



### Editorial

Just about the end of the season and I get the hang of this; and to say it myself it is not looking too bad.(?) Better than last month's anyway.

Now,- the idea of having a deadline is that all your stuff should be in before - not after, - so the editor can get it all in sorted and arranged in a pleasing and readable manner before Beryl's coffee morning.



[bkesby@toucansurf.com](mailto:bkesby@toucansurf.com)

01 967 402 473

Deadline for October is  
September 20th

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# TellTale

## Future Events



**Thursday 28. August**  
**10:30 Coffee morning at**  
**The Clubhouse**  
**All Welcome**  
**Bring your Friends**



**Sunday, 7th September**  
**Closing Muster/ Pursuit Race**



**Saturday & Sunday 10 -11 Oct.**  
**Challenger Travellers**



**Saturday November 15**

**⌘ Dinner Dance ⌘**



**Every Monday is Keel Boat Point Racing**  
**Every Wednesday is Dinghy Point Racing**

**Every Thursday the Thursday Gang**  
**comes out to play.**

**Also every Thursday is D/K**  
**Club Night and the fire is lit if it's cold outside.**



Photo by Keith Falconer



## Commodores Corner

Well - your Commodore has finally managed to get out on the Loch and provide something more than high farce for the Race Officers to enjoy.... I am talking, of course, about the David Donaldson Challenge Cup event held a couple of weekends ago. LYC went head to head with Outward Bound in the 2 Challenger Trimarans belonging to Sailability Lochaber and no, despite Press reports to the contrary, not all the sailors were disabled! An excellent race was enjoyed by all, despite the usual shortage of wind immediately the start gun went. I am equally pleased to report that LYC took the title and the trophy despite a spirited effort from the Loch Eil staff.

Now that August is in its closing stages we are about to move into our Autumn programme with Series racing moving to Sunday afternoons - I might even make a few of those, work permitting! But be aware, Winter is on its way and we need to make the most of these last weeks of 'summer' and get out on the water as much as possible.

Thursday evenings continue to be extremely popular with more boats on the water than at any other time of the week - we need to work out how to convert all this developing talent into enthusiastic racing sailors to swell the ranks on Monday and Wednesday evenings - ideas on a postcard to the AGM please!

Whilst on the subject of the AGM, we will have the usual round of voting for Flag Officers and Committee members - if you are willing to stand or would like to nominate a fellow member, again please contact a member of the current committee. Ditto with any items for the agenda.

There are also rumours of a couple of other events soon: firstly a Sailability come and try day organised by LYC and RYA Scotland at the end of September and then the now traditional Challenger Traveller in early October. All offers of help for either of these events should be made to Adrian Hope in the first instance or any other committee member if you can track Adrian down!

The Annual Dinner in November is also worth putting into the diary - to be held for the first time (to my knowledge) in the clubhouse. Book early to avoid disappointment - there is only so much space!

As this will be my last (or at least penultimate) Commodore's Corner, I would finally like to express my thanks to all the people who have helped me over the last two years and also to say a big thanks to all the other, generally unsung, 'heroes' of the club who man the galley, paint and set moorings, register visitors and crew the committee boat at Open events, launch and recover dinghies and generally keep the club's activities running....especially those folks who have acted as race officers over the last few years (perhaps one of the least sexy jobs with lots of unrequested pressure!), several of whom were not even club members!

I thank you all .  
Pete



### Race Results

If you want to know how many points you have so far in the dinghy series, or who is in the medals then

[www.lochaber-yacht-club.co.uk](http://www.lochaber-yacht-club.co.uk).

Those spotting the odd mistake, please tell me by email to

Paul Biggin at [dbi25@aol.com](mailto:dbi25@aol.com) .If I don't know, I can't put it right!

### Welcome to new Junior Members

Marie-Ann Cameron  
Robert Malcolm

Lochaber Yacht Club  
Committee meets on  
Tuesday 2 Sep. 19:30



## Admiralty Charts For Sale

Donald Laird donated these to the club.  
 Proceeds will go to club funds.  
 Contact Beryl Austin 01397 772 473  
 Guide price £5 per chart.

