

DATE	NEWS
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31/01/08 January bows out in style once more this year...only **Hebrides** and **Loch Fyne** managed to keep their routes running. On what must be the worst day of the winter so far, the company website disruptions page shows a lot of red squares this afternoon! Details are:

CLYDE:**Ardrossan - Brodick (Caledonian Isles)**

There have been no sailings so far today. A review is expected at 1300 regarding the 1350 ex Brodick
Update: There will be no sailings at all today due to the weather. Next sailing 0820 ex Brodick, weather permitting

Wemyss Bay - Rothesay (Argyle, Bute)

Due to deteriorating conditions there will be no further sailings today (as of 1530). Next sailing will be on Saturday morning as strike action has resulted in Rothesay pier being closed for the day tomorrow.

Colintraive - Rhubodach (Loch Dunvegan)

Service suspended at 1630 for the remainder of the day.

Gourock - Dunoon (Jupiter, Ali Cat)

A reminder that this service is off today due to strike action by council pier staff.

Tarbert - Portavadie (Loch Riddon)

After returning successfully from Lochranza, the service to Portavadie has been cancelled for the remainder of the day

Largs - Cumbrae Slip (Loch Alainn)

Service is cancelled for the remainder of the day and **Loch Alainn** has headed up to Gourock for shelter and an overnight berth

WESTERN ISLES:**Tobermory - Kilchoan (Loch Linnhe)**

The 1000 ex Tobermory was cancelled. A decision will be made this afternoon regarding the 1545 sailing.
Updated 1505: The 1545 ex Tobermory and 1630 ex Kilchoan are both cancelled

Barra - Eriskay (Loch Bhrosda)

The first four sailings from Barra (0715, 0925, 1230 and 1410) have all been cancelled. A decision will be made at 1600 regarding the last sailing of the day.

Update: The last sailing of the day has also been cancelled.

Oban - Barra - S. Uist (Lord of the Isles)

The 1530 ex Oban has been cancelled for today. Next sailing TBC.

Tayinloan - Gigha (Loch Ranza)

Service suspended due to the weather. Decision taken at 1520 to cancel all remaining sailings today.

Kennacraig - Islay (Hebridean Isles)

The 0700 ex Kennacraig diverted to Port Askaig. The rest of the day's sailings have been cancelled due to the wind.

Fionnphort - Iona (Loch Buie)

Service suspended and to be reviewed at 1300. Decision taken at 1445 to cancel service for the remainder of the day.

Ullapool - Stornoway (Isle of Lewis)

1345 ex Stornoway liable to disruption. The 1715 ex Ullapool is cancelled and the vessel will remain there overnight.

Oban - Craignure (Isle of Mull)

The 1000 ex Oban and 1100 ex Craignure didn't operate due to the weather. 1300 ex Craignure running 15 minutes late

Update: The 1400 ex Oban and the 1500 and 1700 ex Craignure are cancelled. The 1600 sailing from Oban got away on time and was the last sailing of the day.

Berneray - Leverburgh (Loch Portain)

All sailings cancelled for today. Next sailing 0800 tomorrow weather permitting

Sconser - Raasay (Loch Striven)

Operating only on a sailing by sailing basis

Mallaig - Armadale (Lochnevis)

Service cancelled

Mallaig - Small Isles (Lochnevis)

Service cancelled

Oban - Lismore (Eigg)

1445 ex Oban and 1545 ex Lismore cancelled.

RATHLIN FERRIES:

Canna has not sailed at all today. Next sailing tomorrow, weather permitting

30/01/08 CLYDE:

Services from Gourock to Dunoon are cancelled for today due to a strike on the part of Argyll and Bute Council pier staff. As a result neither **Jupiter** or **Ali Cat** will run either today or tomorrow.

Ardrossan - Brodick (Caledonian Isles)

The 1920 ex Brodick is cancelled and the vessel will spend the night there. The 0700 ex Ardrossan tomorrow will not run as a result.

WESTERN ISLES:

Raasay has moved from her winter role as Kilchoan ferry and can now be found lying inboard **Eigg** in Oban. She will remain here in spare capacity until she is called into service to allow **Eigg** to head away for overhaul at Corpach in the next few weeks.

Kennacraig - Islay (Hebridean Isles)

Strong winds have seen the 1800 ex Kennacraig cancelled. The inward sailing tomorrow at 0415 is therefore cancelled.

Tayinloan - Gigha (Loch Ranza)

The last sailing for the day on this route was at 1635.

Ullapool - Stornoway (Muirneag)

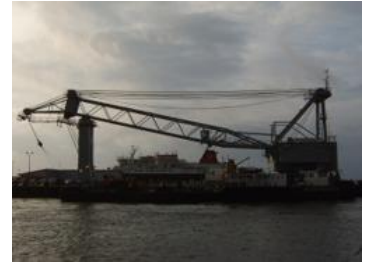
The overnight freight service is off due to the winds

29/01/08 **TERMINALS:**

Mersey Mammoth joined **Caledonian Isles** in Ardrossan today as she dropped off the gangway she picked up from Rothesay yesterday

WESTERN ISLES:

Lochnevis today added a call at Muck into her Small Isles schedule. As a result the 1600 sailing to Armadale was delayed.



The Mammoth at Ardrossan

28/01/08 **Isle of Arran** can clearly be seen on the Aberdeen harbour webcam this morning. Thanks go to Forum member G-Pat Ile who was first to spot her on the webcam! She arrived at around 1800 last night.



Isle of Arran on Aberdeen webcam

TERMINALS:

The **Mersey Mammoth** returned to Rothesay today and undertook the next phase in the redevelopment of the pier. She was involved in the dismantling of the 'old' gangway which is being moved to Ardrossan.



Rothesay gangway being dismantled

27/01/08 **Clansman** is indeed on her way south today, having passed through the Sound of Mull and Sound of Islay earlier this morning. She would have passed **Isle of Lewis** during the early part of her journey as the larger vessel made her way back to her namesake isle, ready to return to service tomorrow morning. **Clansman** is expected to arrive at around midnight on the Mersey.



Clansman passing Port Askaig

26/01/08 **Isle of Lewis** is reported to have left JWD shortly after 1030 this morning in order to conduct trials, collect crew cars and then head up to Stornoway to relieve **Clansman** for her own overhaul. It is expected that **Clansman** will leave Stornoway tonight after completing her scheduled sailings and head for the Mersey.

Updated: Due to a technical problem with her bow ramp, **Clansman** still sits in Stornoway harbour at 1700. Her crew are assessing the problem and an update is due later on regarding the status of the 1345 sailing which is already over 3 hours late.

Updated again: **Clansman** sailed at around 1740 for Ullapool, returning at around 2130(ish). She will leave for Mersey pilots at approx 0030

25/01/08 **Isle of Arran** left Port Askaig at around 1215 this afternoon and commenced the long sail round to Aberdeen where she is to undergo her annual overhaul. She passed Craignure at around 1500 and is expected to arrive in Aberdeen around 1800 tomorrow

Yet more disruptions today - the following services are all liable to disruption throughout today:

Tobermory - Kilchoan (Raasay)
Wemyss Bay - Rothesay (Argyle / Bute)
Sconser - Raasay (Loch Striven)

There are cancellations on the following routes:

WESTERN ISLES:

Barra - Eriskay (Loch Bhrusda)

Services this morning are cancelled and a review is to take place at 1200 regarding this afternoons scheduled departures.

Oban - Barra - South Uist (Lord of the Isles)

The vessel left Oban at 0800 and was forced to turn back due to the weather. Currently heading back to Oban.

Oban - Colonsay (Isle of Mull)

Today's sailing is cancelled. A decision on the next sailing will be made later today, suggesting the possibility of an additional sailing over the weekend...

Tayinloan - Gigha (Loch Linnhe)

Service suspended and to be reviewed later in the day

Kennacraig - Islay (Hebridean Isles)

The 1800 ex Kennacraig has been cancelled

Fionnphort - Iona (Loch Buie)

Service suspended and to be reviewed shortly

Ullapool - Stornoway (Clansman)

0715 ex Stornoway is cancelled

Oban - Craignure (Isle of Mull)

Service suspended. Next sailing will be 1400 ex Craignure and then 1600 ex Oban, weather permitting

Lochaline - Fishnish (Loch Fyne)

Service suspended and to be reviewed shortly

Uig - Tarbert (Hebrides)

Due to the 0730 ex Tarbert being unable to berth in Uig at 0910, the 0940 ex Uig has been cancelled. **Hebrides** is currently making her way back to Lochmaddy and will sail again at 1245 for Uig where hopefully she will be able to berth.

Mallaig - Armadale (Lochnevis)

0840 ex Mallaig was cancelled. Afternoon sailing at 1600 is weather permitting

Mallaig - Eigg - Muck (Lochnevis)

Service cancelled due to the weather

CLYDE:

Ardrossan - Brodick (Caledonian Isles)

The 1105 ex Brodick and 1230 ex Ardrossan are cancelled, with a review to be made at 1315 with regards the 1350 ex Brodick

RATHLIN FERRIES:

Ballycastle - Rathlin (Canna)

This morning's sailing to Ballycastle and back is cancelled

24/01/08 WESTERN ISLES:

Oban - Barra - South Uist (Lord of the Isles)

The vessel will not be sailing this afternoon due to the poor conditions. Weather permitting she will sail at 0700 tomorrow for Barra (1220), Lochboisdale (1420) and back to Oban.

Oban - Coll - Tiree (Lord of the Isles)

Vessel sailing approximately 30 minutes late due to the weather conditions to the west of Mull.

Kennacraig - Islay (Hebridean Isles / Isle of Arran)

The 0700 and 0945 ex Kennacraig were both diverted to Port Askaig. The 1720 ex Kennacraig was cancelled.

Ullapool - Stornoway (Clansman)

Services cancelled today

Tayinloan - Gigha (Loch Linnhe)

Services were disrupted through the morning and then cancelled for the rest of the day

CLYDE:

Ardrossan - Brodick (Caledonian Isles)

Once again the vessel will spend tonight at Brodick. Therefore tomorrow's 0700 ex Ardrossan is off.

Loch Alann is spending tonight at the wires in Goruock to shelter from the high winds expected to hit Largs.

23/01/08 Isle of Cumbrae has moved from Rosneath and is now up on the slip at Ardmaleish, along with **Loch Tarbert**.

22/01/08 TERMINALS:

Mersey Mammoth today removed the old side-loading linkspan from its 30 year-old position in the latest phase of the reconstruction process which will see the old berth becoming the secondary vessel's overnight berth. Photos can be seen both on the [SoC Forum here](#) and on the [Daily Bute site](#).

Loch Ranza set sail from Rothesay today, calling first at Largs for crew cars and then at Lochranza for an overnight berth. She is due to resume service at Gigha and allow **Loch Linnhe** to return north to Mull.

Caledonian Isles is spending tonight at Brodick and as a result tomorrow's 0700 ex Ardrossan is cancelled.

21/01/08 Isle of Lewis and **Loch Shira** left Garvel dry dock this morning. The larger vessel was towed into the adjacent JWD, berthing first on the south wall to allow her port side lifeboat to be lowered. She was then moved across to the Garvel side wall. **Loch Shira** then moved into place under her own power.



Isle of Lewis back in JWD

20/01/08 **Coruisk** moved up from JWD to KGV Dock in Glasgow today. This was to make space in JWD for **Isle of Lewis** and **Loch Shira** when they emerge from Garvel tomorrow.

19/01/08 **Loch Ranza** has moved back to Rothesay's inner berth after being unslipped from Ardmaleish.



