



TellTale

O'hoy



**Merry Christmas and
Happu, Breezy, Dry and
Prosperous New Year
to us all**

I just love Christmas.

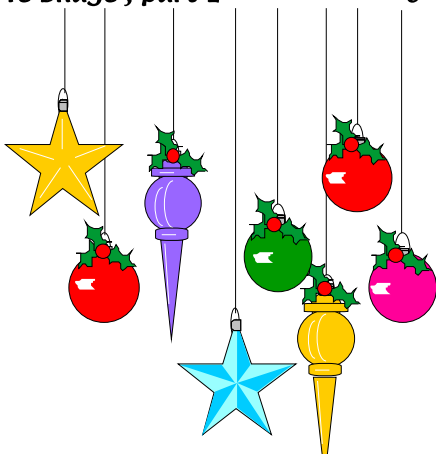
Britt

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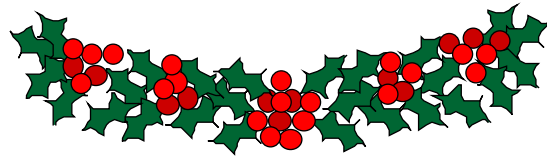
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Future Events



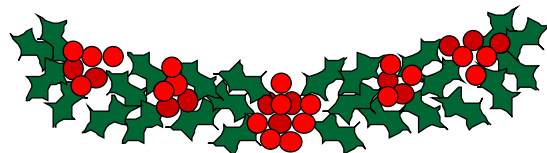
**Thursday 13th December
Ladies Coffee Morning -
All welcome**



**Friday, 28th December
Christmas Party
(What a Jolly good idea)**



**Tuesday 1st January
New Years Day Sail
1400 Start (2:00pm)**





Commodore's Corner

The winter is well and truly upon us, most of the boats are tucked up for the season and apart from the one hardy soul who appears to actually living on the visitor's mooring in his yacht (!) the trot is very quiet.

Most peoples' thought are probably far away from the water at the moment, but spare a thought for the Scottish squad youngsters (none sadly from LYC at the moment) who are still involved in Winter training weekends at Cumbrae; Robert actually owned up to missing the early morning slap in the face of the icy water as they headed out of the little harbour for an on-the-water session! Still think their heads testing!

It's a useful reminder though that not all Scottish clubs stop their activities as completely as LYC and if you are in the mood for a challenge there are plenty of events to tempt you:

Strathclyde Christmas Regatta – 23rd December
Briefing 10.30 – Prizes for racing & best decorated boat & crew!

Largo Bay New Year Race – 2nd January
1st Gun 1200

The UK's biggest winter event – the 200+ entry
Tiger Trophy at Rutland Water SC – 2nd & 3rd February

and of course, not to be missed, the great
NEW YEARS DAY SAIL at Lochaber Yacht Club
(Miss it – stay warm!!!)

There has been much activity in the new clubhouse since the AGM – the mark-lifting party was a particular success with as many people as normally turn out for a major social event! The power of publicity is amazing – well done Hamish for e-mailing round so strenuously and effectively – it was an enjoyable and hugely productive afternoon.

The club has had a high quality digital aerial photo of the clubhouse and moorings area donated by some Traveller Event participants (well their dad really!). The intention is to use it (+ another image of Ben Nevis also donated) to raise as much money for the clubhouse appeal. If you would like to purchase a copy there will be a sample and details of prices etc. on view in the clubhouse. A massive thank you goes to Tony Gorzowski of Whitehouse Studios in Edinburgh for his kind donation.

Finally, I would like to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and happy, healthy and nautical 2008.

Hope to see you all on New Year's Day!

Pete

PS. Anyone thinking our club fees are excessive, speak to Hamish about those in Argentina.....you will get a surprise!

Last week

To celebrate the restoration of the Clubhouse after only one year out of action some twenty members gathered this afternoon. Actually the task was to gather in the race marks and this was achieved using both the Pioneer and the Dory. While we waited for the boats to return with the marks the non seagoers tackled the woodpile and restored the timber shelter to use. Young Alexander Wilkie demonstrated his skill with the axe and produced a goodly pile of kindlings for stove lighting. Younger brother was afloat with the mark recovery crew. Others sawed up some timber. As the race marks arrived at the slip the shore team swiftly moved the marks and associated weights up to the dinghy park. As the last mark arrived the Pioneer was moved up the slipway in record time, the roller team just keeping pace with those heaving the boat upwards.

That was the signal to retire for afternoon tea, and for those members who missed out, it must have been the best afternoon tea in Lochaber! The Ladies done good!! Thus refreshed the team did a scrub out on the Pioneer before turning it bottom uppermost for another scrub. The outboard was removed into the care of Secretary Chris. So, in less than three hours (including tea break) a huge amount was achieved, perhaps a good omen for the new season?





