

LYC



Telltale April 2015

FROM THE COMMODORE APRIL 2015

Officially, Spring has arrived but I have to say that Winter is still with us. Despite the weather much preparation has been carried out at the Club on Thursdays. Reports of this are detailed by Hamish.

The first major function of the season was the Fitting Out Supper on Saturday 28th March. The club house was nearly at its maximum capacity.



We were very fortunate to have John Howe from the Scottish Association of Marine Sciences who gave a very interesting talk about the mapping of the sea bed. There were details of the

types of sonar used and actual 3D images of the sea bed including the Gulf of Corryvreckan.

Sunday was a clearing up morning followed by the Frostbite Trophy Race starting at 14.00 hrs. Despite the cold weather there were 6 dinghies afloat. The race was good with some boats and crews practicing their capsizing skills for the rest of the year. The safety boat had just one small task of returning one boat to the slipway.



I wish to draw to your attention that some members fees are now overdue. It is a club rule that non paid members will not be able to participate in any sailing races.

I am sure that as the weather improves there will be more activity on the water. The first dinghy points race will start at 19.00 on Wednesday 1st April.

Richard Rumney

Recent Events



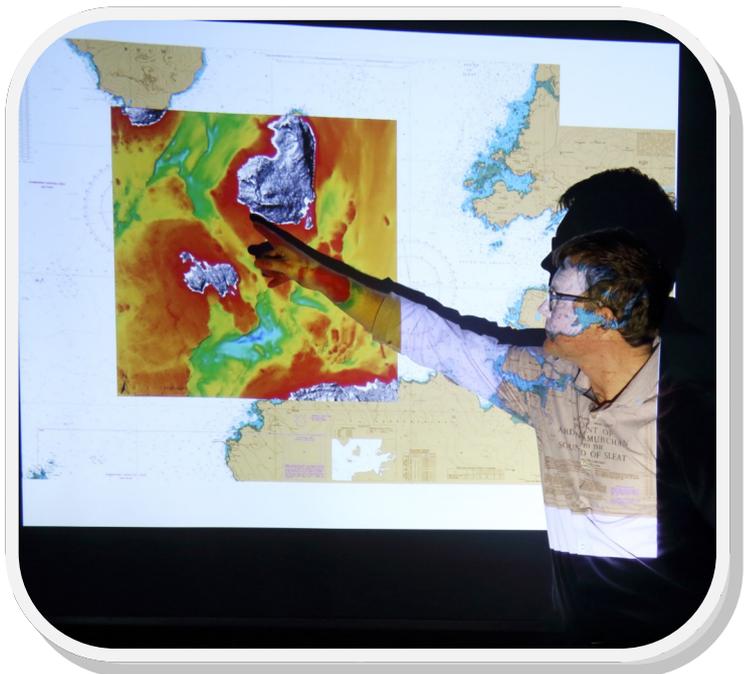
Guest speaker John Howe, from the Scottish Association of Marine Science, talking about mapping of the sea bed.

A detailed under sea map of the Corryvreckan Gulf was shown, explaining why the tidal rips are so fierce in this area.

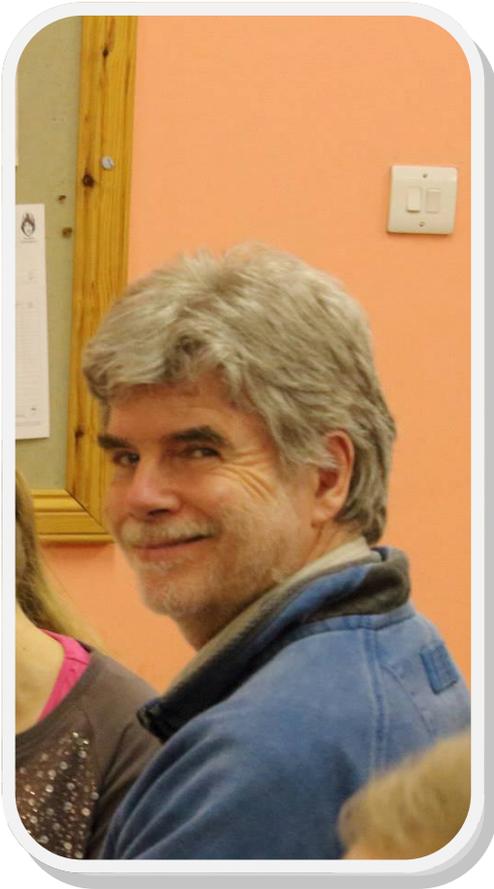
John in full flow, explaining the technology used to obtain detailed mapping of the sea bed.

