

SS Summary of Season 2014

Compared to last season the weather seemed much kinder to us this year. For a start all the cruisers survived on the moorings without mishap, all the Club's main events happened as planned with the exception of the Club Championships, and I sailed up from Essex in my new boat Clover in July wearing a t-shirt and jersey until I reached Findhorn and had to don waterproofs for the first time due to a light but brief shower!

I summarise the main events below but first I must thank all those who have helped to make the season such a successful one. David Pocock, as commodore has led the club very successfully. We have increased the club fleet for training having purchased two Wanderers, a rowing skiff has been built by our own members and a second is in the pipeline, his role as Harbourmaster and on the mooring committee will all be missed as he retires from all of these posts. Lastly he manages to charm members onto the committee and jobs have been split and delegated to make everything more manageable. Alongside him his workers have all given of their time largely as unsung heroes scarcely noticed especially those not on the committee. There are far too many to mention but believe me you would notice and comment if the grass was not cut around your dinghy. Be more positive and thank them when the job is done. They have given their time and all I ask of you is a word!

Cruising in 2014

Another all-too brief sailing season behind us with only the prospect of idly drawing up winter maintenance schedules going forward only, for those of us less motivated individuals, to end up executing a fraction of them in the final few days mad rush before the 2015 crane-in. Mind you there will be, I believe, a few of our current fleet on the market looking for new homes (mine included) so for a lucky one or two of us the winter chores go to the new owner. Ah then there is the (bigger) replacement to think of!

There was an excellent take up of trots this year with all moorings leased or otherwise occupied. Several new boats also made an appearance this year.

Prior to the commencement of the 2014 season a huge effort was put in to replace the traditional chain risers on the outer and mid-trots with longer rope (seasteel) risers. These rope units will be cheaper over their lifetime and will give the boats a gentler motion in bigger seas. Perhaps this latter point has contributed to 2014 being the first season for a long time that no yacht came off its moorings due to strop failure.

Peter Illingworth, a familiar face at crane-in/crane –out, has now taken over the management of the trot moorings and is also the new harbourmaster. We wish him well in his new role and also offer our sincere thanks to the outgoing harbourmaster/trot guru, David Pocock, for his sterling effort over the years in the management of the harbour and its environs. You can now pack away your telescope!

As for the actual activity of sailing there were solo excursions around the west coast and the Outer Hebrides, out to St Kilda and even an East Coast voyage involving a boat delivery from Essex. Closer to home on the competitive front attendance by our boats at both our cruiser regatta in June (five boats) and the BICC in September (4

boats) was, well, disappointing. It is only with the support of visiting boats from Invergordon and Cromarty that ensured both of these events were a success. On a positive note Saria (Donnie McLeod) won the slow handicap in both these home sponsored events. It was also nice to welcome the arrival of the trimaran Wabib (Donald Fraser) who entered several MYA races in the fast handicap class and steadily improved his performances throughout the season. Wabib is a real speed machine which is in a class of her own up here. Now if we could arrange a drag race sometime with our colleagues on their Musto skiffs that would be a speed spectacle!

In the MYA cruiser race series comprising nine events and held between all the local clubs Circe (John Prentice of IBC) got an overall first, Scallywag (Diarmid Hogan/Ron Tesmer of CSC) second and Rhythm n' Blue (John Burgis of IBC) came third. Wabib got a very creditable fifth place.

Anyway where was I with that winter maintenance schedule? Item 2 - crane-in!

Any suggestions as to how to better encourage participation in collective cruising would be appreciated.

Diarmid Hogan

Cruiser Liaison

Dinghy Sailing 2014

Sunday afternoon Points Series proved popular with 34 boats participating at one point or another. Where do they all go for the Dinghy Regatta? Wednesday evening racing was also popular with 25 boats taking part. It is however disappointing that some of our best sailors are in the Skiff Class but we rarely see them competing with the other classes. It is difficult as they are so much faster, and require a different sort of course but handicap racing is a compromise for all classes and it would be good to see them competing with the rest of us giving us, especially the juniors, a target to aim for.

Friday evening sailing remains a popular social sailing event

The Club Championship event was disappointing. It had to be postponed on its original date in early September because of bad weather. It was then difficult to find a date to suit all and in the end the junior event was held on a different day from the senior event. Both were poorly attended. Perhaps we should move this event to earlier in the season when there seem to be more boats on the water?

The numbers for the Dinghy Regatta were also a little disappointing with just 7 in the Fast Handicap, 7 in the Slow Handicap and 6 in the Musto Skiff Travellers event (just 1 visitor). The weather was mixed but sailable and the event ran smoothly. However a lot of effort goes into its organisation and it would be good to see more support from club members as well as visitors. There was a time when this event had a good outside contingent and I think we need to publicise it more by getting documents on line early in the season so that when our own members visit other clubs there is

something to back up their efforts such as 'we have a great regatta at Chanonry SC in August which is also a Skiff Travellers event. Why don't you come over?'

For once the Nessie Trophy and Ness Cup were sailed on the days scheduled both in pleasant conditions. A total of 27 boats sailed in the two events (10 in the Nessie Trophy on the Saturday and 17 in the Ness Cup on the Sunday.) these figures were up on last year and it seemed a success to run the events over the weekend of the RNLI Open Day along with the Cruiser Regatta. The numbers would be further boosted if we could persuade more of the Cruiser Regatta boats to make a weekend of it and sail in the Ness Cup.

Despite having only just returned home following a hip replacement, Helen Robinson once again entertained us and put on a fabulous spread at The Old Mill, Rosemarkie. The weather was once again very benign and all enjoyed a pleasant sail round the point, dolphins included. Our thanks to Helen for organising this event which brings together members from all sectors of the club in a way which no other club event does. I may be presumptuous but I am sure next year a rowing skiff will join the fleet!

