



Telltale January 2015

FROM THE COMMODORE JANUARY 2015

Winter is here with a vengeance. The club is quieter with only small jobs being tackled. Would anybody with dinghy masts up consider removing them before damage might occur.

The Prize Giving at the Moorings Hotel was a great evening with the list of trophy winners elsewhere in Telltale.

The lunch at the Crannog Restaurant on Thursday 18th December was well attended and is reported by Hamish.

A Christmas tree was cut down and delivered to the club. The tree had to be reduced in height. After the fixing of large hooks at ceiling level the tree was duly hoisted and secured. Decorations and lights were found and the club house looked good.

New Year's Day weather was not good and despite a least two members saying they would sail, none ventured out. Those friends who were at the club enjoyed a drink and a little something to eat.

The storm of the 11th – 12th January 2015 was an event of 129 mile an hour winds from the SW for more than 48 hours. The dinghy park was a total disaster with all the dinghies heaped up upon each other, the rock armour was almost washed away and the water was at the club house door. The water was level with the window cills of the Crannog Restaurant with the waves pouring in through the smashed windows. The new carpets were laid that afternoon. Parts of Caol were flooded.

The night of the 8th – 9th January 2015 was not as bad but winds were gusting in excess of 100 miles per hour.

There was damage at the Yacht Club as seen below. The Soling was partly saved by coming to rest on both the "A" frame and another Soling.

After initial removal of the mast (damaged) and ragged cover, the boat was lifted back to a safe position. No photograph taken of the crane operation.



Dinghy owners were asked to take their masts down at the end of the season. Several masts were not taken down.

One wayfarer was blown over and another dinghy suffered a damaged mast and dislodged another dinghy onto an inflatable tender.

Please will all dinghy owners remove the masts ASAP.

The next evening event will be Burn's Supper at the club on the 24th January 2015. We have some good speakers, pipes and flutes so please book your tickets early.

Wishing everybody a Happy New Year.

Richard Rumney.

Welcome to the first edition of Telltale for 2015.

Forthcoming events:

Saturday 24th January- Burns Supper at the clubhouse, 7 pm for 7.30 pm, As mentioned above, we will have speakers, a piper, and the Flute Band to provide entertainment. Tickets are £16 for adults, and £10 for juniors .Contributions from the floor, by way of poetry or music, are welcome ! Tickets from Abigail on 01397701596 , Abigail@vodafoneemail.co.uk or myself, at 01397712182 , monty712@btinternet.com

Fitting Out Supper. Saturday 28th March

Recent Events: Our **prizegiving dinner** was held at the Moorings Hotel on Friday 28th of November, and was judged a great success. Our band for the evening was “Mardi Gras” , who provided a good mixture of ceilidh and mainstream music. This being one of the events to mark the 60th anniversary of the club, it was appropriate that the prizes were presented by Sheila Sutton, one of the original members of the club.

Chris Strong, who has admirably fulfilled the role of club secretary for the past 26 years , has decided to retire, and has handed over the reins to Stephanie James, who we suspect did not appreciate the long tenure associated with the position ! Chris was presented with an engraved crystal decanter set to mark the occasion, along with a bottle of finest malt whisky. Chris has kindly searched the archives, and unearthed a report of the prize-giving dinner held in 1989, along with some photos, which are included on pages 6 & 8.

Our annual Christmas lunch was held at the Crannog restaurant on Thursday 18th December, and was well attended. Santa made an appearance, looking somewhat younger than last year



Richard Rumney, Chris Strong, and Cherryl Allan



Past

Commodores of LYC- Beryl Austin, Donnie Meldrum, Hamish Loudon, Chris Strong, Martin Faulkner, Richard Rumney, Liz Loudon, & Cherryl Allan



The Prize-winners



Ocean sailor Barry Jewson, who sailed from Australia to the U.K.

Currently bar tender at the Moorings Hotel, and also honorary member of LYC, for the duration of his stay, in recognition of his sailing achievements.



Christmas lunch at the Crannog restaurant.



Santa and helper



Prize giving dinner 1989- no such frivolity in 2014 !