The chart shows the Sound of Eigg.

Such was his enthusiasm for his subject, he even had a T-shirt specially printed for the occasion!



Congratulations to Jim Douglas and crew for being awarded the Lismore Light trophy (again) for submitting the best cruising log for 2014. This will be published in Telltale over the next two or three issues, (see page 7)as was the case last year, and makes for very enjoyable reading. I understand that Jim has also submitted this work for consideration by the Booker Prize judges !



Andy McKenna

Some of the members and guests enjoying the fitting out supper.

Thanks to Martin Faulkner for the photos.



Carole & Brian Fallows, with Paul Biggin



Stephanie and Linda



Hamish and Tim heading for the line in “Driftwood”, a GP 14 which Tim acquired last year.

The results were:

1st Mike Campbell in Laser “Sans Pur”

2nd Donnie & Marie Meldrum in Wayfarer “B Flat”

3rd Paul Biggin & Chris Strong in Osprey “Bird o’ Spray”

First race of the season, the Frostbite series.

The crews were not deterred by the wet and cold weather.



The fleet just before the start.

Future Events.

Lochaber Dinghy One Peak Race 2015.

Evening hill running and dinghy sailing event.

Based at Lochaber Yacht Club, the course involves a short run before sailing across Loch Linnhe, ascending Meall an t-Slamain (457m) then returning by the same route.

Date: Tuesday, 2nd June 2015.

Briefing: 18:00hrs. Start: 18:20hrs.

Venue/ organiser: Lochaber Yacht Club, Fort William.

Run Category: 'Short/ C'- Hill. Bring full wind proof body cover/ extra warm clothes/ compass/ whistle. Basic hill navigation skills essential.

Entry fee: £5. **Distance:** Approx 3km. **Ascent:** Approx 457m.

Notes: Sorry, no junior runners. We need to limit runner numbers to 15 or 20 approx, based on the expected 10 boats. Please confirm early if you are interested.

Contact: jongayarchitect@googlemail.com



Thanks to Jon Gay for the above information. An entry form is available on the club website . www.lochaber-yacht-club.co.uk

Coming up :

Saturday 23rd May	Sail Caledonia
Friday 5th June	Oban-Glencoe passage race
Saturday 6th June	Glencoe Regatta
Sat 13th—Sun 14th June	Oban K.B. Regatta
3rd to 5th July	Round Mull race
1st to 7th August	West Highland Week

[Saturday 22nd and Sunday 23rd August](#)

Lochaber Yacht Club Regatta

Dinghy racing on Saturday, and Keelboat racing on Sunday

[Saturday 16th May : Go Wild on the Canal. \(Open event at Banavie\)](#)

This was a successful event last year, with over 1000 people attending, despite the poor weather. John Stafford of Scottish Canals has invited L.Y.C. to take part in the raft race this year-volunteers required ! The club had an information stand last year, and offered short boat trips and dinghy training.

Sailing Courses in May and July:

Adult courses will take place on the first three weeks in May

Cost £90 (Adult membership)

Junior Course: 5 days in a row from Wed—Sunday (15th –19th July).

Cost £45 (Junior membership)

Application forms on line. www.lochaber-yacht-club.co.uk

More information from Martin Faulkner on 01397 702724

Dons Sottise Summer Cruise 2014

To Stornoway on the Black Pudding Challenge!

