


From: **Oban and Lorn Angling Club** [olac@ymail.com](mailto:olac@ymail.com)   
Subject: NEWSLETTER 2021 - Number 1  
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To: [olac@ymail.com](mailto:olac@ymail.com)

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# OBAN AND LORN ANGLING CLUB

Charity No. SCO47428

Dear Member

First I must apologise for the lateness of this newsletter. I hope that you will forgive the delay; the lockdown to limit the spread of Covid-19 has impacted all of us and it has taken some time to clarify the prospects for the new year. We are now in a position to update all members with this newsletter, which should give you a clear picture of the Club's position. Overall, we are in a good state and survived the difficult year of 2020 to become stronger and well prepared for the coming season.

Apologies are also due if you receive this email in error - we have good news, and wanted to send it to as many current and former members as possible. If you have changed your email address in the last year or so, you may have been sent two copies. Please ignore any sent to your previous address. You may have no interest in the Club, having other interests to pursue at present. In that case, please also delete the email. If you wish to be removed from the email list, please reply to [olac@ymail.com](mailto:olac@ymail.com) and change the subject to "UNSUBSCRIBE".

AGM

Covid-19 has forced us to postpone the AGM for the 2020 season. It should have been convened on January 19th 2021. The committee has decided that, rather than try to use Zoom or another online technology, the AGM for the 2020 season will be postponed until we can gather as a club and have a proper meeting. In the meantime the committee will conduct club business as normal, subject to some changes outlined below.

Subscriptions

The Committee has determined that subscriptions should remain unchanged for the 2021 season. Full membership stays at £75, concessionary membership £55. Concessionary membership is available to registered students over 16, people who are registered disabled, registered unemployed, and anyone aged 65 or over on 15th March 2021. Junior members aged 16 or under on 15th March 2021 can fish with a member free of charge, but should be in possession of a valid Junior Membership Card.

We are pleased that once lockdown has been lifted and The Anglers' Corner reopens, Mario di Ciacca has offered to issue cards and take payment for subscriptions (cash only, please). Until that time, you are requested to pay your subscription by other means. You can send payment to Iain Moody, club treasurer. I have included a membership form to this email for your convenience in doing so. Alternatively, you can join via the website: visit <http://www.obananlorn-anglingclub.co.uk> and click the "Join Us" button on the home page. You may also pay directly to our bank account: "Oban and Lorn Angling Club", account number 16034069, sort code 80-22-60 Please use your name as a reference when doing so. Paypal is another option if you use it: pay to [olac@ymail.com](mailto:olac@ymail.com).

We will post your card and car sticker once payment is received, and will do so until The Anglers' Corner reopens when cards will be passed to Mario for collection by members renewing. New members/members who did not join last year should use the other means described above. *Cards will only be printed in advance for members who paid their subscription in 2020.*

If you did not join last year, this email will still include you as a recipient, but your card will not have been printed. You should renew your membership via the website or by replying to the email. Further reminders and newsletters will not be sent if you did not renew your subscription in 2020 and decline to re-join in 2021.

While we hope very much that you will join by paying an annual subscription, we recognise that some people prefer to buy day, three day or weekly tickets and forego the benefits of full membership. The prices of these remain as in 2020: Day tickets will cost £10, Three-day permits £25, and Weekly permits £45.

## Finances

We still had nearly seventy subscribing members for the 2020 season. Our permit sellers increased our income through sales of tickets, including many weekly permits. Overall, our income did not decline as much under Covid-19 as we feared it would, and the enforced reduction in boat repair activity caused our expenditure to fall. The result was an improvement to our finances at the end of the year. This has left us in a secure financial position which will ensure the Club's future. We are even considering adding to our waters (see under leases below), and have committed to buy a small loch boat, which will be deployed to add to the lochs where boat fishing is available.

## Committee

The committee for 2021 will be losing three members who have resigned. Jim Grout, having reached the age of 80 has, after many years as a committee member of the Club including several as President, decided to spend more time fishing and enjoying time with his family. Jim will be much missed but has done more for the Club than could be expected of anyone. The Committee are grateful to Jim for keeping the Club going over a long period. Laurance Larmour and Don McKinney have also stood down, the latter for health reasons.

