



Telltale March 2014



Lochaber Yacht Club, Achintore Road, Fort William, PH33 6RN

Editorial team

The Telltale editorial team of Stephanie James and Ryan MacIntyre would be pleased to receive news from members for inclusion in subsequent Telltales (stephaniecjames@hotmail.com or ryan45515@hotmail.com)

Commodore's message

The winter is always a quiet time at the club which is why it was great to see so many members and friends at the Burns Night. Thank you to all the speakers who made the night the resounding success it was and to Michael and his team in the kitchen.

The Thursday Club continues to keep everything at the clubhouse well maintained so if you see anything that might need repair please let us know so we can get it fixed quickly.

One of the notice boards in the club house has had all the photographs and notices removed from it. This is going to be our Jubilee Board so if you have any photographs of events that happen this year please let us have them to display there.

As you will have read from Hamish's emails the next event is the Quiz Night which should be a time to brush up on what you remember about sailing before the start of the season. There is also the Fitting Out Supper at the end of March so please book your tickets early to avoid disappointment.

Let's hope the rain stops and the sun shines for the start of the season.

Diamond Jubilee Year

Wednesday 1st January 2014 marked the start of LYC Diamond Jubilee Year and several activities are planned to celebrate this historic milestone in the club's history, including production of a booklet, hopefully in time for the

annual dinner, cataloguing the journey of the club from its beginnings,.

Contributions about noteworthy events in the history of the club are still needed. A start has been made covering the foundation of the club and the link with Alcan but anything from 1956 onwards would be welcome, including suggestions as to who might have interesting information and/or photographs.

Dates for the diary:

Maritime Quiz Night: Saturday 8th March in the Clubhouse, teams of four. There may be prizes!!

Power boat refresher days: 16th and 23rd March 2014 – more details below

Fitting Out Supper: Saturday 29th March 2014 in the Clubhouse. First race of the season, Sunday 30th March, for the Frostbite Trophy.

Powerboat 1&2 training: 12-13 April 2014 - details below

D Day commemoration: The Royal British Legion is planning a 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. Flotilla to leave Fort William 5th May 2014 arriving Portsmouth Sat 31st May.

Go Wild on the Canal" Sat 17th May at Banavie. The club has been invited to participate in the water-based activities on day one of the Wild Lochaber Festival Week – “Go Wild on the Canal” - Banavie pontoons area – more details to follow

Safety boat training: 17-18 May – details below

RYA 1&2 Training (Adults): 21st May – details below

Sail Caledonia: 24th May – further details to follow.

Regatta Week: 16th – 22nd June 2014. In this Jubilee Year particularly Regatta week will be an opportunity for celebrations – any ideas for suitable ways to mark the occasion will be gratefully received by the committee: more details nearer the time.

Lochaber Dinghy One Peak Race: Tuesday 17th June 2014 – full details in the January Telltale and on the club noticeboard. Further information from Jon Gay – jongayarchitect@googlemail.com

RYA 1&2 Training (Juniors) 4th July 2014 – details below

Mass Sailing event: 21st September 2014 a mass UK sailing event will be held 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) – more details to follow.

NEWS: thanks to Martin Faulkner for the first aid, powerboat and safety boat, and RYA course information below

First Aid:

Richard Creel led an excellent RYA First Aid course for seven sailors at the end of January; five were LYC members, and we were pleased to welcome two visitors from other clubs - one from our sister club at Glencoe and the other from Plockton, and both were impressed by the clubhouse.

Unsurprisingly, Richard's course was tailored especially for sailors and powerboaters. The only surprise was how useful it was compared to the course I usually do through work, which is good, but it is a catch all.

So, we didn't cover how to spot if someone has taken 'Miaow', but did cover coldwater shock, hypothermia, drowning and some gruesome propeller injuries. Richard also covered what needs to be in your first aid box if you go up to 60 miles offshore, and the basics of radio communication in a first aid situation. Resucci-Annie made an appearance, of course. Did you know she's French? And everyone will remember not to tether a rescue helicopter to a stanchion!

Richard is willing to do another course during this year. I've got three people on the waiting list so far. Grab one of the last five places and learn to save a life. If you're interested contact me at martingfaulkner@btinternet.com (and make sure that middle g is in there). Well done to Claire, Brian, Amanda, David Hanna (Glencoe), Duncan Bullivant (Plockton), David and Me.

Powerboat Refresher days:

Brian Holgate and Paul Biggin will lead our, now traditional, refresher days for safety boat drivers on 16 and 23 March. If you are on the safety boat rota you will be getting an invitation. These days are always very useful, very practical and usually very wet.

Powerboat 1&2 and Safety Boat:

The dates for the powerboats courses this year are 12-13 April for 1&2 and 17-18 May for Safety Boat. £135 per course and well worth it. These are both very popular courses and have very limited spaces (three for level 1&2 and six for Safety Boat). Get in contact now with Brian even if you just want more information at this stage. I know we have 3-4 on the list for Safety Boat and I know of one that wants to do 1 & 2. Don't delay – seize the day!
(btholgate@hotmail.com)

RYA 1&2 Training:

Three weekends for Level 1&2 beginning 31 May. It may seem a long way off, but it isn't really. Look out for coverage in the local press. Encourage people to renew their New Year's resolution. Specific resolutions like 'Do a sailing course' are much more likely to succeed than any of Bridget Jones' 'must lose weight.'

Juniors 1&2 starts on 4 July, the day after school closes for the holiday. We got a pat on the back recently about our approach to junior training. We want to stretch our sailors to become more independent, responsible and resilient, as well as learning to sail and having a good attitude to the sport and its traditions. Turns out that is spot on according to Positive Coaching Scotland. More on that later. The forms for both courses are on the Learn to Sail section of the website.

LYC Website

Just a reminder that the club web site: www.lochaber-yacht-club.co.uk lets you check it for the latest news on up coming events, items for sale etc.

The Members' Section of the website can be accessed only by members. LYC is affiliated to the RYA which has its own web site. However it has just started a separate section for affiliated clubs: www.rya.org.uk/clubs

Hamish Loudon has circulated the login details for the club and RYA affiliated club sections to all members of the club via an email. If you don't have access to email then you may contact Hamish Loudon or Chris Strong directly for details.

Thursday Club

Many thanks to all those who support the work of the Thursday club at the clubhouse by repairing, renovating and generally ensuring the upkeep and good order of the clubhouse and club property. Thanks also to the team who prepare the lunch – excellent fare! All club members are welcome to come along any Thursday from 10am for some team effort, fun and a shared lunch!

Next Telltale Don't forget to submit your news items for the next Telltale!