Once again we tried to arrange an event with Ullapool Sailing Club but unfortunately dates to come here or go there did not work out. We will try to establish a definite date earlier in the season for next year and hope to involve our rowing skiff as well.

A number of CSC sailors represented the club at various events.

Thomas Hardie sailing his Laser Radial came second in the Brown Cup (Scottish Schools Championship) at Loch Earn with placings of 1,4 and 5 out of a fleet of 24. This reflects the current strong junior squad in the club thanks to the work of Richard Evans, Richard Jenner and others.

Helen and Richard Jenner travelled to the Scottish Streaker National Championship held at East Lothian YC in early June. Strong winds on the Saturday persuaded them that discretion was the better part of valour and light and variable winds on Sunday meant that only 1 race was run that day. Nonetheless a good experience and a welcoming event.

The skiff sailors had a busy season with local events at Chanonry and Findhorn, further afield at North Berwick and Oban Regatta including the Round Kerrera Race. Ian and Kevin also travelled to the Derwent Water Eurocup event, and the National Championships at Stokes a Bay on the Solent. *They are all putting in a lot of practice, with a recent training weekend at Chanonry, and improving all the time and are potentially capable of getting results in the top half of the national fleet which is no mean achievement in any class. We wish Ian well on his adventures down under where he is sailing in the World Championships. I am sure he will have a great time.

Thomas Hardie's junior report

This year a strong contingent of young Laser sailors from Chanonry competed at a variety of events throughout the UK. Including: RYA Youth Nationals Championships; Laser National Championships; UKLA Laser Qualifier Series; Scottish Laser Grand Prix Series; Scottish Laser Championships; RYAS Spring Championships, as well as RYAS Class Academies throughout the year including a residential weekend at the national sailing centre in Cumbrae; The Brown Cup; Scottish Tera Championships.

Thomas Hardie, Ross Slater (in Radial) and Georgina Lloyd (in 4.7) all competed at the UKLA national championships, the conditions were stormy with over 15 knots every day with the tail end of hurricane Bertha coming through. The second day of qualifying was by far the worst with up to 30 knots at one point. There were 86 competitors in the Radial fleet with Thomas getting 18th and Ross 15th. It's good to see such close racing between the two boys. The best result for both boys being 15th. Georgina was slow out of the blocks but improving every day slowly getting better results and better off the start. With 40 boats her over all position was 36th and a best result of 22nd.

Thomas and Ross both competed in the UKLA autumn qualifying series in Wales. The conditions on the first day were light winds, but the swell was still there, and with both boys not used to these conditions they fell back in the fleet. The second day of racing brought moderate winds which was all looking good for both boys until Ross lost it at the last mark and had to do turns. Over all Ross finished 64th and Thomas finished in 58th with 15 points between them. Both the boys also competed in the Scottish grand prix series. The venues were Largo Bay, Dalgety Bay, North Berwick, Prestwick, Loch Venachar, Stonehaven and Loch Tummel. Ross finished 4th and Thomas 5th overall in the series with only one point in it. Again we saw very close racing from the boys.

Thomas competed in the RYA Youth Nationals. This was his first even in the Laser. He didn't have the best of weeks with the gunnel of his boat cracking and missing day two of the qualifying series. However he was happy with the results as it was his first event and was happy with the learning experience of such a big fleet. Thomas also came forth at the Scottish Championships and was delighted with that. As well as the Scottish Schools Championships (the Brown Cup) at Loch Earnhead where he came 2nd.

We also had one of our younger sailors, Kyle Cameron, competing at Findhorn in the Scottish Tera Championships, finishing second and learning lots. He also competed at the Scottish Schools Championships in his Optimist finishing 11th. A very very good result for his first event. We will see big things from Kyle in the future.

The club is grateful to all these travelling sailors for representing the club and maintaining the club's profile.

Other Events

John Emmett, who has coached Olympic gold medalist Lijia Xu and is a National Champion himself, came to the club in September. Unfortunately I was not able to be there but I gather the event was well attended and much was learned.

Debs Steele came to the club in mid November to talk about team racing and put some of what she spoke to us about, into practice on the water. Debs was a member of team GBR1 which won the 2011 ISAF team racing World Championship. As a keen team racer in my extended university days I was looking forward to this. I was not disappointed she gave us an excellent talk about team racing on the Saturday. Although the wind was light on the Sunday we had an excellent session on the water with 4 boat teams of both Teras and Laser Radials where the team with last boat loses. This has two effects. First knowledge of the rules and boat handling skills are of paramount importance. Second it is no good just being fast you have to come back and help your team mate with the result that the fleet is brought together and the racing is very cut throat! Races were very short, 10 - 15 minutes but in one morning we probably put into practice more rules and boat handling skills than we would in a whole season. I have tried to run some team racing sessions for all on Sunday mornings but unfortunately for various reasons they have not happened. I hope in the coming season we can put this right if there is the interest.

We have been very fortunate to have these events run by international sailors and I am grateful for those with these contacts for organising these events

Bart's Bash

We missed out on the inaugural sail of this event this Autumn although there was some late interest. Over 25000 sailors competed world-wide, sailing between them over 87,000 km and raising £250,000 for the Andrew (Bart) Simpson charity to raise money to fund and inspire the next generation and remember Andrew 'Bart' Simpson, Gold & Silver Olympic medalist and America's Cup sailor. I think that this would be a worthwhile event and we should try to keep a slot open for it next year.

David Bell

Sailing Secretary