



A Very Merry  
Christmas  
and a Happy and  
Prosperous  
New Year  
to you all.

Oh, and I did enjoy the Dinner  
Dance - good food, good  
company, good venue and the  
entire dance floor to myself,  
nearly perfect, I should have  
had that waltz with Paul a bit  
earlier. Life is cruel.



bkesby@toucansurf.com  
01 967 402 473

No Deadline for January  
TellTale till after X-mas

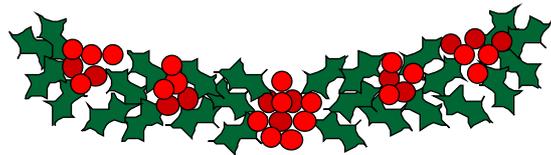
<i>Commodore's Corner</i>	2
<i>Yacht Club Caps</i>	2
<i>Dinner Dance Report</i>	2
<i>Dinghy Convener Rep</i>	2
<i>For Sale and Wanted</i>	3
<i>Thursday Club Report</i>	4
<i>An Obituary Notice</i>	4
<i>Dinghy Con. Continued</i>	5
<i>Walkabout Dinghy</i>	5
<i>RYA and LYC Courses</i>	6

# TellTale

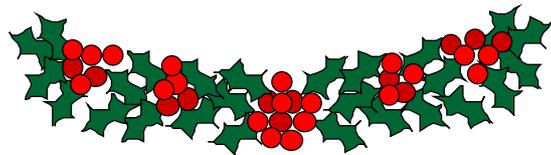
## Future Events

### RYA Diesel Engine Course

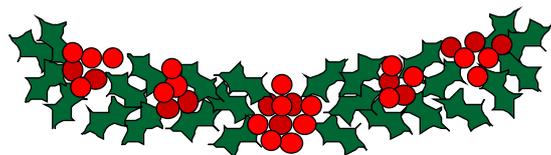
Saturday 6th December



### New Years Day Sail Thursday 1st January 2009



### RYA VHF/SRC course in January



*Every Thursday the Thursday Gang will  
continue to come out to play there will  
always be a lot to do.*



Photo by Keith Falconer



## Commodores Corner

Another year has flown past and most sensible people have stopped sailing for the winter although there is always work to be done and all are welcome at the weekly Thursday Club to help with routine tasks, set the world to rights and share a good lunch.

After more than 30 years connected to LYC, I am looking forward to continuing to support the club in my term as Commodore. I hope that members will feel free to approach me at any time with suggestions, ideas, niggles, etc. e.mail: [j.shearer@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:j.shearer@tiscali.co.uk)

The recent dinner dance and prize giving in the clubhouse was a great success and thanks to all who helped make it such an enjoyable evening. I hope Hamish has bought a large tin of Silvo to keep his trophies sparkling!

The new committee - details on the web site – will keep you posted on any happenings in the clubhouse and on next years calendar and in the meantime I would like to wish you all A Merry Christmas and a Prosperous New Year  
Jim Shearer



Photo by Keith Falconer

### **LYC caps now available**

Similar to the sought after 2005 50th anniversary caps in 100% cotton £10 each.

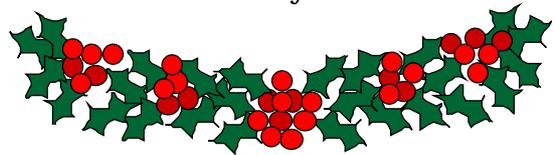
Will be available at the AGM. Contact Keith Falconer to order.

01397 7051776 or at [kfalconer@kfalconer.f9.co.uk](mailto:kfalconer@kfalconer.f9.co.uk)

All the tickets were sold for the Annual Dinner, Prize Giving and Dance.

Catering by the chef and 3 of his trainee staff from Lochaber College. Dinner was enjoyable and good. Music by Laurie Byrne and the dancers on the floor were many. Didn't finish till 12:15. The Clubhouse looked Attractive. Blinds put up by Adrian, wall lights acquired and installed by Andy. Over all the Clubhouse proved to be a suitable venue - only snag - only 60 tickets.

Beryl.



**For those who missed the AGM here is a copy of the Dinghy Conveners report.**

The season got off to a good start with the Frostbite race being combined with the official opening of the new club house. Unfortunately most of the competitors managed only a light lunch as Charles Kennedy was late and this left insufficient time to do justice to the excellent spread. Conditions for sailing were good to start but then the wind got very fluky. This combined with a new adventure into average lap racing gave rise to an inconclusive finish and the race had to be declared void but a good time was had by all.

I won't give a blow by blow account of all six of the trophy races. We ran all but one and had an average entry of 6 dinghies. The opening pursuit race did not happen – we had a picnic instead - across at Stronaba with over 50 participants including a couple of walkers and a couple of sea kayakers. With luck you will be able to see photos of this event on the club web site.

In addition to the trophy races we had a regatta which included 8 fast handicap and 4 slow handicap dinghies. This event was closely followed by a Laser travellers event with 15 entries. Twice in quick succession the catering team and rescue boats etc. rose to the occasion.

