 01847 841353) or [sailing@pfyc.org.uk](mailto:sailing@pfyc.org.uk).

### 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.

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

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

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## Coastguard Race

On the evening of Thursday 5 June, seven members of the North Coast Branch of the Coastguard Association raced for a trophy in memory of Sandy Oliphant - a former member of the Coastguard and Pentland Firth Yacht Club. The event organised by the Yacht Club was held at Scrabster in Mirror Dinghies. Thanks to a light, warm evening breeze, there were no capsizes and for some, wetsuits were replaced with shorts.

Most of the Coastguard helms had not set foot in a sailing boat before and so they were ably supported on board by the Club's Commodore Mark Raffle, Principal Roy Donn and Assistant Instructors Glen Foster and David Scott. New club member Jimmy Beresford acted as the eighth helm to balance up the numbers.

After a short familiarisation with the rules and boats, series of 4 races took place using a short Triangular course off the beach where spectators were entertained to some pretty hot and skilled racing considering the inexperience of the helms.

Highlight of the series came at the start to the last heat where John Campbell, Eoghan Spiers and Jimmy Beresford in line-abreast, crossed the start-line at full speed bang on the gun and close enough to worry about the paint-work. Eoghan sailed exceptionally well taking the Trophy from the reigning champion Colin Mackay.

Mark Raffle and Bob Philips, on behalf of the Club and Coastguards congratulated the sailors and thanked the Club support team for an enjoyable event. Sandra Noble, daughter of Sandy Oliphant, presented the Trophy to top Coastguard helm Eoghan Spiers.

The race was last held in 1998, but it is hoped it can now be a more permanent feature in the calendar.

Race Results – 1<sup>st</sup> Eoghan Spiers; 2<sup>nd</sup> Colin Mackay; 3<sup>rd</sup> John Campbell; 4<sup>th</sup> equal Bob Anderson, Bob Philips; 5<sup>th</sup> Nathan Mackay; 6<sup>th</sup> Scott Harland.

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## Coastguard sponsorship

The North Coast Branch of the Coastguard Association has helped launch four of our junior members towards the 2003 European Fireball Championships in Shetland.

Bob Anderson, Treasurer of the local Coastguard Association, handed over a cheque for £240 to cover the fees that will enable David Scott, Matthew Phimister, Iain Thomson and Glen Foster to attend the event in July. Bob said he hoped they will gain a lot of useful experience racing against the international competition, which includes France, Ireland and Switzerland.

Between them the 4 juniors have over 20 years experience with one having over 800 hours under sail. Graduating to Fireballs in 2002 they aim to race with the best in Europe in July.

The project linked up with the local Coastguard branch last winter, when Glen learned about the Service through the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme arranged by local DOE Scheme co-ordinator Elspeth Husband. Glen learned about the Coastguard Agency and how the work of the dedicated staff and volunteers help to protect those who enjoy the inshore waters and dramatic coastline.

Glen said "On behalf of the Pentland Firth Junior Fireball Team I'd like to thank the North Coast Branch for their encouragement and the sponsorship that will keep the cost of our campaign manageable. Our parents and the club have been a great support in coaching, driving the safety boat and filming as well as transport and organising the trip itself. We bought the wooden boats and learned a lot while repairing and up-grading them to race standard. Sailing has given us a real buzz, it's a sport where all ages compete on equal terms. Apart from International Championship campaigns, dinghy sailing is not as expensive as people think - so try it!"

The competition will be held a mile off Lerwick, where the juniors will line up along with fellow adult club competitors, Guy and Barbara Newson. At this early point in their sailing career and with the entry-level quality of craft, the European Championship silverware is not expected to come to Scrabster. The primary aim is to stretch the young team's performance, achieve championship experience and obtain a benchmark on which to build future goals. The team has been delighted by the interest and offers of support. NorthLink Ferries are sponsoring the event, and providing free return travel for competitors. Look out for a report of the event in a later newsletter.

Glen added, "We have already begun our training for the event and have been improving and practising our racing and sailing skills. We have had a few major breakages, but have been working flat out to make sure they were fixed before the next session. We will be doing this until we go to Stonehaven for the Scottish Fireball Championships on the 21<sup>st</sup> - 22<sup>nd</sup> June, where most of the top Scottish sailors will be, so it will be good for us to meet the opposition before Shetland. At the moment there are 42 boats from 7 countries. This will be a great experience for all of us as this will be the biggest fleet we have sailed in, and some of the best fireball sailors in Europe will be competing."

Thanks to Steve and Glen Foster for contributing the text for this section and the previous one, and for the similar articles which appeared in the John O'Groat Journal on Friday 13 June.

Meanwhile, David and Mathew's Top Tip for preparing a Fireball to championship specifications is, "Don't screw the nuts on your self-balers too tight!"

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## Scrabster Mission Fayre

On the afternoon of Saturday 7 June, Scrabster Mission held its annual Fayre in the fishmarket. The Club contributed by running a stall which had baking and an "instant raffle", while the Foster family and Iain Thomson demonstrated a Mirror and a Fireball outside. There was stiff competition for trade from the stall opposite, in the shape of our own Dave Sprague, selling ice cream and candy floss. However, a group of people seemingly intent on gambling all their pocket money in the hope of winning one of the mystery prizes on the instant raffle kept the Club stall busy.

Meanwhile, a number of other Club members were busy doing their bit on behalf of other organisations on other, or in the general organisation of the event, including Barrie Cran, Paul Cariss, Ann and Angus Oag. The Club stall and the Foster family boats raised £154.40 for the Mission, with the whole Fayre collecting about £6500. Particular thanks to Pen and Kath

Lewis for organising the Club stall, Don and Connie Ryan who helped man it, to those who contributed baking or prizes, and to the Foster family and Iain Thomson.

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## Keelboat training course

On Saturday and Sunday 14-15 June, four people undertook the keelboat seamanship skills course, which is one of several options following the level 2 course which was run for keelboats last year. The course was a mix of theory and practical, including basic chartwork, weather, rules of the road, anchoring, towing, lots of man overboard practice, and one attempt to really put an instructor overboard! Saturday saw fairly light winds, but increasing on Sunday allowing reefing afloat to be demonstrated. Congratulations to Alan Doull, Philip Galvin, George Gunn and Bob Silverwood on passing the course. Thanks once again to Mandie Cran for acting as Senior Instructor on this course.

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## Contacts

**E-mail addresses** – To receive rapid communications, please send yours to [commodore@pfyc.org.uk](mailto: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](mailto:commodore@pfyc.org.uk).

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## Viv Sinclair trophy

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 log 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.

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## User feedback

"Delighted with the results of the refurbishment. There is a great difference as the décor looks fresh and the tiling in the change rooms looks great and feels good on the tootsies." So, once again, thanks to everyone who assisted in various aspects of the refurbishment, which is currently being completed with the repainting of the garage.

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## Free to a good home

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

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## OOD and Guardboat rota

There have been a couple of occasions when races have been cancelled owing to unavailability of either the OOD or Guardboat driver. Please would those on the rota make every effort to complete their rostered duties, or arrange a substitute. A revised rota for the weeks after the regatta will be issued shortly. After the race, could the OOD please put the results in the green folder that is stuck to the race noticeboard.

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## Killcords

The spare killcord for the guardboat has gone missing. If anyone knows its whereabouts please let us know, or if a guardboat driver has accidentally taken it home with them, then please return to the clubhouse.

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## Cleaning

A cleaning rota is now posted in the clubhouse. Please would you help by carrying out cleaning as indicated. Thank you.

