



# OBAN AND LORN ANGLING CLUB

Charity No. SCO47428

Dear Member

Here is the latest news from our Club. I hope that this is of passing interest. I am pleased to be able to report that as of today, April 28<sup>th</sup> 2022 there are 65 fully subscribed members of the Club. This is a good number for the point we have reached in the year, and will see us able to fund our fishing leases and insurance for the year to come. We will also be able to carry on with the essential maintenance of the Hut, boats, moorings and maybe put a little aside to maintain our reserves. If you have not yet paid your subscription for the year, there is still time. The best of the fishing is to come, and it is never too late. Last year we had a member join in September; he said it was well worth it as he had a great time fishing Loch Avich at the back end and wanted to use the boats.

Work Party

We will convene a work party on May 15<sup>th</sup>. There will be work to do but the exact program will depend on progress with the Dubh Loch Mhor boat which is in the Hut for repairs. If it is finished then we will go to Dubh Loch Mhor with the boat and a ready-made mooring to lay. Otherwise the day will be devoted primarily to recover the Nant boat either to the road for redeployment using a trailer or into the Loch, depending on the water level. As a supplementary, given numbers and time, we will recover the Sior Loch mooring to be ready for the finished Sior Loch boat to be secure.

Whatever we end up tackling, there is a lot to be done and it will not do itself. We just need to keep keeping on and it will happen. As always, if you can confirm your attendance/absence it makes it much easier to plan the work party, and will take a tiny amount of your time to let me know.

AGM/Raffle/Auction

The AGM on April 3<sup>rd</sup> was quite well attended, and it was particularly welcome to receive many apologies, so that we could set out an appropriate number of chairs for those who came along. The meeting started seven minutes late due to the President's watch being slow but that aside, the meeting proceeded smoothly and the necessary business was concluded by 8pm. The minutes of the 2019 AGM were accepted as a true and proper record; the accounts, finalised and signed by our accountant, were approved; the committee and officers were re-elected unopposed; there was a discussion of some points raised under AOCB, and the date of the next AGM was decided to be February 26<sup>th</sup> 2023.

Two which we dealt with as items under AOCB need further description. The raffle was drawn by former President Mr Jim Grout and winning tickets were 1<sup>st</sup> prize (a box of flies), Jimmy Buchanan; 2<sup>nd</sup> prize (Booby Jar), Andrew Morrison. A total of £96 was raised for Club Funds from the raffle and we are very grateful to

Gavin MacLean for tying the flies and arranging with Mario to sell tickets. The other fund raising exercise was the auction of fly tying materials, tools and books, very generously donated by Adrian Tully. Bidding was brisk and the auction ended with a winning bid of £155. These contributions will give the Hut Maintenance Fund a welcome boost.

#### Competitions Dates June and September

Lochgilphead and District Angling Club have invited us to restart the inter-club competitions and we are happy to accept. The first match will be at the Lochgilphead lochs on June 5<sup>th</sup>, meeting at the Cairnbaan Forestry Gate at 10am. The return match will be on September 18<sup>th</sup> fishing Loch Nant and meeting at the Nant gate for 10:00. We are hoping to be able to have a post-match fish supper for all the competitors. Further details will be provided when the arrangements are confirmed.

#### Sandpit Gate

One of our locks at the Sandpit Gate was reported to have been isolated from the ring in error. Forest and Land Scotland have released it and the code of both locks has been changed for the 2022 season.

#### Loch Nant

The last work party was notable for the number of members who could not attend, but we still made a team of four to go out and see if the Nant boat could be put into the water. We also met up with Iain Laing of Barachander to discuss our creating a high stile over the new deer fence. This fence has cut off access to Loch an Leoid, but Drhue Forbes very generously offered his time and expertise to tackle the job. Before starting, we wanted to agree the location and form with Iain. We had a useful chat and found a suitable place for the stile to cross the fence and give members a way to reach the path down to Loch an Leoid from the Dam Road. In the course of our conversation, Iain mentioned that he had a loch boat that he could make available to the Club on Loch an Droighinn, if we were willing to put in a mooring and help to launch the boat. We readily agreed and arranged to meet Iain later in the day after our sally to the Nant.

In the event, getting Iain's boat onto the shore at Loch an Droighinn was one of the more productive parts of our day. It is a Mouldacraft like many of our own boats and will provide a means by which we can fish Loch an Droighinn, once we have put a mooring in to secure it.

