



# OBAN AND LORN ANGLING CLUB

Charity No. SCO47428

Dear Member

This is a quick update on what has happened in the last week or so.

## Work Parties

It is quite satisfying when plans come together. We have managed to do everything notified in the last newsletter, thanks to some very active members who have really helped sort things out.

## Loch an Leoid

The work party to Loch and Leoid successfully launched the boat on Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> so it is now moored and available for bookings.

## Loch Nell/Club Hut

The work party on the evening of 17<sup>th</sup> July went out to Torinturk and launched the Nell boat. Thanks go to Charlie, Peter and Iain who joined me to get it on the water. It did not take long and after we returned to the hut I took a chance on the weather and sprayed the gable end with a coat of woodstain. The doors now match the rest of the woodwork. This was interesting as it confirmed that the sprayer does a good job of applying the woodstain; unfortunately it also confirmed that to do the entire shed will need a lot more work to scrub off the old paint and that we will need more woodstain!

## Sior Loch/Nant/Avich/Oude

The big work party on the 26<sup>th</sup> July was quite ambitious, as advised in the email asking for assistance. Happily, nine members volunteered and we were able to get everything done. Bruce, Peter and Charlie met up with Allan and I in Oban and then went ahead to take the wee boat to the Sior Loch. They were joined by Colin who met them there so a team of four completed the launch.

Allan and I collected gear from the hut to help recover the boats from the Nant shore and then met Steve, Craig and Drhue at the gate. Once we got to the moorings we found that the Nant was still shockingly low, with the boats way above the water level

found that the water was still shockingly low, with the boats way above the water level, the left hand mooring high and dry, and the right hand buoy about ten feet from the beach.



Mooring block (arrowed) and the mooring completely dried out!

We considered moving the boats to an easier part of the loch for recovery but Steve had brought a substantial pulley block to allow an indirect pull and we decided to move them up to the road from where they were left last October. Steve also brought a pruning saw which he used to clear a straight route up to a handy tree to which we attached the block. We then carefully turned the boats and towed them up to the road across the synthetic wood sliding boards, where we put one on a trailer to remove to Avich.





Safety briefing before turning the first boat. The slope the boats had to come up was steep!

During the recovery, the Sior loch crew joined us to help. Charlie gave me his midge repellent which was a godsend. When I got home the score was me 0 midges 47 and would have been much worse without Charlie's "Jungle Formula". Under the trees, the midges were on us in clouds. Thank you, Charlie!



The second boat starts to move up the slope. From left: Colin, Peter, Craig, Charlie, Bruce and Drhue. Out of shot, Allan behind the camera, Steve at the wheel of his 4 x 4

towing, and me being eaten alive. I am a midge magnet!

Once the boats were up to the road, we put one on its trailer and Bruce set off with it for Avich accompanied by the others, apart from myself Allan and Colin who stayed to sort out the mooring. We took a long rope down to the block and pulled it up to the road for return to Oban. But we could not pull its ropes out of the mud. They were well fast and even using the 4 x 4 I could not shift them. Then I took a run up in low gear and they finally came free. The picture below shows what came out tangled up with them...



Pulled out with brute force from the water. From the water's edge: a chain riser, a concrete anchor and a length of heavy ground chain, tangled with another length of ground chain. Three moorings for the price of one!

We were able to separate the mooring loop and buoy that belongs to the block we pulled to the road and put everything in the back of my car to bring back to the Club Hut. The rest we left for recovery or redeployment at a later date.

We then moved on to Loch Avich. We stopped briefly to check that the boat from Nant had arrived safely and been swapped for "Anna", then continued on to Loch Oude. Here we changed the lock code on the boat before finally completing the circuit back to the Club Hut, where we found Charlie and Bruce waiting patiently for us to unlock and unload. A long day but all accomplished that we had set out to do with no incidents.

### **Loch Dhu Mhor**

Forest and Land Scotland have a major harvesting operation in progress up around Loch Dhu Mhor and the road has been rendered very hard to pass, even with a 4 x 4.

You should only attempt this road at present with extreme care and the expectation that you may damage your vehicle. It may be better to stop further back on the road and fish our newest water, Loch na Sreinge (see Newsletter 6). I have yet to receive any fishing reports from this loch so may have to get up there myself and find out what the fishing is like.

## **Boats**

The availability of boats is now as follows:

### Afloat and available:

Avich ("left")

Avich ("right") – reported to be low in the water on Wednesday – may need a new bung because the one from "Anna" did not fit properly.

Seil ("Bella")

Glenn A Bhearraidh

Oude

Loch an Leoid

Sior Loch ("Cara")

Nell

### At the hut for repairs:

Loch Dhu Mhor – getting a new floor

"Anna" – deck seal to be renewed ASAP.

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### Ashore beside the forest road for ease of recovery:

Nant boat

If anyone is planning to fish Avich and would like to investigate the problem with the boat on the right hand mooring, I would be happy to meet up at the Club Hut and provide a selection of bungs to try.

## **Fishing Reports**

Bill Mitchell fished Oude for some of the typical small fish. Bill was upset to find that some dead fish had been left in the boat. This is not acceptable. The best gloss one can put on this is that an angler forgot their catch but however it may have happened, someone has caught and killed fish and abandoned them to rot in the boat. Please either keep a modest number of fish and enjoy the delicious meal they can provide or return them carefully to the loch. We do not want anyone to kill and leave decomposing fish for others to find. In case a member has been using the boat without booking it, the lock code has been changed. This is also a reminder that you must book boats before fishing, to comply with our insurance conditions and provide us with a record of use.

Allan Coutts went to Loch Seil and caught his first sea trout of the season. He also had some of the small Loch Seil brownies in the same session. Allan returned all his fish to the water.





Loch Seil Sea Trout

Yours aye