



# The Grumpy Commodore

Newsletter From Oban Sailing Club



## June- The month of youth!

The name of the month of June most likely relates to the Roman goddess Juno. Juno itself appears to come from the Latin *Juventas*, meaning "youth."

Therefore it feels right that the focus of this month's newsletter is on our junior members, many of whom have been busy studying for and taking exams over the last month.

Our juniors have been very active with Monday Mayhem sessions as well as the High School sailing programme. OSC are also hosting groups from the local Scout and Guide groups over the next couple of weeks, giving them the opportunity to sail on the Drascombe as part of their water related badges and awards.

The Sound Waves music nights have also been a showcase of the young musical talent we have in the club. If you haven't been yet, you are missing out!

Many thanks to everyone who who makes all these events and activities possible. Junior members, you are the future of OSC and watersports in Oban. I encourage you to tell us what you want to see from your club over the coming season.

I also wish you all the best with your exam results, but please remember, results aren't everything.

**Derek Grier**  
OSC Commodore



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# WHAT'S BEEN HAPPENING?

## RACE PROGRAMME



A lovely weekend was had at Lochaline on 20-21st May – just the two boats – Nordic Fulmar (Richie Marshall) and Maggie May (the Smith family) participated.

Since there was no wind at 12 noon Maggie May set off and Nordic Fulmar opted to wait for a crew member to finish a squash tournament.

A call from Maggie May saying there was wind filling in near Lismore Light however Nordic Fulmar opted to continue to wait for their crew.

Therefore the Smith family on Maggie May are rightly awarded .

The Lochaline Trophy

We wish you all the best  
for the remainder of the season







# WHAT'S BEEN HAPPENING?

## THE SCOTTISH ISLANDS PEAKS RACE

Oban Sailing Club were delighted to host the runners and sailors for their welcome and registration evening for The Scottish Islands Peaks Race last month. A number of our intrepid club members also took part in the event.

This adventure race is for teams of sailors and fell runners (both youth and adult) and is held annually on and around the most beautiful parts of the west coast of Scotland.

The race starts in Oban with a short hill run, then a sail to Salen on Mull, run over Ben More, sail to Craighouse on Jura, run the Paps, sail to Arran, run Goat Fell, then sail to Troon. The race takes 3 to 4 days and caters for multihulls, racers, and cruisers.

Each team consists of 5 (usually 2 runners and 3 sailors), and there is also an All Rounders class for sailors that can run or runners that can sail, and a class for Youth.

Andrew Chapman and the team on Elixir of Lorn won class 3 also coming 6th overall.

The Peden's Hecla completed the race in 18th overall as a full family affair.

Steven Forteith returned with team Tangaroa to take the overall win for the second year running.

And Ben Miller joined Colin Craig's Bequia with John Grant and runners to take 5th overall, and only 10 minutes away from a podium position.

A huge congratulations and well done to all involved in this event.

## LET US KNOW WHAT YOU ARE DOING

We love hearing all about your racing, cruising and boating adventures.

Please send us photos and stories if you want them featured in next month's Grumpy Commodore  
[mail@obansailingclub.org](mailto:mail@obansailingclub.org)







**“The young do not know enough to be prudent, and therefore they attempt the impossible, and achieve it, generation after generation.”**

**– Pearl S. Buck**

## **Volunteer Spotlight**

The spotlight this month is on one of our junior members Ewan Dowd.

Youth is the lifeblood of any club and Oban Sailing Club is lucky to have people like Ewan Dowd engaged in club activities.

Ewan is one of the regular dinghy sailors, challenging his dad Chris for race honours but is using those skills to benefit the club and future sailors.

Ewan has been assisting with instructing on our annual sailing course for pupils from Oban High School. In doing so he acts as a great role model for them. Ewan also helps out when he can on Monday Mayhem by assisting younger sailors rigging boats or helming a bigger boat with less experienced sailors.

Ewan is looking to progress his experience by qualifying as a Dinghy Instructor and we wish him all the best with this endeavour.



## THE MAYHEM RETURNS

It has been Mayhem at OSC this month, but that is a really good thing!

