



'THE HARBOUR CHAT' *BSC*

(1)

In the current climate we are not getting together as club members as much as we all might wish. As a result we are missing out on the chats and general information in and around the harbour. As a committee it was felt that this was a loss and in an attempt to keep members informed it was decided to reintroduce a newsletter style publication. I foolishly said too much and have ended up as editor in chief. This is a light hearted casual publication to keep the harbour banter going in the unusual times we find ourselves. Please feel free to offer up anything you think might be of interest to other members. Items for sale, funny anecdotes, tips on maintenance or links to other publications that may be of interest. Anything to make my job easier would be gratefully received. Just drop me an email and I'll include it. Mark.donnelly168@gmail.com

A Note from the Commodore

I want to start by thanking everyone who is working hard, behind the scenes, to keep the sailing club going. We have had to reduce activities considerably this year and members may be wondering what is going on. We have all had to adapt to the changing world and learn what we can and can't do. Thanks to Mick who has been trying to follow and understand the national guidance and advise how we can get out sailing and use the club whilst staying safe.



Despite all this, we have had some wonderful sailing and have managed to attract some new enthusiasts for the 707s and as members. Graham and I enjoyed a wonderful two hours in Banff Bay recently along with four other boats. It was a boost to our mental health.

The club house has had some essential repairs undertaken, with some great joinery on the exterior doors, thanks Jane for organising this and other repairs (including the guttering). This has all been done with great awareness of our reduced income. The trailers for the club boats have had a new lease of life thanks to Ramsey Tivet.

We recently held a successful AGM and it was great to see a few more people rather than just the Committee. The Committee members have agreed to stay on for another year due to the challenges and to give some stability. Ab Wiseman the harbour master gave us a really interesting talk about his trip this summer to Orkney. Ab is trying to support the club as best he can and has placed a flyer on the harbour notice board for us.

We were hoping to be able to hold the Christmas lunch but have unfortunately had to cancel this because of the current restrictions. We would like to hold monthly online events over the winter period. We have a few things in mind and if you have any suggestions or ideas for talks, training etc. please get in touch.

- Have you had a sailing holiday you could share with others?
- Could you share some knowledge with others, e.g. Electrics, engines, navigation and weather?
- Lots of people are attending online quizzes and events, have you got any ideas?

I am having several conversations with people, particularly in the council, who are trying to assist us with funding ideas, advertising, different links with other activities and organisations. Hopefully this might start to take shape soon. We have lots of plans for when we are able to hold activities in the club again.

As you know the harbour is closing soon to allow for repairs, several of us attended a meeting recently which was helpful. The club boats will be taken out for this period of time allowing us to receive full refunds for harbour fees. This means that the boats are moveable and if we can find a berth for at least one somewhere we might be able to get some winter sailing.

So remember this is your club, please let us know what you would like to see, let us know if you can help or have any ideas. Don't forget to buy a Calendar which will make great Christmas presents.

Happy sailing everyone and looking forward to a more normal new year.

Helen Robbins

Please get in touch. helenrobbins@ymail.com

Sailing Club 2021 Calendars are now for sail.

This year's theme is 'Views of the Moray Firth with a nautical theme' and incorporated shots from the club photo competition. Great entries this year and I'm sorry I couldn't incorporate more. Unfortunately there are only 12 months in the calendar and (my error) some of the scanned images were not at a sufficiently high resolution to enlarge for the full page images. It is still a cracking calendar and at £10 each they make great gifts (with all proceeds going to Club funds). Last year they sold out on the day they went on sale. So don't be disappointed this year; get yours quickly by ordering through Pam, the club secretary at pampeters6@gmail.com.

The winners of the annual BSC Photo competition are usually announced at the prize giving which has sadly had to be cancelled. A big thank you to Pam for all her hard work in trying to make it happen, unfortunately recent restrictions were too great a hurdle. The winner of this prestigious competition usually features on the front of the club calendar, so it's appropriate that the results are announced before we sell the 2021 Calendars. Well done the winners and a big thank's to all the participants.

Winners of the 2020 BSC Photo Competition

1.

