



Telltale July 2003

Published by Lochaber Yacht Club

Editor's note

The commodore is away on a well deserved holiday, as are many other committee members. Hopefully in common with many other people, I am spending as much time as possible sailing, cycling, gardening and generally doing 'summery things'. Work does rather get in the way. So despite a lot of things going on at and around the yacht club, this will be a fairly basic Telltale with even less in the way of frills than usual. *Marian*

HAVE YOU RENEWED YOUR MEMBERSHIP ?

If not this is the last *Telltale* you will receive. So now is your last chance to pay the Treasurer.

HAVE YOU PAID YOUR DINGHY PARK FEES?

If your dinghy has been sitting either in the dinghy park or in Downies and you have not paid your fees or contacted the treasurer, you can expect to have it auctioned in the near future.

IS YOUR TENDER NAMED?

Tender's kept in Downies should be clearly marked with the name of their mother ship. If it cannot be identified your dinghy will be treated as an unknown boat and auctioned as above. Insurance companies also like tenders to be well labelled.

Dates for your diary

July 19 - Tobermory 'Race'. 10am start at Kentallen. Race/cruise in company? Anybody who wants to join in can. Whatever happens, Schonnbrunn is going to Tobermory.
17th and 24th - Club Scrub. Work teams wanted from 19.30 onwards. Please bring strimmer, rakes, axe, chainsaw, rubber gloves, gardening gloves, bin bags and anything else that might be useful. At the end of proceedings on the 24th the club will provide, beer, wine and coca cola for the volunteers to toast their labours.
27th - No Duffers Cup
Coastguard raft race
Aug 3-8 - West Highland week
12th - Brainstorming session to discuss ideas for LYC's Golden Jubilee next year. If anybody has good ideas for celebrating this milestone please let a committee member know. Ex-commodores should expect an invitation to attend.
17th -Corran Red. 13.30 start
23rd - 14.00 Keelboats find yourselves a novice helm.
24th - 14.00 Keelboats find yourselves a junior helm
31st - 12.30 Balnagowan Race
Sept 7 - 12.30 Closing muster/Pursuit Race.
Oct 28 - AGM at the yacht club, 19.30
Nov 22 - Dinner dance. Time and venue TBA

notes from my inbox.....

NEW MEMBERS.

The club welcomes the following new members :
Tom and Sheila Wynne with their dinghy.
Brian and Carol Fellows after an absence.
Jane Blanchard and family, Richard Lucas,
Mathew Groves, Jenny Able, Joanna Roberts and
Carol Lang some of whom came via the Beginners
Training Course. Also Michael White from
Caithness.

There are also seven keen new youngsters around
following this year's Juniors Training Classes.

We wish you Good Sailing
Bob Aitken, Treasurer

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

Along with the spectacular scenery and exciting sailing we
have to offer visitors to Lochaber Yacht Club, our hospitality,
log fire and catering are building up a high reputation.

For those that have not managed down to the Club for the
various weekend events that have been going on over the last
few months you have been missing out in lots of ways.

These events take a lot of organisation from initial planning
and logistics of safety & committee boats, through to the race
co-ordination, the event on the day including parking and of
course the catering.

I would like to thank the un-sung army of catering helpers
who give up their free time to work with Cheryl, Simon or
myself in the galley, or with David's BBQ's or preparing food
for us at home making & baking lots of goodies (from soups
to salads to delicious sweets). We have had lovely spreads to
grace our tables - and these people are not only donating their
time but the food too! With out them we just wouldn't be able
to cater for these events in the same way.

So once again a BIG THANK YOU goes out to ALL our
catering helpers and if you feel you can help lighten the load
in anyway (other than eating all the good food!) please
contact Cheryl or myself.

Lynne Wilson, Catering convenor

*I would like to add my thanks to Lynne's and also thank
Lynne herself and David Cahill who have put in many
weekends in the kitchen during the many events of this
season. Ed.*

On the use of our Safety Boats

There is a nasty chip out of the prop
on the Pioneer 15 "Loch Eil" - please
be careful. Don't forget the engine
can be partially lifted to reduce
draft but with the prop in the water
for shallow working.

AND when ferrying - it's YOU the
driver who is responsible for all on
board. Some severe overloading has
been seen on occasions.

The recommended maximum load in
the Pioneer is 6! Obviously a good
factor of safety there for operating
in rough water. It's up to you - with
due consideration for good seaman-
ship. *Chris Strong, secretary*



THE TOBERMORY RACE, not
completed since 1982, will be sailed on
Saturday 19th starting from Kentallen. If all our
keelboats come along for the sail (some may
race) we could have a large Club Muster in
Tobermory. Do try and come along for the
party.

Yours Aye,
Hamish Loudon

On the water.....

