



# OBAN AND LORN ANGLING CLUB

Charity No. SCO47428

Newsletter 2024 - Number 4

May 12th

2024

Dear Member

It has been a while since the last newsletter - I'm sorry about that, but every time I found time to sit down and write it something else came along. Anyway, here is the news since the last one on April 11th.

## Membership

We are definitely making progress with our recruitment. As of today, May 12th we have received 86 full and concessionary subscriptions. With five honorary members we have thus reached a total of 91 members for 2024. This is yet another increase on previous years and is very encouraging news.

## EGM 5th May

The EGM was held at the Club Hut in order to approve the 2023 accounts and draw the prize winners for the 2024 Raffle.

The accounts, having had the income and expenditure figures revised, were unanimously approved and will now form our return to the Office of the Scottish Charity Commissioner (OSCR).

The raffle was well subscribed and 46 strips of tickets were purchased at the Anglers' Corner, raising a total of £230 for our Club funds. Prize winners were as follows:

- 1st Prize (large box of flies) - Maclain Service
- 2nd Prize (box of flies) - Ronnie Blue
- Booby Prize (jar of boobies) - Adam Wyness
- 2nd Booby Prize (jar of boobies) - Jonathan Anglesea

The meeting passed a vote of thanks to Gavin MacLean who donated the flies and fly boxes and organised the raffle. Thanks are also due to the Anglers' Corner for selling the tickets.

### Next Work Party

The next work party will head to the Nant and Sior Lochs with the aim of launching the boats there. I have made a replacement bilge keel for the wee Sior Loch boat and it just needs screwing and sealing onto the boat. The Nant boat needs checking to see if the glass fibre patch applied on April 27th has cured. Is anyone able to do this before we commit a work party to turn and launch it? We will convene a work party on 19th May to do these jobs, but it would be good to know whether the Nant boat is ready beforehand.

### Competition

The first leg of our Inter-Club Competition against Lochgilphead and District Angling Club was held on April 21st. Eight members of Oban and Lorn Angling Club headed down to fish and were pitted against a crack team of twelve from Lochgilphead. Local knowledge proved decisive and we were beaten soundly. Lochgilphead weighed in 35 fish for a total weight of 29lb 4oz while Oban recorded 6 fish for 4lb 1oz. Highest weight was caught by Archie McGilp Junior of Lochgilphead with 10 fish for 10lb 2oz. Our Jim Grout was the top rod in the Oban team and 5th overall with 3 fish for 2lb 5oz. Well done to all who took part and represented our Club: Jim, George Henderson, Brian Nelson, Eddie Murphy, Donald MacLean, Bob Goudy, Ritchie Robb, and Gavin MacLean.

### Friday Sessions at the Hut

Our Friday morning working sessions have been well attended, albeit less frequent than I had wished. Special thanks go to Ritchie who has done much to help with the boat preparation. There will be a session on Friday 17th of May to prepare for the work party on 19th. Please come and find us at the Hut from 11:00 if you would like to help out. All are welcome.

### Previous Work Parties

We had full Club work parties on 24th of March and 27th April, with the Oude boat and Seil boat being launched by members living nearby and making up informal parties of their own on other days.

The work party on March 24th sent two teams out to Loch Gleann a Bhearraidh and the Nant Lochs. At Gleann a Bhearraidh we had to recover a mess of heavy chain and a concrete block and then replace the whole mooring from the shore strong point outward. Richard Wilson kindly brought his quad bike which towed my little trailer full of materials up to the Loch. It would have been a real slog without the machine. We installed a gabion to secure the loop and then all new chain and rope to the buoy.



Allan concreting the top of the gabion, while Andy sorts out the chain loop.



Andy gritting his teeth while receiving instruction on how to wrap chain around concrete.

We relaid the mooring block further into the loch than its previous position and the boat is now well out, where it will hopefully remain unmolested.



The Gleann a Bhearraidh boat moored - a final check before tying the loop for its bridle..

