

Telltale

May 2004



Commodore's Corner

You will no doubt all have heard about the Wednesday evening drama at the Club a few weeks ago. To put everyone's mind at rest the situation was well handled by the club and the Coastguard are not, as was published, sending a report to us. The committee have had a de-brief and have agreed some good practice measures that will be put in place. You will find various accounts within this Telltale and Chris has written a reminder for sailors, OOD and rescue boat drivers. Hopefully this will make for trouble free, happy sailing.

Can I ask that all members try not to leave things lying around in the Clubhouse. Bob, Jean and Kay spent a day cleaning out cupboards and the galley which was very much appreciated. Only a few weeks later, Kay and I went into the clubhouse to find what looked like the aftermath of an explosion. It took us ages to get the place back looking like a clubhouse and less like a workshop. Until we can get someone to clean for us we need everyone to tidy up as they go along. If the floor is looking dirty, you can find a brush and dustpan in the telephone cupboard. Don't leave things lying around in the changing rooms either. A little help from everyone would be much appreciated. It is YOUR clubhouse. LOOK AFTER IT.

On a more pleasant note. We are having a couple of big events in May in the run up to the regatta which will need either your support or participation. See the notes on page 6 for details and anybody who can help in the galley for part of the weekends of the 15/16th May and 29/30th May would be much appreciated. Contact Sandy Lorimer with your name and when you can help. Thanks.

Cherry!

Crew Wanted

For delivery from Palma, Mallorca to La Coruna, NW Spain

Departing 22st August for approx. 2 weeks

For further information contact Brian Morrison

Email : brian_m@talk21.com

Magnet required!

The bonfire site needs to be cleared of nails this week. Anybody down at the club - please pick up a bag of nails.

www.lochaber-yacht-club.co.uk

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North of Scotland Training Weekend

The North of Scotland training weekend on the 7th and 8th February was most of all great fun. We certainly battled the elements by sailing in snow, rain and gale force winds. The coaches were great as usual and gave us loads of useful tips and advice. Throughout the weekend the winds were very strong so I managed to improve greatly and now feel much more confident in strong winds. The topper group packed in masses of training over the weekend. We did lots of mini races and starts. As always we did many exercises like follow my leader, gybing on the whistle and tacking on the whistle. We even managed to do some wild reaching in the high winds and some backwards sailing when the wind wasn't so strong.

One of the great things about these weekends is that there are always great social events afterwards. The club prepared a lovely meal for all the sailors and their families, and it's a great chance to make new friends.

The weekend was great fun and I got a lot out of it and would recommend it to anyone keen to sail and I know that everyone that did go thoroughly enjoyed it.

By Clare Shepherd

Frostbite Shield and Fast Handicaps Series

Six boats entered for the Frostbite Shield this year, won by Rulesmeister Donnie. At the hooter 3 boats were over the line, but only Donnie went round and started again. Despite the late start he belted on and "was going like a speedboat" towards the West End Car park. Congratulations to Dawn MacRae too for coming second with her Topper and giving the fast handicaps a poke in the eye.

The first two races in Points 1 were fairly uneventful with 6 and 4 boats entered respectively, but with 2 new welcome additions to the fast handicap fleet in Becky and Megan in their 420 and Richard Lucas and Owen using the Kestrel. Well done to Richard for finishing in his first race at helm.

You may have heard or seen about the third race on the radio or Press & Journal. There were 4 boats entered. Stephen rocketed round a triangle in 22 minutes. Martin and Richard Lucas came second, but were the only boat not to capsize, until crossing the finish at least. One racer abandoned their boat because of a serious breakage, another had problems after capsizing because of a design characteristic of a particular boat. This was better than the equivalent race last year when 6 boats went out and only one finished!

The ace appeared in the paper because it took a while for everyone to get ashore and a member of the public called the coastguard. Everyone was dressed properly and kept their heads, but we can all, as individuals, helm and the club, think about how we may do things differently if the same happened again. For Mr Blue it means a piece of shock cord to keep the main halyard tidy no matter how many times we go over, a longer string for the baler, and practising dropping and stowing the mainsail on the water. If there are any changes to procedures needed at a club level they will be reported in due course.

	Frostbite Shield	Points 1:1	1:2	1:3
1	Donnie	Hamish, Ewen	Hamish, Ewen	Stephen
2	Dawn	Stephen	Donnie	Martin, Richard Lucas
3	Martin, Jane	Becky, Megan	Becky, Megan	

Martin Faulkner

Telltale would like to thank all contributors especially Martin and Hamish who largely wrote this issue.

