

## A Fresh Season

A clean sheet, a fresh start. We have emerged from the long winter with everybody having ambitious plans for the season.

There is a detailed page at the end of this newsletter with all our traveller dates and other events. But well aware that all the clubs are just about to start up their sailing programmes our webmanager has been busy trying to collect as much information for you as possible.

Otherwise this is, of necessity, quite a short letter this time as there has not been much happening outside to gives us the lively stories and photos you have come to expect.

We have a report from our vice-chairman on the AGM which was in February.

Also our event's organiser Alex Hodge attended a RYA Scotland Regional Development day last year at Royal Northern & Clyde Yacht Club in the hope of getting us all up to date with current thinking and plans.

One of our Challenger sailors, John McPartlin, has written a self-indulgent (his words) piece about a trip on the Caledonian Canal where he was helped by his grandchildren.



A Fresh Season	1
The AGM	2
RYAS Development Day	3
Caledonian Canal	4
Digital Stuff	6
Looking Ahead	7

## AGM 28<sup>th</sup> February 2015

The 2015 AGM of Sailability Scotland convened at the Mayfield Centre, Stirling at 11am on Sat 28<sup>th</sup> February.

Some 13 members and two member groups were present, ensuring a quorum.

In the unavoidable absence of the Charity Chairperson the meeting was chaired by Vice Chair Keith Wilson who welcomed attendees and brought the meeting to order.

The agenda was followed with Apologies etc and the minutes of the last AGM being duly proposed as an accurate record of that meeting, seconded and approved. No matters arising were raised.

The Annual Report for 2014 was discussed and accepted, as was the Independent Examiners (of accounts) report. A point raised from the floor as to the identity and appointment of this Examiner was addressed, in that on the resignation of our previous Examiner subsequent to last year's AGM, the committee were obliged to identify and recruit an alternative, on a voluntary basis. This was not deemed to be an issue beyond the remit of the committee.

The meeting then moved to the election of Trustees. Despite the fact that there were no opponents to the two candidates standing for election/ratification, pre cast proxy votes had been made indicating opposition to those appointments. The chair called for a vote to be made on the floor with 4 proxy voters' wishes accounted for. The result was a clear re-appointment of Duncan Greenhalgh and the ratification of Keith Wilson as Trustees of the Charity.

A proposal to change the legal status of the charity was then presented to the membership. At present we are an unincorporated body with charitable status, which essentially means that the Trustees have financial liability. The intent is to change our status to an Incorporated organisation where individuals do not carry personal risk. The matter was fully discussed in light of a draft new constitution, the likes of which we would need to adopt to make this change. The meeting, after due and full consideration, gave the committee their unanimous approval to progress the matter and hopefully bring an agenda item to our 2016 AGM if not an EGM beforehand.

Membership fees were agreed at last year's levels as the membership and committee are agreed that outside sources of funding are required to enable this organisation to achieve its goals.

The question of the current Traveller Series surcharge was discussed and while all were agreed that it was not really addressing the issue of SS getting no return from Travellers, we should continue with this in the short term while the committee explores alternative strategies.

A lively general discussion session then followed with many interesting subjects discussed. Numerous questions re specifics were advanced from the floor. Those relevant to the meeting were addressed and those not were directed to the appropriate forum.

The members indicated an agenda for their committee in 2015 of:-

Maintaining and improving the assets of the Charity to deliver our objectives.

Increased public awareness - awareness, support, activity, membership.

Fund raising - to let us do the above - needs major effort.

As no AOCB had been notified the meeting ended at 14.00 hrs. followed by lunch and then a very thought provoking talk by Alex Hodge, many thanks Alex.

And to all who put their efforts into making this a success. Lorna presented our 2014 prizes with her always lovely smile, well done all you winners - we are all winners in this .org

**RYA Scotland Regional Development Day**  
**Royal Northern and Clyde Yacht Club (Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> Nov.2014)**

I attended this **RYAS Event** and found it very informative and productive.

A work / information pack was provided at the start.

Introduced to the Development Team (who's who)

Met representatives of other clubs, and noted some clubs had more than one rep.

Twelve clubs responded; out of one hundred and twenty plus possible interests over the four programmed days offered.

**Brian Wilson** - heading up the role of RYAS Team Leader, talked of their relationship at Club level and with supporting Organisations.

**Robin Nichol** - offered an explanation of the developing system of the '**Toolbox**' as a bidirectional reference tool directing a Query Subject to One or more of Nine Headings or vice'- versa with the result of reducing the volume of reference paperwork and improving the efficacy of problem resolution.

Robin also ran 'active participation' sessions to demonstrate the power of '**Communication**' both within and outwith an Organisation stressing that Clubs have access to **RYAS** for help with problem management.

A later morning session was delivered by Robin on the subject of Club '**Management of Volunteers**' - Recruitment, Retainment, and Recognition.

**The first afternoon session** was delivered by **Calum MacDonald** as a member of the RYAS Sailing Performance Committee, who detailed the **Levels** of the '**Pathway**' and explained the support offered to Sailors by RYAS up to High-performance level and their continuing Training, Support, and Performance Maintenance through **RYA (UK)** at **Elite Level**.

