

**COCKLE ISLAND BOAT CLUB
CHRISTMAS NEWSLETTER**

ISSUE 216

2022



MERRY CHRISTMAS & HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL OUR MEMBERS



WWW.COCKLEISLANDBOATCLUB.COM
Cockle Island Boat Club Facebook

Editors Corner



It's that time of year again when the silly hats make their appearance but sure its all part of the fun! Thankfully the club is back in the Groomsport Clubhouse and the attendances for the Winter Programme have been very well supported.

I would like to thank Donaghadee Sailing Club for hosting the start of CIBC's winter programme and we really appreciate their help and hospitality. It's also that time of year when the AGM looms large and members step up to the plate to do their bit for the club so don't be shy.

Don't forget I'm always on the lookout for any articles for the Newsletter.

So, please get in touch if you have anything of interest and I thank all those members who have taken the time to contribute to the NL. This is the last Newsletter of 2022 and its time to take a break and enjoy the festive season.

And, also spare a thought for those people less fortunate than ourselves at this time of year.

Happy Christmas The Ed.



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what we do...*

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A View from the



As I write this, Christmas and the New Year are fast approaching. I would like to take this opportunity to wish all our members a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

The racing season has come to an end and we celebrated the season in style with our Annual Prize Giving at Donaghadee Golf Club. A good time was had by all and I received some great feedback. If you haven't already, have a look at our web page gallery to see some great pictures taken on the night. www.cockleislandboatclub.com/photo-albums

Our winter programme is in full swing and attendance levels are returning to pre covid levels but there is room for more. Not only do we have some great presentations, but it is also an opportunity to catch up with friends. If you haven't already, please put your name down for tea making, the list is on the notice board in the hall. Our annual outing this year was to the Crumlin Road Gaol and was very well attended. Again, there are some excellent pictures from the trip on our website. If you have any suggestions for next year's outing, please let a member of the committee know.

Once Christmas has been and gone it will seem like no time until the sailing season is once again upon us. Already we can see people preparing for the season ahead with hulls being scrapped and various other preparations on the go. The average attendance for our racing is 4-5 boats on the water and it would be great to see these numbers increase. CIBC is probably one of the few clubs in the Lough that provide cruiser/keelboat racing, I would encourage everyone to join in and indeed to be an ambassador for our club and encourage everyone to join in.

This will be my last View from the bridge, I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone for their support over the past year. Looking forward to seeing you all down at the Club on Wednesday evening and out on the water next summer.

So, as I pass the baton over at the AGM to Michael Arbuthnot, I wish Michael and the club every success in the year ahead.

Campbell out!



Notice of Nomination at Annual General Meeting



This is the principal business occasion for the club, when members have an opportunity to question the outgoing Executive committee on their handling of the affairs of the Club during the past year and also to have the opportunity to make appointments for the incoming year and discuss and propose future activities of the club

Nominations

The following is a guideline concerning the nominations and elections for the Executive Committee.

(a) Only FULL members may be appointed to office on the Executive Committee and only FULL members may vote thereon.

(b) No nomination should be made unless the intending proposer and seconder - after consultation with their prospective nominee satisfied that the person nominated will be willing and able to serve the Club in the capacity for which they are proposed.

(c) No person shall accept nomination unless adequate time, thought and energy can be spared to fulfil the duties involved.

The full Executive Committee meet on the first Wednesday of each month at 19:45 hours.

Verbal nominations may be made at the AGM but it is preferable if nominations are submitted in writing and sent to the Hon. Secretary before the AGM



NOTICE OF 48th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING



You are invited to attend the 48th Annual General Meeting to be held in the Boathouse, Groomsport on Wednesday 11th January, 2023 at 20.00hrs

Business of Annual General Meeting

To receive the report of the Executive Committee for 2022.

To receive the accounts for the financial year ending 31st December 2022 and the report of the Honorary Treasurer.

To appoint office bearers and the Executive Committee for the year 2023. These appointments shall be made by and from full members as rule 7(a).

