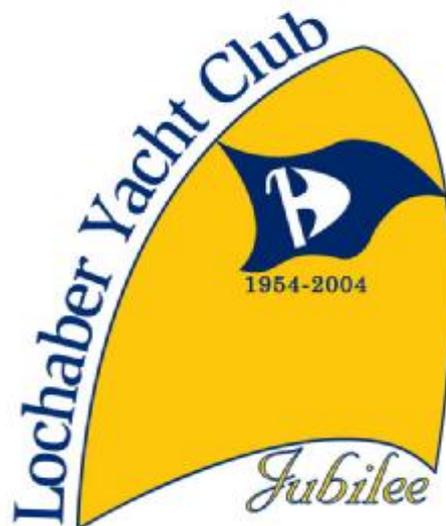


A Winter's Telltale

January 2004



Commodore's Corner.

A Happy New Year to everyone.

Over the festive season we had a couple of events which were most enjoyable. We had the Christmas Party which everyone who attended thoroughly enjoyed. Thank you to Santa who did an excellent job in distributing the presents. Santa did say that he liked his pressie but that next year he would dearly like to have a beautiful helper. Any volunteers????

The New Year celebrations, unlike Edinburgh's, went ahead. Thanks are due to Ken Jerram and Hamish for building the bonfire. A little bird told me that Hamish at one point was having difficulty getting down from the top of the unlit bonfire. Jim Shearer did a superb job getting us all the pallets to burn. Although it was a dreadful evening the bonfire went off with its usual blaze and Richard did a good job lighting the fire works.

Now that the 50th Anniversary celebrations have been initiated I would hope that all the forthcoming events will be well attended by the membership. The tickets for the Fitting Out Supper are going on sale at the end of the month. Please make sure when ordering your ticket that you pay the committee member at that time as we will only keep tickets for which we have been paid. No money - no ticket.

Hamish and Carol Fallows were the first members to venture into the water in 2004. They went for a bracing New Year Day sail. Well done to you both!!!!

Hope that you are all looking forward to a fun filled 2004.

Cherryl

Calling all Dinghy Instructors - URGENT!!

The RYA dinghy sailing course for adult beginners (Level 2) will be held over two weekends 24/25 April and 1/2 May plus the Thursday evenings 22 and 29 April this year. Please contact me with the dates you are able to do. For any Instructors feeling out of date I will arrange a brief updating muster at a mutually convenient time. I would hope to attract at least six adults, more if boats and Instructors are available.

Hamish Loudon hamish@loudon.sol.co.uk Tel 702370

Property Matters

Members will be pleased to note that the decision has been taken to replace the galley floor and both changing room floors - goodbye to those horrible, peeling tiles.

www.lochaber-yacht-club.co.uk

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North of Scotland Sailing Squad Training Weekend

On the last weekend of November LYC hosted the North of Scotland Sailing Squad training weekend. It was attended by 25 sailors, 5 of whom were LYC sailors. For Callum, Jessie and Patrick, this was their first NOSSS weekend at Lochaber.

Over the whole weekend it was very light winds, which was very frustrating when we were doing races, as most of the weekend was spent doing them, as well as learning about how to cope with the tide and the wind while racing.

On the Saturday night we were treated to a Christmas dinner, which was enjoyed by everyone.

At the end of the weekend everyone went home with smiles on their faces, as the weekend had been such a success and very enjoyable.

Thank you to all the coaches and kitchen staff, who made the weekend possible as well as enjoyable. Thank you!!!

Dawn Macrae

There will be another weekend on the 6/7 Feb. The club will be another squad e providing (easy) lunches on both days and an early evening meal on the Saturday night. There will be approximately 30 people attending and we need to provide 3 rescue boats and some crew. Any offers of help to Sandy Lorimer

A Sideways look at the beginners' course

A new adult's Basic Skills Course will start after Easter beginning with 2 weekends. This will give participants a chance to build on skills on Thursdays throughout the summer. Thanks to Brian and Hamish in advance. Tell your friends - speaking from last year's experience - the more people involved the better the course.

There is of course a lot of new terms to learn, and so to ease the process here are some terms commonly used by either Hamish or Brian. I never wrote these down so some of the spelling may be wrong.



A tack -	Something to shout when a speed boat goes by
A gybe -	Something said to let you know that you should know better
Port -	Something to help remember sailing in the Summer
Starboard -	The list of Commodores just inside the club house
Buoy -	Anybody younger than the instructors (includes women)
Main sheet -	The most troublesome member of the class
Capsize drill -	Doing things to stop your hat blowing off
Running -	A good thing to learn
Flooding tide -	Noticeable by the strong current going left to right past the slipway
Ebbing tide -	Noticeable by the probable strong current going left to right past the slipway
Keelboat-	A boat with only 4 essentials to worry about
Keelboat 5th essential	The amount of water between the keel and the seabed
Dinghy -	A proper boat

Thanks to Martin Faulkner for these gems

Members will receive their handbooks and tide tables once they have paid their subscriptions. So if you do not receive them in the next couple of weeks you will know why! If you know people who do not receive Telltale, it is probably for the same reason, so suggest to them that they pay their subs. Don't forget to pay your race fees and dinghy storage for last year at the same time.

