

Commodore's Report

Introduction

The club has grown from 67 to 72 members this year, and I would like to start by welcoming all those who have joined us this year:

Andy Nicol

John Smith

Jeremey Price

Tony Vandyke

Jonny Kerfoot

Mike Armitage

A major achievement was the re-development of the toilet and showers in the tower.

We met with the Harbour Trust, and am pleased that the relationship between the Club and the Harbour has improved over the last 2 years. There are important changes coming in the Harbour Trust, with new Trustees being appointed. We, and the Harbour Trust, are very keen to see at least one representative of the boat club on the new Board of Trustees

On sailing matters...

CROMARTY BOAT CLUB, Sailing Secretary's Report 2016

RACING ACTIVITY

Cromarty boat club member participation in the MYA series of races has grown to its highest level since the first MYA races back in 2006 despite two major absences this year.

A total of thirteen different club boats sailed in at least one of the ten race series. Individual participation of Cromarty Boats in local Moray Firth was as follows

Baccarat	Tom Paling	8 events
Sea Jay	Robert Hogg	4 events
Sand Dollar	Jim Cockburn	8 events
Katie May	Ross Couper	5 events
Iona	David Price	4 events
Ness Piper	John Smith	3 events
Moonshadow	Willie Smeaton	1 events
L'Acushla	Danny Coutts	1 event
Fram	Mike Burns	1 event

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Ocean Gem	Steve Whiteford	1 event
Shoshoni	Bob Bull	1 event
Cafrefree	Ronnie Macdonald	1 event
Havanna Breeze	Cliff Furlong	1 event

The most popular MYA race event this year was the inaugural NKCP race (North Kessock Community Pier) jointly organised by Cromarty Boat Club and the NKCP trust. This attracted a total of fourteen entries. Caley Marina hosted the prizegiving with a free BBQ and refreshments in addition to providing reduced berthing fees for visiting competitors. This social event provided an ideal opportunity for club members to meet up with marina residents.

Our annual club regatta was the second most popular MYA event in the area with a total of ten entries and in addition the regatta feeder race from Invergordon to Cromarty was also held. For the first time since Cromarty BC was formed in 1996 the Copland Cup was won by a Cromarty boat club member breaking the hold of the Invergordon boats. David Price in Iona beating an Invergordon Sonata by the tiniest but adequate margin of two seconds on corrected time.

Our four race pursuit race series event was virtually abandoned primarily due to a lack of breeze, so the George Selvester trophy has not been awarded this year.

The outcome of the years MYA and Club racing was as follows

MYA Fast Handicap Series

First	Circe.	J & J Prentice	Invergordon BC
Second	Baccarat	Tom Paling	Cromarty Boat Club
Third	Hava	Diarmid Hogan	Chanonry SC

MYA Slow Handicap Series

First	Sand Dollar	Jim Cockburn	Cromarty BC (Awarded CBC Glen Ord Quaich, on loan to MYA)
Second	Sea Jay	Robert Hogg	Cromarty BC
Third	Fram	Mike Burns	Cromarty BCS

Overall MYA Team Trophy Cromarty BC (third Year in succession)

Cromarty Annual Regatta

Fast H'cap Open Winner BC	Copland Cup	Iona of Rhu David Price Cromarty
Fast H'cap First CBC boat BC	Mizpah Trophy	Iona of Rhu David Price Cromarty

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Slow H'cap Open Winner Cromarty BC	CBC Regatta Challenge	Sand Dollar Jim	Cockburn
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Slow H'Cap First CBC boat Cromarty BC	Farmers Trophy	Sand Dollar Jim	Cockburn
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Annual Regatta Feeder Race

Open Winner Invergordon BC	Dolphin Ecosse Trophy	Duo	Tom	Owen
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First CBC boat	Royal Hotel Cup	Iona of Rhu	David Price	CBC
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George Selvester Trophy Four race pursuit series, abandoned & trophy not awarded.

Sea Angling Competition CFPA Sea Angling Trophy Jeremy Price, CBC

If anyone wants to see the full years racing results, then the sailing secretary can supply this information.

CRUISING ACTIVITY

In addition to the planned annual Commodores Cruise, three weekend cruises were scheduled during the season. Despite a lack of support in 2015 members were once again invited to turn up at the harbour on Wednesday or Saturday mornings to muster for local day or weekend trips around the Moray firth.

Of the planned three local weekend cruises two weekend trips took place. The first trip to Findhorn by Baccarat & Sand Dollar was aborted due to high seas at the Findhorn Bar. The second attempt was successful and was supported by Baccarat, Sand Dollar, Ness Piper and Moonshadow again going across the Moray Firth to Findhorn and returning after a Saturday night social evening ashore in town.

