

Telltale

March 2004



Commodore's Corner.

As I write this snippet for Telltale the sun is streaming in the office window, the loch has a few ripples on it and you could easily think that Spring is in the air. Let us hope in the next few weeks that the weather will remain fair so that all the jobs you intended doing on the boat throughout the winter months, but which you didn't quite get round to completing can be finished in time for the first race. I am sure that we are going to have a great season with plenty of boats out sailing in this our Anniversary year.

For those of you who have not perhaps managed down to the club recently you will have a very pleasant surprise when you see the new flooring in the changing rooms and the kitchen. Thanks must go to Ken Jerram who organised the purchase and laying of the flooring. We have also purchased two dehumidifiers for the changing rooms. These areas are getting very wet especially after training weekends. Until they are plumbed in I would ask the membership to be vigilant in checking whether they need emptied or not.

Hamish has done a great job in organising sweatshirts, polo shirts, T-shirts and baseball caps with the Anniversary logo on them. If you would like to purchase any of these items contact Hamish for advice or refer to the article in Telltale.

We have had very successful First Aid and Radio courses running at the club. Still to come is the rules night and the power boat training course.

Happy Sailing!!!!!!!!!!!!

Cherryl

Fitting Out Supper
GRAND HOTEL, 27 March
7 for 7.30

Buffet and talk by Bob Orrell
about Amulet and the early
days of the club in Corpach.
Tickets £15 must be ordered
and paid for in advance.

RACING RULES SEMINAR

Friday 19th March in the Clubhouse at
7.30

"Rulesmeister" Donnie Meldrum will shed
some light on the essential rules which will
help keep you clear of protests this season.
A very useful session for beginners and

Subs
were due by
1st March.
Please pay
promptly if
you have
not done so

www.lochaber-yacht-club.co.uk

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VHF Radio Course

I can thoroughly recommend this course even though I have no plans to get a boat with a lid. So thanks to Chris Strong for organising. George Clarke, the course tutor, is an encyclopaedic enthusiast for amateur radio who warmed us to his subject. It may make you more useful in an emergency and therefore a bonus for someone looking for crew in West Highland Week. It may save your life.

Judging by some of the participants' expressions it is a good course to attend before buying a cruising yacht anyway. It was almost possible to hear synapses sparking as priorities were calculated for life rafts, DSC radios, friendliness of bank managers and weighing this up with the likelihood of imminent danger. We seemed to conclude that imminent danger was likely on the way to the mooring until landing at Fort William again. On checking with an experienced member of the club, we revised this to disasters are possible, and it is possible to cope without the most up-to-date kit, but it is a good idea if you can get it.

Why is it a good idea to get DSC radio? Well, we learned that although all coastguard staff are dedicated, there will be nobody dedicated listening to VHF Channel 16 by 1 February 2005. This does not mean the Coastguard will be looking for new staff with a flair for cynicism and inactivity, but it does mean that with a DSC radio there is a far higher likelihood of getting into the picture if something does go wrong.

It was great hearing the plans folk have for cruises with their craft. Exploring the west coast and hopefully further afield. Much more interesting and less annoying than caravans.
by Martin Faulkner

DOES NOBODY KNOW ANYBODY WHO WANTS TO LEARN TO SAIL ? we are sure you do - let them read this and fill in the form on the last page LYC Beginner and improver courses

The Club will be running an RYA level 2 Dinghy Sailing Course over 2 Weekends, 24/25 April & 1 /2 May and Thursday evenings 22 and 29 April. This is an ADULTS beginners course.

If you are a member of the club, the cost of the course will be £35 (covers the cost of Safety Boat Fuel, Handbooks and Certificates). If you have not yet joined then £65 will cover your membership for the rest of the year and the costs of the course.

With enough interest an improvers course will follow on immediately after the Level 2 course on Thursday evenings. There will also be race training later in the year again if there is sufficient demand.