And here is the report from 1989-----

The evening then continued in a much less formal vein, the high spot of which was Karen's Junior Ensemble together with the Tiller Girls

the Rotary Club were at it the same evening. It was good to see the Alderson family who travelled from Dalgety Bay to be with us and the Biggins of Doune who also made the effort to attend. At the last count 101 sat down for dinner which included 25 junior members who joined in enthusiastically with all the activities. The 'activities' varied rapidly from building bridges out of a fixed quota of computer paper, string and sellotape to crawling around on the floor with one shoe missing, trousers rolled up to the knees and an unidentified female riding around on ones back.

During the first and more formal part of the evening Hamish, our new Commodore, rose at about coffee time and poured tributes upon our retiring Commodore, while Graeme Fallows, our Junior Rep., presented Beryl with a bouquet of flowers. Quickly running out of wind he handed over to the Hon.Sec., Chris Strong, to dispose of the ironmongery and other awards. Chris called upon Liz Loudon to join him as crew and together they presented the trophies as follows:-

Hamish Loudon and Andy MacKenna couldn't really decide who was to collect the trophies for winning the Frostbite Shield, The Vice Commodores Cup for the first dinghy points series, the Merlin plate for the second points series and the recently com-

The keelboat points series was won by Peter Lister who unfortunately wasn't present to collect the Ancient Mariners Trophy- neither was Duncan MacPhee who missed out on the applause for winning the Corran Red and the Brass Monkey in his Soling 'Frozin'. It was noted that the latter trophy race had not been sailed for the previous 3 years- so our Monkey at last feels wanted again.

It was now Chris's turn to run out of wind and stand back while Beryl presented the junior awards - the Corpach Chandlers Cannon - to John Hogg, and an engraved sailors knife to Helen Swenson, finishing off by handing over the Commodore's Burgee to Hamish.

Hamish concluded the presentations by donating to the Club a splendid wooden model of a Mirror and requesting that it be awarded to the junior with the best result in the Mirror series each year - and Lachlan Wynne was invited to accept it for the 1989 series.

The Cruising Log prize - the Lismore Light - went to Karen Hall on behalf of her family and their yacht 'Roamer of Lochaber'. On behalf of the dinghy sailors Hamish gave a small gift to Liz Meldrum for her regular attendance as O.O.D., finishing the proceedings by passing on the Vice Commodore's Burgee to Paul Biggin.

Donnie got the raffle going with all his usual enthusiasm giving away a number of prizes most notable of which were a day ticket for Aonach Mor donated by Nevis Range and a basket of smoked products from Bill Barbour of Lochy Trout.

Well done Alison for all the organising preparation and Paul for being M.C. and giving no-one a minutes peace.

Same again next year please! - CGS



Can any-one identify the tiller girls shown above ?

Volunteers required for the next prize-giving dinner.

Fast Forward to 2014 -

I had a surprise "trophy" at the Dinner/Prize Giving/Ceilidh – thank you LYC members for this decanter set, having finally retired from being club secretary for an awfie long time

Cheers

Chris



Thanks to Hamish for providing this photo from the archives, and to Adrian Hope, who kindly gave us background information about the venture.



THE BEN LOCH SAIL

The memorable trip up to the Ben Loch took place in 1972.

The boats were taken by car up through the forestry to the intake on the Allt a Mhuillin and then manhandled up the hill to the Loch. There were, I think, eight cadets plus Andrew Lowes and myself. We were accompanied on the way up by Anthony Macmillan the photographer – then known as ‘Young Scoop’ because his father ‘Scoop’ was still very much to the fore. Anthony took a number of excellent pictures of the operation which will still be somewhere in his files and he even got so involved in the spirit of the thing as to help with the carrying!

As a PR effort it was a big success for the Cadets. Apart from local coverage we had a photo in Reflections which was the Mirror Class Association newsletter and also coverage in the Sea Cadet edition of Navy News.

Of the people in photograph John Nicolson is the cadet on the left with ‘Needles’ Macvicar next to him – sorry can’t remember the names of the next three. Second from the right is Andrew Lowes and those who

can't identify the chap on the right will have to guess – but I can give the hint that he is still a Member of the Club.

