

CRSC AGM Presidents Report

2 Principal Objectives of the club

To create opportunities for enthusiasts to sail, meet and talk together

I rolled up on a typically damp morning at Gourock on 4 May for the Club's coach and cruise to Gigha, via Dunoon and Portavadie, returning by Isle of Arran from Campbeltown. And what a magnificent day it was, not only in terms of constantly changing logistics, but as always in the banter to be had with good friends on a great day out.

On Fri 8th Aug on the Charter aboard Waverley from Greenock to Inchmarnock we all had a wonderful day despite average weather with a full ship and many happy people. Well done to all those who supported us on that memorable anniversary day, and we made a handsome profit into the bargain!

Sadly the September excursion did not happen, but in January the usual outing to Brodick and lunch at the Kinloch hotel took place sailing aboard Hebrides from Ardrossan on Saturday 17th Jan. There were fewer of us this year, and this seems to be a trend, so whilst we had a great day out including a tour of the brewery for those of us who were thirsty, and had come by train in light of the new drink drive limit, we will be looking to do something different this winter.

Of course there was much more, and I met many friends on various outings around the Clyde, Windermere, Dartmouth and the Western Isles.

Meeting together

And of course then we meet together to do the important business of keeping each other enthusiastic about the things we care for – not just our wives but these other “ladies” in our lives. We have had another excellent season of meetings which I will not rephrase, as you hopefully were all there or saw the reports of the sessions on the club website. Suffice is to say that without these meetings we would be much the poorer and we are now at the point where we have nearly finalised the programme for next year, and it is a corker also – Eric might give you some inkling of what you are about to receive! It was also good to see so many people turn out for what sometimes looked like odd subjects – turntable ferries in Scotland with a full house which turned out to be fascinating and excellently presented by a virgin presenter (well at least to us) Rob Beale.

Stimulate interest in, and research into, British coastal passenger shipping, with particular emphasis on the Clyde and other Scottish fleets.

Firstly I need to acknowledge the huge amount of work done by Archie McCallum in looking after our memorabilia archive. He has been doing this for many years now and it is hugely appreciated chore for which many thanks. He has very carefully maintained everything that has been given to him, and then prepared it and dutifully “signed it out” on loan when required, for example at the Ship Ahoy exhibition which incidentally went very well again just earlier this month in Irvine with over 900 visitors to the exhibition. Again many thanks to our willing committee volunteers who helped Iain Quinn to make this happen.

As you know we sadly lost our honorary president Robin Boyd this year after some time when he was not so well, although he had managed out to my presidential address in September, his last event with us. Robin was also our Slide Curator and sadly things there seem to be in a less good state, and this is being actively investigated by your committee. What material there was in the

house when it was cleared is now in the hands of Charles McCrossan who has commenced the enormous task (with a few friends) of digitising these images so that we can preserve them for posterity. Many of the slides are already ruined beyond recovery just exemplifying the dangers surrounding all of our collections.

But on that note, and more positively, the work that Charles and his team have done in extremely harrowing circumstances has been wonderful – and if ever there was a need to say thank you in a huge way for us in the club for the work on the website, and now the work on digitising pictures and helping to sort out the slide collection Charles needs our huge vote of thanks. And of course he has not done this all on his own, with great contributions particularly from Roy and Andrew but there have been many others involved also.

And in this domain, we have a new publication also – Steamers at War the legacy from Peter Herriot taken on by Ian and Robert and now with us / just about to be with us. This is one of the reasons we exist, and like helping Fraser McHaffie last year to publish Scotia (plug for more sales) we continue to proudly support research and archive.

And the rest

Website – already mentioned Charles who has been wonderful, without whom we simply would not have it, and it is such a wonderful growth area for us and those interested in the things we are interested in. We do still need help here to moderate and run the site, so if you are willing please give it a thought and talk to Charles or myself. We are also benefiting from the PayPal initiative for payments, I firmly believe that the online offering of our material, perhaps in a members only area in the future, and online payment for all our trading is definitely the way ahead.

Merchandise

And of course we have the excellent calendar so ably produced by Gordon Law for both ourselves and the WHSA with whom we are delighted to be working, more or less in harmony! There are the pictures (may I call them postcards?), books donated from which we gain valuable additional revenue, and other things sold in the shop ably run by Iain Quinn. There is of course the Review (John Newth) and the Magazine suffering, oops should I have said benefiting greatly from the professional input from Andrew who has taken the publication to new heights.

Committee

And there are other aspect of committee business including membership (Stuart) and Cruising (Neil) and no doubt some things and people whom I have missed, but just like when I was in the Navy, you always had to leave something for the inspecting officer to find, as if you didn't he might find something you already knew was not very good! And especial thanks to the terrible twosome – Billy and Eric who between them make the rest of us look redundant – hopefully we support and value them as well as they support us all.

Summary

A very good year for the club, tinged with sadness over the loss of old friends, but where we have welcomed new members of a younger generation who will take on where others have left off. So thank you all for your support in coming along this evening and for your support of all of our activities over the year. I trust that I will see you out and about during the next year of my presidency.