



Newsletter

September 2023



Chairman's Musings



Richard Gibson
Chairperson

The 707 Committee is without Emily, the doyen of newsletter publications, hence an apology for less than normal communication this season. However, we are looking to recruit a successor (as part of our 5-point plan) and hopefully a worthy writer will step forward very shortly...

Where do we start? I think a few words about the recent Squints event in Port Edgar – it was originally called the Sprints but the sunshine on the day (yes it was only Saturday racing, nae wind on the Sunday) caused a change of name! Firstly, a huge thanks to Gerry and his Mojito team for the new format, organisation, and humour that they brought to the whole event, before during and post. I think all 16 entries enjoyed the split fleet (I know I did, never been 4th before!) just a shame more boats did not take part. We had 9 races in force 3, occasionally 4, run so professionally (as always) by Margaret and Paul and their team that it seemed a shame to keep them busy after racing in the Protest Room! Editor's rant – I mean note - Protesting seems to be a forgotten part of the 707 racing scene, seems a shame to allow miscreants to get away with infringements/stupidity/dangerous acts and the like that can effect results of some or all rule abiding competitors. Photos are on the following pages.

Big thanks to sponsors PE Watersports and Stewart Breweries, fantastic to have their continued support.

There has been much boat ownership changes throughout this season too, but pleased to see that their 'For Sale' tag does not seem to last very long! What a great competitive fleet with great competitively priced boats.

Our Association now owns 5 707s and with increased numbers comes increased costs, repairs etc. Pleased to report that we are on top of the tasks at the moment and finding they are being well used and not abused. Hoping we can get all 5 to enter Largs Scottish Championships in October (7th and 8th) this year. A wee note to the skippers though – please, please let us know immediately if there are breakages, kit missing etc – we recently discovered one of the yachts had a broken tiller, discovered only by removing its cover! Wow, the price of new sails has skyrocketed! Brexit, war, covid, reduction in the spider population must all have contributed I suspect! So much so, your committee has been seeking prices from sailmakers, other than Elvstrom and Hyde, to gauge their interest in becoming a supplier (of course, the necessary procedures would need to be followed if indeed we felt it desirable to add one or more registered companies). Unsurprisingly, the companies we have approached have been super enthusiastic if not super cheaper! More news as we delve deeper.

2025 National venues are being explored just now together with opinions as to sticking with the Windward/Leeward format or maybe including Olympic and/or longer distance races. As far as we can see just now, seems current format is preferred but please let us know your thoughts, the committee merely represents the membership, we are not dictators (well not that we would admit anyway).

Scottish Championships beckon – hope to see loads of you there and pray the weather will be kind. Largs Sailing Club and Largs Yacht Haven are really pushing the boat out to make it a terrific weekend so let's all try our utmost to support the event. Who knows, it may be a Nationals venue in the future.....

Finally, don't forget to let the committee know if you would like to be The Newsletter person – you will see how easy it is to make a better job of it that I have just managed!



PE Yacht Sprints - September 2023

Photo credit: Dale Sandercock



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