

Telltale June 2014

**LYC**



*The local sailing club*  
*Achintore Road, Fort William*

**Lochaber Yacht Club, Achintore Road, Fort William, PH33 6RN**  
**[www.lochaber-yacht-club.co.uk](http://www.lochaber-yacht-club.co.uk)**

### Commodore's June message

The boating season is gathering momentum with a variety of events planned and more to come.

The 5<sup>th</sup> May was the start of the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of D Day sail, taking one of the two Pipers from Fort William to Portsmouth. A number of Veterans, two councillors, Findlay Finlayson, a small number of club members and a few other guests arrived at the town pier. Unfortunately the local news papers did not make mention of this historic event so only a few local residents turned up to view the proceedings. At 10:00 hours Souter's Lass set sail with the above guests escorting the Coast Guard Cutter "Hunter" together with four Yacht Club boats.



After some three miles the Coast Guard Cutter increased speed for Oban. The turnout in Oban was extremely poor: one photographer and one other person on the pier.



The Navy ship to take the piper on the next leg did not arrive so the piper probably had to catch a bus. Good thing this did not happen on D Day.

Go wild on the Canal at Banavie was a good event with many visitors attending despite the weather. The club has increased its membership following this. Thanks to everybody who assisted in the event.



Racing with the keel boats continues to attract small numbers but the numbers of dinghys racing is increasing. Thursday club night is proving very popular.

Sail Caledonia was busy with twenty boats being launched at the club on the Saturday. The galley was busy all day and thanks to everyone who organised and helped with this task. All participants expressed their appreciation of all aspects of the club facilities and help. Robbie MacKay was invited by the organisers of the event to assist for the entire week. I was told he fitted in with everybody and performed well in all that he was asked to do. He has been invited for the 2015 event.



At 16:00 hours the race to the Canal started. I understand that only two boats were out of time and required a tow to ensure being locked into the basin.



The Loch Eil race attracted four entrants who all managed to complete the course. The tidal flow in combination with the light winds in the narrows proved to be somewhat difficult and had some bearing on the first across the line. The placings on corrected time were very close.

The Black Rock race coincided with the adult sail training course which reduced the number of people likely to take part in the race. There was only one entrant so the race did not start.

For those members who have not ventured out on the water now is a good time to clear the spiders' webs off their boats.

The Regatta is imminent and your Committee would like to see as many boats on the water as possible and would welcome help from anybody who is not sailing at this special 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary event. *Richard Rumney, Commodore*

### **Diamond Jubilee Year**

As the Commodore has reminded us all, 2014 is the LYC Diamond Jubilee Year and the Oban Times produced a write-up in the May 29<sup>th</sup> edition - '*Lochaber Yacht Club is 60*' – highlighting the unusual origin of the club. British Aluminium (BA), in need of publicity to increase business following the demise of its role as producer of fighter planes and bombers after the 2<sup>nd</sup> World War, built an impressive yacht called Morag Mhor using welded aluminium. Finding that none of the then 'superior' yacht clubs wanted to include a commercial enterprise among its members, BA promptly started its own! Thus, LYC was registered at Norfolk House in London and, by way of celebration, BA presented local sailors with 2 clinker-built sailing dinghies. The site of the newly commissioned 'club' was an old Admiralty Nissan hut at Corpach, which local sailors used successfully until 1963 when the club relocated to the old Annatt Mill. In 1969 the club relocated once more, this time across the lochs to Ashburn, and made use of one of Downie's sheds until 1982 when the new clubhouse was finished in its present location. Sadly, in 2006 the clubhouse was destroyed by fire. In the fine pioneering mode of the origins of the club, local club members rallied round to ensure that the new clubhouse was completed only a year later.

Lochaber Life also published Hamish Loudon's write-up of the club history in its June edition. An illustrated booklet, recording historical and more recent events in the club's life is being produced in this anniversary year. Anyone with information or photographs is asked to contact any member of the committee so that as complete a record as is possible is kept of the club's progress.

### **RYA Courses**

The Junior Stage 2 RYA sailing course is running again this year and is open to anyone still at school in June from Primary 7 and older. The course is on from 4 to 8 July, from 0930 – 1600 each day, at the sailing club on Achintore Road by Loch Linnhe.

More details and application forms from the Lochaber Yacht Club website ([www.lochaber-yacht-club.co.uk](http://www.lochaber-yacht-club.co.uk)) or phone Martin on 01397 702724

***D Day commemoration:*** As reported above by the Commodore, Lochaber Yacht Club was represented at the beginning of the Royal British Legion small boat flotilla "relay" cruise from Fort William to Portsmouth, calling at several ports en route, to celebrate the 70th anniversary of the D Day landings. The Flotilla left Fort William on 5<sup>th</sup> May 2014 at 10.00 hours, and arrived in Portsmouth on Saturday 31st May. Several LYC craft (below) accompanied Souter's Lass and the main ship at the start of its historic journey.



