



The Grumpy Commodore

Newsletter From Oban Sailing Club



July- Feeling Ambitious?

July was named by the Roman Senate in honour of the Roman General Julius Caesar.

Whether you believe Julius Caesar was a tyrannical dictator or simply an ambitious leader, he transformed Rome from a republic to an empire, grabbing power through ambitious reforms, skilled leadership and open communication.

Although OSC is not an empire, and hopefully nobody sees the position of Commodore as a tyrannical dictator, I believe it is important that as a club we are ambitious, open to change and our club leadership are prepared to engage in open communication with members.

From my own perspective, I would like to see the club develop, engage a wider audience and offer more to the local community. However, I need to understand what motivates people to be club members and identify if there is a willingness for us to embark on ambitious projects of development and reform, or if people are happier with the status quo and content to sail along as we are.

After all Caesar underestimated the resistance to change and fear associated with his ambition, and ended up being stabbed in the back by his own Senate.

Et tu, Brute?—Then fall, Caesar.

Derek Grier
OSC Commodore



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WHAT'S BEEN HAPPENING?

OBAN SAILING CLUB TOWN REGATTA

Oban sailing club held its annual regatta over the weekend of the 10th/11th June.

A light wind forecast for the weekend did not deter a fleet of nine dinghies and six keelboats from taking part.

Dinghies raced both days in the mornings with an advanced and novice class and keelboats in the afternoons.

A light easterly breeze filled in and 4 races were completed off the clubhouse for the dinghies.

Andrew Chapman (Feva) and Chris Dowd (laser) were going toe to toe on the results in class A with Ewan Dowd (laser) keeping them honest for a tight three way battle on day one.

Points were all square with Andrew and Chris after day one.

In the novice class Ruari Cottier sailed well to win all four races with Finlay and Liz Cottier keeping it a family affair in second and third.

On Saturday afternoon the keelboats kicked off with a race out the bay to Sgeir Dhonn (the famous seal spotting island), down to Ganavan then a short lap of the bay to the finish.

Eric Chapman's Elixir of Lorn won the start and never looked back with a solid race win. Chris Dowd and team on Kittiewake held off the Forteith's Shadowfax to take second and Shadowfax third.



“Anything worth doing is worth doing slowly.”
– Mae West



Sunday dawned with even less wind, but after a short delay battle commenced in the dinghies. A couple of races were managed with Chris Dowd taking the honours on the day, but Andrew doing just enough in the Feva to win overall. Ewan Dowd sailed consistently to take third overall. Ruari sailed well to hold onto the overall class win in the novice class, with special mention to Faraid Winterton who lapped everyone in her Topper in race one.

A quick lunch break then the keelboats went out for race 2. A two lap course round the bay. Shadowfax won the start to take an early lead with the fleet chasing behind. A pile up at the first mark saw Elixir pop out into the lead to sail into a huge margin of victory to win the race and the keelboat class for the weekend. Chris Dowd showed great form to again take a second with Kittewake and Shadowfax recovered from a windless patch to get back to third.

Thanks to all that helped make the event happen.





WHAT'S BEEN HAPPENING?



OLD GAFFER'S



THE ASSOCIATION FOR GAFF RIG SAILING

OSC Hosted the Association for Gaff Rig Sailing - Old Gaffer's Event on 17th June

A good number of Old Gaffer's took part in the event, they raced down to Little Horseshoe Bay and back... VERY light winds but everyone seemed to enjoy the challenge.

A very enjoyable evening BBQ at the clubhouse followed.

A massive thank you going to all those who helped make it such a success.

We look forward to welcoming them again in future years.

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



WHAT'S BEEN HAPPENING?

ROUND MULL RACE



In it's 38th year, Oban sailing clubs much anticipated annual Ardfern Yachts and Owen Sails sponsored Round Mull Yacht race took place over the last weekend in June.

The race is run from Friday to Sunday, with three legs totalling 94 nautical miles and taking in overnight stops in Tobermory, Bunessan and racing through the sound of Iona and the Torran rocks. Throw in Staffa and you really have a bucket list race.

28 yachts arrived at the start in Oban split into 4 classes with a handful of yachts also competing for the double handed trophy.

The first start gun was fired at midday and the classes raced off in five minute intervals.

One or two boats were a bit keen to get going with Elixir of Lorn being scored OCS in class two, whilst a couple of class one yachts returned and exonerated themselves. A fresh white sail fetch took the yachts over to Lismore light and then the angle eased with spinnakers set for a reach up the sound of Mull. But as usual the sound of Mull had other ideas and the race turned into an upwind lottery. With the breeze dying the race team set a finish outside Tobermory. Unfortunately several yachts had to retire unable to make the time limit.

