



# Pentland Firth Yacht Club



## Newsletter

January 2005

Website: [www.pfyc.org.uk](http://www.pfyc.org.uk)



Kruzenshtern

### Dates for your diary

#### **Friday 21 January 2005 – Ten Pin Bowling, All Stars, Thurso**

We have a couple of lanes booked for a couple of games, assemble 1850, start 1900. Anyone interested please contact Mark Raffle (01847 894132 or [commodore@pfyc.org.uk](mailto:commodore@pfyc.org.uk))

#### **Friday 25 February 2005 – Annual Dinner Dance and prizegiving**

1930 for 2000. Park Hotel, Thurso. Disco. All members and their guests most welcome. Tickets will be £19 Adults and £16 under 14s, for a 3 course meal, exclusive of drinks. A committee member will be in touch to see if you would like tickets, or if you wish you may contact Mark Raffle (Tel 01847 894132 or [commodore@pfyc.org.uk](mailto:commodore@pfyc.org.uk)). We would be very grateful for early indications of ticket requirements so that we know numbers. To avoid uncertainty in the number to be catered for, no tickets will be either allocated or refunded after the deadline of 13 February, and we respectfully request that all payments are received by this date.

#### **Sat/Sun 18/19 June 2005 – Midsummer Regatta**

**Other social events** – Please let us know if there is anything 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.

### Committee

The AGM was held on Tuesday 16 November. A summary report can be found later in the newsletter.

The new committee is:-

Commodore	: Mark Raffle
Vice Commodore	: Malcolm Lord
Race Secretary	: Andrew Grant
Treasurer	: Philip Galvin
Secretary	: David Lord
Training Secretary	: Vacant
Junior representatives	: Glen Foster, David Scott
Committee members	: Jim Kelly Nicola Pearson Doug Shanks Bob Silverwood

I am pleased to report that we have fewer vacant posts than last year. I would like to extend a particular welcome to Philip Galvin and Bob Silverwood, who are new to the committee, and am also pleased to welcome back to the committee Dave Lord and Doug Shanks, both former commodores. Thanks too must go to Guy Newson, Alan Scott and Derek & Alan Thomson who have now left the committee, and to all those who remain from last year's

committee. Although not on the committee, Paul Carris has offered to take the lead in progressing pontoons for the harbour, for which I am very grateful. So – thank you to last year's committee, this year's committee and all the other club members who volunteer to help in a variety of ways. Only with your help can the club continue to run smoothly and successfully – we can never have too many volunteers!

### Steve & Elaine

A number of club members attended Steve and Elaine's wedding dance on 4 December 2004. This was held in the Pentland, with "Whisky" as the band, and was an excellent night. Steve and Elaine have asked me to pass on their thanks to everyone for their best wishes and gifts.

### Clothing

We are considering purchasing club clothing, but will only do this if there is sufficient and definite interest to generate a viable sized order. We do also still have a small number of items remaining from previous years. Anyone interested in club clothing of any variety, please advise Mark Raffle (01847 894132 or [commodore@pfyc.org.uk](mailto:commodore@pfyc.org.uk))

### Trophies

Could anyone holding club trophies please return them to Andrew Grant (Tel 01847 895906 or [sailing@pfyc.org.uk](mailto:sailing@pfyc.org.uk)) to allow engraving before the Dinner Dance.

### Powerboat courses

Two Level 2 National Powerboat courses were run at the club at the end of November and the beginning of December 2004, with a total of 5 people being trained. The weather included pouring rain, hail, strong wind and some big swells, but nothing bad enough to stop the training – the manageable envelope for powerboat training is wider than for the same level of dinghy training. Congratulations to the participants, who were all successful – Jimmy Beresford, Glen Foster, George Gunn, Matthew Phimister and David Scott.

It is planned to offer further Level 2 National Powerboat Courses at the start of the sailing season – anyone interested please contact Mark Raffle (01847 894132 or [commodore@pfyc.org.uk](mailto:commodore@pfyc.org.uk))

### VHF SRC Courses

It is planned to run further VHF courses before the start of the sailing season. The courses on offer are the full course for those with no previous VHF qualification, and the conversion course for those with old VHF qualifications wishing to update to the Short Range Certificate, which includes Digital Selective Calling. Anyone interested in either course please contact Mark Raffle (01847 894132 or [commodore@pfyc.org.uk](mailto:commodore@pfyc.org.uk))

### Afloat Show

**Afloat: The Affordable Boat Show**, in conjunction with the Scottish Caravan and outdoor Leisure Show, 3 – 6 February, is a new boating show at the SECC in Glasgow. There is a whole array of watercraft on offer from dinghies, speedboats, RIBs, fishing boats, jet skis, PWCs, canoes and much much more. I have a

number of 2 for 1 entry vouchers. If you would like one, please contact Mark Raffle or Malcolm Lord.

## AGM report

The Annual General Meeting was held on Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> November 2004 at 7.30 pm in the Thurso Club, with 19 people attending, chaired by Mark Raffle.

The Minutes of the AGM held on Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> of November 2003 were agreed as a correct record of that meeting.

**Matters arising** - The question of disbanding the NSYA Dinghy Section had been discussed at the previous AGM, with the support of the AGM Mark Raffle had written to the NSYA fully supporting its continued operation. The outcome was that the NSYA Dinghy Section continues.

