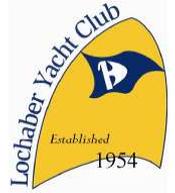


Tell Tale



The New Commodore's Slightly Sad Corner

Firstly let me say a big 'Thank you' to all those members who turned out for the AGM in the clubhouse last month – it seems a long way away now, but I really appreciated the support I got as incoming Commodore (in spite of my absence). A lot has happened in the short time since then.

I attended a sailing course recently, part of which was a discussion about the club system as it exists in the UK and one very senior participant described a club as 'a group of individuals who come together to practice a specific pastime'. With that in mind, the following might feel not quite so bad!

I suspect that most, if not all of you, are aware that our clubhouse was, to all intents and purposes, destroyed by fire in the wee small hours of Friday 3rd November 2006 – a bad date for Lochaber Yacht Club as we know it.

The Committee and I have not contacted you formally before now as in reality there has been very little to tell apart from the very bare bones of the facts as above. The fire broke out, we suspect, sometime after midnight – the Police and Fire Brigade attended from around 0200 but the damage was already so extensive that very little of the fabric of the building remains. I gave a statement to the Police on Friday morning – the first meeting of the new Committee had taken place on the previous evening – but have yet to hear any results of their findings, or those of the Fire Department who also investigated the remains.

The site is now secure, though we are allowed entry to salvage anything which remains. The 'Thursday Club' have accepted responsibility for this and will be in action on 9th November. A warrant to demolish the remains is being sought post-haste to prevent any further 'Danger to the Public' due to unsafe masonry, with the intention being for Roddy Campbell to begin work on Friday 10th. By the time you read this the clubhouse as we knew it may be no more!

However, all is not darkness (as Tolkein might well have put it!) – the 'Wet Committee' are hard at work producing next year's fixture list, the Loch is still there and still full of the basic essential for sailing and I am confident that the wind will continue to blow! The strength of the club lies in its sailors – the Clubhouse, popular and much admired as it was, was only ever bricks and mortar and a convenience (in all senses of the word!).

I am wholly confident that we will be sailing from the club premises next season, even if our ability to host Open Events is temporarily impaired, and I am looking forward to a full season of club racing in Tern and also I hope in Paul B's Osprey. I hope that many of you will also be out there and that we will once again be able to open our doors to visiting fleets before the end of the season.

To support the Club training program we have already received the support of Outward Bound who have kindly offered both their facilities and their nearly new Picos for the Juniors (and the young at heart!).

We have also received offers of technical help and support from a large number of members in the rebuilding drive. We are open to ideas and input as to how you would like the 'New LYC' to look, so if you have any 'Grand Designs' please communicate them to the Secretary either by e-mail to

farrow3@lineone.net

or by snail-mail to 3 Farrow Drive, Corpach, PH33 7JW

BEARING IN MIND THAT THE INSURANCE PAYOUT – IF WE GET IT – WILL ONLY COVER THE COST OF THE SAME SIZE AND STYLE OF BUILDING!

Offers of any other help, financial or otherwise should be addressed to the same.

Finally, we are trying to assemble a full inventory of the clubhouse contents – anyone with a memory of anything wild, whacky or that you think no-one else will have thought of should similarly be sent to the Hon. Sec.

Some pictures of the aftermath are attached to a separate e-mail so as to allow anyone with a dial-up connection to easily receive this TellTale, if you are unsure of the extent of the damage, take a look – they are not pretty viewing...

Thank you once again; I hope that you will continue to support both the club and the Committee over the coming months and look forward to that first barbeque, in the sunshine, in front of the new clubhouse in the not too distant future.

Pete



In the middle of this picture you will find the stove still intact, like a beacon, a promise.