



Telltale October 2015

FROM THE COMMODORE OCTOBER 2015

Following a disappointing summer September and the first half of October were very dry and most pleasant.

The Challenger travellers' event was held on the 5th and 6th of September. The conditions were very pleasant although the wind did not fill until later in the morning. The Saturday evening was a good get together with a buffet. Many thanks to all the members for their help in making the event a success. The event for 2016 is already marked on the calendar

The Loch Eil Buffet Cruise was on the evening of the 8th September. This was a great success with more members than last year. A provisional booking has been made for 2016.



Wednesday evenings were busy with the dinghy points' series and Thursday evenings very popular. The keel boat series was a little disappointing this year. Sunday the 4th October was the pursuit race. A good fleet was on the water for the staggered start times. The wind was variable which made for good seamanship. The race ran to three circuits and the winner was Ian Fleming and Keith Falconer in the Albacore P.M.T. Very well done.



A Safety boat course was run over the weekend of the 26th and 27th of September. Congratulations to the six members who passed the course.

The winter gales have now arrived and I must remind both keel boat and dinghy owners to take down the masts of their boats. This will reduce wear and tear, reduce the risk of dinghies in particular from blowing over (insurance companies may not cover this type of damage) and reduce the annoyance factor to our neighbours.

The owners of boats stored in the car parks should take the precaution of securing their boats to heavy weights to prevent them from blowing over or from being dislodged from their trailers.

The AGM will be held on Tuesday the 27th October in the club house.

Richard Rumney

RECENT EVENTS

Go Wild on the Canal ... This event, held for the first time in May last year, was scheduled to take place again during May this year, but poor weather caused a delay until 14th of August. Activities included a raft race and a canoe race, and various stalls were present.





The start of the canoe race, won by the GeoPark team.

L.Y.C Regatta .

This was well organised, and held over 22nd & 23rd August. The turnout was rather disappointing, with one keelboat and 10 dinghies on the water. Twig Olsen from Oban Sailing Club, and Adrian Hope of LYC were the O.O.D. team for the weekend.

If you have any ideas or opinions as to how future regattas should be organised, please feel free to air them at the A.G.M. on Tuesday 27th October.



Regatta Prizewinners : (L to R) Ben Lennon, Keith Falconer, Domhnall Montgomery, Lucy Ballantyne, Ruairidh Poll

Challenger Series.

Those taking part were universal in their praise for the welcome and facilities provided by the club.

This series of races, (one of several held at various sailing clubs across the country), is for less able sailors, and was held over 5th & 6th of September. The tri-marans used are very stable, and sail well in anything from light breezes to strong winds. The weekend was thoroughly enjoyed by hosts and guests alike.





Two down, one to go !

Kentallen Muster.

This took place on September 19th, with 4 boats taking part– Fumarole, Lydia, Nyali, and Harrier.

The crews of these yachts were joined in the evening by other members who came by car, and 16 in total enjoyed a fine meal at the Hollytree Hotel in Kentallen.



West Highland Week.

Three LYC boats took part this year– Fumarole, Scintilla, and Poppy, with Poppy gaining 2nd place in the Sound of Mull race.

The overall positions were:

Fumarole (Class 6) 9th

Poppy (Class 6) 7th

Scintilla (Class 8) 5th

Training Courses.

A powerboat level 2 course was held on 26th/27th September. Congratulations to Stephen Marshall, Lucy Ballantyne, John Wilson, Ruari Edmond, Christine Clephan, and Kieran Shaw, who successfully completed the course.

Up Coming Events.

The A.G.M will be held on 27th October at the clubhouse, at 19:30– cake and coffee provided.

The committee are always keen to find out what the members expectations of the club are. To this end, a short discussion will be held after the formal part of the meeting, so that members can make their views and opinions known.

Topics for discussion will include:

- A) Water-based activities and social activities.
- B) Club property and maintenance.
- C) Membership fees and categories
- D) Club Projects. (Boat shed, Pontoon, Building improvements)

Please refer to the attachment issued with the notice of A.G.M., which expands

Prizegiving & Dinner Dance at the Moorings Hotel, 27th November 2015

The band has been booked, and a menu should be available soon.

Dons Sottise summer cruise 2014continued

Here is some more of Jim Douglas' tale of his west coast cruise from last summer.



Scalpay North Harbour Entrance

Tuesday and a weather window for the Minch! We pass the beautiful scenery of North Skye with the Quirang on port and the Cuillin on the quarter. Puffin , arctic tern , guillemot, oyster-catchers and pilot whale occupy the fancy new Pentax binos I was given for Christmas. What a difference they make over the cheapo chandler ones you see in the magazines.

The Shiants are in sight and the weather is calm enough for a lunch landing. We enter the North bay and see how Adam Nicholson was enchanted to write "Sea Room" from the bothy. You anchor off the shingle beach and surf the dinghy ashore. It was dodgy enough on a calm day , so don't attempt this in a swell! The bothy is neat and tidy. Even the sheep seem more welcoming to yotties than the people of Mallaig.

The views on leaving and passage South are best with saw tooth pinnacles like a prehistoric monster emerging from the primeval sea. Now a change of plan and we head South for Scalpay rather than North West for Stornoway.

Down through the narrows between Harris and Scalpay seems the best route to avoid the rock dodge and the Calmac ferry , but will we fit under the bridge and manage to avoid Elliot rock? Both pass without incident and hard a port to enter Scalpay North harbour. The chart plan is essential with a wreck , an island , a rock in the middle you can't see and a ferro-concrete "hulk" worthy of Jonny Dep to identify. We anchor in 5 m in the favoured spot with one other boat in high season.

The fishery pier is the night entertainment in downtown Scalpay. A sort of Free Church answer to Las Vegas at night with lights and mysterious comings and goings. First the prawn boat arrives with choreographed efficiency then the Western Isles telegraph activates and the refrigerated van arrives within a minute and it will all be on the dinner tables in Paris by the tomorrow evening.

We all settle down after a Spanish omelette and several bottles of wine putting the world to right. All good things come with a price so "Gentlemen of a certain age " are either snoring or on deck inspecting the anchor transits and testing wind direction.

Wednesday begins with a run ashore with a walk around the village to somehow justify the 5 star cooked breakfast at the notable Scalpay community cafe. An enthusiastic Weegie and adopted Hearnach is doing Hebridean Seafood and curry nights which are worth a pilgrimage by yot or automobile.

We proceed Northwards to Stornoway and arrive at the new pontoons. We were particularly impressed by the welcome (sorry again Mallaig , take note) as an attendant gave us feedback questionnaires and details fuel , showers, Wi Fi and where we could get help with our fused shore supply cable (yes , it fused in Mallaig). A run ashore to the electric shop was a Stornoway delight. I was ushered into the Aladdin's cave of "boxed bits" to find the correct socket and nothing was too much trouble to order urgently if they did not have the correct part.

The young doctors Douglas of Stornoway arrived to complete the set and an excellent pub supper was taken in the HSI Royal on the sea front.

..... To be continued.