

LARGS SC NEWS - January 2017

[Club Future - Development Day - Saturday 21st January](#)

All members are invited to come along to an open discussion on how we can improve our enjoyment of our club, take advantage of opportunities, develop our young sailors, use the many skills within our members, improve communications, deal with challenges etc.

More details on next page.

[Afloat:](#)

- report on the New Year Races - windy!
- winter talk on Scottish Canals - Sunday 5th February. All welcome

[Ashore, and social:](#)

- very successful New Year's Day buffet
- clubhouse maintenance - great work by our volunteers!
- clubhouse reopens for QUIZ NIGHT this Friday 13th January
- subscription renewals - many members already renewed; family and individual members can still renew by monthly direct debit if they make "catch-up" payments

Scroll down for much more detail on all these topics, and more.

Gordon Cochrane

Membership Secretary

CLUB FUTURE - DEVELOPMENT DAY

SATURDAY 21st JANUARY 2017, 10.30am

There are often many ideas and discussions about how we can improve our enjoyment of our club.

Like every other aspect of life today, LSC faces some real challenges, as well as opportunities, going forward.

Every member has good ideas, so this workshop is an opportunity to come together and explain how these many ideas might help.



To start the ball rolling, here are some important issues to concentrate our focus:

- On the water – as a sailing club, how should we do more of this?
- Families – how can we make LSC more all-inclusive for a complete family experience?
- Younger members – to students and younger members who will be running the club in the future, how would you like to see things develop?
- Skills – we have our own professional and everyday skills. How can we focus these to help move the club forward?
- Communications – we communicate through various means – e-news, Facebook etc - within the club. How can we communicate better with the outside world?
- Revenue – we need to earn more to maintain a safe financial freeboard. What else should we do?
- The Future of the Club – wrapping up all of the above, what are your thoughts?

As a Club member, please come along, have your say and help explore and shape our Club's future. Tea, coffee and lunch will be provided, and we aim to finish by 3pm.

To book your place, FREE, please go [here](#). Click on the green "Register" button and you can reserve up to 4 places, all FREE, so bring your family! You will be directed to "Checkout" where you will be asked for your email address to complete your booking. See you there.....

SAILING

NEW YEAR'S DAY RACING (from Howard Smallwood)

There were 28 entries for the New Year's Races on 3rd January. Of these 8 were visiting boats, adding a lot of interest to the day.



As can be seen from Alan Henderson's action pictures above, conditions for sailing were pretty bracing (!) with 20 knot westerlies, gusting 28 knots, for both races. In the event, only 22 valiant

sailors went afloat, and with Stuart Khaliq having to retire early with broken toestraps, actual starters were soon down to 21.

Two races for slow and fast handicap fleets were held, the second race finishing just before conditions deteriorated further with visibility closing down. The first race was held over a windward-leeward course, the second over a triangle.

In the fast handicap fleet, there was close racing between Phil and Carol Alderson in their Cherub, and the visiting Vortex and VX1 dinghies of Andy Winchester and the Shelley brothers. These are radically different boats, the Vortex being a singlehanded tunnel hulled scow and the VX1 a larger semi ballasted sports boat. On the water, the three boats enjoyed close racing with the Largs based Cherub edging the result over two races.

In the slow handicap division the visiting Solo of Stewart Gibson gave yet another demonstration of smooth controlled sailing to take two firsts ahead of Innes Stewart in his Laser Radial.

David Williams in his Topper took third place in the Slow Handicap event to be best placed Largs Cadet.

Overall it was a great day's racing, with an excellent view of the sailing mayhem from a buzzing clubhouse!

Many thanks to Chris Nichol, Kes Khaliq, Gus Chown and Jamie Black for braving the conditions to give excellent courses and safety cover in the ribs.

WINTER TALK - SUNDAY 5th FEB - SCOTTISH CANALS



Donna Mallan, Customer Service & Business Support Manager with Scottish Canals, and a colleague will come a speak to us on Sunday 5th February, between 2 and 4pm. Donna used to be with Tarbert Harbour so may be familiar to some of our members. She is now based in Crinan Canal at Ardrishaig. They are preparing a presentation about getting to and from Scotland's canals and what to do when in them. Additionally, they will have some news about discounts for club musters and are open to answer specific question or speak about other canal related topics of interest to our members.

Ann and Gordon Cochrane took *Night Owl* up and back down the Caledonian Canal in June 2016. This was very enjoyable - apart from the headwinds and driving rain - force 6-7 northerlies going north, and pretty fresh southerlies coming back south!

The picture on the right shows *Night Owl* in the sea lock at Corpach.

They will be at this talk, and will be happy to add to the discussion.



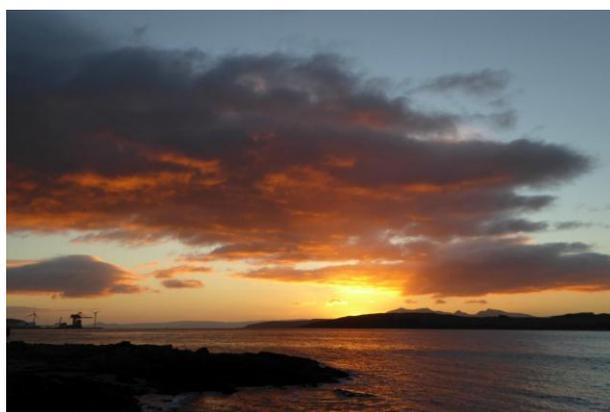
There will be a further afternoon focussing on safety afloat, as we have been gifted an out of date life raft, which will be opened to "experience" what it looks and feels like.