**Loch Ranza back from
Ardmaleish**

18/01/08 **WESTERN ISLES:**

Mallaig - Armadale (Lochnevis)

The 1600 sailing to Armadale is cancelled due to the worsening forecast

Mallaig - Eigg - Muck - Mallaig (Lochnevis)

Small Isles sailing is cancelled for today due to the weather

Sconser - Raasay (Loch Striven)

Service running but on a sailing by sailing basis and there is every possibility of disruption

Lochaline - Fishnish (Loch Fyne)

Sailings suspended as of 1415. To be reviewed at 1600.

Ullapool - Stornoway (Clansman / Muirneag)

Tonight's delayed 1715 ex Ullapool is cancelled, as is tomorrow's 0715 ex Stornoway. The overnight freight sailing is also cancelled tonight.

Kennacraig - Islay (Isle of Arran / Hebridean Isles)

The 0945 was diverted to Port Askaig instead of Port Ellen this morning. As a result the 1800 to Kennacraig will now sail from Port Askaig instead at the earlier time of 1630. The 1800 to Port Ellen is cancelled

Barra - Eriskay (Loch Bhrosda)

No more sailings on this route today

Oban - Craignure (Isle of Mull)

The 1900 ex Craignure and 2145 ex Oban are both cancelled. The 1700 ex Craignure and 1800 ex Oban are running but may be liable to disruption.

Oban - Lismore (Eigg)

The only sailing this afternoon will be 1600 ex Oban and 1700 ex Lismore

Fionnphort - Iona (Loch Buie)

Service cancelled for the remainder of the day

CLYDE:

Ardrossan - Brodick (Caledonian Isles)

Services liable to cancellation at short notice. The 1640 ex Brodick will head for Ardrossan but berthing is not guaranteed

Largs - Cumbrae Slip (Loch Alainn)

Sailings may be liable to disruption throughout today

Also in the news today...

The **Loch Dunvegan** had some unusual company in the Kyles of Bute today in the form of a Ford Fiesta which had been broken into and rolled down into the water. Fortunately the slipway was not blocked and the Colintrave - Rhubodach service was not disrupted. Photos can be seen on the Daily Bute website [here](#) and [here](#).

17/01/08 WESTERN ISLES:

All sailings to Port Ellen today were diverted to and from Port Askaig

15/01/08 CLYDE:

Loch Tarbert made for Ardmaleish this morning.



Loch Tarbert at Rothesay today

14/01/08 TERMINAL INFORMATION:

Until further notice the 1815 sailing from Rothesay each evening will be diverted to Gourrock, with the 1900 ex Wemyss Bay being cancelled. This is to allow demolition work to take place at the old side-loading berth in Rothesay. Work will see the old linkspan being removed. Whichever vessel is operating the secondary Bute roster will tie up overnight at the wires before sailing at 0545 for Rothesay, in time to pick up the timetable with the 0700 departure for Wemyss Bay each morning.

CLYDE:

Loch Tarbert sailed from Lochranza up to Rothesay today in readiness for her annual overhaul at Ardmaleish.

11/01/08 Loch Linnhe left Craignure this morning and continued her journey down to Gigha, where she arrived at around 1200. She took over the Tayinloan service with the 1230 sailing from the island. **Loch Tarbert** immediately set out for Lochranza for an overnight berth.

10/01/08 WESTERN ISLES:

Lord of the Isles omitted her call at Barra this evening, instead making for Lochboisdale on the 1530 ex Oban and arriving at 2205.

After several days lying idle and avoiding the bad weather, **Loch Linnhe** left Mallaig today and moved down to Craignure for an overnight berth. She is believed to be heading down to Gigha to relieve the **Loch Tarbert**.

CLYDE:

For a period of four or five weeks in the near future, the No 2a vessel (second roster at Rothesay) will start and finish each day at Gourrock. This is to allow demolition work to be carried out at the old side-loading berth in Rothesay. The main roster will still see one vessel berthing overnight at the new linkspan.

09/01/08 The strongest winds of the winter so far are causing multiple disruptions across the network today. The following list shows the situation at of 1100

WESTERN ISLES:

Tobermory - Kilchoan (Raasay)

Service suspended pending a review at 1100

Update: Service resumed with the 1100 sailing to Kilchoan

Barra - Eriskay (Loch Bhrusda)

Morning sailings cancelled. Situation being reviewed at 1200

Oban - Barra - South Uist (Lord of the Isles)

Service running 30 minutes late due to vessel not departing Lochboisdale until 0800 due to the weather

Oban - Colonsay (Isle of Mull)

Sailing cancelled for today. Next sailing as per timetable at 1000 on Friday

Tayinloan - Gigha (Loch Tarbert)

Service suspended for the time being

Updated 1415: Due to no let up in the weather, remaining sailings on this service are cancelled today

Uig - Tarbert/Lochmaddy (Hebrides)

Vessel still at Tarbert pending a decision on sailing with a rescheduled 1200 to Lochmaddy then Uig then Lochmaddy.

Update: the delayed 0730 sailing to Uig diverted to Lochmaddy. A decision regarding sailing to Uig is to be made once **Hebrides** arrives at Lochmaddy as Uig pier is still experiencing very strong winds.

Update: **Hebrides** got away from Lochmaddy at 1435 and is sailing to Uig. She is expected to return from there at 1645.

Fionnphort - Iona (Loch Buie)

Service suspended for the time being. To be reviewed at 1200

Updated 1600: A service will be attempted at 1615

Kennacraig - Islay (Isle of Arran and Hebridean Isles)

Sailings suspended for the time being. Situation to be reviewed at 1200.

Update: The service is resumed with the 1300 ex Kennacraig to Port Askaig and back. The 1800 sailing from Port Ellen tonight is being cancelled however the departure from Kennacraig at the same time is sailing as scheduled. **Hebridean Isles** will spend the night at Port Ellen.

Ullapool - Stornoway (Clansman)

1030 ex Ullapool and 1345 ex Stornoway both cancelled. Contact Ullapool or Stornoway offices for further information

Oban - Craignure (Isle of Mull)

1000 ex Oban and 1100 ex Craignure both cancelled. Situation to be reviewed at 1200 regarding the later sailings

Update: Weather permitting there will be an additional 1400 ex Oban and 1500 ex Craignure this afternoon

Lochaline - Fishnish (Loch Fyne)

Service operating only as the weather permits

Berneray - Leverburgh (Loch Portain)

0815 ex Berneray and 0925 ex Leverburgh were cancelled. Situation to be reviewed at 1230

Update: All remaining sailings are cancelled today

Sconser - Raasay (Loch Striven)

Service still suspended. Situation to be reviewed at 1200

Update: **Loch Striven** has picked up the timetable with the 1230 ex Raasay though she may still be liable to disruptions through the afternoon

Mallaig - Armadale (Lochnevis)

Morning sailing disrupted. Situation to be reviewed later with a view to running the 1600 ex Mallaig

Update: **Lochnevis** did indeed sail at 1600 for Armadale

Mallaig - Eigg - Muck (Lochnevis)

Today's sailing is cancelled

CLYDE:

Ardrossan - Brodick (Caledonian Isles)

The vessel was forced to untie and lie in Brodick Bay from about 0200 after losing some mooring ropes, snapped by the force of the winds. She has been lying off since then while divers are awaited to check the berth is clear of obstructing ropes. Next sailing will be the 1230 from Ardrossan, providing **Caledonian Isles** can get across there

Update: She was unable to get in at Ardrossan and then crossed back to Brodick with a view to picking up the service with the 1640.

Gourock - Dunoon (Jupiter)

This service may be liable to disruption through the day

Largs - Cumbrae Slip (Loch Alainn)

The vessel moved from Largs to Gourock at 0900 and then picked up the timetable departing Largs at 1045 but subsequent sailings will be weather permitting.

RATHLIN FERRIES:

Canna's morning round trip to Ballycastle and back at 0900 was cancelled due to the weather, as is the afternoon sailig

08/01/08 **CLYDE:**

Ali Cat had her morning sailings cancelled today due to technical problems.

Loch Alainn was due to leave Gourock at 0600 bound for Largs where she has taken over from **Loch Shira**. The larger vessel left Largs at around 0820 and moved to Garvel and joined **Isle of Lewis** in the dry dock for annual overhaul.

With the onset of yet more heavy weather, disruptions were posted on the official company website:

Ardrossan - Brodick (Caledonian Isles)

This route may be subject to delays and disruption through the day

Update: The 1920 ex Brodick and tomorrow's 0700 ex Ardrossan are cancelled to allow the vessel to berth overnight in Brodick.

Loch Alainn retraced her steps this evening and sought an overnight berth at the Wires in Gourock due to the poor weather and gale force winds expected overnight.

WESTERN ISLES:

Kennacraig - Islay (Isle of Arran)

The 1800 sailing from Port Ellen has been brought forward to 1530 in order to be completed before the anticipated bad weather arrives. This will mean that **Isle of Arran** and **Hebridean Isles** will both sail from Islay simultaneously, with the former following the latter up West Loch Tarbert only 15 minutes behind.

Barra - Eriskay (Loch Bhrusda)

The 1710 ex Ardmhor and 1815 ex Eriskay are cancelled due to the adverse weather

RATHLIN FERRIES:

Canna's afternoon round trip to Ballycastle and back was brought forward by an hour

07/01/08 CLYDE:

Isle of Lewis carried out her MES test using her port side chute and rafts today. She is due to go into Garvel dry dock with **Loch Shira** tomorrow sometime.

Coruisk came out of Garvel dry dock at 1030 this morning. She was later seen on trials this afternoon and is spending tonight alongside Custom House Quay in Greenock.



Loch Ranza at Ardmaleish



Coruisk at CHQ tonight

WESTERN ISLES:

Clansman has commenced her winter relief service to Lewis, running to a retimed schedule, as follows:

Stornoway dep:	0715	1405
Ullapool dep:	1045	1745

The weather was causing further disruption today:

Kennacraig - Islay (Isle of Arran)

After running 40 minutes late with the 1400 ex Port Ellen, **Isle of Arran** had her 1720 ex Kennacraig cancelled. She will remain in Kennacraig overnight, thus missing the 0700 ex Port Ellen tomorrow.

Tayinloan - Gigha (Loch Tarbert)

The seaweed problem of 12 months ago returned today... **Loch Tarbert** was forced to miss her 1705 ex Gigha and 1735 ex Tayinloan as a result of the weed combined with a low tide.

06/01/08 Clansman set off from Oban early this morning bound for Stornoway. She arrived in the Lewis capital around 5pm this evening and will commence relief work on the Ullapool - Stornoway route tomorrow morning. Due to her slower speed the journey will be slightly longer than advertised, however this should not cause much disruption to the timetable.

Lord of the Isles returned to service after a few days rest and took over the Outer Isles roster with the 1500 service to Barra and South Uist.

Loch Linnhe moved down to Mallaig where she will lie on standby for a few days in case there are further problems with **Loch Striven**.

Loch Ranza arrived in Rothesay at 1630 this afternoon and will move to Ardmaleish for her overhaul shortly.

Isle of Lewis arrived on the Clyde this afternoon. Her voyage from Stornoway saw her sail via the Small

Isles and Sound of Mull for shelter. She berthed bow-in at Gourock at 1430 just after **Jupiter** departed with the Dunoon sailing. She then unloaded crew vehicles, took on a pilot and sailed for JWD where she berthed starboard side to the north dock wall. A selection of photos can be seen below:



Isle of Lewis: a) approaching Gourock - b) passing Jupiter - c) bow-in at the linkspan

05/01/08 **WESTERN ISLES:**

Isle of Lewis left Stornoway around 2100 this evening after completing her service commitments. She will make her way south overnight and arrive on the Clyde tomorrow ready for her overhaul.

