

Fisherrow Yacht Club, 97 New Street, Musselburgh. EH21 6DG

Media Release 1<sup>st</sup> May 2021

## **Fisherrow Yacht Club Forecasts an Exciting Year Ahead**

Fisherrow Yacht Club has already had an exciting new start to the 2021 season with the purchase of a Kinsman keel boat to add to its fleet of club owned boats.

There has been demand from club members to have access to a boat which has more stability than a dinghy and the Kinsman will meet that need, it is seen as a potential stepping stone between learning to sail in dinghies and moving onto yacht sailing. This 19 foot new boat will be used for training and by members for racing and funsails, it carries a heavy iron keel which makes it a very stable boat, unlikely to capsize and capable of cruising within the sheltered waters of the Firth of Forth.

Another new addition to the club fleet is The Vortex, which was bought in October. The Vortex is a high speed catamaran described as being equally at home as a performance racer or a holiday resort fun-boat. It is a single handed dinghy with the helm wearing a trapeze harness which allows them to stand on the side of the boat suspended by a wire from the top of the mast, this allows them to use more of their weight to counteract the wind on the sails and so go faster than traditional designs. The acquisition of this boat came too late in the season for many of the experienced sailors to try it out but the few who did sail it said it was a really exciting boat to helm and surprisingly stable. The two contrasting styles of the boats that have been added to the club owned fleet mean that for members who do not have their own boats there is a broad spectrum of boats to book for racing or fun sailing.

On Thursday 29th April a couple of days later than originally planned, the yachts on the Fisherrow harbour hard standing were craned into the water and the yacht racing season began just two days later with a win for Rebel Rebel in race 1 and Swirley in Race 2. The dinghy racers have been having at it since late March and hardy dinghy helms and crew have enjoyed a great, if chilly, start to their first race series of 2021.

The Junior Club for young sailors had its first sail on Friday 30th April; the junior sailors really love being on the water with their friends and plans are now being considered for a youth orientated courses during the school holidays.

“Discover Sailing” days are organised by sailing clubs that are members of the Royal Yachting Association, RYA, to encourage new people into the sport. FYC will be hosting their Discover Sailing Open Day on Sunday 20th June and those interested in trying dinghy sailing are encouraged to contact the club via the details on its website.

[www.fisherrowyachtclub.com](http://www.fisherrowyachtclub.com)

All the club activities are coordinated by the time and energy given by committee and volunteers and since 2016 the club has been very lucky to have Max Blinkhorn, on the training and main committees. Max was instrumental in the establishment of a RYA Recognised Training Centre at the club in 2017 allowing FYC to teach beginners to sail within the RYA framework. Max has recently also been working as Senior Sailing Instructor with the soon to be reopened Whiteadder Sailing Centre in the Lammermuirs. Now that the on the water activities are resuming Max has retired from the FYC committee to allow more time to coordinate activities at Whiteadder. He is still an active member of FYC and the club hopes that his commitment to both sailing centres will foster more diverse sailing opportunities for members and users of both locations.

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Fisherrow Yacht Club is all set up and ready for the season ahead. A very warm welcome is offered to anyone interested in becoming a member or interested in learning to sail. Enquiries can be made to:

[membership@fisherrowyacht club.com](mailto:membership@fisherrowyacht club.com)

ENDS

Attached photo "New Kinsman Yacht at Fisherrow Harbour"

Attached photo "Max Blinkhorn, Senior Sailing Instructor, explains the club Feva at the Club Jubilee Event "