

Seagull Trust Cruises

(Free for people in Scotland with special needs)

Highland Branch – Newsletter

Spring Edition – 2010

Issue No1.



Royal Patron HRH The Princess Royal

Welcome aboard.....!

Since the Highland Branch of Seagull Trust Cruises is about to embark on a new venture with the commissioning of a replacement boat anticipated to be launched ready for the 2011 cruising season, we thought now would be appropriate to embark on another new venture, that of a newsletter.

*In this first edition we will include some background relating to our current boat, the **Highland Seagull**, and of our fundraising endeavours to meet the cost of the new one.*

The Highland Branch of the Seagull Trust was established in 1987. The **Highland Seagull**, converted from a boat formerly known as the "Abbey Princess" bought in partnership with Inverness District Council, was renamed in 1988 by the Earl and Countess of Inverness.

Thanks to Caley Marina's Jim Hogan and his family the **Highland Seagull** has been berthed at this Inverness Marina, free of charge ever since. His business also meets some of our other essential needs such as free fuel, without which our operation would be very much constrained.

Having given us good service over the past 20 years the time has come to replace her with a modern design

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of craft which more appropriately meets the current requirements and satisfies more stringent regulations.

The construction of the new boat to exacting standards is a somewhat daunting and by any standard a necessarily expensive project. Since its inception it has always been and remains our hope that the craft will be designed and built within the Scottish Highlands, in recognition of the unstinting local support.

It thus follows that fundraising is a high priority and to that extent we continue to nurture our longstanding links with local organisations to whom we are ever grateful. Without their support we could not maintain this much valued community service.

We anticipate that the new build will commence later this year and be complete in time for a launch date in time for spring 2011.

So then, a new boat but what about the volunteer crew.....?

Well, I'm sure our regular passengers will be relieved to learn that there is still plenty of life in them and there are no plans for any replacements.....a few additions maybe, but the same welcoming smiling faces ☺☺☺☺ will greet you!

The two cruises per day during the working week are run by a four person team of unpaid volunteers from a wide variety of backgrounds. Due to availability, many, such as the editor, are retired individuals who enjoy giving something back to the community. Not all are necessarily "nautical folk" but all receive onboard training and many are qualified to RYA standard as skippers. Passenger (& Crew) health and safety is of paramount importance and to that end we endeavour to observe the recommendations of the MCA Inland Waters Small Passenger Boat Code.

.....and the passengers.....?

We are greatly looking forward to welcoming our regular passengers and anticipate seeing many new faces aboard as we continue to inform local organisations as much as possible of access to our service; to that extent a flier is available both aboard and for posting on community notice boards.



Amongst our new passengers last year were two from Germany one of whom was the young lad pictured here under supervision at the helm. Both he and his father were accompanying one of our regular guests and according to an email I received later the *Highland Seagull* trip was the highlight of their stay.....so could this be the start of the Düsseldorf Branch?

.....and finally.....

In coming alongside and tying up this first edition then we would like to invite anyone with an interesting relevant anecdote to contact the editor - cope.rogerg@btinternet.com

Volunteers always needed.....

If you are able to help by donating either your time or funds, or would like more information then please contact us, at <http://www.stcruises-highland.org.uk/> Every hour you can give can make a real difference. With regard to donations it is always of great benefit to our charity if any monies given can be associated with a Gift Aid Declaration Form, which we can provide.