Loch Linnhe left Raasay late this afternoon after handing back the service to **Loch Striven** and then made for Kyle of Lochalsh and an overnight berth. **Loch Striven** left Mallaig at 1025 and resumed service with the 1510 from Raasay.

It has been reported that **Lochnevis** made an unusual call at Inverie slipway recently, to deliver a new bottle bank to the remote community. The date of her extra-curricular sailing is uncertain at present.

Kennacraig - Islay (Hebridean Isles and Isle of Arran)

Hebridean Isles diverted the 0700 sailing to Port Askaig this morning, instead of Port Ellen

Isle of Arran had her 1720 sailing to Port Ellen cancelled due to adverse weather. She will make an additional sailing tomorrow at 0700 to Port Ellen and will pick up her timetable from there.

Tayinloan - Gigha (Loch Tarbert)

The service was suspended for a while this morning, however a 1230 sailing was attempted, returning from Tayinloan at 1300. Further sailings will be dependent on weather conditions on a sailing by sailing basis.

Fionnphort - Iona (Loch Buie)

Service liable to delays and disruption due to the weather.

Update (1525): Service has been cancelled for the remainder of the day.

CLYDE:

Ardrossan - Brodick (Caledonian Isles)

The 0700 sailing was cancelled this morning, with the vessel picking up the timetable with the 0820 from Brodick. **Caledonian Isles** then suffered a technical problem this afternoon, missing the 1515 ex Ardrossan and 1640 ex Brodick. She resumed service with the 1800 ex Ardrossan.

Wemyss Bay - Rothesay (Argyle and Bute)

Service liable to delays and disruption due to the weather

Largs - Cumbrae Slip (Loch Shira)

Service liable to delays and disruption due to the weather

COMPANY INFORMATION:

Mr Phil Preston, Operations Director of CalMac Ferries Ltd, is giving a lecture entitled "Ferries in the West

of Scotland" at the Institution of Engineers and Shipbuilders in Scotland at 1815 in the Clydeport Building, 16 Robertson Street, Glasgow. The public are cordially invited.

04/01/08 WESTERN ISLES:

Kennacraig - Islay (Hebridean Isles)

The 1800 sailing to Port Ellen has been cancelled, as has the 0415 inward sailing tomorrow morning.

Barra - Eriskay (Loch Bhrosda)

The 1710 ex Ardmhor and 1815 ex Eriskay have been cancelled. Next sailing will be tomorrow morning, weather permitting

Tarbert - Portavadie (Loch Riddon)

As at 1515 the service is cancelled for the rest of the day

Fionnphort - Iona (Loch Buie)

As of 1450 the service is cancelled for the rest of the day

CLYDE:

Loch Ranza moved from Campbeltown to Lochranza on the next step of her journey to Bute today.

Largs - Cumbrae Slip (Loch Shira)

The service has been subject to disruption through the day, however it was suspended for a while this evening. An attempt will be made with the 1915 ex Largs.

Colintraive - Rhubodach (Loch Dunvegan)

As at 1840 the service has been cancelled for the rest of the day

03/01/08 CLYDE:

Loch Tarbert sailed for Gigha this morning and took over the roster with the 1550 sailing to allow **Loch Ranza** to head to Ardmaleish to start her overhaul tomorrow. It is unclear whether **Loch Tarbert** will be staying at Gigha until **Loch Ranza** returns in a couple of weeks' time or whether this is just short term relief until **Loch Linnhe** is able to leave Raasay and take over - as it was originally supposed to be **Loch Linnhe** covering at Gigha this year. **Loch Ranza** left Gigha at 1600 bound for Campbeltown (arriving at 2300)

WESTERN ISLES:

Hebridean Isles' 0700 sailing was diverted to Port Askaig this morning, as was **Isle of Arran's** 0945 sailing. Both were diverted due to the strong winds. This of course means that the 1400 from Port Ellen will be departing from Port Askaig instead.

Update: Conditions appear to have deteriorated. Due to a vessel being unable to berth, the 1720 from Kennacraig to Port Ellen has been cancelled. Tomorrow morning's 0700 inward sailing is therefore also cancelled.

Loch Striven remains in Mallaig today while engineers have a look at the technical problem which forced her out of service last week.

Update: She was out on trials off Mallaig this afternoon.

02/01/08 WESTERN ISLES:

Islay services were disrupted today. The 1300 sailed as normal, but **Isle of Arran's** 0945 did not leave

Kennacraig until 1345 and was diverted to Port Askaig. The 1800 sailing from Port Ellen was brought forward to 1630 and departed from Port Askaig. The 1800 ex Kennacraig was cancelled.

01/01/08 **WHOLE NETWORK:**

As in previous years, New Year's Day sees the entire fleet tied up for the day, with the exception of **Canna**. All being well all services will return to normal tomorrow morning as per the timetable.

DATE NEWS

29/02/08 Lots of disruptions again today. For the full details, click [HERE](#) for the list on the Forum.

Isle of Arran left Port Askaig this morning after her run from Kennacraig, bound for Caignure and overnight shelter. She arrived during a very stormy spell and circled in the bay several times before managing to get alongside.



Isle of Arran approaching Mull...



...and alongside at Caignure

Loch Bhrusda is now back at Rothesay's inner berth, having finished her overhaul at Ardmaleish

28/02/08 **CLYDE:**

Argyle was out and about on trials this afternoon. She ventured down to Rothesay and was caught on camera together with **Bute** and **Coruisk** which happened to be keeping themselves busy in service.

Isle of Cumbrae was also on the move today, having left Rothesay this morning for Gourock (1150-1200) and then Rosneath for lay up.

27/02/08 **CLYDE:**

Loch Fyne was out on trials this afternoon. She went from JWD down to Gourock before returning later in the day.

WESTERN ISLES:

Lord of the Isles undertook an additional sailing to Barra following recent cancellations. She also conveyed traffic for the 1600 service to Caignure, discharging and then leaving Mull for Barra shortly before 1700. **Isle of Mull** in the meantime diverted the return leg of her Colonsay sailing to Caignure where she picked up Oban-bound traffic and then left on what formed the delayed 1700 ex Caignure.

26/02/08 Only the Lewis Freight and the Lismore routes were unaffected by disruptions today. For full details, see the Service Disruptions page for today on our Forum - click [HERE](#)

25/02/08 More bad weather today - services right across the west coast are affected to varying degrees. Rather than just listing the full details here, [follow this link](#) to our Forum and the special section on there dedicated to reporting disruptions.

23/02/08 **WESTERN ISLES**

Clansman is now in place as the relief vessel on the Uig - Tarbert / Lochmaddy service. As mentioned below, **Hebrides** is also providing a relief service this afternoon, albeit further south.

Oban - Barra - S. Uist (Lord of the Isles)

This afternoon's relief sailing is now cancelled, although an additional sailing from Castlebay to Oban will be carried out by **Hebrides** this evening. **Hebrides** is currently making her way to Greenock for her annual overhaul. The extra sailing is expected to leave Barra approx 1730. On arrival at Oban, **Hebrides** will

discharge and then sail via the Sound of Islay overnight.

Barra - Eriskay (Loch Tarbert)

Sailings cancelled this morning - to be reviewed at lunchtime

Fionnphort - Iona (Loch Buie)

Sailings suspended this morning and to be reviewed at around 1100

Sconser - Raasay (Loch Striven)

Service operating on a sailing-by-sailing basis

22/02/08 **CLYDE**

Ardrossan - Brodick (Caledonian Isles)

0820 and 1350 ex Brodick and 0945 and 1515 ex Ardrossan cancelled. 1105 ex Brodick sailed although berthing at Ardrossan was not guaranteed

Wemyss Bay - Rothesay (Bute, Coruisk)

Service liable to disruption due to the weather today. Sailings were diverted to Gourock this afternoon

Colintraive - Rhubodach (Loch Dunvegan)

Service liable to disruption today

WESTERN ISLES

Barra - Eriskay (Loch Tarbert)

Service cancelled all morning. Reviewed at 1200.

Tayinloan - Gigha (Loch Ranza)

Service suspended as of 0655 - to be reviewed later

Fionnphort - Iona (Loch Buie)

Service suspended as of 0800 - to be reviewed at 1000

Kennacraig - Islay (Hebridean Isles)

0700 sailing diverted to Port Askaig due to the weather

Berneray - Leverburgh (Loch Portain)

First sailing delayed by almost 90 minutes. Further sailings to be reviewed.

Mallaig - Armadale (Lochnevis)

0840 ex Mallaig cancelled. Afternoon sailing to be reviewed at 1500

Mallaig - Small Isles (Lochnevis)

Today's sailing is cancelled

Oban - Craignure (Isle of Mull)

Sailings disrupted this morning, with the vessel remaining alongside at Craignure until 1100. 1800 ex Oban and 1900 ex Craignure also cancelled

Oban - Colonsay (Isle of Mull)

Sailing cancelled for today. Next sailing as per schedule on Monday at 1200

21/02/08 **Clansman** left Birkenhead around 0930 this morning and is bound for Uig. She will be relieving **Hebrides** on the Uig services, while the latter heads away for her own overhaul - due 25th or 26th February. She was passing out of the Irish Sea at 1845 as she passed the Mull of Galloway.

Elsewhere in the network the weather has turned and there have been the following disruptions:

WESTERN ISLES

Oban - Barra - S. Uist (Lord of the Isles)

Service cancelled for today. Next sailing will depart Oban 1530 on Saturday, heading for Barra (2050) and Lochboisdale (2255). The vessel will then return to Oban via Barra on Sunday morning in time to take the scheduled sailing back to the Outer Isles in the afternoon.

Kennacraig - Islay (Isle of Arran)

Due to technical problems with the vessel, the 0945 ex Kennacraig and 1400 ex Islay are cancelled. The vessel sailed as scheduled at 1720 ex Kennacraig

Lochaline - Fishnish (Loch Alann)

The service was suspended for a good part of the day

Ullapool - Stornoway (Isle of Lewis)

The 1345 ex Stornoway and 1715 ex Ullapool were cancelled

Ullapool - Stornoway (Muirneag)

Overnight sailing cancelled

Mallaig - Small Isles (Lochnevis)

Sailing cancelled for today

Mallaig - Armadale (Lochnevis)

Afternoon sailing cancelled

Sconser - Raasay (Loch Striven)

1000 ex Raasay and 1030 ex Sconser cancelled. All remaining sailings operating on a sailing-by-sailing basis

Barra - Eriskay (Loch Tarbert)

Service cancelled for today

Berneray - Leverburgh (Loch Portain)

Sailings cancelled for today.

Fionnphort - Iona (Loch Buie)

Service suspended from mid-afternoon onwards

CLYDE

Ardrossan - Brodick (Caledonian Isles)

The vessel will berth in Brodick overnight tonight. As a result the 0700 ex Ardrossan tomorrow is cancelled.

20/02/08 **Isle of Cumbrae** was out and about again today on the Upper Clyde. She was spotted passing Toward Point and looked to be heading for the Kyles of Bute. She was, however, back at the inner berth at Rothesay this evening



Isle of Cumbrae off Toward

19/02/08 **Isle of Cumbrae** was out on trials in the Kyles of Bute today. She made it nearly as far as Rhubodach before testing her inflatable liferaft and then headed for Gourrock and an overnight berth.



Isle of Cumbrae in the Kyles



Loch Dunvegan the other way round

Loch Dunvegan was spotted sailing the opposite way round to normal today, berthing stern-first at Rhubodach and bow-first at Colintraive

18/02/08 **Loch Bhrusda** is now noted as being on the slip at Ardmaleish alongside **Isle of Cumbrae**.