Once the handicaps were applied, the X332 Madog from Helensburgh won the Mishnish Bucket for best overall corrected time with the Chalmers Sigma 400 Sunrise second and Alison Chadwick with team Hot Toddy third on the Moody 336.



Saturday dawned with a big forecast for the back of Mull, so for the first time in years, the race team decided it would not be safe to head to Bunessan with a forecast of over 30 knots.

So the decision was made to race in the sound of Mull, from Tobermory down to Salen and back.



Sunday morning and the breeze was back on for the race to Oban taking Kerrera to Port. Spinnakers were set and the fleet stormed down the sound of Mull, with kites being held all the way to Lismore. A brief fetch followed to Kerrera, then a run up the sound to the finish line off Oban Sailing club.

Once the results were calculated Autism on the water was declared the winner with a beaming Murray MacDonald taking the Glencoe trophy for the best corrected time on the leg. Maximoose Too was second and the Forteith's 31.7 Shadowfax finally showed some form to finish third.

With all three leg times added together Cameron Still and the team on Maximoose Too having sailed consistently all weekend, were declared overall Round Mull race winners, winning the Torran Rock and Class one.

Sunrise took second in class two with the Balmforth's Tangaroa taking third.

Madog won class two, with Shadowfax second and Nick Marshall's J92 Satisfaction third. Class three was won by Hot Toddy, with Jon Fitzgerald's Sigma33 White Lightning second and Alastir Pugh's Contessa 32 Marisca third.

Restricted sail was won by Calisa with nobody else managed to complete all three legs. The Sigma 33 White Lightning won the double handed trophy, an excellent performance given the conditions over the weekend.

Oban sailing club wishes to thanks main sponsors Owen Sails, Ardfarn Yacht Centre, Forteith RHPS, T,Barbour Fuel limited and the Oban Seafood hut. Thanks also to the race team and James Hardie and the lovely committee boat Madadh. And a huge thanks to all the club members that made the event a success.

A start was set in Tobermory harbour and the fleet blasted out to a turning mark and rounded for a downwind roller coaster ride to Salen. With the wind gusting at over 30knots some yachts hoisted spinnakers and double digit speeds were recorded.

Once at the Green Isle the yachts set for a beat back to Tobermory with much reduced sail plans. Winner of the day and the Buinessan Hall trophy was Cameron Still's Maxi 1300 Maximoose Too with a strong showing, with the J92 Satisfaction coming in second after a flying downwind ride. Third was Sunrise with some consistent sailing.

The yachts returned to Tobermory harbour with many tall tales and a general consensus that not going to Buinessan was the correct decision.





EMERGENCY DEFIBRILLATOR



AED



If you have been paying attention you may have noticed a new installation on the Adventure Oban Shed.

Oban Sailing Club, Adventure Oban and Oban Bay Community Berthing, have joint funded an Automated External Defibrillation (AED) device.

Whilst we hope this is an expense that we never have to use, please be aware that it is available should it be needed. AED can be used by ANYONE, the automated system explains everything you need to do and explains how to do it.

Training can be provided if you would like it. please get in touch

Volunteer Spotlight

The spotlight this month is on Julia Pollard and Senior Dinghy Instructor Chris Dowd.

A huge thank you has to go out to these two, who have managed to ensure the success of the Junior Sailing Programme this week. Chris has jumped to the rescue of the Junior Sailing Programme at last minute and ensured that all of the kids who were booked on the course were able to participate.

Julia has been dealing with some complications in the background, but has ensured smooth sailing for all.

Many thanks Chris and Julia.



MONDAY MAYHEM AN EVOLUTION

Although Monday Mayhem got off to a late start this season it has been a success so far with participant numbers encouraging, being in the low to mid 20's with both adult and junior members taking part.

However, it has evolved from its original concept, it remains very much a fun on the water evening without formal tuition or instruction, but with a structure that nurtures improvement of knowledge and skill.

So, what's new, well the sailors have been split in to two groups the "Mayhem Lot" and the "Moochers Crew", weird I know but the names stuck. The Mayhem group is for the less experienced sailors where activities are games based and more relaxed and the Moochers group has a focus on the more skilled sailors where activities may include set courses, cruising, and skilled manoeuvring.

Not only that but we also have the Drascombe when crews are available to take out people who have had no on the water experience at all, it sails amongst the fleet so that people can get a taste for sailing.

As some may know the Monday mayhem does not happen on the last Monday of each month and is organised by the dinghy racing enthusiasts this allows for the keen and experienced sailors to take part in a little more adventurous sailing either cruising or sailing set courses and possibly informal race and is open to the junior sailors.

