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

1. Minutes

The adoption of the Minutes of the Spring General Meeting on 17 April 2014 was proposed by Sandy Thomson and seconded by Nan Whetton. There were no dissenters.

2. Apologies

Apologies were received from the following:-

- Kathryn Brechin
- Peter Simpson
- Jim Simpson
- Erik Thomson
- Keith McDevitt
- Ken Clements
- Sean Cunningham
- William McAlpine
- Ken Bellini
- Ian Arnott

Present

There were 34 members of the Club present, including the current Committee which confirmed the meeting as quorate.

3. Office Bearers reports

**Commodore Report - Denis Sullivan**

Here we are again. Two reasonable summers in a row, we’re getting spoilt.

Thanks to Committee

As always my sincere thanks to all our committee members and additional helpers (Erik, Nan and Duncan). Also additional thanks to George Scrivener and John Drury for all the work they have done on the club boat this summer. I have to report that Sandy Thomson (Vice Commodore), Alastair Bullions (RC Cruising) and Kathy Gostick (Secretary) are standing down this year and we hope to fill these positions as well as RC Clubhouse this evening. We currently have volunteers for Vice Commodore, RC Clubhouse and Secretary. Unfortunately we are still looking for someone for RC Cruising and would really welcome a volunteer.
Crane out

Many thanks to everybody that helped at a successful crane out and congratulations to Phil for achieving a tighter stow than last year even though the number of boats lifted has increased. We also seem to have more usable parking space which is very welcome.

Clubhouse

As we have been without RC Clubhouse for the last year I have been keeping an eye on things with the assistance of J Dougal and Erik Thomson, thanks to them. John Dougal has now been unavailable for some time after breaking his arm, however Eva has now arranged for her cleaner to come in after each event which has been a great help. Best wishes to John for a speedy recovery.

You will all be aware that in spite of fitting a new front door the lobby area is still showing signs of damp. Hopefully we may soon find a solution to the problem after which we can go ahead with a repaint of the ground floor.

Many thanks to Matt Carradice and Alastair Bullions who have done a lot of work bringing our electrical system up to modern safety standards.

Work Parties

Work parties have been very well supported in recent years and I hope this will continue to be the case this winter. Phil has quite a large schedule of works this year and we look forward to seeing you all on Sundays.

Cruises

Congratulations to Murdoch McGregor for another outstanding cruise this year. After being beaten back by weather on his first attempt he made it to St Kilda on his second attempt. Congratulations from us all.

Ladies

I am delighted to report that the ladies toilets have now been completed to a very high standard. Many thanks to Phil, Eva, and Christian for organising the work and thanks to Neil Lind the builder for completing the work in a short time without disturbing any club functions. Additional thanks to Matt Carradice for supplying and fitting the lighting.

We are currently drawing up plans for refurbishment of the Gents and hope to be able to report progress on this in the near future.
Conclusion

Finally I look forward to a clement closed season and another fine summer to follow. I also look forward to seeing as many of you as possible at the dinner dance. For anybody who has not yet booked a place then this evening is a good opportunity to do so.

**Vice Commodore Report – Sandy Thomson**

Over the whole season a total of 15 club boats took part in our races. Some for the very first time which is always welcome. Of the 11 races held here we had six different winners. Four members new to the club also took part with one of them actually winning a race! So I think it is safe to say that the racing here at FCC is as healthy as it has been for a while.

The rolling handicap system was rolled out this year and it has proven to be a success. Boats that needed a helping hand to make them more competitive were given help. Boats that needed pegging back because their race results were too good were pegged back. And those in the middle, the majority of the fleet, had their handicaps closely monitored and adjusted up or down accordingly. The average handicap adjustment, for regular racers, over the season was only 5. The boat that was cut the most still won races and the boat that had their handicap increased the most did not win but was drawn up into the middle of the fleet. This was the objective of the rolling handicap system and it has delivered.

Before I go I would like to thank all those club members that have helped me out over the past four seasons. I shan’t name them all, but you know who you are, and I am very grateful for your support. I must give special thanks to our Commodore though, whose wisdom, guidance and diplomatic skills I came to rely upon throughout my tenure.

**Cruising Convenor Report – Alastair Bullions**

10 cruises were planned.
1 cancelled due to clash of dates.
The club was represented by Joint Venture and Wildcat who took part in Commonwealth Clyde Flotilla.
The club was well represented at Forth Bridge Flotilla.
Well done to Murdo McGregor who cruised to St Kilda.
Thank you for your support as I step down.
Rear Commodore (Piers and Moorings) Report – Phil Whetton

Summer work (North pontoon)

- Re-bolting of wooden battens holding the pontoon together.
- Installation of new rubber buffers held by new steel plates.
- Installation of non-slip walkway and additional centre cleat.
- New steelwork fixings and chains (one chain still to be replaced).

Thanks to George Scrivener (Fleet Support) for the manufacture of steelwork and John Drury for his input and help with the whole project.

