



CROMARTY BOAT CLUB
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2018

COMMODORE'S REPORT

A. INTRODUCTION

Firstly I would like to start by welcoming all members to this year's AGM. It is pleasing to see such a good turnout for this event and, as your club, it is important that you hear what is going on as well as have your opportunity to raise questions to the committee and share ideas with the membership of the club.

B. MEMBERSHIP

At a high level, the overall number of members is down very slightly this year at 74 vs. 75 in 2017. This has been driven by a number of resignations from members, but I am, however, delighted to report that we have had 15 new members join the club this year. I would like to welcome them all, namely: -

- Jess Christman
- Tom Bradshaw
- Carlton Grant
- Peter Ratcliffe
- Anthony & Jane Bridge
- Steve & Jacqueline Balfour Breach
- Neil McKie
- Ian Phillips
- Mike Martin
- Janis Kosevojs
- Andy & Dorothy Green
- Jeff Orell

It is essential that as a club we continue to attract new members and we need to look at all opportunities to continue to increase the membership levels.

At this time we should also recognise and remember members that we lost this year. In particular we remember Kenny Meighan, who recently lost his brave battle.



C. Sailing & Water Based Activities

Racing

Cromarty Boat Club continued to have the largest fleet participation levels within the MYA Series. Overall participation in the series was down slightly on 2017, but a total of 9 Cromarty boats completed at least one race within the 9 race series. Individual participation was as follows: -

Circe	Jim Prentice	7 Events
HiBrow	Anthony & Jane Bridge	7 Events
Seajay	Robert Hogg	6 Events
Baccarat	Tom Paling	3 Events
Moonshadow	Willie Smeaton	2 Events
Sand Dollar	Jim Cockburn	2 Events
Shoshoni	Bob Bull	1 Event
Tennessee Waltz	Danny Coutts	1 Event
Iona of Rhu	David Price	1 Event

Disappointingly one of the “flag ship” races in terms of the Moray Firth Cruiser Race was not run this year despite a number of attempts. It is hoped that this will be restored to the program for 2019 and the series returned to a 10 race series.

The North Kessock Community Pier race at the beginning of the year was once again the best attended event, with a total of 14 boats tackling the tricky course in flukey, light winds. Once again Inverness Marina hosted the prize giving and laid on a thoroughly enjoyable free BBQ with associated refreshments as well as reduced mooring fees for participating boats. This social event provides a great opportunity for an inter-club social event as well as the opportunity to meet marina residents.

The results for the MYA series, were as follows: -

MYA Fast Handicap

First	Circe	Jim Prentice	Cromarty BC
Second	HiBrow	Anthony & Jane Bridge	Cromarty BC
Third	Hava	Diarmid Hogan	Chanonyr SC



MYA Slow Handicap

First	Seajay	Robert Hogg	Cromarty BC
Second	Wind of Clynder	Doug Cawthorne	Marina
Third	Mustang	Dave Bilisland	IBC

Overall MYA Team Trophy Cromarty BC (Fifth Year Running)

A fantastic achievement from the Cromarty boats and congratulations to the respective skippers and crews.

The Cromarty Regatta continues to be one of the best supported events on the calendar with 9 boats entering this year. The feeder race was also run again this year, but unfortunately abandoned due to lack of wind.

Cromarty BC Annual Regatta

Fast Handicap Open Winner	Copeland Cup	Circe, Jim Prentice – CBC
Fast Handicap First CBC Boat	Mizpah Trophy	Circe, Jim Prentice – CBC
Slow Handicap Open Winner	CBC Regatta Challenge	Wind of Clyner, Doug Cawthorne – Marina
Slow Handicap First CBC Boat	Farmers Trophy	Seajay, Robert Hogg – CBC

It was decided during the winter not to put a pursuit series into the sailing program for 2018, following the challenges of trying to run the races in 2017. This is something we can of course review if members would like to see this re-instated and we will hold a meeting to discuss the sailing program for 2019 in the coming weeks.

A note of thanks to Mike Burns and those that have assisted him in ably and diligently undertaking the race officer duties during 2018.

July also saw the running of Sea Angling Competition. The CFPA Angling Trophy was won by Barry Pickles. Thanks must also go to Barry for his work in organising and running this event – Thankyou.

