

Sailing Report - 2019 AGM

Sail Racing

Results for the season are published at www.chanonry.org.uk/2019.html and at the time of writing final checks are under way. Winners are distributed among a good number of sailors. Other achievements over the season have been reported in newsletters.

We've run successful Open and Annual events again this year:

- Ness Cup for a mixed fleet of dinghies and cruisers.
Well done to overall winner Marissa Astill-Brown in her Europe, and to first cruiser winners Calum Pearson and crew sailing Wisp (Leisure 17).
- Dinghy Regatta
 - Scottish Skiff - Jamie Hilton
 - Fast Handicap - Castle Tolmie Cup: Dave Allan and Doug Finlayson
 - Slow Handicap - Henry Scrimshaw Cup: Marisa Astill-Brown
- Cruiser Regatta
 - Fast Handicap - CSC Cruiser Cup: John Prentice - Circe
 - Slow Handicap - Taylor Cup:
Unfortunately no competition due to the stormy conditions
- The Black Isle Challenge Cup had to be cancelled at 24 hours' notice due to a very challenging wind forecast.

Some Members, especially the Musto Skiffs, have represented the Club in competition across Scotland and the EU with generally good results. Well done.

Musto skiff club members had an eventful year and seemed to spend more time on the road at events, rather than on home waters. Kevin Holliday kicked off a big European road trip to attend Keil Week in Germany with other Scottish Musto Skiff sailors, before then travelling to Medemblik, Netherlands for the World Championships, where he was joined by Jon Bailey and Ben Yeats and another 90 boats. The quality of the fleet was amazing with a smattering of former and current 49er Olympians. While the event was male dominated, it was great to see two female helms challenging the men including Jena Hansen who won bronze at the Rio Olympics helming a 49er FX. The conditions were really tough, and Jon Bailey has only just recovered from his broken arm. His body armour did not help on this occasion.

The Dinghy Regatta had a good attendance by Mustos from Scotland and North of England. Despite the travel time, these guys really love sailing at Chanonry. To steal a quote from Jono Shelley's Yachts & Yachting article – "sailing day of a lifetime at Chanonry will be remembered fondly by the fleet for many years to come", which is evidenced via some great drone footage from local Neil MacGregor. The Skiff fleet racing was won by Jamie Hilton from Dalgety Bay SC, who then went on to win the UK Nationals at Largs in September. Ben Yeats managed a respectable 20th place overall, while Jon Bailey's boat came in a very creditable 5th place; he had lent his boat to Fynn Sterrit from Loch Morlich Sailing Club, who had just returned from Japan, after winning the 49er world cup event, only narrowly missing out on Olympic qualification.

The very last sailing event in 2019 is the Cold Turkey on Friday 27 December starting at noon and we expect that the Rowing Skiffs will also be on the water. There will be the usual soup and rolls on coming ashore courtesy of Janet and her team.

Volunteers

Over 100 races in regattas, series and one-day events were programmed with the usual number cancelled due to either too much or not enough wind, or very occasionally lack of participants. That's a huge volunteer effort and thanks are due to all those Members who supported these dinghy and cruiser events in capacities of Race Officers, Safety Officers and Catering. We couldn't do it without you. Thanks also to Calum Pearson, Chrissie Lane and Sandra Hogg for keeping an eye on, and promoting, duty volunteering throughout the season.

Recreational Sailing

Sailing by its very nature is social even if you use a single-handed boat. This years' programme of Friday evening Social Sailing has seen good turnouts along with a few dinghy day-cruises. Of course, the weather wasn't always on our side. We think we've improved communications about social sailing with emails directed to those that have signed up for them and by using the Chanonry Sailing Club Facebook group. Calum Pearson and Ian Cameron have been driving these events and made a very good job of it; thank you.

Programme 2020

We are developing the programme for next year and held an open meeting on the 13 November to discuss options and improvements.

The main decisions so far are:

- Agreed that "Social Sailing" was very important to the Membership. We will call it "Recreational Sailing" in the future and programme more recreational sailing sessions/days.
- To enable more junior involvement, we need to involve parents as other club resources are stretched. We also need more instructors/coaches and powerboat instructors at all levels and particularly Senior Dinghy Instructors.
- Retain current series and number of races per day. Extract separate non-handicap placings for the Streakers, Solo, Laser Radial, and Europe classes – i.e. you will race in the series with your normal handicap but there will be an additional result calculated for these 4 boat types with no handicap applied.
- All One Day events to be pursuit race format.
- Include more mini-passage event for all boats and rowing skiffs and with a BBQ/picnic on the shore wherever landing is possible – e.g. to Munloch Bay
- Retain the mid-summer Treasure Hunt – very popular!
- Publicise an option to "Row a (St Ayles) Skiff" as a side event at main sailing events to enable on the water activity for competitors and those accompanying them.
- Shore-based Training – is there demand for?
 - Racing Rules
 - Running races - Race Officer course
 - Sailwave basics – specially to familiarise Race Officers
 - The Five Essentials

It's never too late to make suggestions for improvement and we'd like to hear from you via the sailing@chanonry.org.uk address or by contacting any committee member directly.

Sailing Sub-Committee

Finally, thanks to the Sailing Sub-Committee members for their help in planning and delivering the 2019 programme. They are Ben Yeats, Calum Pearson, Chrissie Lane, Gavin Campsie, Peter Smith and Gregor Fisher.

Richard Evans
Sailing Secretary

sailing@chanonry.org.uk