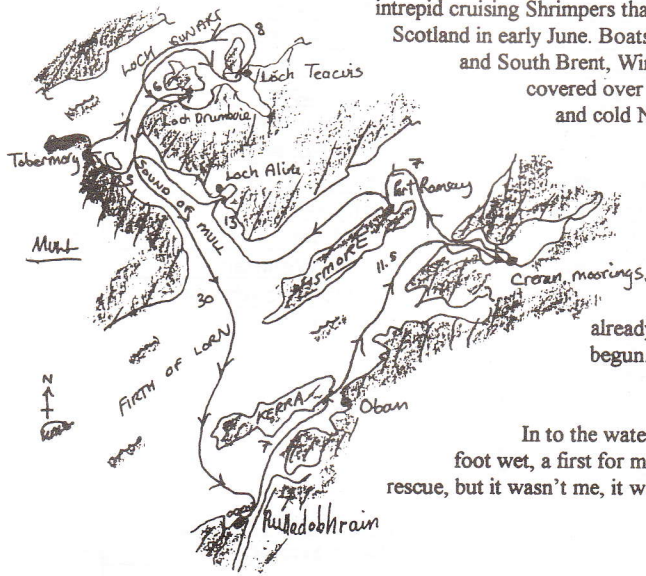


Scottish Shrimper Week 1995, Report...

Ken Elliott (188)

In the absence of any other reports on the week, in writing at least, I have put together the tale of the 14 intrepid cruising Shrimpers that came up to the west coast of Scotland in early June. Boats from as far apart as Ullapool, Edinburgh and South Brent, Wimbleton Norwich and Sheffield. We covered over 95 miles in 5 days of cruising in a strong and cold Northerly airflow.



Saturday 3rd June, arrival day. I hitched up and baled out, heavy rain, but not the usual 11 hour drive to a Shrimper event this time, phew! 2 1/2 hours later I arrived at Creran. 2 boats already in and 2 more rigging up, the week had begun.

In to the water with Jock's trusty tractor 'Trevor', not a foot wet, a first for me. There was also a stylish high speed dinghy rescue, but it wasn't me, it was well hushed up!

Saturday evening, the welcome gathering in the Lochnell arms function room. Most now present including 'Loup' who had sailed up from Ardfern that day. 12 boats ready for the off on Sunday, a longish trip was the consensus and up to Tobermory was the target, but not in one go!

Sunday and off we set, lunch at port Ramsay, if you can find it, I couldn't (blame the crew again, or my not having thousands of pounds worth of nav. aids), yes I said I knew exactly where I was going. We joined up again as the majority of the fleet emerged and headed up the sound of Mull. With our ration of sunshine used up, headwind, rain and a very unpleasant motor in to the seclusion of Loch Aline for the night. 'Black Sheep' arrived late having sailed up from Crinan.

Monday and onward to Tobermory, thankfully no strong wind and a quite motor taking the inside route. 13 Shrimpers in Tobermory harbour inside all the boats that needed water to float, but perfect pilotage, enough for us. Another dinghy rescued, thank goodness for the seagull, the bagpipes gave an embarrassed wheeze. A meal in the famous yellow pub, fighting the barman to turn down the juke box, we almost won!

Tuesday and up into Loch Sunart, Loch Teacuis, for lunch under leaden skies, drizzle at times. Back to Loch Drumbuie, almost a race, pacing practice for winning the cup later in the week. Arrived at Drumbuie to welcome of 'Black Sheep' dressed overall, bobbing contentedly in the chosen anchorage. Too much drizzle for BBQ so dinghy hopping was the order of social exchange.

Wednesday, the big one, 5-7 Northerly and a long southerly trip to Puillobran. Sound of Mull a bit choppy, a ripped jib, the sun drenched rot went finally, and the amazing surfing dinghy made an exciting trip at hull speed on jib alone. In the afternoon wind dropped to 3 or 4 and the crossing of the firth of Lorn was reasonable. In to Puillobran anchorage, with the wind whistling in the rigging. A walk across the fields to the pub and the bridge over the Atlantic.

Thursday, rain, wind (N-NW 5) and a slow motorsail up the Kerra Sound to be opposite Oban for lunch, just in time to view the powerboat race and practice some anchoring on weed, 6th time lucky !! Brightening up and wind moderating in to Creran for a pleasant afternoon sail.

Friday, the big race day. Course laid, how did I get two beats, that's Loch Creran wind for you. Anchors down race started and 2 laps later the finish made. With competitive spirit used up, a quiet afternoon exploring for some, boats out and a rest for some of us.

Finally the prizegiving back at the Lochnell arms, glasses for all and the special awards to.

- The racing cup** Nick and Pat Goodall in 'Bumble' (398) the fastest mast rake in the fleet.
- The Seamuffin trophy** Peter Hall in 'Shrimp of Badachro' (41) for outstanding bagpiping and single handed sailing in challenging conditions in an unfamiliar boat.
- The Lady Daphne trophy** Stephen Rouke and Mark Gray in 'Sandpiper' (581) for resourcefully fixing a broken rudder stock and believing my navigation instructions.

Also a special thanks to Jock and Jonquil Slorance of Creran moorings for their enthusiasm and help during the week, the rampant shrimp now flies in Loch Creran. And to my fellow organisers Martin Howard 'Tystie' (334) for expert pilotage and that invaluable local knowledge, and John Spencely for finding those special glasses.

And as for next year, who knows, Creran, Plockton, any ideas.....

Ken Elliott 'KensKaylee' (188)

Black Sheep's 95 Season

Black Sheep has covered many miles by road and sea this season with trips to Scotland (two weeks starting at Greenock in the Clyde, sailing around the Kyles of Bute, through the Crinnan and up to Tobamory to join the other Shrimpers at Shrimper Week), two separate road trips to Cornwall (one long weekend at the start of Falmouth week and two weeks cruising the small harbours and coves from Helford to Fowey) in addition to our regular Solent activities which involve trailing from home each time.

The trailer has done so many miles and had so many duckings in five years that I've had to change the tyres and suspension.

Still in the plans for this year are a weekend trip to the East coast and a repeat of a day sail we did last December launching in Docklands and sailing under Tower Bridge.

I'll try and write something for the newsletter.

Ian Fisher
(No. 435)