



The official newsletter of Lochaber Yacht Club, Fort William

FEBRUARY 2005

Commodore's Corner

There were quite a number of members at the Xmas Party and everybody enjoyed themselves. The fire was hot, some very good food and presents delivered by an unknown Santa. For those who missed the party please make a note in your 2005 diary.

I was away in a warmer part of the world for the New Year but I understand that it started at LYC with some enthusiastic sailors braving the elements. Rumour has it that the occupants of one boat thought that they were divers and not sailors but all returned to the land safely.

The rainfall has been extremely high this year and was recorded at Glasdrum as being 510 mm up until the morning of the 16th of January. There was the Storm of the night of the 11th and morning of the 12th of January. The Club House only suffered from a small amount of water on the floor but no real damage. The car park looked like a war zone and the dinghy park was a complete mess with damage to many boats and much equipment. Downie's sheds are in a state of partial demolition. Dinghies and equipment have been washed away. A letter has already been circulated to all members in respect of possible damage to their property and their probable insurance claim.

Priority has now changed from general security and new projects to the rebuilding of club property. This will include fencing & gate repair, the removal of part of Downie's roof, the building of side & roof structure, re-roofing and the making of and fitting 2 sets of doors. There will be set days for this work and all members are asked to help in any way that they can.

The beach at Caol was searched at great length and the Dory was located. It was then moved by unknown persons and then found again in Loch Eil - secured at the Outward Bound Centre. Other items such as buoys and mooring thrash floats were also retrieved.



There are some events planned which include a Race Officer Course followed by a **St. Valentine's evening**, a night in the swimming pool for members to try their skills at surviving after being washed into the sea & getting into a life raft and the **Fitting Out Supper**. Full details of the foregoing will be found else where in this issue of Telltale.

I believe that we will recover quickly from these incidents and will have a successful year.

Richard Rumney - Commodore

WINDWARD

*Future events at
Lochaber Yacht Club*

Club Race Officer Course

12th February 2005, Lochaber Yacht Club

The above course will be taking place in the Clubhouse on Saturday 12th Feb from 1000 to 1500. The course will cost £5 per person including a hot lunch and teas/coffees during the day. The course is obviously not compulsory for people running club races - and we have all done so on several occasions - however, it might help to reassure many members who feel a little intimidated by the process and will certainly answer lots of the 'what happens when....?' questions which often land themselves at Donnie's door!

Anyone interested in attending please let Pete know asap either on 01397 712155 or via e-mail at petehydems@aol.com

Following on from the course there will also be an 'Early Valentines Day Party' again in the clubhouse. See next page for details.

Our annual RYA Level 1 beginners course is now confirmed as an event and is open to anyone interested in learning to sail - full details and application form inside.

WEBSITE CONTENT

The Club's website needs lots more information - if we are to make sailing attractive to others. Details and pics of the various kinds of dinghies we sail might attract more new members if we can show how different all the dinghies are, and what each can be used for - like family sailing, or racing, picnics, fishing...

Life Rafts

On the 25th February the club has been offered the opportunity by Marian to see what happens when you pull that little yellow tab on a Liferaft! Bring your swimming costume along to Lochaber Leisure Centre pool at 2030 and find out exactly how long it takes to inflate and just how easy (or otherwise) it is to climb out of the water and into its luxuriously appointed interior! Cost about £3 to cover entry to the pool. Come along – the more the merrier! And a chance to see Hamish's trunks!!!

The Lunch Club

by Hamish Loudon

The Lunch Club meets **every Thursday at 1000** for coffee, before continuing the clear up. Please come and join the Workers. The what Club? Who? Does this mean food? Read on.

The "Usual Suspects" mustered on Thursday 27th January and cleared the heap of rubbish piled up against the far end of the large dinghy park. There are now two heaps on the car park, one obviously a bonfire and the other stuff is for eventual disposal in a skip. The Workers were very careful about what went for disposal but do have a look in this heap if you suspect that some prized bit of gear might have been cast aside.

Leeward

Christmas Party

Although not greatly supported the elite few that attended the Christmas Party were treated to an excellent spread. Fine wine and Santa's gift of ale. Which I have to say Santa did not touch himself, but Hamish did partake of plenty!