Many yotties have whiskey in mind for their cruise planning on the West Coast. Some go hunting wildlife. Some bag the new Haswells (Scottish Islands) . So what do 3 doctors who should know better, 1 English engineer, 1 English probation officer and the man in charge of oil field security choose to hunt down? Yes, Stornoways finest black puddings!

Now the captain had always had a soft spot for Stornoway since love drew him there in 1977 and he had crossed the Minch on many a raging storm with yarns to tell. But the man on the helm for 37 years crossing the Minch always had Calmac stripes. Time to Man Up and sleigh the Minches sea dragons!

The captains son and heir was also now across the Minch healing the sick of the Hebrides with his psychiatric skill and his daughter in law was tending the many varied needs of General Medical practice "in locum tenens".

It had been a complicated diary in the summer for the captain with working in Japan and the commonwealth games in Glasgow to enjoy.

Those of you familiar with these , dare I say it , "award winning logs" , may recall that Miss Kubota hails from Japan. Yes ,Dons Sottise reliable marinized digger diesel engine has her lineage from the Kubota digger power plant. Miss Kubota has a special affection for the captain having replaced an unreliable earlier mistress. The captain had many a Japanese story to recount to his crew stormbound or becalmed ,so we ended up with August weeks to cross the Minch.

A brisk Northerly at Lettershuna made coming alongside the pontoon and victual-ling somewhat "trying". The pontoon fashioned from old metal fish cages was more like a wave electricity generating machine in the Pentland Firth. The captains wife was valiantly doing a trolley dolly on a bucking broncho with provisions piled high. At one stage the captain saw his sleeping bag bobbing in the water, while thankfully sealed in a dry bag. "Load and go" was the order of the day in the teeth of the storm as the captain worried about the unforgiving metal on fibreglass.

However, the prize was a brisk reach on the starboard quarter. Loch Aline or Tobers , chaps, was the frey above the near gale? Loch Aline won , but after gaining the narrows it was clear that the pontoons were very exposed in the northerly and the only option after a chug past at the behest of Miss Kubota was a berth on the inside ring facing north. The inner sanctum at Loch Aline is not for the feint hearted on a calm day , but Mr Beauforts 5-6 gusts presented a challenge. A beamy French metal yacht looked horrified as we approached abeam in the tight space gesticulating about fenders in the sailors international language. However in a triumph of seamanship worthy of Nelson at Trafalgar we delivered a broadside under the joint captain arrangements of Dons Sottise with Iain at the helm and your truly leaping with ropes. It was like an Olympic marine dressage event of choreographed precision and team work. Not even an aluminium French kiss was exchanged and the "En tent cordial" of Scotia's shores prevailed.

Sunday was Loch Aline to Mallaig. Along punt but we were keen to keep up the pace and gain sea room for the Minch. We have to motor the sound of Mull on a sunny day and soon Tober is on the port beam. Attempts at white flappy things abandoned to make the tide at Ardnamurchan light.

We had fabulous views of Sanna bay and Muck leaving Bo Faskerdale to starboard. One of the joys of this route is taking in the different aspects presented by the Sguir of Eigg as we "sail" past. A whale , maybe Minke ,is spotted afar.

We enter Mallaig in the drizzle and find a pontoon at 17:40. A quick dash for the papers and milk. The "traditional Mallaig welcome" to yotties begins with a sullen girl in the Co-Op clearly specially trained to see visitors in Yotty gear as the enemy. The toilet and shower block remains a building site after 18 months of the pontoons because of petty nimby complaints by a Mallaig B&B owner. Re-entry to the pontoons is barred with no attendant on duty. Eventually another yotty determined to help the Mallaig tourist economy lets me back in jail.

Back on the boat we have a loud bang and flash from the mains hook up caused by our dodgy connection!

