



the **BEAMER**

Christmas Edition

Featuring: Commodore's report!

Fife Sailability

707 news

Yacht Racing Review

Queensferry Rowers

And more.....!

Out with the old—IN WITH THE NEW!!!

Hello, everyone! As some of you may know I've taken on editorship of the Beamer. Karl Saville has been editor for the last three years, and has given me some valuable hot-tips on how to keep things running. Thankyou Karl, and I for one will miss the many and varied culinary cook-ups which you've shared with us these past few years!

Catherine Bryant

Commodore's End-of-Year Update

Terry Kirchin

It's been great to see the yacht turnouts on the increase for the third year in a row. On the dinghy and cruising front we've also had another active year ... with the former adapting to the new 'Lilac Lounge' starter's box. Whilst there's no doubting its beauty and comfort, we've one or two practical things to do over the winter to improve matters. Watch this space.

It's also great to see the bridge project progressing at a pace. Hard to believe it's due to open next year. While it's been an interesting to watch things unfolding, I for one will be glad to see the back of it. They've not been bad neighbours but they have caused us a fair measure of disruption. It'll be interesting to see what their legacy will be on the river. Here I'm thinking currents and silting. Time will tell.

In the meantime, we continue to make progress towards a new clubhouse. It's still a 'work in progress' but it feels as though the various parties are now seeing their way through it. I'm still working towards a full review at the AGM in February and a members mandate to allow us to make whatever commitment is needed.

A few words of praise for some of our stalwarts.....

Phil Walters (Henceforth) is Chairman of the FYCA Handicap Committee. To his credit, he's going beyond just running things as they are. He's putting in a huge effort to improve the process. Working out the best sailed boat in one design racing is a doddle. Working out the winner of a mixed yacht fleet race isn't that much more difficult. Working out the winner *and* having everyone agree that the outcome was the 'correct' one is a whole different ball game.

Step forward Phil and his stalwart efforts to make things better. We are glad to help where we can and we wish him well in his endeavours. As an aside, there is a huge benefit from racing in a handicap fleet. The race is never over until we stop speaking about it. We can re-run it as often as we like in the bar ... and then we can do it all over again a week later after our next race.

Commodore's End-of-Year Update, cont.



Talking of stalwart efforts, our Hon Sailing Sec., has been burning the midnight oil again of late. In his usual conscientious way, 22 years in the job, he's exploring a suggestion from some members that we make two go into three (divisions, that is). But this time our man is up against it. No matter how many calculations he does, he finds he can't stop the sun from setting, the tide from turning nor the wind from dying. He can't even whistle up more boats or more similar rated boats. All of these factors, so I now understand, play their part in shaping the racing we do. Our man does a great job of helping us make the most of what we have (which in part may explain why our turn outs have stayed healthy). Whether he can crack this division sum remains to be seen. Definitely, more 'work in progress' for 2016.

Finally, at least for now, a big 'Well done' to Callum, Ramsay and team. The RYA are exploring the exciting possibility of setting up an inter club championship with events staged at a number of clubs round the UK. We've been asked if we're interested in being a host club (it's our 707's that swung it). As a pipe opener, Callum et al accepted on our behalf an invite to participate in a trial event on Queen Mary Reservoir to the west of London. They and Jim Scott (there at the invitation of the RYA in his capacity as on the water official) came back armed with a good understanding of what's envisaged. It's 'make your mind up time' for us. Are we interested? I think Yes!

And finally, finally the Prizegiving Dinner and Dance, at a different venue this year, the Royal Scots Club in Abercromby Place, Edinburgh, sold out and was a resounding success, with just under 200 members attending, some with partners. Our usual raffle was held, and raised around £850 for Fife Sailability.

Terry Kirchin

Commodore



707 News

Rachel Alvarado



What's happened with the 707s at Port Edgar in 2015?

Our club owned 707's Apollo and Baltika were on the water again this year under the shadow of the new bridge building, continuing their job of welcoming shiny new members to the club and also developing the skills of existing members. This season started with Tuesday night race training involving 35 people in six 707's over a period of six weeks. Returning faces moved up a skill notch becoming skippers, and new people learned crewing and spinnaker skills.