It appears to be a case of 'Fog on the Clyde' today as the **Loch Riddon** was fogbound at Tarbert this lunchtime and was unable to sail to Lochranza. **Loch Dunvegan** is also reported to be affected, along with **Bute** and **Coruisk**. The current situation (1355) shows **Coruisk** running approx 20 minutes late and **Bute** around 10 late.



Loch Bhrusda at Ardmaleish

16/02/08 There was a convoy heading for Port Ellen this morning. **Hebridean Isles** sailed an normal at 0700, with **Isle of Arran** following close behind. The recently overhauled **Isle of Arran** waited outside Port Ellen bay while her fleetmate discharged and reloaded, before berthing at 1010 after the other vessel had sailed for Kennacraig.



IoA and Heb Isles off Port Ellen

15/02/08 **Isle of Arran** took advantage of the glorious weather today and diverted via the Skye Bridge, Kylerhea narrows and the Sound of Sleat, following in the wake of **Lochnevis** from Mallaig to Muck. She was spotted by SoC off Eigg at around 1215. She then passed Craignure at 1430, just ahead of **Lord of**



Isle of Arran passing Lochnevis at Eigg



IoA passing Eigg and heading for the Sound of Mull

the Isles and arrived back at Kennacraig at around 1930.

14/02/08 **Isle of Arran** left Aberdeen today after completing sea trials. She will now make her way back to Islay ready to resume the two-ship service with consort **Hebridean Isles**. She is due to resume with the 0945 ex Port Ellen on Sunday morning.

Loch Tarbert has reached Barra and has taken over the service to Eriskay, allowing **Loch Bhrusda** to head down to the Clyde for her overhaul.

13/02/08 **Clansman** has been moved out of dry dock on the Mersey and is now in wet dock while her overhaul is completed.

12/02/08 **CLYDE:**

Argyle was moved back into JWD following her overhaul.

WESTERN ISLES:

Raasay left her relief stint on the Gigha run this morning and made her way back up to Oban where she will lie until taking over from **Eigg** on the Lismore run.

11/02/08 **Loch Fyne** left Kennacraig this morning and rounded the Mull of Kintyre. She arrived at Largs in glorious sunshine at 1645 and unloaded crew cars before tying up on the outside face of the pier. Her route took her up the east side of Arran during the course of this afternoon, as opposed to the preferred route of the smaller Lochs, via the Kilbrannan Sound



Fyne off Largs...



Loch

...and passing Loch Shira

She will head for Garvel tomorrow and is due to enter the dry dock with **Bute** at 1300.

10/02/08 **Loch Fyne** sailed from Mull at 0800 this morning. She headed via the Sound of Jura to Kennacraig, arriving at around 1630. She will make for the Clyde tomorrow.

Loch Tarbert left Lochaline early this morning and headed out past Ardnamurchan on the way to Barra, however a technical problem saw her return to Lochaline. She will make another attempt to get to Barra within 36 hours. **Loch Alann** was also reported to be suffering a slight problem on the Lochaline - Fishnish run this morning, however this appears to have been fixed by the 1600 ex Lochaline.

Lord of the Isles carried out an additional sailing at 0900 to Colonsay in lieu of Friday's cancelled 1000 sailing by **Isle of Mull**.

09/02/08 **Loch Tarbert**, having moved to Campbeltown in the last few days, set off from the Kintyre harbour at 0930 this morning. She proceeded via the Sound of Jura and berthed at Lochaline west pier at 2130 this evening.

Loch Portain was delayed on her first sailing by about 35 minutes this morning

08/02/08 **CLYDE:**

Wemyss Bay - Rothesay (Bute, Coruisk)

Service is resumed on this route following the end of crippling strike action, however services were diverted to Gourock this morning due to the weather.

Ardrossan - Brodick (Caledonian Isles)

0700 ex Ardrossan ran late and then the 0820 ex Brodick and 0945 ex Ardrossan were cancelled altogether

WESTERN ISLES:

Barra - Eriskay (Loch Bhrosda)

First return sailing was cancelled due to the weather

Oban - Barra - S. Uist (Lord of the Isles)

The vessel left Lochboisdale 4 hours later today due to the weather

Oban - Colonsay (Isle of Mull)

No service today. **Lord of the Isles** will carry out an extra sailing on Sunday at 0900.

Tayinloan - Gigha (Loch Ranza)

Service was suspended due to the weather

Fionnphort - Iona (Loch Buie)

Service was off this morning but was reported to be back on as of 1315.

Ullapool - Stornoway (Isle of Lewis)

Morning sailing was cancelled. The 1345 ex Stornoway left 15 minutes late

Ullapool - Stornoway Freight (Muirneag)

Tonight's sailing is cancelled

Oban - Lismore (Eigg)

The 0845 ex Oban was unable to berth at Lismore slipway and was forced to return to Oban. The 1445 was however successful.

Berneray - Leverburgh (Loch Portain)

First two sailings were cancelled this morning

Sconser - Raasay (Loch Striven)

All morning sailings and the 1230/1315 were cancelled. Service resumed thereafter.

Mallaig - Armadale (Lochnevis)

Morning sailing cancelled. Afternoon sailing to be reviewed

Mallaig - Small Isles (Lochnevis)

Sailing cancelled today

Kennacraig - Islay (Hebridean Isles)

The 0700 ex Kennacraig was diverted to Port Askaig



**Coruisk heading from
Gourock to Rothesay**

06/02/08 **Loch Alann** relieved **Loch Fyne** on the Lochaline - Fishnish run this morning. The latter left Lochaline at 0945 and made for Craignure (arriving 1020) while **Loch Alann** settled in to her latest relief duty. Ironically this was of course the route for which she was originally intended...though we all know what happened 11 years ago!



Loch Fyne with Loch Alann at Fishnish...



...and joined by Isle of Mull at Craignure

05/02/08 **Coruisk** and **Argyle** were playing musical berths today. The former was required to vacate JWD to allow room for other vessels emerging from Garvel. She moved to the wires while **Argyle** was displaced to Custom House Quay in Greenock. **Coruisk** should of course be in service running to Bute but is being prevented from doing so by the Council strike by Argyll and Bute staff.



Coruisk leaving JWD



Argyle at CHQ

04/02/08 **CLYDE:**

Wemyss Bay - Rothesay (Bute, Coruisk)

Due to yet more strikes by Argyll and Bute pier staff, there will be no sailings on this service today, tomorrow, Wednesday or Thursday. ALL traffic for Bute must use the Colintrave - Rhubodach route.

Gourock - Dunoon (Jupiter)

Sailings crunning approx 30 minutes late



Loch Tarbert at Ardmaleish

Loch Tarbert was put back in the water after finishing her overhaul at Ardmaleish today. The photo right shows this process, with **Isle of Cumbrae** still on the slip and receiving a thorough paint job. **Loch Tarbert** was unable to proceed to Rothesay as she normally would, due to the pier strike mentioned above. Instead she moved to Gourock and berthed at the wires, along from **Argyle**.

WESTERN ISLES:

Barra - Eriskay (Loch Bhrosda)

First sailing cancelled this morning.

Oban - Barra - S. Uist (Lord of the Isles)

Vessel left Lochboisdale 70 minutes late due to the weather. After leaving Castlebay, **Lord of the Isles** is then reported to have sailed in the shelter of Canna and was reported to be running 3 hours late.

Fionnphort - Iona (Loch Buie)

The 0610 ex Iona was cancelled this morning due to technical reasons

Updated: Service suspended as of 1050. Will be reviewed at 1200

Updated again: Last sailing for today was at 1615

Berneray - Leverburgh (Loch Portain)

0725 ex Berneray was delayed until 0845. Normal service resumed on return to Berneray at 1100.

Sconser - Raasay (Loch Striven)

0800 ex Raasay and 0830 ex Sconser were cancelled due to the weather. Service today is operating on a sailing by sailing basis.

Oban - Colonsay (Isle of Mull)

Sailing is cancelled today due to the weather. Next sailing will be 1200 on Wednesday as per timetable.

Oban - Craignure (Isle of Mull)

1600 ex Oban will depart 70 minutes late due to technical problems and weather-related delays. Departure from Craignure expected to be at 1800.

Ullapool - Stornoway (Isle of Lewis)

1030 ex Ullapool and 1345 ex Stornoway cancelled. Vessel will return to timetable at 1715 with departure from Ullapool as normal.

03/02/08 **Loch Alann** has arrived at Craignure where she will berth overnight. She is expected to go up to Lochaline and Fishnish for trials tomorrow. It is believed at this time that **Loch Fyne** will leave for the Clyde on Tuesday sometime.

CLYDE:

Ardrossan - Brodick (Caledonian Isles)

Vessel diverted to Gourock with the delayed 1350 ex Brodick. The 1515 and 1800 ex Ardrossan, as well as the 1640 ex Brodick being cancelled as a result.

Updated: 1920 ex Brodick cancelled. Weather permitting there will be an extra sailing at 0530 tomorrow.

Wemyss Bay - Rothesay (Bute)

Vessel was diverted to Gourock with the 0800 ex Rothesay. Sailings to Wemyss Bay resumed on a single-ship basis with the 1345 ex Rothesay.

Updated: Service suspended at 1800

Gourock - Dunoon (Jupiter)

Vessel was stormbound at Gourock and missed the 0920 and 1020 ex Gourock

Largs - Cumbrae Slip (Loch Shira)

The vessel remained at Fairlie until early afternoon to avoid the weather. Service to Cumbrae resumed at 1445 and was on a sailing by sailing basis.

Updated: Last sailing was at 1900

Tarbert - Portavadie (Loch Riddon)

1715 ex Tarbert and 1745 ex Portavadie were cancelled

Colintraive - Rhubodach (Loch Dunvegan)

Sailings were cancelled from 1800

WESTERN ISLES:

Tayinloan - Gigha (Loch Ranza)

Services from tomorrow will be operating to and from Kennacraig until further notice. Departures from Gigha 0730, 1130 and 1500, returning from Kennacraig at 0915, 1315 and 1635. Bookings are essential for



Bute returning from Gourock



Loch Dunvegan off service

this service. Contact Kennacraig office for more info.

Sconser - Raasay (Loch Striven)

Morning sailings cancelled.

Kennacraig - Islay (Hebridean Isles)

Vessel running late on the sailing to Port Askaig this afternoon. Arrived on Islay 1550 and left at 1630. The 1800 ex Kennacraig is cancelled, as is tomorrow's 0415 inward sailing.

02/02/08 CLYDE:

Coruisk appeared in Rothesay today after returning from King George V dock in Glasgow. She undertook berthing trials at both Wemyss Bay and Rothesay before heading back up to JWD for the night. She is expected to re-enter service with the 1215 ex Rothesay tomorrow, while **Argyle** is away for her first overhaul.



Bute in the snow



Coruisk in Rothesay

01/02/08 CLYDE:

Loch Shira left JWD earlier this morning and made her way down the Clyde to Largs, where she resumed service to Cumbrae at 1215. **Loch Alann** left Largs at around 1230 and is making her way via the Kilbrannan Sound to Campbeltown for an overnight berth.

Wemyss Bay - Rothesay (Argyle, Bute)

Due to strike action by Argyll and Bute Council staff, no sailings to Rothesay will operate today. This is due to be repeated on Monday as well.

Ardrossan - Brodick (Caledonian Isles)

The vessel is *still* stormbound in Brodick this morning. All services up to 1300 are cancelled and a decision is due at 1345 regarding running a delayed 1350 sailing.