Send stories/articles/adverts to Marian at Heatherlea, Tomonie, Fort William or to andy.rog@btinternet.com or phone 772926. Deadline for next issue beginning of July.

Also if you are able to receive Telltale by email, please send me your email address.

Dinghy Rota 2004

Date	Event	Start	DRIVER	OOD
Sun 9 May	BLACK ROCK	1500	C. Fallows	P. Hyde
Wed 12	Points 1 (7)	1930	B. Fallows	L Wilson
Wed 19	Points 1 (8)	1930	K. Cameron	P Lister
Sun 23	NO DUFFERS CUP	1400	L Loudon	A Lorimer
Wed 26	Points 2 (1)	1930	A McKenna	K Jerram
Wed 2 Jun	Points 2 (2)	1930	R Rumney	M Faulkner
Wed 9	Points 2 (3)	1930	P. Hyde	B Aitken
Sun 13	LOCHEIL RACE	1500	C. Strong	C. Allan
Wed 16	Points 2 (4)	1930	D. Robertson	A Lorimer
19/20th	LYC REGATTA			
Wed 23	Points 2 (5)	1930	P. Biggin	L Paul
Wed 30	Points 2 (6)	1930	A. Hope	H Jeffrey
Wed 7 Jul	Points 2 (7)	1930	D. Meldrum	D Cahill
Wed 14	Points 3 (1)	1930	H. Loudon	R Robertson
Wed 21	Points 3 (2)	1930	C. Fallows	J Douglas
Wed 28	Points 3 (3)	1930	B. Fallows	T Shepherd
Wed 4 Aug	Points 3 (4)	1930	K. Cameron	S Macdonald
Wed 11	Points 3 (5)	1930	L Loudon	M Austin
Wed 18	Points 3 (6)	1900	A McKenna	K. Falconer
Wed 25	Points 3 (7)	1900	R Rumney	C. Allan
Thur 1 Jan	Ne'erday sail	1400		

Can the Rescue Boat Driver and the OOD please find their own assistants. If you cannot do your duty, please arrange your own cover.

Learning to sail.....

The 2004 Adult Sailing Course has been successfully completed. Well done to the six beginners who all reached a satisfactory standard, especially in the (marginal for beginners) weather on the last day.

Douglas Little	Tina Luxton	Clive Talbot
Lyn Kilpatrick	Owen Walmsley	Victoria Hunter

Many thanks to all the Instructors: Hamish Loudon, Paul Biggin, Adrian Hope, Brian Fallows, Kim Cameron and Liz Loudon. A special Commodore's "**Gold Star**" to the Master Chef, Sandy Lorimer and the patient Safety Boat driver Stephen Darby.

Continuation training will commence Thursday 6th May and every Thursday thereafter. .
Muster time 1900.

Wind Against Tide - a Watery Tale

The third race of the dinghy evening points series turned out to be more exciting than usual for Wayfarer MCP and the new crew. During rigging ashore the spinnaker was bent on but, as Carrie had not hoisted the pretty coloured sail before it was decided that we would leave the sail in its bag until the run (dream on!!). By the time we started the southerly wind was gusting off the FW shore and kicking up a lumpy sea against the ebb tide. Our combined weight was hardly adequate to keep the boat upright in the heavy gusts but any idea of retirement was banished by thoughts of the screaming reach to come after rounding mark B (again- dream on!!). Finally, a gust with MCP stamped on it dumped us in the water, Carrie muttered something about no wetsuit, helm failed to make any sympathetic noises. Each attempt to right the boat was met by another gust which promptly capsized us again. With the boat firmly inverted we had a very stable platform from which to survey the confused sea. Only Mr Blue remained afloat in the gathering gloom. However, we were soon cheered up by the arrival of the "A" Team in the shape of Paul Biggin and Adrian Hope in the Rib. After several more attempts to right the boat Carrie was taken ashore (with the floating spinnaker) by Richard Rumney in the Dory leaving Ian Fleming to join me on MCP. The red Pioneer tried to assist until an engine problem put Jim Shearer and Bob Lees out of action. Eventually the mainsail had to come down as the strong wind simply blew the boat over each time it came upright.

Thanks to the sterling efforts of the Rib team (which now included Donnie Meldrum) MCP was able to sail down wind under only the jib with dusk approaching.



One more capsize ensued due to the tiller extension becoming jammed under the tangle of mainsail and boom. An unaided righting and we were off with bailers fully open draining the boat dry ending up in a sheltered spot by Downies boat shed.

There we were met by Dawn Macrae who held the boat while we untangled and hoisted the main for the beat back to the Clubhouse. A strong team hauled MCP up the slipway and weary crew put the boat to bed, thankful for the assistance of so many club members.

