



## Dates for your diary

### 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.

### **\*\*\*NEW\*\*\* Saturday/Sunday 26/27 July – Talmine**

Please see section later in the newsletter. Anyone interested please contact Pen Lewis (Tel 01847 841353) or [sailing@pfyc.org.uk](mailto:sailing@pfyc.org.uk).

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

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.

Any suggestions? - If you have any ideas you would like to see turned into a social event – please let us know.

## Dinner dance



The annual dinner dance and prize giving was held in the Thurso Club on Friday 28 February. In the years since the Yacht Club's formation, this event has been held in a variety of venues, including the Pentland Hotel, Melvich Hotel, Seaview Hotel (John O'Groats), and the St Clair Hotel. One of the earliest dinners, in 1957, was held in association with the Caithness Car Club. In 1972 the dinner had to be held by candlelight as a result of power cuts caused by the miners' strike, and in 1973 paper boats were sailed around a ballroom flooded by a maid. For the last few years the event has been held in the Thurso Club and, as normal, Campbell Catering provided a high standard of food and service. After dinner the Commodore outlined the Club's plans for the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary, and went on to congratulate David and Mary Sprague, who celebrate their 50<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary this year. David and Mary have been associated with the Club since 1960, with David serving 2 spells as Commodore between 1970-1974 and 1984-1990.

Trophies were awarded to the winners of events in the 2002 season. Special congratulations were offered to Alan Thomson, a junior member, who had to be given a wheelbarrow to take all his trophies home.

A full listing of 2002 season trophies is given below.

Pentland Firth Challenge Trophy (Midsummer Regatta, fast handicap) M Lord; Clairdon Cup (Midsummer Regatta, slow handicap) R & C Donn; Rodney Wheeler Junior Trophy (Midsummer Regatta, best junior) A Thomson; Sqn Ldr Hutchinson Cup (End of Season Regatta, fast handicap) J & K

White; Allscot Cup (End of Season Regatta, slow handicap) A Thomson; Lady Ann Trophy (1<sup>st</sup> Sunday series, fast handicap) B Newson; Nutshell Trophy (1<sup>st</sup> Sunday series, slow handicap) A Thomson; Mackay Cup (2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday series, fast handicap) D Lord; Town Improvements Cup (2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday series, slow handicap) A Thomson; St Clair Challenge Bowl (3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday series, fast handicap) D Scott; Scrabster Enterprise Cup (3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday series, slow handicap) A Thomson; Sprague Cup (Thursday series, fast handicap) J Simmons; Sibster Cup (Thursday series, slow handicap) A Thomson; Cameron Cup (Castlehill Race) T Peat; Dounreay Cup (River Race) J Simmons; Peter Harcus Trophy (Ladies Race) B Newson; Phimster Cup (Phimster pursuit) G Henstridge; Topper Trophy (Topper race) S Foster; Father Neptune Trophy (Most entertaining capsized) A Grant; Viv Sinclair Memorial Trophy (Cruising) A Cran.



(A similar article appeared in the John O'Groat Journal on 14 March 2003, but without the photographs.)

## Talmine

We are considering another trip to Talmine for the weekend of 26-27 July. We last had such an event about 10 years ago. The plan would be to go out on the Saturday morning, sail Saturday afternoon and Sunday, then return home. Previously, we have stayed Saturday night at the campsite at Talmine. This event will depend on whether sufficient interest is shown by members, and availability of rescue boat cover. Those interested in participating, please contact Pen Lewis (Tel 01847 841353) or [sailing@pfyc.org.uk](mailto:sailing@pfyc.org.uk). Dinghy sailors and cruisers welcome – I know at least one cruiser trying to plan the start of a West Coast cruise around this weekend.

## 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)

**50<sup>th</sup> anniversary calendar** – Any photos to Nicola Pearson, Malcolm Lord or Andrew Grant.

**Garage bookings** - Please contact Mark Raffle (Tel 01847 894132) or [commodore@pfyc.org.uk](mailto:commodore@pfyc.org.uk)

## Curling

Who Are We?

Bob Bunky's Musical Monkeys



The Young One's

Phimister Flyers

Sunday 23 March saw club members and friends – 15 in all – travelling to the Royal Marine Hotel, Brora for an evening curling. Many of the party had not curled before, but soon got into the swing of things. Two hours of curling was followed by a meal in the Garden Room before returning to Caithness. Congratulations to the team which won, by a good margin, "Who Are We?" - Nicola Miller, Nicky Pearson, Malcolm Lord and Andrew Grant. Thank you to everyone who made the effort to support this event by travelling to Brora. The general view seemed to be that we should do it again sometime. Thanks to Nicky for the suggestion, and to Kath Lewis for organising the event. Did someone suggest quad biking? Watch this space!

### Thank you

Thank you to everyone who has already been helping with the redecoration of the clubhouse. If you haven't volunteered yet, but would like to help, please contact Don Ryan for painting (893336), or Alan Scott for tiling (896458).

## North of Scotland Sailing Squad

In the December newsletter, we noted the retirement of Donnie Meldrum, after many years organising the North of Scotland Sailing Squad and other Topper training. The North of Scotland Sailing Squad now has a new Head Coach – Paul Bartlett – who is currently based in Caithness. There are 2 squad weekends currently planned - April 26/27 at Chanonry and May 24/25, location to be confirmed. These squads are an opportunity to get some intensive coaching and practice at the start of the season. Look out for further details on the website [www.pfyc.org.uk](http://www.pfyc.org.uk) or in the April newsletter.

