



Pentland Firth Yacht Club



Newsletter

May 2005

Website: www.pfyc.org.uk



Mid-Howe Broch, Rousay

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Sunday 22 May – Training course lunch

To mark the end of the dinghy training course and welcome the (ex!) trainees to the club – sandwiches will be provided at about 1300. All members welcome.

Saturday 4 June 2005 - Mission Fayre/Raft Race

! Please help! As for last year it has been decided that these two events will be combined again. The Coastguard Raft Race will start at 1300, followed by the Mission Fayre. Offers of assistance will be gratefully received. We will be looking for a guard boat team, servers of hot drinks in the clubhouse for cold wet rafters, people to man a stall at the mission, contributions for the stall, and any other offers of assistance. Any offers of help please contact Mark Raffle (01847 894132 or commodore@pfyc.org.uk)

Sat 11 June 2005 - Clean up for Regatta

It is intended to tidy up around the outside of the clubhouse, trim grass and the like. Any offers of assistance please contact Doug Shanks (01847 895318).

Sat/Sun 18/19 June 2005 – Midsummer Regatta

Further details to follow, but likely to be similar to last year (better weather I hope) – that is 3 races each day with a social on the Saturday evening. Any offers of assistance with the catering would be very welcome – either to help out in the kitchen or make soup or sweets – please contact Nicola Miller (01847 895906).

Saturday 25 June 2005 – Monday Club BBQ/Karaoke

The Monday Club is a voluntary organisation for people with learning difficulties. They usually meet on Monday evenings, but this is their end of summer session party. We have previously given the occasional use of the clubhouse for other Monday Club events. PFYC members are also invited to join the party, 1200 – 1800.

Saturday/Sunday 2/3 July - Junior intercounty

The annual competition between Caithness and Orkney, this year to be held at Stromness. Age limit is up to and including 16. Anyone interested in competing or assisting and travelling with the team, please contact Mark Raffle (01847 894132 or commodore@pfyc.org.uk). **Competitors please make contact before 31 May to express interest.**

Saturday 9 July – RNLI Summer Fayre

This takes place at Scrabster Fishmarket 1400-1600. We were unable to assist last year, so it would be good if we could this year. Any offers of assistance would be gratefully received – please contact Mark Raffle (01847 894132 or commodore@pfyc.org.uk)

Saturday 16 July 2005 – Town Improvements Race

As for last year, the Town Improvements Cup will be awarded for a race organised by Town Improvements for gala week. Details to follow, but race will be in the vicinity of Thurso beach and harbour. Other watersports are being invited to participate on the day.

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

Newsletter contributions – Send to Mark Raffle by the means of your choice, but preferably by e-mail to 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.

GUARD BOAT REMINDERS

Kill cord – Please wear it at all times when driving the guard boat. Don't forget to take the spare one too – otherwise how will the crew rescue the driver if he falls out?

Throttle – To maintain proper control, keep one hand on it at all times when underway, the other hand on the wheel. A knob has been fitted to the wheel to allow easy steering with one hand to help with this.

Anchor – I overdid the chain a bit on the CQR anchor towards the end of last season, so this has now been cut back a bit to make it more manageable.

CLOTHING

We are considering purchasing club clothing. Nicky has obtained a new sample, which is displayed in the clubhouse. We do also still have a small number of items remaining from previous years. Anyone interested in club clothing of any variety, please contact Nicky Pearson (01847 831049 or alcpearson@aol.com).

TALMINE CRUISE

George Gunn is trying to organise a cruise to Talmine. He would be pleased to hear of any other cruisers wanting to take part, or anyone interested in crewing. No fixed date yet – that will depend on other interested people. Please contact George on 01847 895864 or georgegunnwalling@hotmail.com .

MEMBERSHIP

We would now be grateful for prompt payment of any outstanding membership fees and boat storage – **the club constitution requires payment by the end of May**. This is particularly important for Guard Boat crew to ensure proper insurance cover. For those with internet access, membership forms can be found on the club website at <http://www.radit.org.uk/pfyc/club/index.htm> . Anyone requiring a printed copy, please contact Phil Galvin (01847 890789) or Mark Raffle (01847 894132).

TROPHY WINNERS

Here's a full list of the trophy winners from last season:-

Lady Ann Trophy, 1st Sunday series – Fast, A Grant, "Whitestar"; Nutshell Trophy, 1st Sunday series – Slow, L Phimister, "Floyd"; Mackay Cup, 2nd Sunday Series – Fast, M Lord, "New Horizon"; Scrabster Enterprise Cup, 2nd Sunday Series – Slow, J Perry, "Topper"; St Clair Challenge Bowl, Frost Bite Series – Fast, M Lord, "Northern Song"; Sprague Cup, Thursday Series – Fast, D Scott, "Thunderbolt and Lightfoot"; Sibster Cup, Thursday Series – Slow, J Perry, "Topper"; Pentland Firth Challenge Cup, Mid Summer Regatta – Fast, I Baillie, "Hydrotherapy";

Clairdon Cup, Mid Summer Regatta – Slow, A Thomson, "Ed"; Rodney Wheeler Trophy, Mid Summer Regatta – Best Junior,

A Thomson, "Ed"; Town Improvements Cup, Town Improvements Race, M Lord, "Topper"; Phimister Cup, Phimster Pursuit, G Henstridge, "Rusalka"; Dounreay Cup, River Race, S Foster, "Phoenix"; Cameron Cup, Castlehill Race, A Gray, "Comfort 35"; Father Neptune, Capsizing, J Perry, "Laser".

