

Telltale March 2003

Published by Lochaber Yacht Club

Commodore's Corner

This will be the last Telltale before the sailing season starts. The winter seems to have gone very quickly and now it is time to get the boats in the water and the sails set for the first race at the end of March.

We have had some excellent nights throughout the winter, the last being the "Burns with Love" night in February. There was also an impromptu evening when some of the membership got together to watch a video about the adventures of Ellen MacArthur. Perhaps this is something we should be looking to do throughout next winter now that we have a TV and video recorder in the clubhouse.

The new handbooks are out and will be distributed shortly IF you have paid your membership fees. Thanks must go to Ian Fleming and Keith Falconer who have worked hard to revamp the handbook in preparation for the 50th Anniversary of the club. There are still a few members who have not yet paid so to save the treasurer time can you please pay as soon as possible. The club needs your fees to keep up with on going maintenance. *Cherryl*

LEARN TO SAIL WEEKENDS

If you know anybody interested in learning to sail - Please make sure you give them the form which is attached to this Tell Tale. The beginners' course will be run over 2 weekends in May this year.

Editor's note

This is the time of year where owning a boat means scraping, sanding, if you are lucky getting round to painting, making numerous trips to the chandlers or the ironmongers and in our case hanging upside down in various awkward lockers. Whose idea was it to squeeze gas connections, gearbox parts and seacocks into tiny gaps just out of arm's reach? I know that we are not the only sailors to be dreaming of the coming season and wondering if the jobs list will ever be done. It is about now that half the tasks optimistically listed to be done this winter get shifted to winter 2004. So good luck in your preparations and I hope most of you get into the water before we do!

Stop press! stop press! stop press!

Fitting Out Supper - This Saturday 22nd

7.30 at the yacht club. £10

Dinner will be provided by the creative duo of Simon and Cherryl (helpers welcome for table arranging etc.) The Keg of best Kinlochleven brew has been arranged by Hamish and after dinner entertainment will be courtesy of the Coast guard. Please let Cherryl (702814) know numbers by Thursday.

www.lochaber-yacht-club.co.uk

www.lochaber-yacht-club.co.uk

LYC Beginner and improver courses

The Club will be running an RYA level 2 Dinghy Sailing Course over 2 Weekends in May - the 17/18 and 24/25. This is a beginners' course.

If you are a member of the club, the cost of the course will be £32 (covers the cost of Safety Boat Fuel, Handbooks and Certificates). If you have not yet joined then £62 will cover your membership for the rest of the year and the costs of the course.

Perfect attendance is strongly recommended, but not essential.

With enough interest an improvers' course will follow on immediately after the Level 2 course on Thursday evenings. There will also be race training later in the year again if there is sufficient demand.

A limited amount of sailing kit is available but it would be convenient if you could provide yourself with warm clothes, waterproofs, a buoyancy aid and a wetsuit.

The course will be limited in numbers and places will be allocated on a first come first served basis.

If you would like to take part complete the following form and send it to:

D Meldrum, 13, Perth Place, Fort William. PH33 6UL (Phone 704352)

Lochaber Yacht Club RYA Level 2 Dinghy Sailing Course

Name: Age if under 18:

Address:

Phone: Email.....

Enrolment fee - existing member (£32): (please enclose)

- new member (£62) “ “

Next of kin or friend to be contacted in the case of an emergency:

Name: Phone:

If you cannot swim 50 metres or have a medical condition, which could affect your health or safety, please indicate below. These will not preclude you from the course but we need to know in case special arrangements need to be made for your safety.

I can/cannot swim 50 metres

I have the following medical condition(s):.....

Signed (Parent or Guardian if under 18):

Thank you for considering taking part in the LYC 2002 Beginners' Training Course. I'm sure you will thoroughly enjoy it and will hopefully go on to become an active member of the club.

From the Keelboat Convenor

A change of Convenor but kept in the family!
The duty rota is published here and a copy sent to all the racing keelboaters – please keep posted in a prominent place. The rota is not onerous, only a duty once in twelve races.

