



OBAN AND LORN ANGLING CLUB

Charity No. SCO47428

Newsletter 2026 - Number 1

16th April 2026

Dear Member

Welcome to the 2026 Season - now exactly a month and a day from its start. date Sorry for the delay in sending this.

I have, would you believe, been trying to find time to send this newsletter to you since the AGM on February 22nd. For a number of reasons, it has taken longer than I would have wished, but things kept getting in the way. Not least the work parties which I needed to arrange, even if I was not able to attend them in person. Nevertheless, the work parties happened and boats have been put in, so I am pleased to be able to provide you with the updates below:

Website:

After much work and many hours spent over a hot keyboard, Peter MacKay was able to make our new website live on March 23rd. This website is at <https://www.olac.org.uk> and encompasses all the options we had on the old site with some rather neat additions, not least online catch returns (see below), instant news updates and better control of its content. The new site is built with Wordpress, which means we can keep our own copy of the website and move it elsewhere if we need to, whereas the old website locked us into a contract and a platform which was good for its type, but quite expensive at £300 p.a. The new site will cost £60 for the first year and under £120 thereafter.

AGM

The 2025 AGM took place on Sunday February 22nd 2026 and was well attended - the same number assembling in the Club Hut as for the 2024 AGM. That the 2025 AGM is held in 2026 seems to confuse some people but the reason is simple. As a Charity, we have to present our accounts to the Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator (OSCR). This is a legal duty, in which we are helped enormously by R A Clement Associates, Chartered Accountants who prepare the accounts to the required standard. But this takes time, and with the season finishing on October 31st, it would be impossible to have the accounts prepared in time to have an AGM to approve them before December 31st. So we hold the AGM in the late winter of the year following the season. The other function of the AGM is to elect officers and committee for the coming season. This was also done at the AGM and all office holders and committee members remain in post. For further details, you can download the 2025 accounts from the OSCR website or from our website at <https://olac.org.uk/newsletters-documents/>

Membership

We now have more than 60 members subscribed or renewed, a very encouraging number for this point in the season, particularly as the weather has been uneven, to say the least. Even our keen and expert Boat Booking Recorder has not had much to celebrate on the water, so let us hope for an improvement as April comes to a close. Surely May must get things moving?

Work parties

We had enough members assembled to hold successful work parties on Oude, Avich (both), Loch an Droguinn, Loch an Leoid, the Sior Loch, and Dubh Loch Mor, Barcaldine. Andy put Gleann a Bhearraidh in on his own (!) and Allan and Willie saw to the boat on Loch Seil. That's nine boats, already...

The next work party will take place on April 19th, if we get enough attendees. So far, this is not looking great. I only have two volunteers and recovering the Nant boat from its winter lair will need more than that, not to mention launching it at Loch Nell and laying its mooring. We will have to postpone the work party if there is not more interest. Sometimes the stars do not align, so if we can't get enough bodies on Sunday, we'll go later.

Boats

As of today, April 16th, you can book boats on all the lochs mentioned above under Work Parties.

Loch Dubh Mhor, Kilmelford is waiting on new keel bands. These are ready but there have been no dry days coinciding with our availability to go out and fit them. It will happen. Then the boat will need a work party to launch and put onto a longer mooring. The keel bands were destroyed when the water level dropped to the extent that the boat went aground on the mooring and the rocky substrate gave it some grief. Luckily the keel bands were able to protect it from serious harm.

We have decided to give Nant up for the present and put its boat into Nell, where the water is almost always where you need it. We elected to try and get the next boat put out on Nell so that we can show our landlord that we will use the opportunity he has provided. The forecast for Sunday 19th is excellent, but possibly that is the reason for the lack of enthusiasm for a work party. You may prefer to actually go fishing...

Competitions

We will go down to Lochgilphead for the first of our friendly fishing competitions on Sunday May 3rd 2026. Jim Grout is once again acting as co-ordinator for the inter-club matches and can be contacted for full details on 07772 288497. If you can make a space in your fishing diary to go and fish the competition, you will enjoy a change of scenery and an opportunity to share a fun day with some really excellent anglers. The competition is not fished for kudos, but the pleasure of taking part. Please come along if you can.

Catch Returns

The new website (see above) features a page which allows you to create an easy-to-report catch return. It assumes that catch returns will be completed monthly (as per Marine Scotland mandate) so please try to do this at the end of each month through the season. The catch return page is at:

<https://olac.org.uk/catch-return/>

If you click through, you will see that it is divided into sections by loch or loch group and the River Awe. The information to be provided is as simple as possible - Name, Membership Number and then an option to choose the month, whether you fished at all, and if you fished but did not catch anything. If you were successful, you can then move on to report the loch or lochs fished and the numbers of fish caught and the number returned. That's it. If you could do this regularly, it would be a tremendous help to us at the season's end when we have to submit returns to our landlords.

Cards

Cards are still available for collection at The Anglers' Corner. Please take cash if you are going to avail yourself of this service. Also make sure that you do not interrupt the normal business of the shop when doing so.

Committee

The committee has done much work to get the boats and other equipment ready and deployed for use. We really, really need both a Treasurer and Vice Treasurer for the 2027 season. Please get in touch if you think you might be able to help with either of these posts. If we do not manage to recruit new Officers then there will be no future for the Club. If you enjoy what the Club provides, please consider putting something back to allow it to continue.

Dubh Loch Mor, Barcaldine

Thanks to Adrian Hatton, we now have an unsinkable boat on this loch which is going to make a big difference to the area which can be fished. We launched the boat on this loch on March 29th, which was possibly the best attended work party of the year, for the smallest boat! But it is a boat which we do not own, so has to be treated with care and the many willing helpers saw it safely down to the loch.



The sun, seen for the first time in many a day!



Mission accomplished! This loch is so much better fished from a boat.

Dubh Loch Mor is notorious for weeding up early in the year, so a boat allowing access to the clear water which remains, but is impossible to reach from the bank, will be a great advantage. In saying which, don't just stay away from the weeds in the open water. Hit and hold tactics work in lilies and that is often where the fish are lurking, waiting for you to drop a fly among the pads. I find that a Sawyer's Nymph can work really well, especially if you mitigate the splash by casting onto a handy lily leaf (this is a heavy fly, mostly composed of copper wire). Gently draw the fly off the leaf and allow it to plunge into the depths while you watch the leader. If it stops mid-drop, strike!

That is all for now. With luck, the next newsletter will be along sooner, and with some reports of good catches. Remember to keep checking the website or our Facebook Group for catch details. With the price of fuel soaring, it makes sense to travel in company. Why not offer other members a space in your car if you have any? As they say, a pleasure shared is a pleasure doubled.

Kind regards

Jonathan Anglesea, President, Oban and Lorn Angling Club
Tel 01631 750214
Mob 07766 811088