



The Harbour
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NEW YEAR NEWS LETTER

Dear Member,

It may surprise you to learn that even though there is no on-water activity, this is probably the busiest time of year for your committee. Work is underway to produce the 2008 handbook and that takes a great deal of planning. This is also the time of year when we can do some work to make the sailing season more enjoyable as I will try to highlight in this news letter – I hope that you find it of interest.

On the **social** scene, you have probably made-up your mind whether to attend the club's **Burns Night Supper on 26 January** but if you make a late decision to attend please contact Pam Moncur directly (pammoncur@hotmail.com or 01463 792901). After this traditional event, Pam is trying a new departure which is called **CEROC on Sunday 24 February** starting about 4.00pm. CEROC is an addictive (according to Pam) jive/rock and roll type dance and can be picked up very quickly. We will have a DJ who will bring the music and a couple of people who will teach some of the moves. There will be a small charge and raffle to cover costs. Sounds like fun – don't be boring, have a go! The last event in the Spring season will be a **Quiz Night on 15 March** – the plan is to have a sailing round and a general knowledge round and it will be team based to avoid embarrassment – more details will follow nearer the event.

We've had the club house re-valued recently for **insurance** purposes and you may be surprised again that the rebuilding costs are estimated at around £600K – we have increased our insurance cover! As part of a plan to avoid needing to invoke the insurance, Mike Wilson has arranged for the **electrics** to be checked and around £1200 of work is required to bring them up to the latest standard – Mike is arranging for this work to be completed before the sailing season. Some other pre-season work will be to replace 2 significant sections of the main **slipway** which are badly weathered. This will involve cutting out and removing completely a total of 28 metres of concrete before replacing it at a cost of £4600 + VAT. Shane Rankin is leading on this project and we've let a contract. The work will start in late February or early March to be completed before the end of March. David Pocock is leading on some essential health & safety work in the **harbour**. Top of the list are repairs to the treads on both sets of steps. David has also spent considerable time and effort removing 'foreign objects' from the harbour floor – **if you have a boat overwintering at the club** please visit her to ensure that she is well secured - not causing noise problems - and the area around her is tidy (no loose objects especially tyres and breeze blocks to be thrown in to the harbour for example). I'm pleased to see that a large part of the dinghy park has been cleared for winter which allows us to do some maintenance there but if you have not removed your dinghy, please ensure that the **mast is taken down**. There are 2 reasons to do this....first, it removes a major source of irritation to our neighbours but

at least as important it greatly reduces the risk of your dinghy blowing over and causing damage to both it and other boats in the dinghy park. If you want to store your mast in the clubhouse loft this can be arranged by contacting Helen Jenner (r.h.jenner@btinternet.com or 01463 811080).

The **trot mooring project** is proceeding and Tim McKeggie has provided the following general information:

We intend to install a permanent mooring system capable of holding up to 40 boats. This will provide four visitor moorings, and up to 36 club moorings. The system will be owned by the club, and club moorings will be leased to club members for a nine year term. We expect to sell 30 leases initially, with a further six available for future demand.

This system will be funded from three main sources: the club and a grant from the Crown Estates will each provide £10,000, the balance will be raised by the sale of leases to members. HIE may be able to provide a small amount of additional funding. Running and decommissioning costs will be funded by an annual service charge levied on leaseholders.

The intention is to have the system available for use in time for crane in this coming April. Currently we are running slightly behind schedule, owing to delays in obtaining quotations from potential suppliers. However, the target of having trot moorings in place for the 2008 season still seems realistic.

We will be holding a meeting for potential leaseholders in late January or early February, at which the lease document and firm prices for leases will be available. We will be looking for binding commitments from leaseholders shortly after this meeting, before we place orders for the system.

Regarding **training**, Ken Ferguson is now in the seat as the Training Principal. There are 2 shorebased courses coming-up – First Aid on 23 February & VHF SRC on 9 March - both are well subscribed but there may be space if you are interested so an early call to Ken is advised on 07773388206 or kfferguson@btinternet.com

As announced at the AGM, the committee will carry out a full review of **subscriptions, fees & charges** with the intention of presenting any proposals for change in time for them to be voted on at the 2008 AGM. In the meantime we have made small adjustments to the 2008 **subscriptions** as follows:

Family -	£105
Ordinary -	£85
Junior -	£12
Student -	£20
Associate -	£25

In case you missed the **annual prize giving** and are curious about who won what, the 2007 prize winners are as follows:

Chanonry Cup

Richard Jenner (Cold Turkey 2006), Shane Rankin (Cold Turkey 2007). In future this trophy will be awarded at the event rather than at the following prize giving.

Black Isle Challenge Cup (Oarsman) – Black Isle Passage Race

Mike Burns

Club Championships

Fortrose Tankard - Novice Champion – Gavin Campsie

Beaully Firth Yacht Club Trophy - Cadet Champion – Jack Evans

Murray Grigor Trophy -Ladies Champion –Helen Jenner

Redcastle Challenge Cup -Club Champion - Richard and Val Evans

Fraser MacKenzie Cup (1st Sunday Series)

Richard and Val Evans

M H Morrison Cup (1st Wednesday Series)

Steve Bramwell

Chanonry Trophy (2nd Sunday Series)

Robert McIndoe

Chanonry Quaich (2nd Wednesday Series)

Steve Bramwell

Harbour Rosebowl (3rd Sunday Series)

Robert McIndoe

Rosehaugh Cup (Drysuit Diehards)

David Allan and Crew

CSC Cruiser Cup (Aggregate Cruiser Sunday Series)

James Burns

Junior Trophy – Joan Maxwell (Aggregate under 19)

Jack Evans

Rowat Memorial Shield (Second Sunday Series Laser)

Alec Mann

Wylie Martin Cup (Aggregate Laser)

Alec Mann

Cruiserscope Trophy and Yorkshire Building Society Cup

David Pocock

Dr Jacobs Cup -Junior Endeavour

Callum MacIver

Senior Endeavour Trophy
Mike Wilson

Wilkinson Cup (Best Trainee)
Robin MacRae

David Watson Quaich (Series Aggregate Winner)
Robert McIndoe

Ken Ferguson has proposed a different approach to finding volunteers for **safety boat duties** and has provided the following message – please respond to him if you can help:

The Club's sailing programme depends entirely on there being a sufficient number of volunteers to crew the safety boats at dinghy sailing events. The more volunteers there are, the less onerous each individual's commitment to helping out becomes. In order to assist those who prepare the sailing programme I would like to identify members who are interested in crewing the safety boats. To this end I would be grateful if members who have already been allocated safety boat duties and are keen to continue to assist the Club in this way would contact me. I would also like to hear from anyone who has not been allocated safety boat duties in the past but would like to help out in the future. It is a role which is particularly well suited to those who do not participate in dinghy sailing. Perhaps a member of your family sails or is learning to sail and you are tired of watching helplessly from the shore. No qualifications or experience are required and full training will be given. The important thing is your enthusiasm! I look forward to hearing from you.

Ken can be contacted at 07773388206 or kfferguson@btinternet.com

Finally some advanced notice of dates for your diary:

13 April – Start of Season Sailing

19 April – Crane-in 1- TBC

3 May – Crane-in 2 -TBC

21/22 June – Ness Cup (on either the Saturday or Sunday...discussion ongoing)

2/3 August – Regatta

My best wishes for a good sailing year,

Richard Jenner

Commodore
r.h.jenner@btinternet.com or 01463 811080