POSITION	CANDIDATE	PROPOSED BY	SECONDED BY
Commodore	Michael Arbuthnot	TBC	TBC
Vice Commodore	Harry Patterson	TBC	TBC
Rear Commodore	TBC	TBC	TBC
Honorary Secretary	John Cathcart	TBC	TBC
Honorary Treasurer	Ron Hutchieson	TBC	TBC
Committee 1	Richard Bunting	TBC	TBC
Committee 2	John Cleary		
Committee 3	Brian Galbraith		
Committee 4	Terry Graham		
Committee 5	Ivan Heaney		
Committee 6	TBC		

ex officio Immediate Past Commodore Campbell Gardner

To appoint the Honorary Auditor to audit the accounts for the year 2023.

To transact any other business agreed by the Executive Committee. • A member wishing to raise a subject for discussion shall give at least SEVEN days' notice in writing to the Honorary Secretary (Rule 7.5) • To discuss any business notified (as above).

Yours sincerely John F. Cathcart Honorary Secretary

PROPOSED MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTIONS 2023



FULL MEMBERSHIP

£45.00

£40 if paid **before** the end of March 2023

Pending AGM ratification

ASSOCIATE MEMBER

£15.00

Note: Associate membership is open to a Spouse or Partner of a full member who resides at the same address as that of the member (only persons holding full membership of CIBC are entitled to vote at the AGM)

Payment of Subscription

Subscriptions should be paid to the CIBC Treasurer, Ron Hutchieson (Cheques made payable to Cockle Island Boat Club)

**or by e banking Transfer to
Cockle Island Boat Club
Santander Bank**

Account Number: 92039523 Sort Code 09-01-28

(Please ensure that you add your name as a ref)



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Summer Cruise Wild Otter 2022



Crew Frank Smyth, Robert Hume, John Cochrane.

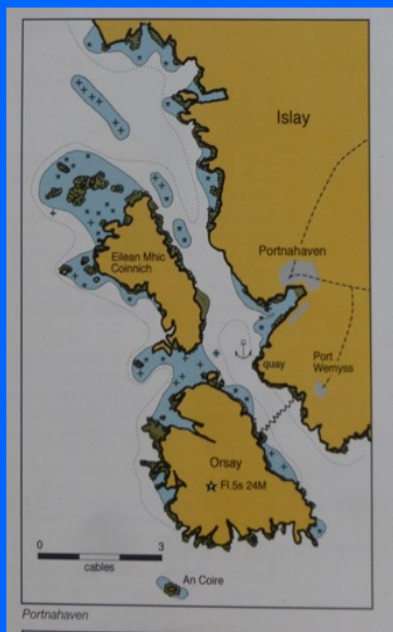


It was a good many years since I sailed westward of Islay. On that occasion we left Rathlin and headed straight for St Kilda. This time however having reached Port Ellen Islay, Robert suggested that as the weather was flat calm it might be an idea to sail west of Islay and go to a small anchorage called Portnahaven. I had been there by road but



never by sea so I was happy to oblige.

Portnahaven is on the S/W corner of Loch Indal and is hampered by very strong tides. From the shore it could be mistaken for a little Cornish village surrounded by a few cottages and a commercial pier. There a few moorings for fishing boats and a strong tide runs through the anchorage. There wasn't a breath of wind so we dropped anchor off the pier and had



lunch. I considered departing by the north entrance but decided against that and we motored south at approximately two knots avoiding An Coire a sunken rock at the southern entrance.