Gifts were distributed by a very jolly Santa and Commodore entertained us with his naughty jokes. A good time was had by all. Kay Jerram

Won't you be my Valentine?

Ahoy - all romantics! Come along to our fun Valentine Evening on Saturday 12th February.

Cost is £5 which will buy you one of Sandy's Delicious Lasagne Suppers (hopefully!) followed by fresh strawberries (very seductive!!) and a chance to catch up with all the winter sailing gossip. Bring your own refreshments!

Again please register any interest with Pete so Sandy can organise the food. Previous evenings have all been very enjoyable - no serenading required.



Fitting Out Supper - 26th March

This year it is planned for the Clubhouse on the **26th March** at 1900 for 1930. It will be £10 per person to savour Sandy and Kay's cooking. Guest Speaker hasn't yet been confirmed but we'll find someone!

Lochaber Yacht Club
Fitting Out Supper
in the Clubhouse
Saturday 26 March 2005 7.30 pm
Surprise Guest Speaker
Ticket £10.00

Good food, log fire, wine, beer & soft drinks

North of Scotland Sailing Squad (NOSSS)

On the 6th and 7th November LYC hosted a NOSSS training weekend, which was attended by about 15 boats – 11 toppers and 4 lasers.

Over the weekend the laser group practised using their control lines, sitting at a buoy, and starts. Meanwhile the topper group practised starts, tacking and gybing on the whistle and follow my leader. Some managed to put in some extra capsizing practice when the

wind picked up on the Sunday morning. On the Sunday afternoon the laser and topper groups joined up and did some races to put into practice what they had learnt over the weekend.

Overall it was a great weekend and all those who participated enjoyed it.

Thank you to the club for hosting a very successful weekend.

Dawn MacRae

LYC Beginners and Improvers Course begins April 16/17 and 23/24

The Club will be running an RYA level 2 Dinghy Sailing Course over 2 Weekends - 16/17 and 23/24 April and two Thursday evenings 14th and 21st 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 £66 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



Preparing to launch a Bosun dinghy. Instructors and students have to wear protective clothing against the heat of the sun in April... Inset photo - power sailing in a Cherub dinghy - this could be you one day!

numbers and places will be allocated on a first come first served basis.

Thank you for considering taking part in the LYC 2005 Beginners' Training Course. I'm sure you will thoroughly enjoy it and will hopefully go on to become an active member of the club.

If you would like to take part complete the form below - or the one on the Club's website and send it to:

Hamish Loudon,
Molendinar, Argyll Road,
Fort William PH33 6LF
Tel 702370
Email: hamish@loudon.sol.co.uk

Lochaber Yacht Club RYA level 2 Dinghy Sailing Course Application Form

Your name

Address

Phone

eMail address

Enrolment fee - existing member - £35.00 - new members £66.00 - please enclose cheque with this form

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

Name

Phone number

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 have to be made for you.

I can/cannot swim 50 metres. I have the following medical condition:

.....

Mermaid Trophy

The Lady Helm Dinghy Race for the Mermaid Trophy was raced last year and won by Becky Hyde. However, it is so long ago that it was last raced that nobody can remember who has the trophy. If you have a lonesome mermaid in a display cabinet let her free, she has a new home. We aim to race this again this season.

Stay In Touch

The club telephone as from 26th January will be changed to an "In Contact Line" The telephone will accept incoming calls and permit only 999 out going calls. A new telephone will be fitted.



Pictures from the Past

Mistress Cameron's Highland Memories

Pictures from the Past is a new and regular feature in TellTale. If you have any interesting photos and would like to see them published, please contact the Editor.



"CELTIC CAPER" ELIZABETHAN 29

New engine, standing rigging, electrics, forehatch, smoked perspex windows, toilet and more. Behind-mast main reefing, roller furling genoa, spraycover, dodgers, ground tackle etc.

Reasonable offers considered

Contact Mike White 01397 704693
(07769835582 m)

She is a local boat and so a full hand over can be given.

'Crew Wanted- Return passage from Stavanger week commencing 30th May 2005. Good for milage building! Contact Mike White on 01397 704693 for details'