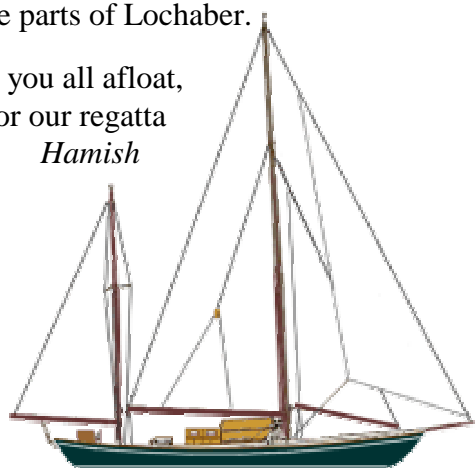
Perhaps on one race we will get all twelve racers participating. On average crew numbers that would mean forty one bums in boats. A clear case for a barrel of ale in the clubhouse afterwards. For the statistically minded interested in getting maximum racing use of their hulls we have:- 23 points races in three series, 7 trophy races and 4 local regattas.

Maybe this year we can convince the Cruisers to join the sail to Tobermory. This “Race” was last attempted in the Millennium year (when it ended in a wonderful evening at the Cregan Inn) but has not been completed for many years. My research stops in 1986, does anyone have the answer? Anyway it’s so long ago that the trophy, the “Tobermory Tankard” has been lost so a new prestigious trophy is required, hint, hint.

Another fun event is the Arisaig Regatta so I hope some of us will be able to join Simon in his other Soling for the Eigg & Spoon race. It’s well worth the effort and an ideal event for the family cruisers while they take the LYC burgee to the more remote parts of Lochaber.

Hope to see you all afloat,
especially for our regatta
weekend.

Hamish



PLEASE NOTE

The nominated “Duty Boat” is responsible for ensuring that a Race Officer is available in sufficient time to set the course prior to the race start time. Please contact the Keelboat Convenor, in ample time, if there is a real difficulty in arranging a Race Officer.

Please remember that the Keelboats race may be shortened separately from the Soling race AND a race may be shortened at a mark if the Race Officer considers that a finish at the Clubhouse is unlikely (and a suitable boat is available for the Race Officer!!)

LYC Keelboat Rota 2003

April	14 th	First Points Series	Schonbrunn
	21 st		Didima
	28 th		Scintilla
May	4 th -	Brass Monkey	Serendipity
	5 th		Tern
	12 th		Just Gonnie No
	19 th		Flo
	26 th		Dirty Harry
	31/1	Oban Regatta	
June	2 nd		Solaris
	6 th	Oban – Glencoe Passage Race	
	7 th	Glencoe Regatta	
	9 th	Second Points Series	Rascal
	14 th	Have a Go Day	
	16 th		Trilleachan
	21/22	LYC Regatta & Soling Nationals	
	23 rd		It Wasn’t Me
27/29	Round Mull Race		
30 th		Schonbrunn	
July	6 th	Pursuit Race	
	7 th		Didima
	14 th		Scintilla
	19 th	Tobermory Race tbc	
	21 st		Serendipity
28 th		Tern	
Aug	3-8 th	West Highland Week	
	4	Third Points Series	Just Gonnie No
	11 th		Flo
	13-15 th	Arisaig Regatta	
	17 th	Corran Red	
	18 th		Dirty Harry
	23 rd	Novice Helm	Solaris
24 th	Junior Helm	Rascal	
25 th		Trilleachan	
31 st	Balnagowan	It Wasn’t Me	
Sept	7 th	Closing Muster & Pursuit race	
	14 th		Schonbrunn
	21 st		Didima
	28 th		Scintilla

Dates for your diary

March 22nd - The Fitting out supper to be held at the Club house. Cost £10. Licensed.

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

May 10/11 - Great Glen Week now renamed Sail Caledonia commences with a race for locals and visitors at the Yacht Club on the Saturday afternoon.

Copy date for Telltale - 7 May

Stories/articles to Marian at Heatherlea, Tomonie, Fort William or (excluding viruses please) to andy.rog@btinternet.com

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

LIFEBOATS AND FLARES

The Commodore has received letters from both RNLI and Pete Howland who did the flares demo thanking the club for the donation collected that evening.

