

From: Oban and Lorn Angling Club

olac@ymail.com

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To: olac@ymail.com

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Dear Member

Nicola Sturgeon has announced that from today more people can gather outdoors, but still not in numbers that will allow our work parties to launch the larger boats. We are now allowed to gather in groups of up to four from two different households. We do not have enough members sharing their households for this to make the usual work parties of four possible. The limit as it applies to us means that parties of two members can meet out of doors, and we hope that we will be able to put the smaller of our loch boats out over the next week or so. These are on Loch Seil, Loch Gleann a Bhearraidh, and the middle Sior Loch. If you have time and inclination to help with any of these, please let me know. I will act as co-ordinator for pairs of members to go and launch these boats, and will assemble the oars, locks, bailers, chains, and rowlocks at the hut. These will be made ready to be taken out for the boats to be equipped and deployed.

Allan has already taken the gear for the Loch Seil boat, so that will be the first available. If anyone wants to combine an outing to the Sior Lochs or Gleann a Bherraidh with boat launching on opening day next Monday, I am happy to meet up at the hut and hand over the necessary items in a properly distanced fashion. Please reply to this email or phone me to confirm. The forecast for Monday is good.

Sadly the larger boats on Loch Avich, Loch Nell, Loch an Leoid, Loch Oude and Loch Nant will have to wait until there is an opportunity for at least four people from four households to assemble out of doors. It looks as though non-essential shops will not be permitted to open until April 26th at the earliest, so it is unlikely that we will be able to make progress with these until that time. On most of our lochs, it is going to be bank fishing only for the time being. It is a great shame that after we brought the boats in and laid them up so efficiently last autumn, we find ourselves frustrated that we cannot reverse the process. But we will be ready when the time comes. One final point to remember is that our lease states that Loch Gleann a Bherraidh is to be fished from the boat only, so until the boat there is in the water, it is off limits.

On a more positive note, Iain has been receiving regular payments from new and renewing members and reports that the number of subscriptions paid is at a similar level at this time as in previous years. If you have not yet paid your subscription, please bear in mind that we have expenses to meet without which the Club cannot continue - our leases are due for payment by April 5th. We also have a hefty insurance premium to pay, so that when the boats are available we have the necessary third-party indemnity in place. Maintaining the boats in good order, even using our own labour, is not cheap - the materials have to be paid for. I urge you to please go to

the website at <http://www.obanandlorn-anglingclub.co.uk> and join us for 2021.

I will keep you informed as and when more boats are launched and if the lockdown position (as it applies to us) changes. I hope that you are well and looking forward to getting out to fish in the fresh air.

Yours Aye,

Jonathan Anglesea  
President, Oban and Lorn Angling Club

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