



Editorial

O'hoy -

It's nice to be back, weather and all. I apologise if I have missed anything. My suitcase is not unpacked yet! But the TellTale is full of training information not to be missed, so check it all out - there is bound to be something here just for you!



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Deadline for April
is March 20th

<i>What's on</i>	1
<i>Commodore's Corner</i>	2
<i>What's on Inf..</i>	2
<i>For Sale</i>	3
<i>Thursday Club</i>	4
<i>Day Skipper Theory</i>	5
<i>RYA Powerboat L2</i>	5
<i>Junior learn to sail</i>	6
<i>Adult learn to sail</i>	6
<i>The 'Kelpie' Story</i>	6&7

TellTale

Future Events



**A Fun Quiz & Team Games run by Donnie & Paul
Thursday 19th March 7:30pm**
*Promises to be greate fun and very useful for
the keen 'what want to win' racers
more on page 2 and 5*



Fitting out Supper
Saturday 28th March 7:30 PM
Guest speaker Donald Fraser
Spirit of Affric and The Blue Water Rally
BUFFET SUPPER £10.-



Frostbite Shield Race
Sunday 29th March 1400 start
and the new Clubhouse is one year old



Flare and Lifejacket demonstration
RNLI Lifejacket Display and Clinic
Thursday evening, 23rd April



**Every Thursday the Thursday Gang will continue to
come out to play. There will always be plenty to
do as long as the wine lasts.**



Photo by Keith Falconer



Commodores Corner

When I wrote this corner last month we were in the depths of winter with sailing on Loch Linnhe just a distant dream. Now the daffodils are through and the temperature is rising - erratically - and it is time to dig out the wetsuits, prepare the boats and plan some gentle sailing and a few challenges.

There is a lot happening this month starting with the RYA day skipper course followed by the RYA power boat course. If you are interested, check with Martin Basil for the day skipper course and Hamish Loudon

for the power boat course to find out if there are any spaces left. The fitting out supper on 28th March should be interesting and places are filling up fast with room for only 60 people: contact Paul Biggin.

The first race of the year is on Sunday 29th March for dinghies so it would be great to have a big turnout for this Frostbite Shield event. All these items can be found in the handbook but if you are like me you sometimes need a gentle reminder.

Before the start of the season there is still plenty to be done to get boats ready, organise race marks, paint the rescue boat.... so all volunteers will be welcomed at Thursday club and other times highlighted by e.mail.

I may miss out on some of that as I have been enjoying another loch - on Skye - and a wee dram of the product there.

Jim

PS Nice to see one sail on the loch already with the former club Kestrel out for a sail so well done Martin Wolfenden.

A Fun Quiz: Thursday 19th March 7:30 pm in the clubhouse. All welcome. In addition to experts this will be of interest to armchair sailors and those who have duties as OOD. Donnie and Paul will attempt to shed light on the mysteries of racing. The quiz will be won by the most crafty team with the best tactics. Tea & coffee on sale - bring your own beer & cakes.

Another date for your diary..

Please come along on

Thursday evening, 23rd April

when the Club will be hosting an **RNLI Flare and Lifejacket demonstration.**

Flare Demonstration

This demo takes place outdoors and will include the firing of live (in-date) flares in a suitable location.

RNLI Lifejacket Display and Clinic

The RNLI Sea Safety Department promotes the wearing of lifejackets and this presentation tells you why they have come to this decision. The clinic held afterwards will give club members the opportunity to

bring along their own lifejackets and have them looked at by a trained member of the RNLI team.

Many thanks

Abigail

The Fitting Out Supper. Tickets now available from Paul Biggin

Sat 28th March 1900 for 1930

£10.-Cash or cheque to Paul

Number limited to 60 so book early

Guest Speaker

Donald Fraser - his boat "Spirit of Affric" and the Blue Water Rally



Lochaber Yacht Club
Committee Meeting
Tuesday 3 March 7:00pm
Tuesday 7 April 7:00pm



Please let the editor know when something is sold, just phone 01 967 402 473

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

Books for Sale.
Donated by a Vintage Member

Yachting World Handbook by	Peter Johnson
ICE by	Tristan Jones
The Incredible Voyage.	
A personal Odyssey by	Tristan Jones
Saga of a Wayward Sailor by	Tristan Jones
ADRIFT by	Tristan Jones
Weekend Navigation by	Bruce Fraser

and
good for all the basics before electronics took over
The Ashley Book of Knots
(Some things never change)
Survive the Savage Seas by Dougal Robertson
(37 days adrift in the Pacific-incredible survival tale)
Fasnet a history of the race until 1979
(the year of the storm)