While the mooring was being laid at GAB, the Nant party went to Loch an Droguinn and put the boat in, then came back via Loch Dhub Mhor to launch that one.



The Loch Dubh Mhor (Kilmelford) boat being launched

At Avich they found our lovely boat “Anna” rather the worse for wear - sunk at her mooring. The bad storm earlier in the week had pounded her so heavily that all the seats, which provide the flotation, had come out. Such a shame after the work to make her ready. It was a case of making her safe while we recovered or remade the seats again.



Anna - nobody wants to fish from a boat in this state.

On Saturday 27th of April the work party was impressively well attended. Maybe Saturday is the best day to hold work parties? Whatever the reason, we had nine attending - enough for two teams, one to go to Loch Nant and the Sior loch and another to rework the mooring on Loch an Leoid. Despite (or possibly due to) the abundance of members attending, the work party was a bit disorganised. We ended up with unmatched pairs of oars - one from the Nant boat and one from the Loch an Leoid boat at each location. Then I left my knife and jet lighter (rope melter) in my coat at the car, so when we needed to cut some strong twine at the Loch an Leoid boat for whipping the splices, we ended up using bolt croppers. MacGyver would have been impressed. The weather also turned against us and instead of the sunshine we were promised, we had rain and hail. The Nant team patched a hole with fibreglass but the cold meant that it had not solidified by the time we were packing up. So it's a work-in-progress on both the Nant and Sior Loch boats.

At Loch an Leoid we were able to extend the mooring loop and re-lay the block further out so that the boat can be seen from the road to the Nant Dam. This will make the Loch an Leoid safer and hopefully see more use. Loch an Leoid is a really lovely loch with clear water and decent fish to be caught. It deserves to be fished more often than of late. Give it a try and you might be pleasantly surprised by what you catch.

## Boats

By the 30th of April, we had boats in service on Gleann a Bhearraidh, Seil, Oude, Avich, Dubh Mhor, an Leoid and an Droguinn.

Thanks to Drhue Forbes, Anna was fitted with new seats and relaunched on May 4th, making two boats on Avich. We may have a solution to the problem of seats coming adrift. Bruce Smith has very generously donated a quantity of sapele to the Club. This is a tropical hardwood which I have used to make blocks and wedges that we will use as additional security for the boat seats.