With the junior sailors in mind a junior committee is to be formed by them under the direction of Ruby Howard so that they can have a voice within OSC, and they are noisy, well sometimes.

Monday just does not happen without our diligent volunteers. It takes nine volunteers' water and shore based of varying skill sets to enable a fully functioning Monday evening seven if we do not have the Drascombe, at 5 we can only allow one combined group, at 3 only 6 boats can take to the water, less than that its cancellation. At present we have five people who are taking most of the strain and the holidays are coming up so anyone who feels they could help in any way please get in touch.

Cameron Harris - MM Coordinator

Want to be involved?

Please get in touch mail@obansailingclub.org



MEMBERS MEETING - SAVE THE DATE

As some of you may remember, the club discussed some time ago as to whether Oban Sailing Club should perhaps go down the route of becoming a charity or other sort of incorporated entity.

With this in mind, we have been exploring the possibility and what that may entail, and we now believe it is getting towards that time for all the membership to be advised of where we stand.

I would like to ask you all to put a date in your diaries for a presentation from other clubs who have chosen the Charitable path. Also invited are the RYA who can help guide us and input valuable information to help us make a decision.

This meeting will give us the opportunity to find out what the 'Pros and Cons' as well as to dispel any myths, lies or preconceived ideas we may have. |

It is also for us to start the debate as to whether this is the right choice for Oban Sailing Clubs future.

I have attached a Link here https://www.oscr.org.uk/media/3113/cscios_a_guide.pdf Which explains exactly what a Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation (SCIO) is.

The date for the open meeting for all members will be

Friday the 15th of September 2023 at 1900 in the clubhouse.

I hope to make the meeting available 'on line' as well, I believe that this presentation is hugely important for our future.

I would hope that the presentations from both the clubs invited, and the RYA representative would be short but informative, then I anticipate that there would be plenty of time for members to ask questions both formally and informally afterwards.

Of course, this is a social evening as well. Fridays always are, so the bar and kitchen will be open for beverages etc. It will also give you the chance to speak to the presenters on an informal basis as well.

This is about your club and how it proceeds into the future.

Please, if you can, be sure to come along to the evening. If you cannot make it, and have questions, please let any of the committee members know and we can present them on your behalf.

I will put out further information in the next newsletter.

Derek - OSC Commodore



Oban Sailing Club



EVERY FRIDAY

BAR OPEN 18:00 - 23:00



OBAN SAILING CLUB
PRESENTS



SOUND WAVES

Music Night

BRING YOUR INSTRUMENTS, YOUR VOICE
OR JUST YOURSELF

FAMILY FRIENDLY AND ALL WELCOME

FRIDAY 28TH JULY

BAR OPEN 19:00-23:00

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

18th July
Victoria Cup - Keelboat Race

21st July
Friday Social Night

22nd July
National Maritime Week

RoundGarvellachs / Hot toddy Trophy
Keelboat Race

23rd July
Adult Intermediate Dinghy Course

24th July
Dinghy - Cup Race
(Replaces Monday Mayhem)

