

Newsletter date August 2016

## Commodore's Cruise

The 2016 Commodore's cruise was a very successful trip.  
Three Boats participates: Ocean Gem, Iona and Baccarat.

It was gratifying to achieve all of our goals and the weather was extremely kind to us.

A full log of our trip is available on "Dropbox" which can be accessed via our facebook page or the web site

*GS Editor*

### Inside this issue:

Regatta 2016 Results Pictures	<b>2</b>
The racing seen	<b>3</b>
Congratulations to Oliver, Heather and family	<b>4</b>
Dealing with bad forecasts	<b>5</b>
Tower gets a facelift	<b>6</b>
Drama in Moray Firth	<b>7</b>
Date of AGM	<b>7</b>



# Regatta 2016

The Commodore's cruise was quickly followed by our regatta, although there were requests for the course to be a lot longer (To which Mike Burns responded well!) some complained it was overly long at 28 miles. This made the day (for those who took part in the feeder race) a total of 10 hrs on the water.

Others were quite happy which proves the old adage :

*"You can please **some** of the people **all** of the time, **all** of the people **some** of the time but **you cant please all of the people all of the time"***

EVENT		CROMARTY BOAT CLUB RACE RESULTS (Yrs 2016)									
CLASS OR FLEET :		No Class Split									
HANDICAP SPLIT :		Fast Handicap									
COURSE : Course 1		Start, Natal (S), Buss Bank(P), 3 Kings(S), Fairway (S), Cromarty Bank (P), Navity (S), Finish									
Weather Conditions :		SW or W 4/5 (10/12 knts)									
		Tide Times									
		Race start time: 12:00:00 Note Format hh:mm:ss									
Boat Name	Boat Type	Helm/Owner	Sail No	CYCA Handicap	TGF	Finish Time	Elapsed Time	No Laps	Elapsed secs	tcf	Corrected Time (secs)
Baccarat	Bolero 38	Tom Paling	08R1776	14.25	0.7625	17:35:55	5:35:55	1	20155	0.7625	15368
Iona of Rhu	Dalziel 43	David Price	2118C	13.00	0.7833	16:30:30	4:30:30	1	16230	0.7833	12714
Hava	Delph28	Diarmid Hogan	2588 C	18.50	0.6750	17:38:59	5:38:59	1	20219	0.6750	13648
Carousel	Feeling 326	Leonard MacKay		16.25	0.7292	17:24:36	5:24:36	1	19476	0.7292	14201
Ness Piper	Gibsea284	John Smith		20.75	0.6542	17:56:07	5:56:07	1	21367	0.6542	13878
Tennessee Waltz	Westerly Seahawk	Danny Coutts		17.00	0.7167	23:00:00	11:00:00	0	39600	0.7167	28380
Katie May	Super Seal	Ross Couper		21.75	0.6375	18:30:20	6:30:20	1	23420	0.6375	14930
Duo	Sonata	Tom Owen		20.25	0.6625	17:19:54	5:19:54	1	19194	0.6625	12716



Commodore David cleans up in Fast handicap

Jim Cockburn wins all in slow handicap

More pictures are available on the web site and facebook page

## **The racing seen.**

Cromarty regatta. Saturday 30<sup>th</sup>. July 2016

Day dawned bright and sunless. Forecast was West or northwest 5 or 6, decreasing 4 at times. Rain or showers. I arrived at the Tower. Plenty of wind and no rain. Six boats were heading down from the Invergordon feeder race. After last years drift and late start to the Regatta race, this year looked like we would start on time.

The wind was westerly at 15kts. A good sailing breeze. A request had been submitted for a longer race out into the Moray Firth. So we sent them to: Natal, Buss Bank, 3 Kings, Fairway, Cromarty Bank, and Navity. The slow handicap was slightly different, vis. Natal, Nigg Sands East, Fairway, Cromarty Bank and Riff Bank East. The time limit had been set at 4 hours.

The tide had set seaward before the start, giving a good set across the start line. 'That'll sort them'.

The start split the fleet of 10 into two groups of 5, those who got it right and those who didn't. It is very easy to stand in the Tower and see the course to take. If only telepathy worked. To be fair, the tide was picking up very shortly after the start gun. Eventually all the fleet got off towards Natal.

