



# TellTale



Photo by Richard Rummy

## O'hoy

It is 2 weeks since Andy and I promised to have this issue out by the 15<sup>th</sup> of Jan.

Circumstances entirely out of my control prevented this; for which I beg everybody's indulgence and hope a way can be found so it does not happen again.

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By email Shonbrunn Saga will be on aseperate PDF page	



## Future Events

### Club House Opening Ceremony Saturday 29 March

More on that later.



but before then;

The next Committee Meeting is on  
Tuesday, 5<sup>th</sup> February in the Club House.



### St.Valentine Social Evening Friday 15<sup>th</sup> February 19:30 and on.



The Frostbite Shield Race  
Saturday 29 March,  
before the Club House Opening Ceremony



The Thursday Club every Thursday  
Beryl is suggesting a **Coffee Morning**  
for the Ladies on the same day and a  
**Club night** in the evening - to take  
advantage of an already warm stove.

It is going to be such a Happy New Year



**Commodore's Corner**

**Happy New Year!!**

It was great to see such a good turn-out at the holiday events at the Clubhouse – we've got it back, so let's use it as much as possible! Both the Christmas Party and the New Year's Day 'event' (no wind – no sailing!) were very well attended and excellent opportunities for a natter.

The new season will soon be upon us – the Thursday Club are already making noises about getting the Race Marks ready – and the opening event has been set to coincide with the 'Official' Opening of the new clubhouse. The date is provisionally set for 29<sup>th</sup> March with a reception at lunchtime with the formal 'point' being the sounding of the race office siren which will also herald the start of the first race from the new Race Office; the Frostbite Shield Trophy Race for 2008. To that end, it would be good to get a good smattering of boats onto the water for the event....appearances are important! So if you have a boat and no other plans for the day get yourself down to the shore and on the start line – time somewhere between 1300 and 1400 to be confirmed by the Committee after further.....committee business!!!

Before that august (note the small a!) day there is another date for your diary – there will be another LYC Valentine's Party, this year on 15 February so as not to upset you hard line Valenintos (and 'as) – time and further details I hope will be advertised elsewhere in this edition of TellTale, as will the catering and drinks arrangements. The last events have been extremely popular – LYC is on a roll, so let's try and keep it going!

Also elsewhere in TellTale should be notification of another Coffee morning – Beryl's intention is that these should become regular events. They will happen on Thursday mornings twixt 10 & 11 I believe, taking advantage of the Thursday Club's already roaring stove and are proving popular with both club members and the general Fort William public. So again if you are around with half an hour and £1 or so to spare, pop down and join in.

Not too much news on the actual sailing front I'm afraid.... Your Commodore sailed in the Strathclyde Loch Christmas Regatta and came a resounding last – more practice definitely needed! I can't see much happening for a while with the current wintry weather either. It will be interesting to see who is the keenest (daftest!) member who first braves the now very chilly waters!

I hope 2008 turns out to be a good year for us all and I hope we can turn 2008 into a really successful year for Lochaber Yacht Club. We have a fantastic facility which has attracted much interest throughout the Scottish sailing scene. Lets make the most of it!

Pete



Photo by Britt kisby



**MEMBERSHIP AND SUBSCRIPTIONS**

Congratulations and thanks to David Gaffron for being the first member in with his subscription. It arrived from Aberdeen along with the late Xmas cards even before the year end. A goodly number of cheques have now come in since the turn of the year. Please keep them coming. No need to wait until the end of Feb deadline.



**A welcome to new members-  
joining just in time for the January  
gales.**

. Geoff & Jenny Heathcote  
Brian Holgate  
Alastair Ferguson  
Alister Macdonald from Aberdeen, and  
a welcome back after some years to Ian  
& Christina Fyfe & family



photos by Richard Rumney





**Admiralty Charts For Sale**

Donald Laird donated these to the club. Proceeds will go to club funds. Contact Beryl Austin 01397 772473 for further info. Guide price £5 per chart.

