

Newsletter date December 2024



The current committee, wishes all our members and their families a Merry Christmas and a happy New Year. We hope 2025 brings you happiness and prosperity.

The season just finished was quite disappointing for many of us, for various reasons apart from the wind, the extremely strong winds we have had to endure for the last two seasons have been somewhat disruptive to our sailing events.

Although most of the MYA races did take place, there was a marked decline in competitor participation. This is a worrying trend, which is not unique to the Moray Firth. I often speak to "Old Salts", I am still in contact with from my days sailing on the Firth Of Forth. They too are saying numbers are dropping off from the days we knew in the '70's '80's and early '90's.

At the recent MYA planning meeting, held earlier this month, this very problem was discussed and proposals were put forward to introduce, for a trial period, a "White Sails" allowance for members not having a spinnaker. It will probably be a 4% allowance added to your existing CYCA Handicap (added after the advertised cut off to keep classes intact). This would mean that my boat, a Westerly Centaur, with current CYCA Handicap of 26.75 would be given additional 4% bringing handicap to 27.82, this will make me a little more competitive when racing against boats with spinnakers.

There will be a couple of provisos when claiming the allowance, full details will be available when the sailing calender is finished and published. We hope this will encourage the less experienced sailors to compete.

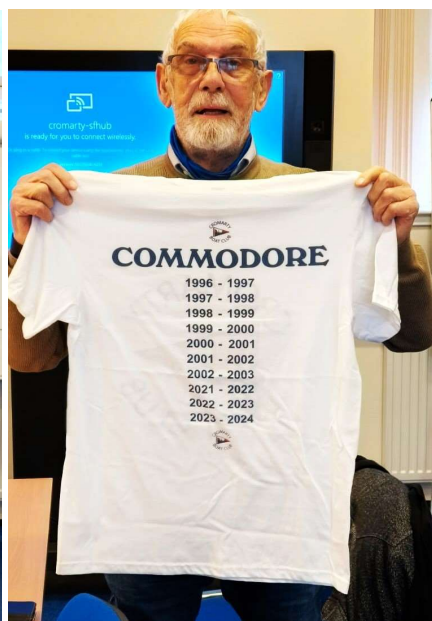
Christmas Lunch well attended

In the early afternoon Saturday 7th December a total of 16 members turned out at the *Snow Goose* in Inverness for a delicious Christmas Lunch. There were also apologies from several members who were unable to make it.



Goodbye gift

As most of the membership will know, I am stepping down from the Commodore's position at the AGM (My second stint in the job). The committee had its last meeting of 2024 on 15th December, when the other committee members presented me with a going away gift.



Proposed new fee on Leisure boats in Clyde

The following article explains the fees Glasgow (Clydeport) are planning to introduce, many boaters feel, quite rightly, that this might be the start of a raid on leisure boaters. It may well be taken up by other Ports such as Inverness and Invergordon

Peel Ports Clydeport are proposing to introduce a Conservancy Fee for leisure craft in the Clydeport area in 2025.

This issue has been discussed at the Scottish Parliament's Cross Party Group (CPG) on Recreational Boating and Marine Tourism on two occasions (24th September and 27th November 2024). On both occasions, Peel Ports were invited along to outline their plans, but twice declined to participate. Consequently, it was unanimously agreed at the 27 November 2024 meeting of the CPG that the members' position is that these plans should be abandoned.

Concerns include how the marine tourism economy will be damaged as boaters will be put off sailing within Clydeports' waters. Boaters are also angry at the lack of meaningful dialogue with them about these plans, which has led to questions arising over how the fee will be spent.

Another worry relates to the progressive increase in charges that will surely happen if a conservancy fee is implemented. The somewhat limited fee, as proposed, will inevitably not remain the same in the coming years. In effect, this fee is considered very much as a 'cash grab' by the recreational boating sector.

Stuart McMillan MSP, Chair of the CPG, wrote an Open Letter on behalf of the CPG members and co-signatories Kenneth Gibson MSP and Clare Adamson MSP. There has also been significant press interest in this story given how far reaching these proposals are and the anger being expressed by the sector.

I have therefore launched this petition so that members of the public can show their support for the sector's calls for Peel Ports to abandon their proposals to introduce a conservancy fee for sailing on the Clyde.

Use QR code below to access petition, Please sign and share.



2025 MOORINGS

No sooner will the last drams to welcome in 2025 been downed when MWG will be emailing out the invitation to request a mooring for 2025. Please give this your urgent attention & make sure you reply by **24th January** at the latest to give MWG time to process the requests, plan the grid of moorings & deal with any issues arising.