This year has seen 2 new developments; "707 Club" and hire changes for the boats.

707 Club was started to give more opportunities for training and just generally building confidence mucking about in 707's. This happened on Thursday nights over the summer and moved to weekends for the Autumn and Winter up until Christmas when the boats come out for maintenance. Thursday nights were sociable and fun with people doing things like motoring in and out of the berth ten times in a row until they nailed it, putting spinnakers up and down in gentle breeze until they nailed it and generally having all sorts of "aha" moments when it comes to handling boats. Port Edgar offers many opportunities for building skippering skills as you direct your crew to drop sails taking account of the forces of wind, strong tide, shallow unmarked navigational channels, the dangers of mud and exclusion zones. All this keeping a back up plan in mind due to the additional thrill of an unreliable 2 stroke outboard propelling you.

This year the club also began charging £15 per session for training, with a proportion going towards the upkeep of the boats and a proportion going to me for running it. Hiring of the club boats is no longer administered by the school (Watersports Centre) and is now a very easy process of texting/emailing me. I tell you if a boat is available and this can

be done at very short notice if you want to take advantage of the weather. You pay for the hire (£30) by BACS transfer to the club, I give you the code for the keysafe at the club and off you go. You need to be an accredited helm to hire the boats but this is easily arranged by coming along to a 707 Club session and seeing how the boats are set up and sailed.

In 2016 the plan is for more of the same!



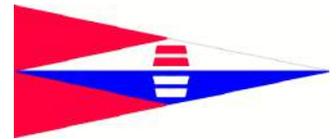
Photo by Liz T.

Rachel Alvarado 07749770025 scotrachel@yahoo.co.uk

Scottish Student Sailing The 'Louis Crouton' Cup

Margaret Tait

DECEMBER 2015



The morning of Saturday, 31 October, dawned fair and bright and 8 Hunter 707's were moored together at the outer end of A pontoon ready and waiting! The staff at Port Edgar Watersports had done a huge amount of work to get the yachts ready.



By 9am, 8 teams from 'Uniland' - Aberdeen, Dundee, Edinburgh (2 teams), Glasgow, Strathclyde (2 teams) and Newcastle - had arrived and were raring to go.

This was a racing weekend, with some coaching and video debriefing thrown in. Paul DePonio and I were the race officers, and we were hoping to run 10 races over Saturday and Sunday.

The wind was light so we headed out to Inverkeithing

Bay. Two races were run. The wind was very light, so boat changes were made on the water. We had a little rain, then it dried up with the most incredible cloud formations.

The wind increased to wonderful sailing conditions, but certainly not from any definite direction.

Andrew and Matthew, from PEW, along with Louis, the Scottish Student Captain, had a very hard day lifting and relaying marks.

Sunday provided little wind - but at least we had *some* back in Inverkeithing Bay - and from every direction you could think of!

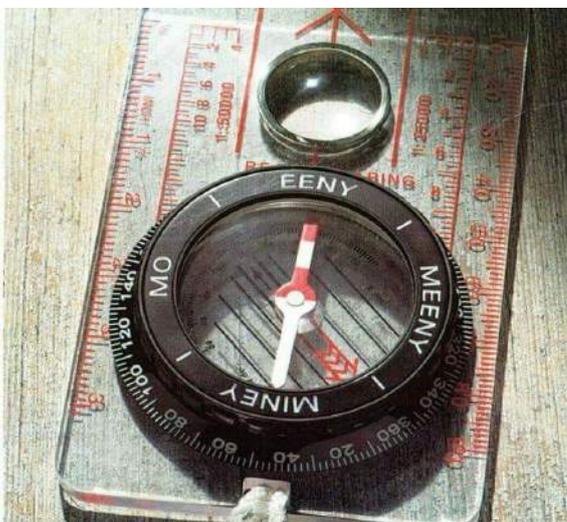
Again Andrew, Matthew and Louis had a hard time with the marks which were never in the correct place! And they never complained!