The dates of further talks will be published on the web site, Facebook, and in the e-news, so watch out for these.

THE SOCIAL SIDE / ASHORE

- Very successful New Year's Day buffet
- Clubhouse maintenance - thanks everyone!
- Clubhouse reopens **THIS FRIDAY**, for the January quiz

NEW YEAR'S DAY BUFFET



Avril and her team put on an excellent buffet for 30+ members, families and guests on a beautiful calm, sunny Ne'erday. The afternoon was thoroughly enjoyed by all, who appreciated the service, food, no washing up - and a great sunset!

Numerous other members dropped in for a coffee, or a drink, and a chat.

CLUBHOUSE MAINTENANCE

Under the coordination of John Ridley, a small team of volunteers has been beavering away since the New Year, getting the clubhouse spic and span for the incoming season.



On the left, Hugh Maclean spruces up the radiators in the hallway, on the right, Niall Macpherson gets stuck into the skirting boards in the gents changing room

MANY thanks to everyone who has helped, particularly our friends in the Firth of Clyde Coastal Rowing Club members, who give such great support to all our volunteer activities. Apologies to anyone missed from the list below:

Jim Colquhoun

Alan Cowan

Bob Dawson

Mike Johnston

Hugh Maclean

Niall Macpherson

Matt Mochar

Chris Nichol

Elizabeth Pratt

Bill Erskine	Dawn Macrae	John Ridley
Cameron Hughes	Ken McClelland	Ian Ward
Kes, Fiona, Alastair and Stuart Khaliq	George McCree	Gary Watkins
	Eileen Mochar	Bill Whigham

Many thanks also to club steward Avril Leslie, and our office administrator Julia Gibson, who came in to make sure that the troops were fed and watered at lunchtime!

JANUARY QUIZ NIGHT - FRIDAY 13th JANUARY

The clubhouse reopens THIS FRIDAY, for the January quiz.

Ann and Gordon Cochrane are quizmasters, so guaranteed no soap opera questions!

Come and eat beforehand - book with Avril on 01475 670022 (answerphone), or by e-mail on club-steward@largssc.co.uk.

The next quiz nights will be on the second Fridays of the month - 10th February, 10th March etc. Dates will be confirmed on the e-news, and on the web site, www.largssc.co.uk



50:50 CLUB - JANUARY DRAW

The December draw was made at the Christmas quiz night, with a special bumper first prize of £100 (normally £60). Winners were:

- 1st - £100 - Dennis Cook
- 2nd - £40 - Gordon Cochrane
- 3rd - £30 - Ann Low
- 4th - £20 - Chris and Linda Cowpe

The January draw will be at quiz night on Friday 13th January.

MARGARET SAWKINS

We very much regret to announce the passing of Margaret Sawkins, after a long illness. With her husband Ian, she was a regular attender at quiz nights, and other social functions.

Our sincere condolences to Ian, family and friends. The funeral is at 1300 hrs on Monday 16th January at Holmsford Bridge Crematorium, Dreghorn.

FIRST AID COURSE - SUNDAY 19th MARCH

If the worst happens, do you know (and have the confidence) what to do? You could save someone's life - partner's, crew, another sailor - or even someone in the street or home.

The next first aid course is in mid March. For more information, and to book, see <https://webcollect.org.uk/lsta/event/rya-first-aid-course>.



SUBSCRIPTION RENEWALS // PAYMENT BY MONTHLY DIRECT DEBIT

There has been an excellent response from members to the request for subscription renewals, with about half of the total subscription monies being received. This is invaluable to us, as other sources of income are low over the winter, and the bills still have to be paid!

About a dozen family and individual members have taken advantage of the trial of paying their subscriptions by monthly direct debit. If any other family or individual members who haven't yet renewed wish to change to monthly DD's, you can still do this, *providing that you make up for the monthly payments you have missed.* (WebCollect takes payments on the first of the month, so you will have missed the January payment, and we require all renewing members to make 12 payments through 2017.) Please contact Julia or myself to discuss and arrange.

OTHER TOPICS

The latest [RYA newsletter](#) has several items members may find interesting:

- the dangers of [carbon monoxide poisoning](#)
- how [sails are made](#)
- [sailing with dogs](#)
- the new racing rules - [new app](#)

CLUBHOUSE OPENING HOURS

Saturday	1100 - 1700
Sunday	1200 - 1700

We will open on Friday evenings for quiz nights and other functions as required.

Newsletter compiled by Gordon Cochrane, Membership Secretary

Links // Contacting the Club, the LSTA, and other links:

LSC office: 01475 670000
LSC Lookout Lounge / Bar: 01475 670022
LSC general e-mail: secretary@largssc.co.uk
LSC web site: www.largssc.co.uk
LSC Facebook: www.facebook.com/largssc
FoC Coastal Rowing Club: see [here](#)

LSTA general e-mail: info@lsta.org.uk
LSTA web site: <http://www.lsta.org.uk/>
LSTA Facebook: www.facebook.com/largssta
Scottish Sailing Institute: see [here](#)
SSI webcam (LSC slipway etc) and weather - see [here](#)
LYH webcam (view over E/F pontoon) – see [here](#)