



OBAN AND LORN ANGLING CLUB

Charity No. SCO47428

Newsletter 2025 - Number 1

11th March 2025

Dear Member

It seems but a week or so since we brought the boats ashore but here we are - four days to go before we can fish again! I apologise for the lateness of this newsletter which was supposed to wish you a Happy New Year. Life has been quite full-on lately but here is some news, including some important dates for your diary.

Competitions

The inter-club competitions between Oban and Lochgilphead will take place on Sunday 20th April 2025 (Easter Sunday, easy to remember), and Sunday September 21st 2025. The first date is that of the competition on the Lochgilphead lochs and the second for the return leg on our lochs of the Nant basin. If you are interested in a day of friendly banter and a chance to fish some lochs other than our own, please contact Jim Grout on 07772 288497.

Work Parties

We shall begin putting the boats in with a work party on Saturday 22nd March. Note that this is a Saturday, rather than the usual Sunday for a work party. We had a good turnout last year when we experimented with a work party on a Saturday so we felt it worth trying again this year. The plan will be to launch the boats on Loch Avich and then go up to Loch Dubh Mhor to bring the mooring block ashore and lay a new, longer mooring loop to place the boat in deeper water. The keel band on this boat has sustained damage due to going aground when the loch was low. If we can repair this damage on the day then we will leave the boat afloat, otherwise it will have to be left upturned again so that it can be properly repaired and go in for the season without any leaks.

Please let me know if you will or will not be coming to the work party. If we can get an idea of numbers in advance, we can make best use of the available people. Even one extra or missing person can change the work that can be attempted. I look forward to seeing you at the work party if you are free.

AGM

The AGM was held as planned on March 9th at the Club Hut. I thought that I had really messed up when I arrived to open up and found the fair in full swing. I could hardly hear myself in the meeting room as I ran through my report to see if I could read it out loud without stumbling. I also realised that we would likely be short of chairs, so nipped to our holiday let for four spares. When I got back the fair had fallen silent for the day, so that was a relief.

There was a good attendance at the AGM and it was a pleasure to meet some new members. I was also very happy to have received so many apologies, which at least let me know that we were likely to be able to seat all the attendees. As in fact was the case.

The AGM went as planned and your committee remains as in 2024. The accounts were approved and will be posted on the OSCR website and on our own website at www.obanandlorn-anglingclub.co.uk in the near future. The main take-away from the accounts is that we again showed a small surplus to add to our

reserves. In addition to the usual business we added a motion under AOCB "That the Club do more to provide facilities for disabled anglers". This was suggested to me by a long-standing member and passed unanimously. The committee went on to discuss this at a meeting convened after the AGM and I summarise our thoughts below.

Loch Nant

Members visiting Loch Nant will see that there has been a lot of harvesting activity around the loch during the close season. Forest and Land Scotland have advised us that there is currently no active harvesting going on but please pass signs with caution. Some timber is still to be uplifted so you **may** meet timber lorries on the road. If you do come across a crane lorry loading a second lorry or trailer please stop and make sure that the crane operator has seen you before you try to pass.

We have been advised that there will be timber harvesting on the last section of forest road before you leave the forest for the Sior lochs, starting sometime in April. We shall advise members when we have more information.

Disabled access

We need to be careful that we do not implicitly discriminate against disabled anglers. To be sure highland lochs do not always provide easy access from a vehicle, but where this can be arranged, we should do all we can to ensure that this possible. This should include wheelchair access which at present we do not have on any of our lochs. In order to develop this we will be approaching the problem in a twofold manner.

Firstly, we will look at our existing lochs and consult with our landlords to investigate means by which we could achieve easier access. In the case of F&LS we will be asking that if any opportunity arises in the course of forest road development for our access to be improved, we would wish to be consulted. We would be prepared to co-fund improved access if cost is a bar to such work.

Secondly, we will look to gain a lease on a loch where a "Wheelyboat" (a boat onto which a wheelchair and occupant may be propelled and secured) could be deployed, with ready access from adjacent parking. We believe that grant assistance may be available for such a purchase, which even if not covering 100% of the cost would offset some of the outlay.

Merely getting into or out of a boat may be difficult for those of limited mobility, who otherwise could fish happily. We will survey the shorelines where our boats can be reached reasonably easily on foot - Loch Dubh Mor, Barcaldine; Loch Avich; Loch Seil; Loch Gleann a Bhearraidh; Loch Nell; Loch an Droguinn being the first to consider. Small jetties may allow the boats to be boarded more easily than at present and we will seek permission to construct one as a test.

Bank fishing

Also related to but not exclusively pertaining to disabled access, we believe that the Club could do more to facilitate bank fishing. The shores of our lochs are often steep-to or soft mud, making wading difficult, if not dangerous. Not all members are happy to manage a boat, so bank fishing is their preference. We wish to either a) improve access to our existing lochs where the banks are fishable or b) seek a lease or leases on lochs where easy bank fishing is possible. We would welcome any suggestions on these matters - if you know of any lochs in North Lorn on which we might seek a lease to gain improved bank fishing, please let us know.

Lost Property

At the end of last season, an outboard spares and tool kit was left on one of the boats. I have pictured the contents below. If you recognise this, please tell me on which loch you were fishing and we will make arrangements for its safe return.



Last year I fished on the first day of the season, which was a beautiful sunny day with fish rising but in a flat calm and I had one pull for my efforts. I intend to try again not to blank on the first day. I shall likely go to the Sior lochs and combine fishing with a look at the boat which still needs a new bilge keel. Wherever you start the season and when, I wish you tight lines and more success in the coming year.

Yours aye

Jonathan Anglesea
President, Oban and Lorn Angling Club