### Cart Index Number and Name

- 1791 Caledonian Canal
- 11824a E coast Ireland, Irish Sea (old and stained x)
- 1994 Approaches to R Clyde, Grenock Great Harbour
- 2131 Firth of Clyde and Loch Fyne
- 2155 Sound of NWcoast of Mull (old and stained)
- 2169 Approaches to Firth of Lorne (stained)
- 2171 Sound of Mull and Approaches
- 2198 North Channel South Part
- 2199 North Channel North Part
- 2207 Point of Ardnamurchan to Sound of Sleat x 2
- 2208 Mallaig to Canna Harbour 2off
- 2209 Inner Sound
- 2210 Approaches to Inner Sound
- 2249 Orkney - Western Sheet
- 2250 Orkney - Eastern Sheet
- 2378 Loch Linnhe - South part
- 2380 N Part - Loch Lenen narrows (stained)
- 2381 Lower Loch Fyne
- 2382 Upper Loch Fyne
- 2398 Loch Sunart (stained)
- 2397 Sound of Jura N part (stained)
- 2475 Sound of Ghia and Gunna
- 2477 W Loch Tarbet and Approaches
- 2496 Sound of Sleat (old)
- 2500 Approaches to Loch Broom and Little L Broom
- 2502 Eddrachins Bay
- 2507 Ardnamurchan Point to Loch Brittle (old+stained)
- 2515 Mull of Kintyre to Ardnamurchan
- 2528 Loch Kishorn and Out. Loch Corran 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.

Mirror 12904, "Zebidee". Complete with road trailer, good cover and brand new launch trolley, recently restored with white hull, epoxy taped seams – dry stored. All rigging and sails, ready to sail (needs spinnaker). **£450**

Chris Parton Tel: 01397 712092

## For Sale

One VHF set, NAVICO RT6500S  
 complete with hand mic.  
 No external aerial. £50.-  
 Simon Macdonald  
 tel 01 687 470 266

## 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.  
 Price £6500  
 Contact Simon Macdonald 01687470266  
 info@smokedproduce.com

## For Sale

Two Lewmar 40 winches, ex Schönbrunn  
 (now has self-tailing winches) £100.- the pair  
 Chris Strong 01397 772361  
 farrow3@lineone.net

## Wanted

Dinghy for kids to sail eg Topper  
 Please contact Peter Lawson on  
 07798504434



## Wanted

Launching Trolley and Towing Trailer  
 suitable for Mirror Dinghy.  
 Contact John Dougan 01397 701 071

## For Sale

505 Sailing Dinghy  
 Combi Trailer, Cover, GRP with Wooden Deck  
 £500 ono  
 Kim Cameron 01397 703 766

Hi, information on

## "Oban Visitor Moorings"

now available on  
[www.obanbayberthing.co.uk](http://www.obanbayberthing.co.uk)  
 email <[obanbayberthing@gmail.com](mailto:obanbayberthing@gmail.com)>  
 Cheers from Adrian

## For Sale

Child's Circle One wet suit about age 10	£5
Gill Dinghy Smock age 8/9 - as new	£5
wet suit shoes 24 cm long about size 1/	£2

Keith Falconer 01397 705176  
[kfalconer@kfalconer.f9.co.uk](mailto:kfalconer@kfalconer.f9.co.uk)



## *Thursday Club Report*

### **Thursday 21st August 2008**

Unusually for a Thursday it was overcast and wet, coffee was therefore prolonged to await the passing of the showers and also to await those watching TV and the Star class GB sailors winning Gold. Eventually the rain stopped and the full muster of all the usual suspects, Joe, Adrian, Brian H, Robbie, Mr Vice, Hamish, Paul and Brian F. sallied forth.

There was a variety of tasks, the painting pair from last week, Adrian and Robbie, tackled the wooded shed with green preservative. Paul and Brian started on the fence around the small dinghy park, or to be more exact, started to complete the fence, so as to enclose the new wood store. Brian F and Joe went seaward to fit a replacement battery in Nyali. This left Hamish and Mr Vice to make up the ground tackle for Race Mark E which had come adrift.

So, the area was a hive of activity for the rest of the forenoon although the painters did have the occasional break due to showers. When the boating team returned Brian F had to go plumbing but Joe continued to drive the Pioneer taking Mr Vice and Hamish to lay Mark E. Their return coincided with the lunchtime call from Peter. Timing is everything!

