



The official newsletter of Lochaber Yacht Club, Fort William

APRIL 2005

Commodore's Corner

Following the storm, this year has continued to be exciting and demanding. The Thursday Lunch Club is progressing and many thanks to members who have given their time to help improve the Club for the benefit of all. The Insurance Co agreed to Downies being repaired, part of the dinghy park fencing being replaced and the club RIB and dinghies being put back into full working order.

Most of this work is complete. Members might have seen 100 tonnes of rock and 60 tonnes of stone in the car parks. The rock has been used to strengthen the sea defence wall. The club house dinghy park has had the tree root dug out, to the rear a new log store area formed and the general area levelled.

A new larger fuel store will be built shortly. The 60 tonnes of stone was used to resurface both the club house dinghy park and car park. A new layout and priority system is in use for the dinghy park, but subject to boats and covers being kept both clean and tidy.

Security lighting columns and underground cables have been installed in both dinghy parks. A new underground water main installed for boat washing and is just waiting for final connection. Surface water piping has been installed at the rear of the club house and the harled walls road side and SW facing painted with protective masonry paint.

The LYC club sign to be refixed shortly. In the next 2 - 3 weeks it is expected to carry out some more sea defence work and clean up the muddy area at the North end of both the car park and the dinghy park. Some new faces during that operation will be most welcome.

We had the Liferaft training in the swimming pool, which unfortunately was not too well attended but was most worth while. Thanks to Sandy for bringing the Liferaft.

The Fitting Out Supper was a great success with 49 members and guests booked for dinner. Ian Fyfe gave a very interesting about a Round the World Race, keeping the boat going and general survival. Thanks to Ian.

The sailing courses have started so lets hope the weather is fairly good. Moorings and race marks have been laid at this time so after all the hard work we can look forward to an eventful sailing year.

Richard Rumney, Commodore

WINDWARD

*Future events at
Lochaber Yacht Club*

Travellers in May

The club is hosting two traveller events in the near future. A laser traveller is happening on 30 April and 1 May. Most of the jobs are sorted for this one, but extra pairs of hands will lighten the load just that little bit and we are looking for volunteers for the Topper and Blaze traveller event 3 weeks later (21-22 May). Blazes are single handed 'whoosh' boats with racks for adults. (I have visions of adults being taken on a boat the same way bikes are on cars. Must see the doctor.) The event last year was great because of the wind, the sun and the tenacity of the committee boat crew in difficult circumstances.

The car park is likely to be jammed with trailers so I wouldn't plan on parking if you come down to watch or help. (Masses of room for bikes though.) These events are a significant fund raiser for the club, as well as being very enjoyable in which to take part.



Frostbite Race 2005 - off to a good start in 13 degrees Celcius!

A small band of sailors who like to be prepared for the worst presented themselves at the Leisure Centre in Fort William for trial by combat with a inflatable liferaft. The liferaft worked splendidly and was soon ready for battle once it hit the water. Despite being assaulted by more than one combatant at a time it was not brought down. Marian Austin, who put forward the liferaft for the trial, said "I made sure I was on holiday." However, Sandy Austin said it was a good night and considered it instructive in that when 4 people left the raft leaving 2 in the bow it capsized, even in the calm waters of the swimming pool!

Abandon Ship! - looks too cosy!



Lunch Club Powers On by Hamish Loudon

The Thursday Club continues to meet and is doing wonders to the environs of the club property. amazing what the offer of scones does for some people! It has been suggested as an excellent reason not to do the garden during the summer.

A significant task for the workers in March was installing security lighting for the dinghy parks, which is welcome after the spate of minor thefts last year. Very annoying if you found out that an essential bit of kit had gone just before a race was to start! Newcomers are always welcome.



Fitting Out Supper

An excellent meal and an entertaining talk were enjoyed by more than 49 members of LYC at the clubhouse on 25 March. Much thanks to our excellent galley slaves who produced food that could be described both as delicious and gone! Even more joined the throng to hear Ian Fyfe's memories of round the globe sailing race which was inspiring, So don't be over-surprised if people resign, up sticks and go off. The Commodore, however, will probably remember the day most for the trouble he had getting tables, chairs and plates.

The first race is on May 2nd. It would be a good start to the season to have a full turn out of Keelboats(with lids) and Solings.

Check your Handbook(if you haven't got one, it possibly means you should be sending a cheque to Bob Aitken!), or visit LYC Website for information on all the Trophy Races, Passage Races and local regattas, and put the dates in your diaries NOW. Let's make 2005 an active Keelboat season. In response to popular demand, I have produced a Soling 'Ferry Rota'



which I shall send to all Soling owners. On the day of your 'duty', you should have the Dory at the end of the slipway at least one hour (preferably an hour and a quarter) before the start of the race, and, at the end of racing, it is your duty to ensure that everyone is ashore, and

that the dory and tender are properly 'secured'.

N.B. One tender must be left ashore, and one RESCUE BOAT MUST BE AVAILABLE AT ALL TIMES in case of emergency. I'd like to try Keelboaters' Meetings -once a month? - every two months? - at the end of each series? You tell me. I'm open to suggestions and (constructive, please) criticism.

Your Deputy Keelboat Convenor to whom you may also take your ideas is Jim Douglas.

FROM KEELBOAT CONVENOR

Won't You Be My Valentine?

Twenty sailors enjoyed food, wine, each other but avoided song at the Valentine's meal after the Race Officer's training. Traditionally romantic Italian lasagne and wine encouraged the sweethearts of the club to entwine their love ever closer. The other eighteen at the meal also enjoyed Sandy and Kay's excellent cooking.