All books £2 each ono. Contact Hamish on
0787 9651851 or e-mail
hamloud@hamloud.plus.com

For Sale
4sail
Merrydancer GBR32

27'6" Soling conversion. Rigged for single handed sailing, but sails really well with two. Lots of sails. Compass. Outboard bracket fitted. 4 hp Johnson outboard (needs attention) with 10litre fuel tank. Anchor. Two berths. Lockers port and starboard. Fitted carpet. Single burner cooker. Clock and Barometer. Movable helmsman's seat. Launching trolley.

This boat has been beautifully converted into a well balanced, fast yacht and cherished by the present owner for the past twelve years. She has been raced very successfully at Arisaig Regatta for the past eight years, winning every year except once when she came a close second, having retired due to weather conditions. Merrydancer is much admired with very pleasing lines, easy to sail and gives tremendous performance. She has a fascinating history, and is the only soling to circumnavigate Rockall, and single handed at that!

New boat necessitates sale.
£3,250 ono for quick sale
(A lot of boat for the money!)

Contact Simon Macdonald
tel 01687 470 266,
mobile 07824 633 130
Email: smokehouse@glenuig51.freemove.co.uk



"Oban Visitor Moorings"
now available on
www.obanbayberthing.co.uk
email obanbayberthing@gmail.com



Photo by Keith Falconer
Lycra caps available
.Allways available Contact Keith Falconer to order.
01397 7051776 or at
kfalconer@kfalconer.f9.co.uk

FOR SALE
SOLING GBR 129
'DIRTY HARRY'
GOOD SAILS AND
TWO SPINNAKERS
GOOD ROAD TRAILER
TROPHY WINNING BOAT
LYING L Y C
CONTACT HARRY
01397704030
£3000.00

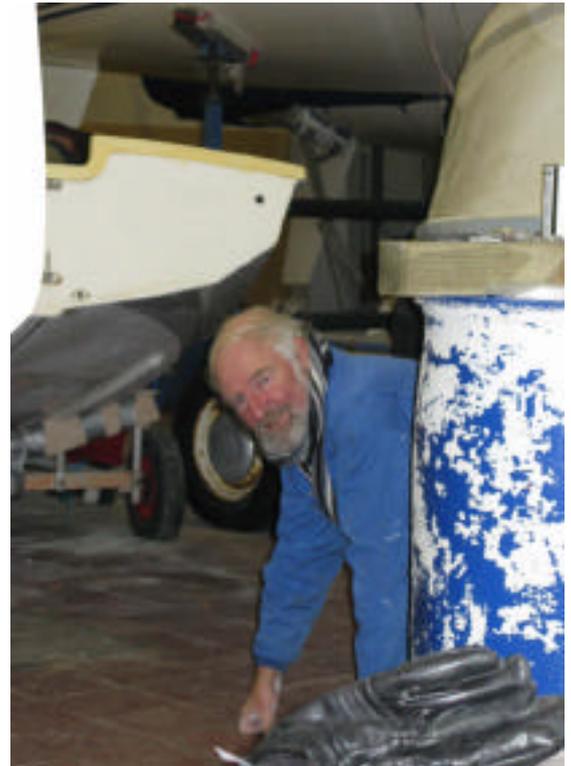


Thursday Club Reports

Thursday 19th February 2009

An early muster by the "Galley Girls" to run the Coffee Morning meant that the usual extended chat over coffee by the Usual Suspects was somewhat curtailed. It was judged that the layabouts in overalls added nothing to the charm of the occasion. So, after stove lighting, wine opening and a brief coffee the team of Adrian, Joe, Paul, Martin, Brian H and Hamish headed for the old fire station where they were joined by Robbie and Soling owner Harry Jeffrey. The Commode, not to be overlooked phoned in from the Talisker Distillery just to check that the team had mustered. Although the plant was closed for maintenance Commode was advised that this would not be a valid excuse for returning empty handed!! At Claggan the newly painted Wayfarer "Jura" was much admired, see photie, before being CAREFULLY turned the correct way up. The unskilled labour then set too with hand sanding gear to clean off the old paint from the deck although progress was slow due to the fishermans tales from Joe and Harry! Paul returned to HQ where he was connecting the electric from the caravan to the wooden shed. The Skilled Labour commenced conversion work on the launching trolley. See more photies. The separate Unions caused some friction but the lunch call prevented a serious dispute. Such was the dedication of the workforce that we were four minutes late on the official lunch time of 1300 as observed by wine convenor Peter Lister. Paul was even later, hidden away in the electrical hut. Wine by Adrain, Soup by Liz, Scone selection by Beryl and Cheryl and fruitcake by Jean. Note, the chocolate "Goodies" of last week were Millionaires Shortbread, which vanished like the proverbial "snaw all a dyke." Brian F called while the team were in post lunch relaxed mode. We explained it was the exertions of the morning and not the wine that produced relaxation.