Those of you with access to Facebook can see a record of the entire journey at 'D-Day Revisited' – there is also a website page with the same name where the journey can be viewed.

***"Go Wild on the Canal"*** Sat 17th May at Banavie. As the Commodore noted, the club participated on a wild and wet day in the water-based activities on day one of the Wild Lochaber Festival Week – "*Go Wild on the Canal*" – at Banavie pontoons' area. Again, further details can be found on the website and Facebook pages of the same name.

Quite a few folk took advantage of the chance to have a trip on the canal, motoring about one mile towards Loch Lochy. The dinghy shown below is the club wayfarer, "Islay", which Martin Faulkner was using to give people a taste of dinghy sailing. The club also had a display stand, with Abigail, Richard, and Adrian in attendance. Thanks to everyone who assisted in this event.

The Commodore has written to the Canal organisers, thanking them for the excellent organization of the day and offering the services of LYC for any future event of the kind.



Club Wayfarer 'Islay'



Fumarole – moored at the canal

**Sail Caledonia:** As noted by the Commodore, on 24th May 20 traditional boats were launched at LYC with help from several club members at the start of the annual *Sail Caledonia* expedition, before passage up the Canal to Inverness on the week-long expedition. The boats were a magnificent sight as they sailed towards Corpach at the start of their adventure – again, website and Facebook pages – ‘Sail Caledonia’ – give fuller details. Thanks to all at the club who assisted in the launch of the boats – with a picture below of Hamish ferrying sailors to their boats moored off the beach at the clubhouse.



Boats moored off the slipway with Hamish ferrying skippers and crew



French entrant

### **Dates for the diary:**

**Regatta Week:** 16<sup>th</sup> – 22<sup>nd</sup> June 2014. In this Jubilee Year particularly, Regatta week will be an opportunity for celebrations – plans are well under way – including

**Lochaber Dinghy One Peak Race:** Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> June 2014 – full details were in the January Telltale and are on the club noticeboard. Further information from Jon Gay – [jongayarchitect@googlemail.com](mailto:jongayarchitect@googlemail.com)

**Mass Sailing event:** 21<sup>st</sup> September 2014: a mass sailing event will be held in the UK in memory of Andrew ‘Bart’ Simpson – Olympic Star class sailor - who drowned in 2013. Encouragement for us to take part came from two junior members (Hanna Dougan and Robbie MacKay). The Andrew Simpson Sailing Foundation is planning a monster sized attempt to set a new Guinness World Record for '[The Largest Sailing Event in the World](#)', which is being called 'Bart's Bash'!

The organisers said *‘The idea is to have a mass participation club race across the UK and the whole World. We know that pretty much every club has a race on Sunday morning, with all kinds of boats taking part. The goal is to get everyone participating together to create one big event race. If we can get hundreds of clubs taking part, with just their normal sailors racing on the water, we will generate thousands of Guinness World Record Holders in Andrew 'Bart' Simpson's name.* – more details to follow.



Magnificent sight of Sail Caledonia boats racing towards Corpach Basin



Robbie crews the safety boat for *Sail Caledonia* at Neptune's Staircase



Hamish – ferry-boat man

## More Quiz Questions from the Maritime Quiz Night at LYC

### **Signal Flags and Racing**

1. What flag signifies the four minute gun?
2. What flag signifies a General Recall?
3. What flag signifies an Individual Recall?
4. What does the black flag signify?
5. When racing, what is the distance from a race mark where an overlap may be established?

Answers on page 10

### Don's Sottisse Summer Cruise 2013

Thanks to James Douglas for sharing his 2013 cruise log, below. The log will be serialised in Telltale over the coming months. If anyone else has 'tales to tell', send them to Telltale!

*Saturday:*

*It is now June 2013 and at last summer has arrived on the west coast ! Colin and Allen have arrived from Kenilworth by train and we set off from Letter Shuna on the Saturday. The tide favours South at the Duart Castle nautical roundabout on the Viking motorway , now known as the Sound of Mull.*

*Down a bit and turn right into Loch Spelve on Mull. The entrance to Loch Spelve is challenging and needs care. It is very narrow with a 7 knot tide . You line up the cliff headlands and aim for a green light on the shore at the apex of the turn. On the port side there is the dreaded mushroom rock stranded on the shallow curve. You have to keep away from the inviting looking broad expanse of water to port and hold close to the cliff side rock on starboard to gain the safe channel.*

*Loch Spelve is shaped like a shamrock and full of mussel farms. You can find shelter in all wind directions. The most popular is Lussa bay. This is a big day for Bruce the anchor: his first day out over the new stainless steel bow roller.*

*A Grand Banks from US of A comes motor yoting in with chaps in blazers on the flying bridge. Their wives on the foredeck rather over dressed for Lussa mud. Anchor away! They have chosen deeper water and all is quiet again. The Russian judge in our cockpit gives 7 for technical merit and 9 for artistic impression given the costumes.*