There having been very few dinghies at the last couple of LYC regattas, it was decided to split the keelboat regatta from the dinghy regatta and hold them on separate weekends. The UK soling Nationals were held the weekend of the Keelboat regatta (21/22 June) and a laser traveller was tied into the dinghy weekend (6/7 July)

In both cases there were only a handful of boats outwith the main class, so members should not be intimidated and stay away from our open events just because of the presence of a racing fleet.

The Keelboat regatta was won by Twigg Ohlson in Hutch with Didima and Schonbrunn in 2nd and 3rd.

The dinghy regatta has only just been held and seemed to go very well. With nearly 40 boats and many visitors, this was a big effort and there were many helpers involved as race officers, rescue boat handlers and galley slaves.

Soling National Championships

The selection of the Midsummer weekend for this event should have made it odds on for sunshine and a sea breeze – WRONG! However, Race Officer, Donnie Meldrum did achieve four excellent races on the Saturday for the Ben Nevis Distillery Series. This left the fifteen strong fleet with everything to sail for on Sunday. Only five points separated the top five boats and each boat in the remainder of the fleet only had to gain a point or two to improve a place in the overall ranking.

Unfortunately the breeze just tantalised so after a long postponement and one attempt at racing the day was abandoned leaving the local boats of *Solaris* and *Just Gonnie No* in third and fourth places respectively. However, they did take the Masters prize and the mixed crew trophy! The visiting crews all enjoyed the event and sent several complementary messages to the Commodore and the organising team.

Thanks to Hamish for the above article. He is too modest to tell readers that he was sailing in 'Solaris' who came third and a certain Liz Loudon was in 'Just Gonnie No' who came 4th. Well done Loudons and crews. For the record - Mike Preston in 'Cockatoo 2' from Fleetwood was first and Gary Richardson on 'Buzz' was second.

Keelboat Points- First Series

1. It Wasn't Me - Cork 1720 – Duncan MacPhee
2. Schonbrunn – Albin Ballard – Chris Strong
3. Scintilla – Northney 34 – Marian Austin
4. Tern – GK24 – Pete Hyde
5. Didima IV – Hawk20 – Jean Aitken

Soling Class

1. Romance – Hamish Loudon
2. Rascal – Robbie Robertson
3. Trilleachean – Simon MacDonald
4. Flo – Keith Falconer
5. Dirty Harry- Harry Jeffrey

Dinghy Points

Fast Handicap - so far

1. Unnamed laser -Michael Cameron
2. MCP -Hamish Loudon
3. Aquila - Steven Darby
4. Orca - Donnie Meldrum
5. Wee Lintie - Megan Austin
6. Mr Blue - Martin Faulkner
7. Mr Bounce - Ian Fleming
8. Suet - John Paul
9. Boo - Tony

Slow Handicap (toppers) - so far

1. Plen - Craig Paul
2. Spindrift - Becky Hyde
3. Tsunami - Robert Hyde
4. Unnamed - Kyle MacIntyre
5. Stingray - Dawn MacRae
6. Unnamed - Alastair Shepherd
7. “ Ewan Paul
8. Polo - Claire Shephard
9. Bob - Patrick
10. Oyster - Liam Moynahan
11. Shark attack - Lee
12. Tomo - Alan
13. Flipper - Calum
14. Linnie - Jessie
15. Unnamed - Graham

More Sailing

Junior Training Course

At the beginning of May, Alain, Calum, Ester, Jessie, Jon Mark, Lee, Liam and Patrick started to learn how to sail.

On almost every day of the course there was quite a strong wind and they coped very well. On two days it was quite calm and they did quite a lot of capsizing practice. By the end of three weekends they all managed to get round a basic triangle course which is a big achievement.

Everyone except Ester and Jon Mark are still sailing. They are even sailing on Wednesday nights as well as club nights. Well done to all of you who took part. Plus a big thank you to all the parents that helped out over the weekends. And thank you to Donnie for all the coaching he has been giving them.

Dawn Macrae

Dawn is a star for being a junior who puts pen to paper as well as attending committee meetings. Any other aspiring writers out there like to tell us about their experiences at dinghy regattas.

Scottish Series 2003- a Soling Entry

Over two hundred boats racing for four days plus an overnight race for some made it a concentrated sailing series. Those who "Hooted with the owl by night failed to soar with the eagle by day".

The entrants in the nineteen strong Sportsboat class gathered from as far apart as Tynemouth and Fort William. Competition was very close throughout the fleet and boats were often separated by as little as three or four seconds on corrected time. Only when the breeze picked up for a whole race did *Solaris* have both crew fully hiked out and achieve a comfortable win, very satisfying. Although finishing ahead of the other Soling entries the overall result in class was fifth, one point behind fourth (last year's place) but ten points off a podium place.