The afternoon session saw a reduced workforce on the Wayfarers but the Skilled team completed the trolley refurbishment and the Labourers made ready the Jura decks for painting. Paul let the light shine in the wooden shed but the cameraman did not record his efforts. Note, the Scribe was very nearly unable to compose this report due to a serious PC virus. However he can recommend an excellent PC person, see the advert for Chlaram Computer Services in the new Club Handbook, Graeme Fallows at Graeme@gmx.us Tel 01397 773197





More Training Opportunities

We are now well into the Winter Training Programme with both the RYA Diesel Engine and RYA VHF/SRC courses well attended and successfully completed by all trainees.

Day Skipper Theory

The RYA Day Skipper Shore Based course begins shortly running over three weekends from Saturday 7th March **with two places still available**. If you need this course then please let us know as soon as possible to reserve a place. For further details see: <http://www.lochaber-yacht-club.co.uk/pdf/dayskipper.pdf>

RYA Powerboat Level 2

The Club is running the 2 day RYA Powerboat Level 2 course, described below, on Saturday 21st and Sunday 22nd March. The cost for LYC members is £25 including a log book and certificate and £35 for non-members. LYC members have priority for places. The cost of this course at an RYA approved training is normally around £180 per person.

This two-day course provides the skills and background knowledge needed to drive a powerboat and is the basis of the International Certificate of Competence. It includes close quarters handling, high-speed manoeuvres, man overboard recovery and collision regulations. The course can be taken inland or on the coast and your certificate will be endorsed accordingly.

No pre-course experience is required and no prior knowledge is assumed. The course will teach all you need to know for self-sufficient power-boating at a basic level. Training includes launching, mooring, anchoring and recovery plus all the boat driving skills required for basic competence in a powerboat. After the course you will be a self-sufficient power-boater in the right conditions, aware of your own limitations and those of craft. Candidates under the age of 16 will be issued an endorsed certificate.

To reserve a place for this course contact Martin Basil (Telephone: 01397773191, Mobile: 07884 314400, Email: martin.basil@mysolv.com) or the Training Coordinator, Abigail Wineberg (Telephone: 01397 701596, Email: abigailw@vodafoneemail.co.uk).

For more information on RYA Powerboat Level 2, see also: <http://www.ryatraining.org/leisure/powerboat/Pages/Level2.aspx>

Regards

Abigail Wineberg - Tel: 01397 701596 - Mob: 0797 945 2101

Extra Training On Offer

In addition to the usual highly popular and successful adult and junior learn to sail courses, LYC will be offering the following training in 2009:

RYA Day Skipper Theory	(2 Day) 21/22 March
Junior Learn to Sail	18/19 & 25/26 April
OOD (Order Of the Day) Racing Rules	Quiz Night Thursday 19th March 7:30pm
Adult Learn to Sail	02/03, 09/10 & 16/17 May

RYA Safety Boat Training

(for those already Power Boat 2 Qualified Thursday Club Nights
RNLI Lifejacket Clinic and Flare Demo Thursday Club Nights in April TBC
RYA First Aid (2 days) early October, TBC

Please note that some of these dates are yet to be confirmed. Further details and final dates will be available on the website.

Many thanks
Abigail

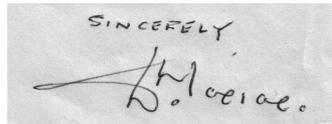
**THE KELPIE STORY**

by Duncan L. Macrae

A few years ago I enquired of Bob Aitken if KELPIE was the oldest boat in the Club. Bob thought that she probably was and suggested that I should provide some historical information for our TellTale readers

VITAL STATISTICS:

L.O.A.	22ft. 3in.
L.W.L	18ft. 4in.
BEAM	7ft. 5in.
DRAFT	2ft. 3in.
DISPLACEMENT	3000 Lbs.
PALLAST KEELS	950 Lbs.
SAIL AREA	227Sq.ft.
T.M.	4.5 tons



The Westerley Company dominated the British sailing market for decades when it was producing new boats and Westerley is still, to this day, a brand that any modern sailor considering the purchase of a sound second hand cruising yacht would be ill advised to ignore.