However we managed to get 4 races run and finished with video debriefs afterwards and the prize giving.

The winning team was Edinburgh 1, with Newcastle close behind.

For us it was a hard, but very enjoyable event to run, and all the student teams seemed to enjoy it.

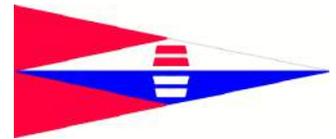
The following day I discovered a picture of the compass I am sure we must have been using for this event!



PEYC Yacht Racing Review - 2015

Jim Scott

DECEMBER 2015

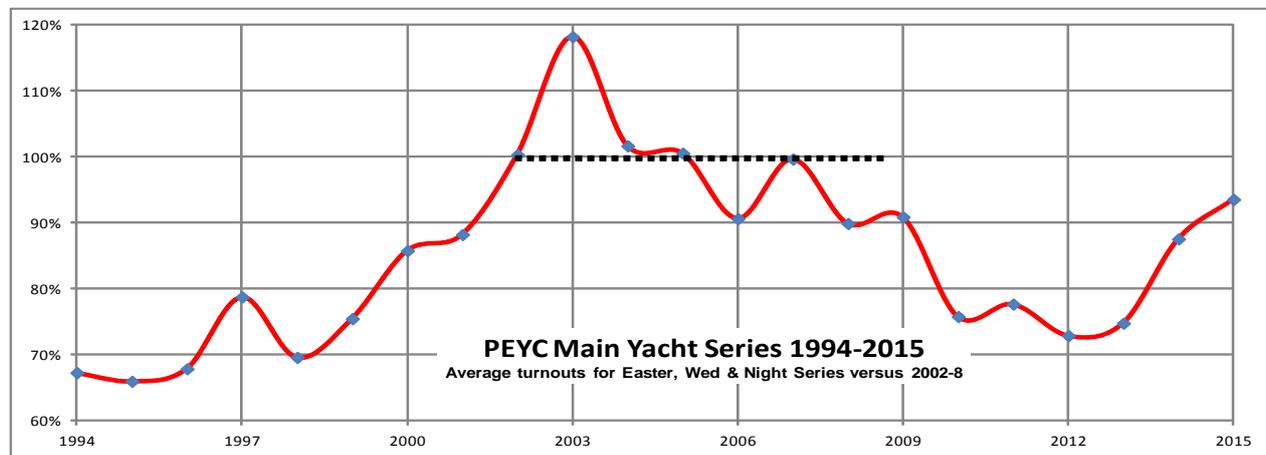


Yacht racing showing a healthy upturn in numbers

Main Series Turnouts:

Average Turnout / Series	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Easter Yachts (Combined)	15.0	13.8	11.8	11.6	9.7	8.4	9.8	12.0
Wednesday A (Combined)	22.7	23.0	18.1	22.8	20.3	16.4	22.1	23.1
Wednesday B (Combined)	19.8	22.0	18.9	17.3	17.0	22.0	22.4	23.7
Night Series (Combined)	23.4	23.0	19.4	18.2	18.9	20.5	24.5	25.4

Average turnouts in the main yacht series continue to improve and have reached 94% of the average in our peak years 2002-2008. Overall, 40 different yachts have competed in these series in 2015.



Div-1/Div-2 Handicap Split:

Since the handicap split between Div-1 and Div-2 was reduced to 924/925 in 2013, Div-1 turnout has stayed constant while Div-2 has increased. Based on feedback from members, the Sailing Committee will review the arrangement of yacht divisions for 2016 to better balance the numbers.

