



Telltale April 2018

### Commodore's Comments

*At last, the season has started, after a very successful Fitting out Supper with an informative talk from Seb Coulthard on the Shackleton adventure. Although the first dinghy race of the season was greeted with an almost mirror calm Loch. We did get a race the following Sunday, and the first dinghy series is now underway. Even the keelboats are coming out of hibernation. Perhaps some sailors will keep a log this year and challenge Don's Scottise for the Lismore Light trophy? Thanks are due to the stalwarts who laid the nine race marks and prepared the twelve club dinghies for the season.*

*The first significant challenge of the season will be the Push the Boat Out weekend when the club will be open to the public to a "come and try it" sailing event. This will require a considerable effort in order to cater for the unknown number of people who might wish to come along for a taster sail.*

*We will need dinghies, keelboats, Solings and Safety boats plus some catering, ready to meet the demand. Other developments, the Club has reached an agreement with the local college, UHI for the use of Club facilities for waterborne activities. This will be part of the UHI outdoor activity management course. So don't be surprised to see sailing and kayaking activity afloat during the day at the club.*

*As well as keelboats flying the club burgee outwith Loch Linnhe a dinghy team has made a welcome return to travelling. Well done Jon and Amanda. Perhaps others might follow?*



Seb Coulthard talking at the fitting out supper



First dinghy race of the season.

## ***Recent events.***

**Fitting Out Supper** . (Talk by Seb Coulthart.) See Commodore's newsletter.

## **Re-surfacing of car park.**

Alasdair Young Ltd laid a new surface on the car park at the beginning of March, which will hopefully alleviate the problems caused by pot-holes.

## **Dinghy Racing.**

The lack of wind during the first race of the season was more than compensated for by the gusty winds experienced on Wednesday 18th March, when a sudden rise in wind speeds saw four out of the six boats on the water capsize. The safety boat was joined by Hamish & Jamie Riley on the second RIB, and Ian Fleming and Keith Falconer assisted in the Pioneer workboat. Dinghies and crew were recovered safely. Hot drinks for the drookit crew were provided by Carol Fallows in the clubhouse later !

## **Broadband at Clubhouse**

Hi Speed broadband has now been installed at the clubhouse. This will be linked to the computer and TV monitor, which will allow us to stream instructional sailing videos etc from YouTube. The code is RYE9E7205QE

## **Future Events.**

**Push The Boat Out.** This is a nationwide event, sponsored by the R.Y.A., and takes place on Sat 12th & Sun 13th May, 2pm -5 pm. Posters will be distributed in the Lochaber area by club members, and the R.Y.A. will be organising national advertising. The idea is to promote sailing as a healthy outdoor activity available to all, and to this end, the club will make available boats and crew to enable members of the public to try out dinghy/keelboat sailing. The event has a Facebook site, which is :

<https://www.facebook.com/lycpushtheboatout/>

Volunteers welcome, both ashore and on the water. Please let Hamish or Jon know if you wish to become involved.

## **One Peak Race**

This will take place on Tuesday evening, 29th May. Members of Lochaber Athletic Club are transported by dinghy to the far shore of Loch Linnhe, where they disembark and race to the top of Meall an t-Slamain and back.

## **Regatta**

A two day event this year, over 25th & 26th August.

**Sail Caledonia.** This muster of traditional boats takes place on Sat. 26th May, when the boats are launched from the clubhouse. They then head for the Caledonian Canal, and cruise in company. Come to help or spectate, and bring your camera !

**Soutar's Lass Cruise.** Tuesday 14th August.

See handbook for races etc and rota for O.O.D. and safety boat





# R.Y.A. Promotional Material



# TRY SAILING IN MAY



## TASTER SESSIONS

**'PUSH THE BOAT OUT' AND TRY SAILING AT LOCHABER YACHT CLUB.**

**Saturday 12<sup>th</sup>/ Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> May 2018- from 2pm to 5pm.**

Are you looking for a new way to get outdoors and active or find something you can enjoy together with the family? If the answer is yes, Lochaber Yacht Club is inviting you and your family to come and try sailing (in dinghies and yachts) for free!