FINANCES AND SUBSCRIPTIONS

Those of you who attended the AGM will know that the money position at present is " one new Clubhouse, one pound in the bank and a few unpaid bills" . So the members can certainly congratulate themselves on so far so good. The Treasurer's thanks also to all those whose donations kept the cash flow flowing. However ,and there always is a "but", the next stage of refitting and re-equipping the Clubhouse still needs to be done. Next years subscriptions will be the main source of finance for this so the work will proceed as and when the funds permit. However, again, kitting out is probably more a question of time than money and help from any member with DIY skills will be much appreciated The first tasks will be such items as cupboard shelves, towel rails, coat hooks, notice board, etc. Likewise if you have useful gear as a possible donation in kind please speak to any Committee member.

The Subscription renewal notices will come out as usual before the end of the year with payment due from 1 January. This year in particular prompt payment will help to have enough fittings in place to start the sailing season in style from our new (but yet to be equipped) Race Office.

The Committee has agreed the rates for next year, as below . You will no doubt note the increases but needs must as they say and while there was no increase last year the Club is not immune from ever rising costs so subs and fees rise to match.

Membership:			
Family -	£95.	Single	£73
Country/Family -	£47	Country Single	£37
Junior, Students & Unemployed	£25		

Storage:	
Keelboats-winter storage	£50
Over 12 feet	£45
Boats up to 12 feet -	£35
Juniors	£17

Members comments, ideas, even complaints are always welcome and offers of help more so. The Commodore and Vice Commodore are the two to speak to, or just come down on Thursdays and help the Thursday Club stalwarts.

KEELBOAT WINTER STORAGE

The Committee has noted that a number of Keelboats seem hard aground in the Car Park at the moment. Traditionally the hard standing is only for temporary use when slipping in or out. So far no member has requested space in the dinghy park for keelboat winter storage (Fee - £50)which can be arranged subject to space. Vice Commodore Jim Shearer is in charge of the Dinghy Parks and could the members who are not planning to remove their boats soon please contact him to discuss what's needed.



Dinner Dance Tickets

Beryl Thanks all who paid for their Dinner Dance Tickets well in advance. There was no hassle on the night which was a joy.



Charts

Donald Laird has donated 44 charts of the West Coast to be sold for club funds.

Further details In the next TellTale when the numbers and names of the charts will be published



For Sale

Topper 44505,
Turquoise deck, Good condition,
Fully raced rigged,
Ronstan centre main,
Carbon-fibre tiller extension,
Padded toe straps,
New lower section of mast
(new summer '05),
Top and bottom covers
(new summer '06),
Sail and foil bags included,
Trolley included
£1000

Contact: The Shepherds, 01397 722379,
clareshep89@hotmail.co.uk or
tonyshep@clara.net

FOR SALE

one VHF set, NAVICO RT6500S.
complete with hand mic.
No external aerial. £50.
tel 01687 470 266, Simon Macdonald.

For Sale:
Drascombe Lugger.
1994, very good condition,
used only 10 days each year.

Never raced!. Full cover, spray hood, good
sails, mercury 4hp,

good road trailer, anchor, fenders, etc etc.
Price, £6500. Contact Simon Macdonald 01687
470266. info@smokedproduce.com

KELPIES VOYAGE TO IRELAND 1ST TO 14TH SEPT, 07
EVEN "KELPIE", 30" DRAUGHT. HAD TO WAIT FOR THE TIDE AT EASDALE HARBOURE



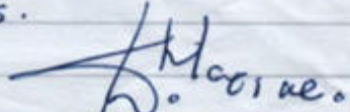


KELPIES VOYAGE TO IRELAND
1ST TO 14TH SEPT, 07.

DAY	PASSAGE	SEA MILES	ELAPSED TIME	AV. SPEED KNOTS
1	FORT WILLIAM TO KENTALLEN	10	4.0 HRS	2.17
2	KENTALLEN TO EASDALE	38	8.0	4.12
3	EASDALE TO CRAIGHOUSE (JURA)	42	6.0	6.08
4	CRAIGHOUSE TO PORTELEN (ISLAY)	30	7.0	3.73
5	WEATHERBOUND IN PORTELEN	—	—	—
6	PORTELEN TO BALLYCASTLE	33	8.5	3.37
7	BALLYCASTLE TO GIGHA	45	10.0	3.91
8	GIGHA TO LOCH SWEEN	23	6.0	3.33
9	LOCH SWEEN TO CRINAN	23	3.0	6.66
10	CRINAN TO PULLADOBHRAIN.	25	6.0	3.62
11	PULLADOBHRAIN TO DUART CASTLE	10	3.0	2.89
	DUART CASTLE TO LOCHALINE	8	1.5	4.63
12	LOCHALINE TO PORT APPIN	21	5.0	3.65
13	PORT APPIN TO BISHOP'S BAY	18	4.0	3.91
	BISHOP'S BAY TO KENTALLEN	5	1.0	4.34
	KENTALLEN TO CORRAN	5	1.0	4.34
14	CORRAN TO FORT WILLIAM.	8	2.0	3.47
		344	76	3.93
		MILES	HOURS	KNOTS.

