



OBAN AND LORN ANGLING CLUB

Charity No. SCO47428

February 2nd 2023

Newsletter 2023 - Number 5

Dear Member

I apologise as usual for sending this out late, but this time I have a good reason for not doing it sooner. On August 17th I was feeling very unwell and tested positive for Covid-19. I had begun to think I was going to get away without being infected and have no idea how I caught it. Having succumbed, I could not seem to shake it off and only tested negative yesterday - over two weeks of being unwell which was very unpleasant. Anyway, I am better now, so here is the latest news from Oban and Lorn Angling Club.

Lochgilphead Competition

A reminder that the Oban leg of our friendly competition between ourselves and Lochgilphead and District will take place on Sunday September 10th, meeting at 10:00 at the Nant Gate. Fishing until 16:00 and then a meal is available at the Brander Lodge Hotel. It would seem that the Nant boat will not be available for the competition, due to its being above the very low waterline. If you are going to bank fish the Nant at this time, please take all care to avoid the extensive mud flats which have been exposed.

Membership

It took a while, but the number of members has now exceeded that in 2022. We just received a subscription from member number 77. Considering the pressure that people's finances are under now, this is a really good result and will see us in a sound financial state for next year.

Work Party

Ritchie and I finished the repairs to the boat from Avich that was damaged when it blew off the mooring last November. We asked for members to come and help on August 11th for an informal work party. We had enough people to actually have two work parties! Charlie, Allan, Drhue and Iain went to Avich and launched the boat as planned, while Ritchie and I went to Loch an Droguinn to see if we could rescue the boat there. It had turned turtle and needed to be put back the right way up.



The boat after we recovered it from the bottom end of Loch Avich in February - quite a big hole and the bilge runner was in pieces. The keel band had bent into a U shape and was unserviceable.



The boat with new keel band, new bilge runners and the holes all patched and watertight.

We wanted it to go back before the middle of August (so that a visiting party of anglers could have the use of both boats) and it was done by the 8th.

The Loch and Droguinn boat turned out to be a really nasty job, with Ritchie and I both going over our waders to find enough depth to roll the boat over, and succeeding after much effort by bailing air under the boat, which made a change from bailing water out. Ritchie recorded the event for posterity.



Here I am bringing bigger bailers to increase the rate at which we could push air under the boat.

Gate Locks

Forest and Land Scotland have found it necessary to add locks to some of the access gates and have allowed us to add our own coded padlocks to the chains. At present, the code for OLAC locks is the same on every gate. To ensure access is by members and permit purchasers only, the code will be provided on request by Andy MacDougall, Boat Booking Recorder. For reference, coded locks are on the following gates:

Barcaldine Sandpit Outer
Barcaldine Sandpit Inner
Dorlin Point
Loch Dubh Mhor, Kilmelford Outer (Loch Avich House Road)
Loch Dubh Mhor, Kilmelford Inner
Puddle Loch at Loch Nant

Some members have had problems with ABUS 180/I locks. Remember that these have a double-action and the staple has to be pushed after the code is set, then pulled to open.

Free Boat

We were donated a boat! Andy spotted a boat being given away to the first person who could collect it from Taynuilt. We put together a party to go and pick it up and it is now awaiting attention in the Hut Compound. This may find its way to Loch Nell before the end of the season, depending on the amount of work required.



Catch Returns

I have had one or two informal catch reports but we need more detailed catch returns to satisfy Marine Scotland's reporting requirements, via our landlords. It is a condition of our leases that we provide catch returns and it would be very frustrating to lose our fishing due to lack of catch information. Please make an effort to submit catch returns, even if not after every outing, but ideally once a month and certainly before the close on October 31st. All we require is a note of where you fished and how many fish were kept and/or returned.

I will sign off by wishing you a successful end to the season. I had to stop repairing boats while I was unwell, but from Friday 15th I shall once more be opening the Club Hut at 11:00 every week. Please feel free to come along, even if only for an hour. It is surprising how much work two or three people can accomplish in a short time when we get together and pitch in.

Yours Aye

Jonathan Anglesea
Tel: 01631 750214
Mob: 07766 811088