

OBAN AND LORN ANGLING CLUB

Charity No. SCO47428

Dear Member

The 2021 season is nearing its end so I must let you know about upcoming work parties to put the boats ashore for the winter.

We will meet for work parties on Sunday 17th October and Sunday 24th October. Usual time 10:00 at the hut or 10:45 at Nant Gate or Dorlin Gate. Please let me know if you can or cannot be there - this helps so much to plan the days and make the work match the available hands.

Committee

The committee has continued to administer the Club through the summer and we approach the end of the season with some satisfaction that we have maintained good relations with our permit sellers, our landlords and most importantly our members, without whom the Club would not exist.

We were sorry to say goodbye to Geoff Blunsum, our assistant Treasurer who moved to Devon in the summer. Geoff has served on the committee for many years, possibly even as long ago as the last century. He handed over as Treasurer to Iain a few years ago but continued to help as Webmaster and Assistant Treasurer. Geoff has handed over both roles to Nick Bradbury who has volunteered to take on Geoff's burden. As a token of gratitude to Geoff, the committee unanimously voted to award him Honorary Life Membership of the Club, which he has accepted. We look forward to welcoming Geoff back when he visits Argyll in the future.

Geoff's departure has left a vacancy on the committee. We really would like to find one or even two more committee members. We have some administrative jobs that are not hard, but added to the work that the officers of the Club have to

do makes their time even more pressured. If you could spare an evening every two or three months to come to a committee meeting, we would love to hear from you. No further commitment is expected - it is just an opportunity to hear other opinions and take advice from a wider group of people. Please contact any of the committee if you would like to find out more.

Membership

Membership now stands at 84 subscribing members, which is the most who have joined for a good few years. Only 12 of last year's members did not join, we welcomed back six who had been members in the past and have gained 21 new members for 2021. I had to print more than 100 cards, including landlords, honoraries and permit sellers. I shall have to order extra laminating pouches for next year, which is a good problem to have!

Barachander

We had discussions with Barachander Estate over access to Loch an Leoid and Loch an Droighinn, and in fact over the use of the Nant gate at all. It turned out that F&LS did not have a right to assign the use of the gate to OLAC. We have now secured a formal lease with Barachander which means that for members, things remain much the same. We are however on notice that if the Nant Gate is left open, our lease will be forfeit so please, make sure always to secure the gate if you find it closed when entering or leaving the area.

Boats

The lack of rain has ensured that the Loch Nant boat has remained high and dry ever since we relocated it. We will try to put it further up the bank over the winter and revisit the problem next spring. Our revised lease with Barachander allows us to put boats on both Loch an Leoid and Loch an Droighinn so we may move it there. The Loch an Leoid boat remains ashore, pending a fix to its deck leak.

Our boat availability has remained at six as advised earlier, so if you are going to have a last cast before the season ends, these are your choices:

Avich - 2 boats

Nell - 1 boat (minimum three days notice needed)

Oude - 1 boat

Gleann a Bhearraidh - 1 boat

Seil - 1 boat

Sior loch boat is still to be repaired in situ or recovered to the Hut for work.

Filming for Channel 4

A TV company is making a documentary in Oban about the detective who uncovered the crimes of Malcolm Webster, the former OLAC treasurer who stole

our Club funds. He returned them but by that time the police were involved. During the investigation, Webster was found to have had two wives who died suddenly. Solid police procedural work then showed that they were murdered by him. He received a long prison sentence.

We have agreed to allow the Club Hut and compound to be filmed and footage of members fishing to be recorded for background to the documentary. If anyone is free to help weed the Hut compound on the afternoon of Monday 27th September, I shall be celebrating my birthday there, strimming...

Filming is to start at the Hut on Thursday 30th September at 10:00. If you would like to come down then, please do. The pitch is that small crimes can be the tip of an iceberg; the producers want to show the humble and innocent nature of our activities as a contrast to the nature of Webster's behaviour.

Catch returns

Back in July a visitor was in touch for advice on the WhatsApp Group. We must have been accurate in our suggestions because he sent in a full catch report detailing fish from all the lochs he tried! Brian sent the photo below of a typical hill brownie in his hand. They are beautiful fish.

I had a recent catch report from Iain Moody our treasurer. He bank fished Loch Nant and took a lovely trout of around 2lb, which was safely returned. It is good to know that the loch can still produce outstanding fish in spite of the dramatic level changes it has seen. The muddy, extensive shallows harbour an enormous population of chironimids which provide a constant food source.

In Memoriam

We were saddened to hear that one of our longest subscribing members, John Duffy, passed away on August 15th. He often fished with his nephew Andy MacDougall who contacted us to say that John had died while fishing, which was what he would have wanted. John was a real character who always tried to come to one or two work parties each year. He will be much missed. R.I.P. John.

I hope that this newsletter finds you looking back on a good season's fishing. Despite the drought, some fish have been caught and a good number of day permits sold to visitors. There is still time to get some fishing done before the trout season closes on 15th October. We will leave the Loch Seil and Loch Nell boats afloat until 24th in case anyone fancies a late try for a sea trout, but please remember that the Loch Nell boat is only to be used after at least three days notice to the estate.

Kind regards

Jonathan Anglesea
President, Oban and Lorn Angling Club
Tel: 01631 70214
Mob: 07766811088