



Telltale February 2015

Commodore's Comments

The winter storms are passing but these have changed to snow. A great time was had by the skiers but conditions were not too good for getting around.

The damaged boats have been attended to and general maintenance carried out when the weather permitted. Burns night was scheduled for the 24th January. Two guest speakers were booked to make this a great evening but due to lack of members wishing to attend, the evening was cancelled. This was most disappointing!!

Lochaber Sports Association held their awards ceremony at the club house on Friday 30th January. Hamish was at the event and reported that it was very good and well organised. Martin Faulkner had been on the nominations list for an award related to sail training. The speaker, Bob Shepton, talked about his experience of sailing in high latitudes .

The chairman said that the clubhouse was very good and that the awards ceremony might be held in our club house next year. If this is the case perhaps we should arrange for more sailing pictures to be displayed and perhaps a short running power point display.

Coming soon will be the fitting out supper on Saturday 28th March in the club house. John Howe from the Scottish Association of Marine Science will talk about mapping of the sea bed. A light buffet is planned and there will be a bar licence with wine and beers available. This should be a good start to the sailing season and I hope many members will attend. Please advise Abigail by 14th March. The first dinghy race (Frostbite) will take place on the following day (Sunday)

Richard Rumney.



Recent events:

Burns Supper- as mentioned above, this event was cancelled due to insufficient numbers.

Lochaber Sports Association awards evening.

Hamish attended this evening, and reported that the event was a great success. Congratulations to Martin Faulkner who was nominated for Coach of the Year Award, but was pipped at the post by Blair MacRaild, of Lochaber R.F.C.



Reverend Bob Shepton, (Yachtsman of the Year 2013) was the guest speaker, and presented a slide show about his Arctic adventures. You can see more details on the L.S.A. website. Jane Blanchard of L.S.A. was fulsome in her praise of our clubhouse, so perhaps we will be asked to host the awards night next year.



L.S.A. Awards Evening at the clubhouse.

<http://www.lochabersportsassociation.org/awards-night-2014/>

www.bobshepton.co.uk

Future Events

Next up is the **Fitting Out Supper**, to be held in the clubhouse on Saturday 28th March. If you wish to attend, please book your tickets by 14th March at the latest, to allow the catering team to plan ahead.

Tickets are available from Abigail, e-mail abigailw@vodafoneemail.co.uk

Phone 01397 701596 Mob 07979452101

A provisional price of £8.00 per ticket is proposed.

The speaker is John Howe, from the Scottish Association of Marine Science, who will speak about mapping the sea-bed. I look forward to seeing a good turn-out for this evening.

Thanks to Martin for the following info. on sailing courses-

Sailing Courses in May and July

It's time to start thinking about training again. The adult course this year is the **first three weekends in May**, giving plenty of time to build skill during the rest of the season. If you know somebody that may need to revitalise their New Year's Resolution this is the perfect course. Hurry though, we've already got three names.

Staggeringly good value and possibly one of the highest instructor to student ratios in the country. (I'll just check I got that the right way round.) Yes! High instructor to student ratio is correct! The course fee is the same as a single adult membership and covers membership for the rest of the year. How good is that?

The Junior course has changed date slightly from last year after feedback from last year. Straight after school breaks up is really so very tiring! So, we're going to give them a rest for the first week and a bit of the holidays. **The 5 days-in-a-row from Wednesday – Sunday (15-19 July)**. If a youngster isn't sure then come along on a Thursday evening from 23 April to watch from the safety boat, or get on board right away. The youngest this really works with is just leaving Primary 6, and the oldest we had is S5.

For the juniors in particular we use the Positive Coaching Scotland approach. So, it's all about having fun while learning new skills, building resilience and responsibility. Setting your own goals and getting there means you can come last in a race and still win. Believe me, I know because I practise it every week during the season.

Application forms on the website. More information from Martin Faulkner on 01397 702724.

Recap

Adults 2-3, 9-10 & 16-17 May. 0930-1500ish each day – cost adult membership (£90)

Juniors 15-19 July 0930-1500ish each day – cost junior membership (£45)

Go Wild on the Canal 16th May 2015



Despite the poor weather, this was a very enjoyable event last year, taking the form of an open day at Banavie, with various water or shore based activities taking place. LYC had an information stall at the canal-side, while on the water, Martin Faulkner was giving dinghy tutorials in the club Wayfarer, and Hamish was offering short trips on his yacht "Fumarole"

The picture shows one of the raft race teams being given a bit of help by the safety boat . The raft was not in danger of sinking, but had lost directional stability. John Stafford of Scottish Canals has invited the club to take part this year, so if you wish to make use of your boat-building skills, please contact Hamish.