Solings in Lochaber

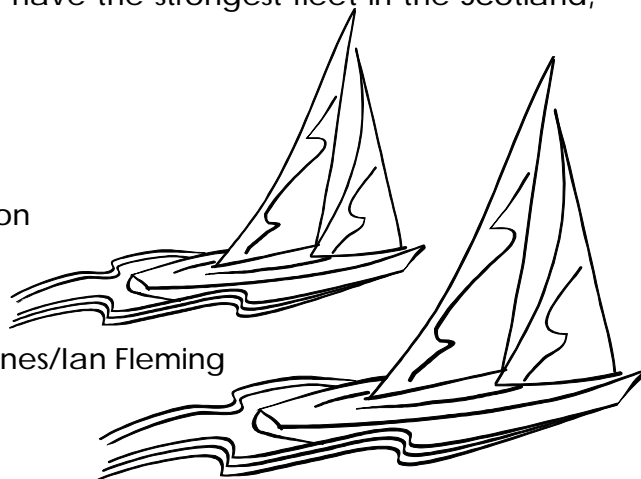
When you first hear of Solings, the impression is often that the listener has misheard the speaker, and that it is some reference to "sailings". Probably a deliberate choice on the part of Jan Linge, the designer when naming his new boat in the late 1960's. Once this hurdle was passed, the uninitiated were sometimes put off by its then Olympic status, and the seemingly infinite alterations to the various control lines that can, and usually do, need to be made to get the most out of this boat. (Try pulling the "blue" rope on Liz Loudon's boat and you'll soon know what I mean!) Added to the fact that they can't be reefed in stronger winds, might convince you that these are some over complex racing machines for the experts only..... or so I thought. (cont)

Solings in Lochaber cont

The reality is of course rather different, as we have found here in Lochaber, with the Soling making a truly excellent 3 person club racing boat (with its self tacking jib – no need for winches here) all at a very reasonable costs compared to the average keelboat. A reasonable quality older Soling can cost as little as £700, rather less than most dinghies. This is pretty good value for a 27ft keelboat.

Club members own a grand total of 10 Solings, and we have the strongest fleet in the Scotland, namely:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Sail No</u>	<u>Owner</u>
Rascal	GBR 163	Robbie Robertson
Solaris	GBR 161	Hamish Loudon
Just Gonnae No	GBR 157	Liz Loudon/Chris Dodgshon
Dirty Harry	GBR 129	Harry Jeffrey
Romance	GBR 127	Hamish Loudon
Trilleachan	GBR 59	Simon Macdonald
Hussoling	GBR 51	Keith Falconer/David Haines/Ian Fleming
Merry Dancer	GBR 31	Simon Macdonald
Floe	GBR 30	Stewart Blair
Scapa	GBR 28	Stewart Blair



As you can see from this list, some folk like the Soling so much that they went out and bought another one! Scapa and Merry Dancer are cruising/racing Solings, based primarily at Lochailort and converted for cruising, a conversion which Simon MacDonald will I'm sure gladly tell you about, as well as Merry Dancer's regatta winning performances at the Arisaig Regatta. All the rest sail and race locally. The average fleet turn out is 5 and the boats vary from old stagers like Floe into their 30's, to the under 10's Solaris & Rascal. Not that age always makes that much of a difference, as all the local sailors were race winners last season and there have been very many close races, making it the best season for some time.

Unlike most keelboats, Solings are not usually antifouled to ensure best underwater profile. This entails taking them out of the water on a fairly regular basis, and the Lochaber Soling Association has trailers & a hoist to facilitate this. Usually a few boats get together to do this simultaneous as many hands make light work on a Soling.

For 2004, pretty much all of the regular Soling sailors are on the look out for both regular and occasional crew, and Stewart Blair for a helm as well. If anyone fancies some racing on Monday nights, whether their background is dinghies or keelboats they would be very welcome. There simply is nothing to beat class racing in a crewed boat. We are lucky to have this with the Solings at LYC and would like to share it with you.

For the really keen there is an excellent travellers series held in some beautiful locations e.g. Kielder Water, at which LYC Solings regularly take part and do well. Hamish Loudon won the Soling Class at the 2004 Scottish series in Tarbert for example.

Interested? then get in touch with Hamish Loudon - hamish@loudon.sol.co.uk or 01397 702370 or any of the Soling sailers above. See also the section on Soling sailing in the LYC website, or the British and International Soling Association websites.

Keith Falconer, Hussoling GBR 51

Dinghy News

The North of Scotland Youth training weekend

took place on 7/8 February under winter conditions.

