

**Forth Cruising Club**  
**Spring General Meeting**  
**11 April 2013**

The meeting opened at 19.30 and was chaired by the Commodore.

**Apologies**

Apologies were received from the following:-

- Phil Whetton
- Mike Brockie
- Jenny Sullivan
- Fiona Thomson
- Christian Scrivener
- Brian Scrivener
- Carolyn Bullions
- Ken Clements

**Present**

**There were** 24 members of the Club present, including the current Committee.

**Minutes**

The adoption of the Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 25 October 2012 was proposed by John Harris and seconded by Sandy Thomson. There were no dissenters.

**Commodore Report - Denis Sullivan**

This is the start of another season and once again hopefully, of a better sailing season.

Since our last Spring General Meeting there have been several changes to the committee.

John Drury as Rear Commodore (Clubhouse) has taken over seamlessly from Russell Kelly and is doing an excellent job in continuing the repair and maintenance of the clubhouse. John will give you a detailed report on all the work ongoing or completed.

Kirsty Maguire retired as Social Convener and has not yet been replaced. In the meantime, Katie Thompson has made up a list of all the likely events to be held over the season. This list is on the web site and on the notice board. We have had several volunteers to do events and this has been very successful. To date there are a few summer events such as the Regatta that do not have a volunteer to oversee them and, if we do not get any volunteers, we may bring in outside caterers. I think that this may be the best way to go in the future, as the job of Social Convener is an onerous one. It would, however, be great if somebody would come on the committee to manage the Social Calendar and keep an eye on general supplies etc.

John Hoyes has also resigned. Firstly, I would like to thank John for the years he has been Secretary and for the many hours of work he has put into the job. Again I have not had anyone volunteer to take over as Secretary so in the meantime Eva Brockie is taking on the job of Membership Secretary and I will undertake all the other Secretarial duties. I have to say that I am not, and never have been, happy in a secretarial role so you will need to be patient with me. If any one would like to volunteer to take over the general Secretarial duties please contact me. Once again the secretarial job that John was doing was huge and splitting the work, into Membership Secretary and general Secretarial duties, as the club is growing, may be a better way forward.

To all the other members of the committee, without whom there would not be a club, once again thank you for all your hard work and commitment to the club.

I also need to thank all the non committee members who regularly do work to keep you informed such as Nan Whetton, being web master, Willy and Sarah McAlpine, for running the bar and always making sure the bar is stocked, Marilyn Drury for washing all the tea towels and towels after each event and until recently Moira Hoyes for cleaning the club and cutting the grass.

Many thanks to all those involved in a successful crane in especially the catering which was tip top. There were 52 boats launched and 8 masts stepped this year - another club record!

There are also a great number of people who come to the work parties in the winter to help with the general maintenance of the club. I would also like to thank the committee who have spent many hours on the Constitution and in the end we had to have a subcommittee, which spent hours refining the wording. This is an agenda item so I will come back to it.

I am always very pleased to see in general that we are a happy club and we work for each other's benefit and want this to continue, however at the AGM a few niggles were mentioned that had been upsetting a few folks during the season. Can I please ask that these are brought to the committee's attention

rather than festering? You can ask any committee member to bring it to the committee or if you prefer the committee meets on the last Thursday of every month at 7.30 and if you contact me first we can arrange to meet any member prior to a meeting.

We have been updating our database and we have only one name per family membership on the database. It has been suggested that some wives/husbands would also like their email addresses added to this list. I think this has already started so as I am at present holding the master would you please send these addresses to me and so I can update the master and pass on to the other committee members

Wishing you all an excellent season

Any questions?

There were no questions.

### **Vice Commodore Report – Sandy Thomson**

A large number of the racing issues had been covered at the recent Racing Meeting. In particular we discussed the new 'Pairs Competition'. I am still keen to have additional participants and anybody who wishes to take part should contact me.

The 2013 Racing Calendar is now on the notice board and on the Club's website.

New racing courses have been added for 2013 and these can be obtained from myself or downloaded from the Club's website.

The amended Club's sailing instructions are also on the web.

The Committee has still to address which radio channel to use. Until notified otherwise, we will continue to use Channel 8, but transmissions must be kept to an absolute minimum.

OODs are still needed for most of the Club races. Without OODs the racing cannot take place.

In the past OODs were given a race to oversee and that was felt to be unfair. Last year I asked for volunteers and ended up acting as OOD for most of the season.

That is not going to happen this year. I cannot force members to take on this duty, which is only two hours per year, but if I do not get volunteers, races will be cancelled.

I would like to thank members for their help last year. In particular, however, I would like to thank both George Scrivener and Alastair Bullions for their help with the Fife Regatta.

Any questions?

There was some further discussion concerning the requirement for a radio channel. It was confirmed that the requirement arose because the Starter's Box was a land based establishment and all transmissions were considered to be shore to ship.

The cost of a dedicated channel was likely to be around £75 p.a. This will be investigated and a report made to the Committee.

### **Rear Commodore (Piers and Moorings) Report – Phil Whetton**

The Rear Commodore (Piers and Moorings) is unwell and his Report was read by the Commodore.

#### **Crane in 6/7 April**

Another successful Crane in weekend – probably our slickest so far – due in part to the new sets of slings the Club has purchased and the expertise of the crane driver.

Statistically, we launched 52 boats and stepped 8 masts (38 launches on Saturday together with 6 masts stepped). Launched 2 pontoons and repositioned 2 boats. Another record breaker for the Club!

In trying to further streamlining our craning in procedures I am investigating the purchase of 4 steel wires to come from the beam to our **new** slings. The crane company cannot supply wires of our required length to keep the beam above the tallest mast.