THIS VOYAGE WAS MORE LEISURELY THAN OUR HEBRIDEAN TRIP LAST YEAR WHICH COVERED NEARLY 500 MILES IN 120 HOURS SAILING.

THE LOCH SWEEN TO CRINAN LEG PROVIDED THE MOST EXCITING SAILING. IN FORCE 5, GUSTING TO FORCE 6, WE RECORDED OVER 10 M.P.H. ON THE G.P.S. — AROUND 9 KNOTS. THE OLD WOODEN MAST WAS CREAKING AND THE SKIPPER WAS GROANING! OUR VISIT TO KENTALLEN ON DAY 13 WAS ONCE AGAIN TO GATHER MUSSELS. MESS BILLS WERE MINIMAL THIS YEAR AS WE FEASTED ROYALLY ON MACKEREL, MUSSELS AND BRAMBLES.


 DUNCAN L. MACRAE
 NOV, 07.



Te Bheag 2007
A Summer Cruising Log by Jim Douglas

Welcome to Te Bheag – it means a “Wee One” in Gaelic, a diminutive term associated with a “Wee Dram”. It is the name of a Skye Whisky which is more at the rough end of the market with a picture of a trawler on the label and available to Wallace Arnold at the woollen mill rather than Drews connoisseurs Shoppe in the High Street . There is talk on the label of no filtering and the resulting blend is as astringent as the Jiff for the heads and reminiscent of bilge water with a dash of Bilgex. Te Bheag is of course a Seamaster 925 Essex Girl from Dunmow. She was built to last 30 circumnavigations of the sun ago, alongside river cruisers for chaps with blazers and cravats.

An engine refit took our departure date right to the wire with many excuses which I won't bore you with. However, when have I ever started a race on time? We had to set off from the Marine Resource Centre on Loch Creran where she gracefully migrates in the winter from Achintore. For those of you who don't know the MRC, it is an old kelp factory reconfigured into a multipurpose boat yard. Yotties mix with fish farmers, quarry men, and marine biotech people who gaze past the scientific horizon. Loch Creran itself is now a site of Special Scientific Interest with unique soft coral reefs that restrict anchoring and fishing. Catriona my daughter married her match in Gordon last year. He is a local lad who joined the Metropolitan Police but remains a man of the hills and pipes. Rather bravely they agreed to have a week on Te Bheag with me. We arrived at MRC on a sunny Sunday evening to catch the morning tide. Traditionally fishermen snarl at yotties but such is the symbiotic relationship at the MRC yard that we were offered a lift from the pier to Te Bheag by the crab boat who had just despatched his catch to appear on a Spanish plate by Wednesday.

We set off on a beautiful Monday morning with no wind. We motored and cracked the glass of sea to the entrance of Loch Creran on the last of the ebb. It's a bit of a dodgy dog leg and you have to be careful of the Glensanda boats in the well marked channel. Down past Lismore on the East side is always a delight. Lismore is called “the garden island” with a Broch on the best strategic hilltop and a fabulous series of crag islands in the distance. Even the names are evocative. You hold close to the Appin rock buoy to avoid the Lobster Stone and the Branra Rock next has a very unusual metal basket beacon. I have often wondered if a valiant crofter in a rowing boat lit fires in the basket during storms in the days of galleons, but that is perhaps the Hollywood version of the history. The rocky crag islands in the Firth of Lorne off Lismore are simply stunning in their rough beauty. The black crags, lush green tops with heather in bloom on a sunny August day surpass any nonsense in a Sun Sail brochure for at least one day of the season. There is even a sheltered lee bay for the lunch stop.

At the bottom of Lismore there are no traffic lights and you have to turn right onto the motorway to Mull. Like all good Yotties channel 16 is your constant companion and at this point you have to listen for “Isle of Mull, Isle of Mull we will be shortly leaving the Roro terminal at the North pier”. It's usually a nonscoulant scouser who rattles through this announcement with cultured disinterest every 40 minutes. It may be a non-event to Calmac but it sends a shiver down Te Bheag's timbers in anticipation.

The vision westwards is the narrow gap between Lismore light and Lady Margaret Rock after some lumpy sea to challenge the crews vestibular apparatus. The actual gap between to two rocks was measured by Captain Anderson RN in 1851 to be exactly 5 chains, 5 groats and seven feet at 20 fathoms which is a westerly breeze for a Seamaster but the problem in 2007 is that Mr Mac Brayne's big black boat occupies 5 chains and 5 groats at 17 knots and several hundred tonnes. “Timing is everything “, as they say, in anticipating the ladies next move. At least make your intentions clear and turn to starboard and make your pass at the big lady port to port.

TO BE CONTINUED NEXT YEAR

Merry Christmas and a happy new year - again.