

Issue 10 • June 2024



The Grumpy Commodore

Newsletter From Oban Sailing Club



June- A blooming good time

Dear Members,

This month, as we embrace the full bloom of summer, we draw a parallel between our club activities and the exquisite rose, the flower of June. Much like the rose, which symbolises passion and resilience, our sailing adventures and community events are in full swing, reflecting the energy and spirit of our members.

We are thrilled to have a packed schedule of regattas and race events that promise to keep our waters lively and our spirits high. Volunteer and member engagement has been outstanding, with members stepping up to crew boats, support race preparations, manage events, and ensure that every member has a remarkable experience.

In a historic first, the Clipper Race will be visiting Oban, marking an exciting milestone for our club and the broader sailing community. This prestigious event brings international attention to our beautiful coastline and provides a unique opportunity for our members to witness world-class sailing up close. We encourage everyone to participate, volunteer, and make this a memorable event for our town.

Join us as we celebrate the season with a bouquet of sailing regattas, social gatherings, and training sessions, each event adding a petal to the flourishing experience that is Oban Sailing Club.

Let's make this June as vibrant and memorable as the roses in full bloom.

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The Grumpy Commodore

Summer is almost upon us! The water is (Slowly) heating up and the winds lighter and warmer. The club has made a good start to the season with the return of Monday Mayhem and Keelboat racing on a Tuesday night.

It's good to see the 'WhatsApp' forums are busy with lots of communications across our disciplines. It's a great way to keep in touch and if you are not on them, please let us know and we can get you added. Normally this is our first port of call for immediate announcements, followed by facebook and then the newsletter.

The clubhouse is looking amazing, having had a very much needed 'spruce up', we have removed most of the clutter from the entrance doorway and decanted the BBQ into its own storage unit outside. Whilst the clubhouse is still a work in progress, its new layout appears much more welcoming and friendly.

A huge 'Thank You!' to Andy and Anna for all their very hard work in the decoration as well as to Eric for organising the new storage units. Elspeth also get a mention for helping build the storage... although I'm not sure Elspeth quite got the concept as she stated, 'But Daddy, there's no room for my or Spiders bed...!'

Volunteering.... This is my biggest concern about Oban Sailing Club.

It always appears the same people doing everything, and these people are burning out. There must be a way that we can equally share the load of running, setting up, managing and having fun along the way. I don't know what the answer is, but if every single one of us just volunteered a single day, that would give us 180 days of time, add that to the parents and people who come along and we would be more than covered.

Name Change.... As you are aware, Oban Sailing Club is currently going through the process of becoming a SCIO. There is much happening in the background, the constitution is being rewritten and the application for the Charitable Status underway. As part of this, and to help modernise the club, we propose to change the name to 'Oban Sailing and Water Sports Club'. Of course, we won't 'just go' and do this, so keep an eye on your emails for a poll. Your response will hugely important, also keep an eye out for the revised constitution. We will also be sending that to you for your comments and ratification.

Logo.... With the name change in mind. We need a new logo! I personally don't want to see the end of our current logo, but I believe that it can be modernised and brought up to date. I would like to see it incorporated into something that displays what our club is and can possibly be. So, we are having a competition! Design our new logo. Prizes to be announced and we will have a public vote on the best one to represent us! Closing date will be the July 31st. Get designing!



Defib.... For those of you who are unaware. We, along with Oban Bay Community Berthing and Adventure Oban, have installed a Defibrillator on the gable end of the Adventure Oban Shed.

This is now officially registered (Thank you Hannah) with the emergency services. The container is powered and lit for night access and in plain site from the road and the dinghy park. We hope that it will never be used, but it is there!

We hope to run some basic free CPR/Defib training at future events in the clubhouse, give you a chance to 'hone' those skills and have a practice!

Skiff.... One of the big changes this year is the addition of a new discipline to OSC. As many of you have commented in the past, there is a rowing Skiff in the dinghy park? who owns it? Can we use it?

Well, the answer is yes! It's now incorporated into the Club and It will be run between the Skiffs previous custodian and OSC club member Stuart Cunningham and our Treasurer Gerard.

