

Newsletter date May 2025

A Very sad time for the club

It is with heavy heart that I write this short obituary

Ann Lloyd joined Cromarty Boat Club in 2017 and has been Club Secretary since 2018 when she was elected to the position, taking over from Bob Bull. She was a keen sailor, crewing many times, for Willie Smeaton, aboard Moonshadow on the commodore's cruise. Ann owned her own boat, an Oyster 28 called *Randan* and could be seen regularly working away at it in the compound to get it up to scratch.

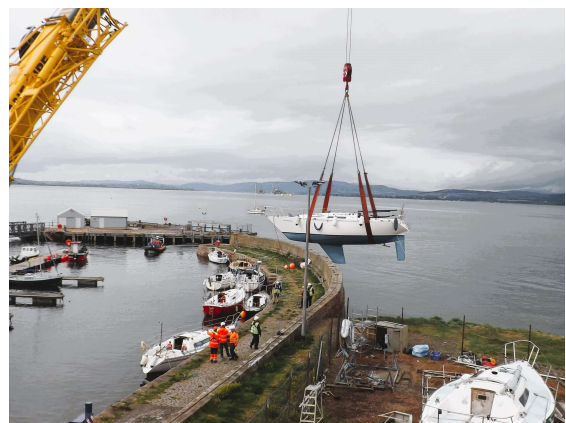
Ann had been suffering from cancer for some considerable time and had been undergoing treatment of Chemotherapy. Toward the end of last year it was believed that she was finally on the mend and that it was under control. Alas Cancer is a mean adversary and at the beginning of 2025 she was told that it had returned. She went on to have further Chemotherapy and immunotherapy, both of which were causing her a lot of discomfort and leaving her totally exhausted. Throughout all of this she remained positive and was determined to beat the disease. At the last committee meeting, she said she was determined to carry on with her duties, however at around 1600 on Wednesday 30th May, passed away. Rest in Peace Ann, you will be sorely missed.



Successful day for club crane in

Everything was in our favour on Monday 28th April, for the start of the season, with a very well executed craning operation plan. Although some of our regular more experienced members, such as Gwyn Phillips, Tom Paling and Jim Cockburn were unable to attend. Their positions were filled with keen and able replacements in the shape of Danny Coutts and Ian Mcbay. Thanks are due to several other members, who although not having a boat being lifted in gave up their time to assist in this important event which is the official start to our sailing season.

The weather was as good as we could have asked for with very little wind and no rain to dampen our spirits. The crane did arrive an hour before it was ordered, which allowed us to move one boat which is remaining in the compound, thus making room for an additional boat for the crane out in October, increasing the number of craned boat spaces. There has been a steady decline in trailered boats coming to the club and an increase in boats requiring craning. It is unfortunate that we have now reached the limit of craned in spaces.



A word from the Commodore

Let me introduce myself. My name is Jim Prentice. I began sailing at the age of 12 in Monklands Sailing Club Lanarkshire. We bought a GP14 racing and cruising her where we could, happy days!

I was lucky when we moved to N. Kessock in 1977. The GP14 came with us and we had many an adventure in the Beaully Firth and beyond, before it finally succumbed to advanced age. The next few years were a mixture of dinghy sailing, crewing on cruisers and restoring a ferrous cement boat, amongst other distractions, until we were able to afford our own Contessa 32 (Circe) in 1999. We have been upgrading her since and have enjoyed many cruises as well as some success in racing locally and further afield. I joined CBC around 10 years ago.

You may have heard the old adage that if you want really good crew, you have to breed them. Myself and my brother both have two sons and the optimum crew was three sets of brothers. It could be a bit cramped and lead to a few 'lively' brotherly spats, but they are the best. All good things come to an end and my boys now have their own families and can't manage the commitment to racing, we'll have to wait a few years before the next generation are able, but don't count us out yet.

Last year George asked if I would be prepared to take over as Commodore of CBC. He promised me that all was running like clockwork and there would be no problems, well he was mostly correct! Joking aside, I am honoured to be asked and will give it my best shot for a couple of years. I very much appreciate George's ongoing guidance.

