

SEAS THE DAY

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KELPIE CUP

The annual Kelpie Cup race was held on the last weekend of May, just as the glorious weather was about to break. The yachts start from Port Edgar and head upstream to the Blackness buoy before turning back for the return leg.

The initial results showed Thin Ice, a Div 1 boat from PEYC taking the honours and the cup was duly presented. Imagine the drama, the gasps and the delight when it was realised that the scoring had been incorrect and the actual winner was..... Andrew Gibson and Graeme McKenzie on Louise. Yes! Our own Graeme on Louise along with someone called Andrew.

Imagine the gasps again, this time for FCC members finding out that Mr and Mrs Gibson did not, in fact, name their son Pud! Pud and Andrew are the same Gibson!

Celebrations all round. Final standings for FCC racers: 1st place: Louise, 6th place:

Moonshadow and 9th place: Solitaire. Out of a fleet of 21 that is pretty impressive!

The trophy being presented to someone who isn't Pud.



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

August 1st and 2nd Overnight Cruise to Aberdour
August 4th Evening Race 4
August 8th Stern Chase 3
August 16th Capernaum Cup
August 18th Evening Race 5
August 29th Anstruther Muster
September 3rd Evening Race 6
September 5th Breakfast Stern Chase 4
September 12th Duff Cup 5 and 6
September 26th Fife Regatta
September 27th Blackness Dash
October 10th and 11th Crane Out
November 7th Dinner Dance
November 26th AGM

BOOKS WITH BENEFITS

Hopefully everyone saw our poll on WhatsApp regarding use of the library. A small group of potential users met to complete the task of deciding what books to keep, what books to lose and how to breathe life into our library.

We haven't yet finished the task but there is a surprising consensus about which books are attractive to us all.

The books that are no longer required will be offered first to anyone who donated them and then will be available for anyone to take.....home!

The library is housed at the top of the stairs and books are available to borrow. We are looking for suggestions as to how best to monitor borrowing so if anyone has a great idea please do get in touch!

A library has to be a living thing and as such we will be aiming to stock books that people want to engage with. We have already had some suggestions so keep them coming.

COMMODORE'S CHATTER

It may feel like the sailing season has only just begun, but I've already started thinking about next year! Specifically, I've been thinking about next year's committee, which will be voted in at the AGM in November.

There are several reasons why you might want to volunteer:

You have opinions about the Club. Perhaps it's about a facility (or the lack of one), the character or leadership of the Club, or membership fees and money. Joining the committee gives you a real platform to air those views.

The Club runs on volunteers. It only survives because members give their time to keep it going. Joining the committee is a great way to contribute — and it feels good to give something back.

You'll learn more about the hobby you love. With sailing and boats, there's always something new to learn, and that's part of the fun. Committee discussions cover a huge range of topics, so you're guaranteed to pick up more knowledge along the way.

You'll be in the loop. Ever had that feeling of being the last to know? Join the committee, and you'll be among the first.

The more you give, the more you get back. Few sayings ring truer than when applied to our club.

If you think you could help, let me know, or have a chat with our President, Phil, who has given so much to the club over the years.

Roger

P.S. I never fancied volunteering if I thought it might 'tread on toes'. There are no toes to be trod on – the whole committee recognises the need for new faces. Many people prefer to serve for one or two years only!

A pirate walks into a bar with a ship's steering wheel stuffed down his trousers. The bartender looks at him and asks, "Hey matey, does that thing bother you?" The pirate sighs, "Arr, it's drivin' me nuts!"



CLUBHOUSE PAINTING

Having completed the internal refurbishment of our club house, it was time to activate the plan for the exterior. Luckily our very own Alex Hill was willing to scale to the dizzy heights, wield his paintbrush and transform the dull walls to the most amazing colour! Looks fantastic!



RNLI DRAMA

Whilst working on the Charlestown Harbour project our club members supported the broken masted yacht! Ask Erik or Roger all about it.



WELCOME TO OUR NEW SOCIAL MEMBERS.

Euan Duncan joins us from Livingston and is an experienced sailor looking for a boat. It was nice to get to know him at the Charlestown Harbour crane out.



FCC VILLAGE RAFT RACE

There are some ideas that seem so good whilst nursing a whisky on a cold winter's night. Imagine the scene; a raft race, golden beaches, blazing sun, dozens of smiling, happy entrants.

Fast forward to July and our hardworking raft organisers might have said "I wish I had imagined the scene; risk assessments, first aiders, insurance documentation, uncertain weather!

However, with great tenacity, the FCC organised and ran the first village raft race in years. The Scouts catered, Alex Hill compered and The Bruce Arms sponsored it with fabulous prizes to boot. It was a great spectacle and whilst there were only four rafts, the amount of effort the raft builders had put in was evident! Some had designed with winning engineering precision (FCC!), some had designed for colour and flair (The Farmers). Others had gone for traditional piracy (The Bruce) whilst our final raft, (Jen and the gals), had a decidedly Viking feel. Raft races, are by definition, fun to watch. Whilst it is wonderful to see clinical execution, it is particularly amusing to watch our club treasurer attempt to control his craft with several of his team reduced to the swim/push technique!

