

## **A History of Port Edgar Yacht Club**

Port Edgar Yacht club was formerly known as Queen Margaret Yacht Club and was originally based in North Queensferry.

### The Beginning

The first founding meeting of the club was held at Cliff Cottage, North Queensferry at 3pm on Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> February 1969. The membership fee was set at £2 2s 0d and a draft constitution was discussed. (When decimalisation was introduced two years later the membership fee dropped to £2.)

The inaugural AGM was held in the Tartan Room at the Roxburgh Hotel, North Queensferry on Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> March 1969.

### Early offer of Clubhouse Building !

The club was offered a house called the '[Black Cat Inn](#)' in North Queensferry if suitable accommodation could be found for the old lady who was living in it. In the event planning permission was turned down (no mention of what the plan for the old lady was ?!) and the committee chose instead to purchase a second hand caravan for £240. Forth Yacht Marina offered to host the 'clubhouse' on ground they leased from Fife County Council. The inn was subsequently developed into cottages and is a listed building (see picture taken 2013 below)



## Membership Numbers

Initial membership numbers totaled 52 members comprising: 8 adult members; 13 voting family members; 31 non-voting family members. There were 9 founding members who had all paid £10 10s 0d – 5 years subscriptions up front. The members owned 12 boats. The directors of Forth Yacht Marina were instrumental in helping establish the club.

## Moorings

The club had a 21 moorings. A plan of the mooring area was sent to FYCA and approval was sought from Queen's Harbour Master. Taylor Marine Services also had 30 moorings. North Queensferry Residents had 6 moorings.

## First Race Calendar

The new QMYC worked with Forth Cruising Club in arranging their first race calendar. A QMYC christening party was organised and raffle tickets sold with prizes such as : 10 hours sailing tuition; a bottle of champagne; gas cigarette lighter, bottle of Ben Line sherry; and a tin of biscuits. QMYC also hosted the Forth Area Schools Championship in its first year.

### First Set of Accounts

<u>QUEEN MARGARET YACHT CLUB</u>							
Statement of Income & Expenditure for the period to 31st December 1969							
<u>INCOME</u>				<u>EXPENDITURE</u>			
	f	s.	d.		f	s.	d.
SUBSCRIPTIONS	336	12	0	CARAVAN	240	0	0
REGATTA:				END OF SEASON DANCE	107	18	9
Entry Money	11	10	0	REGATTA	28	12	9
Teas	6	7	5	ROXBURGHE HOTEL	12	0	0
Dance Tickets (116 @ 7/6)	43	10	0	STATIONERY	3	2	3
Donation	2	2	0	POSTAGE	3	7	7
WINE & CHEESE PARTY	49	16	0	TELEPHONE	1	10	3
TEAS	32	12	10	SUPPLIES:			
END OF SEASON DANCE	99	0	0	Refreshments & Club House			
MISCELLANEOUS	1	9	0	Fittings and Equipment	43	14	5
				Equipment	16	19	11
				PRIZES	35	15	0
				FORTH YACHT CLUB ASSOCIATION			
				SUBSCRIPTION	2	2	0
				INSURANCE PREMIUM	4	0	0
				MISCELLANEOUS	5	16	6
					\$504	19	5
				CREDIT BALANCE	77	19	10
					\$582	19	3
	582	19	3				

I have examined the Books and Accounts of the Queen Margaret Yacht Club for the period ending 31st December 1969 and have found them to be correctly stated and sufficiently vouched and instructed.

(signed) Ian L. Brown  
Hon. Auditor

## First Controversy

Two bands were booked for the first annual dinner dance "Ragus Negative" and "Level Section". The result was not very satisfactory and there was a major disagreement over the £20 bill for the night which resulted in solicitors letters being written. The issue was resolved by agreeing to split the difference and pay £10 !

## Year 2 - Build a Clubhouse and a thorny (still unresolved?!) issue

In July 1970 a committee minute recorded "The commodore asked if the Club's objective should be to erect a permanent clubhouse at the earliest possible time. The Commodore considered that the money to supplement grants could be obtained. Committee Members, while agreeing that our objectives should be to erect a permanent clubhouse in due course, were concerned that the membership was not large enough not enthusiastic enough at this stage to commit the club to such a large venture and there was the added complication of security of tenure" !!! Some things hopefully do change (albeit after 45 years).

In August 1970 the membership was still only 58 but with 84 non-voting dependents including 55 children. Most members came from Edinburgh (23 of 58) and North Queensferry (16 of 58).

QUEEN MARGARET YACHT CLUB		
<u>North Queensferry</u>		
Membership as at 31st. August, 1970.		
Total Club Membership	= 58	(single & one of each family)
family dependants	= 87	
	<u>145</u>	of which there are 55 children.
Edinburgh	23	of which 15 family + 46 dependants.
North Queensferry	16	of which 9 family + 13 dependants.
Rosyth	2	of which 2 family + 5 dependants.
Dunfermline	3	of which 1 family + 4 dependants.
Haddington	3	of which 1 family + 6 dependants.
Pentcuiik	2	of which 2 family + 4 dependants.
Longniddry	1	of which 0 family + 0 dependants.
Linlithgow	1	of which 1 family + 4 dependants.
Bo'ness	2	of which 2 family + 2 dependants.
Dalkeith	1	of which 0 family + 0 dependants.
Inverkeithing	1	of which 0 family + 0 dependants.
Newtonmore )		
Whitburn )	3	of which 0 family + 0 dependants.
Stoneyburn )		
	<u>58</u>	of which 33 family + 84 dependants.

