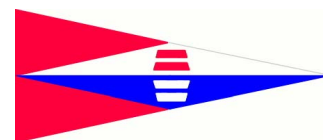


theBEAMER



AGM Edition — steady as she goes

PEYC's Annual General Meeting was held on 15th February 2005. In this issue we report on the proceedings, and set the scene for the 2005 season. But first ...

Stirring stuff from the Commodore ...

Welcome to a brand new sailing season at Port Edgar! After such a cold windy winter we should expect a summer of warm sunshine and fair winds. Crews are already down at the marina preparing boats for the April 3rd start of season race, which promises to have a big turnout. Get down there and give the hull an extra polish.

What's New?

For those who could not make the AGM, we have appointed a new post of Race Coach. Pete Sykes has taken this on and is planning to provide on-the-water race coaching for dinghies and yachts. We are actively seeking sponsorship for a dedicated rib and video camera, which can be used to show race starts and mark rounding in the club after each race. The Committee has approved funding for two members to attend the RYA race coach course on the W/E of 29th April. Speak to Pete if you are interested and prepared to assist him over the season.

Jim has arranged an excellent series of winter talks for those keen to improve their racing skills. We now have all the information required to make best use of the tides and Ollie has updated us on the racing rules for 2005-08. The defence of "*I didna ken*" will not be accepted by protest committees! Chris Owen gave a superb talk on Sail design and trimming to a packed house. Now we should all know what those tweaky bits of string do and when to use them. For the cruising folk, Don Whitfield is giving an account of his adventures in a small boat in Holland. All potential race officers and OODs should come to the talk on better race management on 16th March, and those with a competitive streak can learn from James Urquhart how to be a winner on 23rd March. As a special treat we have arranged a joint meeting with the South Queensferry

Historical Society on 6th April to hear about Port Edgar's naval past from Peter Collinson. Guests are welcome to this event.

Marina development update

The Council has completed a hydrographic survey of the basin and is now undertaking core sample testing and tidal flow modelling, before producing a final plan for dredging, wave barrier, slip and pontoons. It intends to spend £6 million on improvements to the harbour area. Plans for the shore side of the marina keep changing, but this development will proceed in the not too distant future. Although we can expect to remain in our present club premises for this season and possibly next, the time will come when the bulldozers move in. Our plot of land by the East breakwater is still reserved and our building fund is intact. We continue to keep in touch with SportScotland regarding a lottery grant but will have to be ready for a further fund raising exercise when the time comes.

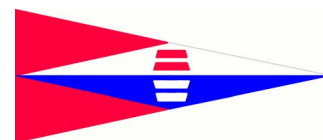
In the meantime, let's enjoy the club's activities on and off the water. The Sailing Committee have organised a packed programme of races and this can be viewed on the web site and in the new handbook. The club is greatly indebted to all those who have worked hard over the winter months to prepare for the new season. Lets hope that 2005 will become one of our vintage years.

Murray Carmichael
Commodore



Report on the Sailing Secretary's presentation to the AGM

No change to the rolling handicap system — hooray!



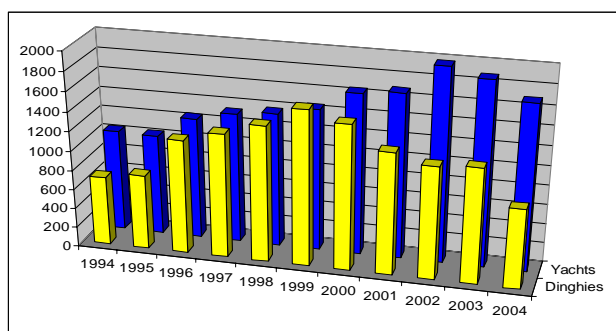
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If Jim Scott stays off the subject of rolling handicaps then we're all in with a chance. His report to this year's AGM was entirely comprehensible, following just a short allusion to the subject. Jim can rightfully take satisfaction in the fact that this season will see the 10th anniversary of the introduction of rolling handicaps to PEYC. The system has been refined a little since then, with the result that few can argue with its efficacy. It encourages the racing top guns to aim even higher, while engendering enthusiasm among the tail enders with occasional delusions of talent. Congratulations to Jim on this milestone event, arguably the most important influence on the club's success to date.

On the basis that if it ain't broke don't fix it, Jim announced no significant changes to the racing calendar. The St David's Bay pillar will be reintroduced to enliven some yacht courses, and the terrifying speed of the catamarans will be more properly accommodated by an adjustment to the Monday dinghy series race courses. The dinghies will also see some new windward-leeward courses, with starts and finishes in opposite directions (crikey!), allowing quick back-to-back racing.

The triennial Club Racing questionnaire results were presented. Biggest support was for the status quo in terms of the racing format and timetable. The next general survey of members' views will be in the autumn of 2007.