The Big Listen
Samaritans Awareness Day

July 25th
Summer Series 2 - Race 3

July 28th
Sound Waves - Social Night

July 29th - 4th August
West Highland Yachting Week 2023

July 4th
West Highland Prize Giving & BBQ

August 7th
Monday Mayhem

August 10th
RYA Junior Powerboat Level 1

August 11th
Friday Night Social

August 12th
Branra Rock - Keelboat Race

August 14th
Monday Mayhem

August 15th
Summer Season Series 2 Race 4

August 18th
Friday Social Night

August 19th
CCYC Round Garvellachs

August 20th
Wee Peaks Race



LAND OF THE LOST

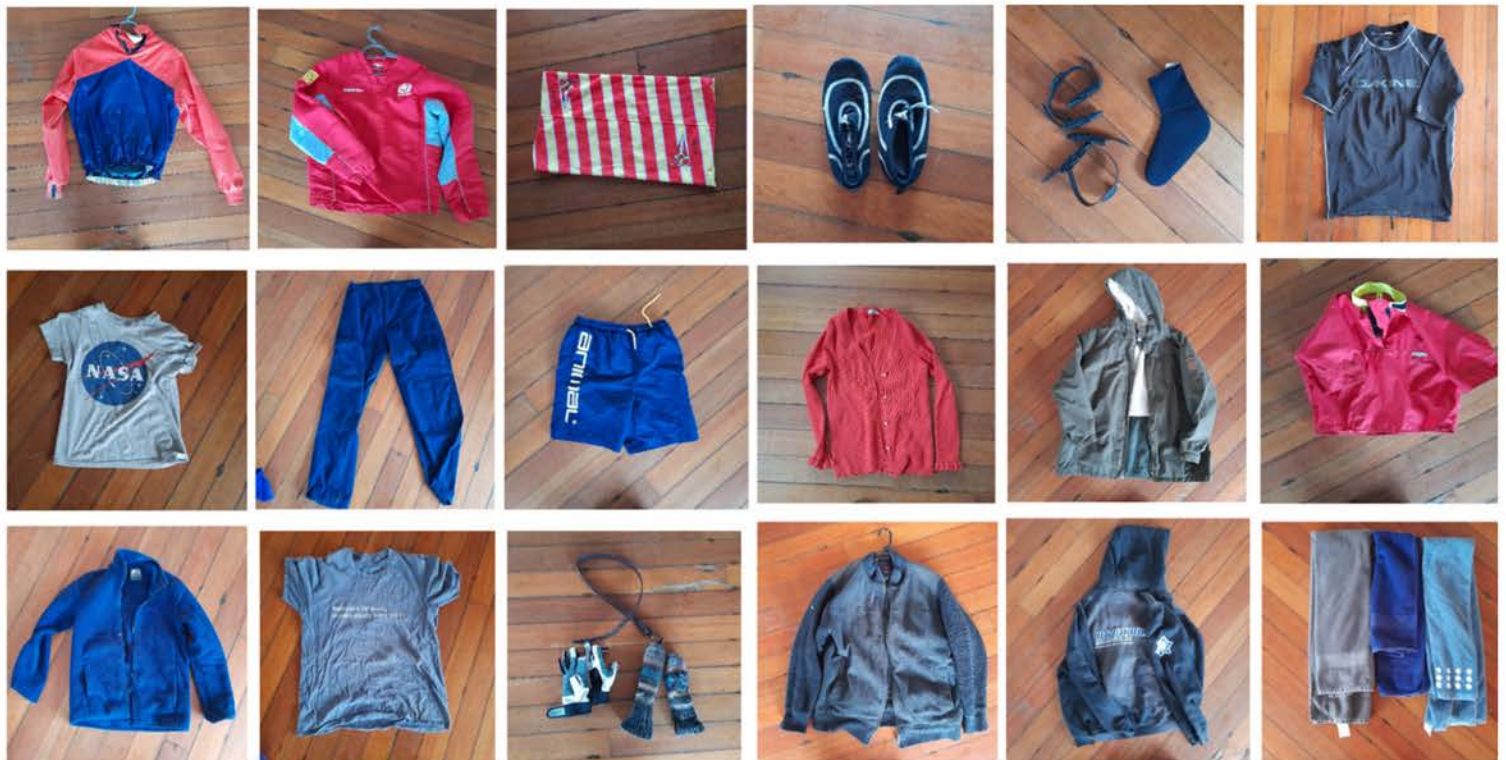
Various items as pictured, some of these have been around for a LONG time; adult and child belongings (not to scale!) All currently hung up in corners of changing rooms out of the way, they might not be in the expected changing room, eg if they have been found in the main room. Please retrieve or contact Irena Chapman 07749800410 or 016731 562711 or irenachapman22@outlook.com for information, claiming, or access asap.

Items not claimed will be donated to charity shops or labelled and added to OSC 'stock' for general use as appropriate.

Please remember that our space is limited and to be fair to all users your personal kit should always be taken home after sailing unless not able to, eg staying in hostel were may be difficult, in which case please let me know.

Some dishes etc in the kitchen cupboards may also have been left by mistake after BBQs and other events, please check.

Many thanks Irena



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



For Sale: RS 700 #878; £2650

RS 700 Skiff, Built 2003
Comes with: Mainsail x1, Genica X1, Foils,
Tiller Extension x2, Road trailer,
launching trailer, Top Cover, Under Cover

If interested and for more details please
contact 07752 339738.

[https://www.facebook.com/marketplace/
item/554042296748910/](https://www.facebook.com/marketplace/item/554042296748910/)



WEST HIGHLAND YACHTING WEEK

Sat 29th July - Fri 4th August.

CREW WANTED for any or all days.
Due to other crews' commitments we have
space for crew for WHYW.

Spaces Sat - Tues & Wed - Fri

Oban Sailing Club boat Elixir of Lorn, 33ft X332.

Mixed crew.

Mob. or What's App 07749800410 for details.

Eric & Irena Chapman





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!



Oban Sailing Club

www.obansailingclub.org



Oban.Sailing.Club

mail@obansailingclub.org



Oban.Sailing.Club

Terry Pratchett

“The worst thing you can do is nothing.”

Volunteer Sign Up Form



Oban Sailing Club
Dungallan Park
Gallanch Road
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