**The second afternoon session** was delivered by guest speaker **Andy Kelly** from **Sportscotland**. He has the front line responsibility of **Advising** and **Mentoring Applications** for **Funding** of Projects generated by Clubs / Schools / Centres (All Sports) to enable them to better deliver their Sport Product.

Andy explained and expanded on the Guide line Principles of:- Impact, Sustainability, Holistic approach, High Standards, and Additionality, and Partnerships that are required for a successful Funding Application.

Some Sessions were reinforced using short Videos; others were interactive, and opportunities for Q & A offered.

Alex Hodge

## A Week on the Caledonian Canal by John McPartlin

In the year following my stroke in 2009 I discovered Challengers and that was a godsend to let me get back to the outdoor life I had so enjoyed before, through mountaineering and sailing.

Then I discovered that water really was the door to all sorts of outlets to get me living again.

That year Enid and I booked on a narrowboat holiday, a very successful week on the Llangollen Canal with the help of my son Neil and partner Sharon.

The next year another son, Andrew easily persuaded me that I could manage on a Flotilla yacht and with his help and another friend we had a week in the Ionian and had glorious sailing in the sun. A similar trip to Turkey in 2013 was even better.

I then hit on a plan to train up my 2 young grandsons as crew for future trips - idea being that they will ensure that I can look forward to many more years of this with their help.

This had actually been at the back of my mind a couple of years ago when I encouraged them to take an RYA sailing course.

As a first step I thought of this week on a "West Highland Sailing" cabin cruiser for their October school break to, quite literally, show them the ropes and get us all working as a team.

One big snag was the t's&c's which stated ".....that a minimum of 2 fit and able adults over 18 was required in the crew" and with our boys Greg (9) and Owen (14) we did not qualify.

A very pleasant pre visit to the base at Laggan Locks several months earlier soon sorted that. I presented myself, explained my disability (and abilities), talked about my confidence in the boy's crewing and the Staff were quick to accept our suitability.

The visit also gave the opportunity to see what the boat was like and test my abilities getting on and moving around in it!

It takes 3hrs for us to drive to the base and we used that time to talk about how we would work as a team. We allocated roles - I was to be Skipper (of course!), Greg would be Bowman. I wanted Owen to do all the pontoon work so we decided to christen him "pontoon monkey"

Enid would be spare crew and domestic manager (ooh errr!)



The hire starts from Laggan Locks on a Saturday and you have the freedom of the canal during the week and we had decided to try to take in the whole length during that time.

Our son Andrew was to join us at Fort Augustus on Monday to Thursday so that was a constraint but we planned on getting to Banavie by Sunday morning. By the time we had the staff briefing it was late in the afternoon so there was only time then to get down Loch Lochy. However that was great for getting a feel for the boat giving all of us a good play at driving - a great introduction for the lads.

A word on the boat - comfortable, spacious, well-equipped, but when it came to handling it was like steering a jelly - and we found reversing well-nigh impossible, steering a jelly uphill!  
Overnight was at a very atmospheric and scenic mooring at Gairloch.  
In fact, the whole week turned out to have excellent weather, some quite sunny giving the canal a lovely feel in the autumn colours.



Sunday was the first test of all our skills at negotiating the locks and going downstream made for an easy introduction. This lock is the deepest on the canal and when I looked back I wondered how they would get on throwing lines up - they knew the theory and had practised at home but this was a different challenge altogether.

Lunch at Banavie and a good few hours watching the yachts coming up through the locks at Neptune's Staircase - the boys very energetically ran back and forth giving a hand with lines and chatting to the crews.

Back to Gairloch there was much relief as the lockkeeper passed fixed lines down the high walls to us.

A very busy morning trying to get to Fort Augustus for mid-day on Monday to meet Andrew saw us negotiate several locks although it was only the one at Laggan where we went up. We were all pleased that the boy's line throwing was spot-on.

Then the highlight of the week, coming through the flight of locks at Fort Augustus. Since the lockkeepers ask you to walk the boats through it meant Enid and I had nothing to do except watch the boys doing all the hard work! We decided to pose on the upper deck with glasses of wine in our hands.



The rest of the week Andrew had nothing to do either although he did deputy skipper on Tuesday. Our turnaround on Wednesday was at Tomnahurich Swing Bridge where the team (not me) took some time in the morning to walk the canal all the way to the sea lock at Clachnaharry.



By Thursday I had developed a lot of confidence in the boy's skills and let Owen helm out of Urquhart Harbour and into the mooring back at Fort Augustus. Greg at this point asked if he could be "pontoon monkey".

There was no stopping them now, after another negotiation of the lock flight I let Greg helm us away from the top mooring and drive the next section of canal and into the lock at Kytra. Owen, of course then wanted to helm into the next lock.

I was redundant now apart from posing as Skipper!