Our club has been blessed, since inception, with many dedicated members and office bearers. I am genuinely impressed with my fellow committee members, as well as many others who give much time and great effort to CBC. For instance, the Moorings Working Group have again done an amazing job of recovering, servicing and re-laying 20 moorings. This is no mean feat, and has saved our members a fortune, as well as providing peace of mind. Unfortunately Jim Cockburn is standing down in the autumn as leader of the MWG, he will be sorely missed, but Jon Priddy has generously agreed to take on the lead role and Jim is kindly assisting with the transition.

As with all clubs, there tends to be the same willing hands doing much of the heavy lifting. Perhaps we take these dedicated volunteers for granted, this is a mistake. We, as club members, should all be prepared to help as much as we are able, that's how it works, and it's good fun.

Unfortunately, sometimes it seems that some treat CBC as a provider of cheap boat storage and moorings. This is particularly galling when some individuals treat us like we are a service that they are entitled to. It is also very disappointing when others seem happy to belittle our efforts, or question our motives. Our sport/passion seems to be in a bit of a decline at the moment, and complacency will only add to this, so I urge you all to contribute as much as you can.

I'm looking forward to a good summers sailing. I'm dedicated to racing in all of the Cromarty and Moray Firth races that I can attend, as well as the Whitehills to Kirkwall and the West Highland Week. The commodore's cruise passage plan has yet to be decided. It's booked for the first two weeks in July, please give your preference for our cruise destination, and we'll go with the consensus.

I hope that I can follow all of the previous commodores successes in keeping Cromarty Boat Club thriving. Please don't hesitate to get in touch if you have any concerns, I am genuinely open to suggestions and very glad to help.

The season ahead

Racing:

As usual we will have the “**George Selvester Trophy**” pursuit series at club level, a series of 6 races with two discards. Unfortunately last years series had no results due to the atrocious weather experienced

It was agreed at the last MYA meeting in December 2024, that to try encouraging more participation, there would be a “Trial Period” of a *White Sails Only* allowance. This will mean that boats with no Spinnaker will be given a 4% increase in the handicap, applied after the cut off level. This will increase their chances of achieving better results. For a full explanation (if required contact me or Jim Prentice for more details)

Below is the 2025 programme

		Colour code			Club Events
					2025 Events
					Crossing
April		Monday	10	1105_4.50	Crossing
May	3	1721_3.45			Pursuit 1
	10	1138_3.70			Pursuit 2
	17	1545_3.37	18	1633_3.24	Possible Cruise weekend
	24	0955_3.88			Holky Firth Cruise race
June	7	1006_3.35	8	1056_3.44	Limpsdale or Ardrossan race start, June 8th
	14	1500_3.50			Keswick Pier regatta
	21	0823_3.70			Pursuit 3
	28	1522_3.97			Livingston Regatta
			29	1606_3.83	Comelodone's Cruise
July	5				
	12				
	19				
	26				
Aug	2	1854_3.26	3	1956_3.24	Howe Highland Regatta
	9	1314_3.06	10	1354_4.09	Rossmore Beach BBQ
	16	1807_3.53	17	1912_3.41	Possible Cruise weekend
	23	1120_4.15			Pursuit 4
	30	1704_3.46			Pursuit 5
Sept	6	1209_3.02			Ormsley Regatta
	13	1647_3.78			Black Isle Challenge
	20	1218_4.57			Pursuit 6
	27	1547_3.67	28	1618_3.51	
Oct	4	1055_3.89	5	1139_3.97	Good takes this week for cruise out.
	11	1543_4.06	12	1629_3.81	
	18	1111_3.85	19	1151_3.99	
	25	1546_3.84	26	1415_3.71	