Updated: **Caledonian Isles** finally left Brodick at 1510 bound for Ardrossan

Gourock - Dunoon (Jupiter)

The vessel is basically running a reverse timetable at present (1320). Due to volume of traffic and weather conditions she is running 30 minutes late which sees her leaving Dunoon at xx20, when she would normally be leaving Gourock.

WESTERN ISLES:

Oban - Barra - S. Uist (Lord of the Isles)

Yesterday's sailing, postponed to this morning, left Oban at 1110 and will sail to Barra only. The next service to Lochboisdale will be as per timetable on Sunday.

Oban - Colonsay (Isle of Mull)

The service is cancelled for today. The next sailing will be at 1400 tomorrow on **Isle of Mull**. We therefore expect **Lord of the Isles** to sail to Mull with the 1600 after returning from Coll and Tiree.

Kennacraig - Islay (Hebridean Isles)

The vessel was over an hour late this morning due to weather conditions and volume of traffic. She left Islay at 1100 on a delayed 0945 inward sailing.



Argyle, Loch Shira and Jupiter at Gourock

Tayinloan - Gigha (Loch Ranza)

Service suspended for the day

Fionnphort - Iona (Loch Buie)

Service suspended and to be reviewed at 1300.

Updated: Last sailing of the day will be at 1615

Ullapool - Stornoway (Isle of Lewis)

The 1030 ex Ullapool is running approx 2.5 hrs late. Loading commenced at 1245 with the vessel due to sail as soon as boarding was completed. Once back in Stornoway she will remain there overnight as the 1345 ex Stornoway and 1715 ex Ullapool are cancelled.

Ullapool - Stornoway (Muirneag)

A decision will be made later this afternoon regarding tonight's sailing

Updated: **Muirneag** will not be sailing tonight

Berneray - Leverburgh (Loch Portain)

The 0800 ex Berneray has been put back to 1130, with the 0920 ex Leverburgh put back to 1230. Normal timetable will resume upon return to Berneray.

Mallaig - Small Isles (Lochnevis)

The service to Eigg and Muck has been cancelled for today.

DATE	NEWS
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31/03/08 **CLYDE:**

Loch Riddon left Largs this afternoon and made her way over to Rothesay for reasons yet to be clarified.

Caledonian Isles is spending tonight in Brodick, due to adverse weather. Tomorrow's first sailing will be the 0820 from Brodick. Just a reminder, for all disruptions information please see both CalMac's service status page on the link above and also our Forum disruptions section [here](#).



Loch Riddon in Rothesay Bay

23/03/08 **CLYDE:**

Jupiter was off until 1520 today due to a technical problem. **Saturn** stepped in from 1020 and kept the Dunoon service running during this period.

WESTERN ISLES:

Isle of Lewis carried out an unscheduled additional sailing to Ullapool and back today following the cancellations over the last few days.

21/03/08 **WESTERN ISLES:**

Summer timetable commenced this morning. **Clansman** completed her inward sailing at 0500 this morning and then sailed as scheduled back to Coll and Tiree at 0600. **Lord of the Isles** joined **Isle of Mull** on the Oban - Craignure run to clear the backlog caused by yesterday's cancelled sailings. At one point, all three vessels were passing each other between Duart Castle and Lismore lighthouse - an unusual sight indeed! **Lord of the Isles** returned to her normal duties this evening with the 1700 to Colonsay and back.

Coruisk and **Lochnevis** were both stormbound in Mallaig during this afternoon and **Isle of Lewis** and **Muirneag** have had their sailings cancelled too.

Loch Buie has been running to an hourly timetable this afternoon, xx45 from Fionnphort and xx00 from Iona due to the weather. **Hebrides** was running late due to the weather.

CLYDE:

Argyle had to divert one of her sailings to Gourock, meanwhile **Saturn** continued using Wemyss Bay. **Bute** then ran trials this afternoon before taking over from **Saturn** on the Rothesay service. **Saturn** is now back at Rosneath.

20/03/08 Heavy weather was causing problems today. Having moved from Craignure to Oban ready to take the Outer Isles service, **Lord of the Isles** became stormbound at Oban pier, with **Isle of Mull** joining her at the other berth. **Clansman** had to divert her return sailing from Coll and Tiree to Craignure and she will be spending the night there. The delayed sailing will leave Craignure at 0415 tomorrow morning to be in Oban for 0500. The next Outer Isles sailing will be **Clansman's** 1340 tomorrow for Barra. For South Uist traffic, **Loch Alann** will make an additional connecting sailing to Eriskay tomorrow evening.

19/03/08 **Saturn** left Rosneath at around 1000 this morning and made for Rothesay. She picked up the Wemyss Bay roster with the 1145 sailing from Rothesay, displacing **Coruisk**. With **Saturn** now sailing to Bute, vehicles are having to load and discharge via her stern ramp due to the old side-loading linkspan being removed. Here is a series of photos of **Saturn** back on the Bute run:



Saturn back in service on her original route

Isle of Cumbrae sailed from Gourock this morning and made for Lochranza where she relieved **Loch Riddon** on the Tarbert - Portavadie/Lochranza run at 1345. **Loch Riddon** then made for JWD where she arrived at 1715 for ramp repairs. The following pictures were taken during the course of the day:



Isle of Cumbrae changing with Loch Riddon, and the latter entering JWD

Loch Tarbert left Largs during today, presumably for Ardmaleish for repairs, before returning to Lochranza this evening. She was spotted emerging from the Kyles of Bute at 1700, making for Arran.

Coruisk in turn set sail down the Clyde, passing Brodick at around 1245. She is spending tonight in Craignure after rounding the Mull of Kintyre and passing through the Sound of Islay. She was seen passing by Port Askaig as the light faded this evening.



Coruisk in the Sound of Islay

18/03/08 It appears that **Bute** will not be ready to re-enter service in time to allow **Coruisk** to head away north, so **Saturn** is to put in an appearance on the Wemyss Bay - Rothesay run from tomorrow, partnering **Argyle**.

17/03/08 **Loch Tarbert** appeared in Largs this afternoon. We understand she is in need of a minor repair prior to re-entering service on the Kilbrannan Sound on Friday.

Isle of Cumbrae has arrived in Gourrock from Rosneath, ending her winter lay-up. We expect her to relieve **Loch Riddon** later this week.



Loch Tarbert with Loch Shira



Loch Tarbert at Largs pier

16/03/08 **Loch Riddon** has suffered a technical problem with her bow ramp (the one she uses at Tarbert in the winter and at Cumbrae Slip in the summer). She is currently sailing single ended with vehicles reversing on. The picture to the right shows her 'wrong way round' at Tarbert this evening.

Loch Portain arrived at Largs at 1125 this morning and unloaded crew cars. She then left at 1140 as Loch Shira approached, bound for JWD in Greenock. She cautiously entered the wet dock at around 1330, berthing in front of Bute.



Loch Riddon at Tarbert



Loch Portain today: with Loch Shira off Largs, passing Dunoon and at JWD

15/03/08 **WESTERN ISLES:**

Hebrides appears to be having a few technical issues following her return from overhaul. Her Lochmaddy and Tarbert sailings are delayed today by approx one hour.

Loch Portain spent last night in Oban and was noted at 0920 in the Gulf of Corryvreckan as she continued her journey to the Clyde. She is spending tonight in Campbeltown.

CLYDE:

Bute is now back in JWD for completion of her overhaul. She is expected to return to service in the next few days to allow **Coruisk** to return to her summer role as Mallaig - Armadale ferry.

14/03/08 **Lord of the Isles** came off duty after returning from the Outer Isles this afternoon. Her place on the winter roster is taken by **Clansman** for the remaining week before the summer timetable starts. **Lord of the Isles** is now berthed at the south side of Craignure pier.

Loch Portain left Berneray at 0900 this morning bound for the Clyde and her annual overhaul - the last of the Lochs to go south. **Loch Bhrosda** is taking all Sound of Harris sailings in the meantime. We think **Loch Portain** is spending tonight either at Tobermory or Lochaline West Pier.

13/03/08 **Hebrides** is back in service on the Uig - Tarbert - Lochmaddy run and **Clansman** will now make her way back to Oban to take over from **Lord of the Isles**.

12/03/08 **CLYDE:**

Hebrides was seen on Brodick's webcam at the berth early this morning. She sailed from Brodick at around 0830 this morning bound for berthing trials in Oban. She passed through the Sound of Islay mid afternoon and was off Port Askaig at 1430.



Hebrides en route for Oban...



...and approaching Port Askaig

WESTERN ISLES:

Isle of Mull missed her first sailings to Craignure and eventually sailed at 1100. Upon returning from Craignure she then sailed at 1325 for Colonsay, however she was unable to berth and returned to Oban. For full details of disruptions encountered today, click [HERE](#) for the relevant page on the SoC Forum

11/03/08 **Isle of Arran** had her 1800 ex Islay cancelled this evening. An additional sailing is planned for tomorrow morning, however the weather may see this amended.

CLYDE:

Hebrides left JWD at 1415 this afternoon for trials off Gourrock. She then made her way down the Clyde to Brodick for an overnight berth. She will sail onwards for the Western Isles tomorrow morning.

Click [HERE](#) to see Forum member Robster the Lobster's photos of the vessel arriving at Brodick.



Hebrides heading down the Clyde...



...and passing the Cumbrae war memorial

09/03/08 **Loch Tarbert** completed her journey back to the Clyde today. She left Craighouse on Jura at 0600 this morning and made her way directly round the Mull of Kintyre to Lochranza. She will now lie there idle until the start of the summer timetable on Good Friday.

Hebridean Isles again sailed for Port Askaig this evening instead of Port Ellen on the 1800 ex Kennacraig. She carried out a sailing

straight back to Kennacraig instead of waiting until 0415 in the morning. She will therefore pick up the roster with the 0700 tomorrow morning.

Isle of Arran left Port Askaig at 0945 for Kennacraig. She then sailed at 1230 for Craignure for a sheltered overnight berth, due to the forecasted overnight gales. She arrived at Craignure later this afternoon.



Loch Tarbert returning to Arran



Isle of Arran lying at Craignure

08/03/08 **Loch Tarbert** sailed from Craignure at 0730 bound initially for Port Askaig, however her destination was amended to Craighouse, where she arrived at 1630. **Lochnevis** made an additional call at Muck today at 1355, before making for Eigg (1430) and Mallaig with stranded traffic. **Lord of the Isles'** 0645 sailing to Coll and Tiree was delayed this morning due to loading problems which involved the vessel putting back to the berth after her first departure. **Isle of Arran** diverted her sailing to Port Askaig this evening. She is lying there until 0945 tomorrow when she will return to Kennacraig.



Loch Bhrusda at Rhubodach to pick up crew cars



Caledonian Isles heading from Gourock to Brodick

CLYDE:

Caledonian Isles diverted her 0820 ex Brodick sailing to Gourock. After reloading she then left for Brodick again at 1105. Normal service resumed with the 1350 to Ardrossan.

Loch Bhrusda left Rothesay this morning and called in at Rhubodach to collect crew cars before setting off for relief in the Western Isles. She is heading for the Sound of Harris to relieve the **Loch Portain**.

07/03/08 **Loch Tarbert** left Eriskay at 0845 this morning and crossed the Minch. She arrived at Craignure for an overnight berth at 1830.

Hebridean Isles diverted her 1800 sailing to Port Askaig and then carried out a return sailing to Kennacraig, instead of waiting until 0415 tomorrow morning. She berthed tonight at Kennacraig with **Isle of Arran**.

Lochnevis again missed her call at Muck today.

CLYDE:

Loch Shira sailed for Gourock tonight for a more sheltered overnight berth.