So many thanks are due.

continued on page 5



### **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!

### **"Oban Visitor Moorings"**

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

### **For Sale**

#### **Kestrel Sailing Dinghy**

**The club Kestrel is for sale**

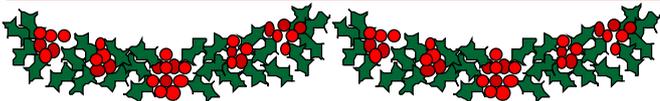
**Available for inspection**

**in the dinghy park**

**Price £250 ono.**

**Contact Hamish Loudon**

**0787 9651851 FW 702370**



**Please let the editor know when something is sold.**

### **FOR SALE**

**Laser Pico Sailing Dinghy**  
**Virtually brand new and only sailed a handful of times:**

**Yellow Hull,**

**Cover, Trolley, Jib kit, bags for everything!**

**Cost over 3,500 new £1500 or near offer**

**Contact Gary MacLennan**  
**07759 881311**

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

**Lochaber Yacht Club  
Committee Meeting  
Tuesday 2 December 19:30**

### **For Sale**

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

### **Wanted**

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

### **Wanted**

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

### **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)

**Merry Christmas**  
**Merry Christmas**  
**Merry Christmas**



## Thursday Club Report

To join the RYA Day Skipper Course at the Lochaber College call Jessie on 01397 874402

Thursday 13th November 2008

It was a dull and damp start as forecast. Adrian, Hamish and Brian H arrived together so the stove was lit, the coffee brewed and wine opened in quick time. This flurry of action soon slowed as more coffee was brewed to serve Paul, Brian F, Joe and Robbie plus Truck. No sign of Mr Commode? There was a moment of tension before the chocolate biscuit tin was found! Gradually the team moved into action, Brian H to fix the fire extinguishers in all the recommended positions. Paul and Robbie headed towards the giant log on the car park, and amazingly it was reduced to manageable pieces which will later be split into stove sized logs. Not content with this contribution to the fuel store the duo, aided by Brian H chain sawed the load of birch delivered in the Club Truck. Adrian and Joe uncovered Wayfarer Arisaig to fit bottom boards then cover up the hull for the winter.

Brian F and Hamish commenced detective work to find the electrical power supply for the six wall light sockets. Much self congratulation when this was located. Brian then had to go plumbing. Adrian and Hamish then went too sea for a brief diving expedition, the concrete sinkers at the seaward end of the running mooring were marked and the mooring line untied for recovery later. Finally the Dory was brought into the slip way for recovery after lunch.

Lunch, well, in the absence of our reliable wine caterer Robbie had declared a two bottle lunch and in the event this was justified as Secretary Chris appeared then Andy (to prepare the ale pipes) with the new wall lights (as agreed last week) then Liz and daughter Hilary. Beryl, daughter Lindy and Cheryl had arranged the goodies to accompany the wine, Pate, Salami and cheese. Mutton broth warmed us all, the fruit tart with cream and/or ice cream followed. Coffee accompanied the dreaded lethargy!

Eventually it was agreed that the Dory must be taken ashore so Adrian and Hamish made a final trip to sea and sunk the Dory mooring to reduce the marine growth over the winter. The remaining team of Paul, Brian H and Robbie plus Truck made ready to recover the Dory up the slip way. Rollers and the Club Truck made short work of this task at low water. The Dory was left right way up for the attention of the power washer next week. The outboard engine was stored in the wooded shed to await the attention of Secretary Chris. The weather being unkind tea was taken early, but no fruitcake? Later, 1630, Andy returned to meet Hamish and fit the wall lights. This completed the duo enjoyed a fish supper by the warm stove and pronounced the mood lighting suitable for the Dinner/Dance/Prizegiving on Saturday evening.

### An Obituary Notice

Some Ancient Mariners may remember

Michael George Sutton, known as Mick died on 10th November at the age of 89. Mick joined the Club as it was forming in 1954. Two years later Mick came to our rescue when the old Nissen hut (Clubhouse) became unfit for use by giving the Club the Old Mill at Corpach. The Mill was situated just to the west of what is now Corpach Boat Builders. Having survived six years as a motorcycle dispatch rider throughout World WarII Mick turned his hand to sailing and built a Shearwater catamaran. It was only the second one to be seen north of the Clyde. The hulls were built in the basement of the Old Mill and then the whole craft was assembled outside. The writer, then a humble junior Sea Cadet was one of the gang dragooned into moving the hulls. The Shearwater Cat was back at the Corpach clubhouse before the Sea Cadet whaler had rounded the Black Rock in the 1957 race! Mick then built a Trimaran and went cruising the west coast. He owned at least one cruising yacht after that and flew the club burgee the length and breadth of the west coast introducing many beginners to the joys of cruising. He and his wife Sheila attended the Clubs 40th anniversary dinner and he was a quiet supporter of the club for many years. When the junior Soling sailors needed a tow vehicle to move the old Scapa from Fort William to Kielder Water in Northumberland it was Mick who came to the rescue. This journey included a detour into Newcastle to find a replacement wheel bearing for the ancient road trailer. A wheel had been shed en route! The 21 year old crew of Scapa arrived in darkness towed by the unflustered Mick. He continued to ride a powerful motorbike well into his eighties, a "Ton up Kid" before the term was invented. Mick suffered a stroke a few years ago but worked hard to recover his speech then wrote a book about it all, "A Strole of Genius" well worth a read. With founder members of his ilk it is little wonder that the Club progressed from very uncertain beginnings.

