



Charity number SC053395

WHAM spring 2026 newsletter

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The WHAM committee are please to send you our newsletter edition 6. The purpose of the newsletter is to let members know what WHAM have been up to on your behalf and to encourage general communication across our community.

Chair's Chatter

Welcome to the latest newsletter of WHAM, the purpose of which is to keep our membership updated on the work your committee has been undertaking and also to get feedback from the membership about how WHAM can help their associations and the sailing community generally on the west coast of Scotland.

While the season has started slowly due to the poor weather, WHAM continues to work on behalf of everyone who uses and enjoys the West Coast whether it be for leisure or commercial activity. And this year WHAM celebrates its 40 anniversary. Over that time our voice has grown and is listened to by partners and other organisations that we engage with on a regular basis. Your support allows this to happen. Thank you for that support and we look forward to continuing to work with you for the next 40 years.

Yours

Jim Traynor

WHAM Chair

What has been going on?

There has been much going on since our last newsletter issued in the winter, and listed below are the key issues for your information that your committee has been involved with:

1. We have continued to engage with Argyll and Bute Council to discuss damage repairs to the breakwater at the Oban Transit Marina following storm damage from Storm Amy. The latest update is that work has been completed to most of the breakwater to make it ready to welcome the Clipper Race in July. Watch this space for further details / information about its full completion.
2. Oban will again host the Clipper Race in July. See this [link](#) for more details.
3. Loch Maddy pontoon system was seriously damaged during construction work on the ferry pier, but they have now been repaired and are back in operation which is good news and represents a great stopping off point in the Outer Hebrides. See this [link](#) for details.
4. As a reminder, 2025 has seen an update to the Ports and Marine Facilities Safety Code (PMSC) which sets out a national standard for port marine safety in the UK. It applies to all harbour authorities and marine facilities including privately operated marinas and piers. This is a best practice approach and cover ten key measures that can / should be implemented. As such, this may cover activities that you are involved in delivering, so we share the [link](#) to the government website where you can download and review the full PMSC and its implications.
5. WHAM are pleased to confirm that we have access to some limited funding for the development of mooring associations and similar facilities. This funding can be either a grant

or a repayable loan up to a maximum of £500 and subject to your organisation match funding the amount you receive from WHAM. This year we have awarded one grant of £500 so far.

Application should be made to Duncan Tannahill, WHAM Secretary on sec@whamassoc.org.uk

Applications will be reviewed at the next available WHAM committee meeting and processed on a first come first served basis.

6. A major licencing issue that WHAM has been involved with was the proposed closures in summer 2026 on up to 20 days of Kyle Rhea to allow the electricity cable that cross Kyle Rhea to be replaced as they are now 40 years old and at the end of their operational life span.

The good news is that SSE have agreed to delay the work until 2027 or 2028. They have also welcomed input to the communication requirements surrounding the work and so WHAM will be involved to shape the communication process to minimise the impact on leisure and other craft.

7. WHAM are exploring the development of a Coastal Fund in conjunction with partner organisations with the objective of providing financial support to maintain areas of coastline as and when required. We would welcome thoughts on this initiative now and when we have firmed up on details.
8. As secretary, I have attended several meetings including the Scottish Government Cross-Party Group on Recreational Boating and Marine Tourism and the RYA Scotland General Purposes Committee. and the RYA Scotland Coast Watchers Conference. These meetings are useful for background knowledge but also for debating issues of concern and interest to leisure marine interests.

If any member has concerns on such issues, please let me know and I can raise either at these meetings or with the appropriate organisation / person. We have an extremely useful network of contacts.

9. And finally, WHAM is about to commence a campaign to recruit new members from mooring associations that are not in membership as well as local businesses / marinas etc who are connected to the industry. So, if you know of any such businesses, we would be grateful if you could drop a note with details to the secretary (details below). The idea is to grow our footprint which in turn improves the strength of our voice when working on your behalf.

News from partner organisations

WHAM works with a number of partners with similar interests and objectives, so we thought it would be useful to include the updates below:

OCHDA and the Oban Bay HRO

It is now 2 years since Argyll and Bute Council submitted the Oban to Transport Scotland and we still await a decision from Scottish Ministers. There are 139 of the original 142 objections about the proposals which are still outstanding.

The change of Transport Minister in the Scottish Government will undoubtable slow the process up more and indeed the government are rumoured to be looking to scrap Transport Scotland and centralise the function within the government.

In the meantime, OCHDA have submitted an amendment to Transport Scotland with a view to reverting to the solution being the formation of a Trust Port (not operated by the Council).

This long running saga still has miles to go and we will keep reporting as and when there are developments.

Scottish Canals

For more information and news about the Scottish Canals network, a read of their website at <https://www.scottishcanals.co.uk/> is worthwhile. WHAM works with Scottish Canals when appropriate to help them maintain canal access for leisure users.

RYA Scotland

WHAM continues to work closely with RYA Scotland on a range of issues that are relevant to the west coast. The RYAS website link is <https://www.rya.org.uk/gbni/scotland> The website is worth a visit as it is packed with a range of useful articles, news and courses etc.

Northern Lighthouse Board

WHAM attended an especially useful 'partners' day at the NLB offices in Edinburgh where they shared news and updates on their work. NLB are involved in all new or altered sea-based development around our coasts to ensure that navigation requirements are met and therefore maritime safety ensured around our waters. As such WHAM will often comment on developments with our knowledge of the coastline and where plans might impact on sailors and areas used for mooring and anchoring.

The NLB website has some great content and is worth a look at <https://www.nlb.org.uk/>

The WHAM website

Our website contains some useful information which you might want to check out including:

- Section on help and guidance: <https://www.whamassoc.org.uk/help-and-guidance>
- Section on downloads including AGM minutes: <https://www.whamassoc.org.uk/downloads>
- Section on news including notices to mariners: <https://www.whamassoc.org.uk/news>
- Section with useful contact information: <https://www.whamassoc.org.uk/contact-us>

Coming soon

We are working with Crown Estate Scotland to produce a guide on setting up and running a mooring association. The first draft of the guide has been prepared and the plan is to have the guide completed and printed / online ready for our AGM next January. This guide is packed with clever ideas, best practice suggestions and useful template documents.

And finally...

The WHAM Committee hope you enjoy this newsletter and find it useful. If you have suggestions on how to improve it, please let us know and similarly if you have news or items to include, please forward to us.

Kind regards

Duncan

Duncan Tannahill

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