The Committee for 2021 will be:

President: Jonathan Anglesea

Secretary/Boat Booking Recorder: Allan Coutts

Treasurer: Iain Moody

Webmaster/Assistant Treasurer: Geoff Blunsum

Nick Bradbury

Richard Wilson

We have vacancies on the committee and would welcome assistance from any member who would like to join us. While we are restrained by Covid-19, participation in committee business is by email exchange and telephone. With luck and the vaccines, we may be able to resume committee meetings at some point during the season.

## Boat Bookings

Jim's resignation left a vacancy on the Committee for a Boat Booking Recorder; this has been filled by Allan Coutts who will take on the role while remaining as Club Secretary. Allan agreed to become the Boat Booking Recorder with the expectation that we create a system for online boat booking. While not perfect, we have made some progress towards this and members will be able to request boat bookings through the website, by email or to a dedicated phone number with voicemail. The phone number for bookings is 07724521806. This is primarily to provide an answering service; members are encouraged to use email or website bookings in preference to the telephone. As always, bookings will only be valid when confirmed by the Boat Booking Recorder who will advise users of the padlock codes for the mooring and oars. The code for the Dorlin Gate will also be given in the case of the Avich boats.

## Boats

We struggled to keep the boats in service last year, due to the Covid-19 restrictions and the need for some members and their families to shield at home. We launched boats to Sior Loch, Loch an Leoid, Loch Avich, Loch Gleann a Bhearraidh, Loch Oude, Loch Seil and Loch Nell. We had to switch boats around on Avich during the season when one started leaking and on Loch Nant the low water prevented us from putting any boats in at all. In fact we moved one of the Nant boats to Avich to maintain the two boats there. We will most likely need to relocate the Nant mooring to retain a boat on that Loch. Lack of time and opportunity meant that the repairs to the Loch Dubh Mhor boat in the shed were not completed and remain a work-in-progress.

For 2021, we are committed to putting boats into Loch Nell, Loch Gleann a Bhearraidh, Loch Oude, Loch Avich (2), Loch an Leoid and The Sior Lochs. Whether the lockdown will be varied and/or lifted to allow us to do so remains uncertain. Members will be advised as soon as we know more, including the status of the boat for Loch Dubh Mhor (see above).

## Leases

The Club renewed leases with Forest and Land Scotland (fka The Forestry Commission). We requested that the leases be extended to seven years from the previous three year term and were awarded leases of six years. This will give the Club security of tenure over our largest groups of Lochs, and gives confidence that we will be able to afford the rents until 2026. In addition to the longer leases, access to the south and west banks of Loch Na Sreinge was added to the lease for the Moulachy lochs. We plan to explore options to provide a boat for members to use on this loch. We were offered a lease on a new loch but declined it, citing uncertainty over Covid-19. We now have a clearer view of our financial position and plan to explore this possibility for the 2021 season. Watch this space!

## Website

The website was revamped and transferred to a new hosting environment by Geoff Blunsum. The new web site went live after some final tweaking and features a page for membership applications and renewals. We also plan to feature an online calendar to show the booking status of all the boats. This should make it easier for members and temporary members to request a booking without being disappointed. Boat Booking applications can be made through the website using an online form which will reach the Boat Booking Recorder automatically.

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#### Permit Sellers

We bade farewell to David Graham in 2020, his retirement leaving Mario Di Ciacca (The Anglers' Corner) as the permit seller in Oban. The permit sellers' contact details for 2021 are as follows:

The Anglers Corner, 134 George Street, OBAN Tel: 01631 566374  
Awe Service Station, Bridge of Awe, TAYNUILT Tel: 01866 822612  
The Barn, Cologin, Lerags Glen, OBAN Tel: 01631 564618  
The Cuilfail Hotel, KILMELFORD Tel: 01852 200274  
Grahams Stores, Main Street, TAYNUILT Tel: 01866 822248  
North Ledaig Caravan Park, BENDERLOCH Tel: 01631 710451

#### Lochs

For your reference and exploration (Google Earth is easier than on foot!), the lochs available to members in 2021 are as follows:

