

Telltale April 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 April message**

The Fitting Out Supper signalled the start of the sailing season. It was well attended and enjoyed by all. There was a good presentation from Hamish and Adrian with Robbie operating the on screen pictures of days gone by. It highlighted that many members of Lochaber Yacht Club had great achievements at local, national and inter-national level.

The following day was the first dinghy race of the season. There were seven boats vying for a good start. A good race but unfortunately two boats retired. The results are on the club website. Thanks to Harry and Sine for OOD duties and Andy and Domhnull for safety duties.

It was disappointing that through lack of interest Brian Holgate had to make the decision to cancel the level 2 power boat course.

Please, if any member wishes to take a safety boat course on 17<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup> May they must contact Brian Holgate as a matter of urgency. It would be a shame to lose this opportunity.

All the moorings have been inspected and a number of keel boats have started to arrive. The weather is improving and I wish you all a good sailing season. *Richard Rumney (Commodore)*

### **Diamond Jubilee Year**

Don't forget that this year, 2014, is the LYC Diamond Jubilee Year: there will be events held throughout the year. As part of the celebrations the club is compiling a history and 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. Contact Hamish Loudon with any information you think might be missed!

## **RYA Courses – reminder** **Press Release**

How are you getting on with the 'try a new sport or activity' New Year Resolution? If it has fallen by the wayside there may be a way to get it done and dusted for the year.

Remember that Lochaber Yacht Club in Fort William will be running an RYA Level 2 course for adults starting from the weekend 31 May & 1 June, and for the following two weekends. You do not need experience, but if you used to sail years ago and want to sharpen up the course is good for that too.

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

Not only that, but for folks with powerboat experience we are running an RYA Safety Boat course during the weekend 17-18 May - £135.

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.



Getting ready for the season....., and all set to go!

## **Maritime Quiz Night at LYC**

The Maritime Quiz night was held in the Clubhouse on 8<sup>th</sup> March: much fun was had by all, thanks to Hamish for quiz-master skills.

Printed below are the questions: how many correct answers can you get? Why not ask friends and family to join in? When all else fails, the answers are provided on page 4.

- 1.What year was Lochaber Yacht Club founded?
- 2.Where was the first clubhouse situated?
- 3.Why are 'Downie's Sheds' so called?

4. When was the clubhouse burned down?
5. How many dinghies in the dinghy parks?
6. How many fixed race marks on the Loch?
7. Length of the:- Locheil Race
  - Black Rock
  - Corran Red
  - Balnagowan
  - Tobermory
8. Which year was the "Thursday Lunch Club" formed?
9. How many Lasers in the dinghy parks?
10. How many Wayfarers in the dinghy parks?
11. What is the greatest charted depth of Loch Linnhe (nearest 10 metres)?
12. What is the length of Loch Linnhe (Corran to Corpach, nearest half mile)?

Answers on page 4 – and remember - no cheating!

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

***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 5<sup>th</sup> May 2014 at 10.00 hours, arriving Portsmouth Sat 31<sup>st</sup> May. **Keelboat sailors** would be very welcome to join in for the departure and "Fly the Flag" for the club. Request for other LYC small craft to join in at the departure.

***"Go Wild on the Canal"*** Sat 17<sup>th</sup> 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. LYC participation plus Raft Race. **Raft Race crews required - any volunteers?**

***Safety boat training:*** Safety Boat Course takes place on 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> May @ £135 and is well worth it. This is a very popular course and has places for 6 people. Don't delay – seize the day! Get in contact with Brian Holgate to request a place ([btholgate@hotmail.com](mailto:btholgate@hotmail.com))

***Sail Caledonia:*** 24<sup>th</sup> May - At least twenty traditional boats launch at LYC before passage up the Canal to Inverness. More details to follow!

***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, but if anyone has any ideas for suitable ways to mark the occasion, these will be gratefully received by the committee - more details to follow.

**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 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.

### **Maritime Quiz answers (from page 2/3)**

1. What year was the club founded      1954
2. Where was the first clubhouse situated      Corpach Old Naval Base



Picture of a hut like the first yacht clubhouse – no facilities!

3. Why are ‘Downie’s Sheds’ so called?      Mr Downie built rowing boats there
4. When was the clubhouse burned down?      November 5<sup>th</sup> 2006
5. How many fixed race marks on the Loch?      Nine
6. Length of the:-  
Locheil Race      8nm  
Black Rock      8.4 nm  
Corran Red      12.4 nm  
Balnagowan      26.5 nm  
Tobermory      43 nm
7. Which year was the “Thursday Lunch Club formed?      January 2005
8. How many Lasers in the dinghy parks?      Seven
9. How many Wayfarers in the dinghy parks?      Eight
10. What is the greatest charted depth of Loch Linnhe (nearest 10 metres)?      152 metres
11. What is the length of Loch Linnhe (Corran to Corpach, nearest half mile)?      8.5 nm

### 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!

*Bluebells Ahoy!*

*It had been a hard winter in the yard! Hello Bruce!*

*Don's Sottisse needed a new bow plate, which led to a new anchor system. Why not go for bust with a new bespoke stainless steel roller? Well, we might as well do the rigging when the mast is down. It's 25 years old and nobody can tell us it won't come down. This was the conversation between Iain and myself out of earshot of our wives! The mast down had led to new lights and windex. Halyards and furling lines told their own story stiff with green mould. Then there was the varnish in the main cabin with dust extraction for surface preparation needing nuclear level PPE.*

*The choice of new anchor required the scientific rigour of evidence-based sailing policy. First the literature search, then the local survey in the Creran yard. Research question: "What anchors do chaps in boats have, when selected with the green eye of jealousy?" So your sample group has to have purposeful sampling of Hallberg Rassey species.*



*But maybe the answer lies in the old sea dog group with more sense than money? Well we have to discard the CQR group anyway. Current 1/2 tonne CQR is already deemed a back safety risk by our sailing ergonomist. I do seriously have a grid for the class of 2013 anchor distribution! Remove the CQR which is popular, but useless in self launch systems and the answer is Bruce!*

*The first cruise was supposed to be to "Canna in company" in May - a 40 year anniversary with a couple of old pals. In 1973 we had been students and members of Aberdeen University Sub Aqua Club. Those had been the carefree, idyllic days when we had a whole summer diving and camping on Canna with shared scientific purpose. All supplies and girlfriends had to come from the mainland with military planning coordinated from a red GPO telephone box with Mary Anne, the elderly*

*post mistress for Canna. Now grown up into a senior oil field geologist and an intensive care specialist "with yots" and difficult diaries we wanted to relive our youth. We had heard that Canna had just come into the 21 century as it now had moorings in the bay! However, delayed launches of 2 boats and significant storms rapidly turned the height of teenage adventure being storm bound in Oban for most of the week for Dons Sottisse. (James Douglas)*

Next instalment in May's Telltale

### **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, 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](http://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.



### **New Members**

Are you new to the area, or new to sailing? 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))