George Selvester Trophy – In recognition of their commitment to the MYA series and the fantastic achievement of coming 2nd, this year the George Selvester Trophy is awarded to Anthony & Jane Bridge.



If anyone want to get a copy of the full year's racing results, the please let me know and they can be supplied.

Cruising

The cruising activity this year has been mixed. In addition to the planned annual Commodore's Cruise, four weekend cruises were scheduled during the season, which never really materialised into anything other than individual boats heading off.

Ad-hoc cruises –

Ocean Gem – Steve, joined by Pug & Robert had a brief trip to Orkney

Baccarat – Tom & George attended the lifeboat regatta in Wick in June

Commodore's Cruise

The annual cruise this year saw four boats head through the Caledonian Canal to the West Coast

Iona	David Price & Family, Jim Cockburn
Moonshadow	Willie Smeaton & Ann Lloyd
Ocean Gem	Steve & Christine Whiteford
Baccarat	Tom Paling & George Selvester

The cruise saw the boats head to Loch Aline, Tobermory, Mallaig, Plockton, Arscaeid Mor on Rona, Ocean Gem left the cruise at Arscaeid Mor and headed to Stornoway before further exploring the Hebrides and achieving a trip to St Kilda – well done Steve & Christine. The remaining boats heading to Aros Bay in Loch Snizort, Canna, Tobermory and back to the canal

The weather was generally kind to us during the two weeks and just over 400 miles were completed.

Doris May Plate – Awarded to Ann Lloyd. Recognition of her keenness and willingness to join the cruise as a novice and support this event. Likewise, put up with Willie for a couple of weeks. Well done Ann.

In all seriousness, this is a great way to learn and improve your skills or confidence when it's someone else's boat and I would encourage anyone keen to do this to speak with one of the committee. There are always skippers looking for crew and spare berths on boats at events like this.

In summary, the racing season was well supported by CBC and very successful with CBC boats winning both classes. However, the cruising activity has dropped off somewhat, despite attempts to schedule events.



A session to discuss with 2019 sailing program will be set up for November / December and I would encourage members to attend, so we can receive your feedback in terms of how we can maximise the number of opportunities for people to get on the water whether that is cruising or racing and tailor the program to suit.

D. Social & Communications

The end of season supper was once again well attended after the AGM last year and we also hope for a good turnout after this.

The 2018 Burns Supper was also well supported and we were treated to a thoroughly enjoyable evening with members' contributions to the entertainment program. My thanks to those that volunteered or were volunteered..... Likewise my thanks to John Smith for organising the event.

As ever, catering was provided at both crane in and crane out and my thanks to Hilary, Pug & Ann for looking after us all with this vital service.

The winter program fell by the way side a little last winter, but we are keen to re-establish and complete a winter program this year. Details of this will be announced in due course, but we are looking at further navigation lessons, the sailing program and sea safety. If there are topics or items members would like to see within this program, please let me know.

I am acutely aware that communications need to be improved across the club and this will be a key focus going into 2019. In this world of modern technology, there are many means of communication and the committee welcomes any suggestions as to how the membership prefer or would like to see the communication – hard copy, e-mail, facebook, website etc.

E. Compound & Facilities

Tower

Following their refurbishment in 2017, the new showers and toilets continue to be well used by visiting yachts as well as other local organisations such as the Skiff Club. This was a real investment in the club and one that has been of significant benefit to everyone. A note of thanks must be made to Neil Urquhart for keeping this facility clean and up to scratch.

I am also pleased to report that the decision has been taken to refurbish the club room within the Tower and this work will commence in November. This will cost approximately £5k and will provide the club with another first-class facility. In a similar vein to the showers the walls will be lined to remove the dampness within the space before being fitted out. This work will require a commitment of club funds but has once again been made



possible with 50% of the funding being received from Cromarty Firth Port Authority. My thanks to them and to Jim Cockburn for his efforts in project managing this upgrade and securing the necessary funding.

The infrastructure of the club is ageing and investment has and will be required to continue to maintain the facilities in an acceptable condition both for members to use, but also to maintain our contractual obligations under the terms of the lease. Further work parties can be expected next year as we continue to undertake the necessary maintenance.