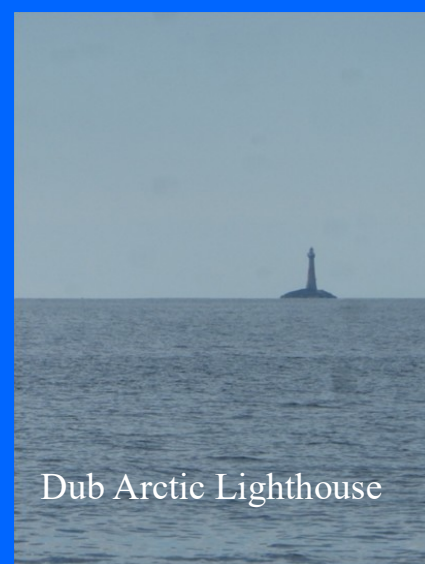
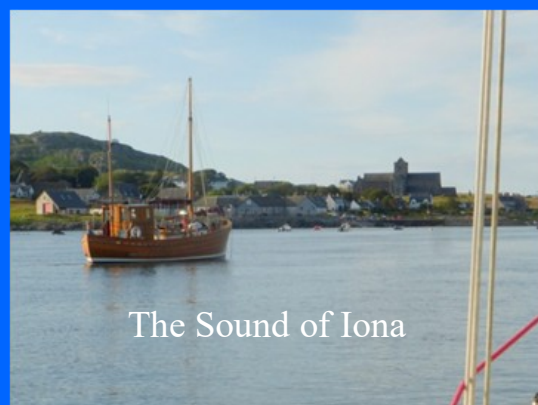
We then headed north and stood well off the island of Orsay. Strong tides were very much in evidence and one felt being pulled towards the Frenchman's Rocks which lie just north of Orsay. The bottom contour is very uneven giving plenty of swirling water and over falls. Thank goodness we were there on a calm day.

We continued north under engine and decided to go west of Colonsay. Colonsay is surround by lovely beaches but only one commercial pier at Scalasaig on the east side of the island. Our destination was The Sound of Ulva which entailed making passage through The

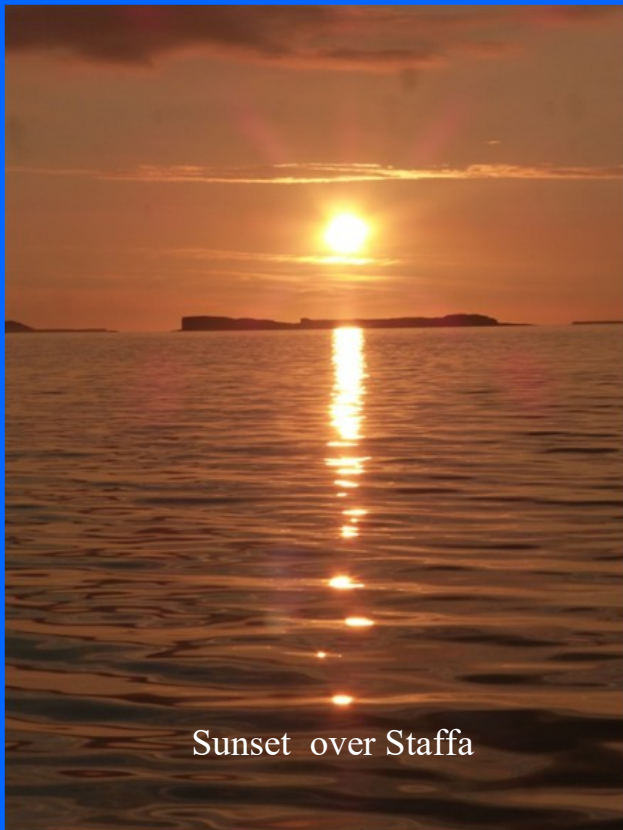
Sound of Iona and heading for Loch Na Keal.

By the time we reached Iona the tide was against us and at times our speed dropped to less than two knots.

There are a few anchorages near Iona i.e. The Tinker's Hole, The Bull Hole and Bunessan. However I wanted to get to Ulva so decided to continue on even though it would be dark by the time we reached



our destination.



Sunset over Staffa

I don't think John was too happy and he kept telling me that it would be dark when we reached our destination. I had anchored there several times before but had never berthed in the new marina. I must admit it did make things a little bit exciting and we were all very pleased to celebrate our arrival at 23.00. It had been a long but enjoyable day. Next morning we took the ferry across the sound and went for a walk on Ulva itself. There are a number of cottages which are being refurbished supported by



The Marina at Ulva

grants from the Scottish government. Unfortunately however

the manor house does not qualify and appears to be falling

into disrepair. Visitors are however welcome to explore the gardens which would have been well maintained in former times. We had lunch in the little shore side cafe before returning to

