



...and always stay with the boat!!!

## 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.

**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. 7.30 for 8 pm in the Royal British Legion, Thurso. Tickets will be £17 for adults and £15 for under 14s. A committee member will contact you about tickets, or if you prefer you can contact Jim Kelly (01847 895698). To avoid uncertainty in the number to be catered for, no tickets will be either allocated or refunded after the deadline of 26 September, and we respectfully request that all payments are received by this date.

**\*\*\*NEW\*\*\* Sat/Sun 4/5 October – First Aid course**

Anyone interested, please contact Mark Raffle (01847 894132) or [commodore@pfyc.org.uk](mailto:commodore@pfyc.org.uk). This is being organised by the Scouts, but a number of spare places are available, and have been offered to PFYC.

**Saturday 1 November – Quiz & curry night - Clubhouse**

**Start 1900 sharp.** Teams of any size up to 6 may be entered. Bring your own buzzer, bell, horn, gong – 5 points will be awarded to the team with the best/most imaginative noise. 5 points will be deducted from each team which has the same noise, and for the most irritating noise! A meal will be provided. £5/team (to cover prizes) and £3/person for food, under 12s free. If you wish alcoholic drink, please bring your own. Would team captains please enter their teams by 7 October to allow the quiz to be organised. We have a number of individuals names already from the regatta social – please organise yourselves into teams – failing this teams will be picked at random on the night with the Quizmaster's decision being final. Please contact Mark Raffle (01847 894132) or [commodore@pfyc.org.uk](mailto:commodore@pfyc.org.uk) to enter your team.

**Tuesday 25 November – Annual General Meeting**

In the Thurso Club, starting at 1930. Details and formal notice to follow. 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).

**Saturday 29 November - Curling at Brora**

After an enjoyable trip earlier in the year (see March 2003 newsletter), we plan to repeat this over the winter – twice! 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.

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

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 this 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.

## 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).

## Junior Intercounty

Limited space in the August newsletter did not permit inclusion of the whole story, so here's the rest, along with the photos. Thanks to Malcolm Lord, who did most of the organization for the trip to Orkney. Next year it is planned that the Orkney team will travel to Scrabster to challenge for the trophy. *An article on the Intercounty competition appeared in the Caithness Courier on 17 September.*



Alan Thomson, individual winner



PFYC and Orkney sailors & coaches

## Thank you

Ken Swanson, a former Commodore, made a donation to the Club recently. We are most grateful for this.

## PFYC in Y&Y

Yachts & Yachting, in its issue dated 12 September 2003, contained a 3 page article on the Club. This was submitted by Steve Arkley, and contains a number of his photos taken at the Midsummer Regatta this year.

## VHF Channel 16

On 22 September 2003, the UK Coastguard ceased its dedicated headset watch on VHF Channel 16 and switched to a loud speaker watch. This change is part of the planned changes under the Global Maritime Distress and Safety System (GMDSS) that will allow ships to cease a listening watch on Channel 16 after 1 February 2005.

## Coastguard raft race

As reported in the August newsletter, the Club supported the Coastguard in this event. The Coastguard subsequently sent a cheque for £50 as a contribution to Club funds. This has been returned to the Coastguard with a request that it go to Spina Bifida, the Coastguard's chosen charity this year.

## Paintball

On Saturday 6 September, a number of club members and friends – 14 in all – travelled to the Fairburn Activity Centre at Marybank, near Dingwall. Nicky Pearson had decided that being regularly thrown off a Fireball trapeze wasn't exciting enough, so organized something different instead. Various activities are available at the centre. Just to get warmed up, everyone had a trip down the aerial runway, which included trying to drop coloured balls into a target floating on the lake below. Then it was back to the centre for a safety briefing and issue of camouflage romper suits, helmets, paintballs and guns, before heading out into the woods. The first 2 games involved starting at opposite corners of an area of woods, with the winning team being the one with most survivors at the end. Then each team took it in turns to defend a flag planted at the top of a hill from the other team, which had to attack from the bottom of the hill. The two teams were the juniors, and the slightly less junior (which had Richard Shanks as its baby). The juniors won convincingly, having beaten the adults in every game. Everyone enjoyed themselves



so much, despite the number of bruises collected, that another trip is already being planned. Thanks to Nicky for organising this event.

