



The Newsletter of the Royal Highland Yacht Club

COMMODORE'S COLUMN

Welcome to the August newsletter. I hope this finds everyone safe and well.



Hopefully by now many of you will be afloat and enjoying what remains of the 2020 season.

I am aware however that a small number of us, myself included, have chosen to leave the boat ashore this year. In saying that, I'm

pleased to report that *Argo Navis* has in fact moved this season, if only 20 feet across the shed.

More importantly, I am delighted to confirm that members have followed UK and Scottish Government advice and stayed at home and stayed safe. For that, I thank you for your patience. I appreciate it might have been a struggle, particularly given the very pleasant weather at the start of the season. Now however, as restrictions are eased, we are allowed to return to the water, and I would encourage those afloat to make the most of it.

In doing so however, the flag officers and management committee would ask that you plan ahead and be considerate of the various communities you visit. We would echo the advice of RYA Scotland in suggesting that you respect the destination.

And for those who have managed to get away, I would encourage you to submit your logs to the Editor no matter how short your 2020 season.

Looking further ahead, you will see below that the Late Summer Muster will need to be cancelled, while the AGM and Laying Up Supper remain under consideration.

However you spend the rest of the season, please do it safely and considerately.

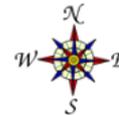
Iain

COVID-19 UPDATE

At the time of writing, Scotland remains in Phase 3 of the recovery route map. While restrictions have been eased, it is not yet a return to 'normal'.

Please read and understand the guidance provided by UK and Scottish Governments.

Further information can be found on the [RYA Scotland website](https://www.rya.org.uk/RYA-Scotland).



EVENTS

Opening Muster – Saturday 2nd May 2020

With the muster in Loch Spelve cancelled, several members gathered across the ether to take part in the Club's first virtual muster.

Hosted by Sue and Stu Layton, around twenty members logged on to chat away for a couple of hours (midge free!) courtesy of Zoom.



The event went off successfully and it was good to catch up with fellow members and compare lock-down stories.

We look forward to returning to Loch Spelve next year!

Summer Muster – Saturday 27th June 2020

With the summer muster also cancelled, members joined a Zoom muster, again hosted by Sue and Stu Layton. The eagle-eyed will note their impressive backdrop!



Again, members chatted away for a couple hours over a glass of wine or three...

The Commodore has subsequently been in touch with Ardtornish Estate who confirmed they would be delighted to see us return next year.

Closing Muster – Saturday 5th September 2020

As the Commodore has already alluded to, the management committee has taken the reluctant decision to cancel the late summer muster. It is unlikely that 'mass events' will be permitted before Scotland moves to Phase 4 of the recovery route map.

Instead, and following our earlier successes, we invite you to meet up once again on Saturday 5th September for a virtual late summer muster via Zoom. A separate invitation will be circulated in advance via the Social Sailing Network distribution list.

Please contact the [Rear Commodore](#) for details on how to join the SSN.

We hope to see as many of you at the muster as the technology will allow!

Advice on Mini-Musters

While the Club's catered musters are currently prohibited, the UK and Scottish Government guidance allows a small number of people to meet, providing physical distancing is observed.

At the time of writing, the guidance allows the meeting of up to five households (crews), with a maximum of 15 people.

So, (physically distant) mini-musters are permitted providing the appropriate precautions are taken.

AGM and Laying Up Supper 24th October 2020

The 2020 AGM and Laying Up Supper are due to be held at The Royal Hotel, Oban. Our speakers for the evening are due to be Katie McCorkindale and Sam Jones of RNLI.

At this time, both events remain under consideration.

The management committee will continue to monitor the evolving situation, with a decision taken nearer the time.

JOURNAL ENTRIES FOR THE 2021 EDITION

With many members either not launching or having severely truncated sailing seasons this year, I would invite you all to consider writing articles on a broader range of sailing subjects:

- In addition to logs from trips this year, please consider writing up cruises from previous years that may interest members.
- Next year is the club's 140th anniversary – articles of historical interest for RHYC would be good.
- You may also have an interesting technical article, a cautionary tale or interesting photographs to submit. All entries are welcome.

In general, a maximum length of 3,000 words applies but don't feel you have to write a lot – a 30-word caption to an interesting photo is great!

Thinking of which, while I can do some tricks with Photoshop and even scan old prints, digital photos should be the highest resolution possible.

Please contact me if you have any questions.

Martin Askey
Journal Editor
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PHOTO COMPETITION RULES

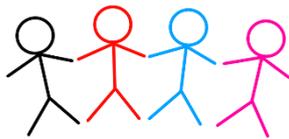
The photography competition has become very popular in recent years with the increased use of smartphones and tablets to supplement traditional cameras, and the zero cost of taking many digital images.

In consequence we have decided to introduce a set of rules to assist the judges in their task:

1. A maximum of 5 entries per member can be made to the journal editor by the journal copy deadline of 5th November.

Competition entries should be clearly identified as such particularly when submitted as a larger selection of material for the journal.

2. The images should relate to the year just past.
3. The images should illustrate an experience of sailing in terms of place, activity, camaraderie or wildlife encountered.
4. All entries may be published in the journal and/ or website at the discretion of the editor and webmaster.



