

Telltale October 2002

Published by Lochaber Yacht Club

Commodore's Corner.

I am sure that many of you will be sad to see the end of the sailing season. Unfortunately the weather this summer (if you can call it that!!) was not ideal and the racing conditions on race nights was often very varied. It was great to hear about the achievements of those who flew the club flag at events around the country. Well done and thank you to all who put LYC on the map again.

There are a few evenings scheduled (see below) throughout the coming months but we are always looking for new ideas to keep the club thriving throughout the winter. One member has suggested that if anyone is interested in Bridge (cards, not to sail under) perhaps we could have a few games over the winter months. Any ideas will be gratefully received by the committee.

Lastly I would like to take this opportunity to thank the committee for all their hard work throughout the year. Many improvements have taken place and more will follow e.g we are in the process of acquiring a new rescue boat and tender. Come along on the 29th October and hear more.

Cherryl

To all Dinghy Park users

A reminder to the owners of boats in the dinghy park that ALL masts have to be taken down by 1st December. It helps keep the neighbours happy and stops your boat being blown over in the winter. Warning- there will be a nominal fine for those who do

Dates from the Commodore's Diary

The 29th October is the AGM and we are looking forward to a good turn out of members.

On Saturday 2nd November, we are having our annual Bonfire Night, so bring plenty of food for the BBQ and a bottle. Lighting up time is 6.30pm so do come along.

The Annual Dinner is on the 23rd November and tickets will be on sale at the AGM and from any committee member. Get your tickets early so that you are not disappointed.

We are also having an (adults) Christmas Party (1st Christmas round the log fire with mulled wine and mince pies). The date is still to be finalised.

AGM

Don't groan, it is that time of year again, when every club that claims you as a member wants you to give up a precious evening for their AGM. The Yacht club included. You will have had a notice through the post, but just in case you have forgotten - write it on the kitchen calendar now - Tuesday 29 October at 7.30.

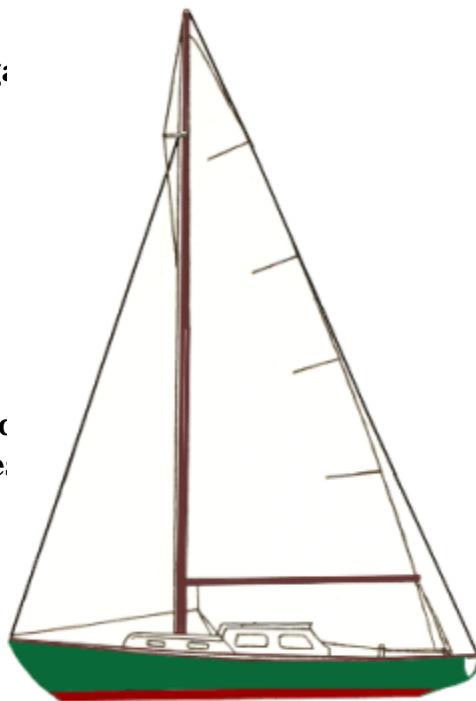
You do not have to volunteer for the committee, this is a chance to come along and have a say in how you would like things run. There will be a glass of wine and some nibbles, or is it a cup of coffee and some cake?and if you do think you can help with anything, on or off the committee, please volunteer or get nominated.

Keelboat report (cont)

As well as club racing, several of our boats and sailors travelled to away events again this season. Among those were :-

Pepsi – Sigma National Champions for the second time.
Scintilla – Round Mull and West Highland Week
Xanzibar – Round Mull, West Highland Week and Largs Reg;
Sovereign – West Highland Week.
Didima IV – Oban and Glencoe Regattas.
Solaris – Scottish Series and Soling Championship Series.
Just Gonnie No – Soling Championship Series.
Merry Dancer – Arisaig Regatta
Tiri Moana – West Highland Week

But racing is not all that goes on in our club. Schonbrunn, Camasunary, Moonwhite, Scintilla, and Te Bheag all covered many sea miles this season. We look forward to lots of entries in the Log competition.



Corran Red Sunday 25th August

A bright and sunny day with a forecast and actual light wind.

Possible entries from Marian on Scintilla, Chris on Schönbrunn, Keith on Floand an unusual but welcome entry from Pete Hyde in the Locheil Centre Whaler. Duncan MacPhee considered an entry with his Cork 1720, but muttered that it wasn't windy enough to overcome a rugby club hangover and went away again.