It was a full house for lunch as Ernie and family from the yacht Orca (to be found in the Caley Canal opposite Beryl) were invited. Almost a wine crises as only one bottle of red available, but Beryl had white for the ladies. Soup by Liz, pate and egg mix by Beryl plus salami by Tesco. Peter brought the now obligatory fruit cake and a Selkirk Bannock appeared to accompany the coffee. Lethargy was less than last week (two bottles then!).

Rain delayed restart of play but the brave fencers and determined painters completed their tasks. Mr Vice and Hamish headed to the old Fire Station where the two Wayfarers are stored. These are the "Bargain Boats "purchased" some weeks ago and are undergoing refurbishment with a view to being used next season. Much old paint needs to be removed before the hull repairs can commence. Next week;- bring scrapers, paint remover (arranged) plus wet&dry paper. The aim is to try and complete hull repairs and paint the hull(s) before the weather gets too cold for painting the GRP hulls.

By the time Mr Vice and Hamish returned rain had really stopped play but the fencers and painters had also run out of materials. Tea was taken at the usual time of 1600.

**NEXT WEEK - COFFEE MORNING COMMENCING 1030, OPEN TO ALL COMERS (this means a very brief coffee muster for the men in overalls!!)**

**SPREAD THE WORD.**





### LYC 2008/2009 Training Programme Survey

The initial response to the training questionnaire sent out with the August issue of TellTale is encouraging with some early suggestions for VHF, Day Skipper (Theory and Practical), Dinghy, and Powerboat courses. The questionnaire form can be found on the LYC website at <http://www.lochaber-yacht-club.co.uk/training.htm> which I mention as we have one response from someone who is not a member, such is the power of Internet.

To those of you who haven't yet completed the questionnaire please try to in the next month so that a start can be made on the training programme. This is especially important if there are courses you are particularly interested in, to be sure they are included in the programme, and the training you don't want or need is just as important. The most popular requests so far are the RYA Dinghy Level 1 / 2, RYA Powerboat 2 and RYA VHF. We even have a suggestion for Yachtmaster Ocean from someone who wants to go a bit further afield!

To download the questionnaire please go to <http://www.lochaber-yacht-club.co.uk/pdf/trainingprogram.pdf> and return the completed forms to me at [martin.basil@mysolv.com](mailto:martin.basil@mysolv.com). Alternatively you can print it out and post the completed form to Martin Basil at Glenafton, Albyn Drive, Corpach, Fort William, Inverness-Shire, PH33 7LW or leave it in the tray in the clubhouse where there is also a supply of blank forms.

Martin Basil

Regards, Martin Basil

Glenafton,  
Albyn Drive, Corpach, Fort William,  
Inverness-Shire, Scotland, UK  
PH33 7LW

Telephone: +44 (0)1397 773191

Mobile: +44 (0)7884 314400

Email: [martin.basil@mysolv.com](mailto:martin.basil@mysolv.com)

### **"Sailing By"**

– a thought for those who capsize -

Those of you who have been drifting around the loch recently may have noticed the Lions Mane Jellyfish. Otherwise known as *Cyanea capillata* it is common off the west coast of Scotland. It is one of the biggest animals in the oceans and certainly the biggest jellyfish known. In far northern waters, it can grow to 3m across its body with tentacles 100m in length. Those visiting British shores, as they do every year from Spring to Autumn, are smaller but can still be 10m long. Despite these massive proportions, this is an annual animal which starts out life in late winter as a tiny, insignificant item in the plankton. By feeding on other planktonic organisms, it can achieve this massive bulk in a few short months. It has been observed feeding by pulsing its way to the surface and then letting itself sink. As it does so, its tentacles spread out around it like a huge circular net and as it slowly drops through the water column, everything in its way – fish, other jellyfish, plankton and so on – sticks to the tentacles and is consumed. Come the Autumn and declining hours of daylight, the plankton supply has diminished considerably, the seas get very rough and the lion's mane jellyfish dies.

The tentacles are arranged in eight bunches, with each bunch containing over 100 tentacles. The oldest tentacles are often coloured dark red. They have a sting that can produce blisters, irritation, and muscular cramp and may even affect respiratory and heart function. Fragments of tentacles, left on buoy ropes for example, retain their stinging power. But usually, if noticed, the sting is innocuous being likened to a slap in the face by a wet fish.

Gleaned from various web sites and suitably edited for those of delicate constitution.

...