Hamish





Continued from page 2

**There were three dinghy points series.** For Fast Handicap boats in the first we had 9 entries and an average of 3.6 dinghies, in the second 10 entries with an average of 4.3 and in the third 10 entries with an average of 5.1. These were all fast handicap races but there was a few guest appearances from the mirror Roo-Too-Too. The Slow Handicap fleet were very thin on the ground. In the first series there was only one race with 3 entries, in the second series there were no entries, and in the third there were six races with between 2 and 3 entries. The poor turn out of slow handicap boats is something the new committee should address; perhaps we should bring back Friday evening racing for the slow handicap fleet.

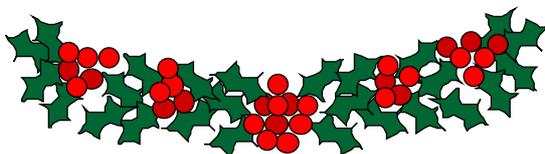
Much more popular were the club nights on Thursday evenings. Juniors carried on after their training course with consolidation instruction from Lee MacRae. Quite a few adults also appeared the most consistent being Jo Willets and Martin Faryma. They have now got the club Wayfarer so sorted that it should now be jet propelled. Club nights also saw the occasional appearance of the Sea Cadets and the Challengers. So in total the average turn out was far in excess of the Wednesday night racing.

The club has acquired two more Wayfarers so next season we should have 4 club Wayfarers and 9 Toppers and a Laser Fun on the water. The old Kestrel is for sale.

Any member can use these boats or help to maintain them! Note sailing does not stop in the winter.

At the end of the season we finished with a Challengers Travellers event. It doesn't sound many when you say 11 boats. But with three hulls each and lots of helpers it certainly filled the parking area. The usual club starting line is far too short for 33 hulls if they had all got there at the same time. So I leave you with the image of a successful event – a challenger in challenging conditions with the lee hull buried in a wave, a rainbow forming in the spray flying over the helm and the buddy desperately trying not to slide off the back end.

Paul Biggin



## News Flash

### Mystery of Walk-About Dinghy

It was noticed on Tuesday morning that the small green tender was missing from the dinghy park and the oars were missing from the cupboard in the clubhouse. The launching trolley was left in the dinghy park. The boat was found elsewhere. Does anyone know how the boat left the dinghy park?????

Information to Secretary Chris Strong or Hamish Loudon



Photos by Britt the day she started her Day Skipper Tidal course at SUNSAIL SCOTLAND

**LYC Members,**

The club is running the **RYA Diesel Engine Course** described below at the clubhouse on Saturday 6th December. The course will be presented by Pat Maclean of Maclean Marine Training. Pat previously ran this course for LYC two years ago with good reports from everyone who attended. He has a full demonstration diesel engine on a trailer so you get proper hands-on training.

The course fee is a very reasonable £46.25 which includes the course notes and certificate. We already have several bookings and as numbers are limited please book early. Payment must be made in advance and is not refundable unless the course is oversubscribed in which case cancellation can be substituted. Lunch is provided and will cost around £3.00 for soup, pie and beans, tea, coffee and fine piece.

To reserve a place on the course contact me by email, phone or post.

**RYA Diesel Engine Course**, see also

<http://www.ryatraining.org/leisure/specialist/Pages/Diesel.aspx>

**Description**

Mechanical failure is the main cause of lifeboat call outs to yachts. This course includes basic maintenance and engine care which will prevent most cases of engine failure.

**Duration** 1 day

**Pre-course experience** None

**Assumed Knowledge** None

**Course content** Basic maintenance and engine care

**Ability after course** Awareness of the main systems of a marine diesel engine. Able to take simple measures to prevent mechanical breakdown at sea and rectify defects which do not require workshop support

**We are also planning an RYA VHF/SRC course** in January at only £28.75 per trainee because the RYA Scotland has given the club a grant towards the cost of the course. Normally this course, which I did recently, costs £75, damn! There is also a £25 fee for the RYA VHF licence required to legally operate a VHF radio. The course should be of interest to anyone cruising or motor boating who is likely to use a VHF and to existing VHF radio licence holders who need to update their licence to GMDSS/DSC. See

<http://www.ryatraining.org/leisure/specialist/Pages/SRC.aspx> for more details. If this course interests you please email me and indicate your preferred dates from the 10th, 17th or 24th January 2009.

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)