06/03/08 **Loch Alainn** is now back in service on the Barra - Eriskay run, having taken over from **Loch Tarbert** today. **Loch Tarbert** is spending tonight at Eriskay's inner berth.

Advance notice has been given for a timetable change tomorrow (Fri 7th March) - the 1815 Eriskay - Barra sailing will be delayed by one hour, awaiting a Barra school party returning from Stornoway.

05/03/08 **Loch Bhrusda** again left Rothesay harbour this morning and we understand that she relieved **Loch Dunvegan** for a very spell on the Colintraive - Rhubodach run, finishing at 0915 before returning to Rothesay at 1020. As yet we do not know the reason for this relief trip.



Hebrides back in JWD with Bute in the dry dock

Hebrides has left Garvel dry dock and is now back in JWD having her overhaul finished off. **Bute** meanwhile has moved into the dry dock to commence her own overhaul.

Loch Fyne is now back in service on the Lochaline - Fishnish service. **Loch Alainn** will now continue her journey to Barra.

Lochnevis missed her call at Muck due to the weather today.

04/03/08 **Loch Bhrusda** was spotted out and about on trials this morning. She ventured into the eastern kyle before returning to the inner berth at Rothesay

03/03/08 **Loch Fyne** left Port Askaig at 0715 this morning and made her way through the Sound of Islay and up through the Firth of Lorn. She was heading back to Craignure for an overnight berth, where she will lie until Wednesday morning. She will then resume service, taking over from **Loch Alainn**.



Loch Fyne leaving Port Askaig...



...and heading out into the Sound of Islay

02/03/08 **Loch Fyne** left JWD again today and this time went down to Largs where she lay off before loading crew cars. She then left and made for Port Askaig, arriving at 2130. See below for a selection of photos her en route:



Loch Fyne today: with Loch Shira off Largs and alongside at Port Askaig

01/03/08 **Raasay** is now noted running on the Oban - Lismore service. **Eigg** is up at Corpach undergoing her annual overhaul

Things seem to have calmed down with most of the network running as per timetable, however there were one or two routes suffering at the hands of the weather:

Largs - Cumbrae Slip - Loch Shira went up to Gourock again tonight for shelter

Ballycastle - Rathlin - Canna saw some of her sailings cancelled

DATE	NEWS
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30/04/08	Loch Tarbert's work which required dry docking finished today and she moved round into JWD for finishing off.
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Loch Tarbert in JWD

28/04/08 **Loch Riddon** left Largs at 0600 this morning heading for Lochranza. She is spending few days covering for **Loch Tarbert** on the Claonaig - Lochranza run while the latter receives some attention in Garvel dry dock. It is thought that she will be back in Largs for the weekend. In the meantime, **Loch Shira** will be sailing solo on the Cumbrae crossing.



Loch Riddon at Claonaig

13/04/08 **Loch Bhrusda** returned to Rosneath this afternoon after calling in at Largs to drop crew cars off

12/04/08 **Loch Bhrusda** gave the residents of Craignure an early wake-up call this morning when she set sail at 0530 for Campbeltown.

11/04/08 **Loch Bhrusda** has started her journey back to the Clyde. She is spending tonight at Craignure pier in the company of **Isle of Mull**

10/04/08 **Loch Portain** left Lochaline at 0700 this morning and completed her return journey to Berneray to relieve the **Loch Bhrusda**.
Raasay also arrived back in Oban to resume her role as spare small vessel

09/04/08 **Loch Portain** left Largs this morning and made her way out to Lochaline's steamer pier for an overnight berth.
Canna returned south from Corpach to Rathlin today following repairs on the slip

08/04/08 **Loch Portain** left Greenock at around 1330 bound for Largs, where she arrived at 1525 and berthed at the outer face of the pier. It appears she required further work following her overhaul as she was still there at 1900 this evening.



Loch Portain and Loch Riddon at Largs

07/04/08 **Loch Portain** was out on trials today before returning to JWD. She is expected to leave the Clyde tomorrow on her return journey to Harris.

Lord of the Isles was noted running 40 minutes late as she passed through the Sound of Mull this morning on her way out to Coll and Tiree. The delay was due to a strong northerly wind and the fact that she was also going against the tide.

Eigg carried out a fuel run today from Oban to Craignure. She left Mull at approx 1155



Lord of the Isles off Rubh na Gall



Eigg approaching Craignure

03/04/08 **Canna** is now heading for Oban to be repaired. **Raasay** is taking over the role of Rathlin ferry in the absence of the regular vessel.

Loch Portain is now in JWD having her annual overhaul finished. It is thought she will be out on trials during Monday and then she will be heading north to resume her regular duties in the Sound of Harris, allowing **Loch Bhrusda** to return to Rosneath as spare vessel.

Loch Riddon is noted back in Largs today after her recent visit to Rothesay. She was there to shelter from the predicted bad weather on the night **Loch Shira** went up to Gourock. She can be seen in the photo to the right, behind the pier while **Loch Shira** is at the slipway.



Loch Shira and Loch Riddon at Largs

02/04/08 It would appear that **Canna** has succumbed to a technical fault. The service to and from Rathlin was cancelled today. **Raasay** set sail from Oban this morning and is due to arrive at Rathlin at around 2230 this evening. She will relieve **Canna** tomorrow morning to allow the stricken vessel to be repaired.

DATE	NEWS
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29/05/08	For the first time in several months, both Rothesay ferries were able to stay overnight at the pier on Bute. Argyle lay at the old side-loading berth, minus linkspan while Bute lay at the new loading berth. As a result the timetable has returned to normal and the 1815 sailing no longer goes to Gourock.
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Rothesay pier tonight

26/05/08 Heavy traffic delayed **Caledonian Isles** today, though given that it was the Bank Holiday weekend this was not a great surprise. In the Western Isles the **Lochnevis** had to carry out an extra sailing to Eigg this evening to bring back extra passengers who could get onto the inward sailing earlier in the afternoon.

22/05/08 **Ali Cat** covered for **Saturn** on the Gourock - Dunoon run this morning for the 0920 sailing, due to the Streaker suffering from a burst pipe.

17/05/08 **Clansman** called in at Craignure on her way out to Barra this afternoon. This was to drop off a passenger who had boarded her thinking she was the ferry to Mull.

12/05/08 **Jupiter** came off the Dunoon service today and proceeded to Garvel to commence her annual overhaul. **Saturn** stepped in to relieve her older sister for the 1420 sailing to Dunoon.



Saturn and Jupiter at Gourock

11/05/08 Musical ferries today as **Loch Buie** sailed from Oban direct to Fionnphort in order to resume her normal duties. This freed **Loch Linnhe** to head around the north end of Mull, back to Tobermory, passing **Clansman** in the northern end of the Sound of Mull. **Raasay** in turn returned to Oban



Loch Linnhe returning to Tobermory



Raasay returning to Oban as spare vessel

10/05/08 **Loch Buie** had her repairs completed today and returned to Oban for an overnight berth, arriving at 1830.



Loch Buie in Oban Bay

08/05/08 **Hebridean Isles** saw her 1300 sailing ex Kennacraig diverted to Port Ellen today. This was due to the Port Askaig berth being obstructed by the broken-down *Eilean Dhuira*.

06/05/08 **Loch Buie** set sail from Craignure this morning bound for Corpach. While she is there she will receive repairs to cracks in her stern ramp.

05/05/08 **Loch Linnhe** left Craignure this morning and is now in service on the Fionnphort - Iona route. **Loch Buie** made her way to Craignure and arrived there this evening. She will sail for Corpach tomorrow morning.

Argyle was delayed during her refuelling period this lunchtime. Her 1215 ex Wemyss Bay was 25 minutes late, holding up **Bute** in the process. **Argyle** continued to get later through the afternoon and rather than passing off Toward Point, the two ships were seen passing in Rothesay Bay (well caught Zak!!)



Argyle passing Bute in Rothesay Bay

04/05/08 It appears that **Loch Buie** has suffered some sort of ramp defect. She is to be relieved tomorrow by **Loch Linnhe** which is spending tonight at Craignure. **Raasay** earlier made her way from Oban to Tobermory and will take the Kilchoan sailings from tomorrow.

DATE NEWS

25/06/08 **WESTERN ISLES:**

Isle of Mull was reported to be running approximately half an hour late this morning due to a problem encountered while at Craignure

CLYDE:

Loch Bhrusda left Ardmaleish this afternoon and proceeded north to her lay up berth at Rosneath. While on the slip on Bute she was fitted with AIS equipment.



Loch Bhrusda passing Bute en route for Rosneath

19/06/08 **WESTERN ISLES:**

Loch Fyne was suffering from technical problems for a while today although she returned to service this afternoon. Elsewhere, **Loch Ranza** was also off service for a while this morning with technical issues although she too appears to have returned to service.

17/06/08 **CLYDE:**

Loch Bhrusda left Rothesay at 0945 heading north to Ardmaleish where she went straight onto the slip for repairs.



Loch Bhrusda on Ardmaleish slip

16/06/08 **CLYDE:**

Loch Bhrusda arrived at Rothesay this afternoon following her journey round the Mull of Kintyre. She will spend the night alongside the pier before heading up to Ardmaleish tomorrow

15/06/08 **WESTERN ISLES:**

With **Loch Alainn** now back in service on the Sound of Barra, **Loch Bhrusda** is making her way back to the Clyde. She arrived in Oban at 1135 for fuel etc and will be spending tonight at Port Askaig.

Update: **Loch Bhrusda** arrived at Port Askaig around 1700 as seen in the photos below...

CLYDE:

Loch Shira was off service for a while this afternoon due to a steering problem, leaving **Loch Riddon** to carry out Cumbrae sailings alone. The larger vessel was back in service from 1645.



Loch Riddon in single service at Largs



Loch Bhrusda arriving at Port Askaig this evening for an overnight berth

13/06/08 **WESTERN ISLES:**

Loch Alainn was observed in Loch Linnhe while out on trials today. She then left Corpach again later this evening bound for an overnight berth, presumably at either Craignure or Lochaline steamer pier.

12/06/08 **WESTERN ISLES:**

The Barra - Eriskay service was subject to disruption today from 1015 as the **Loch Bhrusda** was suffering from technical difficulties. Elsewhere in the network, **Loch Tarbert** returned from JWD to her base at Lochranza this afternoon and thus allowed **Loch Riddon** to return to Largs, where she arrived c1645.

Hebridean Isles saw her 1300 service to Islay diverted to Port Ellen this afternoon due to power issues affecting Port Askaig. She arrived at Port Ellen at 1520 and left at 1545.



Loch Riddon returning to Largs

11/06/08 **WESTERN ISLES:**

Strong tidal conditions appear to have been causing problems for **Clansman** through today. Her 1850 ex Castlebay didn't in fact leave until around 2300, as seen on ShipAIS.

09/06/08 **CLYDE:**

Loch Riddon left Largs early this morning and proceeded to Lochranza where she is now in service on the secondary Arran route. **Loch Tarbert** then made for JWD and was observed passing Wemyss Bay on her way north. With **Loch Riddon** away from her summer base and **Loch Bhrusda** otherwise engaged in the Western Isles, **Loch Shira** is currently providing a half-hourly timetable on her own.



Loch Tarbert en route for Gourock

08/06/08 **WESTERN ISLES:**

Loch Alainn left Tobermory around 0900 and made for Corpach. She called in at Lochaline to drop off crew cars en route and was spotted approaching the Corran Narrows early this afternoon. She is now moored at the pier adjacent to Corpach slip.

CLYDE:

It is anticipated that **Loch Tarbert** will hand over the Claonaig - Lochranza service in the next couple of days to **Loch Riddon** while she goes to Ardmaleish or Garvel for repairs of her own. More on this when we have it.