CHALLENGING (or Challenger) SAILING by Adrian Hope

Challenger Trimarans are 3.5m (11ft 6ins) beam but the main hull is only just wide enough to sit in so there's no excess width to slow them down. Also, you sit very low down facing the way you are going, so you can imagine it gets a bit wet sometimes when its blowy! Especially with a thin pinty hull going through the water instead of over it - can get quite exciting!

If you haven't sailed a multihull the take a wee bit of getting used to. Tacking takes a bit longer and if you point up too soon you can sit there stopped for ever while the rest of the fleet disappears over the horizon. Gybing is nice though - no boat balancing to worry about and the boom is so high you can't even reach it, never mind hit your head on it.

There is a well established Scottish Travellers' series. The boats are divided into three fleets: helms who need an extra person in the boat, the less proficient and the "experts". There is always a Helpers' Race too, so everyone gets a chance of a sail.

The Challenger was produced specially for disabled people to sail singlehanded after one young sailor said that she didn't want to be "taken sailing", she wanted to "go sailing". The result was a design by Rod MacAlpine Downie - a well known designer of fast multihulls. And can you think of another sport where a disabled person can compete on equal terms with anyone at all?

I always wondered what that last bit of the 'Training Credentials' section of the handbook was all about? Thanks, Adrian - Ed.

The Lochaber Challengers are going to be temporarily homeless for the first part of this season while Locheil Centre are building their new boatshed. This means that at least one of their boats will be at LYC for a bit. There is an open invitation for anyone to have a trial sail. Why not have a go?

KEELBOAT		ROTA	2005
APRIL	10	BRASS MONKEY	SERENDIPITY
MAY	2	POINTS 1/1	TERN
	9	POINTS 1/2	DIRTY HARRY
	16	POINTS 1/3	ROMANCE
	23	POINTS 1/4	RASCAL
	30	POINTS 1/5	TRILLEACHEAN
JUNE	6	POINTS 1/6	IT WSN'T ME
	13	POINTS 1/7	SCHONBRONN
	20	POINTS 2/1	DIDIMA
	26	CORRAN RED	TBA
	27	POINTS 2/2	HUSSOLING
JULY	4	POINTS 2/3	SCINTILLA
	11	POINTS 2/4	SERENDIPITY
	16	NOVICE HELM	TERN
	17	JUNIOR HELM	DIRTY HARRY
	18	POINTS 2/5	ROMANCE
	25	POINTS 2/6	RASCAL
	29	DISTILLERY RACE	TBA
AUG	1	POINTS 3/1	TRILLEACHEAN
	7	BALNAGOWAN	IT WASN'T ME
	8	POINTS 3/2	SCHONBRUNN
	15	POINTS 3/3	DIDIMA
	22	POINTS 3/4	HUSSOLING
	29	POINTS 3/5	SCINTILLA
SEPT	5	POINTS 3/6	SERENDIPITY
	18	WINTER SERIES 1	TERN
OCT	2	WINTER SERIES 2	DIRTY HARRY
	9	WINTER SERIES 3	ROMANCE

Beginners Sailing Course starts with a Blast!

The Beginner's course has begun and how! Start with a real challenge and then things will seem simpler later seemed to be the standing orders. The wind on the first weeked was challenging. On Saturday morning it was strong wind against tide, but salt water in face is character building. In the afternoon it was really quite pleasant and the sun even came out! On Sunday the wind was gusty and changed direction frequently.

However, everybody soon learned that spotting gusts was



an essential learning point, and although many of us thought that some of Loch Linnhe in the boat would make a nice souvenir, we had also learned that an upright boat is a faster boat. Well done everybody for having a go!



Dinghy Park - Leave Your Mark!

A lot of work has been done in the last few weeks to clear up the mess left in the dinghy park after the high tides in January, and once things are really tidy we must keep it that way.

to make this easier as so we can identify the rubbish, everything in the dinghy park is to be marked with the owner's name (or the name of the boat). So please get yourselves some paint or something and make sure your trolley/cover or whatever has your mark on it!

RNLI - A Reminder

Does anyone remember last May when everything went wrong that could go wrong in the one race? People down Oban started out to help us out in case we needed some searching done. We sorted ourselves out and they turned back.

I hope we never need the RNLI at a race, or for folk out cruising. Contributing to the Lifeboats has always been up to individual members, but next time you have to think "That was close!" remember it's good to be able to reach for your wallet.

An Opportunity Presents Itself

Liz Loudon has agreed to run away with the RNLI Oban lifeboat crew. No, that can't be right. Liz Loudon will be running in the Glasgow 10k to raise funds for the Oban lifeboat. Liz has forms if you would like to sponsor her, or she will accept message pledges. Go on and help keep this lovely lady afloat. What do you mean which one?!

Brass Monkey Re-advert

There were no takers for the Brass Monkey race on 10 April. It's going to be raced on Sunday 15th May starting at 1400. If you have a keelboat in the water but don't enter you have the keelboat convener's permission to hang your head in shame.

Pictures from the Past

Mistress Cameron's Highland Memories



MEMBERSHIP MATTERS

Annual Subs: If you haven't got this year's Handbook yet it means either you didn't attend the Fitting Out Supper or you haven't paid this year's sub. The Treasurer would now appreciate prompt payment and if you are, for whatever reason, not renewing this year can you let Bob know on kmorerj@talk21.com Storage and race fees are also now overdue.

If you have got your Handbook could you let Ian Fleming (ian_fleming@onetel.com) know of any corrections needed to the entry for your name, address, boat, e-mail, etc.

Welcome to the latest new members...

Brit Kisby (from Strontian), Claire Knifton (from Roy Bridge) and from the country Tony Jackson (Nottingham) and Brian Robertson (Inverurie). With the sailing season about to begin, we look forward to seeing you on the water.