



OBAN AND LORN ANGLING CLUB

Charity No. SCO47428

June 23rd 2022

Newsletter 2022 - Number 5

Dear Member

Here is the latest news from Oban and Lorn Angling Club

Membership

The Club now has 75 subscribing members. This is five less than in 2021 but given the exceptional circumstance of the pandemic and travel restrictions which made holidays at home more prevalent last year, would seem to be an adequate number.

Boat Bookings

Technical difficulties have been creating problems for our boat booking recorder, Andy MacDougall. To simplify the process and allow him to respond quickly and easily to booking requests, please now submit booking by SMS (phone text message). The number to be used is **not** that printed on your membership permit. The number to message is **07810308994**. If you text your request to Andy stating your NAME, your MEMBERSHIP NUMBER, the LOCH and DATE required, you should receive confirmation quickly and your booking will be confirmed. Email and voice messages should not be used until further notice. We apologise for any inconvenience this may cause. Further work may allow the restoration of bookings online and by email but for now, these methods are not guaranteed. Thank you for your co-operation and forbearance with this matter.

Boats

The latest work party to Lochs An Droghuinn and Nant successfully launched both boats with new mooring laid so that the Loch an Droghuinn boat is accessible by a short walk from the road. This boat has unfortunately developed a leak in the deck but we are hoping that a repair to this will be tackled soon. For now booking for nether Loch an Leoid nor Loch an Droghuinn can be taken

The Sior Loch boat and mooring are still out of commission.

The Nant boat developed a deck leak but Kevin MacDougall repaired it, for which we should give sincere thanks. The latest news from Nant is that the boat is still in commission with sufficient water in the loch to float it. The new "low water" mooring makes for a longer walk from the road to the boat but the going is firm underfoot and the gradient is moderate. It is easier to take an outboard to the Nant boat than at the previous location with the water so low.

The Loch Nell boat is now in the water after a work party arranged at short notice via WhatsApp. The mooring buoy had sunk, but Allan went back and replaced it.

Boats which can be booked are therefore: Gleann a Bhearraidh, Seil, Oude, Avich (both boats), Loch Dhu Mhor Kilmelford, Nant and Nell. Remember to allow three days notice if you want to use the Nell boat, and provide your car number plate so that you can be identified by the estate. Always display your car windscreen sticker when parking at the lochs, but be particularly sure to do so at Loch Nell.

Oars

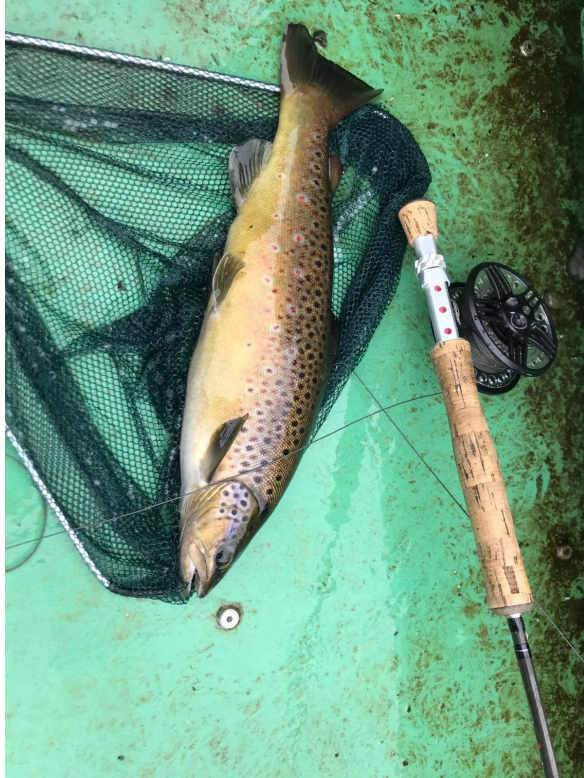
The Dhub Loch Mor boat for the loch at Barcaldine is progressing but I have had to devote time to preparing oars rather than boats lately. A new pair were fitted with thole pin saddles for Nell and the oars on the Loch Avich left hand boat were exchanged after one broke in use. Thanks are due to Andy MacDougall for making the swap. We have two pairs of the old oars left in a usable but unprepared state so it is fortunate that we have three new pairs remaining from the Green Energy grant purchase. I shall endeavour to maintain a ready-use pair that can be swapped out on demand. If anyone does have an oar break on them, please try and return the intact oar with the broken one - they are in matched pairs, but the pairs are not always matched with any others, so just replacing a single oar without reference to its twin is uncertain.

Whatsapp

If you have not yet joined the Oban and Lorn Angling Club WhatsApp group, I commend it. You can see catch reports and general chat easily and immediately. It is one of Mr Zuckerberg's ventures but it is ad free, costs nothing, you only reveal your mobile number and you do NOT have to sign up for Facebook to join the WhatsApp Group.

Catch Returns

Please send in catch returns if you have any success. It is good to know that people are actually seeing fish, and a photo always enhances a newsletter. I have one for this newsletter, thanks to Allan who went out on Avich on a wild May day and caught a stonker:



Look at the size of the head compared to the body - not at all ferox-like and the sign of a fast-growing fish.

Hut Work

If anyone has any time to spare on Friday mornings at 11:00, please meet up at the hut. I am back from Devon now and will be keeping "open hut" on a Friday until further notice. It fits in with my work and a regular session keeps things moving, albeit slowly. If you come along and I am not there, please call my mobile - I may have had to go to Screwfix or Highland Fasteners. I will try and remember to put a "back in 5" notice on the door but might forget.

I hope that you are finding some fish now and look forward to doing some fishing myself.

Kind regards

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