



OBAN AND LORN ANGLING CLUB

Charity No. SCO47428

March 21st 2023

Newsletter 2023 - Number 3

Dear Member

Here on the first day of spring is the latest news from Oban and Lorn Angling Club as promised so often in my recent emails.

Annual General Meeting

The Club AGM for the 2022 Season took place on February 26th 2023 at The Argyll House Hotel and we thank Tom Hayward for providing the room for us to use. The meeting was, despite my best efforts to attract members to attend, not exactly packed. We numbered six members of the committee and one member. On reflection we decided that this was probably due to there being more entertaining ways to spend a wet Sunday night and that if members were unhappy with the administration of the Club, they would have let us know. I did receive many apologies and these were noted and minuted.

The AGM proceeded smoothly and the accounts were approved.

The committee members were all re-elected unopposed.

Under any other competent business, a (the) member attending asked that work parties be given more notice. The president explained that sometimes a weather window appeared which was too good to miss, leading to short notice of work parties but accepted that where possible, more notice should and would be given.

Membership

Subscriptions have been received from 46 members so far this year, of whom two are new members to the Club, the remainder being renewals. This is very encouraging. A few years ago the total membership for the year was little more than this number and it is heartening to the committee to see that members are willing to commit to the Club when the season has barely started.

Cards

Members have been collecting their cards from the Anglers' Corner and making use of the generous service provided by John Sweeney that allows them to do this. Please remember to take CASH ONLY when dropping in to pick up your cards.

Car Stickers

If you are fortunate enough to have more than one car and need a sticker for the second one, or if you lose your car sticker, please send an SAE to Iain Moody and an additional card/replacement will be sent to you.

Members Records

We have had quite a few membership forms returned by members renewing their subscriptions, which has allowed us to check and if necessary update our records. If you have not yet submitted a form, please do so. It is a requirement of data protection legislation that we keep accurate records.

Work Parties Past

The work party on March 5th was well attended and two teams departed the OLAC Hut for Lochs Oude/Avich and Dubh Mòr, Kilmelford. The Loch Oude boat had been refreshed over winter by Drhue Forbes and went onto its mooring looking very smart. At Avich, we not only had to launch the boat but renew the moorings, which Andy MacDougall fabricated on-site so that the one boat we have there at present is secured to new rope and chain.



Bruce, Charlie Limond and Drhue putting a new mooring in at Loch Avich

At the Nant lochs, the party checked the boat at Loch an Droguinn and found that the bilge keels were coming away from the hull. One was removed for refurbishment but the other, while loose, was left for attention later. This boat belongs to Iain Laing, the manager at Barachander and our use of it is dependent on our looking after it. We will need to reattach the bilge keels and while there in a group big enough to turn the boat we inspected the deck. It is split and will need an in-the-field repair with fibreglass before it can be launched.



Next we moved on to the Nant, where the loch level was quite low and we were glad to be able to drag the boat to the water on the plastic 'sliders'. The Nant boat was left on its mooring ready for opening day.

The Nant boat ready, showing it on the "low water mooring" from the road to the Tower.



Nant Boat with Cruachan's peaks behind it.

The next stop was at the Sior Loch, the boat having been left by the road (where Kevin MacDougall and I had worked on it last year to the point where it was ready to go by the end of the season, a little later than planned). We had some good aerobic exercise pulling the boat down the hill to the water. We had to launch the boat to get out to the mooring which had drifted away from the bank in the winter of 2020 and was floating out of reach. We got enough of the mooring line ashore that we could all tail on and pull, whereupon a mass of heavy chain slowly emerged, bringing the buoy with it.

At that point we thought that our work was done, but scanning the ripples where the mooring had been, I saw more floating rope. Rowing back out, Bruce Smith manned the oars and I pulled the mystery rope until another weight was holding us from underneath. Richard and Iain pulled the boat into the bank on a long rope, and thus we recovered a second concrete mooring block. This was a bonus because we are short of a block for Dhub Loch Mòr, Barcaldine. The mooring rope and chain we pulled out of the Sior Loch was in sore need of replacement. I put it in a bucket and carried it back to the car so that it could be measured and a new mooring made up to match. We exited the Nant Gate and went back to the hut feeling that we had done a good day's work.

The third work party on March 19th was slightly less well attended than the second, but we were still able to divide into two teams with one going south with a trailer to fetch the damaged boat from Loch Avich while Drhue, Bruce and I went back to the Sior Loch. We replaced the old mooring with one I had made in the intervening time since the 5th, re-using the heavy chain as the mooring anchor. This went quite well until we tested the mooring and discovered that the boat would not pull into the bank. I had put too much chain in the loop. Rather than break the chain, I chose to move the bridle along the running rope and will shorten the chain later. This will not need a full work party to accomplish. We left the Sior Loch boat well out from the bank on the new mooring.



The Sior Loch boat. Drhue was happy because he had caught a fish. Or something. We have fun on work parties, sometimes.

Work Parties Future

We need another work party with the objective to swap the broken Loch and Leoid mooring for a new one and launch the Loch an Leoid boat. This will happen on Sunday April 2nd. There - almost two week's notice of a work party! If we get enough people, we will also remove the bilge keel from the Loch an Droguinn boat so that it and its twin can be cleaned up and refitted. It would be an excellent result if we can, before or after going out to the lochs, clear out the compound at the hut to make space to work on the boats. As always, please let me know if you intend to come to the work party. Or not. We shall meet at the Club Hut at 10:00 or the Nant Gate at 10:30.

In summary, we have boats available to book now on Loch Gleann a' Bhearraidh, Loch Seil, Loch Oude, Loch Avich, Loch Dhub Mòr (Kilmelford), Loch Nant, and the Sior Loch. I have attached the "Guide to Fishing" as promised in my earlier emails, with revisions to cover Dhub Loch Mòr (Barcaldine) and Loch na Sreinge including details of how to find them.



Please note that until I advise otherwise, the Sandpit Gate for access to Dhub Loch Mòr (Barcaldine) is padlocked by F&LS (see photo at left) and we can't gain entry except by foot. The loch is about a mile from the gate if you want to walk in.

The days will be longer than the nights from now on, and next weekend the hour goes forward and we lose an hour's sleep. I don't know if it's old age but nowadays this leaves me jet-lagged and seedy for at least a fortnight afterwards. I wish we could just have the same time year round and get used to it, but this seems like a forlorn hope.

Anyway, I hope to see you at the work party where we can get the last of the ready-to-go boats in the water. If we get the Loch an Leoid boat in, then we will have eight boats in eight lochs, which should be enough for a decent few days fishing for everyone that wants one

and more besides. Meanwhile I shall continue the refurbishment of the small boat for Dubh Loch Mòr (Barcaldine) and if time allows, or anyone else can spare the time to help, start to repair the second Avich boat.

Yours Aye

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Loch Dubh Mòr (Kilmelford) - photo and caption with thanks to Peter McKay



Not a fish showing...