***Iona of Rhu, Duo, Carrousel, Baccarat*** and ***Hava*** arrived at Natal some 20 minutes before the rest. ***Sea Jay*** and ***Sand Dollar*** were having a real head-to-head in the slow handicap fleet. Sea Jay just beating Sand Dollar to round the mark.

Meanwhile Iona has disappeared from view behind the North Sutor. A bit of sun would have been welcome for photography. As ***Tennessee Waltz*** vanishes through the Souter's, all that's left are Sea Jay and Sand Dollar out near the Buss Bank. Time for the kettle.

Iona reappears from 3 Kings, followed by Duo and Baccarat. Unfortunately due to the terrain, most of the race took place outside of Tower vision. Over the water, first home was Iona in some 4 and a half hours. Next home was Duo in 5 and a quarter hours. Followed by everyone else.

Sand Dollar put in an incredible final leg and beat Sea Jay.

The only retirement was Danny in *Tennessee Waltz*.

Several skippers reported a lack of wind out in the Firth. At the Tower we recorded between 8 and 19kts. Inverness Airport showed a constant force 4 all afternoon.

As the computer was crunching the numbers for the positions, a decision was made to calculate the final standings by hand. Never, since the Langstone Tables (and valve radios), had I had to do this. The final times were the closest seen for a long time. After nearly 5 and a half hours racing, Iona beat Duo by 2 seconds! The full results will appear elsewhere. I admit not having copied them down.

The feeder race results were: *Duo, Iona of Rhu, Baccarat, Sea Jay, Katie May and Tennessee Waltz*.

***Halph Tyde***

# Congratulations Oliver, Heather and family

*After reading my log of Shetland trip, Oliver Chapple sent me e mail*

Looks like a good trip George. Quite envious.

We started off in good fettle but then and were planning to pick up Heather and Liz at Plockton. However we got text that my daughter Kerry might have started labour about 6 weeks early. Brought Octopus back to Corpach and left it there to get down to London asap.

All very tense for a while and then things settled , Heather and I set off to meet brother Charlie to bring the boat back to the marina. Just managed that when all hell broke out again and this time the real deal.

Got there on the Sunday night and a little boy arrived on the Monday evening . **18.07** time and **18.07** date !

Just got back to Lincoln today Monday.

Totally besotted with the little chap as you can imagine and looking forward to taking him sailing, skiing hunting camping hiking canoeing ... endless fun !!

Maybe see you sometime in August .. Andrew and I and maybe Charlie are trying to disentangle ourselves from the women folk for bit of a jolly .. maybe up to explore Orkney a bit more .. not sure depends on how many brownie points we can accrue !

Take care .. enjoy the summer .. Oliver



# Dealing with Bad Forecasts

*Another article from the member who writes under a Pseudonym*

I got a sudden urge to put pen to paper, well fingers on the keyboard.

The forecast for the weekend (6/7 August) was pretty grim. Strong winds, rain and generally a typical August grotty weekend. We had been advised to check mooring ropes etc. due to the forecast.

Now I hate being backed into a corner, but I just had to check Islander. On Saturday I arrived at the compound, got sorted and then found the outboard would not start. I changed the fuel in the tank and then drained the carburettor. I could not get fuel to flow from the tank to the drain hole. Having left the tools that I would require at home I proceeded to a bar for a drink, determined to come back early Sunday morning. HW was about 4am and I wanted to launch my dinghy at high water. I set the alarm for 3am.

I was woken by the wind howling through my residence at 2.40. I got up and shut the window. As I was now up and functioning, I set off for Cromarty. There was a considerable amount of tree debris on the road. It did not look good for a trip out. I arrived and the wind was not so bad, only 7kn. I stripped the carburettor and got a good fuel flow. Into the tank and the engine fired first pull. I let it run whilst I got the dinghy ready. It was quite warm and the breeze was dying. Into the harbour and a really nice trip out. Getting lighter by the minute.

I checked Islanders' mooring strop, all OK. I then climbed into the cockpit and opened up. There was about a bucket of water in the cabin, which took a few strokes of the bilge pump to shift. The rigging was next on the list to be checked, again all OK. I headed shoreward and pulled the dinghy back to the compound.