Lastly I wondered what the boys take on the week was and asked Greg a short time ago what was the thing he liked the most about the week - He thought for a moment then said "the restaurant on the boat at Laggan Locks" I might have known it would be food. On the other hand the restaurant did have lots of interesting artefacts that captured the imagination.

Then I asked what was the worst thing - "the macaroni cheese at Fort Augustus" Food again!

I then tried "what about the boat - what was the best thing?" - without hesitation he replied "Driving"

Then the worst? He thought for a long time then replied "not being allowed to jump overboard!"

Owen's answers to the same questions were, perhaps understandably, more mature. He thought the best bits were the freedom to choose where we went and the camaraderie with us being a family working as a team especially at the locks at Fort Augustus. The worst bit - steering in reverse!

If asked, I would say much the same as Owen but for me there's that bit more. Without this team helping me I couldn't do any of these things so I am very grateful and really glad that everyone enjoyed it so much - that's sailing for you!

For the future we have planned this year to go on a Flotilla sail in the Ionian. Remind me to tell Greg that then he will be allowed to jump overboard - but only when we are safely at anchor in a quiet bay.

## Digital Stuff

Our website [www.sailabilityscotland.org.uk](http://www.sailabilityscotland.org.uk) has now been fully developed. It contains information about Sailability Scotland and complements our Facebook site by providing comprehensive News, Regatta reports, Photo Gallery's and provides up to date information on Clubs and Events in Disability Sailing in Scotland.

In particular our Calendar page contains details of Clubs sailing days along with special events and details of Traveller Regattas. Our Google calendar can be viewed independently at <https://www.google.com/calendar/embed?src=sailabilityscotland2012@gmail.com> - you will be able to incorporate this calendar into your own Google calendar to get a constant feed of Club information.

The site is virtually fully populated so please do have a look and feel free to send any comments or suggestions for improvement you may have to the web manager at [sailabilityscotland2012@gmail.com](mailto:sailabilityscotland2012@gmail.com)

Our Facebook page at [www.facebook.com/sailabilityscotland2012](http://www.facebook.com/sailabilityscotland2012) is kept constantly abreast of all our activities so do follow us by posting a "Like" on the Page.

As well as our domestic Regattas and Events we are hoping to bring you daily reports on Facebook of the exploits of our Challenger sailors attending the International Meeting and Regatta at Quiberon, Brittany in early June

## Looking Ahead - Programme 2015

25 <sup>th</sup> /26 <sup>th</sup> April 2015	T1 Loch Venachar Challenger Regatta
9 <sup>th</sup> /10 <sup>th</sup> May 2015	T2 Scottish Open Challenger Championships, Strathclyde Park
<b>Date change pending</b>	T3 Loch Earn Sailing Club
1 <sup>st</sup> -6 <sup>th</sup> June 2015	International Challenger Meeting & Regatta, Quiberon, Brittany
20 <sup>th</sup> /21 <sup>st</sup> June 2015	Scottish Multiclass Regatta, Castle Semple
22 <sup>nd</sup> /23 <sup>rd</sup> August 2015	T4 Duncan's Challenger Regatta, CCCDS Bardowie
5 <sup>th</sup> /6 <sup>th</sup> September 2015	T5 Lochaber Challenger Traveller Regatta
3 <sup>rd</sup> /4 <sup>th</sup> October 2015	T6 Eric Cheshire Challenger Regatta, Helensburgh

The International Meeting in early June is being held at the French National Sailing Centre at Quiberon, Brittany. This has been organised by the Challenger Class Association following discussions at last year's National Championships at Rutland.

The event is being attended by many of the top Challenger sailors from England but also by a few of our regular Challenger sailors from Scotland. For this reason efforts are currently being made to reschedule the Loch Earn Traveller whose original dates would have clashed. We apologise for any inconvenience this may cause.

We had planned a fundraiser sail in the "Round Cumbrae Race"; however there is another clash of dates here which will have to be considered. Again we will endeavour to keep you up to date with any changes on our website and Facebook

### Got Something to Say?

Please contribute to the next newsletter. Share your sailing adventures; write about why sailing is so important to you. Are we getting it right?

Contributions (in Word format) should be between 500 - 1000 words and be submitted to the Editor by the copy date shown on this page. Photographs should be supplied in jpeg format.

Articles are submitted on the understanding that Starboard will be published on the Sailability Scotland website.

A contribution is accepted on the basis that its author is responsible for the opinions expressed in it and such opinions are not necessarily those of Sailability Scotland. The Editor reserves the right to modify any article to meet space restrictions.

Articles should be sent to the Editor at [sailabilityscotland2012@gmail.com](mailto:sailabilityscotland2012@gmail.com)

### Membership

Membership of Sailability Scotland is open to all properly constituted clubs or groups providing sailing exclusively for people with disability, any sailing club or group that accepts people who are disabled into membership and any individual who is interested in what we do.

For further details contact the Secretary at [sailabilityscotland2012@gmail.com](mailto:sailabilityscotland2012@gmail.com)

Next Issue is planned for July 2015

Copy date :- 30<sup>th</sup> June 2015