

From: Oban and Lorn Angling Club

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OBAN AND LORN

ANGLING CLUB

Charity No.

SCO47428

Dear Member

I have some progress to report, even though it is less than a week since the last newsletter.

Work Party

The work party on the 21st went well with a fair turn out. This was despite the short notice I provided. I was very pleased to receive many apologies from members. That is not as daft as it sounds - at least we could lay plans to make use of the members who were able to come and not hang around in case anyone decided to turn up on the day unannounced. Please make this a routine - everyone benefits if we know who is and is not able to come to work parties.

Allan very generously agreed to come up to Oban and collect the gear for the Oude and Avich boats. We agreed to meet at the hut for 09:15; as usual Allan was early and loading up when I got there at 09:10. We finished putting the stuff in his car and he was away at 9:15 to meet the rest of his crew at Loch Avich for 10:30.

I had arranged to meet Stuart at 10:00 at the hut before going off to launch the Sior Loch boat. While I was there I sorted some oars and other gear for the boats at Loch Nell, Loch an Leoid and Dubh Loch Mor, Barcaldine. Stuart was also early so we headed off to meet Iain at the Nant Gate for 11:00 with the Sior Loch boat gear in my car. We three were at the Sior Loch just after 11:15 and carried the oars down to the boat.

I had remembered the bilge runner that came away when the boat was turned at the backend last year and my first job was to apply sealant and then screw the runner back on. This done, we turned the boat over and launched it. The day was dry and breezy and the boat had dried out nicely over the winter. We were therefore taken aback to see a trickle of water appear and run across the bottom of the boat.

Optimistic mopping by me did not lessen the flow, so we pulled the boat back onto the shore and turned it over. There was a patch of delaminated fibreglass about the size of my

thumb, weeping water. Alas we had not brought glass repair materials and so we left the boat ashore for now.

I will assemble a kit to take out there and seal the leak. It only needs a small repair but I will cut back the soft material to a sound margin and then abrade the area and wipe with acetone before patching with layers of chopped strand mat, woven roving, and a third of mat to finish. Then an application of flowcoat should serve for a few more years. I just need a spell of warm, dry weather to make it worth the effort. A temperature of 6 °C and drizzly rain are not conducive to good fibreglass repairs.

Our mood at the loch was further depressed by the mooring. The buoy was floating well out in the ripple but after walking up and down the shore we could find no trace of its chain and it seemed the mooring has been displaced by winter gales. The one that blew the roof off the Regent Hotel was probably the culprit. To recover the mooring will need the boat and to use the boat it will need to float. A return visit to remedy these problems will be required and fine weather with it.

Sensibly, Iain and Stuart had brought their rods and prepared to fish the Sior Lochs at what is often the best time for fishing

in the early season - midday. The breeze was quite mild and the sun was coming and going as I said goodbye. Iain later sent me a catch report to say that a Goat's Toe on an intermediate line had found some small brownies. Not bad for a short session before the rain came in.

I went back to Loch Nant to check the mooring. The one we left in commission last August now has more water round it, but for how long?

I had a quick look at the boat we put ashore in August 2020 and dragged up to the road. It is still as we left it so I went round the Nant perimeter road to see if I could find a better place for the mooring, now that the "new normal" water level is well below that from times past. I could not. The banks of Loch Nant are glacial moraine which holds steep slope angles and much of the shore would challenge a mountain goat. Where the slope is more gentle there are areas of mud and a slight change of level could leave the boat many yards from the water. It is a conundrum. For now, putting the remaining Nant boat back on the mooring and hoping the water level stays stable could be the best option.

When I go back to Oban I put the tools back in the hut and called Allan to ask how he had fared with the boats on Avich.

He had launched them and towed them to the moorings at Dorlin, then gone on to deploy the Oude boat. He even took some photos to show the results:



Bob and Drhue securing the moorings at Avich, photo by Allan. Allan has now helped to launch five boats this season, so is going to take a break from boat work. I think we can all agree he has earned it!



The Oude boat looking smart and ready to launch. Drhue has been quietly working at this boat through the winter to make it ready for the season.

Dubh Loch Mor, Barcaldine

I heard from Stuart that the team at F&LS cleared a path from the car park at Dubh Loch Mor, Barcaldine for us. They even made a rod rail for use when tackling up. Such luxury! There was a rough track there before but now we will be able to take a boat down, given a few willing hands. I am going to pick the boat up in the next few days. When I have checked it over, fitted thole pins, and made sure the oars I have chosen are fit

for purpose, I will ask for volunteers to help get it down to the loch. We will lay the mooring at the same time.



Dubh Loch Mor, Barcaldine from the track cleared to the shore.



The rod rack by the water.



Looking up to the car park along the cleared path.

Whatsapp Group

We have now set up a WhatsApp Group, which is available for members to use for catch report, questions, banter, whatever, If you would like to join the group, type this into your browser or ckick this link:

<https://chat.whatsapp.com/LbdBrwk7NjtIPOhtMolTbG>

Alternatively, send an email to mail@olac.org.uk letting us know you want to join the group and we will invite you. Iain is going to admin the group.

Boats

The boats we have launched so far are as follows:

Loch Seil

Loch Oude

Loch Avich (2)

Loch Gleann A Bhearraidh

We need to launch boats to Loch Nell and Loch an Leoid so there will be a work party on Sunday March 28th. If you can help with the Loch Nell boat, please let me know you can be at the Club Hut for 10:00. If you can help at Loch an leoid

then either meet at the Hut, or at the Nant Gate for 11:00. If we get the numbers, the jobs should be no more than half an hour at each loch. You could bring your rods and fish after the launch. As always, please reply or text me to say whether you can or cannot come to the work party.

Website

The website has been vital to provide members with information and forms while Mario???'s shop is closed and meetings are not permitted. Geoff is putting the newsletters on the site for members to access and download. This will save my having to repeat information which new members may need but will become boring to the members who joined early in the season.

To find the newsletters go to:

<http://www.obanandlorn-anglingclub.co.uk/newpage>

Newsletters 1-3 for 2021 are on this page, as is a selection of the ones from 2020.

And finally

In closing I will ask for any member who has caught fish to make a catch return using the form on the website. If you

have any pictures of fish that you would like to share with the other members, please email them to me or put them up on the WhatsApp group. We continue to see new and old members join for the 2021 season, which is a welcome trend for the Club. As I mentioned in the last newsletter, the accounts for 2020 have been signed off by our accountant and will shortly be available for download from the OSCAR website and our own.

The hour goes back on Sunday morning so what feels like 09:00 now will be 08:00 so if you are coming to the work party, don't be late. This will be a good day to get out early and adjust your body clock quickly to the changed time. At least that is what I tell myself. Whether it affect you or not, please try and make yourself available.

With kind regards

Jonathan Anglesea

President

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