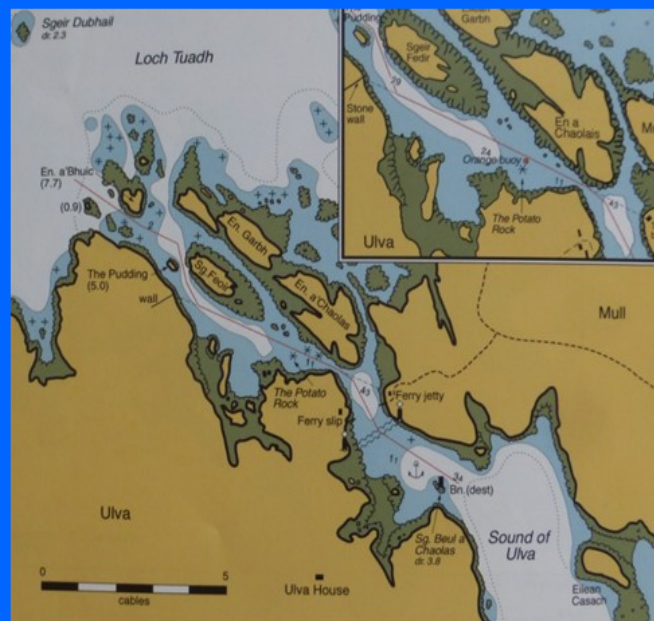


Manor House Ulva



Tea House Ulva

the boat and continuing our passage through Ulva Sound.



I had been through the sound once before but navigation does present some difficulty. The ferry boatman told us that the instructions in "Welcome Anchorages" was incorrect and we should leave the

"Pudding" rock to starboard. We negotiated the sound without difficulty and entered Loch Tuath. Soon after leaving Ulva Sound we set full sail and headed for the open sea passing north of The Treshnish Isles. Our destination was Loch Moidart which lies about ten miles past Ardnamurchan Pt. The wind was S/W 10 gusting 15 kts and we were having a grand sail in near perfect conditions. So much so that we realised that "nooners" had not been observed. John was instructed and three beers followed very soon. Whilst we were enjoying our (late) nooners we jibed and managed to get the jib wrapped around the forestay. Try as we might we could not get it furled. We doused the main and fought with this flogging canvas for what seemed an age. We managed to get it partially furled but it was flogging very badly.

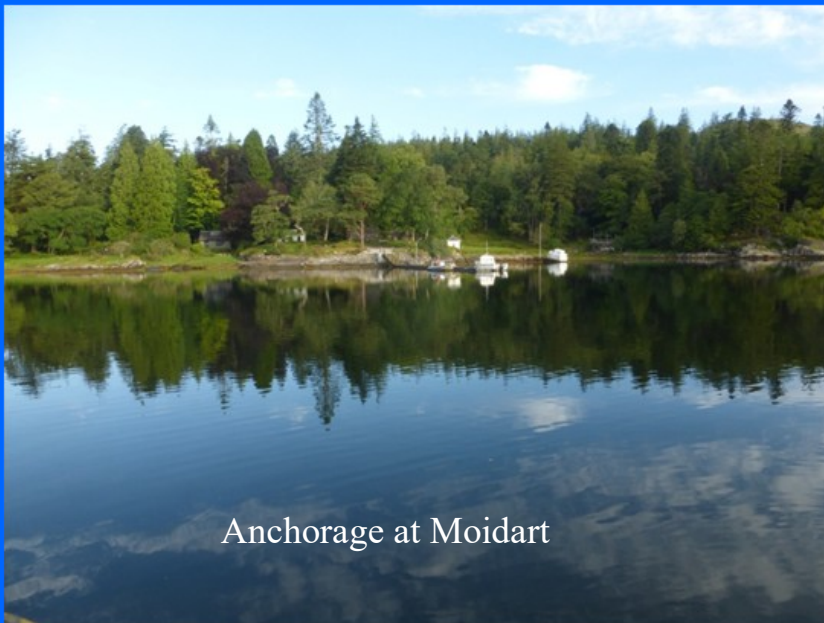
This happened off Caliach Pt and fortunately the sea was calm. I considered the best option was to go to Tobermory where I hoped I could get help to unfurl this mess.

Peter Bullick met us on the Pontoon and with a degree of sympathy for three geriatrics he organised some help from a couple of young people from the Ocean Youth Trust who helped to unfurl the sail.