The Nant boat is safe and sound where we left it last October, but the Loch has retreated some seventy metres from the low level we experienced last year. We had been monitoring the level before venturing out to launch it at the work party, and the weekend before the loch had been more-or-less where it had been when we took the boat out. We were all shocked to see that the loch had dropped so far in such a short time. We scouted along the shore to see if there was any place suitable for the mooring to be re-laid for access at the very low water level; there are a couple of potential sites, but this will have to remain a work in progress. As it was, the mud exposed by the retreating water made the loch inaccessible below the boat, so we abandoned the idea of launching it.



Loch Nant the weekend before the work party. When we were there less than a week afterwards, the inlet was completely cut off and the loch bed was exposed beyond the point. The boat is ashore to the right, out of the picture.



Further round from the previous picture, the boat is in this one in the shade of the Norway Spruce middle right, with the water at a level that convinced us we would be able to launch. This was to change in the next week, as described above.

While at the Nant, we went up to the Sior Lochs to check that the boat there was still upturned by the road. It was, and is, and will have to remain so until I can reattach its keel band. This came off while the boat was being recovered to the Hut for repairs, and was overlooked when the boat was taken back to Sior. I found that securing the band would be difficult, owing to the screws having “let go” and the wood keelson being too soft to retain them. I had the idea to use well nuts (expanding retainers) for the keel band. This was the first chance I had to test them and they looked satisfactory. Time ran out before I could finish the job because we had to get back and meet up with Iain and his boat but it is progress.

### The High Stile

Drhue made good on his promise to build the stile, and very good it looks, too:



The stile built by the cattle grid on the Dam Road. You can park about 80m further up towards the dam and walk back along the road before going over the stile and taking the path to the loch.

### Boats

To summarise, we have at present boats available to book on the following Lochs:

Loch Seil

Loch Gleann a Bhearraidh

Loch Dhub Mhor, Kilmelford

Loch Avich (2 boats)

Loch Oude

### Boat Repairs

Repairs are needed to the boat for Dhub Loch Mor, Barcaldine; Loch an Leoid; the Sior Loch. The boat at Loch an Leoid is going to be tricky to extract if it cannot be repaired in situ. Iain Laing has offered the use of a quad bike to pull the Loch an Leoid boat over the isthmus to Loch an Droighinn. This is a generous solution but to get the boat to a point where it can come ashore and be dragged overland, it needs to be able to float. A temporary repair will be needed.

### Hut Repairs

Peter and Richard made a good start on the Hut side in March and the work has been sustained as and when time allows. Peter and Elaine put in a few hours during the week earlier this month, and Peter came along to one of our regular Friday morning sessions at 11am to continue scraping and brushing off the loose paint, ready for woodstain to be sprayed on. The gable end that I treated before Covid is holding up well, so we are confident that the new stain will protect the timber for a good while, once it is all finished. The less tractable issue is the roof, which on the northern, damper aspect has accumulated moss (treatable) and also become very porous with age (not treatable). The answer is to replace the Caroline sheets but this will need professional attention. We are looking for a willing contractor to quote for this work but most are so busy at present that a small (to them) job like this is not of interest. If you know of a likely roofer, please let me know.

### Catch Returns

It seems that increasing the number of members has not resulted in an increase in catch returns. Please try to find time to record your catches through the website – the direct link is here:

<https://www.obanandlorn-anglingclub.co.uk/catch-return>

Failing this, Andy MacDougall, our Boat Booking Recorder has offered to collate catch returns if you send them by text message to the number on your membership card for boat booking (07724521806). One way or the other, we need your catch returns – it is a condition of our leases that we provide a catch record summary to our landlords at the end of the season. We must send them in or we could lose our fishing.

### Catch reports

I have had a couple of catch reports this month. Drhue started the season on our pool at the mouth of the Awe, catching this little chap:



Iain Moody was on the Sior Lochs bank fishing at the beginning of the month and took several small fish on a floating line. Nothing keepable, though. Then he blanked on Loch Dhu Mhor on April 13<sup>th</sup>. Drhue fished Loch

Dhu Mhor on 19<sup>th</sup> and had a brownie of a pound, which is a good fish for the high lochs, especially at this time of year. Iain shared the boat and took a 10oz fish. Nothing else was hooked.

#### Mario/Anglers' Corner

I have just heard that Mario Di Ciacca has sold The Anglers' Corner and is retiring. I am sure we wish Mario a long and happy retirement after many years in his shop. Mario has been a great friend and ally of the Oban and Lorn Angling Club for a very long time and will be missed. The new owners will have big shoes to fill and I look forward to meeting them soon. I hope that we can continue to rely on the Anglers' Corner as a permit seller and drop-in point for members.

That is all for this time. I hope that you will go and find some fish and when you do, send me a picture or two. There

With Kind regards

Jonathan Anglesea  
President