RHYC SOCIAL SAILING NETWORK

Sitting on our mooring in a Force 6/7 with the rain lashing the spray hood, I remind myself that this is what we have spent all the long months of lockdown waiting for!

It is truly a pleasure to be back on the water and the SSN is slowly coming out of hibernation for the remainder of the 2020 season. There have been two pot luck/Jacob's join barbecues in Lochaline so far, both socially distanced and I'm pleased to report that they are as much fun as ever. We have to be mindful that only five households are permitted to gather at present but this hasn't been a problem to date given that there aren't as many boats out and about this year.

It appears there may be another announcement on 24/08 which might relax the ruling (or indeed may not depending on medical advice) but for now we are open for business on a limited basis.

If you want to be involved look out for announcements on the SSN google group. If you want to join the group please email Martin or Philippa Clarke (martinrclarke11@gmail.com, philippa.clarke@hotmail.co.uk)

P.S. We are back down from a fleet to a single boat now (*Warisha*) hopefully we will see you out and about.

FACEBOOK GROUP



Remember that the Club now has a **Facebook** group. Search for "**The Royal Highland Yacht Club**". It is open to all.

When posting, please try to make sure that you do not give or cause offence to others and as with Club meetings and gatherings, Club Rule XIV applies (no political statements or discussions).

As always, we look forward to your posts!

NAVIGATION

Oban Harbour: Progress with the developments in Oban is slow but finite. Preparation of a Harbour Revision Order is in hand.

Colonsay: Colonsay Community are seeking to lay visitor moorings in Queens Bay aka Loch Staosnaig just south of Scalasaig. As many will recognise, Scalasaig is less than ideal as a port for boaters, the pier is limited in capacity, the harbour seabed is dredged for the ferry and there is a tidal rock in the approach to the pier.

It is hoped this useful development will be achieved soon. The power supply for the island comes ashore in Queens Bay so it is not straightforward but the plans are currently at the stage of a Marine Licence application.

Canna: A proposed fish farm at Canna is currently in the consultation process. If you would like to know more, there is a lot of information available online.

<https://www.nts.org.uk/stories/canna-fish-farm-proposals-why-we-cant-support-them>

<https://you.38degrees.org.uk/petitions/no-fish-farms-off-the-coast-of-canna>

SHOP-TO-SHIP

A shop-to-ship initiative has been launched to help shore-based businesses get goods to visiting boats.

The aim is to promote advance orders of local goods and to arrange safe drop offs and collections.

<https://www.sailscotland.co.uk/shop-to-ship/>



MEMBER'S NEWS

We would like to give a warm welcome to our new members:

- Andrew Johnston (*Undina*)
- Murray McMillan (*Trogon*)
- Catharine George (*Rumbuster*)

It is with great sadness that we report the death of three of our members:

- Alison Waters
- Patrick Barron
- Douglas Newton

SUMMER SOLSTICE SOLO SAIL

(Messing About in Boats Part 3)



First, a very big thank you
To all who gave so generously
Over a thousand pounds were raised
When I took the Wayfarer to sea
Covid had kept us home for months
No more cruising out west for a while
But now the lockdown was easing
If we travelled less than 5 mile?

We could go for a sail, but only by day
Night hours not yet allowed
So, I devised a plan to sail all day
Whilst isolating from the crowd
From dawn until dusk I planned to sail
On the longest day of the year
To raise funds for the Morvern Sailing Club
To get kids sailing was the idea

At 4am an early start
Not a breath of wind
Midges hanging in the air
Sailing away was binned
So, I paddled out into the Loch
Once offshore a light breeze began
Hoisted sails and off I went
Down the Loch I ran

With full sails up going well
The hours passed by quick
By afternoon and main reefed down
It was blowing five to six
My support crew, Sue kept a safety watch
And supplied me with food and brews
Supporters were paying into the fund
So far it was all good news

Late in the day, it had to happen
The course of nature had to run

I'll spare you the details, but suffice to say
A force seven bucket poo was no fun
As evening came, getting cold and tired
The wind now gusting seven
The jib clew stitching began to part
Still hoping to last out till eleven

But the boat was beginning to suffer
The mainsheet traveller was giving way
And rather than cause more damage
I decided to call it a day
After a long hard day, back ashore
My legs both stiff and wobbly
Ready for bed, but supporters said
Time for a bonfire and a bottle of bubbly.
Or 2 or 3 or more!!!

A huge thank you to all supporters and sponsors. I sailed 50Nm in 17hrs 30min and raised £1,033 for **Morvern Sailing Club**.

I also raised £220 for **Turn to Starboard** (The Forces Sailing Charity). For more information or to donate to this worthy cause, please visit my fund-raising page:

[Virginmoneygiving.com/stuartlayton2](https://virginmoneygiving.com/stuartlayton2)

LOCKDOWN' QUIZ

During 'Lockdown', David Gilbertson produced a nautical themed quiz. This was followed by a second quiz in June/July. Both were accessed via the Club website.



We are pleased to announce that the winners of both quizzes were Carol and Malcolm Stewart, followed in close pursuit by Bobby Corbett.

The winners will receive a £25 voucher for RHYC regalia.

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RHYC CLUB REGALIA

Please look on the club's website and contact the Secretary regarding any purchase of Regalia.