

# Commodore's Log – August

## Cove Sailing Club

As I sit down to write this report, Loch Long Week 2023 is in full swing here in Cove and Kilcreggan. Wednesday is rest day and a much needed respite from the activities for yours truly. For the second year in a row, our friends from Aldeburgh have travelled north to race on Loch Long. Eight Loch Longs arrived at the end of last week and were quickly launched and moored in anticipation of Sunday's kickoff: Eden, Fiona, Hussar, Iona, Jean, Mermaid, Tantrum and Skye, familiar names to many, bobbing gently on the loch again. These were welcomed by 10 local boats already awaiting the challenge; Capricorn, Dolphin, Elizabeth, Grey Goose, Moonshine, Pied Piper, Sabre, Sula, Tarka and Tik Hai. The arrival of Judi was also eagerly anticipated.

Sunday dawned blustery with a strong NE wind blowing across the Clyde. Taking advantage of the easterly wind required the fleet to head out to the Pimple where committee boat Nella, owned by club and race office member, Peter Dunbar, moored up to control the days events. The challenging wind and swell were battled over three races on a windward leeward course set by Race Officer and former commodore, Kevin Rickerby. With 18 boats on the start line some interesting language was heard at the starting gun as boats jostled for position and a lead up the sound. Wind and spray and flying spinnakers were present for most of the day.

Heading home at the end of a great day of racing, tired sailors welcomed a drop in the wind and a glorious evening to commence the week's social activities with a patio BBQ. The rain and the midges stayed away to allow for a relaxed and conversation filled evening enjoying the view and regaling stories of close encounters through the day. BBQ chefs John Robertson and Miguel dos Santos kept the revellers fed and happy.



Heading off from the start  
Photos by A McNeillage



Tik Hai and Pied Piper



Grey Goose heeling past



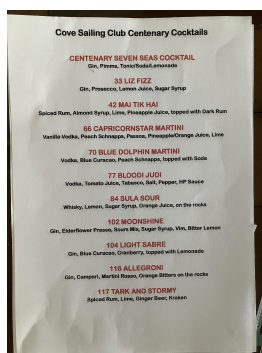
The end of day 1

Monday dawned with a lighter wind coming out of the Northwest and the round the cans race to Blairmore kicked off the days events. Close sailing, many changes of position and the luck of the wind saw the fleet lead change several times. A welcome lunch break ashore and an afternoon race completed Day 2.

Monday evening was a fancy affair. Cocktails and canapés and local band Burnt Orange greeted the returning sailors and local folks for a centenary celebration of the club burgee. Specially commissioned cocktails care of Adam MacDonald eased the pain of the days sailing and encouraged robust conversation.



Canapes and cocktails ready to roll



Loch Long specials



The cocktail mixologists

As reported in June in this log, the club burgee celebrated its 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary on July 23. Murdo MacDonald opened the evenings presentation by calling ex Commodore and de facto club historian, John McMurtrie to tell the tale of it's founding back in 1923 by 9 gentlemen of the Loch Long Sailing Club. John had brought the original record book of the Cove Sailing club's first minutes as his source and acknowledged the presence of 3 ex commodores who had been present at the first meeting of the newly formed Cove Sailing Club in 1971; Hamish Caldwell, himself and Terry Wade. Cove adopted the original Loch Long Club burgee as its club flag. The 2<sup>nd</sup> Commodore of the new club, Terry Wade, then presented a framed embroidery of the burgee to current Commodore, Wells Grogan, who thankfully gave a very short speech thanking all present and especially those who had conceived the idea of the celebration and organised the evenings entertainment and refreshment.



John McMurtrie and the original minutes



The presentation burgee



Burnt Orange with Wells and Terry and burgee

Tuesday arrived and despite the previous nights revelry so did the sailors. Back to the Pimple and wind out of the west streaming out of the Holy Loch brought two more windward leeward races for the sailors. The committee onboard Nella were joined by our Regional RYA Development Officer, Laura Cowan, to view the days racing and continue discussions with club members on club development and our grant application to Sport Scotland. Laura has been very supportive of the club and is a great help and source of advice on developing our activities going forward. It was her first experience of witnessing Loch Long racing, close at hand. Further conversations with our Aldeburgh sailors after the racing also informed her of the support and relationship that has been nurtured between Cove and Aldeburgh over the years.



Spinnakers flying on Tuesday  
Photo by S Jackson

Enjoying the ceildh in the Cove Burgh Hall that evening was a welcome treat for all participants with a hall long Orcadian Strip the Willow ending the nights activities as the rain finally settled in.



*Dancing the night away*

Thursday and Friday racing and prizgiving on Friday are yet to come and will be continued in our next log.

Our next membership event is an Extraordinary General Meeting to be held on 7 August to present to members our proposal for changing the club structure to a charitable organisation. This will open a few doors to our funding drives and provide for a much more suitable organisational framework for the future.

Social programmes will continue through the autumn, including our Sunday Scran and monthly special events. Come and join the fun. Get in touch, details on the webpage, [www.covesailingclub.co.uk](http://www.covesailingclub.co.uk).

Best wishes for the rest of the summer.

Wells Grogan  
Commodore Cove Sailing Club

*A boat beneath a sunny sky, lingering onward dreamily, in an evening in July*

*from Lewis Carroll, A Boat Beneath a Sunny Sky*

