



Fusion at the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary dinner dance

\*\*\* PFYC IS 50 \*\*\*

## 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.

### **Tuesday 25 November – Annual General Meeting**

In the Thurso Club, starting at 1930. Formal notice with this newsletter. A number of committee posts will require to be filled. In particular we will need a Secretary and a Training Secretary. **Please consider whether you would be prepared to assist by serving on the committee** - if you like what we've been doing this year, come and help us do more; if you don't like what we've been doing, bring your ideas to help us do it better next year. If you would be interested in joining the committee, or would like more information, please contact Mark Raffle (01847 894132) or [commodore@pfyc.org.uk](mailto:commodore@pfyc.org.uk). Please make every effort to attend the AGM, so that you can express your views.

### **Saturday 29 November - Curling at Brora**

\*\*\*A few places still available – please make contact quickly if your name is not already on the list but you would like to participate\*\*\* Curling will be 1430 – 1630, followed by a meal afterwards. It is proposed, given the finishing time, that soup and sandwiches would be appropriate. The cost of this, including the curling is £12/person. The hotel requires a £5/person booking deposit, which the Club will wish to collect from participants before making the booking. A discount on the normal room rate is available for anyone wishing to stay at the hotel on the Saturday night after participating in curling. Anyone interested in curling, please contact Mark Raffle (01847 894132) or [commodore@pfyc.org.uk](mailto:commodore@pfyc.org.uk). Please also advise if you are prepared to drive down and have free space in your car.

### **\*\*\*NEW\*\*\* Annual Dinner Dance & prize-giving**

Date to be arranged, but probably late February as normal.

### **Saturday 20 March 2004 – Curling at Brora**

\*\*\*Places still available\*\*\* As above – the second trip over the winter.

### **\*\*\*NEW\*\*\* Date to be arranged – Paintball near Dingwall**

Following a successful and enjoyable trip to try this – see article in September newsletter – we are already planning a repeat trip. So, if you like crawling around on the ground, and don't mind a bit of pain and a few bruises, this could be for you. Minimum age is 14 years.

\*\*\*NEW\*\*\* **Saturday/Sunday 19/20 June 2004 - Midsummer regatta.** As well as our normal racing, we also hope to be joined by an RS300 traveller event. Your views would be welcome on whether you would like to repeat the format of the end of season regatta – 3 races back to back each day.

**Other social events** – Please let us know what else you would like to see organised as social events.

## 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).

**I'd be pleased to receive comments on anything else you'd like to see in the newsletter. Contributions always welcome.**

## Theft

Between Sunday 5 – Sunday 12 October there was a theft of petrol from the dinghy compound. This has been reported to the police. If you noticed anything unusual, please give Malcolm a ring (896885, evenings). A number of Topper parts are also missing from the clubhouse. Were the compound or clubhouse open when you passed, or did you re-secure either?

## Membership fees frozen

At the last meeting of this year's committee, it was decided that the membership fees for next year should remain as they have been now for a few years. Once again, a discount will be available to anyone paying membership fees before the end of November. Membership forms are being distributed with this newsletter.

## Junior Intercounty

Although this event has featured in the last couple of newsletters, I now have the detailed results:- 1<sup>st</sup> Alan Thomson (4 points); 2<sup>nd</sup> Glen Foster (5); 3<sup>rd</sup> = David Scott (13); 5<sup>th</sup> = Jimmy Beresford (17); 5<sup>th</sup> = Laura Phimister (17); 9<sup>th</sup> Kai Baird (29). Overall points:- PFYC 85, Orkney 149, with 12 boats racing.

## 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Dinner Dance

With 4 weeks until the date of the dinner we heard that the Legion's own caterer had changed jobs, and could no longer cater for us. Fortunately Leslie Campbell was still available to step into the breach and was quickly booked. The band, Half-Canned, were double-checked – they were still available . . . until 5pm on the evening of the dinner – Friday 3 October - when they rang to say an emergency had arisen . . . but they had arranged for Fusion to turn up instead. Guests welcomed, people in their places and Grace said – time to sit down and relax . . . for about 10 seconds before the tap on the shoulder, "Mark – there's a problem in the kitchen!" An ambulance had to be called for one of Leslie's team, which delayed the proceedings for about an hour. I was pleased to hear later that it had been nothing serious, and a rapid recovery was made, with a trip in the ambulance being just a precaution.

Former Commodores and members and their partners had been invited to the event, based on a long list provided by David Sprague. I also had assistance from many other people in

providing addresses and telephone numbers to allow the invitations to be sent out. We had hoped to be joined by Dan and Margaret Grieve from Orkney. Although never a member of PFYC, Dan was an Orkney competitor in the first PFYC regatta. Alas, fate struck again, as the weather was too rough for them to make the crossing from Orkney that afternoon. We were joined by a number of former members from the earlier days of the club. Many others who could not be present sent messages of best wishes and congratulations. Altogether there were 69 people at the dinner.