It was reported that the steady growth in race starts has been reversed, most disturbingly for dinghies; see here :



The Club has been racking its brains over this phenomenon for some time, and it is difficult to understand how to improve matters. The management of the racing programme is good, with the Monday evening series, specifically designed to encourage new racers, exceptionally so. The high drop off in the winter and Easter series might just have something to do with the weather, and the crumb of comfort comes from the Wednesday dinghy starts, which were up on 2003. But even the yacht starts have declined, in all sectors. Is it the weather again? As if you need reminding, this is what was going on in sea area Forth last September ...



OK, it's not a yacht, but there's a good reason for that. On the subject of hell at sea, Jim reminded us of the new yacht safety requirements. PEYC is in line with FYCA.org.uk, where a full explanation can be found. Safety should be common sense, but at least one Carl Dyson competitor has been observed removing his engine for the Regatta. Yachts racing at PEYC must be equipped with either an inboard or outboard engine capable of getting them out of the shipping channels in most weather conditions. We all need to understand the requirements, but FIG racers in particular, because they go further.

Jim's last slide proclaimed that "Racing at PEYC is still on track!" and indeed it is. Typically he added, "but there's always something to improve". Thank goodness, we wouldn't want him to nod off on the job!

PS. Don't forget the new racing rules! (see the previous issue).

Cruising at PEYC

Catherine Bryant reminded the AGM that there's more to sailing on the Forth than being barged off the start line.



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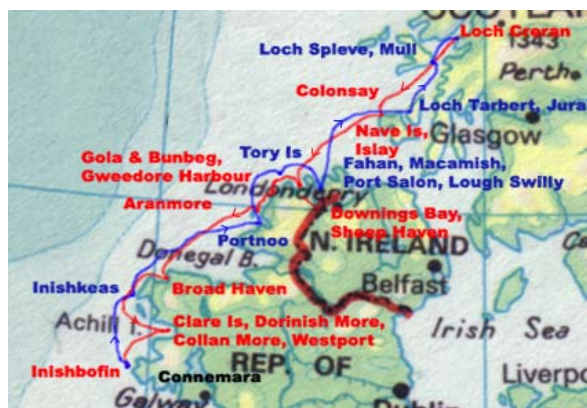
The cruising fraternity at Port Edgar have a more relaxing time of it than that lot on the opposite page. They take part in an active programme of events which roughly come under the headlines of combined yacht and dinghy cruises, yacht only cruises, and special events. We alluded to the strange nature of some of those special events in the last issue, but the above is a scene from one that we can all understand, the 2004 Forth Road Bridge 40th anniversary celebrations, at which PEYC cruisers turned up in force.

Destinations such as Blackness, Aberdour and Inchcolm are popular draws for combined dinghy and yacht cruisers, where the club rescue boat acts as a handy tender for the yachties going ashore for barbeques. Unfortunately last year some of the dinghy sailors on Inchcolm stayed behind on the Saturday night to camp, and had a bit of a tough cold night of it. The *Maid of the Forth* came to the rescue, and the boats were retrieved sometime later. The Forth, of course, lacks the scenic splendour of the Clyde, but the weather ensures that sailing is rarely dull, even within sight of Port Edgar.

Weekend yacht cruises typically include visits to the East Neuk, and the New Year trip to Granton never fails to generate an interesting day out. This year's January 2nd visit to our hospitable neighbours at the Royal Forth was achieved in record time with a stiff following westerly, but the journey home was murder, some leaving it for a quieter day.

There is regular Thursday evening cruising through the summer, with liaison via the email group .. see the club handbook for contact details. This is open to non-members too, and the clubhouse bar is often available later in the evening.

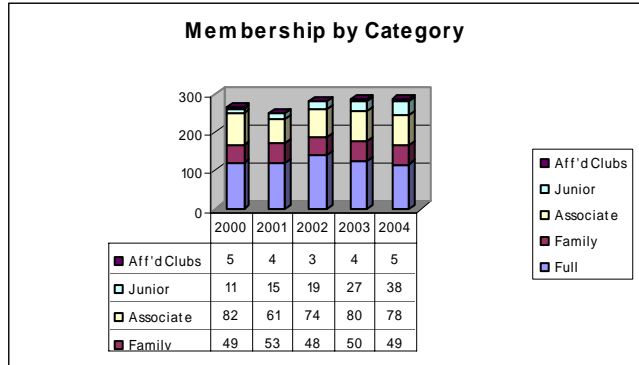
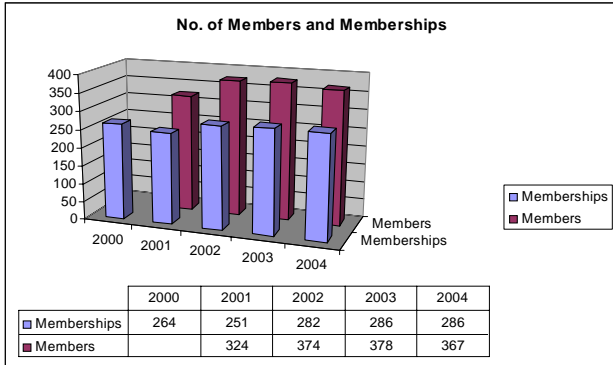
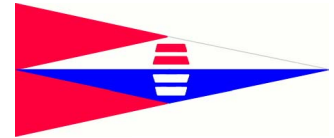
The cruising ethos does not entirely discount competition, and the Millenium Quach is awarded annually for the cruising log considered to be of most interest. The 2004 winner was Mary Wilson, with her account of "Day Sailing in Connemara", which, judging by the map, was a bit more than that!