## Collisions? - don't do it!

Collisions can cause serious injury, and expensive damage to boats. A couple of recent collisions between boats prompt this reminder. First – all boats must keep a good look-out – otherwise how can you assess the risk of collision? This is a legal requirement under the International Regulations for Preventing Collisions at Sea (IRPCS). Don't forget the normal blind arcs – the lee bow (look under the jib/other sails), and up to windward (look behind you – even if you're hiking or trapezing). Second – the give-way vessel must keep clear (fairly obvious! Don't wait to be hailed – the other boat may not have seen you). Third – both IRPCS and the Racing Rules make it clear that the stand-on (right of way) vessel must eventually take avoiding action itself if this becomes necessary to avoid a collision or serious damage. In simple terms, both IRPCS and the Racing Rules say that if two boats collide, **both** boats are probably at fault. **Please take care - don't have collisions!!**

## End of season regatta

The End of Season Regatta was held on Saturday and Sunday 13 – 14 September.

The weather forecast on the Friday evening was not very promising, threatening winds of up to gale force over the weekend. Although Saturday dawned very blustery, by the time of the first race in the afternoon the winds had eased to force 4 – 5, giving some exciting sailing, with the faster boats planing on the reaches. Three junior novices, who only learned to sail in May this year, were able to participate after reefing the sails on their Toppers.

The Club safety boat was assisted by 2 others, provided by the Sea Cadets and Sea Scouts. The rescue boats were kept busy, with many capsizes owing to the wind remaining gusty

throughout the afternoon. Three races were planned for the Saturday, but by the end of the second the wind was freshening again. After several capsizes each, the decision was taken to send the three novices back to the beach. Most of the other boats followed of their own accord shortly before the Race Officer abandoned the third race. As might be expected, once the boats were packed away, the wind eased and the sun came out!

Sunday morning started with lighter winds than Saturday. After laying the course, the wind veered 60 degrees and some of the course marks were found to be drifting. This kept the safety boats busy rearranging the course and delayed the start of the first race. After the first race the course was changed from starboard hand to port hand, putting all the marks in shallower water and preventing any further drifting. The wind freshened a little during the races, leading to a number of capsizes. However, conditions remained manageable and three races were held, giving a total of five races over the weekend. The second race on Sunday included a rare dead heat between Steve and Glen Foster, both racing Fireballs.

The fast handicap was won by visitor Jamie White, who had Andrew Grant as crew on Saturday and Karen White as crew on Sunday. The slow handicap was won by Alan Thomson, who also won the slow handicap at the earlier Midsummer Regatta. The prize for the best novice went to Laura Phimister.



Prizewinners

UKAEA sponsored the event, and Caithness Glass donated a number of glass bowls as prizes. The commodore presented the prizes on behalf of UKAEA.

Thanks to all competitors, safety boat crews, to Nicola and Fiona for the catering,

Andrew for organising and producing the results, and everyone else who helped make the weekend such an enjoyable event.

After the prizegiving David Sprague, a former commodore who has been a member of the club for most of its 50 years, and the current commodore, cut the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary cake baked by Nicola Miller.



Nicola supervises the cake-cutting

### Results

Fast handicap:- 1<sup>st</sup> Jamie & Karen White/Andrew Grant (Laser 2000); 2<sup>nd</sup> Steve & Jane Foster (Fireball); 3<sup>rd</sup> Glen Foster & Iain Thomson (Fireball).

Slow handicap:- 1<sup>st</sup> Alan Thomson (Topper); 2<sup>nd</sup> Roy Donn (Mirror); 3<sup>rd</sup> David Lord (Topper).

Best novice:- Laura Phimister (Topper)

*A similar article appeared in the Caithness Courier on 17 September.*

## North of Scotland Youth Sailors

This is a new group which is just being set up to provide training opportunities for sailors within the north of Scotland. Membership is open to:- Current and past members of Scottish sailing squads, and sailors at a similar level of achievement; sailors of youth boats (eg laser, 420) interested in race training; other young sailors who have regularly competed in a traveller series (numbers permitting). The group is organizing its events so that those also eligible for the existing North of Scotland Sailing Squad can attend both. The first NSYS event is Sat/Sun 4/5 October at Loch Insh. Anyone interested, please contact Mark Raffle, who can provide further details.