They will be kept for active participants to row and learn to cox, so if you are interested now, please drop us an email and let's get this boat used and out on the water.

I am pleased to say this gives our club an entirely new membership dynamic which we may also encourage to sail and perhaps our sailors having a go at rowing, it's an opportunity to expand into what is becoming a very popular pastime, and doesn't require a safety boat as well as being fantastic exercise!

Derek Grier
OSC Commodore



NAUTICAL NARRATIVES

The Clipper Race - An Epic Journey



Since the first Clipper Race crew left Plymouth in October 1996 aboard eight 60-foot yachts, the Clipper Race has grown immeasurably. Today, it stands as one of the most formidable challenges the natural world has to offer, with over 5,000 participants and three generations of Clipper ocean racing fleets having competed in what is renowned as the world's toughest ocean racing challenge.

The Clipper 2023-24 Race is well under way, with the most recent stop in Panama, next stop Washington DC, before making a stop for the first time in race history, in our beautiful town of Oban for the penultimate port on this immense journey.

The race spans a record-breaking 40,000 nautical miles around the globe aboard a 70-foot ocean racing yacht. Participants can choose between completing the full circumnavigation or selecting one or more of the race's eight legs, which include between 13 and 16 individual races and six ocean crossings. The route for each edition is unique, often formed by Host Ports around the globe. In the race's history, more than fifty cities have played host to the Clipper Race.

The brainchild of Sir Robin Knox-Johnston, the first person to sail solo non-stop around the world, the Clipper Race has evolved since its inception. Nearly 6,000 Race Crew from over 60 nations have taken on this extraordinary challenge, training and racing in the Clipper Round the World Yacht Race. The Clipper Race is unique in that the organisers provide a fleet of eleven identical racing yachts, each equipped with a fully qualified skipper and first mate to guide the crew safely. Crew members undergo four levels of rigorous ocean racing training before they set sail.

The eleven 70-foot yachts form the world's largest matched fleet of ocean racing yachts. Designed by renowned naval architect Tony Castro, these yachts are the shining jewel in the Clipper Race crown, perfectly adapted to this gruelling sailing challenge. Stripped of all luxuries, the Clipper 70s demand that Race Crew become experts at living in confined spaces and managing their belongings as they settle into their new home.

Featuring twin helms, twin rudders, and a six-foot bowsprit, the Clipper 70s allow for the inclusion of three large asymmetric spinnakers and a suite of Yankee headsails, enhancing performance and speed. The new hull design offers better performance and control, especially in light winds near the Equator or between weather systems during ocean crossings. This design ensures not only high speeds but also safety in the heaviest conditions.

In the Clipper Race, Mother Nature shows no favouritism. Whether you are male or female, professional or novice, the challenges remain the same. Participants must be prepared to face all that nature throws their way. Navigate the Atlantic Tradewinds and Doldrums en route to South America, endure the notorious Roaring Forties, witness stunning Indian Ocean sunsets, and confront the towering seas of the mighty Pacific. Throughout this epic journey, you will bond with an international crew, creating lifelong memories before returning victorious.

Today's fleet is a stark contrast to the one that began the first Clipper Round the World Yacht Race in 1996. Incorporating development ideas from the Clipper 60s and Clipper 68s, the Clipper 70s embody the evolution of ocean racing technology and the relentless spirit of adventure that defines the Clipper Race.

Clipper will be in Oban from 12th - 21st July 2024, the club will be hosting some events, stay tuned for more details coming soon. if you want to volunteer for the events, please get in touch.

YOUR TURN?

Do you have a story to share with us? We'd love to hear it!

Share your epic adventures and snapshots by emailing

hannah@seagrassmarine.com

or

sending a WhatsApp message to 07500 454908.



What's been Happening?

Exciting Start to the Season for Oban Sailing Club's Keelboat Fleet

Oban Sailing Club's keelboat fleet has kicked off the season with remarkable vigor and enthusiasm. The festivities began with our traditional annual curry supper at the club, serving as the prelude to the eagerly anticipated Tuesday evening summer series. The series has seen an encouraging turnout, with 6 to 7 yachts competing consistently each week, and even more boats expected to join as the season progresses.