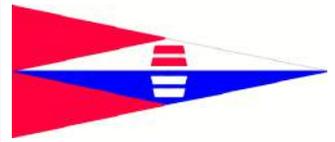
Average Turnout / Series	2012	2013	2014	2015
Easter Yachts Div-1	6.7	n/a	n/a	n/a
Easter Yachts Div-2	3.0	n/a	n/a	n/a
Easter Yachts (Combined)	9.7	8.4	9.8	12.0
Wednesday A Yachts Div-1	12.8	7.4	9.4	9.1
Wednesday A Yachts Div-2	7.5	9.0	12.7	14.0
Wednesday A Yachts (Combined)	20.3	16.4	22.1	23.1
Wednesday B Yachts Div-1	11.3	7.2	8.6	9.0
Wednesday B Yachts Div-2	5.7	14.8	13.9	14.7
Wednesday B Yachts (Combined)	17.0	22.0	22.4	23.7
Night Series Yachts Div-1	13.6	9.0	9.5	9.6
Night Series Yachts Div-2	5.3	11.5	15.0	15.8
Night Series Yachts (Combined)	18.9	20.5	24.5	25.4

Jim Scott - PEYC Sailing Secretary - 27th Oct 2015

Fife Sailability

Neil MacDougall

DECEMBER 2015



Fife Sailability, a club specifically for those with a disability, is going from strength to strength thanks to the support, both financially and physically, from PEYC members.

The club is extremely grateful for the generous contributions that have helped to finance the work that was carried out on our 'Hawk 20' called Kitty. Also a big thanks to those who supplied various bits and pieces or helped carry out the repairs.

She has proved a tremendous asset and allowed us to widen the scope of what we can offer to our members. It is lovely to see the pride a severely disabled member has in being able to demonstrate their new found skills by taking their family for a sail.



Kitty is also benefitting the wider community, being used by club members to give tuition and sailing sessions to groups such as Pamis, Gibson House and Learning support at Lochgelly HS.

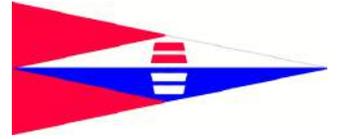
A very memorable occasion was an amazing group from Gibson House in St Andrews, the youngest was 88 and the eldest 99 years old. They came along to sail for the first time and dressed for the occasion - pleated skirts, brogues and cardigans for the Ladies, smartly pressed trousers, sports jacket and a trilby was sported by the gentleman. Guess what, they are coming back again this July by which time one of them will be 100. I hope that I am still up for dinghy sailing if I reach 100.



Fife Sailability, cont.

Neil MacDougall

DECEMBER 2015



Earlier this year [Fife Sailability](#) became a Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation. Whilst the registration process was a lot of work, it should prove beneficial when applying for grants to fund the development of the Club and give VAT relief when purchasing specialist equipment.

[Fife Sailability](#) is dependent on an amazing group of volunteers, some of whom are PEYC members, so why not come along and see what we are up to, it is great fun and very rewarding. No prior sailing experience or knowledge is required to be able to take part. We sail at Lochore Meadows country park from 10am to 4pm on alternate Saturdays, April to October.

The RYA has a syllabus with an awards scheme for Sailability Volunteers. [Fife Sailability](#) actively supports its members and volunteers by arranging courses on all aspects of the Club's activities such as: First Aid, Disability awareness, Safety boat, Sailing, etc. So not only is it rewarding and enjoyable we also learn new skills!

For more information please contact Neil MacDougall at fife.sailability@gmail.com or call 07771 580395.

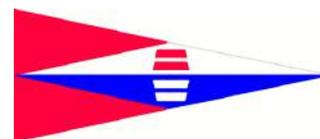
Visit our face book page <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Fife-Sailability/1505007619785095>

Thanks to all at PEYC for their support, do come along for a sail in Kitty or a Challenger trimaran, or join us for soup and a roll at lunch time.