Hoses

New hoses have been installed both on the drum outside the basement door and in the garden. Members have been informed NOT to run the hoses across the road or where vehicles can damage them – as has happened to our previous hoses.

I have already had to supply a new connector to the pressure washer and to the yellow hose end so please look after the Club’s equipment.

Floodlight on starting box

You’ve all been advised of the mobile number that switches on the newly installed floodlight on the starting box.

Crane Out

Many thanks to all who helped on a busy but successful weekend.

- 58 boats were lifted out
- 8 masts removed
- 6 pontoons repositioned
- 2 pontoons lifted out
- 1 boat repositioned

Winter work (New pontoons)

To follow up what I said at the SGM, I managed to secure 6 pontoon sections from Mull. We obtained these free of charge as they were scrap but of course had to pay delivery. (I did think we were only getting 4.)

Most people are probably aware that it is intended to install these at the middle pier to allow dinghies to be moored to them. The current position with dinghy mooring is totally unsuccessful with constant entanglements and “moans” from our members.

I intend to hold a meeting soon with all interested members to get their ideas on how to both install the pontoons and set up dinghy Moorings.
We have to bear in mind that we do not have a lease of the pier so any fixings to the pier (which is a weak structure) need to be kept to a minimum. We also have to ensure access to the boat moorings is not hindered.

Infill of beach corner

If Club finances allow, we intend to block off the beach corner with gabions which will hopefully prevent the build up of rubbish by ensuring it is washed by most tides. I have spoken to our landlord – Lord Elgin – and he has agreed with this course of action.

Moorings

I will be working out mooring spaces over the next few months. I will issue the allocation in the New Year.

Boat collisions

Again it’s been brought to my notice that a boat was damaged without the owner being made aware of this. Can I remind you again that good seamanship is expected of our members – no matter how minor the damage.

Winter work parties

As most of us know our work parties take place every Sunday morning from 10 am until 12 noon. All that’s required are gloves, wellies and yourselves. The main job this winter is the new pontoons which will need some planning so work parties will commence after the plan has been agreed. I’ll inform everyone of the first Sunday in plenty of time.

Last but not least

I must give a thank you to Duncan Grant for cutting all the grass in the garden and on the pier. He has also helped on numerous other jobs over the summer and is available to help boat owners – at a cost!!

Rear Commodore Clubhouse

No one in post.

Rear Commodore (Club Boat) Report – George Scrivener

Osprey has had some work carried out including the fitting of a new floor which has stiffened the up. Her engine issue is ongoing and will require further investigation. Thanks to Duncan for jet washing her down following lift out.
**Treasurer’s Report – Eva Brockie**

Membership

Currently we have 91 members in the following categories:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Current</th>
<th>Previous Year</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Category</td>
<td>Number</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A1</td>
<td>69</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A2</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D1</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C1</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>91</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

These are net gains. There has been an increase in the number of boat owning members. This takes account, not only of new members but also of non boat owning members who have bought a boat. The majority of the fees were paid on time but there were a small number of members who had to be reminded.

The Committee agreed that ‘seven day notices’ would be issued to these members. All 2014 fees were paid within that timescale and it was not necessary to impose penalties in accordance with the Constitution.

Accounts

As agreed at the Spring General Meeting I have restated the accounts to 31 August 2013 and I have provided copies of these. These accounts have been re-audited.

Turning to the accounts to 31 August 2014.

The ladies’ toilets and shower have been completed. The net cost to the Club has been just under £2450.

If you look at the accounts you will see that there is a significant increase in the utilities costs. The increase is in the gas bills. There are several reasons for this.

- No accurate readings were submitted to the utility companies. Although the estimates used up to August 2013 were reasonable this was not the case at August 2014.
- The gas has, on occasion, been left running on high 24/7 after the Clubhouse has been used.
• The front door is often left open when the heating is on and when club members are in and out frequently.

Can you please ensure that you turn the heating down low when you leave? I understand that there is a frost setting so that should ensure that the pipes are ok during the winter.

Other items of expenditure:

The costs for the Crane are greater. The weather at crane in was very bad. As a result we were not able to crane in on the one weekend but had to rehire the crane for an additional day.

Again a large slice of expenditure was on Piers and Moorings. You can see the benefit of this around the Club and Rear Commodore (Piers & Moorings) updated you at the Spring General meeting with regard to the expenditure last winter. He has already spoken about the subsequent expenditure.

Whilst upgrading the ladies’ we were informed that the electrical supply would need to be upgraded as some of the wiring was not up to standard and needed to be replaced. This is being dealt with.

We have not been asked to complete a Corporation Tax Return for the current year.

The Club’s finances are in a healthy state with around £17,500 available now.

This is in part due to the fact that fees were, on the whole, paid timeously.

As at 31 August 2013 there was approximately £8,000 of fees outstanding whereas at 31 August 2014 the fees outstanding amounted to around £2,000.