The workshop is now getting badly cluttered with members' outboards and various "stuff". Again, can I please ask that people are cognisant of the facility and clear out any unnecessary equipment. It is not a dumping ground. The committee are implementing new rules as to what can be stored within the Tower and these will be issued shortly. However, the intention going forward is that only small outboards used for tenders should be stored within this space.

A comprehensive tidy up on the compound was done prior to crane out and my thanks to those that participated in the work party. The barbed wire has also been removed from the fencing as it was in poor condition and thanks to Bill for completing this.

We continue to accrue redundant stuff in the compound as well as boats. In order to ensure that we remain compliant with the lease and planning approvals, the committee have agreed a new policy for boat parking and an associated charging structure. This will be rolled out to members during the coming weeks, with the plan for this to come into force on 1st Jan 2019.

The compound continues to be well used and with a continued growth of new members, these steps are required to ensure that the facility is available for all members.

There have been reports from the membership of sporadic incidents of items going missing from the compound. I urge all members to ensure boats and equipment left within the compound is secure and to report any further instances. The Harbour Trust is currently reviewing the installation of CCTV for the harbour area and we are in dialogue with them as to whether we can support this and benefit from CCTV coverage of the compound.

Finally, The club will need to undertake repairs to the rock armouring behind the compound in the coming weeks. This will be a further cost of £900 to the club. Again, this is a contractual obligation and necessary to prevent any further erosion towards the compound. Thanks go to Fin Crawford who has volunteered to assist and provide the necessary machinery required to move the rock into position.

F. Moorings Working Group

The moorings working group continues to go from strength to strength with a significant amount of hard work from the members of that group and my thanks to them for continuing this important function.

However, it is not down to that group to complete all of the work relating to moorings. All members are encouraged and certainly all members that own a mooring are expected to volunteer and assist in mooring activities. Risers and blocks do not levitate and it is not fair to expect a small group to complete everything, so please assist when you can.

Investment has been made in the barge with the addition of an electric winch for lifting the moorings. This has been trialled and worked brilliantly and we shall certainly see the benefits of this going forward in terms of time taken as well as sales of ibuprofen reduced.



Finally it should also be noted that two boats broke free from their moorings this year with various degrees of damage sustained. Again, please ensure you check your moorings on a regular basis and that subsea gear is checked and changed on a regular basis.

G. Finances

The Treasurer's report provides the relevant details in terms of the club finances.

The current net worth of the club is £7,083. However, this number includes the remaining surplus from the fundraising for the toilets and showers upgrade, which will be used shortly for the upgrading of the club room. Furthermore further expenditure of £900 is anticipated for the repairs to the rock armour, which will reduce the net worth to circa £3.6k

However, in P&L terms the club is just about washing its face with income and expenditure pretty much netting out. Going forward, we need to look at way in which we can either increase the revenue or reduce the operating expenditure.

A conscious decision was taken this year not to charge the additional percentage mark up on the crane costs, which has reduced the revenue.

However, with increasing maintenance burdens as described previously, we need to ensure that the club is generating a modest profit annually to cover emergent liabilities.

Welcome membership's thoughts on this.

H. Harbour Trust

As a club we continue to work closely with the Harbour Trust with club representation on the harbour working group.

The Trust continue to work to invest and develop the harbour. The visitors berth was available during the sailing season.

A dredge of the harbour will be completed imminently, which will improve the facility for all users.

I. Secretarial & Governance

Finally, as we reach another AGM, I would like to put on record my personal thanks for the members of the committee that have served during the past year. They undertake a huge amount of work behind the scenes, which generally goes un-noticed, but are pivotal to the running of the club. This year there are a number of individuals who are stepping down from the committee, their contribution during their time on the committee has been immense and I would just like to recognise that.

Bill Paterson
Jim Cockburn
Bob Bull (Secretary Role)

Likewise, I'm also grateful for those individuals that have agreed to remain on the committee for another term as well as those that have volunteered to join.

J. Conclusion



- The club is well placed going into 2019.
- We have a strong membership with a recent influx of new members.
- Developing a water based program that suits all members wishes remains the challenge to maximise participation.
- Improve communication to focus on better flow of information
- Address the finances to ensure surplus maintained