

2013 Cruising Programme

The committee has planned a comprehensive programme of cruiser activities this year and we hope each of our yacht owners will find something of interest to them. The cruise-in-company events are specially designed to provide new skippers with experience and support; they are not a race and all boats stay in close company with the more knowledgeable skippers leading boats into destination harbours and anchorages. Also, we are making a determined effort this year to re-establish some of the Club's more traditional cruiser races – but in a light-hearted fashion. If you are new to racing, an experienced helm is available to sail with you on the first few races.

In addition, we are trying to match skippers who need crew for races or cruises with dinghy sailors who wish to experience sailing on a yacht. If skippers would like crew, or if you want to crew on a yacht, please contact Mike Burns (cruising@chanonry.org.uk).

Races

The following races are planned for 2013. Each race is an event in itself but they also form a series of 7 races (2 on Regatta Day) and at the end of the season a cup will be awarded to the skipper with the best results in 4 races (ie, 3 discards). Every race is run on a handicap basis so it does not matter at all if your boat is more of a “cruiser” than a “racer”.

- Sunday 12 May. Ness Cup Passage Race.
- Sunday 14 July. 1st Chanonry Race.
- Saturday 20 July. Chanonry Cruiser Regatta (2 races).*
- Sunday 4 August. 2nd Chanonry Race.
- Saturday 14 September. Black Isle Challenge Cup.*
- Sunday 29 September. Jimmy Munro Memorial Race.

Apart from the Ness Cup (a passage race to Kilmuir and back), each course will be set around the local navigation marks with a duration of about 2 hours.

In addition to the above races, Club boats participate in the Moray Firth Yachting Axis series of races. Some of these races take place at Chanonry (those marked above with an *) and the remainder at neighbouring clubs. Usually, a small fleet of Chanonry boats sail in company to and from the Cromarty events. Moorings are available at Cromarty for skippers who wish to remain there overnight.

Cruises-in-Company

These are an ideal way to gain experience of the local cruising destinations in the company of more experienced skippers. Most are day sails although if there is sufficient interest more of those later in the season can be rescheduled as overnight stops. Of course, weather conditions on the day will dictate actual destinations.

- **Saturday 18 May.** Short local “shakedown” cruise.
- **Saturday 8 June.** Nairn or perhaps Findhorn.

- **Saturday/Sunday 22 June.** Into the Moray Firth and then The Old Bar (a stunning secluded inlet between Nairn and Findhorn).
- **Saturday 30 June.** Rosemarkie, in company with Club dinghies for Grenville's Sail.
- **Saturday 24 August.** Cromarty for the day or the weekend to coincide with a Moray Firth Yachting event.
- **Saturday 7 September.** Beauly or perhaps The Old Bar (if not visited earlier in the season).

Wick Regatta

It is quite a long trip, although several Club boats have managed it in recent years either direct or with stops at Helmsdale/Lybster, but Wick Regatta (14-15 June) is well worth a visit. This year there will be a best-dressed boat competition, a gathering/dance, music, pipe band and RNLi stalls plus racing in the bay. There will be either a race or a cruise-in-company from Lossiemouth to Wick on 14 June.

Hunter 707 Match Racing at Banff Sailing Club

Banff Sailing Club has 2 Hunter 707s set up and ready to race. The 707 is perfect for those new to keelboats (or sailing), and with it having a spinnaker, it is a good all-round training boat. Each year Banff run a match racing series and invite local clubs to send a crew to participate. This year's races are on 18 May, 1 June, 3 August and 17 August. Chanonry has won the series in recent year and if you would like to join this year's team, please contact David Bell (sailing@chanonry.org.uk).

West Coast Cruise

Some Club boats will be heading to the West Coast in August to participate in the famous "West Highland Week" of racing and social events between Oban and Tobermory. More boats are always welcome.

Further Information

For further information on any of the above events, or on any aspect of cruiser activity, please contact Mike Burns (cruising@chanonry.org.uk), David Bell (sailing@chanonry.org.uk), Diarmid Hogan (diarmid7@btinternet.com) or David Pocock (commodore@chanonry.org.uk).