Only when the dust settled did I learn of the full drama of the evening, Police and Coastguard in attendance and a call out for the Oban Lifeboat!! I guess the situation must have looked much worse from ashore than it was perceived from the sea.

Despite some newspaper reports I believe that Club members performed very well - All sailors were brought ashore unharmed, all were properly dressed for the conditions and buoyancy aids proved successful. All the boats were recovered without damage.



CONGRATULATIONS to Martin Faulkner on winning the race.

Sure, there are lessons to learned, we can never be complacent about our safety procedures. But the alternative would be to take up knitting!!!!!!!!!!

On a personal note I would like to thank the several club members who helped bring MCP and crew safely ashore on Wednesday 14th April. I guess I owe several pints.

PS. Carrie returned the following Wednesday, in a wetsuit, AND hoisted the spinnaker. We kept the boat under the mast and just scraped home ahead of the Lasers.

Hamish and MCP

LYC Keelboat Rota 2004 and Report

courtesy of Hamish

May	3 rd - First Points Series	Tern
	10 th -	Just Ginnie No
	17 th -	Floe
	23 rd - Corran Red	Dirty Harry
	24 th -	Romance
June	31 st -	Rascal
	4 th - Passage Race Oban-Glencoe	
	5 th - Glencoe Regatta	
	7 th -	Trilleachan
	14 th -	It Wasn't Me
	19/20 th - LYC Regatta	
	21 st - Second Points Series	Schonbrunn
	26 th - Distillery Race Fort William - Oban	
July	28 th -	Didima
	2/4 th - Round Mull Race	
	5 th -	Scintilla
	12 th -	Serendipity
	16 th - Passage Race - Cuilcheanna Spit- Oban	
	17/18 th - Oban Regatta	
	19 th -	Tern
	24 th - Novice Helm	Just Ginnie No
	25 th - Junior Helm	Floe
	26 th -	Dirty Harry
August	1/6 th - West Highland Week	
	5/7 th - Arisaig Regatta	
	2 nd -	Romance
	9 th - Third Points Series	Rascal
	15 th - Balnagowan Race	Trilleachan
	16 th -	It Wasn't Me
	23 rd -	Schonbrunn
September	30 th -	Didima
	5 th - Closing Muster & Pursuit Race	
	12 th -	Scintilla
	19 th -	Serendipity
	26 th -	Tern

Please arrange your own swops for duty boat. Those who fail to turn up will find the tide and wind shifts against them for the rest of the Series!!!!!!! A second offence will mean no room at the Mark(s).



Brass Monkey

It appeared that the race might happen even although the Solings were still in hibernation. Two yachts were on the mooring trot and there was signs of life amongst the owners. One yacht was even off the mooring in ample time before the start. The race team were all ready but the second boat seemed to have a lethargic crew and failed to board in time to make ready for the start. First yacht crew correctly assumed no contest and sailed off to enjoy the excellent conditions. Second yacht eventually got underway but too late for a race but was seen to air the spinnaker on the way home. Not a good start to the keelboat race season.

Downies sheds

The LYC committee are planning to improve Downies. This really concerns those keelboaters who keep a tender in the Sheds. The plan is to demolish the two sheds to the NE - that is the long shed and the one next to it, both currently empty. The shed in use for tender stowage would have the roof repaired and racks put in. The small shed to the SW would be repaired and continue to be used for the stowage of Mooring gear.

Assistance will be required - vandals and wreckers will be welcome and there might even be a bit of fireraising! I'll keep you posted.

A New Race for Keelboats

As the Arisaig Regatta clashes with West Highland Week the feeder race from Tobermory will now take place on Sunday 8th August so that *Mishnish* can have their annual bash in Arisaig!!

Rules Night

Donnie gave a useful presentation to 20 members on racing rules. As he said, the only way to really understand them is to give examples, backed up by diagrams. People who enjoy reading Acts of Parliament may be the only exception to this. For the rest of us the on screen pictures were excellent. So, thanks to Donnie for the obvious time and effort of preparation.

It baffles me how anybody can keep this all in their head, and sail at the same time, in close quarters, under pressure. There are so many subtle nuances affecting tactics as boats approach a mark, start line and finish that Donnie's advice to stay away from other boats to keep out of trouble is well worth heeding. Adhering to the rules pays dividends, as is shown in the race report.