## Boat Lochs (Can also be fished from the bank)

Loch Avich – Two boats  
Loch an Leoid AKA Barrachander Lochs – One boat  
Loch Oude Reservoir – One boat  
Sior Lochs – String of three lochs – One boat on middle loch

## Bank Fishing Lochs (In addition to the above)

Loch a' Barrain  
Loch a' Chrion-doire  
Loch Airigh Shamraidh  
Loch an Droighinn AKA Barrachander Lochs  
Loch an Mhinn Chuarraig  
Beinn Dearg Lochan  
Loch Dubh Mhor  
Loch Dhu Beag  
Loch Carraigeach AKA The Puddle  
Loch Crauiche AKA Cruach Maolachy / The Skyscraper Loch  
Gully Loch  
Loch na Sreinge  
Loch na Squabaich  
Lochan Losgann AKA The Frog Loch  
Weedy Loch

## Boat Only Lochs (no bank fishing allowed)

Loch Gleann a Bhearraidh - One boat limited to 2 rods only  
\*Loch Nell  
\*Loch Seil

\*Full members only, weekly permit holders may not fish these lochs. Full members also have permission from our Honorary President, Mrs Sarah Troughton, to fish the Polfearn Beat of the River Awe.

For details of all the Club's waters, please consult the "OLAC Fishing Guide" which can be downloaded from the website as a .PDF file and saved on your computer or phone.

We sincerely hope that the combination of lockdown and vaccination will see the Covid-19 become less dominant in 2021. We look forward to the new season with confidence that if any sport is possible during a pandemic, loch fishing must be among the safest. We are sure that you will enjoy some good fishing if you join or re-join the Oban and Lorn Angling Club. It has survived ups and downs over the years and will continue to do so for many more, provided it has the support of its members. The lochs are still capable of providing a very good day's angling at any time of the year, with a wide variety to choose from. We look forward to seeing you on the bank.

With kind regards

Dr Jonathan Anglesea  
President, Oban and Lorn Angling Club  
Tel: 01631 750214  
Mob: 07766811088



## OBAN and LORN ANGLING CLUB

### APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP - SEASON 2021

Name: .....

Address: .....

.....

.....

Postcode: .....

Tel: .....

Email: .....

Signed: .....

### PLEASE TICK ONE BOX THAT MATCHES YOUR STATUS

Full Membership £75

Concessionary £55

Applicable to those aged over 65 years on or before March 15<sup>th</sup> 2021, full-time students, registered disabled and registered unemployed.

Junior (Under 16) – Free

Juniors may fish all club waters free of charge when accompanied by a member.

### PLEASE MAKE PAYMENT TO:

**Paypal:** olac@ymail.com

**By post:** Iain Moody, OLAC Treasurer, 16 Meadow Rd, Dunbeg, Argyll, PA37 1QB

**Bank:** Account- Oban and Lorn Angling Club

Sort code- 80-22-60

Account number- 16034069

If paying by bank transfer, please remember to send this form to Iain Moody to ensure that you receive your cards.

### Notes:

- Oban & Lorn Angling Club rents fly fishing for Brown Trout, Salmon and Sea Trout on approximately twenty waters in the area. Club waters may change from time to time and an update of current waters may be found in our "OLAC Fishing Guide 2021" available from the website or permit sellers.
- Club boats are reserved by phoning the boat booking line (09:00am to 20:00pm). This is Mr Jim Grout - Tel: 01631 710649 Mob: 07772288497
- You need to state your membership or weekly permit number to book a boat. Anglers must be aged over 18 years to book club boats. You may leave a message When/ if the booking officer cannot answer but you will be called back with confirmation. Your reservation is valid only once you have spoken to the booking officer.
- Outboards are permitted on most boats – to a maximum of 5 HP please.
- **Lifejackets must be worn by all boat users.**
- Float tubes may be used on club waters.
- Brown Trout season is March 15 - October 6<sup>th</sup>.
- Salmon/ Sea Trout season is indicated in "OLAC Fishing Guide 2021".
- See our Website at <http://www.obanandlorn-anglingclub.co.uk/> or Facebook Page for further details.