### How to get ready for cruising (Part 1)

1. Sleep on the shelf in your cupboard.
2. Replace the cupboard door with a curtain.
3. Four hours after you go to sleep, have your mate whip open the curtain, shine a flashlight in your eyes, and mumble, "Your watch!"
4. Put a wall across the middle of you bathtub and move the shower head down to chest level.
5. When taking showers, switch off the water while soaping.
6. Put lube oil in your humidifier instead of water and set it to high.
7. If your basement floods, during a sudden thaw, go down and start bailing.

## Membership fees

If you have yet to pay your membership fees for this year, we would now be grateful to receive them. Membership forms can be downloaded from the PFYC website, or obtained from Jim Kelly (Tel 01847 895698). Membership fees have been held at the same level as last year, and include race fees for all normal series races.

## Sailing programme

This is a first draft of the programme, possibly subject to change. Any changes will be advised in the newsletter or in a new issue of the programme. The full version of the programme will include Officer of the Day and Guard Boat Driver. Anyone who would be interested in undertaking either of these roles, but has not done so before, or if you just want to come and find out what it's all about, please contact Pen Lewis (Tel 01847 841353) or [sailing@pfyc.org.uk](mailto:sailing@pfyc.org.uk).

<u>Date</u>	<u>Start</u>	<u>Event</u>
Thurs 24 <sup>th</sup> April	18.30	Training
Sat 26 <sup>th</sup> April	09.00	Training
Sun 27 <sup>th</sup> April	09.00	Training
Thurs 1 <sup>st</sup> May	18.30	Training
Sun 4 <sup>th</sup> May	14.00	S1 Race 1 + 2 (Training am)
Thurs 8 <sup>th</sup> May	18.30	Training
Sun 11 <sup>th</sup> May	14.00	S1 Race 3 + 4
Thurs 15 <sup>th</sup> May	18.30	Training
Sun 18 <sup>th</sup> May	09.00	Training + assessment
Thurs 22 <sup>nd</sup> May	19.30	Race 1
Sun 25 <sup>th</sup> May	14.00	S1 Race 5 + 6
Thurs 29 <sup>th</sup> May	19.30	Race 2
Sun 1 <sup>st</sup> June	14.00	S1 Race 7 + 8
Thurs 5 <sup>th</sup> June	19.30	Coast Guard Race
Sun 8 <sup>th</sup> June	14.00	Castlehill
Thurs 12 <sup>th</sup> June	19.30	Race 3
Sun 15 <sup>th</sup> June	14.00	S2 Race 9 + 10
Thurs 19 <sup>th</sup> June	19.30	Race 4
Sat 21 <sup>st</sup> June	TBC	Summer Solstice Sail
Sun 22 <sup>nd</sup> June	14.00	Phimister Pursuit
Thurs 26 <sup>th</sup> June	19.30	Race 5
Sat 28 <sup>th</sup> June		Midsummer Regatta
Sun 29 <sup>th</sup> June		Midsummer Regatta
Thurs 3 <sup>rd</sup> July	19.30	Race 6
Sun 6 <sup>th</sup> July	14.00	S2 Race 1 + 2
Thurs 10 <sup>th</sup> July	19.30	Race 7
Sun 13 <sup>th</sup> July	14.00	S2 Race 3 + 4
Thurs 17 <sup>th</sup> July	19.30	Race 8
Sun 20 <sup>th</sup> July	14.00	River Race
Thurs 24 <sup>th</sup> July	19.30	Race 9
Sat 26 <sup>th</sup> July	14.00	Talmine Sail
Sun 27 <sup>th</sup> July	10.30	Talmine Sail
Thurs 31 <sup>st</sup> July	19.30	Race 10
Sun 3 <sup>rd</sup> Aug	14.00	S2 Race 5 + 6
Thurs 7 <sup>th</sup> Aug	19.30	Race 11
Sun 10 <sup>th</sup> Aug	14.00	Topper Race
Thurs 14 <sup>th</sup> Aug	19.30	Race 12
Sun 17 <sup>th</sup> Aug	14.00	S2 Race 7 + 8
Thurs 21 <sup>st</sup> Aug	19.30	Anniversary Team Race 1
Sun 24 <sup>th</sup> Aug	14.00	S2 Race 9 + 10
Thurs 28 <sup>th</sup> Aug	19.30	Anniversary Team Race 2
Sun 31 <sup>st</sup> Aug	14.00	Ladies Race
Sun 7 <sup>th</sup> Sept	14.00	Frost Bite 1 + 2
Sat 13 <sup>th</sup> Sept		End of season Regatta
Sun 14 <sup>th</sup> Sept		End of season Regatta
Sun 21 <sup>st</sup> Sept	14.00	Frost Bite 3 + 4
Sun 28 <sup>th</sup> Sept	14.00	Frost Bite 5 + 6
Sun 5 <sup>th</sup> October	14.00	Frost Bite 7 + 8
Sun 12 <sup>th</sup> October	14.00	Frost Bite 9 + 10
Sun 19 <sup>th</sup> October	14.00	Frost Bite 11 + 12
Sun 26 <sup>th</sup> October	14.00	Halloween