Forthcoming Training Opportunities

- Power boat
- Safety boat
- VHF
- First Aid
- Beginners training course
- Brush up your racing rules

Marine Radio Course VHF including GMDSS

An 8 hour course in 2 half day sessions on 28/29 February at the club house. Lap tops will be required. Cost Approx £30. Contact Cherryl if you are interested and let her know if you have access to a laptop.

Power Boat Level 1 and 2 and Safety Boat Training

To do safety boat training you have to already have done power boat training.

Maximum 8 participants. Each course will take a weekend - one in February, one in March.

Cherryl will cover the theory and Richard will have 2 boats in the water for practical.

Interested members for either course, please contact Cherryl at 702814.

First Aid

Is your certificate out of date? Do you need to obtain the certificate for a Powerboat (Safety) qualification? Or to keep your sailing Instructor qualification?

Whatever the reason the answer is at hand:

3 Instructional sessions, Tuesday evenings at 1930 in the Clubhouse, 17th, 24th February and 2nd March with Instructors Adrian Hope and Liz Loudon. To qualify you will need to attend all three sessions.

Names to Hamish Loudon at

hamish@loudon.sol.co.uk or FW 702370



**DO YOU KNOW ANYBODY WHO WANTS TO LEARN TO SAIL ?
PLEASE PASS ON THIS INFO URGENTLY**

LYC Beginner and improver courses

The Club will be running an RYA level 2 Dinghy Sailing Course over 2 Weekends, 24/25 April & 1 /2 May and Thursday evenings 22 and 29 April. This is an ADULTS beginners course.

If you are a member of the club, the cost of the course will be £35 (covers the cost of Safety Boat Fuel, Handbooks and Certificates). If you have not yet joined then £65 will cover your membership for the rest of the year and the costs of the course.

Perfect attendance is strongly recommended.

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 please complete the form at the end of the newsletter.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY LYC GOLDEN JUBILEE YEAR

Now Please pay your subscriptions if you have not done it yet

Feb 6/7 North of Scotland Sailing Squad training days. Catering volunteers would be appreciated.

17th First aid course starts 7.30 club house

28/29 VHF course club house

Mar 1 Copy deadline for Telltale

19th Racing Rules 7.30 Club house

27th Fitting Out Supper Westend Hotel. Talk by Bob Orrell about Amulet and the early days of the club when it was at Corpach. Tickets £15 must be ordered and paid for in advance.

RACING RULES SEMINAR

Friday 19th March in the Clubhouse.

"Rulesmeister" Donnie Meldrum will shed some light on the essential rules which will help keep you clear of protests this season. A very useful session for beginners and experts alike.

Recent Events

A very successful prize giving and dinner dance was held at the Grand hotel in November. Many members attended including a good contingent of youngsters involved in the sailing squads. The Garvan Ceilidh Band provided a great mixture of music for dancing at a volume that allowed a lot of chat.

Thanks go to Pete for organising the venue and committee members for providing the contents of the mini hampers which proved to be popular raffle prizes (particularly for the lucky winners!).

The Christmas Party was much appreciated by the few who attended. Sleigh loads of delicious food and a barrel of good beer, an extremely friendly (!) Santa and exciting parcels were enjoyed, as well as a roaring fire.

Hogmanay high jinks and pyrotechniks were spectacular as described by the commodore.

ANTI FOULING FOR SALE International Cruiser - Blue 2.5 litres. Offers to Marian

Changes to Points Series recording and Dinghy sailor league

We thought we would try something new this year. Anybody who has a dinghy, or who is known to lurk around as crew will be entered onto the league. There isn't an entry fee, which means there is no trophy either!!

Crews are awarded the same points as the helm. The result should be twofold: crews of Wayfarers and the like will get the credit they deserve; and boats with a good crew will have to work harder to keep them - in other words Hamish's beer bill will go up! If a helm goes off to crew for somebody else one week they will still get points. Those points will then go towards the series. That way somebody who helped a helm of a double hander is not penalised. That happened several times last year. For example, one Wednesday night Steven Darby (who normally competes in his own boat) crewed for Hamish. They came first but Steven was credited with not competing.

And finally, everyone knows about the 5 essentials of sailing, but there are 3 essentials of racing: one entrant, the race officer and safety cover. Since the spread of duty is not even, some series entrants are penalised more than others. The Sailing Committee have decided to try awarding average points to the OOD and Safety Boat crew if they are entrants in the points series. The hope is that this will spread the points and make participating more attractive, as well as providing more of a challenge to those who are most often at the top of the leader board.

Martin Faulkner

Telltale needs stories/articles/adverts. Send to Marian at Heatherlea, Tomonie, Fort William or to andy.rog@btinternet.com or phone 772926

Did you cruise last summer? Send your log to the secretary by the end of February.

LYC Beginner and Improver courses

The Club will be running an RYA level 2 Dinghy Sailing Course for ADULT BEGINNERS over 2 Weekends: 24/25 April & 1 /2 May and two Thursday evenings 22, 29 April.

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 £65 will cover your membership for the rest of the year and the costs of the course. Perfect attendance is strongly recommended.

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:

Hamish Loudon, Molendinar, Argyll Road, Fort William PH33 6LF Tel 702370

E-Mail hamish@loudon.sol.co.uk

.....

Lochaber Yacht Club RYA Level 2 Dinghy Sailing Course

Name:

Address:

Phone: Email.....

Enrolment fee - existing member (£35): (please enclose)

- new member (£65) “ “

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):.....

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.