

The Breeze



MARCH 2013

Ahoy! From The Commodore

Dear Members,

It's time for another season to start at the club. I hope you have had a great winter and got all of those DIY jobs completed, the ones you put off all summer with the option of a sail instead. The club will be coming out of hibernation and it will be time to hook up the boat and head for the loch.

Over the coming year we have already had a lot of interest in the club, we expect to be hosting some travellers for the Lasers, Europes and the Enterprise fleet over the coming season. So the racing should be good.

We have also had some requests for training on Race Hut duty and driving the Rescue boats, so please watch the web site and the notice boards for detail on this. The club is run by volunteers, so we need to make sure we provide the right level of training to support club activities. We will also have another training session on the Defib machine, now held in the club house. So if you are interested, get in touch and we will put you on the list.

Have a look at the new web site, it looks great! Lots of good articles and photos to spend that quiet lunch hour at work. The recent additions to the photo competition are posted and well worth a look. We will also be adding them to an album to put in the clubhouse, just reviving the tradition. Remember, if your asked. "Where is that?" Your answer is, "Where I would rather be!"

Hope to see you all at the club
Thanks and Regards
Martin

Ahoy! From The Commodore

Notes from the Secretary

Welcome to another year of sailing at Loch Earn. Along with this copy of the Breeze we are sending out the Membership renewal documentation. Please return the forms along with your payment as soon as possible as this makes for an easier life all concerned.

Last year we started to use email for general correspondence and the Breeze and direct banking for payment of fees and expenses. Apart from a few minor hiccups at the beginning this went much better than we expected and as there were no adverse comments from members, we intend to continue this year.

Also, last year we started to use P&K Council waste recycling service and this seems to have gone very well. We will be continuing this arrangement this year and waste collection will commence from 1st April. Bin uplift dates have yet to be confirmed by the council so I will put a notice on the board and on the bins as soon as it is available.

Boats must be insured as per paragraph 1.4 of our Club Bye-Laws. Please ensure that your insurance is up to date and adequate for your needs.

WORK PARTY

Saturday 16TH March

Saturday 17TH March

Time to open up the club for another season.

In addition to the usual chores at the start of the season we would like assistance with the following jobs. If you have any skills in these areas we would welcome your assistance. Please bring along your toolbox and workgear.

1. Electrical fittings to tidy up (Electricians & DIY tools)
2. Tarken Burn, banks to repair and reinforce (“Wet & Dirty” gear)
3. Bridge ends to repair (Shovel, Spade, Pick)
4. Abandoned trailers and boats to be removed from the trailer park.
5. Removal of old Flying Fifteen Trot (“Wet & Dirty” gear)

Water Supply

The water supply to the Clubhouse and the Caravan Site will be opened on 16th March.

A BIT FROM THE SAILING SECRETARY

We have a very full sailing season planned for 2013 starting on 30th March for those of a robust constitution! For the First Fling we have invited the Scottish Laser Grand Prix and the Enterprise Scottish Area events so there should be plenty of boats on the water to give lots of photographic opportunities.

In August we are hosting the Europe class Traveller event followed by the Challenger Traveller for disabled sailors in October. Club members with Laser and Europe dinghies will have a great opportunity for some really competitive racing.

For the keen dinghy racers there will be race coaching throughout the season from April to October. Beginners can participate in a comprehensive programme of training given by qualified RYA instructors. John McDonald is organising races for keelboat sailors on some Friday evenings. This is a great opportunity for keelboat crews to get some practise.

If you are unsure about how to fulfil your Race Officer duty then help is at hand. Craig Moffett will be giving instruction on the 7th, 14th, and 21st April at 11am. Please contact Craig directly (craigmoffett@hotmail.com) to book your place.

If you can't make your Race Officer duty on the day allocated please arrange a swap, either on the website by contacting the web team, or use the swap sheet on the club notice board.

Please look at the website to view and download the Race Calendar. If you find the PDF file too small to read there is an Excel version you can print off in landscape over 2 pages. If you want to know what's going on in your club then look at the website, it will be kept up to date with the latest news.

I look forward to seeing you on the water this year and let's get those keelboats off the moorings!

Tony Caudrey

Caravan Convenor

There have been no winter works this year and therefore I haven't been up at Loch Earn. This means that there is very little to report and I decided to appoint an apprentice for this issue. My grand-daughter, Linzi Murray, has been doing a project on John Muir, and the John Muir Trust. This is one of her chapters based on experiences of a non-sailing nature at Loch Earn.

Is Loch Earn not just a marvellous place - something for everyone in the family.
Agnes Murray

My favourite Wild Place



My favourite wild place is Loch Earn Sailing Club. I like Loch Earn because it makes me feel relaxed and happy but sad on a Sunday because I have to go home. I like to go canoeing and swim in the loch.