Chart Index

No.	Name
1791	Caledonian Canal
1824a	E coast Ireland, Irish Sea (old stained) x2
1906	Kyles of Bute Burntisland Caladh harbour
1994	Approaches to R Clyde, Grenock, Great Harbour
2131	Firth of Clyde and Loch Fyne
2155	Sound of NW coast of Mull (old & stained)
2169	Approaches to Firth of Lorne (stained)
2171	Sound of Mull and Approaches
2198	N channel S part
2199	N channel N part
2207	Point of Ardnamurchan to Sound of Sleat 2
2208	Mallaig to Canna Harbour 2 off
2209	Inner sound
2210	Approaches to Inner Sound
2249	Orkney – Western sheet
2250	Orkney – Eastern Sheet
2378	Loch Linnhe – S part
2379	Loch Linnhe – Central part
2380	N part – Loch Leven narrows (stained)
2381	Lower Loch Fyne
2382	Upper Loch Fyne
2394	Loch Sunart (stained)
2397	Sound of Jura N part (stained)
2475	Sounds of Ghia and Gunna
2477	W Loch Tarbet and Approaches
2496	Sound of sleat (old)
2500	Approaches to Loch Broom and Little Loch Broom
2502	Eddrachins Bay
2507	Ardnamurchan Point to Loch Brittle (old, stained)
2515	Mull of Kintyre to Ardnamurchan
2528	Loch Kishorn and Outer Loch Carron, Loch Gairloch
2529	Approaches to Loch Stornoway
2541	Loch Duich
2652	Loch Tuath and Loch Keal (old)
2721	St Kilda to Butt of Lewis
2769	Barra Head to Greian Head, Castle Bay
2841	Sound of Harris to Ard More MANGERSIA



**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](mailto:info@smokedproduce.com)**



**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](mailto:clareshep89@hotmail.co.uk) or  
[tonyshep@clara.net](mailto:tonyshep@clara.net)



**For Sale**  
**Two Lewmar 40 winches, ex -  
Schönbrunn (now has self-tailing  
winches!) £100 the pair.  
Chris Strong  
01397 772361  
[farrow3@lineone.net](mailto:farrow3@lineone.net)**



## **Te Bheag 2007 A Summer Cruising Log by Jim Douglas**

### Second Instalment

Mrs D. (nee Campbell) is a fair weather sailor and always feels even more distinctly uneasy when passing Lady Margaret Rock. The diagnosis Dr D. has found to this Malady de Mare is not a combination of Captain Andersons tidal diamonds and Mr Mac Braynes presence but deeply genetic. We are all the product of our genes and sadly nature seems to triumph over nurture. In this case the historic Campbell genes can rattle the DNA of a modern X chromosome. Deep in the dark 16<sup>th</sup> century MacLean of Duart was married to Lady Campbell of Inverary. Taking his role model as Henry V111 MacLean decided to have his tiresome Campbell spouse abandoned on Lady Margaret Rock. However , Lady Margaret MacLean was rescued by a passing fisherman and dished up her revenge cold via her brother the Campbell Duke of Argyll. Her plotting husband MacLean was found dead in bed some months later during a visit to Edinburgh.

The voyage west takes you under the strategic gaze of Duart Castle the seat of the MacLean's. However, You are more likely to have the pugilistic gaze of Wallace Arnold in 2007 than MacLean of MacLean.

Westward up the sound of Mull is a west coast classic. Having consulted your tidal stream atlas and enquired about high tide in Dover the sound always presents a happy sail in anticipation of Tobermory. No matter what the wind direction is supposed to be there is an implicit assumption that it will be on the westward bound bow. Nautical purists from Rutland in charter boats can be seen tacking up the sound to prove a point. Nautical pragmatists from under the Ben furl the genoa and seek the early help of the Iron Horse. The latter can later look smugly upon their peers from the pier in Tobers as the former arrive late and struggle to find a mooring.

The navigation in the sound is easy if you can remember that port wine is red and we left port going clockwise round Great Britain. Luckily for the divers and nautical archaeologists HMS Dartmouth found the lee shore first in the 17<sup>th</sup> century. Indeed the Sound of Mull is a UK dive classic with sights underwater as evocative as any Michael Mac Gregor masterpiece. The Rondo and Hispania wrecks make many a Northern diver bubble in anticipation. I can recommend the excellent wreck guide for your cruising bookshelf to understand the underwater mysteries of the West coast. Haswell -Smith's definitive Scottish Island book is also essential for any potential cruisers Christmas stocking.

Tobermory is always justifiably popular with Yotties. The Balamory coloured buildings and range of shops always raise the spirits of the crew no matter what the West Coast weather is doing. There is a Coop, Post Office and wonderful bakery. The range of cakes and fresh bread is enhanced by fresh deli things, which would make Nigella blush.

The famous Browns ironmongery is an Aladdin's cave with a superstore range in a Tardis box and staff who speak to you. There is an impressive range of Malts on display when you go up to offer £4.83 for your galley items. It is a rather clever marketing trick which the original Mr Brown must have developed in the Ante - Tesco period of British civilization. A bit like the sweeties at the Tesco checkout at child level and guaranteed to help you restock the range of malts on board. Navigation up Tobermory high street is even more dangerous for the naïve sailor when you pass Seafare the chandlery on the port bow where you can find more things you don't need but are compelled to buy. Seafare really needs a West Cardinal Mark for yotties to mark a dangerous area for the captain's pocket. However, this is just during the hours of daylight. The Mishnish is an equally dangerous place on the seafront, which is well lit at night and produces as much noise as the Ardnamurchan fog horn on occasion.

To be continued next month