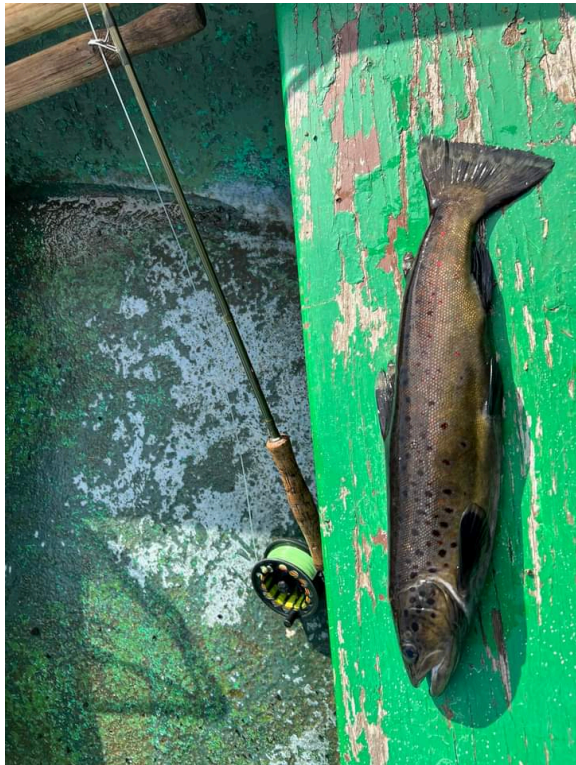
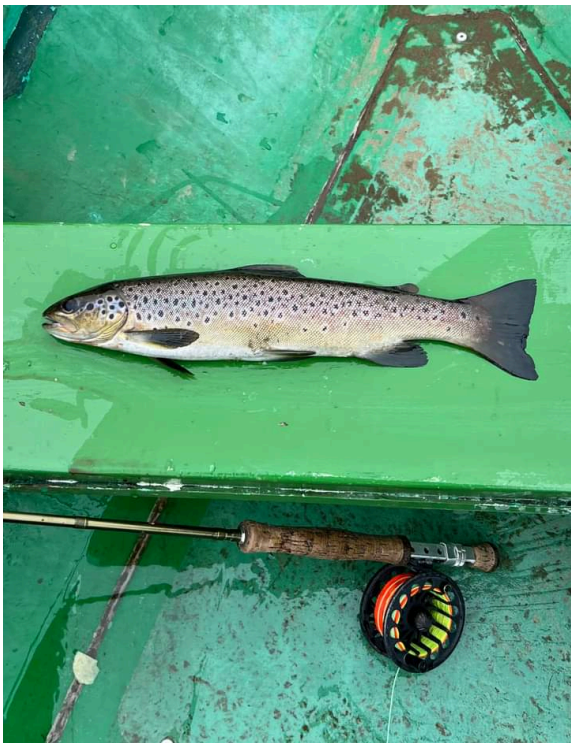
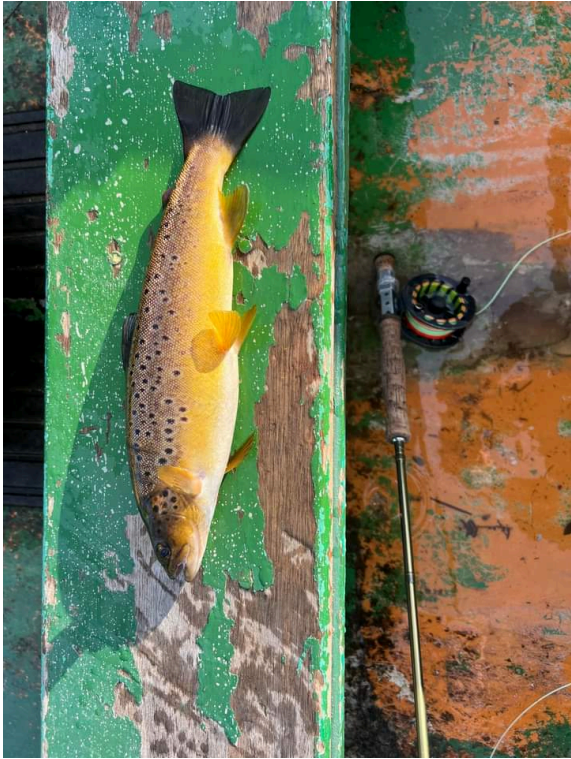
A block and wedges at each end will ensure that the seat stays in place.

We now have a total of eight boats on seven lochs. There is a real prospect of making that ten boats on nine lochs. To do this we need to get the Nant boat turned and in the water while the Sior loch boat needs a new bilge keel. This is in hand and a work party to do the final launching will be needed soon - see above (19th May).

## Catch Reports

Members have been out on and around the lochs with some success. Here are some pictures of the latest catches - if you are subscribed to our Facebook Page, you will have already seen these, but not everyone uses Facebook so I have included them here. I will repeat Andy MacDougall's Facebook post that records a total of 85 fish reported as being caught by members this weekend alone. The lochs are fishing really well now, so go and catch some.





All the above are catches taken after the beginning of the 2024 season. I shall not reveal where they were caught, but if you know the Club boats it is not hard to work out which lochs they came from.

And to prove that you don't need to go afloat to catch decent trout from our lochs, take a look at these beauties, caught in the last week:



The last one is a real specimen from one of our smaller lochs (2lb 8oz), proving that there are some big fish to be caught from them without taking on the big lochs.

That's all for now. I hope that you can join us at the next work party on 19th May. Please let me know either way. It is only by working together that the Club can succeed. We are close to our goal of more than ten boats ready for use. Please come and help to make it happen if you can.

With kind regards

Yours Aye,

Jonathan