07/06/08 **CLYDE:**

Jupiter returned to service following her annual overhaul today, resuming with the 1020 ex Gourock. **Saturn** then came off duty and will next sail for Ardrossan ready to take up her summer role with the first sailing of the day on Monday morning.

WESTERN ISLES:

Loch Alainn left Barra today and is spending tonight at Tobermory as part of her journey to Corpach for repairs.



Jupiter and Saturn at Gourock yesterday

06/06/08 **WESTERN ISLES:**

Loch Bhrusda left Lochaline early this morning on the long haul out to Barra. It is expected she will not arrive until this evening as she only does 9 knots. We therefore expect **Loch Alainn** won't leave Barra until tomorrow.

05/06/08 **CLYDE:**

Loch Bhrusda set out from Arran this morning and is spending tonight at Lochaline's west pier in the Sound of Mull. She is expected to resume her journey first thing tomorrow and take over the Barra - Eriskay run in order to allow **Loch Alainn** to head for Corpach.

It would also appear that **Loch Tarbert** is experiencing technical issues at present as there is a warning of possible disruption on the Claonaig - Lochranza service. **Loch Riddon** may be heading over to Arran to cover in the near future - more on this when we have it.

04/06/08 **CLYDE:**

Loch Bhrusda emerged from her lay up berth at Rosneath today and made for Rothesay first of all before heading for Lochranza and an overnight berth in the company of **Loch Tarbert**. She is en route for Barra where she is to relieve the **Loch Alainn** which is in need of repairs.



Loch Bhrusda calling at Rothesay

02/06/08 **CLYDE:**

Jupiter emerged from Garvel dry dock today and was repositioned in JWD to have her annual overhaul completed. She is expected back in service in the next week to allow **Saturn** to go down to Ardrossan to commence her summer duties as second Arran vessel. These duties will now see her carry out up to four return sailings a day and she will be based overnight in Ardrossan.



Jupiter in JWD

WESTERN ISLES:

Loch Portain will see most of her lunchtime/early afternoon sailings cancelled this coming week due to predicted low tides.

01/06/08 CalMac were supposed to hand over the service from Ballycastle to Rathlin to a new company based in Ireland after the latter won the contract to operate the route. However the failure of the new company to secure the required passenger certificate or their vessel means that for the time being the **Canna** is continuing to operate the route on charter from CMAL.

DATE NEWS

26/07/08 With **Isle of Lewis** covering overnight duties for the **Muirneag**, today's timetabled sailings between Ullapool and Stornoway were subject to delays. The unfortunate freight ferry left Stornoway around 1640 bound for Aberdeen, presumably for dry docking and a damage inspection, though it is believed there was no damage to the vessel following her encounter with the local rocks.



Muirneag back alongside

25/07/08 The overnight freight run between Ullapool and Stornoway was disrupted this morning when **Muirneag** ran aground on the shore close to Lewis Castle, opposite her berth at the old pier in Stornoway harbour. A failure in the steering gear was the subject of initial speculation though an investigation is pending. **Isle of Lewis** is taking tonight's freight run.



Muirneag aground

24/07/08 **Bute** was spotted out on trials at lunchtime and she returned to service with the 1300 ex Wemyss Bay. **Saturn** was in service as her relief during the morning and then handed back to the regular vessel at Wemyss Bay this afternoon, before refuelling and heading down to Ardrossan to resume the Arran roster with the 1630 sailing.

23/07/08 **Bute** suffered technical problems on her 0845 ex Wemyss Bay this morning and was forced to sail over to Rothesay using only one azi-pod at an average speed of 8.5 knots. She then moved to the overnight berth where the old linkspan used to be and **Argyle** was forced to sail alone on a 50% frequency timetable for the remainder of the day. It was later announced that **Saturn** was to move north to her old haunts and cover for the stricken **Bute**. In the end she sailed from Ardrossan to Wemyss Bay for an overnight berth - a rare event these days!



Bute lying off service at Rothesay



Saturn lying alongside at Wemyss Bay

21/07/08 One of the Largs - Cumbrae Slip ferries, reportedly **Loch Shira**, was off service for a while today and **Loch Riddon** was called on to sail alone during the afternoon. The larger ferry, we understand, returned to service in the evening.

12/07/08 **Hebrides** was running late this evening following delays earlier in the day due to heavy traffic. She got away from Tarbert at 2020 and is expected into Uig at 2200.

11/07/08 **WESTERN ISLES:**

Isle of Lewis was running approximately 45 minutes late this evening as a result of traffic levels on the Ullapool - Stornoway route.

10/07/08 **CLYDE:**

Loch Bhrusda crossed the Clyde once again today on a short hop over to Rosneath where she resumed her role as spare ferry.

09/07/08 **CLYDE:**

Loch Bhrusda suffered problems with one of her ramps early this afternoon and was forced to sail single ended for a while. **Loch Riddon** was recalled early from Greenock to allow the relief vessel away, and resumed service alongside regular consort **Loch Shira**. **Loch Bhrusda** then left for Gourrock and an overnight berth at the wires. She was spotted passing Inverkip shortly after 2000.



Loch Bhrusda relieving for Loch Riddon on the Largs - Cumbrae run today

07/07/08 **CLYDE:**

Loch Bhrusda took over from **Loch Riddon** on the Largs - Cumbrae Slip second vessel roster today. **Loch Riddon** has gone up to Greenock for repairs to a ramp hinge.



Loch Bhrusda on Cumbrae relief service

03/07/08 **WESTERN ISLES:**

Hebridean Isles was out of service this morning. As a result the **Isle of Arran** left Islay on an unscheduled 0415 sailing in order to pick up the main roster with the 0700 sailing from Kennacraig to Port Ellen. It was noted that **Hebridean Isles** was back on duty for the 1300 sailing. **Isle of Arran** then left Kennacraig to return to Port Ellen to allow her to take her scheduled 1800 inward sailing.

02/07/08 **CLYDE:**

Loch Tarbert was unable to berth at Claonaig slipway this morning due to the weather conditions on her 0930 sailing from Lochranza. She was forced to return to Arran and then set sail for Tarbert at 1045, arriving as **Isle of Cumbrae** left at 1215. She then returned to Lochranza and the decision was taken to sail for Tarbert again with a final sailing back from Tarbert later in the afternoon.

Saturn was also off for a while this morning as her 0900 sailing from Ardrossan to Brodick was cancelled due to technical problems.

DATE NEWS

22/08/08 **Isle of Mull** came off the Oban - Craignure run at 1345 today and handed over the service to **Clansman** as of the 1400 sailing. The Mull ferry then left Oban at 1430 bound for Castlebay on a delayed 1340 sailing. This was to allow **Clansman** to carry out a cattle sales sailing to Tiree at 2000. Things didn't go according to plan however as the Mull sailings were fully booked and the vessel was forced to use her mezzanine deck which made her run late. The 1900 ex Craignure eventually left at 1950. **Isle of Mull** passed Tobermory at 1610, passing **Loch Linnhe** which slowed to allow her to overtake.



Isle of Mull approaching Tobermory



Isle of Mull heading out past Kilchoan

21/08/08 **Loch Bhrusda** came off the Largs - Cumbrae Slip run this afternoon and then made her way at 1535 north to Gourock where she is to lie at the wires berth until next needed. **Loch Riddon** arrived back in Largs 40 minutes after her relief cover departed.



Loch Bhrusda leaving for Gourock



Loch Riddon having arrived back at Largs

18/08/08 **Loch Riddon** left Gourock this morning and headed round to lie opposite Ardmaleish while the slipway was readied for her arrival. She was then slipped to have her leaking prop blade seal seen to.



Loch Riddon lying off Ardmaleish



Loch Riddon being slipped

16/08/08 **Loch Tarbert** was again diverted to Tarbert today. After completing her schedule as normal until 1035 she then sailed at 1200 for Tarbert, returning from the Kintyre port at 1400. This was then repeated with another round trip from Arran at 1545 and Kintyre at 1730.

15/08/08 **Loch Fyne** saw some extra curricular activity this afternoon when she was called upon to respond to a distress call. She was able to resume service from 1745.

12/08/08 **Loch Bhrusda** stirred again today and made her way from Gourock at 1300 to Largs where she arrived 90 minutes later. She is to spend the next few days covering for **Loch Riddon** which requires attention to some defective Voith blade seals. **Loch Bhrusda** commenced service with the 1500 ex Largs. **Loch Riddon** then made her way north to Gourock where she berthed at the wires.



Loch Riddon handing over to Loch Bhrusda and making for Gourock

09/08/08 **Loch Tarbert** was unable to berth at Claonaig with the 0815 ex Lochranza this morning and had to put back to Arran. Her 0930 sailing was consequently diverted to Tarbert. The return sailing left at 1145 and she reached her home base at 1325 and was able to resume her normal roster, albeit 10 minutes behind schedule.

08/08/08 **Lord of the Isles** was delayed by approx 45 minutes this evening on her Colonsay sailing. This was due to technical issues.

07/08/08 **Loch Bhrusda** moved from Rosneath to the wires at Gourock today as part of her spare vessel role.

04/08/08 **Isle of Lewis** was running late this afternoon due to problems with her bow visor. The 1345 ex Stornoway left at 1435 and the return leg from Ullapool left at 1810, almost an hour late.

03/08/08 **Caledonian Isles** was running approx 45 minutes late today due to an exceptionally low tide at Brodick on her first run of the morning. She was forced to lie off the pier until there was sufficient water to allow her to berth safely. As a result, **Saturn** carried all her booked traffic for the 0900 additional run, plus a substantial amount of traffic which was present, having checked in for the 0945 sailing. **Saturn** was also running late due to the time taken to load all traffic at Ardrossan.

DATE	NEWS
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26/09/08	Bute left Gourock and returned to Wemyss Bay in time to pick up her service with the 1100 sailing to Rothesay.
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In the Western Isles, **Clansman** again diverted her inward sailing from Castlebay via Lochboisdale for livestock traffic. Her arrival into Oban was to be roughly two hours late, at 0130.

25/09/08	Bute came out of service following her arrival at Rothesay with the 1730 from Wemyss Bay. She then sailed for Gourock for repairs. Argyle maintained the service on her own and will continue to do so until Bute returns.
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24/09/08	CLYDE:
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There were no sailings on the Gourock - Dunoon and Wemyss Bay - Rothesay routes today due to yet another strike by Argyll and Bute Council pier workers. As a result, **Bute**, **Argyle** and **Jupiter** remained at Rothesay and Gourock respectively, while **Ali Cat** did not venture forth from JWD.

23/09/08	Loch Riddon was an unusual visitor observed at Millport today.
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20/09/08	Bute broke down this afternoon and spent a while alongside the second berth at Rothesay. Her 1600 ex Rothesay and 1645 ex Wemyss Bay were cancelled as a result.
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18/09/08 **Hebrides** was roughly 40 minutes late with her 1800 departure from Uig this evening due to a medical emergency.

17/09/08 **Lochnevis** carried out her usual run to Rum and Canna with one change today. Upon discharging at Canna she then left the pier to carry out drills before returning about half an hour later. **Loch Bhrusda** remained at Mallaig today. It is assumed she will stay there until next required.

16/09/08 The reason for **Loch Bhrusda's** jaunt to Mallaig became clear this morning. She left the outer harbour at 1010 and made a beeline for Eigg, with **Lochnevis** following 10 minutes behind. She berthed at 1135 as the regular vessel passed by en route to Muck, and then left again at 1145. The two ships then passed each other off Muck and the **Loch Bhrusda** made her first call at Muck, arriving at 1230 and leaving again at 1245. Tidal conditions delayed **Lochnevis** at Muck by 15 minutes and she was unable to make this time up again at the 2nd Muck call.