Early Season Highlights

In addition to the weekly races, we have successfully hosted two weekend cup races, which have been met with great enthusiasm and competitive spirit. The excitement continues to build as we approach the Oban Town Regatta this coming weekend, a major event that promises thrilling races and vibrant community participation.



Upcoming Major Events

Looking ahead, the prestigious Round Mull Yacht Race is on the horizon, with around 20 boats already entered. This race is a highlight of the sailing calendar and promises fierce competition and scenic sailing around the beautiful Mull coastline.

Invitation to Lochaber Yacht Club's 70th Anniversary Regatta

Mark your calendars for a special event! Lochaber Yacht Club will be celebrating their 70th anniversary with a regatta on the 23rd and 24th of June. It would be fantastic to see some of our OSC boats venture north to participate in this milestone event and join in the celebrations. Let's show our support and camaraderie with fellow sailors from Lochaber.

Members Shine on the Big Stage

Our club members have also been making waves on larger stages. Calum Warnock has showcased his skills in the Youth Sailing Champions League, competing on J70s after qualifying from the British Keelboat League. His performance is a testament to the high level of talent within our club.

Dominating the Scottish Islands Peaks Race

Oban Sailing Club members have also excelled in the Scottish Islands Peaks Race, dominating the monohull podium. Ben Miller and John Grant, sailing on Bequia, secured 5th overall and 3rd in the monohull category. Elixir of Lorn achieved 4th overall and 2nd in the monohull category, while Steven Forteith, sailing with Tangaroa, took the overall race win and 1st monohull for the third consecutive year. Their achievements underscore the dedication and prowess of our sailors.





Exciting Season for Dinghies at Oban Sailing Club

The dinghy season at Oban Sailing Club has been nothing short of exhilarating, packed with events and enthusiastic participation from our members. Here's a look at the highlights so far:

Easter Egg Hunt Kickoff

The season began with a delightful Easter Egg Hunt, where the weather graciously cooperated, providing perfect conditions for our sailors. Participants enjoyed an adventurous hunt around the bay, deciphering clues that ultimately led them to a hidden treasure trove of chocolate on Heather Island. The event saw a fantastic turnout, with plenty of chocolate consumed and smiles all around, setting a joyful tone for the season.

Monday Mayhem

Our popular Monday Mayhem sessions have been a roaring success this year. These evenings have consistently drawn good numbers, offering a mix of fun, learning, and camaraderie. Sailors of all ages and skill levels have been enjoying the vibrant atmosphere and the opportunity to hone their skills in a supportive environment.



Despite some challenging weather conditions, we managed to squeeze in a race evening that was full of excitement and competitive spirit. The "fruity" conditions tested the sailors' skills and determination, making for a thrilling and memorable evening on the water. The race highlighted the resilience and enthusiasm of our dinghy sailors, showcasing their ability to navigate and thrive even in less-than-ideal weather.

Looking Forward

As we move forward, we anticipate even more exciting events and activities for our dinghy fleet. The strong start to the season promises a continuation of fun, competition, and community spirit. Keep an eye on the club calendar for upcoming events, and join us on the water for more sailing adventures.

Join the Fun

Whether you're a seasoned sailor or a newcomer looking to dip your toes into the world of dinghy sailing, there's something for everyone at Oban Sailing Club. Our welcoming community and diverse range of activities ensure that every member can find joy and fulfillment in the sport. Come join the fun, improve your skills, and make lasting memories with us this season!



Celebrating Our Incredible Volunteers at Oban Sailing Club

Our club thrives thanks to the incredible dedication and hard work of our volunteers. They are the backbone of Oban Sailing Club, ensuring everything runs smoothly both on and off the water. Here's a look at our recent volunteer activities and how you can get involved.

Volunteer Night

Last week, we hosted a fantastic Volunteer Appreciation Evening, which was a great success. The event featured a delightful BBQ and some leisurely sailing, providing a perfect setting to thank our current volunteers and introduce new faces to the club. The evening was filled with laughter, delicious food, and a sense of community as we celebrated the invaluable contributions of our volunteers.