Back in 1963 the founder of Westerley - Commander Denys Raynor.-.decided to develop his earlier plywood cruiser (known as the 'Westcoaster' - very

appropriate for LYC) into a fibreglass production yacht, and so the jaunty little triple-keeled Westerley 22 was born complete with traditional rig and outboard motor. She was as Raynor always wished, the smallest boat that could be trailed, take the family comfortably to sea, and take to the ground. Raynor had decided that inboard engines in a small boat were more trouble than they were worth; even when reliable they took valuable space and contributed to weight and drag, and then, always appreciating a boat that was good looking, he added teak rubbing strips, hatches and cockpit and painted decks to avoid 'the normal appearance of a plastic boat'. With 4 berth open-plan accommodation, including sink, hob and grill, and a chart table, plus a sea toilet under a fill-in cushion between the forward berth, the first Westerley had everything except privacy.

The Westerley 22 was announced to the world at the 1964 London Boat Show, where it was a tremendous success. A total of 332 were built between 1963 and 1967 before the company moved onto bigger, but perhaps not better yachts - only my opinion! The cost of a Westerley 22 in 1967 was £1,495 complete and ready to sail. A two wheel heavy duty trailer, similar to the one falling apart in the Club car park, cost £135.

Kelpie, with sail No 206 was probably built in 1965. Incidentally 'Young Tiger' sail No. 68 crossed the Atlantic in 1965, so perhaps St. Kilda is not such a pipe-dream after all! I purchased Kelpie at Stonehaven Yacht Club in 1989, the previous owner having towed her North from the South Coast of England (where she was built) some years previously. Kelpie was moored for a number of years at Dochgarroch at the North end of Loch Ness where I sailed with the late Allan Faulkner (father of Martin) until we felt confident enough to go 'deep-sea' when I moved her, in 1995, to Lochaber Yacht Club. The Club had changed somewhat since my last visit. I returned from National Service in Singapore in late 1961 and my now wife and I slept on the concrete floor of the nissen hut at the Base at Corpach while we enjoyed a great week's sailing in Allan's self built G.P.14.





Kelpie, and her crew, have explored the West thoroughly and enjoyed both good weather and foul over the years. She has proved to be a good, strong, sound, seaworthy boat on many occasions and perhaps should have been called Lucky - in lieu of Kelpie. She has circumnavigated Mull and Skye; voyaged from Barra to Stornoway; visited the Summer Isles in the north and Northern Ireland in the South. She has allowed me to investigate and explore over 30 of the West Coast Islands; somehow missing out Arran. She can reach creeks and backwaters that are barred to many other boats with similar accommodation and it is very satisfying to have everything in it's place and a place for everything.

As for performance, Kelpie is no greyhound to windward but she delights in short tacking through the narrows, or keeping well up with her peers on a broad reach. Running downwind with a steep following sea requires close attention to the tiller - as we found out in the Sound of Islay last year, but in almost 20 years experience in most weather I've never had a broach and there have been many times in a bit of a blow when Kelpie has been the smallest boat in sight, many times the only one! She has that vital and elusive quality of being seaworthy and over the years she has inspired great confidence, and the comfort at sea in a small boat that is only results from feeling safe. There have been mishaps of course, but no disasters. She has suffered a broken mast in the Sound of Mull, a fractured tiller off Benbecula and, as the more perceptive of Club members will have noticed, the rudder is now missing. (Hamish! It is painted red.) A silent overnight grounding at either Colonsay or Port Askaig was probably the cause, but as usual, Kelpie brought us back safely to her home port before totally discarding her rudder. Since I have owned Kelpie I have been fortunate with my three First Mates. First Allan Faulkner, then George Sim and now David Gaffron. They not only put their trust in Kelpie, but also in me - for this I am grateful.

Westerley Marine Construction Ltd., went out of business in 2000, having built 11,000 yachts of 73 differing classes, the last being the 'Ron Holland Ocean 43' of which ten were built between 1997 and 2000. There is an active Westerly Owner's Association with around 2,500 members world-wide. The Scottish Group has a West Coast Muster in September this year in conjunction with Glencoe Boat Club at Loch Leven, then cruising to Oben Marina - just hoping I can get Kelpie spruced up in time.