The arrangements that I had put in place for Banksman training unfortunately drew a blank, as the person in question had to give priority to other work on 6/7 April. He apologised but has again put crane out in his diary.

The Club's new ruling on ensuring that boats are not left on the hard standing for more than one sailing season (of course unless mitigating circumstances are offered to the committee) is now paying dividends.

I wish to thank everybody that helped, including the mudlarks, the slingers and sling shifters, the rope pullers and not forgetting the excellent catering staff who kept our stomachs full.

#### **Winter work parties**

A big thank you to all who helped over the winter months.

The work we achieved:

- Basement store roof replaced (we were very lucky with the weather)
- Mast rack secured from blowing over
- Starters box was secured to the foundations
- Numerous sinkers were checked and replaced in Brucehaven This will continue next winter
- An additional mooring was set up at Limekilns Pier
- The marker poles in Brucehaven have been replaced

### **Planned work for the summer months:**

- Scottish Water has delivered 20 ton of hardcore as a result of our complaints about the overflowing tanks. Unfortunately we will have to spread it!!
- The garden seat is to be renovated and placed down the pier
- The intention is to erect another marker pole (possibly a cardinal) on the rocks near our East mark to give a transit between the 2 cardinals defining the “no go area”.
- Paint the davits and draughtboards
- Investigate and repair the fixings for the South pontoon as they are severely corroded.
- Paint the outside of the basement store walls.

Finally, I will be reminding the members that in the sailing season the basement is for the use of tenders and that all ladders **must** be removed. Also, that as the whole site will be tidied up all boat blocks should be taken away.

### **Rear Commodore (Clubhouse) Report - John Drury**

At the beginning of this year Moira Hoyes retired from cleaning the clubhouse and I would like to thank her for all the hard work she has put in over the years. At the moment, I am doing most of the cleaning as and when required. If anyone would like to help, please let me know.

I think we have got to the bottom of the damp at the front door. The floor under the bar is dry with the fitting of a new beer cooler. The stone work at the sides of the entrance door has been pointed then waterproofed. Water was getting though between the stones. Owing to the thickness of the wall, it will take some time to dry out, then we can repair the inside wall etc.

There are some brackets on the front gutters needing replaced and some weed growth at the end gable to be removed. I am waiting for the roofer to come and see then repair.

### **Rear Commodore (Club Boat) Report – George Scrivener**

The Club Boat now has a new cover. The boat has been anti-fouled and is now in the water. There were problems with the fuel. This has been an ongoing

problem but hopefully this has now been resolved. Again, I will be happy to encourage those who wish to be authorised to use the Club boat – weather permitting, of course!

## **Cruising Convenor Report – Alastair Bullions**

The Cruising programme has been put on the website. As usual I have taken into account as many requests as possible. There are cruises to both Anstruther and Arbroath. The tides may be difficult for these cruises but there will be more information nearer the date. As with all cruises, these are weather dependent but I would like to see as many participants as possible.

## **Treasurer's Report – Eva Brockie**

Currently the Club's financial position is satisfactory. The two largest items of expenditure in the past year have been the roof of the workshop and some more chain. The new chain is 12mm and cost wise will be £6 per metre. The cost compares very favourably with locally bought chain. This is mainly thanks to George Scrivener who has purchased the chain on behalf of the Club and delivered it to the Club free of charge.

It falls to me to suggest the level of fees to be charged for the year commencing 1 September 2013. The level of these fees has been agreed by the committee. The suggested fees are:-

- A – Single/ Family -£52
- B – Junior - £20
- C – Community – Starts at £20 but is negotiable
- D -. Honorary – Free

Additional for boat owners

- 1 - All boats - £122
- 2.- Sailing dinghies - £27

No other changes are envisaged.

The Commodore confirmed that these increases were within the agreed escalator and called for someone to propose the new fees.

These were proposed by George Scrivener and seconded by Robert Peebles.

The membership voted unanimously to accept the proposed increase.

## **Election of Secretary**

The Commodore explained that, following the resignation of John Hoyes, the duties are being shared between himself and the Treasurer. This seems to be working satisfactorily and, unless there was someone present who wished to take on this position, the election of a Secretary would be left the Annual General Meeting in the autumn. There were no dissenters.

## **Constitution**

At the Annual General Meeting in October 2012 it had been agreed that this item should be carried forward to this Spring General Meeting. A sub-committee was formed. This consisted of the President, Commodore, Rear Commodore (Club House) and the Treasurer. A significant amount of time has been spent by this sub-committee, and indeed by other members of the

committee, on producing the document which has been sent out with the Agenda for this meeting. Some changes had been suggested very recently and some of these will be incorporated in the document. The Commodore passed around details of the changes. There were no comments on these. The President moved that the Constitution should be adopted. This was seconded by Robert Peebles. There was a majority vote to accept the motion. The dissenters stated that they still thought that the Constitution was too long. The Commodore explained that his initial thought was that the Constitution should be no more than a couple of pages long but that just did not work. The Commodore explained that the new Constitution would be backed up by Rules. Most of these Rules are already in existence but they do need updating. There would be a sub-committee formed over the summer to deal with this.

## **AOCB**

There were no members' Agenda items to discuss.

The Commodore wished to announce that the Committee had invited John Dougall to be an Honorary Member in view of his past services to the Club. He was delighted to inform the membership that John Dougall had accepted.

Maureen Bellini asked the Commodore what had happened to the old hand written Minutes that she had typed. The Commodore confirmed that he had the original Minutes and that John Hoyes had passed on the typed file. Maureen had asked if these could be put on the website. Nan Whetton (Webmaster) said she thought it would be possible.

There being no further business, the Meeting closed at 20.28.