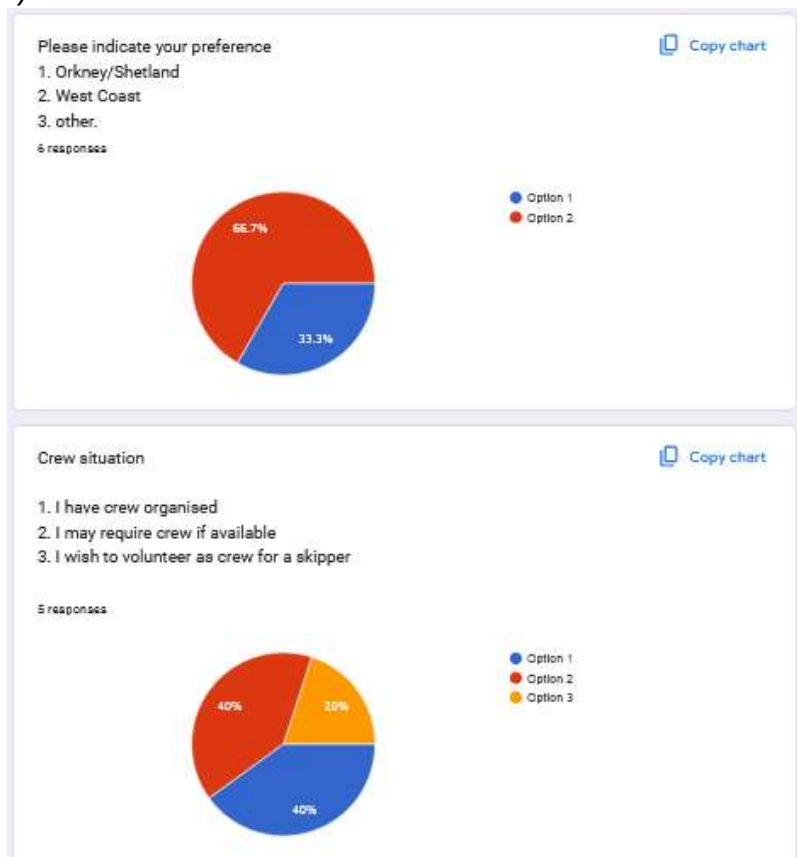
The season ahead, continued

Cruising:

There are a couple of possible cruise weekends included in the sailing programme, someone might want to suggest possible destinations, Wick, Lossiemouth, Findhorn or even Portmahomack. There is a beach BBQ at Rosemarkie pencilled in for Saturday August 9th.

Commodore's Cruise:

There was a questionnaire sent out for destination and crew requirements, although it was a poor response, those that did respond elected for West Coast again (see the chart below.)



This year the annual Commodores cruise is due to take place from 28th June to 13th July. To date we have received positive responses from 3 boats interested in joining the cruise. The current plan is for a trip through the canal to the West Coast once again, which provides us with numerous options for destinations.

For our newer members, the cruise is a great opportunity to spend time on the boat and explore new destinations further afield in the company of others. The pace of the cruise is dictated by those attending and of course the weather forecast.

If members are interested in joining the cruise either with their own boat or willing to Crew on other boats, please let me know.

If members could confirm if they plan to attend by the end of May, that would be appreciated. I will then reach out to those attending in June and we can finalise the preparations and itinerary.

Tom Paling Vice Commodore

From MWG regarding Club Moorings

The 2025 moorings were laid at the beginning of March when 18 moorings for Club members & 3 Visitors Moorings were deployed on the usual grid of four lines of moorings off the Royal Hotel.

The Club retains a small stock of parts for mooring risers - polysteel rope, shackles, swivels, intermediate chain etc - that can be purchased from the Club should any risers need repair.

As for the Visitors Moorings, these will be available for use by Club members who keep their boats elsewhere but who may visit Cromarty from time to time. The idea of having a pool mooring for the exclusive use of visiting CBC members that was trialled in 2024 has been abandoned.

MWG would like to thank the Club members who helped at the various work parties and/or crewed the barge during the Spring round of activity.

Lastly, Jon Priddy will be taking over the MWG admin stuff from Jim Cockburn at the end of the 2025 sailing season.

And Finally

Putting together a regular newsletter can sometimes be quite a challenge, finding enough interesting articles to include.

I would welcome contributions from members for future issues.

Articles can be about anything , tips on boat maintenance, delivery trips, cruising log racing experiences, in fact anything at all that other members may find interesting.

Send any articles to me at george.selvester@gmail.com feel free to include images.

I look forward to hearing from you

Regards

George
Newsletter editor.