New Faces, New Opportunities

It was particularly heartening to welcome new volunteers who are eager to contribute to the club's ongoing success. Their enthusiasm and fresh perspectives are a wonderful addition to our community. Whether you're a long-time member or a newcomer, there are plenty of ways to get involved and make a difference.

Volunteer Opportunities

There are numerous ways to lend a hand at Oban Sailing Club, beyond just sailing. Here are some areas where your help can make a significant impact:

- **Grounds Maintenance:** Help keep our club looking its best by assisting with tasks like grass cutting and general upkeep.
- **Painting and Repairs:** Join our team of handy volunteers to ensure our facilities are in top condition.
- **Event Support:** From setting up to running events smoothly, your support during our races, regattas, and social events is invaluable.
- **Safety and Training:** Assist with safety boat duties or help out with training sessions for new sailors.

Get Involved

If you're interested in volunteering, we'd love to hear from you. Whether you have a few hours to spare or can commit to regular help, your contribution is greatly appreciated. Volunteering is a fantastic way to meet new people, develop new skills, and become more deeply involved in our vibrant sailing community.

To join our amazing team of volunteers, please drop us a line. Together, we can continue to make Oban Sailing Club a wonderful place for everyone.



Upcoming Events and Volunteer Opportunities

We have an exciting lineup of events on the horizon at Oban Sailing Club, and we're calling on our fantastic community for support. Your help is crucial to ensure these events run smoothly and showcase all that our club and Oban have to offer. Here's a look at what's coming up and how you can get involved.

Waszp Scottish Championships and RS400 Traveller

Dates: 13th -14th July

We are thrilled to host the Waszp Scottish Championships and RS400 Traveller, two prestigious events that promise thrilling races and vibrant competition. To make these events a success, we need volunteers to assist over the weekend. Whether you can help for a day or both, your contribution will be invaluable. Your participation not only helps the club but also provides an opportunity to experience the excitement of these events up close.

Clipper Race

Dates: 12th-21st July

The Clipper Race is another thrilling event coming to our waters, bringing with it a fleet of racing yachts and a spirit of adventure. We are looking for volunteers to support various aspects of this event, from logistics to safety for an extended Monday Mayhem session.

Volunteer Roles:

- Dockside Assistance: Help with mooring and unmooring boats.
- Event Coordination: Assist with the smooth running of race-related activities.
- Safety and Support: Provide safety oversight and support for race participants.

West Highland Yachting Week (WHYW)

Dates: 28th July - 4th August

West Highland Yachting Week (WHYW) is a highlight of our sailing calendar, attracting sailors from far and wide. This event is a fantastic opportunity to showcase Oban's beautiful sailing environment and our club's hospitality.

Volunteer Roles:

- Event Coordination: Assist with the smooth running of activities
- Run the bar or do a bar shift

Wet and Wild Weeks

Dates: Mon 22nd July – Friday 26th July & Monday 5th August – Friday 9th August

A week of on and off the water fun for our young members. we will have qualified instructors for these activities but additional helpers and volunteers would be very helpful and welcome. Have a special subject area? why not deliver a short session.

Get in touch if you can help

How to Volunteer

Volunteering at these events is a great way to get involved, meet new people, and support our sailing community. If you're interested in helping out, please let us know which events you can assist with and your availability. Every bit of help makes a difference, and your contribution is greatly appreciated.

To volunteer, please contact us at mail@obansailingclub.org

Let's work together to make these events a huge success and showcase the best of Oban Sailing Club!



OBAN SAILING CLUB



OBAN TOWN KEELBOAT REGATTA

Saturday 8th June 2024

Briefing for competitors 12:00 at OSC Clubhouse

Race 1 starting flag at 13:30

Sunday 9th June 2024

Races 2 and 3 starting 10:00 Sunday.

You are cordially invited to enter our annual open Sailing Regatta for cruisers and keelboats. This is an open event open to members and non-members alike. There will be a BBQ and pot luck after sailing on Saturday, lunch Sunday.

SATURDAY



BBQ & BAR

Evening



**COME AND GET
INVOLVED**

All Welcome



EVENTS CALENDAR



Oban Sailing Club

Programme 2024

Tide Times are either High Water or Low Water as most relevant.