Whether you're completely new to the sport or looking to get back on the water, RYA 'Push the Boat Out' is the perfect time to give it a go!

Please book via the following email- [sec@lochaber-yacht-club.co.uk](mailto:sec@lochaber-yacht-club.co.uk)

More details- [www.lochaber-yacht-club.co.uk](http://www.lochaber-yacht-club.co.uk)

**[RYA.ORG.UK/PTBO](http://RYA.ORG.UK/PTBO)**



I am delighted to include in this edition the first instalment of Jim Douglas' cruising log from the 2017 season .

## Dons Sottises and the Medical Musketeers campaign, West of Mull 2017

### Part 1

*Ne fais pas de sottises – Don't do anything silly!*

*The Three Musketeers* is a historical novel by Alexandre Dumas.

Set in 1625–1628, it recounts the adventures of a young man named d'Artagnan after he leaves home to travel to Paris, to join the [Musketeers of the Guard](#). Although d'Artagnan is not able to join this elite corps immediately, he befriends the three most formidable musketeers of the age—[Athos](#), [Porthos](#) and [Aramis](#)—and gets involved in affairs of the state and court.

### *The cast of Dons Sottise:*

*She is a **Moddy 35 CC** with an **LYC** burgee who takes summers in South at Lettershuna*



*Don was the original owner based in Tobermory and she was his folly.*

*She is too old to change her name and sailors of yore said it was bad luck to change a sailing ships name.*

*Miss Kubota is her new engine. A Beta 35 marinized in the UK from a Kubota digger diesel.*



*Bruce is her new anchor on a new bow roller after years of CQR tyranny.*

*Donald is my new pet owl who is on guard for wagtails.*

*Iain: Lord of Port Appin , a polymath ([Greek](#): πολυμαθής, polymathēs, "having learned much")<sup>[4]</sup> is a person whose expertise spans a significant number of different subject areas—such a person is known to draw on complex bodies of knowledge to solve specific problems. Sometime doctor to his community.*

*Colin: Engineer for British Leyland, missionary in Thailand, probation officer and later day sailor*

*Allan: Serious engineer and serious sailor including the Fasnet this year.*

*Michael: Man, of culture and foodie. Sometime doctor to the community of Clydebank.*

*Peter: Christine's brother. Hebridean. Top rank police career. Now top rank oil field security.*

*Jim: well you know me at LYC. Useless racing sailor. Salt in the blood. Medical Man of the parish.*

*Previous cruising logs are available for the LYC Lismore Light trophy!*

***Well, what to do in 2017?***

Previous logs include, Barra, Belfast, Stornoway and Skye. Some unfinished business from Barra last year included an abandoned landing on the Tresnish Islands. A long-held dream has been Tiree, but always avoided with no suitable anchorage on an exposed, lee shore and sandy beach. Looks nice on a postcard but Bruce likes gloopy mud!

Rumours begin in the New Year of moorings in Tiree. Famous for its climate, music festival and surfing it seems the obvious base camp for the Tresnish expedition. It has an airport and ferry from Oban for the logistic choreography of a crew change mid weekend.

The dates and flights are booked and the assurances about "moorings for the 2017 season" become a bit fretful in West Coast time. However, 2 weeks prior to departure we have a confirmed sighting of a mooring in Gott Bay Tiree.

Victualing is organised in that strange antediluvian era in Fort William known as "Pre-M&S Times". Colin and Alan arrive by train and Mrs Lidl provides fresh essentials. There is however a last-minute

problem and I have to delay my departure on the Saturday with a plan to board the boat in Tobermory on Monday. I am however able to assist the traditional wet Saturday departure from Lettershuna.



There are two new crew members to introduce to them - "Donald" and "Bruce the second."