In 1972 the Sea Cadets were very closely associated with the Yacht Club. Their Bosun dinghies were essential for the sailing courses as the Club had no boats of their own. Andrew Lowes and I were of course dinghy instructors and all the cadets sailed at the Club.

For anyone misguided enough to think of repeating the trip I would point out that as well as the hazard of unpredictable gusts the Loch has a lot of nasty bits of rock sticking up. Don't ask me to help!!

Adrian

Extract from "Reflections" for July 1972:

(Mirror association magazine)

"You may think that there is nothing very unusual about the photograph of two Mirrors sailing. You would be quite wrong! They are racing on a loch high on a shoulder of Ben Nevis – Lochan Meall an Tigh and are nearly 2000 feet above sea level. The boats, lent by members of Lochaber Y C were carried up by a party of Sea Cadets from Fort William Unit who sailed them in the race. The Mirror is a very light boat but carrying one uphill over rocks and heather is not advised for a quiet Sunday afternoon unless you really like hard work.

The wind on the loch was very variable, calms being suddenly blasted by vicious squalls from the mountains and the beat up to the windward mark was followed by another beat back again. There is no truth in the rumour that this is to be the site of next year's Scottish championships. The Cadets reckon the race may have been something of a record and is almost certainly the top sailing event of the year.

To bring us up to date, here is the final section of Jim Douglas' cruising log from 2013, in "Dons Sottise", his Moody 33

Thursday:

We take water from the pier alongside a Cat. It is a sunny calm morning. We are all relaxed. The Captain has a plan to explore the Northern end of the bay in Craighouse and is on the helm. Aaargh , or similar words! The depth sounder is now plummeting to 2.3 meters. That's six inches to spare for rocks! All stop and reverse back out of trouble! Note to self: Leave finding the North West passage to Admiral Franklyn, read the b...y chart first , you idiot!

We motor North up the Sound of Jura on a glassy sea. We pray silence from Miss Kubota and lunch is taken in intense sunshine and a tide of 1.5 knots Northwards. An amazing experience is a piece of water that is often troubling with currents and winds. We motor into Crinan and do some maintenance on a sticky steering mechanism.

Dinner of pasta , ciabatta and red wine is Mediterranean to complement the West of Scotland vista and we can even escape the midges on the water.

Friday:

We slip the Crinan mooring and have breakfast on the tide on a sunny morning heading for Corryvechan and the Garvallachs.

Allan our consulting engineer announces that this is his 60th birthday! A challenge indeed for the Captain to come up with an unexpected celebration to mark the auspicious occasion!

We catch the "slack " tide for the Corryrechan whirlpool perfectly and the Captain finds a china plate which has been annoying him in the crockery cupboard for some time. The plan is a Greek Style plate chucking birthday celebration as we cross the Corryvreckan for our birthday boy in a manner similar to crossing the equator for the first time by sailors of yore. A photo opportunity indeed!

Aileen Niobh of the Garvallachs is a very special West Coast place. It is only possible on a calm day because you anchor in a narrow bay , surrounded by rocks and skerries in front of a lee shore to the prevailing south west. This is no place for the feint hearted , engine failure , dragging anchors or anything above force 3.

We drop Bruce and make sure he is comfortable here. He nods his approval to the transit line and the birthday celebration flags come out to be hoisted. Dons Sottisse is dressed overall and a lump comes to my throat as I remembered my Canadian Uncle who gave them to me when he gave up his own boat few years ago.

We use the new outboard strop and it works a treat when launching the dinghy. We land where St Columbas monks had landed 1,500 years ago with a sense of history and adventure. We explore the ancient beehive dwelling and the monastery before heading up to the trig point.

Birthday Balloons and a photo opportunity at the trig point is a spectacular setting for Allen's big six o !

We have our picnic in the lee of the summit with egg rolls , celery , apply juice and oranges. No I don't know the reason for the celery, it was just available from the quartermasters stores !

We even found Bluebells on the island. Dons Sottisse was looking very festive in the bay below dressed overall in celebration.

