

LYC



TELLTALE February 2017

~ Message from the Commodore ~

Much water has flowed past Corran Narrows since the AGM, Christmas and New Year. But the nights are fair drawing out, so perhaps time to look forward to the new sailing season. Dates for your diary below. Well it's only eight weeks until the start of the first dinghy race and just seven until the clocks change. Time to start thinking about fixing those boat defects which showed you up last season.

Sailing on the Club Night starts on Thursday 20th April, see my advert and plea for volunteers elsewhere. The 'Thursday Club' labour squad would welcome new members, join us for coffee at 1000, on a Thursday.

Finally, a gentle reminder, club subscriptions are due by the 1st of March.

And, a thought for the cruising season;

*On an ancient wall in China where a brooding Buddha blinks,
Deeply graven is the message-It's later than you think,
The clock of life is wound but once, and no man has the power,
To tell just when the hands will stop, at late or early hour,
Now is all the time you own, the past a golden link,
GO SAILING now my brother- it's later than you think!*

~DATES FOR YOUR DIARY~

Sunday 2nd April - First Dinghy Race for the Frostbite Trophy

Saturday 8th April - Fitting out Supper in the Clubhouse

Thursday 20th April - Club Night starts 1830

Monday 1st May - First Soling Points Race

Weekends 6/7, 13/14 & 20/21 May - Adult Dinghy Course

Saturday 27th May - Sail Caledonia traditional boats muster to sail north via Caledonian Canal

Sunday 28th May - Black Rock Race

Friday 9th June - Oban to Glencoe Passage Race

Saturday 10th June - Glencoe Regatta

Weekend 17/18 June - Junior Dinghy Course

WANTED for Thursday Club Nights – Safety boat Drivers and Helpers

The success of sailing activity on the Club Nights really depends on the availability of;

- An Instructor/Organiser
- Safety boat driver and crew
- Helpers to assist newcomers e.g. to find sailing gear, rig, launch and recover boats

PLEASE if you think you might be able to help with any of the above tasks contact the Commodore; Hamish Loudon.

hamloud@hamloud.plus.com or text 07879 651851

Volunteers may enjoy fair winds for the season and, perhaps, maybe, room at the windward mark??

~RECENT EVENTS~

Annual Prize-Giving

Our annual prize-giving dinner was held on Friday 11th November in the Club house, with a grand turn out by members. A fine buffet was laid on, thanks to the catering team, and with the ale flowing an excellent evening was had by all.

2016 PRIZE-WINNERS

Contribution to club activity

Corpach Chandlers Cannon: Caitlin Gilchrist

Endeavour Trophy: Lucy Smith

Dinghies

Black Rock Race: Stephen Marshall & Christine Clephan

Loch Eil Race: Hamish Loudon & Kenny Clark

Frostbite Shield (Dinghy Points 4): Mike Campbell

Fast Dinghies Points 1,2 & 3: Hamish Loudon & Kenny Clark

Pursuit Race: Ian Fleming & Keith Falconer

Keelboats

Brass Monkey (1st race of the season): Marian Austin & Crew (Scintilla)

Corran Red: Hamish Loudon & Crew (Solaris)

Keelboat Points 1 & 3: Marian Austin & Crew (Scintilla)

Keelboat Points 2: Chris Strong & Crew (Schonbrunn)

Solings Points 1& 2: Stephanie James & Crew (Maverix)

Solings Points 3: Hamish Loudon & Crew (Solaris)

Lismore Light Cruising Log: Jim Douglas (Don's Sottise)

A few photos from the evening courtesy of Domhnall Montgomery



Caitlin Gilchrist



Lucy Smith



Stephanie James & Maverix Crew



Jim Douglas



Chris Strong



Marian Austin



Hamish Loudon



Mike Campbell

**Congratulations
to all the prize
winners!**

Christmas Celebrations

There was a gathering at the club house on Thursday 22nd December. Where members enjoyed some mince pies and mulled wine to get them into that festive feeling.

The Thursday club raised the Christmas tree, whilst Hamish atop a rather wobbly ladder added the first of the decorations.



~ *Travel Tales* ~

A couple of months ago, I embarked on a trip to South America to explore Patagonia. During my travels, I arrived in Punta Arenas, the capital city of the Magellanic and Chilean Antarctic region also the gateway to the fjord land. With a little luck and some Scottish charm, I made it aboard an expedition trip sailing through the fjords of Patagonia's beautiful Tierra del Fuego, with the end goal, weather permitting, to reach the legendary Cape Horn.

We began by crossing the strait of Magellan and entered the labyrinth of channels that defines the southern extreme of Patagonia. Leaving the lights of Punta Arenas behind we were treated to the starry skies of the southern hemisphere, and even spotted a few planets. By dawn we sailed through the Admiralty sound and woke to the spectacular sight of the snow-capped Darwin mountain range. At Ainsworth bay we went ashore to explore, one of the many wildlife sightings included a rather close encounter with an elephant seal and her cub, I can confirm they live up to their name when it comes to size, rather intimidating. Leaving Ainsworth bay behind we sailed west across the sound to the Tuckers Islets which are inhabited by more than 4,000 Magellan penguins and frequented by many other bird species. They really are fascinating to watch. Overnight we entered the Ballenero Channel, named by Captain Fitzroy in honour of his whaling boat which was stolen by the indigenous people and never recovered.



After navigating the narrow Murray Channel and a rather rocky night on board we entered the remote archipelago that includes Cape Horn National Park. During the trip, there had been a lot of finger and toe crossing but we were in luck, the sea was calm and the winds were low, it was time to go ashore and explore Cape Horn. A fun fact I learnt, the Spanish 'Cabos de Hornos' translates as Cape of Ovens, I think you will agree Cape Horn has a much better ring to it. On the island, we explored the lighthouse, whose walls are covered in sailing memorabilia from many expeditions. Here we met the navy officer and his family who are currently living in the lighthouse, quite the back garden they have. Also on the island is the beautiful small wooden Stella Maris Chapel and the Cape Horn monument. The monument is shaped to represent an albatross in memory of all those lost at sea. I was told that recently the monument had blown down by some rather strong winds and it had since been replaced by a much larger, stronger monument that is hoped will stand tall for many years to come.



We truly could not believe our luck, what had happened to the notorious changing Patagonian weather we had heard so much about. Only too soon we were reminded, very quickly the swell and wind grew, before long it was becoming difficult to stand. We had overstayed our welcome on Cape Horn, it was time to make our way back to the boat, while we still could. Although sad to leave and a little dubious about the journey in the rib back to the boat, we departed with huge grins on our faces and headed for Ushuaia. We had conquered Cape Horn.



Wishing everyone fair winds for the coming season