



OBAN AND LORN ANGLING CLUB

Charity No. SCO47428

Newsletter 2024 – Number 3

14th March 2024

Dear Member

I have a few minutes to spare before the season begins tomorrow, so here is an update.

Membership

We now have over 48 subscribing members for the 2024 season. This is a very good base from which to begin our fishing year.

AGM

The 2023 season AGM took place as planned in the Club Hut, Mossfield on March 10th. I had many apologies, but was still slightly anxious as I set out twelve chairs, because we could have had twice that number of attendees had those not apologising all turned up. As it transpired, there were four members and six of the committee present, so we did not have to have anyone standing. Minutes will be distributed in due course, and the accounts will be circulated to all members when they are uploaded to the OSCR website for public access.

Competitions

I'll keep mentioning the competitions, because some new members may have missed earlier announcements. If you are interested, Jim Grout on 07772 288497 will provide details. See also Newsletter Number 2 which can be downloaded for our website at <https://www.obanandlorn-anglingclub.co.uk/newpage>.

Work Parties

The first work party took place on Sunday March 3rd. Attendance was not great, although thanks are due of course to those who came along and launched boats on Loch Avich. We now have boats in the water ready to fish at Lochs Avich and Seil. We need to have another work party to put more boats out. This will take place on Sunday March 24th at 10:00, meeting at the Club Hut. With luck, we shall have more people attend and will be able to do one or more of the following:

Turn and launch the boat at Loch an Droguinn

Turn and launch the boat at Loch an Leoid, then extend the mooring and re-lay the block further from the shore.

Recover the mooring block at Loch Gleann a Bhearraidh, then use the block on a new, longer mooring that places the boat further from the shore.

Turn and launch the boat at Loch Oude

Turn and repair the deck on the boat at Loch Dubh Mhor, Barcaldine

Fit thole pins and oars to the second boat at Loch Avich which has been floated round to its mooring but not kitted out.

Turn and launch the boat at Loch Nant – assuming the level has dropped from its current high state. If not, we may lay a new mooring that can be used with the loch higher than last summer.

Remove the bilge keels from the Sior loch boat, so that they can be used as patterns for new ones. The boat leaks due to degradation of the timber in the existing keels. This needs to be sorted before it is put in.

The more people who can come to the work parties, the sooner there will be boats to fish from. We are going to try and make sure that no boat is put in that cannot float. There may be delays in consequence, but

it is preferable, we feel, that members can fish in safety and without the inconvenience of having to bail the boat before fishing, even in dry weather.

As planned, members of your committee went to Loch Nell and recovered the damaged bat from the shore. It is in the compound on its trailer, awaiting major repairs. The second Nant boat/spare boat is upturned at the hut. Repairs are in progress.

Friday Mornings

The Friday morning sessions at The Hut are ongoing, as time allows, and we are now almost finished with the preparation of oars, locks, bailers and chains for the boats. These ancillaries are ahead of the boat preparations, at least.

Raffle

Ticket sales for the raffle at the Anglers' Corner will continue for at least a month. We shall draw the raffle at a committee meeting in April, as planned. If you have been to the Anglers' Corner for your cards but forgot to buy a strip of tickets for £5, please go back and buy one. This is the only fundraising we shall do this year, and it is in a very good cause – your Club.

Dogs

Like me, you may find your life enhanced by the company of your faithful hound. This includes fishing, but sadly not all the Oban and Lorn Club waters are suitable for a dog. This is due to the presence of livestock and we must be ultra-careful in this regard. A member recently asked me where they could take their dog. The Fishing Guide and rules currently just say “do not take your dog on the hill”. This is concise, but open to misinterpretation. Most of our lochs could be classed as hill lochs. There are some however where dogs could be taken, provided you are sensible and proceed with caution. For the benefit of those members who might want to take their dog fishing, this is a summary of the position as it currently stands:

Dogs are not to be taken beyond the forestry ground at Nant and Loch Dhub Mhor, nor to Loch Nell. They can be taken where there are no sheep or cattle. It's basically a question of common sense here - livestock don't like dogs, no matter how well behaved because their presence is stressful. Stockmen never like to see them. So where there are sheep or cattle, or even where there may be sheep or cattle, don't take your dog. Walkers and other users of the ground may do as they please and annoy the land owners. We have to be more cognisant of potential problems or risk losing our leases.

As you can see from the below there are only limited opportunities to take your dog fishing and often they would have to go with you in a boat. Some dogs love this whilst others would be a nuisance and not enjoy it. You know your dog, so if it isn't good in a boat, leave it behind.

The following are “dog friendly”:

Seil – in the boat (bank fishing is not allowed)

Oude

Gleann a Bhearraidh (but again there is no bank fishing here)

Avich

Nant (west of the tower)

Dubh Mhor, Kilmelford (on the forestry ground, not the open ground adjoining)

Dhub Mor, Barcaldine (north side)

River Awe

Whereas dogs should never be with you on:

Nell

Sior lochs

Puddle

An Leoid

An Droguinn

Nant (east of the tower)

Dhub Mor, Barcaldine (south side beyond the forest fence)

Any other lochs not listed

Facebook and WhatsApp

Andy MacDougall has been added to the list of admins for our Facebook Page at

<https://www.facebook.com/olac.org.uk/> . He will be revitalising it after I had neglected it for too long. It has already seen hits and responses up by 900% in a week! So a big "Thank you" to Andy and let's see some of your catches and questions on there. If you don't use Facebook, maybe this will tempt you to join. If you are on WhatsApp, we also have a presence there at <https://chat.whatsapp.com/ChjHiY2CpcG4LCtbdPc6Xy> .

That's all for now. I hope to see you out around and on the lochs, or at a work party. Please remember to let me know if you can't be there at the work party on 24th March, it does make life much easier if we know we will be short-handed at work parties. Nobody wants to be hanging around the Nant Gate in the rain waiting for a work party that does not happen, so an apology can make a difference to someone's weekend. Just a text or an email - not a big thing to expect?

Kind regards and tight lines...

Jonathan (Tel: 01631 750214 Mob: 07766811088)