Ivor Clarke with 'Making the Mark'



2.

Jane Bowie with 'River Dee'



3.

Graham Osler with 'resting at The Springs'



So what's been happening around the Harbour of late?

The big news would be the Zoom meeting a couple of weeks ago chaired by the council letting harbour users know the state of play with repairs and temporary closure of the Harbour.

In summary the negotiations with prospective contractors are ongoing, and the harbour will close some time over the winter. We are reassured that this will be kept to a minimal, but the repairs must obviously be done for the long



term use and safety of the harbour. It would not be practical to keep the harbour open whilst work is carried out. There is a scale of compensation suggested for berth holders for the time the Harbour will be closed.

Please see below notification from the Corrie McCall the Principal Officer - Harbours.

As no objections were received following the Harbour Advisory Committee meeting, the following 3 tiered refund approach was approved by the Harbour Sub-Committee last week:

- Refund of 100% of 5 months fees if boat is removed from the harbour area (and compound) by Sunday 29th November.
- Refund of 50% of 5 months fees if boat stays in the harbour or compound. Free launching at other Aberdeenshire Council Harbours.
- Refund of 30% of 5 month fees if berthing provided at another Aberdeenshire Council owned harbour

If you have not already done so, please email harboursadmin@aberdeenshire.gov.uk to advise of your intentions and a credit note will be raised. Your email will be forwarded on to Albert Wiseman so that he is aware of your intentions and can make arrangements within the harbour for berthing.

Thank you for your patience at this time.

Corrie McCall IEng MICE
Principal Officer - Harbours
Infrastructure Services
Aberdeenshire Council
Tel: 01467 537105 (Int:761 7105)
Mob: 07423004754
website: www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk

Boats being lifted out.

'Plan B' and 'Bonhomie' were both recently lifted out and are now residing in the lower compound with their masts safely removed. It was an experience to see them floating up out of the water in strops, over the fence and onto their cradles. Crane drivers have great skills with surgeon like control when manoeuvring many tons with mm precision. If anyone is interested the club boats will be lifted out in the next week or so.

New Boats in the Harbour

'Commotion'. A Moody 27.



Kevin moved her up from the Tay earlier in the year and now intends to sail out of Banff. She is well-equipped and a good example of this popular and robust fin keel family cruiser. Kevin mentioned that they are moving up to a larger yacht in the spring so the Moody is for sale. If anyone is interested she is advertised on <https://www.theyachtmarket.com/en/boat-for-sale/1947288/>

'The Dash'

I have no doubt many of us have looked with interest at this boat when she recently arrived in the harbour. She is a bespoke weekend cruiser disguised as a stealth bomber. Dan, the owner, saw the hull at the boat show and was interested in the design which allowed for plenty of internal space. After consultations with the manufacturer they had her built to their own specification. She is deceptively large inside with standing head room and all the creature comforts for holidays away. Dan and his wife are sailors at heart but wished to spend more time exploring our spectacular Scottish coastal locations rather than travelling to them. So, in his words, they went over to the dark side by moving to a power boat. Sound familiar Hugh?



'Magwitch' . A Victoria 800.



A 26ft cutter rig cruiser was recently sailed up from Northumberland by some club members. She is a canoe stern long keel yacht with good manners and excellent sea keeping qualities. Just as well as she had an interesting delivery trip. A good lesson learned; do not believe the weather forecast. The backing and reducing winds never arrived and most of the trip was a long wet slog into the wind and heavy seas. A plus was a stopover at Dunbar. A pretty harbour located on the southern side on the Firth of Forth with a spectacular entrance. Well worth a visit if you're down that way.

As a result of this new addition to the Harbour 'Moostruck', the dark blue wooden masted gaff rigged 'Cape Cutter 19' in the Harbour is now up for sale too. Her brown sails have been a regular sight cruising in and out of Banff in recent years. A number of these deceptively robust little trailer sailors have travelled far and wide including the circumnavigation of the UK on a number of occasions. One has even been a class winner in the 'Round The Island Race' at Cowes week. If you are interested contact me on Mark.donnely168@gmail.com

(Sketch courtesy of local artist D. Strachan)