The RNLI letter tells us that lifeboats are launched on average 18 times a day and last year assisted more than 6000 people in danger at sea and as they receive no funding from the government they rely on donations.

Peter has offered to do a man overboard recovery demonstration for a group of us once we have some boats in the water.



FOR SALE

Windsurfers

1 bic Hard Rock: short board - good condition but needs a mast step
Race board with full set of sails
Want to know more?
Phone Fiona Gunn 01855 811694

Wooden Sailing Dinghy

Scorpion. 2 sets sails inc. spinnaker.
Trolley. Needs some minor repairs and TLC. Viewing can be arranged. Contact Lynne Wilson or Chris Strong.

FOR RENT

Club boats

Do you want to sail, but don't have a boat? The club has use of various dinghies - a Miracle, a Minisail and a Wayfarer. These boats need sailors. Ideally, someone can 'rent' one for a year. Like all boats they need a bit of care and attention. Contact a committee member if you are interested or know someone who might be. There is also a club topper for use by a junior on the training course.

Telltale by email?

If you would be happy to receive your copy of telltale by email (saves postage and time) please send your email address to me at andy.rog@btinternet.com with 'telltale request' in subject box. *Marian*

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@Fort William.net](mailto:AndyMcKenna@Woodside@FortWilliam.net)

Dinghy Rota 2003

Rescue Boat Drivers and OOD's should find their own assistants. NB. RESCUE BOATS MUST HAVE 2 PEOPLE OR THE RACE WILL BE CANCELLED. If you have any problems with your duty please arrange your own cover.

Date	Event	Start	DRIVER	OOD
March 30th	FROSTBITE SHIELD	1400	A Hope	H Jeffrey
April 2nd	Points 1 (1)	1900	J Shearer	I Fleming
9th	Points 1 (2)	1930	C Strong	G Smith
16th	Points 1 (3)	1930	D Meldrum	C Paul
23rd	Points 1 (4)	1930	D Robertson	C Allan
30th	Points 1 (5)	1930	L Loudon	J Douglas
May 7th	Points 1 (6)	1930	K Cameron	S Darby
11th	LOCHEIL RACE	1400	K Falconer	M Cameron
14th	Points 1 (7)	1930	H Loudon	M Austin
18th	BLACK ROCK	1300	P Biggin	D Cahill
21st	Points 1 (8)	1930	R Rumney	A MacKenna



Other Events

LAIRG SAILING CLUB

LOCH SHIN SPRINT & ROUND THE CANS

Sat 12th Sun 13th April 2003

Loch Shin is a long, wide straight stretch of water approximately 23km long and offers a unique opportunity for a long distance sprint event. Entries will be limited to 50 boats in 2 classes. The minimum age limit is 14 as a fair degree of stamina is required. The cost is £15 for singlehanders and £20 for others. If possible entrants should bring someone along to recover vehicles from the start to finish area. There will also be the opportunity for 'round the cans' racing on the Sunday.

Accommodation is available if required. More info on www.townandabout.com or Mary Dawson 01549 402409 Mary@townandabout.com

JUNIOR RACE TRAINING CAMP

Loch Tummel SC 7 - 11 July. Aimed at under 14's with minimal or no racing experience. Details on www.RYASCOTLAND.ORG.UK

INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL OF THE SEA

6 Young Scots (aged 15-18) sought to sail across North Sea from Oslo in classic yacht in May to reach Edinburgh in time for the Festival of the sea. They would be joining 6 young Norwegians and some adults. Only costs are fares to Oslo and subsistence.

Draft itinerary departs Oslo May 18 and includes Larvik, Christiansand, Stavanger, Bergen, arriving Leith 22 May Contact james@festivalofthesea.co.uk

SAIL CALEDONIA

This is the event which is taking over from the Great Glen Raid of last year. The idea is that it involves those of us who sail on the Caledonian Canal and at either end. We are hoping to have a mini regatta on the Saturday to start it off with 'raid' type boats launching from our slip way in the morning and a social event in the evening. For more details see www.Sailcaledonia.org.