**Treasurer's report** - Nicky Pearson provided the accounts for the 2003/04 season. These had not yet been completed and audited and were taken as draft by the AGM. Expenditure exceeded income by about £490 although there remained a healthy balance of £5611.93. The lower income on boat hire and boat storage was discussed. The accounts were accepted subject to auditing, this was proposed by Tom Peat and seconded by Andrew Grant.

**Training Secretary's report** - In the absence of a training secretary the commodore gave the report.

The beginner's dinghy course ran this year during May. In the absence of a training secretary this had been organised by Malcolm Lord. Six people, a mix of adults and juniors, started and successfully completed the course.

Thanks were expressed to Roy Donn who continued to act as Principal, to Steve Foster our other Senior Instructor, and to all the Instructors, Assistant Instructors, Guard Boat Drivers, Sea Cadets, and other helpers. Thanks particularly to Kath and Pen Lewis and Nicola Miller for organising the lunch at the end of the course.

Eight people, including some from the Caithness Field Club, took their Basic First Aid course at the Club in April. Up to date first aid certificates are a requirement for instructors, and are of value for anyone involved in the Club. A refresher has been offered before the start of next season. Thanks to Ann and David Bertram and the rest of the Red Cross team for running this course.

Seven people took the day long course to obtain their VHF Short Range Certificate. All were successful. Mark Raffle ran these courses after qualifying as an SRC assessor last year.

A safety boat course was run by Kevin Tait and Mark Fraser of the Sea Cadets for a variety of people including a Club member.

Mark Raffle qualified as a power boat instructor by attending a course at Kirkwall in April.

PFYC tried to link up with Orkney to get some more people qualified as dinghy instructors. Unfortunately, the course was full, and we hope to participate in a further one next spring.

Mark Raffle reminded members that grants are often available for training events, or any other events which involve travel – please contact Jim Kelly in advance of the event.

**Race Secretary's report** - Racing had started in April and continued through to the end of October with the majority of the numbers in the fast handicap with Fireballs dominant. The midsummer regatta had been restricted to the Sunday because of high winds on the Saturday but, thanks to Steve Foster, sand yachting had been enjoyed at Dunnet instead. This regatta had also been a traveller event for the Fireballs and RS300s.

The end of season regatta had been blown off completely with no racing. Thanks were expressed to the catering crew (especially Nicola Miller) for the excellent food at both events.

Only three special events had been held, namely the Castlehill Race (3 boats), the Phimster Pursuit and the River Race. Others had been cancelled through lack of support or bad weather.

The junior intercounty event with Orkney had been hosted by the PFYC and a good time had by all, the cup, however, went back across the Firth.

The season had seen an increase in the PFYC members attending travellers with the RS300 and Fireballs in particular making their mark at away events. Andrew Grant was 2<sup>nd</sup> in the RS300 travellers.

The Race secretary ended by thanking the Guard Boat Crews and Sea Cadets for their continuing support.

**Commodore's report** - Mark Raffle thanked last year's Committee and all those who had helped with the running of the Club over the past year. In particular he thanked the Sea Cadets for their help by the provision of additional guard boat support and also to Nicola Miller and her helpers for the organisation and provision of food at the Regattas/socials.

Mark reiterated what has been said for the last two years on compound and clubhouse security. It is essential that the last person out ensures that clubhouse and compounds are secure.

The Guard boat and engine are in good condition and have generally performed well throughout the season. The engine needed some repairs, which involved dismantling – thanks to Steve Foster, Guy Newson and others who helped.. Dave and Malcolm Lord had also done good work early in the season.

The Toppers and Mirrors have again been checked and maintained by the juniors, who were thanked for their work.

The Saturday of the Mid-Summer Regatta saw racing cancelled because of the weather, but 3 races were held on the Sunday. Reports from the visitors were good, with sand yachting organised instead on the Saturday. They were particularly impressed that all the catering was included in the entry fees, and that they were able to take doggy bags on their homeward journeys.

Congratulations were offered to Alan Thomson who won a trophy at the North of Scotland Schools Championships at Nairn and also to Jayne Henderson and Geoff Henstridge who won an RS400 traveller at East Lothian.

Finally, under the sailing part Mark thanked Alan Doull for his organisation of craning in and out for the cruisers, and acting as our competent person for lifting operations.

Scrabster Mission Fayre and the Coastguard Raft Race were held on the same day in June, and as normal the Club supported these. Unfortunately, the Club was unable to assist on the day of the RNLI Summer Fayre in July, so a donation has been sent instead.

Mark reported on the various social events which had taken place during the year.

Mark then went on to report on the progress with idea of pontoons in the harbour. The Harbour Trust appear to have relaxed their position a little, and have said that they would contribute to such a project. The Club would act as the body to attract any available grants. This would only be viable if (i) the Harbour Trust would contribute; (ii) the Harbour Trust would own and service the pontoons once complete. It is proposed that we proceed with investigations on this basis – Paul Carris has offered to lead on this. The Club would only make any definite commitment following further discussion at an AGM or EGM.

**Election of committee** – The results are shown on the first page of this newsletter.

**Any Other Business** - The Commodore informed the meeting that membership fees would be increased in line with inflation but that fees paid before the end of November would be at the old rate.

The issue of the club lease for the clubhouse/ compound was raised and the meeting informed that no progress had been made, the lease was being billed and paid at the 'agreed' rate of £50 + £1 per adult member.