Soups to Die for, and Happy Rowers

Alison Johnston

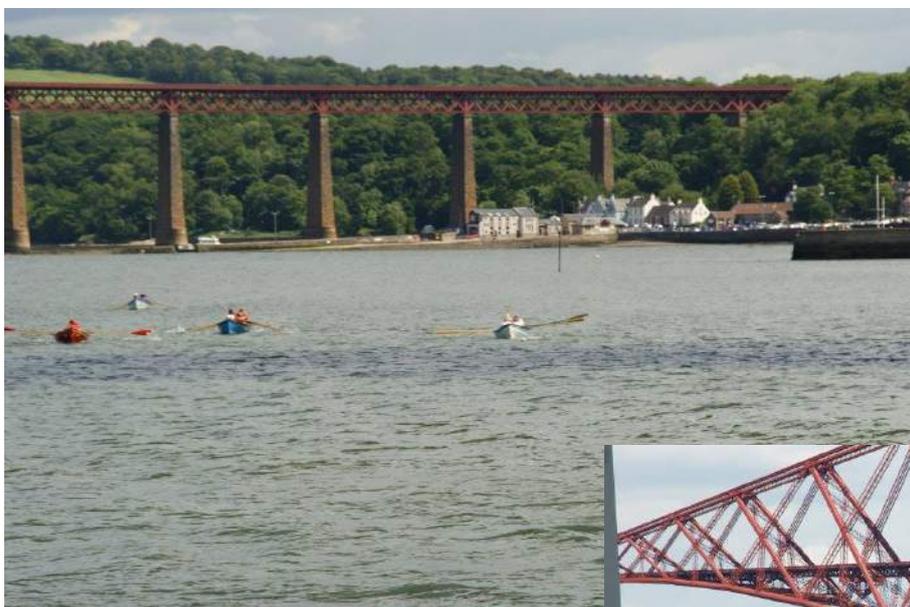


Held over from the last Beamer - a touch of summer from our rower colleagues

On Saturday June 27th North and South Queensferry welcomed eight other Clubs to their annual Regatta, held in the picturesque setting of Port Edgar Marina. The Skiffs were towed from as far West as Troon and as far North as Broughty Ferry with the remainder coming from both sides of the Forth. After a few wet and windy days leading up to the Regatta the weather Gods played their part and the day dawned bright and sunny with a slight breeze coming from the West.

From early morning the Marina was a hive of activity with boats arriving from just before eight. After everyone had launched their Skiffs and tied up at the pontoon we all waited for the coxes briefing and then had a half hour wait for the first race to start. The course was the same as last year which had a start line under the Road Bridge. The Skiffs then headed East and round the first finger buoy, along to the second finger buoy and then a mad dash back to the line under the Bridge.

The racing began at 10am with six categories, starting with the Mixed Novice which was won by North



Berwick with St Andrews second and Anstruther third.

It was Crail who were the crew on form as they won four of the races which included the Women's 40+, Men's 40+, Women's Open and the Pick and Mix, albeit with a composite crew in the last race.

Broughty Ferry continued their impressive run of form as they won the Mixed Open and came second in the Men's and Women's Open. They also came second in the Men's 40+. North Berwick followed on from their Novice victory with success in the Men's Open.

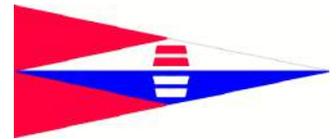


The racers were kept fuelled up with a good spread of soups and filled rolls with home baking to go with it. The caterers in the Club did themselves proud and must be thanked for putting on such a good show. We also have to thank our Patron the Earl of Hopetoun who took time out of the Horse Trials on his estate to give out the prizes in the afternoon. All in all it was a very successful day - now on to Port Soyl!

News from Shanghai

Alistair Skinner

DECEMBER 2015



(Alistair is an erstwhile member of PEYC who regularly updates us all with “News from Shanghai”. This is an abridged version of Alistair’s article—you will be able to read the complete version on the website.)

I suppose the numbers of PEYC members who remember Kiral 3, the red & white Bolero racing at the club, are somewhat fewer than they used to be but my memories of my time in the old wooden hut (100 years old next year if I remember correctly) are still sharp, and happy ones at that.

It’s been an incredible 16 years since I launched Kiral 3 for what was to be my final season at Port Edgar Yacht Club, but I still count some of those around me then as some of the finest people I have ever met in sailing. So good not only to me but also to Kirsty, my daughter, when she continued on sailing at PEYC for a couple of years before going onto Southampton Institute to study Maritime Studies – I didn’t believe there was such a course, shows we parents aren’t always right!