Sorting out the mess

After a good night's sleep we set off the next day and headed for Ardnamurchan and loch Moidart. Moidart, one of my



Anchorage at Moidart

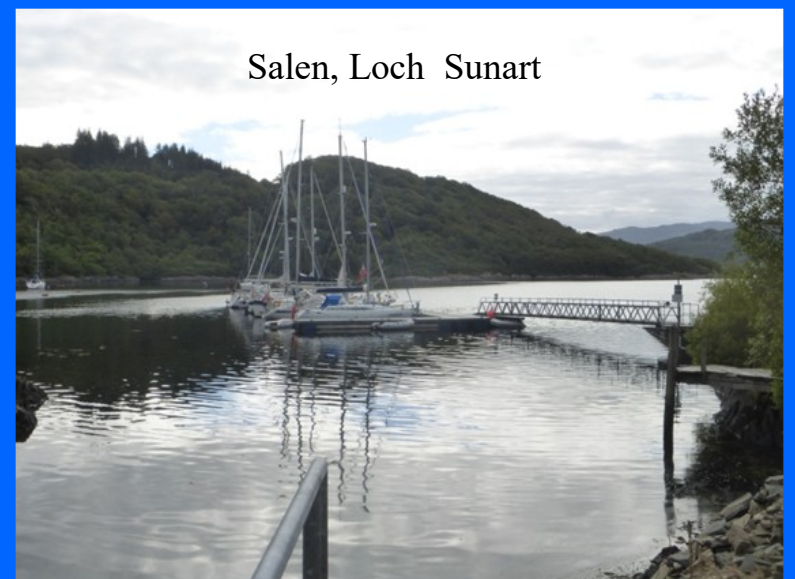
favourites, is a beau-

tiful anchorage but requires concentrated plotage at the entrance. Nowadays with GPS it's not too difficult and once inside the effort is worthwhile.

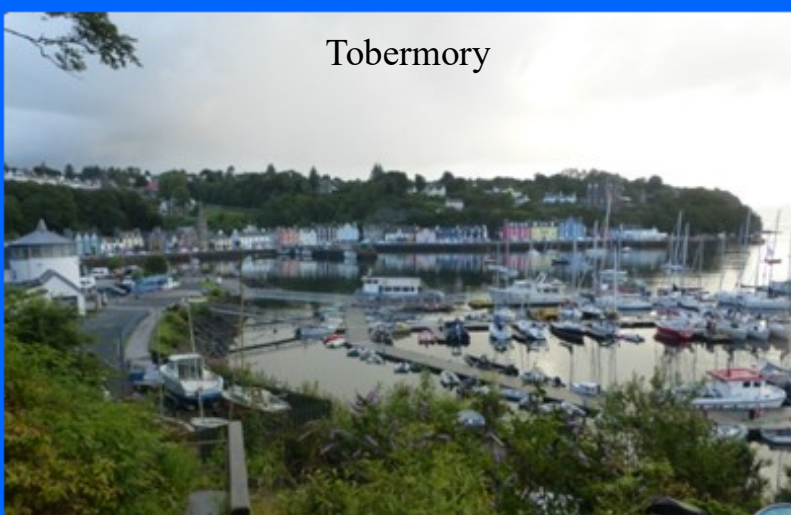
Shortly after dropping anchor we were invited aboard another yacht Stardust 11 owned by Theo and Judith Mezeer. Apparently he was a retired merchant banker who now makes ice cream with some degree of success. They were a delightful couple and we met again in different locations.

The following day was beautiful but the forecast was for increasing winds and to make matters worse, Robert had developed a tooth abscess and was not feeling too good. We could have gone further north to Malaig where I knew there was a dentist. Muriel had been his first customer some 40 odd years ago. However I decided to head south and gave John and Robert the task of navigating up Loch Sunart to Salen.

Our stay in Tobermory co-incided with the finish of the Scottish series. My daughter Lucy was on board Game Changer from Bangor so we decided to wait for another day to see the finish. That evening we ate in the Tobermory hotel.



Salen, Loch Sunart



Tobermory

Our next destination was Kerrera marina which is opposite Oban. For the last few years it had fallen into disrepair but is now under new ownership. The restaurant has been upgraded and is now completely enclosed.