LYC Regatta Saturday 22nd and Sunday 23rd August

Rather than having a week-long event, it has been decided to hold the regatta over a weekend in August this year, in the hope that this will encourage more people to attend..Dinghy racing will be on Saturday, and keelboat racing on Sunday. The dinghy/hill race ,in conjunction with Lochaber Athletic Club, will be held as a stand-alone event this year,, on Tuesday 2nd June.

The club fixture list will be included in the handbook, to be issued soon, but here are some dates for your diary:

Sat 23rd May

Fri 5th June

Sat 6th June

Sat 13th-Sun 14th June

3rd to 5th July

1st to 7th Aug

Sail Caledonia

Oban-Glencoe passage race.

Glencoe Regatta

Oban KB Regatta

Round Mull Race

West Highland Week

The list of prize-winners in the January Tell-tale did not include the names of crew members— sorry about that! Here they are now—

<u>DINGHY RACES</u>	Helm	Crew
FROSTBITE SHIED 1 st RACE SEASON	DONNIE MELDRUM	MARIE MELDRUM
COMMODORES PRIZE LOCH EIL RACE	HAMISH LOUDON	SUSANNA THOMPSON
VICE COMMODORE TROPHY FAST DINGHY POINTS 1	HAMISH LOUDON	T.B.C.
MERLIN TROPHY FAST DINGHY POINTS 2	HAMISH LOUDON	SUSANNA THOMPSON
KK CAMERON TROPHY FAST DINGHY POINTS 3	HAMISH LOUDON	SUSANNA THOMPSON
BLACK ROCK BELL BLACK ROCK RACE	PAUL BIGGIN	AMANDA HENDERSON
CORPACH CANNON JUNIOR MEMBER BEST CONTRIBUTION	GREGGOR LINFIELD	
FAULKNER TROPHY BEST CREW	LUCY BALLANTYNE	
ST CHRISTOPHER TROPHY LAST RACE OF SEASON	PAUL BIGGIN	BRIAN HOLGATE

Race Nights O.O.D Duties

In the past, one of the boats which regularly competes has been allocated to provide the Officer of the Day (O.O.D.) for this task. This means that a helm or crew member is regularly unable to race, especially if the fleet is small in number ,as has been the case over the last couple of years. I have decided to address this problem in two ways:

- 1)Helm or crew who race on a Monday evening will be asked to be O.O.D. on Wednesday evening,but never on a Monday, and conversely, some of the Wednesday evening dinghy racers would be asked to do duty on a Monday evening rather than Wednesday .**
- 2) The pool of potential OOD candidates would be extended to include club members who do not normally race. This has more advantages for the keelboat fleet than the dinghy fleet, but I look forward to any suggestions from the membership.**

D. Montgomery, keelboat convenor

“Hands up

Have you ever cast off from a pontoon before the harbourmaster arrived ? had a sailing experience which turned out to be a lot more exciting than anticipated ?had a near collision with a CalMac ferry ?

Adrian Hope has suggested that from within the rich experience of our members, there must be plenty of embarrassing or merely amusing stories to be told, so please feel free to submit any such stories to Tell-Tale.

With any luck they will be both entertaining and instructional. In the spirit of the thing, Adrian has kicked off with the following account:

We were about to enter Loch Creran in Camasunary – the Hunter Liberty which is a 22ft ketch with unstayed masts. Loch Creran is a pleasant spot but the entrance is a bit ‘twisty’ with some nasty rocky bits.

We were, of course, sailing, with crew John – good company but no kind of sailor – having been on board for no more than an hour for the passage from Airds Bay. Just at the tricky bit where we have to bear away to follow the channel we are hit by the most horrible line squall I ever saw.

With the boat up on its ear I managed to let go the sheets (no point in asking the crew who didn’t know what they were). Unfortunately, because of a dodgy fitting which I ought to have replaced the boom swung out too far and the gooseneck broke. So here we were with the boom end flailing about and trailing in the water and the boat in imminent danger of charging up the beach.

Somehow we scraped past and managed to anchor in the Loch where the pulse rate slowly returned to normal and we could collect our wits.....

MORAL: Do not go to sea with any dodgy fittings.

Thanks to Adrian for this nautical tale. I look forward to a rush of confessions from the members . (If you have been involved in something criminal I don’t want to know)

I would like to finish by wishing all members fair winds for this season, and extending a warm welcome to new members