Essential Diary Date :
Anstruther Muster 27th August 2005

PEYC Membership Summary

The indefatigable membership secretary, Malcolm Stewart, hit us with the statistics at the AGM.



Age/Gender information

18% of members are under the age of 18.

Of those aged 18+,
72% are male, and 28% female.

You may have worked this out for yourself.

In addition to the above, Malcolm reminds us that we should encourage regular crew members to join the club. Crew lists are now viewable on the web site, with crew names entered on a voluntary basis. Hopefully this move will help promote membership, and also help put names to faces. We all know who sails on those really noisy boats, but *who exactly are they?!*

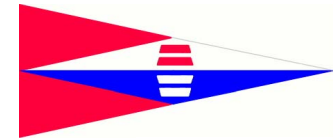
Also, password (membership no.) protected membership details are available on-line, but only viewable by the member or selected committee member. So members can check their own details (eg. subs paid for boat and membership) and update contact numbers, skills available to the club, and boat/crew details.

Then you can concentrate on this ...

This snap was taken at the PE finish of an 2004 East Coast Week event. The editor apologises to the photographer for not knowing who he/she is!



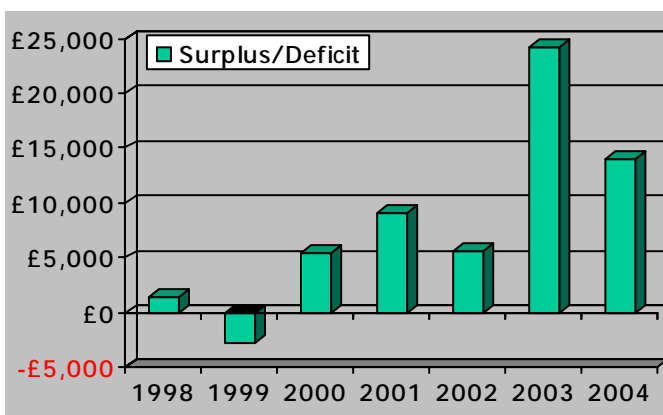
Other important points from the AGM



Contact details for the names on this page can be found in the new Club Handbook.

Treasurer's Report

Alan Currie reported quite a good picture. Since the fabled new clubhouse is like the horizon at sea, always there but the same distance away, fund-raising activity for it is on a back burner while we concentrate on running matters as they are.



This explains the difference between 2004 and 2003, when much fundraising took place. We took a hit on the Dinghy Regatta in 2004, which was completely wiped out by the weather, but the overall surplus of £14,000 on all activities is healthy, and will help to hold our old building together whilst contributing to the final push for the new clubhouse when it comes.

Alan retired from his position this year. As well as keeping an iron grip on the finances he appears to have the greatest understanding of the Club constitution, so we hope he continues to bring his wisdom to future AGMs. In the meantime he will be assisting *Breaking Wind* to cross the finish line before dusk.

Guthrie Stewart

In his capacity of Rear Commodore (Shore) our now Vice Commodore, put out a plea for helpers behind the bar. In addition to making you very popular and acquainting you with your fellow sailors, this activity makes a significant contribution to club finances. It is not only your Club duty to drink the stuff, but to serve it up too!

Guthrie adds ...

The youth sailing is going very well, and the number of regular attendees remains high, as anyone around on a Sunday morning will know. More helpers are needed; it is excellent fun!

A new committee was voted in ...

Commodore: Murray Carmichael
 Vice Commodore: Guthrie Stewart
 Rear Commodore/Sailing: John Murphy
 Rear Commodore/Shore: Dot Stewart
 Hon. Secretary: Chris Whitfield
 Hon. Treasurer: Alison Leask
 Sailing Secretary: Jim Scott
 Cruising Secretary: Mary Watson (*Flamenco*)
 Membership Secretary: Malcolm Stewart

Jobs waiting to be filled :

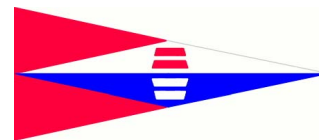
Youth Coordinator, House Convenor (to assist Dot) and Bar Convenor.