We had a very good smoked mackerel which cost £16.00. If we had put a line over the side we could have had it for nothing.





In recent years when making south I have tended to go through Easdale and Cuan sounds, Thus adding a little interest especially if one plans to go to either Croabh marina or Crinan.

On this occasion we went to Crinan and locked into the basin before 17 00 when it closes. Game Changer was already in the basin so we lay alongside. The forecast for the next few days was for strong winds and I didn't relish the thought of Port Ellen in strong southerly winds.



On leaving the canal we had a good sail to Tarbert and tied up in the marina.

There are new and very elaborate shore facilities in a brand new building. It is entered by a code and once inside it is clean and centrally heated.

On the wall is a list of instructions and one's attention is drawn to the fact that a lavatory brush is provided in each closet and should be used after performance. One way of keeping costs down.

The following day started with thick fog so we decided to wait until around lunch time before departing for Troon. By the time of departure we had missed the tide for Campbeltown and with southerly wind forecast we would be motoring all the way. Furthermore Carradale is normally full of fishing boats and not very good for yachts.

We left Tarbert around lunch time and headed straight for Troon. After a while the mist cleared and we managed to get some sailing. We reefed the main and with reduced sail the boat behaved very well. The following morning we left Troon at 0800 to catch the tide as far as Corswall Pt and the North Channel. The weather had cleared and we had a lovely if long trip back to Bangor





Ailsa Craig (Paddy's Mile Stone)

Distances travelled:-



Bangor to Port Ellen	63 miles
Port Ellen to Ulva	70 miles
Ulva to Tobermory	23 miles
Tobermory to Moidart	24 miles
Moidart to Salen	23 miles
Salen to Tobermory	12 miles
Tobermory to Kerrera	25 miles
Kerrera to Crinan	24 miles
Ardrishaig to Tarbert	14 miles
Tarbert to Troon	30 miles
Troon to Bangor	65 miles



Total Distance travelled 373 miles

Each year I endeavour to (bag) at least one new anchorage. This year I managed to get to Portnahavan which had eluded me for many years. One never knows what next year will hold but with luck many of us will enjoy yet more beautiful anchorages on the west coast or beyond. *Frank*





Winter Programme 2023



Wednesday 18 Jan 2023 Del Fairley – The Restoration of Lofna.

Wednesday 25 Jan 2023 Russel McGovern – Table top Navigation

Wednesday 01 Feb 2023 Committee

Wednesday 08 Feb 2023 Film night – The Great Lighthouses of Ireland

Episode 4

Wednesday 15 Feb 2023 Russel Rowley - The lure of the Arctic

**Wednesday 22 Feb 2023 Margie Crawford – Square rigger in the Arctic -
Sponsor David Bruce.**

Wednesday 01 March 2023 Committee

Wednesday 08 March 2023 Keith Chandler - Summer Cruising

Wednesday 15 March 2023 Brian Meharg MBE, The Lifeboats of Carrickfergus, Bangor, Groomsport & Donaghadee

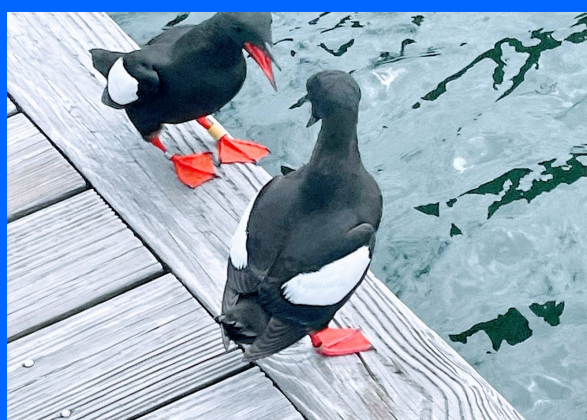
Wednesday 22 March 2023 C Smith – The Last Cruise of Marco Polo

Wednesday 29 March 2023 Quiz Night

Wednesday 5 April 2023 - Committee

Wednesday 12 April 2023 Sailor's Meeting

I hear them so n so's put
the electric up again !!



Oh I know , don't
know how I'm going
to heat the nest !!!!!