Paul





**West Highland Week 2008**

With apologies for anyone I may have missed, LYC interest in this year's West Highland Week centred on Class 8 where the Austin family were once again campaigning their Northney 34 Scintilla of the Sea. I was sailing in Class 8 for the first part of the week on Carna, a Contessa 28 from Campbeltown Sailing Club owned by Alastair Cousin, which was the "scratch" boat in the class racing off 19.25 with Scintilla off 19.5 CYCA handicap. Although the weather forecast was pretty mixed when we set off, as it turned out my waterproofs and wellies remained in the bag they came in, unworn. If only that was normally the case.....

Sunday 3 August



The Week proper started with the 121 fleet racing from Craobh Haven to Oban via the Sounds of Luing, Insh and Kerrera. Class 8 started 5 minutes after the slow restricted sail (no spinnaker) boats in Class 9. Fortunately the class 9 boats spread themselves over the full width of the course in the short beat to the turning mark of the south of Luing. This allowed us to see where the lifts were and the stronger puffs of wind in the light westerly. Only 3 class 9 boats remained in front of us once past the turning mark heading straight up the Sound of Luing. We could see that they were running out of wind, we even hoisting the spinnaker to get over

there when most other boats were still beating. gradually fill in from that side of the course and we were off, much to our surprise leaving the rest of the fleet rapidly behind. It was not until Fladda lighthouse that the first of the faster yachts finally caught us up. Once beyond Fladda most yachts, ourselves included, hoisted the spinnaker and than take the straight downwind route. Once past Insh Island we gybed over to the finish off the south end of Kerrera. At this stage some of our other competitors could only be seen through binoculars.

**Most satisfying if never to be repeated!**

The forecast NW F3 wind then decided to



Text and photos by Keith Faconer

Position	Sail Number	Yacht Name	Finishing Code	Elapsed Time	CYCA TCF Corrected Time	Points
1	1569 C	CARNA	03:18:52	0.679	02:15:01	1
2	GBR7177	GIRL KARINA	03:30:17	0.675	02:21:56	2
3	3199 Y	HOT TODDY	03:38:34	0.650	02:22:04	3
4	7047 Y	SELINUS	03:40:44	0.654	02:24:21	4
5	3534 C	ARRAN COMRADES	03:45:43	0.642	02:24:54	5
6	920 Y	SCINTILLA OF THE SEA	03:36:31	0.675	02:26:08	6
7	1673 C	INSPRIATION	03:44:26	0.663	02:28:47	7
8	2381 C	TILTY TOO	03:42:47	0.679	02:31:16	8
9	K 2000 C	RED OCTOBER	03:55:22	0.650	02:32:59	9
10	1102 C	WHIGMAEERIE	03:50:23	0.675	02:35:30	10



## THE DAVID TROPHY

Maybe some of you will not remember David Donaldson. He could sometimes be seen around Fort William propelling his wheelchair at quite improbable speeds, frequently with only two wheels on the ground. Sadly David died not long ago and his family gave the Challenger sailing group a rather fine trophy to be competed for in his memory.

This led on the 10th of August to one of the more entertaining races of the year between teams of six each from Lochiel Outward Bound and LYC. The race took place in the two Challenger trimarans and each sailor had to complete one lap of the course before handing over to the next.

LYC was represented by: **Hamish, Andy, Iain Hope, Maurin, Rebecca and John Mair + buddy;**

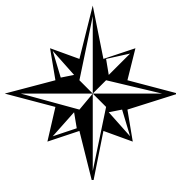
LOB by: **Tony Shephard, Pete H, Britt, Fiona Morrison (from Seil) and two "volunteer" instructors from the Centre.**

You will notice that some members of the Club were perfidiously competing on behalf of LOB and also the presence of the "buddy" because at least one lap had to be sailed with two on board.

The racing was hotly contested with some frantic moments during the changeovers. It seemed that some sailors were perhaps in a Challenger for the first time and were unprepared for their idiosyncrasies. Others performed much more (or in some cases less) proficiently than might have been expected. The LOB team got an early lead but consistent sailing closed the gap and although the result was in doubt until the final lap LYC pulled away to finish the clear winners.

The whole event was fun for the sailors and entertaining for the spectators – don't miss the return match next year.