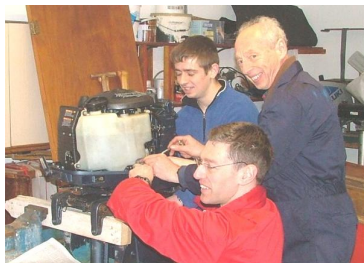
FOR SALE

Deck boots, size 11; matching waterproof trousers and jacket, both extra-large. All in almost new condition. Please contact Mrs Simpson (01847 893558).

ENGINE OVERHAUL

Thanks to Steve Foster, who organised the overhaul of the guard boat outboard before the start of the season. Steve turned this into a learning opportunity for a number of other club members (Glen Foster, Dave and Malcolm Lord) who assisted Steve – thanks to them too.

The work done, in addition to routine servicing, included fitting of a new gear change rod and cooling water impeller. See that boat fly!! Thanks also to Malcolm and Dave for preparing the boat for launching again.



CRUISER CREW

Crew available – contact Luke Williams (01847 896738 or lukeinscotland@aol.com).

CLUBHOUSE SECURITY

The fire door and compound were found open on the evening of Sunday 15 May. Members are requested when leaving to check if they are the last person, and if so to ensure that all doors of the club and the compound gates are secured.

HARBOUR TRUST REPRESENTATIVE

Under the new constitution of Scrabster Harbour Trust, Pentland Firth Yacht Club is entitled to have one representative on the Trust Body. As most harbour meetings take place during the working day, it would be ideal to have someone able to attend at these times. We have been asked to nominate someone by the end of May. If anyone is interested, I have further details. Please contact Mark Raffle (01847 894132 or commodore@pfyc.org.uk)

BEWARE – CRUISE SHIPS

With the development of Scrabster Harbour, we are likely to see an increase in the number of cruise ships visiting. We had one event last season when a dinghy capsized close to a cruise ship. These vessels have limited manoeuvrability,



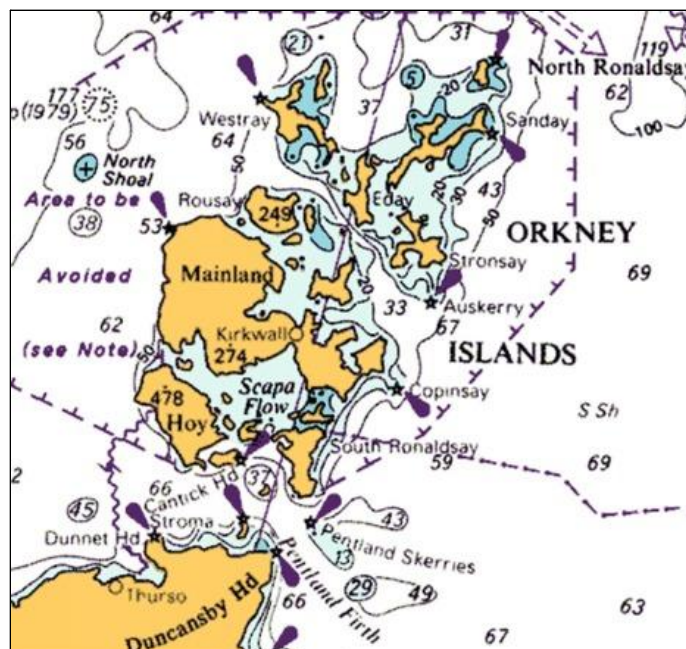
particularly when approaching or leaving their berth at slow speeds. The same applies to all other large vessels, including ferries, tankers, supply vessels and trawlers. Dinghies, cruisers and the guard boat should keep very well clear.

SUMMER CRUISE 2004

Ishbel, Mark & James Raffle

Planning for our 2004 cruise started soon after we got back from the West Coast in 2003. We decided we would try to go to Shetland, via Orkney and Fair Isle. From the chart below, you'll

see Shetland missing – we never made it that far this year, but we did enjoy almost 3 weeks in Orkney.



Tarantara was launched at Scrabster, along with the other cruisers, on Saturday 8 May. Before preparing for the cruise, she was used as committee boat for the Midsummer Regatta on Sunday 20 June (see June 2004 newsletter).

We had planned to leave Scrabster on Monday 5 July, but the Junior Intercounty competition on the Saturday and Sunday meant we weren't quite ready in time. Sailing was postponed until Tuesday, rather than rush around in a panic and end up forgetting something important.

Tuesday 6 July – After spending the day getting the last few things ready, we left Scrabster at 1620, this being timed to arrive at the west end of Hoy Sound at the start of the flood tide. The wind was NW-NNW force 2-3, so with a course of 025°M we were close hauled or close reaching for the whole crossing. It was a lovely evening with only a slight sea, good visibility, and sunny weather. By 2100 we had sailed nearly 18 miles, and were near the Old Man of Hoy, when the wind dropped and became very light. We started the engine and dropped the sails, but it soon became clear that all was not well, with no water coming from the exhaust – this had been fine in Scrabster. Back to wind power while the cooling water impeller was checked to be in good condition. We decided to sail the rest of the way, although now at much lower speed. However, the strong, favourable tide through Hoy Sound helped and we reached Stromness marina at 2255, using the engine only for the final manoeuvre onto the pontoon.

Wednesday 7 July – We spent the day in Stromness. The new marina is well sheltered behind the breakwater, and there was plenty of space. The fingers of the pontoons are quite narrow, and have a very rough non-slip surface. This performs its intended function very well, but is also very hard on the knees if knelt on. The seawater cooling system was partially dismantled to get the spanner more easily to the strainer, and the clump of debris we had sucked up the night before cleaned out. After this the cooling water flow was back to normal, and we were ready to go again.

Thursday 8 July – Well – it is a holiday! Ishbel and James went through to Kirkwall on the bus, while Mark fitted a GPS and did some other repairs on the boat.

(To be continued – next time the Northern Isles.)