The Annual dinner dance in 1970 was held at the Roxburgh Hotel, Charlotte Square, Edinburgh and attended by 59 people. A photographic competition was also started in 1970.

In 1970, the first signs of tension between Forth Yacht Marina and the yacht club appear as 3 committee members resign in protest that the directors of Forth Yacht Marina have a conflict of interest.

The first QMYC regatta was set for July 1970.

First weekend cruise to Anstruther was held in 1972 it was run jointly with QBC and RNSA.

From 1970 to 1974 the club operated without much controversy with racing and cruising both experiencing development ebbs and flows.

### Ladies

There was a Ladies Committee who were involved in various activities....

“Mrs Gaye to be written a vote of thanks for work done so far this season, particularly the regatta. This would be a suitable time to point out to her that we do not want her to over do it”

“The Ladies Committee have been working very hard on fund raising and social activities. In the pipeline are the Burns Supper, Valentines Day Dance, Wine and Cheese Party and Hippie Happening Dance, as well as the normal coffee mornings”

### Socials

In addition to the Annual Dinner Dance there were various other socials events organised during some years including for example:

- Burns Supper
- Cheese and Wine Parties
- Buffet Supper
- Post Regatta Dance
- Summer Fayre
- Haggis and Beer night
- Barbeque





### Major fall out, move and generous offer from Commodore

In April 1974, the tensions between Forth Yacht Marina came to a head again. It all started with handbags at dawn over putting up posters but this time finished with the directors of Forth Yacht Marina withdrawing their support of the club. The director's membership was subsequently withdrawn and the club made arrangement to move the clubhouse (i.e. caravan) and starters box to a new site at [Signal Station Hill](#). This included the purchase of a chalet facilitated by none other than Dr J MacDougall (of Shoki fame). "Commodore purchased the chalet and the committee agreed to reimburse the Commodore when the Club had the funds available to do so". Maybe our current commodore might make a similar offer ? !

### Dinghy Slipway

The club also leased the East Battery Slip from British Rail for launching dinghies at this time. The Category A listed **East and West Battery Piers** on Battery Road by John Rennie were built between 1810-1813. The West Battery Pier is 98m long jetty runs north/south and is flanked on the east by rising ground of north cantilever of Forth Bridge. The East Battery Pier is a 70m long jetty. Although the Town Pier became the main landing point for the ferryboats crossing from South Queensferry, the East and West Battery Piers were used during low tide conditions. The jetty of the East Battery pier also functioned as a pilot boat slipway for the Coastguard whose post was originally located on the site of the Fife cantilever and was removed to Battery Hill (Castle Hill) once the construction of the bridge commenced in 1883. Remains of tracks in setts (now in disrepair) indicate the site of a former cradle on the East Battery Pier, which would have been used to assist in the construction of the Forth Bridge.

# 1975 Accounts

QUEEN MARGARET YACHT CLUB  
STATEMENT OF INCOME AND EXPENDITURE  
FOR YEAR TO 31ST OCTOBER, 1975

<u>INCOME</u>		<u>EXPENDITURE</u>	
SUBSCRIPTIONS	£ 295.00	STAMPS & PRINTING	£ 17.46
CHEESE & WINES	249.85	CHEESE & WINE	218.00
DINNER DANCE	224.00	ELECTRICITY	14.93
RAFFLES ETC.	50.45	TEA SUPPLIES	19.07
TEAS	45.83	CARAVAN & CAR PARK ETC.	355.80
RENT	12.50	SUBSCRIPTIONS	33.00
R.N.L.I. RACE	8.00	RENT & RATES	76.31
DONATION	1.00	INSURANCE	22.53
SALE OF BOOKS	10.40	CUPS & ENGRAVING	39.99
TIES & PENNANTS	10.00	SUNDRIES	22.91
BARBEQUE	46.60	BANK CHARGES	0.90
	953.63		820.90
BALANCE AT 31/10/74	133.63	BALANCE AT 31/10/75	266.36
	£ 1,087.26		£ 1,087.26
<u>MOORINGS ACCOUNT</u>			
	£ 1,295.00		£ 1,188.00
		BALANCE AT 31/10/75	107.00
	£ 1,295.00		£ 1,295.00
<u>PRESENT LIABILITIES</u>		TOTAL BALANCE AT 31/10/75	
Unpresented cheque	£ 4.00		£ 262.36
Dinner Dance	274.00		107.00
	£ 278.00		£ 369.36

We have audited the foregoing Accounts of the Queen Margaret Yacht Club and have found them to be in accordance with the Books and Vouchers exhibited to us.

(Signed) A.D.Rennie, G.Harrison, D.Marshall. 16th November, 1975.

### Our Longest Serving Members ?

Dr J MacDougall (skipper Shoki) Dec 1972

J Murphy (skipper Erin) April 1976

Jock Blair (crew Respect) May 1976

Tom Dryden (Howard's dad and Sam's grandfather) was one of the initial members of the club.. Howard and Sam allowed their membership to lapse in 2016 but as Howard was a junior in 1969, he is still in all probability the person who has been a member of the club longest.

## The Move to Port Edgar

In November 1975 it was noted that ""one of our problems is that the Navy have vacated Port Edgar" ! It is not clear why this was a problem. However, every cloud has a silver lining I guess

If and when we can locate the committee papers for the period we will continue the story ....