As the longest serving member present a former Commodore, and now an Honorary Member, David Sprague had been invited to address the dinner and propose the toast to the Club. David recalled the earlier years of the Club, its events, and its early members - some of whom were at the dinner. In the process he determined the age of all present! He reminded us of some of the earlier dinner dances where things had not always gone according to plan, and hoped that the club would still be thriving at its 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary. The current Commodore thanked David and responded by outlining the more recent history of the Club, particularly for those who are not current members of the Club.

Eventually, well after 11pm, Fusion were free to perform. With only a short time available they made a concerted effort to get everyone dancing. This was very successful, with only true die-hard non-dancers being resistant to their tactics!

Thanks to everyone who attended - I hope you all enjoyed yourselves. Thanks to those who organised the dinner, and particularly to Campbell's Catering and Fusion for stepping in to save the day.



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## Quiz & curry night

This was held in the clubhouse on Saturday 1 November, with about 25 - 30 people participating. Pen and Kath Lewis led on the curry part, which was excellent as usual. Starters were served before the quiz began, with the main course in a break half way through the quiz. Jayne Henderson ran the quiz, with Mandie acting as scorer. Five teams of up to 6 competed, and had been asked to bring their own buzzer, bell, horn, gong. Many of these turned out to be too quiet, and the final method used was to put up your hand, with a couple of independent spotters identifying the quickest person, who was then allowed to answer the question.

Rounds included general knowledge, specialist subjects, and one where the team captain had a card with a number of people or things listed on it. The captain had to communicate each of these things to the rest of the team without using the words written on the card. Two of each of these rounds were held. During the break for curry, a "riddle round" was held, and there was also a musical TV theme tune round. In a final twist, teams were allowed to stick with their current score, gamble to double their score (if they got a final question right) or halve it (if they got the question wrong) - all this without being told our scores before deciding whether to gamble. Confused?. Most teams gambled, but only one managed to halve their score. Many thanks to Jayne, Mandie, Pen and Kath for all the hard work they put in to organise this event.

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## R N L I quiz

While we think about quizzes, the RNLI will again be holding its quiz series over the winter, with competitions held every fortnight in local hotels. All money raised goes to the RNLI. The quiz is a written one with a variety of questions. The first session clashes with the AGM unfortunately. However, anyone interested in participating in a PFYC team of up to 4, please contact Mark Raffle (01847 894132) or [commodore@pfyc.org.uk](mailto:commodore@pfyc.org.uk).

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## Boats out

Cruisers craned out on 27 September, the guard boat came out on 2 November. All that remains to make the club boats secure for the winter is to take the Toppers and Mirrors into the clubhouse. We plan to do this 1000 Sunday 16 November. We would be very grateful for any help you can offer.

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## Scrabster Snipe Trophy

This was recently handed back to the Club after languishing in a trunk in a loft for more than a decade. It was last awarded in 1989. Any more "lost" trophies out there? Please let us have them back.



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## RYA annual inspection

To allow us to retain our status as an RYA Teaching Establishment, we are required to undergo an annual inspection by RYA. This checks that our instructors are suitably qualified, and that club boats and clubhouse are equipped to an acceptable, safe standard. Our Principal, Roy Donn, escorted the RYA inspector, Jane Scott, on this year's inspection in October. I am pleased to report that the inspection was a success, with no recommendations made. Thanks to Roy for leading this.

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## Viv Sinclair trophy

Just a reminder of a section which first appeared in the January 2003 newsletter. The trophy will be awarded this year for the best narrative log submitted for a cruise carried out during 2003. 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. I hope a year's advance notice is enough for anyone who wants to participate!

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## First Aid

If anyone needs a new first aid certificate before the start of next season, please contact Mark Raffle (01847 894132) or [commodore@pfyc.org.uk](mailto:commodore@pfyc.org.uk). We may be able to get a few places on courses the Scouts are running.

Red Cross has also offered to do some refresher scenarios for us before the start of the next season. Those who participated in April this year will remember that this was a very realistic way of training, with the Red Cross volunteers being excellent casualty actors.

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## North of Scotland Youth Sailors

This new group successfully held its first event at Loch Insh over the weekend of 4-5 October. A further weekend is planned for 15 - 16 November, also at Loch Insh. In view of the short time before this event, if anyone is interested, please contact the organizer direct [JoannaGilliat@compuserve.com](mailto:JoannaGilliat@compuserve.com).

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Attached - **- Notice of Annual General Meeting**  
**- 2003/04 membership form**