



OBAN AND LORN ANGLING CLUB

Charity No. SCO47428

September 22nd 2023

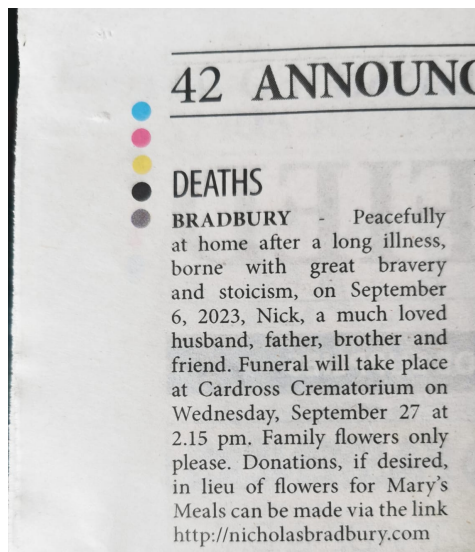
Newsletter 2023 - Number 6

Dear Member

Here is the latest news from Oban and Lorn Angling Club.

Nick

I cannot believe that we are nearly at the end of the season. The year has flashed past in a blur and for me has been marked by a feeling of unreality. Not least because of the prolonged illness and recent death of one of my best friends and former colleague, Nick Bradbury, who was also our OLAC Webmaster and Assistant Treasurer. To know Nick was to like him and on the committee we will all miss his humour, intelligence and ability to solve problems. I still cannot believe that he has gone. You may have seen the notice in The Oban Times which I reproduce below:



I shall of course be at his funeral. Nick wanted his memory to be honoured by support for Mary's Meals which is a very worthwhile cause. Note that the link in the Oban Times is incomplete - donations can be made at <https://nicholasbradbury.muchloved.com/>.

Competition

The return leg of the Oban v. Lochgilphead inter-club competition was fished around the Nant area on September 10th 2023. Only four OLAC members attended, but after we were randomly assigned one of Lochgilphead's team to even up the numbers - we still lost. My correspondent who reported on the day said that a good time was had, but the conditions were hard due to lack of wind which also made the midges active. I could see the low cloud and Loch Etive was mirror still, as I drove over to clean our holiday let. I was sad to be missing the competition, but only slightly. Midges find me irresistible and I bear the scars for weeks after an onslaught. Brave men, to go up to Loch Nant on a warm, drizzly, calm day in September.

Work Parties

When I tried to muster work parties in November last year, I got a very poor response and as a result some boats were damaged in storms and the Loch Dubh Mhor boat at Kilmelford was not put ashore at all. This year I propose that we begin our work parties to bring the boats ashore as soon as the season has ended on October 6th. So, the first work party, if enough members can find the time to attend, will be held on Sunday October 7th. Meet at the Club Hut at 10:00 or slightly later at the Oude if you prefer. This party will aim to bring boats ashore at Oude and Avich. If there are enough of us available, we will add Gleann a Bherraidh and try to sort out the mooring up there too. As always, please let me know if you are going to be able to come along or not. We have boats on Gleann a Bhearraidh, Seil, Oude, Avich (2), Loch an Droguinn, Loch an Leoid, Loch Nant, Sior Lochs, Loch Dhub Mhor Kilmelford, and the damaged boat at Nell to recover. Thanks to Ritchie Robb we have a trailer in excellent fettle to recover boats to the compound for repair. We will aim to get the Nell boat back and assess it as part of the pre-winter activities.

New Boat

Andy MacDougall was quick off the mark when he spotted a fishing boat being given away on Facebook Marketplace, and we were able to muster a work party to go out and collect it. Not only did we acquire a free boat, but a usable trailer came with it so a worthwhile morning was spent by Dhue and Allan.



A free boat, now awaiting refurbishment with two others. The work never stops...

I look forward to seeing you if you can come along to the work party on October 7th. Even if you only bank fish, you should think of boat work as part of your contribution to the Club. We earn money from temporary members who join and buy permits just so that they can use the boats. Without the income that boats bring in, the Club would not be financially viable so please do not take the view that because you don't use the boats, they don't matter.

Unbelievably, with the new boat we were given we now have fourteen boats to maintain and we have lochs to put them on if there are enough willing helpers to do the work. We have an option to put a second boat on Loch Nant at an alternative location so that even when the water is at its lowest level a boat can be used. Alternatively we might put one on Loch Na Sreinge and we still have consent for a boat and mooring on Dhu Loch Mor, Barcaldine. A change, they say, is as good as a rest, so next season we could explore these alternatives.

I hope that you have had a successful season, whether from the banks or the boats and remind you that we still have loch Seil and the River Awe to fish until October 31st for sea trout, maybe even a back end salmon on the Awe. If there is sufficient enthusiasm, we might even put one of the boats that is in a usable state on Loch Nell for the back end. Watch this space.

Meanwhile, I shall be at the Club Hut, Mossfield on Friday 29th of September at 11:00 to have another "open hut" session. Nobody came to the one on 15th September and I was working today unexpectedly but we should be back on track for regular sessions from next week.

With kind regards, yours aye

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