*Sunday:*

*Traditional Scottish Breakfast served in the cockpit of public spectacle and opinion Don's Sotisse style: "What's not to like!" the current Socratic question of linguistic fashion. Well, just picture the scene of West Coast calm tranquillity. The swan on patrol. The cooing pair of Canadian geese from the Scottish Diaspora on a Scottish home coming. The heron preening himself on the shore. The sheep dog barking. Even the humans passing in a car on the Mull road have their contribution in the ancient scene of an ecosystem at peace with itself on a sunny summer's morning. How much have humans achieved? They have discovered petrol and drive their transport machines in the perfect agreed order of the highway code on a single track road, waving thanks to each other.*

*Lift your eyes to the yellow gorse on the hillside. A cuckoo calls from a distant Alder wood, the carpet of Bluebells like a subtle Harris Tweed. "Steady on chaps!" Did the captain hear the magic word "bluebell". Indeed the very reason for this journey to the Hebrides! "The Bluebell in all her forms, so perfect to behold" .... McGonigal can surpass Burns indeed! Yes, it is my mission to capture inspiration for Fiona Douglas @ <http://www.bluebellgray.com>. So out comes the camera for the first of many bluebell pics.*

*Upon this tranquil scene a captain must always be thinking of his next task. We have an embarrassing lack of traveller on the boom to launch the main out of its in mast furling. A long story for a winter's night with a dram. I have to arrange a jury rig for later in day with main unfurled. No life jacket on, sudden gust of wind, boom strike to skipper's head, just about man over board, anchor alarm screeching. Skipper recovers composure, concerned crew. Bruce saved the day! He held firm in the kerfuffle. Bruce is weighed with a big gloop of Lussa mud in his arms. Bucket and chuckit job to clean the chain.*

*Another yacht enters on the flood tide. He is heading for the sunken trees of Lussa bay like sirens calling the sailors to disaster. We sound the fog horn and hail him. We are met with impassive derision and not even a wave of acknowledgment from the helm! Aurora M, your card is marked! Off course a chap using a Danforth, what could one*

*expect? Not sure we would admit him to the Brucey club , we might just give him a black anchor ball.*

*We sail to explore the clover leaf anchorages of Spelve for future wind directions. The SW corner looks good after avoiding the fish farm. A reach to the entrance channel with Miss Kubota engaged to stir fry the mushroom rock in the exit manoeuvre. We reach across to South Kerrera sound, Cutter rock to Port and CalMac's Lord of the Isles looking regal to port. We hold in peasant deference while entourage sweeps past.*

*Does anyone out there understand the buoyage in the South channel? Channel markers red and green to mark a rock, then yellow cardinal markers for the next rock, just to be different and confuse you. We slip onto a pontoon in Kerrera and await Michael's arrival to complete the party. Pretty important as he is an excellent chef and photographer!*

*(James Douglas)*

Next instalment in July/August's Telltale

### **Member – 'thank you'**



#### The Half Kilt.

Through the columns of Tell Tale I'd like to thank all the people from the Thursday Club who sponsored me on my 13 mile walk from Clydebank to Loch Lomond. The Kilt Walk is a charity which supports various children's charities such as Clic Sargent and the Children's Hospice Association. On the day, around 6000 of us, sporting our Oor Wullie T-shirts and kilts (assorted other tartan garments also appeared) set off along the Clydeside. I was among the 1000 leaving Clydebank as I didn't think I'd manage the whole 24 – towards the end I wondered if I'd make 13! The route took me along the Forth and Clyde Canal to Bowling, through Dumbarton and then along the banks of the River Leven to Alexandria and finally to Balloch.

Everyone was very friendly and encouraging, both the other walkers and the people who came out along the route to cheer us on our way. In all I raised over £200.

Thanks once again,  
Sine Montgomery

## **Maritime Quiz Answers from page 7**

### **Signal Flags and Racing**

1. What flag signifies the four minute gun? – **Flag P**
2. What flag signifies a General Recall? – **The first substitute**
3. What flag signifies an Individual Recall? – **Flag X**
4. What does the black flag signify? - **Any boat on the course side of the line after the four minute gun, is disqualified!**
5. When racing, what is the distance from a race mark where an overlap may be established? – **three boat lengths**

### **LYC Website**

Just a reminder that the club web site: [www.lochaber-yacht-club.co.uk](http://www.lochaber-yacht-club.co.uk) lets you check for the latest news on up coming events.

### **New Members – WELCOME!!!!**

Are you new to the area, or new to sailing? It's not too late to make 2014 the year that you try sailing - you're never too young, and it's never too late. Or if you've been promising to get back into sailing after a break away, no matter how long, now is the time to take up the challenge again. Lochaber Yacht Club welcomes everyone: come to the clubhouse on Achintore Road on any Thursday evening for a look around – the club is friendly and welcomes new members throughout the year.

### **Next Telltale**

Don't forget to submit your news items for the next Telltale! Stephanie would be pleased to receive news from members for inclusion in the next edition of Telltale ([stephaniecjames@hotmail.com](mailto:stephaniecjames@hotmail.com))