If you want a mooring, remember, too, that it's your responsibility to supply the riser/strop, make sure it is fit for purpose & is returned to the compound by the end of February when it will be inspected by MWG ahead of installation. Details of the CBC minimum specification for the riser/strop are available on the CBC website. If you need to renew any of its components, these may be available for purchase via MWG.

MWG expects to lay the 2025 moorings during the second half of March &, once again, will be relying on volunteers to help with the barge operations etc. Watch Club Website for more information nearer the time.

Visitor Moorings for 2025

Moorings for visiting yachts and members whose boat not kept at Cromarty

There will be 3 visitors moorings that can be used not only by visiting yachts but also by those CBC members whose home port is not at Cromarty. This arrangement supersedes the previous arrangement of having visitors moorings &, separately, for visiting CBC yachts, a pool (or shared) mooring.

Any queries about moorings - email MWG@cromartyboatclub.org

MWG wishes everyone a Merry Christmas & a Happy New Year.

Dates for your diary

Saturday 18th January 2025.

0930-1130: Work Party.

Meet at compound 0930 The Moorings Working Group will be inspecting the blocks & chains on the beach on needs your help with handling the heavy chains. Please let MWG if you can help MWG@cromartyboatclub.org

1900; Annual General Meeting:

Old Buoy Store. Agenda will be sent by Secretary

Saturday 15th February 2025

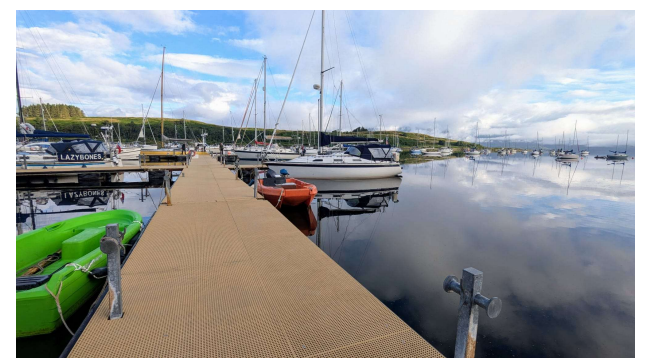
Winter Workshop:

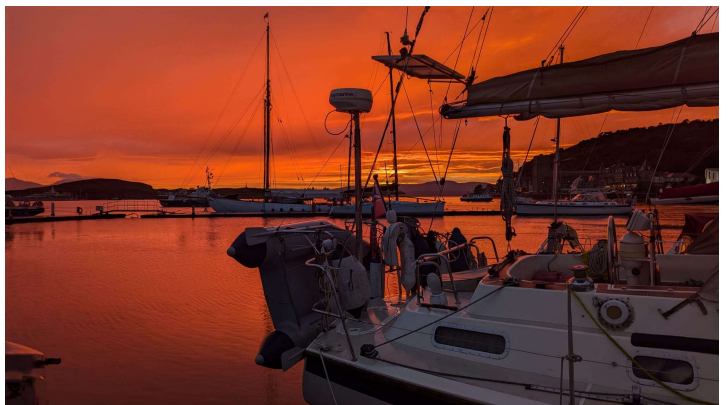
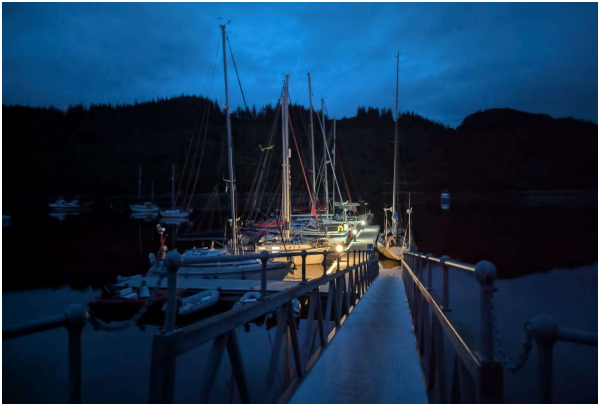
A course of VHF Radio protocol will be conducted by Gwyn Phillips at Inverness Marina. Full details will be sent out by Secretary closer to date.

Details of these events can be found on the website too

Poor Season 2024

As mentioned earlier in this short newsletter, 2024 was disappointing for many, the cruise did not achieve as much as we would have liked, again due to the weather. Judy and I had to abandon the cruise at Corpach because of engine problems, the others went on to visit Linnhe Marine, Oban, Loch Aline Tobermory and Loch Sunart. The pictures here are courtesy of Danny Coutts who will submit his log in Spring edition of newsletter





That's it for now, I am off to Australia Next week until March. I hope to join the AGM by a video link, see you then.

All the best
George Selvester.