What breeze there was fell away before the start, Chris with Keith Hoole and family as crew - coping with being "race officer" due the lack of Tern/Hussoling race officer team in the Clubhouse - drifted past the start line but not through it, the other entries planned their drifting tactics better!

Half an hour later a gentle sea breeze filled in from the south, but Flo decided not to risk such an over-the-horizon trip without an engine and returned.

Although she wasn't now an official entry Schönbrunn kept Scintilla company down to the Corran Red buoy, but fell behind on the return trip - well the crew were rather enjoying the lunch on deck, bottle of wine and the Sunday crossword, the Whaler was reported to have returned a couple of days later! I think the Trophy will be awarded to Scintilla this year - congratulations.

Chris Strong

Ed's note: Scintilla's start line tactics were only fractionally better than Schonbrunn's as they involved hitting the start buoy, to much cheering from the Locheil cutter. However boats with long keels are prone to doing 360's when there is no wind and plenty of tide so the penalty was accomplished amazingly quickly. The problem was stopping the pirouette and not incurring another penalty by drifting into the cutter. Thanks to all those who made the effort – it was a lovely day for a sail with a spinnaker run home all the way from Corran to the finish line.

KEELBOAT CONVENER'S FAREWELL

As the season and my term as 'keelboat convenor' comes to an end, I'd like to thank the keelboat fleet for their support (and patience when I get it wrong and send boats on converging courses!). Almost never did we have no Race Officer, and I can think of only one protest in two years which went to arbitration.



This year was perhaps not the best in terms of participation in trophy races. However, we did manage lots of 'bums in boats' on Monday evenings throughout the year – and a fair number on Sundays during September. I think weekend sailing is worth persevering with. Those of us who participated enjoyed the scones and tea around the stove after racing. In fact we enjoyed it so much we think we might do it regularly throughout the winter. Care to join us?

Although we did manage around twenty people on the water most weeks, there were fewer boats on average than last year, and it does worry me a bit that the 'proper' keelboats struggle to have sufficient races to count in most series. The Soling sailors, too, are not as consistent as they were. We have lost team Sprite (but not Sprite), and Chris will be missed not just by the Just Gonnie No team but also, I suspect, by the many to whom he gave encouragement and advice as well as practical help in launching and recovery. I think it would be appropriate here to thank Chris for acting as ferryman almost every Monday evening.

Liz Loudon

Ed's note: As a participating keelboat sailor, I think it is more appropriate for us to thank Liz, than her to thank us. She always tried to communicate with us even when we failed to communicate back.

Keelboat Results

Series One - Keelboats Cork 1720
Solings 1. Solaris (5 points) 2. Trilleachean (8 points) 3. Floe (19 points)

Series Two - Keelboats No boats with sufficient results.
Solings 1. Solaris (6 points) 2. Just Gonnie No (7 points) 3/ Trilly (12)

Series Three - Keelboats No boats with sufficient results.
Solings 1. Just Gonnie No

Autumn Sunday Series - Keelboats - Cork 1720
Solings - Just in Time

Brass Monkey - Solaris

NEW MEMBERS

This year the Club has welcomed the following new members and hope that all have enjoyed an active sailing season whether as novices on the training courses or as old hands :-

Mr and Mrs Brian Evans, Strontian
Martin and Hilary Faulkner, Glen Nevis
Jeanine Grant, Onich
Alex Guinness, Fort William
Keith Hoole, Roy Bridge
Peter and Alyson Hyde, Loch Eil
Duncan and Rosemary McPhee, Fort William



Flying the Flag

It seems to me that there may be a shortage of people to sail in our own dinghy fleet because they are all sailing somewhere else. These are the ones I have heard of but there may be others. Apologies if I have missed anybody out.

Holland -Craig Paul participated in the World Topper Championships in August.

Weymouth - Michael Cameron and Steven Derby took part in the sea based Laser Nationals in July.

Deal - Megan Austin and Craig Paul went to the Topper Nationals in August.

Topper Travellers - lots of people sailed all over the place: the Hydes, Alistair Shepherd, Dawn Macrae. Overall out of the 50 plus who participated in enough events to qualify, Craig Paul was 18th and Megan Austin 9th.