Tide Heights of 2.2m or less are LW. Tide Heights of 2.6m or more are HW

	Date	Event	Times (GMT / BST)		
			Start	Tide	Height
Jun 2024	2nd (Sun)	Branra Rock Race	1400	1425	HW 3.1
	3rd (Mon)	Monday Mayhem	1800		
	4th (Tue)	Summer Series 5	1900	1607	HW 3.4
	8th (Sat)	OSC Keelboat Regatta day 1	0900	0647	HW 3.6
	9th (Sun)	OSC Keelboat Regatta day 2	0900	0727	HW 3.5
	10th (Mon)	Monday Mayhem	1800		
	11th (Tue)	Summer Series 6	1900	2048	HW 3.4
	15th (Sat)	Cutter Rock Cruise	1000	1236	HW 2.8
	17th (Mon)	Monday Mayhem	1800		
	18th (Tue)	Crews Cup	1900	2119	LW 1.5
	21st (Fri)	Lochaber Yacht Club 70th Anniversary Regatta day 1	1000	1124	LW 1.2
	22nd (Sat)	Lochaber Yacht Club 70th Anniversary Regatta day 2	1000	1202	LW 1.0
	23rd (Sun)	Lochaber Yacht Club 70th Anniversary Regatta day 3	1000	1240	LW 0.9
	24th (Mon)	Monday Mayhem	1800		
	24th (Mon)	June Dinghy Cup Race	1900	1925	HW 3.9
	25th (Tue)	Summer Series 2 Race 1	1900	2010	HW 3.8
	30th (Sun)	Round Lismore Race	1030	1218	HW 2.9
Jul 2024	1st (Mon)	Monday Mayhem	1800		
	2nd (Tue)	Summer Series 2 Race 2	1900	2107	LW 1.3
	5th (Fri)	Round Mull Race 2024 day 1	-	0521	HW 3.5
	5th (Fri)	Round Mull Race - Oban to Tobermory	-	0521	HW 3.5
	6th (Sat)	Round Mull Race - Tobermory to Bunessan	-	0603	HW 3.5
	6th (Sat)	Round Mull Race 2024 day 2	-	0603	HW 3.5
	7th (Sun)	Round Mull Race 2024 day 3	-	0039	LW 1.1
	7th (Sun)	Round Mull Race - Bunessan to Oban	-	0039	LW 1.1
	8th (Mon)	Monday Mayhem	1800		
	9th (Tue)	Summer Series 2 Race 3	1900	1950	HW 3.7
	13th (Sat)	Waszp Scottish/RS400 Traveller day 1	-	0435	LW 1.7
	14th (Sun)	Waszp Scottish/RS400 Traveller day 2	-	0523	LW 1.8
	15th (Mon)	Monday Mayhem	1800		
	16th (Tue)	Elis Tankard	1900	1936	LW 1.8
	20th (Sat)	Round Kerrera Race TBC	1400	1109	LW 1.2
	22nd (Mon)	Monday Mayhem	1800		
	22nd (Mon)	July Dinghy Cup Race	1900	1837	HW 4.1
	23rd (Tue)	Summer Series 2 Race 4	1900	1918	HW 4.1
	27th (Sat)	WHYW - Oban to Craobh Haven Feeder Race	1000	0936	HW 3.4
	28th (Sun)	West Highland Yachting Week 2024 day 1	-	0448	LW 1.2
29th (Mon)	West Highland Yachting Week 2024 day 2	-	0542	LW 1.5	
29th (Mon)	Monday Mayhem	1800			
30th (Tue)	West Highland Yachting Week 2024 day 3	-	0104	HW 3.0	
31st (Wed)	West Highland Yachting Week 2024 day 4	-	0239	HW 3.0	
Aug 2024	1st (Thu)	West Highland Yachting Week 2024 day 5	-	0347	HW 3.1
	2nd (Fri)	West Highland Yachting Week 2024 day 6	-	0439	HW 3.2
	3rd (Sat)	West Highland Yachting Week 2024 day 7	-	0522	HW 3.4
	4th (Sun)	West Highland Yachting Week 2024 day 8	-	0558	HW 3.5
	5th (Mon)	Monday Mayhem	1800		
	6th (Tue)	Victoria Cup	1900	1856	HW 3.9
	11th (Sun)	Oban Boat Club Cup	1330	1549	LW 1.5
	12th (Mon)	Monday Mayhem	1800		
	13th (Tue)	Summer Series 2 Race 5	1900	1731	LW 1.9
	17th (Sat)	CCYC Round Garvellachs	0830	1012	LW 1.5
17th (Sat)	RYA Adult Beginner Dinghy: Start Sailing August 2024 day 1	0930	1012	LW 1.5	
18th (Sun)	RYA Adult Beginner Dinghy: Start Sailing August 2024 day 2	0930	1053	LW 1.1	