Snow sweeping across the Loch in swathes concealed dinghies

from rescue boats and the kids resorted to scooping snow up from their decks to make snowballs. Thanks to Sandy Lorimer, an excellent Lasagna revived spirits in the evening and the weekend was declared a great experience.



Dinghy Traveller Weekend 15/16 May

There will be about 40 Toppers/Optimists and 420's, so we will be looking for rescue boat drivers, kitchen volunteers, providers of baking and a car parker.

Jubilee Clothing

Lochaber Yacht Club clothing to celebrate the Jubilee is now available. T-shirts, fleeces, caps and sweatshirts all with the striking 50 year logo in any size or colour can be purchased from PrintOne in Onich. Just go in and order the article that would suit you. Samples are displayed on the club website lochaber-yacht-club.co.uk



VHF Radio Handbooks

Chris Strong has some spare books (RYA publication G22/02) - let him know if you want one before he sends them back to RYA - £5 each.

Telltale needs stories/articles/adverts. Send to Marian at Heatherlea, Tomonie, Fort William or to andy.rog@btinternet.com or phone 772926. Also if you are able to receive Telltale by email, please send me your email address.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY LYC GOLDEN JUBILEE YEAR

- Mar 19 Racing Rules** 7.30 Club house
20 Clean up the Club day - turn up and help
20/21 Power Boat level 1&2
22 Race mark laying - volunteers please
27 Fitting Out Supper Grand Hotel 7pm
28 Frost Bite Shield 14.00
31 First dingy points 19.00
- Apr 13 Committee Meeting** clubhouse
22 Beginners' course starts
25 Official launch of Rescue Boats
Brass Monkey 14.00
- May 1 Telltale deadline**
9 Black Rock 1500
11 Committee meeting clubhouse
*** 15/16 Dinghy Travellers**
23 Corran Red
24 No Duffers Cup
29/30 Sail Caledonia launch and Supper

* Note change of date

Power Boat Level 1 and 2 and Safety Boat Training

To do safety boat training you have to already have done power boat training. Interested members for either course, please contact Cherryl at 702814.

The club needs you

The Committee will need help with lots of the events listed above. Please phone the appointed person and come along and help 'clean up the club house' (Cherryl), lay racing marks (Hamish), assist with the catering (Sandy Lorimer), launch of boats or rescue boating at a visitors' event (Pete Hyde for the Dinghy Travellers, Marian for Sail Caledonia).

Many Thanks to Liz Loudon and Adrian Hope for running an excellent First Aid course. Much appreciated by those who attended.

LYC Beginner and Improver courses

The Club will be running an RYA level 2 Dinghy Sailing Course for ADULT BEGINNERS over 2 Weekends: 24/25 April & 1 /2 May and two Thursday evenings 22, 29 April.

If you are a member of the club, the cost of the course will be £32 (covers the cost of Safety Boat Fuel, Handbooks and Certificates). If you have not yet joined then £65 will cover your membership for the rest of the year and the costs of the course. Perfect attendance is strongly recommended.

With enough interest an improvers course will follow on immediately after the Level 2 course on Thursday evenings. There will also be race training later in the year again if there is sufficient demand.

A limited amount of sailing kit is available but it would be convenient if you could provide yourself with warm clothes, waterproofs, a buoyancy aid and a wetsuit.

The course will be limited in numbers and places will be allocated on a first come first served basis.

If you would like to take part complete the following form and send it to:

Hamish Loudon, Molendinar, Argyll Road, Fort William PH33 6LF Tel 702370

E-Mail hamish@loudon.sol.co.uk

.....

Lochaber Yacht Club RYA Level 2 Dinghy Sailing Course

Name:

Address:

Phone: Email.....

Enrolment fee - existing member (£35): (please enclose)

- new member (£65) “ “

Next of kin or friend to be contacted in the case of an emergency:

Name: Phone:

If you cannot swim 50 metres or have a medical condition, which could affect your health or safety, please indicate below. These will not preclude you from the course but we need to know in case special arrangements need to be made for your safety.

I can/cannot swim 50 metres

I have the following medical condition(s):.....

Thank you for considering taking part in the LYC 2002 Beginners' Training Course. I'm sure you will thoroughly enjoy it and will hopefully go on to become an active member of the club.