Back down to the dinghy and we weigh Bruce heading for Phuilldoran. De Bono rock red can buoy has been promoted to 2 cardinals in honour of St Columbas mother who is buried on Eilean Niobh.

Entering Phuilldorrnan is always a frisson of navigational challenge no matter how many times you have done it.

Saturday:

We left Phuilldorrnan at 8:30 2 hours after high water and took the south channel of Kerrara in What a spectacular week of west coast yachting! No much wind but the sunshine more than compensated for this.

James Douglas Dons Sottise

LYC DINNER / DANCE PRIZE GIVING 28/11/14

DINGHY RACES

FROSTBITE SHIED
1st RACE SEASON

DONNIE MELDRUM

COMMODORES PRIZE
LOCH EIL RACE

HAMISH LOUDON

VICE COMMODORE TROPHY
FAST DINGHY POINTS 1

HAMISH LOUDON

MERLIN TROPHY
FAST DINGHY POINTS 2

HAMISH LOUDON

KK CAMERON TROPHY
FAST DINGHY POINTS 3

HAMISH LOUDON

BLACK ROCK BELL
BLACK ROCK RACE

PAUL BIGGIN

CORPACH CANNON
JUNIOR MEMBER
BEST CONTRIBUTION

GREGGOR LINFIELD

FAULKNER TROPHY
BEST CREW

LUCY BALLANTYNE

ST CHRISTOPHER TROPHY
LAST RACE OF SEASON

PAUL BIGGIN

KEEL BOAT RACES

BRASS MONKEY TROPHY
1st RACE OF SEASON
CAMPBELL LOW

HAMISH LOUDON
HARRY JEFFREY

OMEGA TROPHY
SOLINGS SERIES 1

HAMISH LOUDON
HARRY JEFFREY
CAMPBELL LOW

SCAPA TROPHY
SOLINGS SERIES 3

HAMISH LOUDON
HARRY JEFFREY
RUARI EDMOND

LOCHABER WHEEL
SOLINGS SERIES 2

LIZ LOUDON
ANDY MACKENNA
JOHN WILSON

KILMALLIE TROPHY
AUSTIN
KEEL BOAT SERIES 3

MARIAN

NO DUFFERS CUP
1st SEASON OF RACING

RUARI EDMOND

LONG MEMBERSHIP

ENDEAVOUR TROPHY
SIGNIFICANT CONTRIBUTION

HARRY JEFFREY

ANCIENT MARINER TROPHY
HALF A CENTURY

ADRIAN HOPE

DECANTER SET
LONG SERVICE

CHRIS STRONG

Can we remind members that subscriptions are now due- if paid before the end of January, then last year's prices will apply. Please make sure you notify the membership secretary of any changes to your details (e.g. Change in e-mail address)

Details should be available in the next Telltale of courses to be run during the season. These will include Power boat courses, First Aid courses, and RYA dinghy courses for juniors and adults.

Other events coming up this season:

Dinghy Hill Race, prize giving and barbecue Tuesday 2nd June 2015

Kayak and Canoe activities and barbecue Thursday 25th June 2015

Regatta Weekend 22nd and 23rd August 2015: Saturday 22nd August all day dinghy racing, evening meal in clubhouse and prize giving. Sunday 23rd August 2015 Keelboat sail to Corran (or similar) plus Junior Regatta sailing and fun day, barbecue and Keg of Ale (or similar for Keelboat return muster).

2 keelboat musters throughout the year (dates to be advised). Pursuit Races. Junior Races

The club handbook will be issued soon, and will have a rota list for safety boat and O.O.D. (Officer of the day) duties. If your name is listed, and you can't manage on the appointed day, please arrange for someone else to fill in for you. If you are new to racing, and are not sure what is involved, the best plan is to sit in during someone else's rota, and see what is involved- it is a lot more straightforward than you might think, and gives you unlimited power over the racing fleet for a couple of hours !

Thanks to all those who contributed to this issue.

Please send any news items you may have for the next Telltale, to me or Lucy, at

monty712@btinternet.com or lucyscoter@hotmail.com

Hope to see more boats on the water this coming season.