From Pete Sykes, the new Coaching Manager ...

At the AGM I volunteered to take on the job of organising coaching for PEYC racers. There are well established RYA schemes to qualify experienced racers as club coaches and then have them help the back of the fleet create more of a challenge to the front of the fleet. Also in the past PEYC has had a good record of running individual coaching events but we always seem to do them as one offs. I want to make that more of a continuous programme in future.

The first job is to translate these rather woolly notions into a plan we can act on and then get some funding to pay for it all. I'm on the case. However, on April 29 there is a weekend club...

theBack Page



PEYC Beamer Editor
Steve DrUITt
Phone : 0131-668 2749
Email :
stephen.druitt@sias.com

Top Tip : Dinghy owners .. Check the connecting rivets for the tiller extension universal joint. You may find a new meaning for the word "connect". Check ALL your rivets while you're at it.

Remember .. SEE THE BEAMER IN COLOUR on the web. In future you can see it more quickly if you email memsec@peyc.org.uk to indicate that you would be happy to read the electronic version. You'll save the club money too!

Enter some significant sailing dates in your diary ...

Sunday 3rd April : First Race of the season. Easter series starts
Monday 18th April : First Monday dinghy race evening
Wednesday 20th April : First evening races for yachts and dinghies (Easter Series 4)
Saturday 23rd April : Race management talk at the clubhouse 09:30
Sunday 24th April: First young sailors session at 09:30
Sunday 1st May: First trophy races. Bosun's Locker Trophy (yachts)
Sunday 1st May: Charity Bowl mini series (dinghies)
Wednesday 4th May: First Wednesday Series Race for yachts (no dinghies/low tide)
Saturday 7th May: Port Edgar Marina Open Day and Try-a-Cat Day
Saturday 7th May: PEYC Opening Cruise for yachts and dinghies
Wednesday 11th May: First Wednesday Series race for dinghies
Saturday 14th May: FCYC Bass Rock Race
Sunday 15th May: Separate yacht(Queensferry) and dinghy sternchases
Wednesday 15th June: Admiralty Cup Ladies Races for fast and slow yachts
Weekend 25th/26th June. Sailathon ... see elsewhere on this page
Wednesday 13th July: RNLI Pennant races for yachts and dinghies
Sunday 25th July: Start of East Coast Sailing Week in NE England
Saturday 20th July PEYC Dinghy Regatta (and Sunday 21st!)
Sunday 7th August: Chattan Sternchase for yachts and dinghies
Saturday 13th August: FCYC/RFYC Edinburgh Regatta
Saturday 13th August: Yacht and dinghy cruise to Inchcolm
Weekend 27/28th August: Anstruther cruising muster
Monday 29th August: Beamer Shield Ladies Race for dinghies (and gentlemen's race)
Wednesday 31st August: First Night Series race for yachts (so soon)
Weekend 24/25th September: Carl Dyson Yacht Regatta (Early)
Sunday 2nd October: First Autumn AM and PM series for yachts and dinghies
Sunday 18th December: Last races for yachts and dinghies, and Christmas Party
Tuesday 27th December: Cruise to Pittenweem (that's a bit far - Ed.)
Monday 2nd January 2006. Cruise to Granton

Check these dates against the Club Handbook, which has the full racing calendar, and which should be read from cover to cover. You'll get one when you've paid your sub!

Sailathon

Following the successful Sailathon 2002 which sailed up the east coast from Greenwich to the Forth, the 2005 charity event will aim to raise £10,000 for the Royal National Mission to Deep Sea fishermen by organising a relay of small boats around Britain.

The 2005 voyage will start at Greenwich on 17th June, with an itinerary which affects PEYC as follows ...

Friday 24th June:

The relay baton arrives at Port Edgar from Eyemouth, and is transported by road to Lochrin Basin, Fountainbridge. Meanwhile a Port Edgar yacht travels to Grangemouth.

Sat 25th June:

Send off at the canal basin with fund collection; water transport along the Union Canal to the Falkirk Wheel. Hand over to PEYC yacht (of suitable draught!) in Forth-Clyde Canal.

Sunday 26th June:

Yacht transport through canal to Bowling.

Thursday 30th June:

Arrive in Largs . Hand over to Clyde Cruising Club for transport to Bangor.

August 26th June:

Grand arrival at Greenwich.

Could those interested in participating please contact

Pete Sykes continued from previous page ...

... race coach course on Cumbrae and PEYC will fund two people to go on it. The pay back is that whoever goes will have to be prepared to get involved in using their new qualification as club race coach at PEYC. Note you don't need instructor tickets etc. to do this, just be a competent racer. Expressions of interest in a weekend on Cumbrae to me, Pete Sykes, ASAP. Tel 0131-337 6671 or pete.sykes@talk21.com