

A Winter's Telltale

Jan/Feb 2003

Published by Lochaber Yacht Club



Strathclyde Park

Not everybody thinks that winter is a time to hang up their wetsuit boots and buoyancy aids. Some of our members are out there SAILING. Most notably, our ex commodore and current keelboat convenor who has been flying the Lochaber flag. Not in a keelboat, I hasten to add (yes, I know that some people cruise in Wayfarers, but that does not give it the features which should go with the term 'keelboat' such as a lid on top and a lump of lead underneath and a galley between).



Hamish and crew ventured south to Strathclyde Park to compete on 5 January. They discovered they were the only competitors with a proper boat ie. with 2 sails. Everybody else had 'whizzy' boats. By all accounts the owners of these single sailed machines looked somewhat surprised that anybody should bother with such an anacronism as a Wayfarer - an opinion which was altered when the Wayfarer beat them all. Hamish gives the credit for this turnaround to his crew - Jennifer (the vet). Well done skipper, crew and MCP (the malignant Wayfarer)

New Year's Day

I am glad to be able to report that three hardy crews started the season early by venturing out on the 1st of January before returning to warm themselves by the giant bonfire constructed with great care by Ken Jerram.

Cuil Bay

There was also some 'informal' North of Scotland practice when some of the Lochaber sailors took their whizzy boats and an LYC rescue boat to Cuil bay in the holidays. The idea was that they could get some experience in waves. However as you may recall for much of the New Year period the weather was cold and dry with the wind in the North, so Cuil bay was perfectly sheltered. Being a lovely place to sail, this did not seem to matter much and all enjoyed the change of scene and element of adventure.



Yacht Club Committee meetings will be held on February 12, March 12 and April 1. If you have any comments or ideas - let someone on the committee know prior to one of these meetings.

New
members
Welcome to Clive
and Celia.

membership fees and handbooks

Everybody should have received the request for subscriptions before Christmas. It also included a note detailing last years racing fees and next years storage fees etc. These are all due. So if you have not done so, can you please send a cheque to the treasurer:

R.A. Aitken,
Kinlochmore Cottage
Kinlochleven
Argyll
PH50 4RE 01855 831 357
kmorerj@talk 21.com

If you did not receive a form or have lost it, please contact Bob.

The handbook will be out soon and only those who have paid their subs will receive one. Extra ones can be purchased from the treasurer.

The Junior reps write....

11 laser, 20 toppers and 1 optimist joined the Lochaber sailors for the North of Scotland winter weekend training.

Tacking on the whistle, gybing down wind and plenty of race starts were spread over the 4 weekends (atleast for our group!). On the last weekend everyone joined up for a mini regatta. The weather wasn't perfect, and capsizing practise was on the agenda even when it wasn't windy - especially for the younger groups, so a lot of fun was had by all the different groups.

We were joined by many of their coaches who made sure we had a good time and learned something. Hopefully there will be many more fun winter weekends.

The parents made sure we were fed - thank you! Also thank you to all the launching and recovery people and to all the coaches and those helping out in the kitchen etc. It could not have happened without them or the yacht club facilities.

Rebecca Hyde and Dawn Macrae

Dates for your diary

February 15th - "Rabbie Burns With Love"
- This is a Burns' supper with a difference, but as it is for Valentine's night, the bard would have approved. At the Clubhouse (licenced) 7.00 for 7.30pm. £5

March 22nd - The Fitting out supper to be held at the Club house. FOLLOWED by a talk by Bob Orrell about "Amulet" (one of the first keelboats in the Club) which has just come back into his family after an absence of many years. Some sailors who were active in the club when it was based at Corpach will remember Amulet. Cost £10. Licenced.

Copy date for Telltale - 16 March
Stories/articles to Marian at Heatherlea, Tomonie, Fort William or (excluding viruses please) to andy.rog@btinternet.com

April 26 - Fund raising dance at the Milton in aid of the voluntary coastguards.

May 10/11 - Great Glen Week commences with a race for locals and visitors at the Yacht Club on the Saturday. The Sunday will see the Locheil race for dinghies and probably a cruise into Locheil for Keelboats and visiting Great Glen raiders.

