

News Letter November 2009

Hi everyone.

Thanks to all who came on the cruises and courses this year. We've had some great fun and made some fantastic memories. Also a big thanks to those of you who looked after our fleet so well on your bareboat charters. The recession seems to have had little effect so far on our trade, however we are aware that many of our friends and clients are finding business difficult. Lets all hope things get better.

Training. Surprisingly very little change in numbers for courses this year. The few who did have to cancel due to Job difficulties we hope things are improving for them.

The old adage of 'effort in = results out' rang true again with a high success rate on the courses. We managed largely to escape the surcharge for fuel and in most cases we took the increase on the chin.

The new fleet do make things a little easier and a bit more luxurious. They have all had some minor scratches and dings(Oops). It remains very rewarding to get such positive feedback from our courses. The negative aspects (i.e. no full fat milk onboard) still keep us on our toes!!

Prices in 2010 will remain at £440 per person for 5 day RYA courses. Dates for courses in April, June & September have yet to be finalised. If you have any preferred dates just let us know and we will try to work with them

Skippered Cruises and Mile builders. Good fun times this year with one young lady catching her first ever fish off the stern of Bacchus. It went back to sea unharmed. While we are on the fish thing, a bucket of giant prawns changes hands for around £30 direct from a fishing boat at sea and takes about 3 minutes per load when water is already at the boil. Clyde Yachts culinary experiments have shown that the average bloke can eat about 25 of these before admitting defeat.

St. Kilda 2009 'At last!' I hear you cry. Yes, one band of determined seafarers relentless in their pursuit of the St Kilda experience successfully made one small step for man and one giant leap for the crew. The winds and sea state made it tricky but achievable. Returning from St Kilda, we made the passage via the Sound of Barra in 16 hours, arriving Tobermory at Midnight. A satisfying trip with a few firsts, which included the skipper announcing at Tobermory. ' Today we're having the day off'. That day is lost forever in a daze of fatigue and drink. In keeping with its remote location, Jura Star's efforts to achieve St Kilda this year had a slight change of plan! After being storm bound in the Kyle of Lochalsh, the plan changed again and instead had a cruise around Skye, Staffa, Fingals Cave the penguins on Lunga and back to the Clyde via Islay and Sanda. Maybe 2010 will be lucky!!!



Cruising area updates.

Portavadie. (2.5 Nm from Tarbert). Now, a lot of marinas can boast good service and showers etc., but this place has to be on the itinerary for any Clyde based cruise. Possibly the best facilities in Scotland. There is even a hair straighteners in the gents shower room. The lovely lady pictured left missed out on the straighteners that day. The marina in 2009 was charging £25 for a 40 footer overnight berth. There is a great restaurant with fine wine and food. This is a good place to take 'her indoors'. Visit <http://www.portavadiemarina.com/>

Tobermory. Still a favourite, with more pontoon berths than ever but if you are eating ashore be sure to book a restaurant well ahead as we have experienced great difficulty in getting a table.

Rothsay. The new inner basin at Rothsay is now open but it is very tight inside and manoeuvring could be a problem. We therefore strongly recommend an alongside berth on the older pontoon fingers where there is more space to turn and berth with less stress.

The Fleet.

Unquestionably, Still the finest fleet in Scotland.

'Lady – Q' Beneteau 423. New 2007.

Again this year available only for 10 weeks during the season.

'Jura Star' and 'Bacchus' both Beneteau Oceanis 40 launched spring 2009 are as you would expect still immaculate. Twin wheels, two heads and tops in the comfort department.

'Antiqua' our Bavaria 38. Launched 2005. Still in great order and easy to sail.

Prices for bareboat start at £1300 for Antiqua for seven days low season to £2100 for lady Q' high season. See the website for all prices.



Beneteau Oceanis 40

The 2010 Skippered cruises Schedule as follows: (Boat name in red denotes commercial skipper on board)

Boat		Depart	Arrive	Availability	Days
Lady Q	Ardrossan – Oban Via Crinan Canal	28 th June	3 rd July	Spaces	5
Jura Star	Ardrossan-Dunstaffnage	6 th June	12 th June	Full	5
Bacchus	Ardrossan-Bangor-Strangford Loch-Dublin-Douglas Ardrossan	13 th June	21 st June	Spaces	9
Lady Q	Ardrossan-Bangor-Strangford Loch-Dublin-Douglas Ardrossan	13 th June	21 st June	Spaces	9
Jura Star	St Kilda Adventure Dunstaffnage Departure	13 th June	21 st June	Spaces	9
Bacchus	Special Islands Whiskey Tour (Islay Jura Mull Skye)	2 nd July	10 th July	Spaces	9
Bacchus	Magical Mystery Tour	18 th July	24 th July	Full	7
Bacchus	Skye Canna Muck Eigg Rum	25 th July	8 th August	Full	15
Bacchus	Oban via Ballycastle Ardrossan (5 Days)	9 th Aug	13 th Aug	Full	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	Magical Mystery Tour	15 th Aug	21 st Aug	Full	7
Jura Star	Magical Mystery Tour	15 th Aug	21 st Aug	Full	7
Antiqua	Magical Mystery Tour	15 th Aug	21 st Aug	Full	7
Bacchus	Ardrossan Ballycastle Islay Gigha Cambeltown Ardrossan	23 rd Aug	28 th Aug	Spaces	5
Lady Q	Tarbert Music Festival	17 th Sept	19 th Sept	Full	3
Bacchus	Tarbert Music Festival	17 th Sept	19 th Sept	Full	3
Antiqua	Tarbert Music Festival	17 th Sept	19 th Sept	Full	3
Jura Star	Tarbert Music Festival	17 th Sept	19 th Sept	Full	3



'Lady Q' Beneteau Oceanis 423

The price for these trips is £440 p/p for the 5 day trips and £850 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 or mooring fees.

The Official 'Classic Malts Cruise' 2010 has been cancelled this year so we have replaced this with our very own 'Special Islands Whiskey Tour'

If you book on a skippered cruise, arrangements can be made with the skipper to allow you to run the boat for a day as skipper.

Any of you 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 do 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

As usual let's make fun of the baldy guy. This may be in vogue for 2010 with the skipper claiming it was an accessory and he was making a fashion statement. Comments please!!!

Best Wishes to you all
Colin Hamilton



← An embarrassing fender