Next morning requires an early start to catch the tide and we are standing outside the petrol station with diesel cans on a trolley along with a queue of motorists. The attendant emerges from his waiting car at 09:00 after waiting with the queue for 10 minutes himself determined not to be helpful until 09:01 GMT (General Mallaig Time) . The chandler is for the 3 fishing boats in the harbour and does not do yotties. Certainly no hook up lines for the marina or passing motorhomes.

A true West Highland Welcome from Mallaig as usual! Contrast Oban , Tobermory, Loch Aline all buzzing with Yotty money! When will they learn?

Monday is Mallaig to Portree with a brisk wind to catch the tide at Kyle Rhea. We join with another yot for the cork out of a Champaign bottle job in the narrows dodging the ferry. Kyle is always a cauldron of wind and sea no matter the prevailing wind elsewhere.

Under the bridge to admire the shingle bank which court marshalled the captain of HMS Artemis , the nuclear submarine which ended up like an expensive stranded whale a couple of years ago.

Onwards past Broadford to the narrows between Scalpay and Raasay with a brisk beam reach around the cans.

Portree is particularly spectacular to enter by sea. The seafront buildings are colourful like Tober. We have just secured one of 12 visitor moorings when a dinghy approaches. An enthusiastic member of Portree boat club invites us to join their race tomorrow with an entry form. Much helpful chat and exchange of invites to LYC , but we must leave in the morning. Such a welcome contrast to Mallaig, again!

We launch the dinghy for a run ashore to purchase one onion for Michael Chef de Jour and just happen to enter the pub on the pier for a pint!

Michael constructs an amazing fish curry with the Portree onion and the captain is given to hyperbole as he describes the vista (no, not a Vesta curry)....." Soft Soda on top of the Cuillin" .



Dons Sottise at anchor



Lord Shiant of the Bothy



The Black Pudding Judges researching the Black House village cultural norms on sheep blood

Cooking notes for the Black Pudding Challenge in a Black House



For information_ - e-mail sent to the secretary ,from Allan Lindsay of the |Canoe Club, for distribution to club members. If interested, please contact:

Allan Lindsay | 14 Seafield Gardens | Fort William | PH33 6RJ | t: 01397 703711 m: 07780 546191

Hi folks,

While I faithfully carry a first aid kit every time I go out paddling, it is fair to say that I know little more than how to put on a plaster. I was therefore considering learning how to use the kit but wondered how many other paddlers are in the same boat, so to speak?

I am therefore considering arranging a 2 day Outdoor Emergency First Aid Course which would be delivered by a BASP instructor, certificated and valid for 3 years. This training is recognised by the BCU and other organisations as noted below.

It would probably be held in Fort William, but depending on location, venue and numbers, cost for the 2 day course would be between £70-£90 per person. The maximum would be 12 persons.

If you might be interested, please get in touch with me in the first instance so that I can gauge whether this is worth speaking further with the trainer and looking at venues.

thanks

Allan

***Suitable for:** Outdoor activity enthusiasts and professionals; acceptable for all National Governing Body Awards and qualifications such as: ML, WML, MIA, MIC, IML, BMG, MBLA, TCL, BHPA, RYA, BCU, BASI and other sports. Suitable for anyone working in a remote environment or if you prefer a practical course with scenarios to aid learning*

Kilt Walk

Many of you will remember that last year I took part in the Kilt Walk. This is a registered charity which raises money for various children's charities throughout Scotland.

A year on, my legs have recovered sufficiently for me to sign up again – not the whole 26 miles (I'll leave that to the younger members of the family) but the 13 mile Half Kilt. Not only that, I've signed Domhnull up too! On May 3rd we'll be donning our kilts and putting our best feet forward round the streets of Edinburgh.

We're part of a team and 50% of what we raise will go to Yorkhill Children's hospital, the rest to other charities such as Barnardo's, Children 1st and Capability Scotland.

If anyone would like to sponsor the team, you can do so at

www.virginmoneygiving.com/team/Pain It Forward

Thank you,

Sine Montgomery