In the Spring of 2014 Kiral 3 joined me courtesy of Maersk. She was the first privately owned racing yacht in China. How do I know? Well the head of customs told me they had to re-write the rule book to allow her importation as it had never been done before!

There’s no doubt that setting up the first member’s run sailing club in China in 2001 DID raise my profile a little bit over the parapet. Incidentally the constitution was a thinly disguised copy of PEYC’s constitution with not much more than the name changed! Shanghai Boat & Yacht Club itself is no longer as vibrant as it used to be but there are now 5 or 6 clubs on the lake where it all began .

Of course I didn’t come out here to promote sailing, I came out as a financial adviser to expats and I have been reminded in the past by a colleague that I am a part time sailor and a full time financial adviser, not the other way round but it doesn’t always seem that way!

I soon got fed up with the rubbish being written by people who had never been to China about what was happening in boating here, and the mistakes that were being made here so I started writing back. Bob Fisher (*sailing correspondent on many national newspapers.*) encouraged me to become a member of the Yachting Journalist Association.

You know when you start something or pioneer something it rather puts you on a pedestal and you either fall off very quickly or you have to work damn hard at balancing up there? It has been hard work to keep the balancing going! A lot of the times when I was asked to help in this or get involved in that I would pause and think ‘What would Jim do, or Margaret, or Guthrie? PEYC has provided a lot of inspiration for me along the years, I can tell you.

(For a number of years Alistair and his wife have been heavily involved in running the China Club Challenge Match, which has led to a growing interest in developing the rules and umpiring.)

Of course all this sailing ‘administration’ has meant less sailing for Li Li and me and our two quarter-tonners have been laid up for far too long but driving big Swans, doing in-port races on VOR70s or VO65s or driving the VOR photo RIB at stopovers are compensations!

As you have read from the potted history above I am sure that you can see that my enthusiasm for our sport and helping move it forward are unbowed and is still bubbling away. One thing for sure, when I come to the VOR Cardiff stopover (2017/2018), I hope I will be welcome in PEYC’s wonderful new clubhouse which will be fully up and running by then – no more patching the floor and fixing the roof!

Port Edgar has its own challenges I know, what with the new crossing being built, the marina being remodeled and so on but I am sure that with the PEYC spirit that I still remember so well the club will come out the other side even stronger than it went in.

All the best from Shanghai

Alistair Skinner (Kiral 3) aka Shanghai Sailor



END PAGE!!



So, that's all folks. Thank you to all who supplied articles - it made this first edition so much easier!

If anyone has any ideas for future articles please do contact me—you don't need to provide copy (but it's great if you do), just the ideas!

Have a good Christmas and a happy and healthy New Year and 2016. Catherine

Letter to the Editor

Tuesday, 15 December, 2015 15:40

From: "Karl Saville" <karlsaville@yahoo.com>

To: "Catherine Bryant" <catherine_bryant@yahoo.com>

Dear Incumbent

As the previous Beamer Editor let me be the first to congratulate you on winning this coveted position against stiff opposition. As you find yourself inundated with the flood of unsolicited articles, like me you will have to wrestle with deciding which to print and which to reject. If I might presume to give any advice on the subject, the pieces which elicited the most comment were the ones with funny or ridiculous pictures, particularly of respected club members.

Though I have enjoyed my three years as chief article-chaser I'm happy to hand over to new blood and look forward to the fresh ideas and perspective you'll bring to this largely thankless job. *(not at all! Ed)*
In conclusion, should you ever be in desperate need of a feature about cooking on boats feel free to ask. I have more!

...Karl

STOP PRESS!!

A couple of late breaking news items ...

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- ⇒ The sailing committee has decided to re-introduce three divisions for yacht racing in 2016—more info from Jim Scott in the New Year
- ⇒ We raised the magnificent sum of £855 in the end-of-season raffle in the clubhouse on December 13th. It will be donated, as usual, to the RNLI.