May 17/18 - Sailing Course starts.
The club has agreed to allow 5-9 Silhouettes to launch from the slipway at the beginning of their week.

May 24/25 - Sailing Course continues
May 31/1 June - Oban regatta and Scottish Series start.

June 7/8/9 - Glencoe Regatta and over the weekend the Club hosts the Volvo Youth Championships and a Topper Travellers.

June 14 - Have a go Day. Volunteers needed to help with boats in Cameron Sq and to take visitors out on the Loch.

June 21/22 - Lochaber Regatta

June 27 -29 - Round Mull Race

Recent Events

There have been two social events and one educational evening held in the club house during the last few weeks. The Christmas party and New Year's day gathering were both very successful because we had the FIRE. I do not just mean the enormous bonfire which was the biggest I have ever witnessed. There were other factors which contributed greatly to the enjoyment of these occasions (especially the catering) but the atmosphere was enhanced by the warmth and welcome of the FIRE. Many thanks to Hamish and his Merry Men.

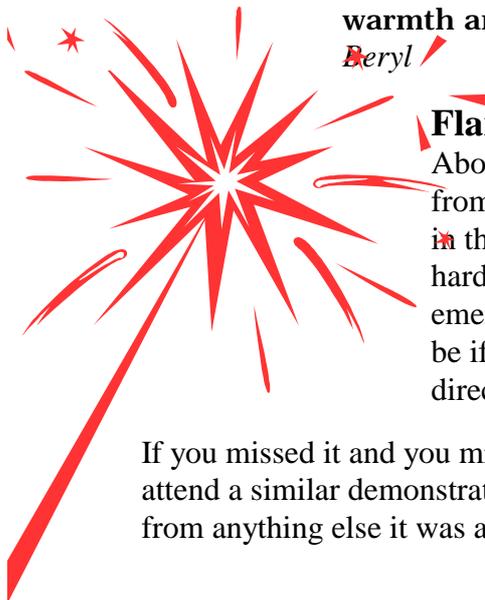
Beryl

Flares night Friday 24 Jan

About 30 people collected in the yacht club to hear Peter Howland - a volunteer from the RNLi give a talk about flares..... and then we were able to set some off - in the dark, on a wet, windy and miserable night. It gave us a real insight into how hard it might be to select the correct flare and decide what to do with it in an emergency situation. It was also a real eye opener about how dangerous they can be if you do not do the right thing. They get very hot, they go off in the wrong direction and they could blow up in your face!

If you missed it and you might be in the situation to set off a flare sometime, do take any opportunity to attend a similar demonstration. There were enough flares for everybody to have a shot of one and apart from anything else it was a bit like a fireworks display.

Ed



Bits and Pieces

RYA Courses/conferences

Racing Coaches Conference 2 Feb - Largs

Cruising Symposium 9 Feb - Largs

Club Racing Coach course 14-16 March, Lairg SC Sutherland.

Race Management courses 1 Feb - Royal Findhorn YC, or 15 March RWSABC - Greenock,

Open Meeting Race Officer course 22/23 Feb - Dalgety Bay SC -

If anyone wishes to attend either of the race organisers courses, the club will reimburse travelling expenses and fees.

www.lochaber-yacht-club.co.uk

Have a look and if you have ideas or photos, or content that would help fill out the website, please email it to Andy McKenna at Woodside@FortWilliam.net or deliver it to him at Nevisprint or send it to him at home:

Woodside
Tomacharich
Fort William
PH33 6SW

Wanted

2 Life jackets/buoyancy aids in the 6-9 age range.

Please contact
keithfalconer@keithfalconer@f9.co.uk

Keys

Keys for the club house front door are available from the treasurer for a small fee.and if you use the yacht club keys - you know the big bunch of keys for opening the OOD's office etc please put them back in the telephone cupboard!



TV/Video and library

Hamish has acquired a TV and Video for the clubhouse. These are a great asset. The committee would like to set up a library of books and videos with a nautical theme that could be kept at the club for members to use.