All in all, this was another FCC high visibility event, showing our villages just how much the FCC can contribute to village life. It was so good.....let's hope it runs again in the future.



Charlestown Harbour

I write this from the position of someone who has not been hands on at all but also as the wife of someone who has been incredibly hands on from the first suggestion that something needed to be done about the situation of abandoned boats at Charlestown Harbour.

It made perfect sense that the sailing community be involved in decisions regarding Charlestown Harbour and Roger, along with Erik, Alan and Phil, have attended meetings with, amongst others, SEPA, Forth Ports, FCCT, Broomhall Estate, CLP Nature Action and local interested residents.

Eventually it became clear that action rather than words were required and our Commodore suggested that the skill set of the FCC was too valuable to be overlooked.

Fast forward and in the lead up to July 16th many, many FCC members came together to prepare for the craning out that was required. This was a significantly different task to craning out seaworthy boats.

The initial task of dragging floating boats was challenging enough! However, a pleasing raft of boats was soon in position on the beach area.



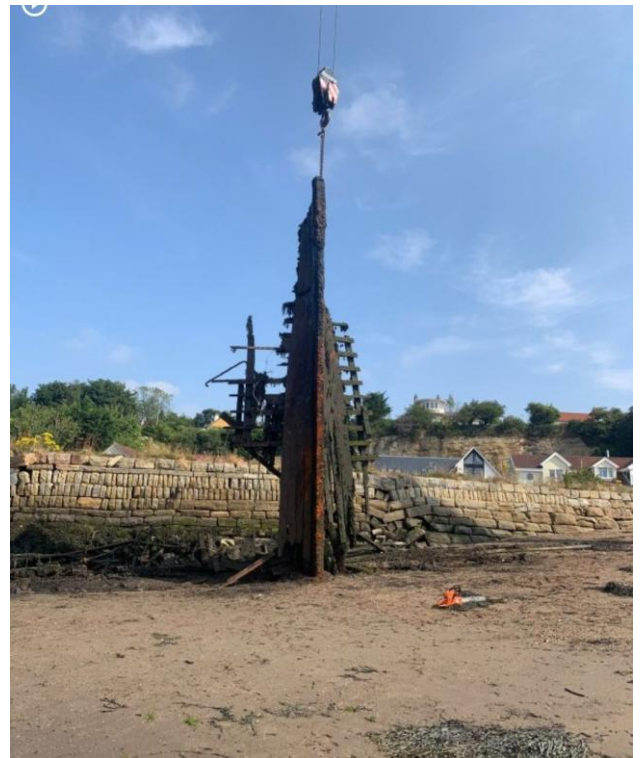
The next challenge was dealing with the semi submerged craft that needed some careful thought and extra buoyancy. The team turned from sailors to balers and became first rate salvage experts!

Charlestown Harbour

With the aid of buoys, barrels and brains several otherwise impossible floaters were created.



The day itself went well and with the Broomhall Estate providing a crane for two days there was an opportunity to deal with the worst of the wrecks.



There was a phenomenal support from many club members so to put my village hat on again, thank you. Thank you for stepping forward, thank you for committing your time and skills and thank you for showing FCC off in the very best light.

SPOTLIGHT ON....Katie Thomson



Katie is one of our multi-talented sailors, happy cruising, happy racing and happy being hands on with the running of our club. She has a wealth of knowledge about sailing and about the club so do feel free to grab her for a blether.

First Sailing Memory: Dad's 19 ft Sadler Sea Wych on Loch Linnhe as a practice before taking her up to Shetland. It was August and it snowed!

Favourite Local Destination: Peatdraught Bay. Great memories of barbeques and ball games and the best beaching of Calloo I think we've ever done.



Perfect Après Sailing Tipple? Have you met me? Anything, really! We're in Croatia on flotilla as I write this though and Gin and Bitter Lemon is the beverage of choice.

Dream Boat: Well, if someone offered me a nice big Hallberg-Rassy, I wouldn't turn my nose up but I'm also very fond of all things Moody and particularly Calloo.....if only she was just three feet longer!

FCC Library Book Review

Ocean Conquest by Bob Fisher and Barry Pickthall.

This 1993 official story of the Whitbread Round The World Race (now called the Ocean Race) has sumptuous photography making it well worth a peek.

Available on the shelves at the top of the stairs. Please **DO NOT** be tempted to recreate the photo on page 74 in any way!

Your committee is drifting dangerously close to *un-minuted waters*. We need a Minute Secretary who can catch every decision before it sails off into the sunset.

Please, please consider helping out for the three meetings before the AGM in November. You can help keep our meetings shipshape, our records afloat, and our Commodore pretending everything was planned.

Contact any committee member but please do take a first aid kit. They will likely bite your hand off!

FOR SALE -Seadog 30 Ketch Motor Sailer 'Jacarah' For Sale – £10,000 Contact Robert Peebles on 07766585739 for further information/viewing. **Further details on club website.** All contact details are in the Members' Section of the website.