WHAT'S ON

Date	Event	Times (GMT / BST)			
		Start	Tide	Height	
19th (Mon)	Monday Mayhem	1800			
20th (Tue)	Junior Helm Cup Race	1900	1821	HW 4.3	
24th (Sat)	Wee Peaks Race	1200	1457	LW 0.6	
25th (Sun)	Oban Sea Kayak Race	-			
26th (Mon)	Port Beag Junior/Senior Plate Race	1800	1640	LW 1.4	
26th (Mon)	Monday Mayhem	1800			
27th (Tue)	Summer Series 2 Race 6	1900	1753	LW 1.7	
31st (Sat)	CCYC Round Shuna Feeder Races	1400	1654	HW 3.5	
Sep 2024	1st (Sun)	CCYC Round Shuna Pursuit Race	1000	1051	LW 1.1
	2nd (Mon)	Monday Mayhem	1800		
	3rd (Tue)	Summer Series 2 Race 7	1900	1803	HW 3.9
	7th (Sat)	OSC Regatta - Dinghy Races Day 1	0900	0749	HW 3.8
	8th (Sun)	OSC Regatta - Dinghy Races Day 2	0900	0815	HW 3.6
	15th (Sun)	Autumn Series 1 (keelboats)	1400	1603	HW 3.7
	21st (Sat)	Autumn Series 2 (keelboats)	1400	1349	LW 0.4
	22nd (Sun)	Dinghy Cup Race	1000	0758	HW 3.9
	29th (Sun)	Autumn Series 3 (keelboats)	1400	1628	HW 3.6
Nov 2024	9th (Sat)	Dinner Dance Evening	1830		
	11th (Mon)	AGM	1900		



OSC Crew for 2024



Office Bearers

Commodore: Derek Grier

Vice Commodore: **Interested? get in touch**

Hon. Secretary/Membership: Andy McPherson

Treasurer: Gerard Hoen

Committee Members

Andrew Chapman

Chris Dowd

Steven Forteith

Eric Chapman

Julia Pollard

RYA Centre Principal: Andy McPherson

UHI Link: TBC

Junior Rep: Cameron Harris

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



THANK YOU!

Concluding our newest, engaging newsletter edition, I wish to extend my heartfelt gratitude. Your ongoing support, involvement, and input are greatly appreciated, enhancing our community.

Thank you for investing your time in reading our news, providing feedback, and engaging in our activities. Your dedication makes a difference.

Anticipate forthcoming captivating content and prospects. Expect upcoming events, updates, and narratives that showcase our fantastic community.

Thank you for being a valued member. Together, we accomplish extraordinary feats!

Warm regards,
Derek Grier

GET INVOLVED

Join Our Team of Volunteers at OSC

Our club relies heavily on our volunteers, who are the driving force behind the numerous events and activities we host each year. We're constantly seeking new volunteers to lend a hand with a variety of tasks, such as:

- Committee Members
- Monday Mayhem
- Bar Staff
- Social Activities
- Race Officials
- Safety Boat
- Shore Support
- Social Media and Marketing
- ...and much more!

Whether you can commit to a one-time event or are looking to get involved on a regular basis, there is an opportunity for you to contribute. Please don't hesitate to reach out and get in touch!

"Volunteering is the rent we pay for the space we occupy on this earth"



Oban Sailing Club

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