

News Letter November 2008

Hi everyone.

And so the season has drawn to a close. Once again we took on just a little too much work and it has taken it's toll on our aging frames. 2008 has been great fun, lots of good winds and some amazing sealife. In July we saw the biggest Bottlenose Dolphins just off the Sound of Easdale.



Training. Training is up on last year with lots of new students. Well done to all those who got their tickets this year. The pass rate has been very good but a few are still chasing that Yachtmaster Ticket. Those who have already booked for 2009 should remember that the better prepared you are on the shore-based subjects, the more you can concentrate on the practical aspects on board the Yacht. Prices for courses in 2009 will once again be held at £440 and will still be restricted to 4 skippers per course. There may be a small fuel surcharge as I don't think we can continue to absorb the relentless increases in Diesel. For 2009 we will run courses throughout the year. If you have particular dates in mind let us know early and we will try to accommodate.



Skipped Cruises and Mile builders. Three times through the Crinnan canal this year. What great fun and as some of you found out, as a boat handling experience, it can be a little un-nerving. Never mind, lots of fenders sorts the problem. The trips to Northern Ireland were superb, with lots of wind and good passage experience for those on board. I will put some pictures on the web site. Others must remain hidden to protect the guilty. Click here for the [Rogues Gallery](#).

St. Kilda. 2008 was unfortunately not a good year to go to St. Kilda. The winds and sea state made it clearly dangerous. Both the 'Sound of Barra' and the 'Sound of Harris' would have been untenable. So we diverted round Ardnamurchan point in a force 8 up to Skye. The passage to the remote island of St. Kilda is for those with a reasonable amount of sea time wanting to build some serious passages. Any of you wishing to try the St Kilda experience will have to appreciate that one out of three attempts to get to St. Kilda is unsuccessful due to adverse weather.



Cruising area updates. Loch Ranza on the North coast of Arran is about 3 hours sailing from Ardrossan. This lovely anchorage now boasts a new pontoon. It is positioned on the west side of Loch Ranza about 300m from the ferry slip. This new facility makes a great opportunity for lunch stops. A visit to the Distillery (01770 830 264) is worthwhile. Also the Loch Ranza hotel (01770 830223) for a lovely pub lunch and a small refreshment. Due to the potential swell and adverse conditions in a North or North easterly, the operators restrict your stay to three hours. As an overnight anchorage it can be a bit dodgy due to poor holding in a kelp seabed. So if there are no spare mooring buoys then you may have to go elsewhere.

The Fleet. Yes, it's time for some new blood. The old **Jura Star** and **Christina** have gone and are replaced by new Beneteau Oceanis 40's. The names have been held.

'**Bacchus**', an addition to the fleet, is a brand new Oceanis 40 and launches late February 2009 as does the new '**Christina**' and the new '**Jura Star**' joins the floating fleet in late March. The three brand new boats have similar specifications and the individual full spec can be seen on the website, www.clydeyachts.com

'**Kalamazoo**' [Clyde Yachts Kalamazoo](#)

Beneteau 411. 41 foot of super cruising yacht. This yachts remains on the fleet but will now only be available as a Skipped charter in 2009.



'Lady – Q' Beneteau 423 [Clyde Yachts Lady-Q](#)

New for the 2007 season, she will be available again this year, but only for 10 weeks. Two weeks have been taken already, and another two are provisionally booked. So, if you want this beautiful boat, **book soon!**

The 2009 Schedule is as follows:

From the Clyde to the West Coast with Skipper

Boat		Depart	Arrive	Availability	Days
Bacchus	Ardrossan- Oban, Via Northern Ireland	28 th June	3 rd July	Full	5
Jura Star	Ardrossan – Oban, Via Northern Ireland	28 th June	3 rd July	Spaces	5
Christina	Ardrossan - Oban Via Crinnan Canal & Tobermory	28 th June	3 rd July	Spaces	5
Lady Q	Ardrossan – Oban Via Crinan Canal & Tobermory	28 th June	3 rd July	Spaces	5

Cruises/Mile Builders With or without Skipper

Boat		Depart	Arrive	Availability	Days
Bacchus	Ardrossan – Bangor- Strangford Loch – Dublin - Ardrossan	17 th June	26 th June	Full	9
Christina	Ardrossan – Bangor- Strangford Loch – Dublin - Ardrossan	17 th June	26 th June	Spaces	9
Jura Star	Ardrossan – Bangor- Strangford Loch – Dublin - Ardrossan	17 th June	26 th June	Spaces	9
Bacchus	Oban- Loch Harport (Talisker Distillery) Eigg Muck Rumm Canna	19 th July	24 th July	Spaces	5
Lady Q	Oban-St Kilda and back Hopefully	9 th Aug	14 th Aug	Spaces	5
Jura Star	Oban-St Kilda and back Hopefully	9 th Aug	14 th Aug	Spaces	5
Bacchus	Ardrossan return Via Crinnan Canal, Gigha, Campbeltown	16 th Aug	21 st Aug	Full	5
Christina	Ardrossan return Via Crinnan Canal, Gigha, Campbeltown	16 th Aug	21 st Aug	Full	5
Bacchus	Ardrossan Ballycastle Islay Gigha Cambeltown Ardrossan	23 rd Aug	28 th Aug	Spaces	5
Lady Q	Tarbert Music Festival	18 th Sept	20 th Sept	Full	3
Bacchus	Tarbert Music Festival	18 th Sept	20 th Sept	Full	3
Christina	Tarbert Music Festival	18 th Sept	20 th Sept	Full	3
Jura Star	Tarbert Music Festival	18 th Sept	20 th Sept	Full	3

From the West Coast to the Clyde with Skipper

Boat		Depart	Arrive	Availability	Days
Bacchus	Oban via Ballycastle Ardrossan (5 Days)	26 th July	4 th Aug	Full	5
Christina	Steady Eddie back to Ardrossan no Hurry No worry	23 rd Aug	28 th Aug	Spaces	5
Jura Star	Oban via Ballycastle Ardrossan (5 Days)	23 rd Aug	28 th Aug	Spaces	5

The price for these trips is £440 p/p for the 5 day trips and £800 p/p for the 9 Day trips. They include all Breakfasts & Lunches and two evening meals on board. They do not include any canal fees (Approx £130 per boat) or mooring fees. Anyone wanting a berth or berths on any of these trips should call me soon as the cruises are popular and I don't like disappointing anyone.

If you have a specific destination and would like us to arrange a skippered charter then let us know and we will see if anyone else is keen on the destination.

Anyone wanting to have a mention or comments in the next news letter (Late January) please advise before end of December.



Best Wishes to you all.

Colin Hamilton