It's always difficult to assess performance in a handicap fleet but the opinion at the bar was that the best sailors, as usual, came out on top. Talking of Bars, be warned, there is no real ale in Tarbert!! Next year we shall take our own barrel of race winning fluid.

In the Sigma fleet *Pepsi* flew the LYC burgee at the front of the fleet and *Vaila* from Glencoe won the IRC Class 4 trophy. Congratulations to both crews.

Hamish

For Sale

Digital Camera

I have recently upgraded my digital camera equipment and have a two year old Canon G1 camera for sale. This camera is capable of very high resolution images - more than adequate for commercial printing. Specification as follows:

Canon G1 Digital Camera - 2 years old
lens: f2.2 35mm-90mm optical zoom
pixels: 3.3 million
Images: produces JPGs or RAW data for processing and can record 30 seconds of video with sound
Unique swivel LCD monitor to view images
Aperture, shutter speed and auto exposure
Hot shoe for Canon speedlight flashguns
32Mb Flash card included
Software, manuals etc.

PRICE: UKP 250.00 inc VAT

Contact **Andy McKenna**
woodside@fortwilliam.net

ANDY IS ALSO THE CONTACT FOR THE WEBSITE. HE IS STILL LOOKING FOR SOME HELP, PHOTOS, TEXT FOR UPDATING SECTIONS. SEND YOU NEWS AND VIEWS.
www.lochaber-yacht-club.co.uk

Have any of the for sale notices in Telltale sold the goods? I would be interested to know. If not would you like them repeated?

TELLTALE DEADLINE 9th Sept

Articles, scandal, photos that would work in black and white, results - please send to andy.rog@btinternet.com or phone 772 926 or send to Heatherlea, Tomonie, Banavie.

Also anybody who would like Telltale by email in colour - email me. *Marian*

Reflections of a race officer

It keeps you on your toes being race officer - even on an ordinary Wednesday night. First of all I struggled to see the start because it was such a beautiful evening and the sun was shining directly into the race office. Just on the gun, a boat (which shall remain nameless) shot across the line with the most perfect start ever, only to turn round and go back presumably thinking they were early - the moral being if there is no second hoot and the X flag does not go up - keep going.

There was a westerly breeze so boats were flying spinnakers on unusual legs of the triangle which gave the spectators a good view of MCP coming round the gybe mark onto a rather tight reach past the Yacht Club - that will be interesting with a spinnaker we said. And sure enough, the spinnaker would not be tamed. Neither did it come down. Soon Hamish could be seen standing on the fore deck hauling at it and still it would not come down. How do you beach your dinghy with an onshore breeze, a spinnaker flying and a very high tide, without removing the bottom of your boat on the slipway. The ingenious answer was to sail gently into the gardens (well, the grass) on the other side of the burn, tip the wayfarer over, unhook the offending spinny and set off again.

Then another spinnaker appeared, on the Kestrel this time, and true to form the gybe mark caused quite the most spectacular pitchpoling capsized I have ever seen. The occupants thought that it was such a nice night that they would not bother to wear their wet suits.

That left the race officer with the job of sorting out half a dozen identical toppers with the added confusion of their mates in another topper who were just cruising up and down in front of the yacht club, back and forwards across the finish line, again and again and again with the sun still shining in the race officer's eyes. Thank goodness for binoculars.

The calculations went fine and stood up to being checked by Donnie, but then the toppers wanted to know if they had beaten the lasers - so the calculator came out again to prove that they had.

So all in all don't be worried about being bored - just remember your sunglasses.

Marian

A yacht club raft (or 2) are needed for the raft race. The juniors are keen but perhaps could do with some help. Or what about the adults going into competition?

Sail Caledonia

Just after the last Telltale came out the yacht club hosted the beginning of the 'Sail Caledonia raid'. The launching of the competitors and hence the timing of the event was complicated by the wind - there was rather too much of it for launching 15 traditional boats from the slipway. Thanks to a lull and help from Richard and Hamish, this was achieved in the end giving just enough time for them to race in a zig zag to the canal entrance in time for locking in. As at least one of the boats could not go to windward except by rowing and others did not seem to understand the concept of a start line, it was just as well that it was really all down wind.

Some of our intrepid Toppers also braved the waves and race in a more conventional fashion with Kyle winning in Trick. Becky was second, Dawn was third and Claire a creditable 4th.

A shuttle then brought the 'raiders' back for a slap up buffet at the yacht club, which judging by the noise was thoroughly enjoyed by all.

The following day brought more pleasant weather and we witnessed them setting off to 'row' in a race up the reach from Neptune's staircase at the beginning of their next adventure.

Marian