Training Courses 2002

The 2002 Adult Beginners Course was a bit disappointing in the number who took part. The junior course which involved 12 new kids was overlapped with the adult course to make the whole thing more efficient. The courses themselves were great with excellent winds.

All four adults completed the course despite one of them giving the senior instructor a swim. As usual the capsizing drill was the most memorable part of the course.

The kids also did well with 8 completing their RYA Stage 3.

Thursday evening training was also good as far as the kids were concerned but less so for the adults. The active junior section is now at an all time high with 11 kids training with the North of Scotland Squad.

If anyone has any ideas as to how to locate new adult recruits please let me know as the active dinghy fleet needs an injection of new blood.

Donnie

North of Scotland Squad

The following Lochaber youngsters are now training with the North Of Scotland Squad, who incidentally will be using LYC facilities and training on (and in?) Loch Linnhe during the first 2 weekends in November.

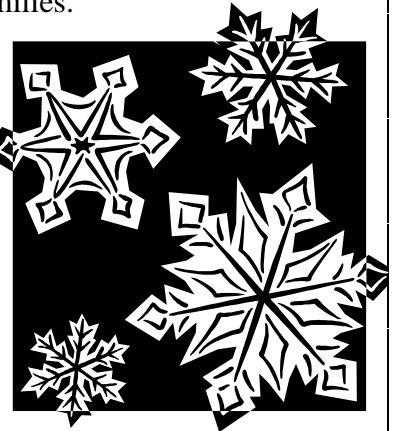
Steven Derby, Michael Cameron, Megan Austin, Dawn Macrae, and 2 members each of the Hyde, Paul and Shepherd Families.

Ed's note: Sailing in November ?

Rather than me.

Rumour has it that there was a dad 'training' with the squad at Loch Morlich in a lovely new Laser Blaze.

Binoculars will be provided to identify the culprit when they come to Loch Linnhe.



Bits and Pieces - notes from the committee table

Club boats

Do you want to sail, but don't have a boat? The club has use of various dinghies - a Miracle, a Marine Tutor, a Minisail and a Wayfarer. These boats need sailors. Ideally, someone can 'rent' one for a year. Like all boats they need a bit of care and attention. Contact Chris Strong (772 361) if you are interested or know



Tender makes a bid for freedom!

An enterprising person 'borrowed' the club tender and took it across the Loch one night. To do this they had to lever the gates off the dinghy park and then row the very leaky dinghy all the way across the loch - probably in the dark.

Security lighting has been bought for the dinghy park and should be installed very soon.

Topper sails

The club toppers are in need of some new sails and a replacement fund has been started thanks to a donation from the Rotary Club and funding from the Peter MacLennan Trust.

Dinner Dance and Prizegivng



Saturday 23 Nov
at the Moorings

Adults £20
Children £12

Tickets must be
booked in advance

WANTED

SOMEBODY PREPARED TO SPEND A SHORT TIME HELPING TO COMPILE THE HAND-BOOK. IT IS NOT A BIG JOB. CONTACT KIM 703766

I know that the the Loch Swim and the Pursuit race/ closing muster happened - would someone who participated like to tell us about them?
Ed

Downie's

Those of you who keep rubber dinghies in Downie's will know that it is not in the best order. Part of the plan is to demolish one large section which is not used and improve 2 of the smaller sections which are very useful, but in need of repair. Any club members who are keen demolishonists or creative builders, or even good navies - please let Cheryl know

Next Telltale deadline 30 Nov

Publishing date - pre Christmas. Articles to Marian at andy.rog@btinternet.com or send them to Heatherlea, Tomonie, Banavie, Fort William, PH33 7LX. If you are happy to receive telltale by email send your address to me with 'telltale request' in the subject box. If anybody is having trouble opening their email version of Telltale please let me know.

Great Glen Week 10 - 17 May, 2003

The club has been asked to get involved in a new event which is intended to encompass the communities from one end of the canal to the other. Hopefully there will be a variety of activities which will appeal to locals and tourists alike.

We are planning a race for our own members and visitors on Saturday, and there is expected to be a 'do' in Kilmallie hall that evening and a cruise up Loch Eil on the Sunday. Then a 'raid' of boats will set off up the canal with satellite events: guided cycle trips, walks on the Great Glen Way and rafting at the WaterPark and more. People can participate in a part of the weeks activities or sail all the way along the canal. Watch this spot for more