*Adrian Hope*



## SOLING NATIONALS

The British Soling Championships 2008 were held here at LYC on the 19th & 20th July. It was a very successful weekend, although not helped by the 'awkward' Northwesterly wind direction. At least it was dry! Our local fleet was joined by crews from England, Wales and the Netherlands ? the International President of the Soling Class, Mr Johan Offermans, setting a great example by travelling so far.

Donnie Meldrum had kindly agreed to be race officer for the weekend and did a sterling job. He was supported by a merry band of helpers, and the committee boat of Tern.

Activities kicked off a little too early on Saturday for my liking but two good races were had before a tasty lunch, as prepared by the great galley girls! The wind was a little intermittent with calm spells and some gusts for good measure. Successful spinnaker work was challenging. Lack of wind straight after lunch forced a delay in the proceedings, but did allow for some sunbathing. Things picked up well after that for another two races, and no paddles required. I had been privileged enough to jump ship and sail with team Hussoling for the day and we even managed not to finish last once, which was very satisfying! And, even better was rewarded with a bottle of wine for best boat over 30 years old!

Saturday night was very enjoyable, lots of fabulous food gathered by the irreplaceable Beryl, and some rather nice Atlas ale after a slight battle with the pump. Thank you very much to all the helpers that evening. And to Mark for the entertainment.

Early start again on Sunday, but there didn't seem to be too many woolly heads. Wind direction had not improved, and if anything was even more fluky than Saturday. The ten boats out on the water were soon spread out around the course with the frustrating wind changes and strong tides, but it still allowed for some good scraps around the markers. Back on Trilleachan I learnt a good collection of new swears from the adopted helm when we were battered into last place by the worst of the ninety degree shifts. I imagine there was a bit of colourful language back on board Hussoling with their rather 'interesting' spinnaker work. I will say no more, but there is photographic evidence.

After seven races over the two days the triumphant yacht was GBR157 'Just Gonnae No' helmed by ex-local sailor Chris Dodgshon, with crew Stevie Corson, and our very own Liz Loudon! Well done them! Full results are available through the website.

Rebecca





## RISA REGATTA

The Road to the Isles Sailing Association (RISA)'s annual regatta was held over the first weekend of August. Martin Basil, Harry Jeffrey and myself were invited to go sailing with Simon Macdonald onboard a boat he borrowed from Fraser Grigor, Alana, a Nicholson 26 (usual race winning yacht Merrydancer, the soling with a lid, is high and dry pending a forced sale ? offers to the Smokehouse at GlenUig, all major credit cards accepted). So leaving the Fort at some ridiculously early hour on Saturday morning we made it along the A830 to arrive at Arisaig for 9am. As the weatherman had predicted it was not the nicest of mornings, but it could not dampen the enthusiasm!

Fraser was race officer for the weekend, and was supported in the committee boat Jemima by David and Glenys Kirkham. The horn sounded at 10:30ish for the start of the 'round the cans' race for keel boats. The cans being marked by points on the GPS, giving a course distance of some 21 nautical miles.

The pretty miserable weather and 'early' start meant that only three boats were competing. The weather did lift and we dried out in time to see a basking shark glide past. The battle for line honours saw several changes in lead boat, but Alana came through in the end after a steep learning curve for us trying to find her ways, and some spiffing spinnaker flying through to the final marker. The keel boats made it back into the harbour to catch the end of the junior dinghy races. The fleet newly rejuvenated through some hard work by Sue Barrett. She was supported by Carol Jamieson and yacht 'Caloo' acting as anchor boat. The day finished with a ceilidh but us Fort William lot aren't allowed out that late so had to come home, I hear it was a very enjoyable evening.

The second day of the regatta is for the 'Eigg & spoon' race, basically make it across to the Isle of Eigg and back the fastest. The morning started with a flat calm, so the seven starting boats slightly drifted across the line. The big Swann 45 Serephia was soon out in front, but for the rest of us time for a little sunbathing and a beer! A whale even popped up to see what was going on. The junior dinghy sailors were crew onboard Caloo for their first taster of keel boat racing, and they seemed to have good time. A good force 7 picked up to carry us across to Eigg harbour, where the race was finished early.

The sun was shining for the closing muster on the deck outside the pub. Prizes were awarded, and in the good spirit of the event every boat seemed to get a prize, although some bottles of Ben Nevis Whiskey were larger than others. Definitely a super weekend.

Rebecca