A total of three boats were involved in the annual Commodores Cruise

Iona of Rhu	David Price,	(Jim Cockburn, Diarmid Hogan, Mike Burns)
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Baccarat	Tom Paling,	(George Selvester, Pug Peterson)
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Ocean Gem	Steve Whiteford, Christine Whiteford plus Jaffa
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The annual cruise started on Saturday 2nd July from Cromarty and achieved a furthest north of Muckle Flugg via Wick, Pierrowall on Orkney, Fair Isle, Lerwick, Cullivoe, Burravoe, before returning home, a total of around 528 miles of cruising., The Club newsletter of July has a detailed diary account of the escapades & ports of call.

Further afield Pug and Robert were involved with other non-members in what must have been at least a 2100 miles delivery trip, bringing Maxi Cosi from Albufeira in Portugal back to Scotland and the Cromarty moorings.

A near 30day trip via Lisbon, Porto, Falmouth, Dublin, Isle of Man, Luing, Corpach, and Inverness. All in all a voyage which certainly merits the award of the Doris May Plate for Pug's cruising activity.

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Maxi Cosi subsequently had an attempt at getting to St Kilda but suffered some pretty bad weather which eventually put paid to the trip and also put Pug in hospital with cracked ribs !

Oliver & Andrew in Octopus reached Tobermory on there west coast cruise en route for Orkney The trip was curtailed so that Oliver could attend his grandsons birth in London. Octopus eventually returned to Inverness having been left at Corpach.

There second attempt at cruising to Orkney this time via the East coast ended abruptly with engine failure, a gallant sail back to Inverness marina was finally scuppered by adverse tide & lack of breeze near the Kessock bridge where they were ably assisted by the RNLi for the last few cables plus a posse of MCA volunteers to take their berthing lines in the marina, as Oliver has noted "quite a service".

Tennessee Waltz had a west coast trip and happened to meet up with Windflower (ex CBC member Roxby Robson) around the Oban area. Roxby commented that it was good to spend a night or so in Loch Aline with Danny who could "supervise" some mast climbing work on Windflower

In summary the racing season was very well supported by CBC members however our local cruising activities have stagnated somewhat with a lower level of support despite attempts at both scheduling events in the calendar & or having ad hoc or impromptu days where members simply turn up mid week or at weekends and agree a local destination for the day.

To conclude with some thanks, then the club owe a large debt of gratitude to Nick Owen who performed almost all of the CBC race officer duties during the year.

To Barry Pickles for organising the fishing competition and both Pug and the Dingwall Model Shop for donating prizes at this event.

Finally thanks to Danny Coutts for taking folk out in the Cromarty firth at the "Have a go day". Both these last two events were run during the week long Cromarty Regatta.

Social

In 2015, the End of Season Supper was a lunch - so we could all get home in time to see the Rugby World Cup Final!

The 2016 Burns Supper was well supported - almost a sell out - and the entertainment programme included a mixture of weel kent & new performers with fiddle music recitals being added into the schedule for the first time.

Catering was provided to support crane-in & crane-out.

Works

Redevelopment of showers/toilets/laundry facilities at the tower

This was a major project that was kicked off in 2014/15 and completed in spring 2016 just before crane-in. The improvements (which cost around £15k) were funded by grants from Highland Council, Awards4All, and the SITA Trust together with donations from CFPA, Cromarty Harbour Trust & private individuals.

A regular cleaning service provided by Fraser Thomson of Cromarty Youth Cafe was procured to help keep the new facilities in tip top condition.

The new facilities have been made available to the crews of visiting leisure boats, Cromarty Youth Cafe members, and the Cromarty Sea Kayak Symposium.

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General maintenance

A series of well supported work parties in the Spring completed the external repainting of the tower while, during the summer, other members helped with routine maintenance such as spraying weedkiller & repairing fencing.

Future

The club room part of the tower is badly overdue internal refurbishment which is likely to be quite costly. The workshop is needing a good spring clean and there's a lot of junk lying around the compound that also needs tidying. Perhaps we need to consider an extension to the compound as demand for winter storage grows.

Cromarty Harbour Trust

Recently, the Club accepted an invitation to be represented on a Working Party set up by the chairman of the Harbour Trust to help with the general management of the harbour and to develop plans for its restoration & development. The Chairman of the Working Party, Tony Vandyke, who is also a member of the Boat Club, will give a short presentation to the AGM about the projects under development.

Moorings and Compound

You may be aware that the Club are responsible for the moorings in the bay, and we report these to Cromarty Firth Port Authority each year. We also met with the CFPA later in the year, and had a very positive discussion with them.

We purchased a new outboard for the barge, and the system is working very well.

We are investigating some changes to the overall management of the moorings, which may involve each owner taking responsibility for inspecting both the ground chain and riser on a bi-annual basis.

The club continues to grow, which is great. It does start to put pressure on the capacity we have in the compound. We have clear rules for qualifying for a space, and we anticipate the for next winter we may have to enforce these. This will mean that those who have boats in the compound which are not active, may well be asked to remove them to make space for active club members.

Finally, I would like to conclude my report with my thanks to the Committee for their commitment and efforts, largely unseen.