



OBAN AND LORN ANGLING CLUB

Charity No. SCO47428

Newsletter 2025 - Number 4

14th December 2025

Dear Member

Newsletter Number 3 was dated August 2nd and I fully intended to send another before the season's end on October. This did not happen, other things getting in the way, mainly an injury to my thumb which set back all sorts of projects, not least Newsletter Number 4. Luckily I have healed and have two working thumbs once more. Here is a summary of the latter part of the 2025 season with some items looking forward to 2026.

Membership

We now have more than 105 subscribing members, which is more than for many years. I thought that when we reached 101 last year it might be a "one-off" due to some combination of factors that brought an unusual number of new members. This year the proportion of members re-joining has been higher than usual, so there must be something worth staying for.

Work parties

We held work parties to get the boats out on October 12th, 18th, and 24th. Each one attracted enough participants to bring the boats ashore as planned, and so the boats should be safe now. Given the recent weather, there can be no doubt that the best place for boats over our winters is upturned on the bank. Thanks are due to all the members who turned out and made the work parties successful.

Boats

At the season's end, we had boats on Gleann a Bhearraidh, Seil, Oude, Avich(2), Nant, an Droguinn, an Leoid, Sior, and Dubh Mor, Barcaldine. Ten boats on nine lochs. We had hoped for more, but there simply was not time to get the repairs done which are needed to make the others safe and ready. Next year, with luck, we will also have boats in Nell, Dhub Mhor Kilmelford, and na Sreinge. Not necessarily in that order.

Loch Nell

Good news came towards the end of the season, when we came to an agreement with Mr Hugh Whittle of Fearnoch House to moor a boat off his land on the south shore of Loch Nell. This will be nearer to the road and allow us to use the boat with fewer restrictions than apply to the current location at Torinturk. As you may recall the Nell boat is ashore in Oban under repair, but we hope to make it ready for the 2026 season.



A gabion will provide a strongpoint to moor the boat at Loch Nell

Loch Oude

We were able to move the boat to a new mooring on the west bank of Loch Oude, where access requires less agility, the location affords more shelter, and does not need one to cross the A816. All being advantages relative to the former mooring position. Parking is at the gate to the forest track by kind agreement with Tilhill Forestry. Members are asked to leave cars at the gate and walk along the track before using the boat. This is a much safer and easier route to the boat than in the past and we are grateful to Tilhill for making this possible.



The Oude boat on its new mooring, viewed from the road side. Access is from below the tree on the shore at extreme right of the photo,

Competitions

Lochgilphead fielded a strong team on 21st September when we hosted the Oban leg of the inter-club competition. Despite our team of six benefitting from local knowledge, the Lochgilphead team of eleven were easy winners, landing 29 fish against our 5. The total weight landed by Lochgilphead was 14lb 14oz against the Oban bag which weighed 4lb 5oz. The fish had a mean weight of more than nine ounces, which is a high average for wild fish. It underlines the potential for Loch Nant fishing, despite the huge variation in the levels we now see. We have not abandoned hope of creating a third mooring on the loch, which would provide a high water, low water, and a very low water location to place the boat. Knowing where to put the boat and when would still be a problem, but given the quality of fishing to be had, one worth trying to solve.



Nant boat on the old mooring off the south-west bank. A steep scramble to reach but the fishing was good

Catch Returns

The annual catch returns went off to F&LS last month, as has to be done as a condition of our leases. They showed that a season total of over 1800 fish were reported to Andrew, of which over 98% were returned to the water. The average catch from the boats was over 10 fish per day, so the numbers are certainly holding up. As is so often the case, some anglers are consistently more successful than others and I suspect that were the data available the 80:20 rule would be shown to be in force. This rule states that 80% of the fish are caught by 20% of the anglers, so if your daily average catch is less than ten, take comfort from the fact that you are not alone. There is always room for improvement.

Cards

I am now starting to prepare the 2026 membership cards, which should be ready for collection at The Anglers' Corner from December 19th. If there are any hold-ups, I shall email you but if you hear nothing more, the cards in their envelopes will be there. Please take cash to pay, and tender the exact amount. Do not interrupt staff to collect your cards if they are busy with customers.

Subscriptions

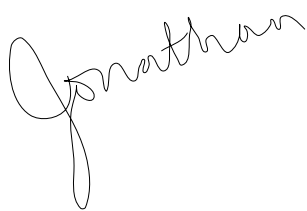
Subscription rates remain as for 2025 - £75 for full membership, and £55 for concessional. If you will reach the magic age of 65 before March 15th 2026 or are eligible for a concessional subscription for any of the other reasons (unemployment, disability, student) please let me know ASAP. A couple of members found that their subscription should have been reduced last year, but did not tell us. We are not psychic, and don't keep records of members' dates of birth, so it's up to you to let us know.

Committee

Looking forward to 2026, all members of the committee have agreed to remain in their current roles, although Iain has given notice that after ten years as Treasurer he will stand down at the end of the season. Iain has done a tremendous job as Treasurer, helping to establish the Club as a charity, moving our account to the Bank of Scotland, and overseeing a significant increase in the reserves. Iain will be much missed as our Treasurer so the search now begins for a replacement. Our late friend Nick Bradbury was the Vice Treasurer, which office is currently vacant. We really need both a Treasurer and Vice Treasurer or the Club will be in breach of its constitution. If any member feels that they could help in this way, please get in touch,

So that concludes the 2025 season. I hope that you had some time to get out and find a few fish. I found the fish to be fickle - on the feed one minute then down and sulky the next. But I had a few and the simple pleasure of casting a fly in the lovely scenery we can all enjoy was enough for me. I caught nothing huge, but a few memories were made and it was a real pleasure to meet new and old members both on and off the water. I am already looking forward to March 15th 2026. Before that we have the AGM, but I'll leave the details of that until the next newsletter.

Kind regards



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