Martin Faulkner

Jubilee Clothing

Lochaber Yacht Club clothing to celebrate the Jubilee is now available. T-shirts, fleeces, caps and sweatshirts all with the striking 50 year logo in any size or colour can be purchased from PrintOne in Onich. Just go in and order the article that would suit you. Samples are displayed on the club website lochaber-yacht-club.co.uk



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY LYC GOLDEN JUBILEE YEAR

- May 9 Black Rock 1500
11 Committee meeting clubhouse
* 15/16 Topper/Optimist Travellers
23 Corran Red
24 No Duffers Cup
29 Sail Caledonia launch and Supper
- Jun 13 Locheil Race 1500
18 Feeder Race for Regatta
19/20 LYC Jubilee Regatta
- July 2/4 Round Mull Race
4/5 Laser Travellers
16 Feeder Race Culcheanna to Oban
- Sept 4/5 420 Travellers
* Note change of date

Fitting Out Supper

Forty nine people enjoyed a hugely amusing talk by Bob Orrell about the somewhat daunting task of (re) fitting out Amulet after years of neglect. It made our own trials and tribulations pale into insignificance. The moral of the story seemed to be - if someone offers you a boat in exchange for a bottle of whisky - run away as fast as you can!

It was also great to see the end result as the restored yacht cruised her way round a 3 month trip of spectacular west coast scenery.

SAIL CALEDONIA 29 May

Once again the Sail Caledonia fleet of traditional boats are launching from the yacht club slipway, as a precursor to a week of activities based on the Canal.. The timetable is roughly as follows:

- 10 - 14.30 Approx 24 boats to be launched. Club house open for soup, sandwiches, coffee and baking.
15.00 'Race' round the buoys and over to the canal entrance.
20.00 BBQ with licence for competitors in the club house

The above times may vary slightly. Please come along and watch, help or join in - the racing will not be particularly serious and some boats may need to be towed over to the canal. We are also expecting a unique 'reed boat' to be launched that weekend. You will not be able to park at the yacht club and unfortunately, due to space restrictions, the BBQ will be for helpers and competitors only. Anybody able to help with parking, launching or helping in the galley, please contact Marian 772 926 or Sandy Lorimer 701184. The baking and puddings were much appreciated last year and we have a reputation to live up to!

Reminders for Safety Boat Crews covering race events.

Essential:

2 on board, and prepared to go in the water if necessary.

Check fuel, spare fuel.

Oars or paddles.

VHF radio - Channel 73, Call signs "yacht club", "safety one", "safety two" etc.

Tow rope.

Advisable:

Bailer.

1 gallon container (for a top of mast float).

Anchor and warp.

Depending on fleet size and conditions, additional safety boats.

Operational reminders:

Kill cord -- the RYA recommends attached to leg (for boats with wheel steering) or clothing (for boats with tiller steering), not on wrist. Certainly this is correct if the driver is only person on board.

Be aware that if two people are on board, and driver falls overboard then the crew cannot re-start the engine. (However a spare clip is taped to the inside of the engine covers). Also if two on board and working at a "rescue" the driver has to disconnect from the kill cord to assist, but stop the engine first.

Keep a check on the entire fleet even if working at one "rescue" and stay within the race area until the fleet is safely home - be prepared to leave a "casualty" if they are not in immediate danger or take the crew on board and leave the disabled boat until later. Leave an anchor attached to an abandoned boat.

When dealing with people in the water or around a boat with the possibility of loose floating ropes stop the engine whenever possible.

The Safety Boat Crew can insist that a sailing crew leave their boat in the short term if the conditions warrant it, similarly if they consider that the conditions are too rough they may instruct the Race Officer to abandon the race either before or during the race.

LYC Courses 2004

1. A B F H A B H A x 2

2. a h f b a h b a x 2

3. A b a h A x 6

4. a h A b a x 6

5. A C F H A B H A x 2

6. a h f c a h b a x 2

7. A C F H(A B a H A)x4

8. a h f c(a h A b a) x 4

9. A E F H A x 3

10. A B E F a H A x 2

11. A X F Y A X Y A x 2

12. a y f w a y x a x 2

13. A x a y A x 6

14. a y A x a x 6

Lochaber Yacht Club's Jubilee Regatta - 19/20 June

- Open to visitors and members - fast and slow dinghies, fast and slow keelboats
- New format starting with a passage race for visiting yachts from Salachan Spit on Friday pm
- Saturday: Grand 'sail past' followed by class racing and good nosh on Saturday evening
- Sunday morning races, then lunch and prize giving so that visiting boats can get home
- Lots of prizes and mementos for all who enter
- Boats of all sizes will be looking for crews, so please use the club noticeboards to advertise spaces and availability

Further information and entry forms will be available on the club noticeboard, on the website and from committee members. Anybody who wants to be kept up to date with plans - please email Marian (andy.rog@btinternet.com) with your contact details.