I am still looking at using BACS to make payment of fees more straightforward for the Treasurer but at present even a view only facility, which we would want, involves the use of the Treasurer’s personal login name. We will need to take the matter up with the Bank.

Alex Birrell asked why the crane had to return to lift the balance of the boats in at crane in. Reminded Alex that the weather had been severe and that boats had been unable to get to their moorings. There was therefore no where to put any boats that we did crane in so it was arranged that the crane would return.
Secretary’s report – Kathy Gostick

Nothing to report.

Social Convenors Report – Kathryn Farmer

My apologies for missing tonight’s AGM. At the end of my first year as social convenor I think I’ve completed my induction and hopefully can now remove my ‘L’ plates!

Firstly an error was noted in the SGM meeting minutes – they should have read ‘Special thanks to …… Lesley Maul, Maureen Bellini and Jenny McNeill for organising a very successful and enjoyable dinner dance’ – apologies Jenny for the typo.

Thanks to everyone for supporting the summer social events, and particular thanks to:

• Kathy Gostick for stepping in and managing the FCC Regatta catering and for co-hosting this year’s Pie and Pudding Night.

• Erik and Katie Thomson for hosting the commodores party with Italian flair and flavours.

• Nan Whetton, Fiona Thomson and Jenny Sullivan for co-ordinating and managing the catering for crane out 2014.

We still have a couple of social events to enjoy this year with the Annual Dinner Dance and Prize Giving in November and our festive Mulled Wine evening in December.

Throughout the year I have had the pleasure of meeting more members and being part of the social events over the last 12 months. I am pleased so many people have enjoyed the social events and would like thank all those who have offered their time and support. As always……a plea for your continued support, and request for help with the various events throughout the coming year.

If there is support within the club I am willing to continue in the role of Social Convenor and would be pleased to co-opt Jenny Sullivan to work alongside me to provide another successful social calendar for 2014/15.
4. Election of Office Bearers (President Assumes Chair of Meeting)

**Commodore**: Sandy Thomson nominated Denis Sullivan, Robert Peebles Seconded. No other nominations. Denis was re-elected

**Vice Commodore**: Alistair Bullions nominated George Scrivener, Ian Smith seconded. No other nominations. George was elected.

**Cruising Convenor**: no one came forward.

**RC Piers and Moorings**: George Scrivener nominated Phil Whetton, Sandy Thomson seconded. No other nominations. Phil was re-elected.

**RC Clubhouse**: Phil nominated Neil Lind, Alistair Bullions seconded. Neil was elected.

**RC Club boats**: George nominated Gavin Carter, Phil Whetton seconded. No other nominations. Gavin was elected.

**Treasurer**: Robert Peebles nominated Eva Brockie, Ian Smith seconded. No other nominations. Eva was re-elected.

**Secretary**: Denis Sullivan nominated David Gostick, George Scrivener seconded. No other nominations. David was elected.

**Social convenor**: Eva Brockie nominated Kathryn Farmer, Kathy Gostick seconded. No other nominations. Kathryn was re-elected.

5. Member’s agenda items

**Communications by website (raised by Russell Kelly)**: It was raised that only 45 out of 93 members follow the website wordpress.com (ie: have pressed the follow button) which has alienated many. Propose only to use website for static events not upcoming and changes.

It is intended that the main form of communications will be by email and via the website. The website provides useful functions that we do not want to lose. It was proposed that ‘FCC’ will prefix all club emails in subject box. It will also be investigated if an FCC email address / forum / mail group can be setup – David Simpson will look into communication options to report to the Committee.

**Quorums (raised by John Drury)** It was raised that on 3 occasions meetings have been held without the specified quorum. Discussion was had as to “what discussing club business” is and it was indicated by John that a meeting should not be held at all if the quorum is not met. Many disagreed that a meeting could not be held as no examples of decisions being taken without a quorum were raised. It was discussed that the constitution could be changed to define a quorum as 51% of the number of committee members in post at the time of the meeting. George Scrivener proposed this and Phil Whetton seconded it. No counter proposal. A vote was held and it was unanimously passed. It was also stated that all Minutes are circulated to all Committee members before they are accepted so decisions are never made without all’s opinion.

**Major policy decisions (raised by John Drury)** These should be ratified at a general meeting. For example £2400 was total cost to club
for the ladies toilet (thanks to Lord Elgin’s gift). Closing balance more healthy than last year. What is a major decision in terms of a spend? Is the Committee trusted to do this without specific limits? It was agreed they were. Minutes will be put on the website as quickly as possible.

6. AOCB

Ian Smith raised storage of ladders. It was discussed that ladders should be chained to cradles or in the basement to prevent theft.

Alec Birrell raised the fact that boats on the hard are very close together particularly towards the head of the harbour in terms of fire and theft. It is considered that these risks can be dealt with.

There being no further business, the Meeting closed at 21.00.