

# LYC



## Telltale May 2016

### **Recent Events**

Our Fitting Out Dinner was held on Saturday 19th March, when about 40 members enjoyed a buffet supper and a talk by John Grant from Ballachulish. John, a retired police officer, described his voyages across the Atlantic and Pacific oceans, both as crew, and in his own yacht, a Rustler 32.

First keelboat on the water this year was “Fumarole”, which has now headed south to spend a couple of months on the Clyde.

Dinghy racing got off to a good start on Sunday 27th March, with 9 boats on the water to race for the Frostbite Trophy.

A small wooden day boat appeared on the scene towards the end of the race, having sailed from Stroncreggan with her crew of two. Having arrived at the ramp, the assembled club members assisted in hauling her ashore, to be trailered back to base. (See pictures)

The first dinghy points series has now ended, and the first of the keelboat series starts on Monday 30th May.

The Loch Eil dinghy race was held on 1st May, and was won by Hamish Loudon & Kenny Clark in MCP, 2nd Stephen Marshall & Stephanie James Gilchrist in “Mischief”, 3rd Corran Wineberg & Caitlin Gilchrist in RS 200 .



### **Rock Armour.**

This is now in place to the south-west of the clubhouse, and should provide protection from severe weather.



**Visitors to L.Y.C. The dinghy was of fairly modern construction, having been built by the crew.**

**First race of the season, the Frostbite Trophy, on 29th March.**

Results for all the dinghy races will appear on the club website shortly.

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



**Loch Eil race.  
Corran & Caitlin**



**Loch Eil Race  
Amanda & Jon**

The **RYA adult dinghy course** was held over the first three weekends in May, with six participants successfully completing the course. On the last day, all sailed to Stroncreggan beach for a picnic.

All six awarded the RYA Level 2 certificates :

Liam McLoone

Kevin Fish

Susanne Pearce

Liz Merry

Matthew Lingard

Levente Varro

Thanks to Instructors Paul Biggin, Andy McKenna, Brian Fallows & Hamish Loudon Plus Safetyboat Drivers Kenny Clark Stephen Marshall and Lucy Smith

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## Future Events

**Sail Caledonia**– dayboats from far and wide sail (and row) from Fort William to Inverness. They start from L.Y.C. this Saturday. The picture shows some of last year's fleet before the start.



**Keelboats Summer Cruise** The first cruise will take place on the weekend of 11th/12th June, and will be to Port Ramsay, where we hope to have a barbeque ashore.

Pursuit Race= Sunday 5th July, for keelboats and dinghies

Corran Red– Saturday 18th June

Round Mull Race– 1st/2nd/3rd July. Organised by Oban Sailing Club.

Keelboat Cruise to Balnagowan on 23rd/24th July.

Black Rock Race (Dinghys)- Sunday 4th September.

This edition of TellTale closes with an excerpt from the log of “Dons Sottise,” this time from her summer cruise of 2015. To read the complete account of the voyage, please visit the club website

## Dons Sottise Summer Cruise July 2015 to Northern Ireland

We are indeed spoilt for choice on the West Coast for cruising destinations as scholars of Yachting Monthly read enviously about our beautiful islands and anchorages. The best in the UK is on our doorstep and many other visiting flags from Europe and beyond seem to agree.

So when the wishful conversations on pontoons in the summer with summer visitors begin, they tend to go: Inner Hebrides; done that. Outer Hebrides; done that. Corryvreckan; pussycat. You can see the green-eyed monster in the back of a mariner's eyes when we get down to the throw-away details.

Yes, my recommendation for Scalpay harbour would be the patch of mud in 8 metres just east of the rock to avoid as you tootle in at night after crossing the Minch and lurching on the Shiants. Knowing full well the charter boat has to be back in Dunstaffnage by Saturday. Cruel Sea or what?

So we need something new to boast about on behalf of the LYC Burgee in 2015. What about another continent? Well, Iceland sounds a worthy aspiration but is frankly easier by Easyjet on the Tuesday flight from Edinburgh.

Well what about another country with a distinct culture and a troubled past with cultural tasting notes of Caledonia. More of “Bella” Caledonia later! So the answer has to be Northern Ireland. Now the observant among you will have noticed West Coast marinas full of Bangor boats as the summer migration begins. Are we missing something or is this counter-intuitive?

So a meticulous plan evolves which includes a crew change in Belfast by air with flights from Birmingham and Glasgow on the middle Saturday of 2 weeks.

We assemble on the appointed Saturday for departure and note the Gael 8 on Loch Linnhe from the comfort of the living room window. So we lose 2 days before we even set off with the clock ticking!

A few hasty calculations about the tide at Pladda on a Monday and “going South”, just like Shackleton really.

A sunny sail down the Sound of Luing and then the Sound of Jura with the tides in harmony takes us to **Craighouse on Jura**. The moorings are always a challenge with no pick up buoys , but this is such a minor whinge given the tranquil bay and sunset. The shore party had to visit the pub to pay the mooring dues while I cooked the “tea”.

Indeed, an opportunity to introduce you to our “dramatis personae” for 2015. We have Dr Iain from Appin our expert on Community Cooperatives, local history and West Coast islands. We have Dr Clive our aquaculture academic and expert on “Bella Caledonia”. We have Peter my brother in law who is in charge of security for BP in Aberdeen and myself, sometime healer of the local parish.

So the political theme for the week started in Craighouse with the red wine and Bruichladdich 10! 2 fiercely for “ Bella Caledonia” and 2 “better together”. It was really a post-match analysis by this date , but the debate was vigorous and fun between friends who could say what they really thought!

We set off from Craighouse for Rathlin Northern Ireland on a cloudy, windy, cold day. The sea off Islay is lumpy and we are heading with the tide and against the wind to Rathlin. Miss Kubota our faithful and reliable marinized digger diesel just keeps plugging away into the gathering storm.

Skipper Jim Douglas

