



Dear OSC member

I'm sitting here rueing the fact that Torranan has got a broken forestay and I've had to watch the fleet setting off on what I think is the high spot of the summer – the Round Mull race.

So far it's been a very busy summer, and just when I was thinking "thank goodness June is successfully over" I realised that there still a huge part of the season to come. After Round Mull, the Scottish Skiffs are coming to Oban for a Grand Prix event and then West Highland Week starts before July is out.

Roll on August ...

... hang on, that's when the dinghy regatta takes place.

Toby Sherwin (Commodore)

Club open day

The club held an open day on Saturday 22 May. It was a great success with a lot of hard work being put in by a number of club members, and support coming from others. Already we've seen evidence of its impact with several people coming along on a Tuesday night to see if they could get experience on a keelboat.

Several things probably contributed to the success of the day – obviously the weather which was just perfect. But also by holding it on the same day as the RNLI and NLB ensured

that more people were in the area. And there's no doubt that the offer of a sail round the bay was a big draw.

Finally, we must thank Owen Sails who provided the banners and Oban Bay Berthing for permission to use their landing stage.

Main events in July / August / September

Fri to Sun 9–11 July

The 25th Round Mull Race.

Weekend 24-25 July

Scottish skiff travellers visit Oban for a Grand Prix event.

Sat 31 July to Fri 6 August

West Highland Yachting Week.

Racing based in Oban on Monday and Tuesday, with races to Craobh Haven and Tobermory from Oban on Saturday and Wednesday respectively.

There will be a club BBQ late afternoon of Monday 2 August to which all club members are welcome. The club will again be providing breakfast tea, bacon butties and shower facilities to any visitors mooring nearby. Please say if you can help.

Weekend 14–15 August

Dinghy regatta

Weekend 28-29 August

Shuna feeder (Billmeir Trophy) from Oban to Craobh and Round Shuna pursuit race, based in Craobh Haven.

Sat 11 Sept

Mini regatta – dinghy and keelboat racing

Training

The junior Monday evening training programme took a surprise turn this year when only 6 juniors applied from Oban High. Fortunately a last minute call for adults to fill the remaining places by Ian Gibson resulted in a very good response. As well as the juniors, several adults

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achieved level II and thus qualified to have first call on the club Toppers for the rest of the season.

Please note that we desperately need more RYA qualified instructors for both sailing and rescue boat training. If you are interested please let Toby know. If you need training to a particular level then we'll probably be prepared to pay for it.

Website

Don't forget the club website
www.obansailingclub.org.



RYA Honda Challenge

This summer we've had some of the juniors learning how to drive the rescue boats and competing in the Scottish heat of this nationwide challenge. Congratulations to Jamie Chapman who came third in Port Edgar in the seniors, and to Craig Pollock who did almost as well in the juniors. If they'd won they'd have been off to the Southampton Boat Show for the national finals.

Dinghy slipway

For some time now the committee have been trying to get assurance from Argyll and Bute Council for continued permission to access the dinghy slipway. A formal agreement between

the club and the council that has been in force for 25 years expires on July 31st. In view of their silence on this matter - despite numerous requests - we will continue to use the slipway after that date. We believe this is our legal right. However, we are very frustrated about the lack of consideration by the council who by this inaction are preventing us from refurbishing the slipway. Sorry about that dinghy sailors - it's a real pity.

Clubhouse Trustees

No one officially owns our clubhouse because the original trustees died several years ago. We need new trustees (whose only job is to formally own the clubhouse under direction from the committee). If you can think of any responsible person who would take on this role then please let Toby know. They don't have to be a member but should be interested in what we do. Thank you.

Leaflets

Irena Chapman has produced a leaflet which celebrates our 75th anniversary and promotes the club. If you know of any way in which we can use these leaflets to the club's advantage please get in touch with her.

Serving behind the bar

Last September the licensing laws that cover our bar changed. In future anyone serving behind the bar has to have personal license. If you do not then you are breaking the law and the club could lose its license. So we need more people to offer to be trained by Twig Olsen who is the club license holder.

Kenny MacDonald

Oban Sailing Club wishes to record with sadness that Kenny MacDonald has died following a period of illness. Our sympathy goes to his family. Kenny was a well known figure on the west coast sailing scene and an inspiration to many member of the club. He was also Commodore of OSC between 1988 and 1990.