By now the weather was getting near the forecast. The wind was rising and falling, but mainly rising. At 7am, the wind died and the water became glassy smooth. The clouds were scudding across the sky from the northwest. Suddenly the wind picked up and increased considerably. Pugsters' wind generator started to spin with great gusto. The two wind turbines on the hill began to rotate faster. The sea became a maelstrom of white water. It was at this point that I was glad we had decided to cancel the proposed race. When the tide turned it would have looked quite spectacular. I left for home.

There were more tree bits on the road and the water looked very uninviting crossing the Kessock Bridge. I couldn't believe how windy it was in town. Had a cup of tea and went to bed. I don't like early starts.

Halph Tyde

# Tower gets a " facelift"

The Tower is now clad in a shiny white new coat of paint. Following the major redevelopment of the showers, toilets & laundry facilities, a series of well supported work parties were arranged in the early part of the summer to clean off the old flaking paint & replace it with a new coat of masonry paint. The plan is to add a second coat in the autumn."

Thanks to all concerned

Jim



# Drama in the Moray Firth

An article written by Jim Cockburn

A motor sail to Nairn & back on Friday 22 July turned out rather differently than expected for Jim Cockburn & his boat, Sand Dollar. The day started uneventfully when Jim & sailing friend Rod headed off to Nairn late morning. A good display of dolphin acrobatics was all that was notable about the passage. Sunny skies overhead but, as is often the case, the forecast F2/3 breeze went AWOL so it was motoring all the way. After a light lunch & ice cream, Sand Dollar set off on the passage home to Cromarty about 1500 aided, for a while, by a better breeze. About 3 miles off the Sutors, at around 1700, Jim & Rod spotted two sea kayaks, about 100m apart, but looking through the binoculars, they couldn't make out anyone onboard either of them. By now the wind had gone again so with the motor on & sails stowed, they approached the nearest kayak with more than a little

apprehension as to what they might find. It was like the Marie Celeste. A seat, a fishing rod holder, a warp & an empty drinks bottle were all that could be seen. It was the same with the second kayak - a seat, an empty drinks bottle, a folding grab anchor & a fishing rod holder. So, what had happened & what to do? Firstly, Sand Dollar was manoeuvred alongside each kayak so that each could be secured to the stern for towing. Secondly, Jim called the Coastguard on VHF Channel 16 & reported the find. The Coastguard requested Lat/Long of Sand Dollar's position along with details of the kayaks and decided to call out the Invergordon lifeboat to recover the kayaks and undertake a search of the surrounding area. Meanwhile, Jim was asked to remain in the vicinity of the find to provide a fix for the lifeboat. As you would expect, the lifeboat didn't take long to travel the 12 miles from Invergordon & kept in regular radio contact with

Sand Dollar to get a fix on Jim's position. With the kayaks safely onboard, the lifeboat set about sweeping the area for the next four hours while Sand Dollar headed back to her mooring at Cromarty in the early evening.

Thankfully, the mystery of the drifting kayaks had a happy ending. A coastguard search team checking the beach at Rosemarkie was contacted by two campers staying at the adjacent caravan park. They had parked their kayaks on the beach but not high enough to be clear of the incoming tide that, earlier in the day, had swept them out to sea. So, the kayaks & their owners were reunited but not before the owners got a ticking off for not reporting the missing kayaks. I hope they make a donation to the RNLI for their unnecessary launch & search.

*Jim Cockburn*

## Date for 2016 AGM

The **2016 AGM** will be held on **Saturday 29 October 2016 @ 1600** in the Royal Hotel Cromarty. This will be followed by our usual End of Season Supper in the lounge bar @ approx 1730.

At the AGM all Committee members must step down, although they are eligible for re-election. It is possible therefore that a number of vacancies may require nominations.\*

\* dependant on who is willing to stand for re-election

There are at present two vacant position on Committee :

**Bosun:** Responsible for administration of the moorings and organising work parties.\*\*

**Social Secretary:** Responsible for organising the social calendar.\*\*

\*\*For further details of these positions or any other position on the committee contact the Club Secretary Bob Bull.

***Separate Information on nominations will be sent out soon by Secretary***