Monday Mayhem is back and it is better than ever.

The sessions have seen 20 participants taking part in the water based dinghy events on a Monday night. The activities which are organised and run by our fabulous volunteers are designed to develop our sailors skills on the water, through the use of skills tests, games and a little friendly competition.

It really is fantastic to see so many people engaged in this event on a weekly basis.

If you want to be involved the group would welcome new volunteers to support the sessions throughout the season. You don't need to be a sailor, you could help out with shore based support, supervising participants or helping sailors get ready to go on the water.

Monday Mayhem sessions run from 18:00-21:00 on Monday Evenings  
Please meet at the clubhouse to sign in.

**Want to be involved?**

Please get in touch [mail@obansailingclub.org](mailto:mail@obansailingclub.org)





OBAN SAILING CLUB



# OBAN TOWN REGATTA

## Saturday 10th June

09:00	Briefing at Clubhouse	
10:00	Race 1	Dinghies
11:15	Race 2	Dinghies
14:00	Race 3	Handicap Keelboats
14:05	Race 4	Restricted Sail Keelboats

## Sunday 11th June

10:00	Race 1	Dinghies
11:15	Race 2	Dinghies
14:00	Race 3	Handicap Keelboats
14:05	Race 4	Restricted Sail Keelboats



## COME AND GET INVOLVED

All Welcome



# IF YOU SEE A NEED, TAKE THE LEAD.

As this month starts with "Volunteer Week" it is essential we take a moment to highlight and thank our volunteers. So please do accept my heartfelt thanks for everything you do to make the club a success.

Whilst I would love this to be a celebration of an active and vibrant community of volunteers, there is a reason I am known as the Grumpy Commodore! In reality at the moment there are just a handful of volunteers from a cast of hundreds. There are only so many 'Thank you's' that will suffice until people start to wonder why they do it.

Oban Sailing Club simply cannot survive without volunteers and I, personally, feel we are almost at a crisis point where we don't have enough people coming forward. Our team is, stretched, worn and tired and its only June. It only takes one wrong word or action, and we lose someone because they have had enough.

**We need members to stand up and help. If they don't, the club will fall.**

I know we volunteer for many different reasons including: philanthropic, enjoyment, interest, skills development, a sense of duty, or just wanting to be part of something. Volunteering comes in many forms, and even the smallest contribution makes a difference to the club.

From recent club history we have seen the damage, financially, physically and mentally which can happen to a volunteer organisation when core volunteers depart. It leaves others to hold the club together, with little but a 'wing and a prayer'. Oban Sailing Club has managed to bounce back and so far, we are better and perhaps stronger in certain areas. However, we need to ensure this doesn't happen again by supporting our volunteers and club.

As I stated at the beginning of my role as Commodore "Oban Sailing Club is more than one person." there are many roles to fill, some very small or short term, others much more involved and longer term, and everywhere in between. Whatever the role they are ALL vital.

At the moment the bar, doesn't have a convenor, we don't have a race officer, our social media and advertising needs managing and contributions of information, stories, and pictures need to be regularly distributed. Our buildings and infrastructure are needing maintenance (under the guidance of our clerk of works), grass needs cut, dinghies need repaired (Again with guidance from our bosun's), Our Bar needs more volunteers to take the mandatory training to be able to serve alcohol, for forthcoming events as well as our own social nights including Tuesday and weekend sailing.

**Please, can you, would you help??**





# SOCIAL SCENE

The bar has been little bit quieter recently, with people making the most of the weather, out on their boats or heading off on holiday. However, what we have lacked in numbers, we have certainly made up for in enthusiasm.

Last week saw the latest of our Sound Wave music nights, where some of our members and friends entertained us with some "Scottish" dancing, accompanied by the very talented Finlay on the fiddle, Francesca playing guitar and Liz Cottier on the flute (Liz said she hadn't played in a while, but you certainly couldn't tell). We were also treated to a few tunes on the pipes by Ruari, thank you for this, I know there was a bit of arm twisting but it was very much appreciated.

