



OBAN AND LORN ANGLING CLUB

Charity No. SCO47428

October 25th 2022

Newsletter 2022 - Number 6

Dear Member

There are now only a few days remaining for you to catch a sea trout from the Polfearn beat of the River Awe or Lochs Nell and Seil. Most of you will have already put away your trout tackle and unless, like me, you go grayling fishing during the winter, you will be waiting for the 2023 season to roll around. Before that happens though, we have the small matter of the boats to lay up for winter.

Work Parties

We need to hold work parties to bring the boats ashore. Unfortunately I have commitments that mean I shall be away for the next three weekends, so this will have to happen without me. I am sure that sufficient numbers of you can gather to do this without my presence. We are calling for work parties on October 30th, November 6th and November 13th. As usual, if you could advise me of your availability, it would be very helpful. I shall not be able to participate but I can act as the co-ordinator and will be able to communicate to ensure those attending are aware of the arrangements and if numbers are more or less than needed, advise accordingly.

The plans are to attend to the boats at Gleann a Bhearraidh, Oude and Avich on 30th, Loch Dhu Mhor Kilmelford, Loch an Droguinn and Nant on 6th, Lochs Nell and Seil on 13th. If we get sufficient bodies to make up more than one party on any of these dates, the work may be reallocated. If numbers are poor, then the work parties will have to continue on November 20th or beyond. Last year the attendance at the autumn work parties was excellent and we wrapped everything up in good time. The arrangements will be the same each time – meet at the Club Hut for 10:00 or additionally at the Nant gate for 11:00 if the party is going to the Nant lochs.

Other Boats

The boat at Loch an Leoid was repaired by Kevin MacDougall during the summer, but the mooring will need to be overhauled before it goes in next spring. The boat will need to be turned at some point, but being ashore already will not need a full party to turn it over. The Sior loch boat is also repaired (finally) and will be good to launch next spring. It may be prudent to have a ready-made mooring to put into the Sior loch when we do this – the one there is still floating free in an uncertain condition.

Other News

I have not had a great deal to report since the last newsletter in June. We gained no more full members after I reported that we had 75 subscribers at that time, so we end the year with a slightly lower membership than the 81 who joined in 2021. With Covid restrictions abating, it may be that some anglers found their need to fish was less this year. For whatever reason, the number who subscribed was sufficient to cover our costs. The subscription rates will remain the same for 2023 at £75 for under 65s and £55 for over-65s, registered disabled, unemployed or students. Junior subscriptions for under 16s remain free.

Competition

The return leg of the inter-club competition between ourselves and Lochgilphead and District Angling Club was held on the Nant Lochs in September. As is traditional, Lochgilphead won. A report by Jim Grout giving the competition details is appended below.

Thanks and Appreciation

The Club has run smoothly this season, and it would not have been possible without the hard work and generous assistance of many members of the Club and the Committee. Special mention should be made of the help provided by Andy MacDougall (boat booking), Allan Coutts (Secretary), Drhue Forbes (boat repairs), Iain Moody (Treasurer), Jim Grout (competitions), Kevin MacDougall (boat repairs), Peter McKay (hut maintenance) and Richard Wilson (hut repairs). Others came to work parties and also to my Friday morning hut sessions. All help is appreciated, of whatever duration. Even an hour's oar scraping is an hour that would possibly not get done otherwise. The Club cannot afford to pay for professional work except in exceptional circumstances – all members' contributions are needed to make it happen.

2023

We have high hopes for the 2023 season. We deployed nine boats this year but have two more ready to go back into Loch an Leoid and the Sior lochs. I have made progress with the boat for Dhub Loch Mor and I am determined that this will be ready by March 15th. That would be a total of twelve boats in commission, with one remaining in the compound to be fettled and held as a spare. For a membership of 70-odd, this should I think be enough boats for many days of happy fishing. I have attained the age of 65, so I will be entitled to the reduced subscription rate of £55 for the first time. Happy days!

The AGM for the 2022 season will be held at the Argyll House Hotel on Sunday 26th February 2023. I look forward to seeing as many of you as possible there.

And Finally

I hope that you have found some fish in 2022 and are looking forward to more of the same next year. I will keep you posted with progress on the boats and work parties. In the meantime, if you have enjoyed being a member of Oban and Lorn Angling Club, the membership form for 2023 will be on the website soon and your early payment of the subscription will be most welcome.

Yours aye,

Jonathan Anglesea

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INTERCLUB COMP

Oban hosted Lochgilphead on the 18th of Sept, the turnout was poor from Oban once again. Not one committee member attended at either of the competitions, sign of the times I suppose.

Fifteen anglers took part, ten from Lochgilphead and five from Oban

Once again Lochgilphead won the day with 21 fish @ 21lb 10oz Oban had 6 fish @ 3lb 7 oz

On the leveling up of numbers Bob Greer pulled two names from the hat giving Oban a total of 7lbs 12oz.

Eddie Murphy again was Oban's best angler with a weight of 1lb. After the weigh-in we went to The Brander Lodge Hotel for soup and fish and chips.

Loch Nant boat, it was a good job that those who wanted to use the boat had waders to get to the padlock.

Kind regards

Jim