Donald is my new deterrent for the wagtails of Lettershuna - delight in having their wagtail Parliament under our spray - previous bird netting has failed. You will note from the pic - that he stands tall, has a yellow bouffant, swivels his head grees and fixating eyes.

We run a democratic boat and I asked for name nomination my new owl. It has to be Donald " I don't take no sh no one! " He has indeed been very effective in the wagtail department with his nest under the sprayhood.

*I don't take no sh-t from no one!*  
Donald John

na who  
hood. All  
ture  
360 de-

tions for  
-t from

Bruce the anchor, on the bow roller, needed a first substitute down below in case we reached the bitter end in his chain locker. Now purchased, but not installed, I had a fore locker position identified. Bruce 2 is hopefully never needed but has to be in secure storage. I have a method with packing fenders which avoids hull penetration risks from the inside, in heavy seas.

In order to pack Bruce 2, I ended up head down in the stern locker to retrieve the spare fenders. Yotties will recognize that the stern locker process is a bit like an archaeological dig with lines and fenders at the bottom while petrol and diesel cans are at the top. My phone was in my oilskin pocket.

I slip their lines and wave Iain, Colin and Allen Bon Voyage.

At home, later in the evening, I notice my phone is missing.  
No sign at home, could I have left it on the boat? No reply to my calls!



The next day there is a gleeful email from my "friends" with a photo under sail in glorious sunshine in the Sound of Mull.



When they reach Tobermory pontoons I had tried phoning again and they had eventually located my phone beside the petrol cans in the stern locker! Phew!

I travel to Tobers as planned by Sheil bus and CALMAC ferry on Monday.

24 hours had elapsed in the news cycle and Donald's Wagtail Twitter feed had come up with two conspiracy theories.

**The first conspiracy concerns the LYC Lismore Light trophy** and the requirement to dip the ensign every time you pass the lighthouse in respect of the LYC Commodore. Was the phone in the stern locker trying to draw the attention of the crew to this essential flag etiquette if we are to win the LYC trophy again?



**The second Donald conspiracy theory is an insurance job!**

"We think you had planned the perfect insurance job in the Sound of Mull as revenge for our picture! We kept hearing a phone under sail. You placed your phone between the petrol cans to cause spontaneous combustion under sail!"

# Post Script.....

## " Two wheels on my wagon"

Some time ago, Adrian Hope suggested that members could contribute articles to TellTale recounting sailing experiences which might be amusing, informative or entertaining. Here is my contribution.....

This is not strictly peaking , a sailing experience, as the events took place on the A 86 outside Roy Bridge. " Freya", our Hunter 245, had been sitting on our driveway over the winter on her road trailer. Andy McKenna, having towed the boat and trailer from Creran Marine the previous October, had kindly offered to tow the boat back to LYC car park. The brakes and tyre pressures having been checked, Andy was towing the trailer and load behind his pick-up truck, with me following behind in my car. Some 300 yards along the road, I was dismayed to see the front nearside wheel part company with the trailer. Having recovered the wheel, it was decided that the safest plan was to turn round and head back to my driveway. Heading back after the tricky reversing manoeuvre, (using the three remaining wheels),

we had only travelled 200 yards, when the rear nearside wheel, under the additional load, also decided to leave the trailer.

Now totally immobilised at the roadside, I phoned the Police, Stevenson's Recovery company, and the Coastguard (Only joking about the last!)

Meanwhile, Andy had phoned ahead to the Thursday Club, and within 30 minutes, the cavalry arrived in the shape of Hamish & Steph.

We used some studs from the intact offside wheels, and three of the recovered studs, and effected a repair which was strong enough to allow the boat & trailer to be towed slowly and carefully, back to my driveway. I now await delivery of new studs and hubs, and hope to be back in business next week!

The moral of this tale- always check the torque settings on the wheel studs.

First voyage of the season.



Grounded

*Wishing you all fair winds and fine weather for the coming season !*

DSM