The bar is open every Friday night from 19:00 until 23:00, why not pop along, take in the view and enjoy a sundowner.

We have decided to postpone the Fish Supper night, as it's a bit close to the Regatta Weekend, we will announce a new date soon.



## BAR TRAINING

The next bar training session will be held on 17th June 13:00-16:00

Please get in touch with Hannah if you want to participate -

[Hannah@seagrassmarine.com](mailto:Hannah@seagrassmarine.com)

07500 454908

## WANT SOMETHING INCLUDED?

We love hearing what are members are up to, special events or activities, or even Anniversary or Birthday celebrations.

Want to nominate someone for the Volunteer Spotlight?

If you have news for next month's edition of the Grumpy Commodore, please email your information to

[mail@obansailingclub.org](mailto:mail@obansailingclub.org)

by 28th of the Month



**JUNE**

## What's Happening?

### OSC Crew for 2023



#### Office Bearers

Commodore: Derek Grier

Vice Commodore: Finlo Cottier

Hon. Secretary/Membership: Andy McPherson

Treasurer: Gerard Hoen

#### Committee Members

Andrew Chapman

Chris Dowd

Steven Forteith

Eric Chapman

Julia Pollard

Cameron H

RYA Centre Principal: Andy McPherson

UHI Link: Janne Bruhns

Junior Rep: Ruby Howard

#### Non Committee members

Welfare: Irena Chapman

Oban High School Liaison: Iain Fulton/Murray

Hamilton

Social Convenor: Hannah Grier

#### Round Mull Race Committee

Billy Forteith

Steven Forteith

#### Handicaps Committee

Billy Forteith

Colin Crawford

Andrew Chapman

**June 3rd**

Round Inch race

**June 5th**

Monday Mayhem

**June 6th**

Summer Series - Race 4

**June 7th**

Oban High School - Dinghies

### **June 10th-11th Oban Town Regatta**

**June 12th**

Monday Mayhem

**June 13th**

Summer Series - Race 5

**June 14th**

Oban High School - Dinghies

**June 17th**

Lochaber Yacht Club Regatta  
Old Gaffers Event

**June 19th**

Monday Mayhem

**June 20th**

Junior Crewing Night

**June 21st**

Oban High School - Dinghies

**June 25th**

Cutter Rock Cruise

**June 26th**

Port Beag Junior/Senior Cup Race

**June 27th**

Summer Series 2 - Race1

**June 27th**

Round Mull Race Reception

**June 30th -July 2nd**

Round Mull Race



# THE NOTICEBOARD

Got something for sale?  
Need something for the boat?  
Looking for some crew?  
Want someone to sail with?

please email your information to

mail@obansailingclub.org  
by 28th of the month



Volunteers  
needed



WE WANT YOUR  
FEEDBACK!

"Why are YOU a member of OSC?"

What do YOU want from the  
club?

What are we doing well?

What could be better?







# THANK YOU!

As always, a personal thank you to all involved in club activities and to all those who take the time to read the Grumpy Commodore.

I want members to get everything they want out of their OSC membership and the club and with this in mind I will be asking members this month "why are YOU a member of OSC and what do YOU want from the club?" so please have a think about it in advance.

Please feel free to contact me at anytime about your suggestions or ideas for the club, events and/or activities. Thank you, Derek Grier

## GET INVOLVED

Volunteers make OSC work, without them it would not be possible to run the many events and activities which take place every year.

The club are always on the look out for people to volunteer for different things including:

- Monday Mayhem
- Bar Staff
- Social Activities
- Race Officials
- Safety Boat
- Shore Support
- Social Media and Marketing
- And many more

Whether you are available for one afternoon or more regularly there is an opportunity for you, please get in touch!

**“We cannot always build the future for our youth, but we can build our youth for the future.”**

~

**Franklin D. Roosevelt**

Volunteer Sign Up Form



Oban Sailing Club

[www.obansailingclub.org](http://www.obansailingclub.org)



Oban.Sailing.Club

[mail@obansailingclub.org](mailto:mail@obansailingclub.org)



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