At Loch Earn there are rare red squirrels and there are wild goats, deer and osprey.

Let me start off by telling you a story about a red squirrel. You know how squirrels are very partial to bird food. I was very lucky because every morning a red squirrel came to the bird table at the caravan (at Loch Earn). Then one day it never came. I didn't have to wait long to find out where it was. Jill had found it lying dead on the ground at the side of the road. This is

very common death for squirrels. Most squirrels die this way. Sadly it is an endangered species and its body had to be sent to the Red Squirrel Preservation Society for tests.



Now I'm going to tell you about the wild goats. These feral goats live up in the mountains in large herds. None of the goats look the same because their colours and lengths of hair are all different. In January they have their babies and when I go back to Loch Earn in spring they will be down out of the mountains and in a field near my caravan. Feral goats eat grass.

I'm going to tell you about deer. Deer are vegetarian. They eat lichen that is found on stones and tree bark. In the autumn when I am lying in my caravan trying to sleep, the mountains echo with the stags in rut. This sounds like barking and you can hear them battling in the distance. In fact, you wouldn't believe how loud it is.

I'm now going to tell you about osprey. The osprey eats fish. They build their nest high up in the tree canopy. They arrive in spring after wintering in Africa. The male goes fishing for food and the female sits on the eggs. The dad teaches them to hunt, prey and fly. The female leaves first but male goes when the youngsters are ready. I've see the ospreys hunting for fish. I've seen how they dive into the loch. It's amazing.

That's my favourite wild place. There's always something fun to do and see. I would suggest you come because you would enjoy yourself!

Linzi Murray
P6 - Commercial Primary School

PIRATES DAY

FAMILY WEEK AND PIRATES' DAY JULY 2013

Last year we had mixed weather but we dodged most of the rain and there was good fun for all. We had lots of activities including a Mini-Olympics with sack races, welly throwing, archery, three-legged race and egg and spoon races. Everybody got a medal!! There was cake decorating and pizza making (yum) as well as visits to Comrie Fortnight events with our own LESC star appearing in the youth talent show.

Pirates' Day "happened" on the Saturday after the Lochearnhead Race with more Pirates than ever this year but the "Navy" did well and the end result appeared to be a draw!!

Many thanks to Moira Brown for organising everything for the week and keeping everybody busy! Thanks also go to John McDonald for the Pirate ship. We think The Hooligan survived!!

Come along this year 22nd to 26th July and
Pirates' Day TBA!!

BROWN CUP

As the season approaches so will the rush to book the places at this year's Brown Cup which is 8th to 10th June. We have new main Sponsors *Schroder Investment Management*. They will

provide sponsorship to cover the supply of rash vests to all of the competitors which will be supplied by Crewsaver.



The history of the Brown Cup was always a Schools competition therefore Colin and I have swung the focus back to this which means the entries will open 1st April for two weeks this is for School Teams of three boats. After the 14th April the entry will be opened to all other sailors. As usual places will be booked up quickly so if you intend being at the weekend coaching and the Brown Cup then get your entries through to Colin as soon as the entry form becomes available.

As usual there will be the usual volunteers required to help with the event. If you are available to help please let Colin or Cammy know.

Cammy

WANTED

Editor for the BREEZE

Sherrie Seamark has been a wonderful editor of the Breeze for the last few years. Due to recent changes in her work commitments, she no longer has the time to give to this task and is wondering if there is anyone else who would be interested in taking over the job. All applications welcome to

breeze@lochearnsc.com or contact a member of the committee.

CRUISER CAPTAIN'S FEEDBACK

We had some good cruiser turn-outs for racing at the weekends last season so please keep up the good work and increase the numbers this year. The Committee are discussing the possibility of using locally calculated PYs as that could be more rewarding for inexperienced sailors. I will keep you informed.

Take-up for Friday night cruiser racing was mixed last year but many thanks to the few stalwarts who participated when they could. I am happy to run Friday night cruiser racing for one more year to see how it goes. I propose to go for weekly Friday night racing over a short period while there are lighter nights. It might be easier for you to know that there will be racing every Friday rather than working out when the fortnightly racing is on. I will try to be around on Fridays but be prepared to sort out your own racing if I cannot attend.

Cruiser helms who want to crew to get some racing experience or if you just want to crew for a cruiser you should let me know and I will see what can be arranged for weekend or Friday night racing.

Friday Night Races - Weekly from 10\05\13 to 26\07\13 – 7.00 pm start time:

<u>May</u>	<u>June</u>	<u>July</u>
10\05\13	07\06\13	05\07\13
17\05\13	14\06\13	12\07\13
24\05\13	21\06\13	19\07\13
31\05\13	28\06\13	26\07\13

Hope to see you on the water soon!

John G. McDonald

Cruiser Captain