Loch Bhrusda seen on berthing trials in the Small Isles

Elsewhere, **Isle of Lewis** was running considerably late today due to fuel pump problems. She let Stornoway at 0815 and 1620, returning from Ullapool at 1310 and 1915 respectively.

15/09/08 **Jupiter** returned to service this afternoon, taking over from **Saturn** with the 1220 sailing to Dunoon.

14/09/08 **Loch Bhrusda** sailed from Craignure early this morning and completed her way to her next temporary base, Mallaig at 1215.

Hebrides was running late this afternoon due to problems with Uig linkspan.

13/09/08 **Loch Bhrusda** left Campbeltown this morning and made her way round the Mull of Kintyre, heading for the Western Isles. Her destination was Craignure for an overnight berth

12/09/08 **Clansman** made a diversion on her inward sailing from Barra this evening in order to call at Lochboisdale to pick up livestock. This delayed her arrival in Oban by roughly two hours. |

Loch Bhrusda awoke from her slumber at the Wires in Gourock and left at 1030, heading for an overnight berth at Campbeltown.

Ali Cat was taken out of service this afternoon, which meant the additional run was cancelled

to allow her to be slipped at Armaleish for her overhaul. She will be back in service early next week.

11/09/08 **Caledonian Isles** was again affected by technical problems and her 1230 sailing from Ardrossan was cancelled. She resumed her roster at 1530 with a delayed sailing from Ardrossan.

Loch Tarbert had been due to divert an afternoon sailing to Tarbert, however weather conditions saw this cancelled, along with her roster for the rest of the day.



Loch Bhrusda heading down the Clyde



Ali Cat high and dry for overhaul

Loch Dunvegan didn't escape either, her early sailing being cancelled and not picking up her roster until 0805.

Lord of the Isles extended her Colonsay sailing today and sailed onwards to Port Askaig, returning direct to Oban from there. This was to transport passengers who had made a day trip from Islay to Colonsay yesterday, who stood by and watched **Hebridean Isles** sail past, unable to berth.

Isle of Mull was delayed on her 1700 departure from Craignure by a medical emergency. She eventually left at 1720.

10/09/08 **Hebridean Isles** was unable to call in at Colonsay on her return sailing from Oban to Islay and Kennacraig this afternoon due to poor weather conditions. She abandoned her call at the island and made for Port Askaig and Kennacraig and picked up her normal roster from there.

Isle of Mull was also affected by the weather and her 2000 sailing to Craignure was cancelled. She will sail from Oban early tomorrow morning in order to pick up her roster with the 0645 sailing from Mull.

06/09/08 **Clansman** was delayed on her Coll and Tiree sailing after responding to a distress call. She left Tiree 45 minutes late and made it back to Oban only 25 minutes behind schedule.

05/09/08 **Caledonian Isles** ran late today due to technical problems which initially delayed her 1350 sailing from Brodick and she then continued to run late, eventually finishing an hour late in the evening.

Loch Tarbert was forced to divert her sailings from 1600 when she had to make for Tarbert instead of Claonaig. She left the Kintyre slipway at 1730 for her final sailing of the day back to Lochranza.

01/09/08 **Saturn** took over the Gourrock - Dunoon route today from the 1120 sailing to allow **Jupiter** some time off for maintenance.

DATE	NEWS
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31/10/08 **Loch Riddon** left Ardmaleish and returned to Rothesay to finish her overhaul at the inner berth. **Loch Linnhe** left Campbeltown and is assumed to be heading for Bute and her own overhaul at Ardmaleish. **Loch Alainn** in turn left Oban bound for Campbeltown where she is spending tonight. **Coruisk** was observed passing through the Sound of Islay at over 17 knots this afternoon – she obviously caught the ebb tide which increased her speed somewhat. She left Craignure this morning and arrived at JWD this evening, after a call at Gourrock to discharge crew cars at 1720, following **Jupiter** departing for Dunoon. **Saturn** is also back at the wires in Gourrock now. Presumably she will be moving over to Rosneath to lie alongside the lonely **Juno** before too long.



Loch Riddon arriving back at Rothesay

30/10/08 **Coruisk** left Mallaig today and made for Craignure and an overnight berth. She is en route for the Clyde for her annual stint as relief Rothesay vessel as well as having her overhaul carried out.

Loch Linnhe left Oban today bound for an overnight berth at Campbeltown. She is making her way to Ardmaleish for her annual overhaul, once **Loch Riddon** re-enters the water.

Loch Alainn was spotted leaving the Sound of Mull and following the Isle of Mull in to Oban. She is spending tonight there before continuing her journey to the Clyde. This means that **Loch Bhrusda** is now employed as the winter Barra - Eriskay ferry, having herself been relieved by the **Lochnevis** at Mallaig



Loch Alainn entering Oban Bay

Hebridean Isles diverted her 0945 sailing from Kennacraig to Port Askaig instead of Port Ellen. **Isle of Arran** then followed suite with the 1800 sailing this evening.



Loch Alann following Isle of Mull towards Oban and then at the North Pier

29/10/08 **Loch Linnhe** provided two special sailings to and from Lismore today to convey a large load with a farm building, albeit in kit form, Meccano style! **Eigg** was in service on the normal roster and these sailings by **Loch Linnhe** were in addition and by prior arrangement.

28/10/08 **Loch Linnhe** was out and about today having travelled down from Tobermory, leaving **Raasay** in charge as the winter vessel in charge of the Tobermory - Kilchoan route.

All sailings on the Ullapool – Stornoway route were cancelled today due to the weather. **Hebrides** was again running approx 40 minutes late as a result of weather conditions.



Loch Linnhe entering Oban Bay

27/10/08 **Lochnevis** was out and about on trials today before leaving Gourock and heading down the Clyde (spotted at 1500) She was later observed on AIS passing along the coast of Jura at 2340. She is due to arrive in Mallaig early in the morning ready to resume the winter Armadale and Small Isles rosters. Coruisk has now finished her Skye duties for 2008 and is free to head to the Clyde.

Isle of Cumbrae was also spotted on the move today with an expected arrival time at Rosneath of 1245. She will now await either a spell on relief or her overhaul, whichever comes first.

Out in the Western Isles the weather was once again causing trouble. **Isle of Lewis** was forced to cancel her 1345 ex Stornoway and return sailing from Ullapool.

Hebrides was also running late due to the weather and the Islay ferries were this time diverting to Port Ellen tonight.

26/10/08 **Isle of Lewis** and **Muirneag** both sailed today, breaking the Sabbath curfew that is prevalent in Lewis. Presumably this is just a one-off occurrence to clear traffic that was unable to travel due to the awful weather over the last few days.

Loch Ranza was subject to disruptions today due to the weather, as were the Islay ferries once again, running to and from Port Askaig only.

25/10/08 Yesterday must have been the metaphorical eye of the storm. Here is the state of play today (as updated at 1245):

CLYDE:

Caledonian Isles is currently at Brodick, following the cancellation of the 1105 and 1350 ex Brodick and 1230 and 1515 ex Ardrossan. A review will take place at 1600 regarding any further sailings this afternoon.

Loch Tarbert is once again off awaiting a break in the weather. The situation will be reviewed at 1300 regarding this afternoon's sailings.

The Wemyss Bay - Rothesay sailing is currently suspended, although **Argyle** and **Bute** were running to Gourock earlier. **Argyle** was observed on AIS running against the wind and tide at 8 knots while **Bute** was doing 15 going the other way!

Loch Dunvegan has been subject to disruption during the morning.

Jupiter is at Gourock, following the suspension of the Dunoon service from 1110 this morning.

Isle of Cumbrae is back at Tarbert, as the service to Portavadie is off at the moment. Incidentally this is the last day of the individual service to Portavadie. She is due to hand over to **Loch Tarbert** for the combined Arran/Cowal service at Lochranza tomorrow lunchtime - *if* the weather allows her to sail!

Loch Shira is also off due to the weather, with the situation to be monitored through the afternoon. *Update:* A successful attempt was made to run a sailing at 1315, though sailings through the rest of the afternoon are still subject to disruption.

WESTERN ISLES:

Loch Linnhe is idle in Tobermory as the Kilchoan service is suspended. A review will take place at 1430 with a view to attempting the 1500 sailing.

Loch Alainn has not sailed as yet today. A decision regarding the last sailing of the day will be taken at 1600.

Clansman did not sail for Coll and Tiree as scheduled this morning. Following a review, she will leave Oban at 1400 bound for the two islands, though only one call at Coll is planned. This sailing is subject to disruption.

Loch Ranza is not running at the moment as the Tayinloan - Gigha service has been suspended for the time being.

Hebrides is running late at the moment. The 0940 service to Lochmaddy left Uig at 1030 and is sailing via Tarbert for shelter and will continue to Lochmaddy as conditions allow. Further disruptions is likely later and the 1550 service from Uig to Tarbert is likely to be at least 2 hours late.

Loch Buie is off as the Sound of Iona is too rough to cross.

Islay is cut off again, as both ferries remain tied up. The decision regarding sailings later this afternoon will be taken at 1500.

As reported yesterday, **Isle of Lewis** didn't sail this morning and a decision was due at 1100 regarding the 1345 sailing to Ullapool and back. As yet there is no news of this.

Eigg is currently in Oban as the Lismore service is suspended at the moment. An update was due on this at 1330 however it was then decided to cancel sailings for the rest of the day.

Loch Fyne is stormbound at Lochaline and the service to Fishnish is currently suspended. This will be updated at 1245.

All sailings on the Sound of Harris are cancelled for the day.

No sailings today on the Mallaig - Small Isles run as **Loch Bhrosda** is staying in Mallaig for shelter.

We will update the news later on this afternoon. For more immediate updates, check the external link above, though don't go expecting that much of an improvement!

24/10/08 A few more problems caused by the weather today, though fortunately not to yesterdays extent. Here they are:

CLYDE:

The 1920 sailing from Brodick to Ardrossan is cancelled yet again tonight, as **Caledonian Isles** will be berthed on Arran overnight. Once again the 0700 sailing from Ardrossan tomorrow will not run.

Loch Tarbert was off service as of 1320 today, however a review was to take place at 1420. It appears she resumed service as the amber alert status was removed on the CalMac website during the afternoon on this route.

WESTERN ISLES:

Out at the Sound of Barra, **Loch Alainn** came of service following her first trip to Eriskay. She remained at Ardmhor for the rest of the day.

Clansman managed to get to the Outer Isles today, sailing first for Castlebay and then Lochboisdale before returning to Oban.

Loch Ranza was able to resume her service between Tayinloan and Gigha from 1100 this morning. At first she was sailing on opposing times to her schedule but was able to pick up normal timings from 1400.

Isle of Arran and **Hebridean Isles** were once again both sailing to Port Askaig today, as Port Ellen was deemed inaccessible.

Isle of Lewis saw her afternoon sailing from Stornoway to Ullapool cancelled. As a result traffic was redirected to **Hebrides** which took her 1500 sailing to Lochmaddy via Tarbert. Staying with Stornoway sailings, **Muirneag** is once again not venturing out tonight and **Isle of Lewis** is not going to be taking her 0715 service to Ullapool in the morning.

Loch Portain saw her afternoon sailing to Leverburgh cancelled again today.

In non-weather related news, **Saturn** and **Lochnevis** both reappeared in JWD today for the last bits of their overhauls to be carried out. **Lochnevis** is due back at Mallaig on or about 31st October to allow **Loch Bhrusda** to head up to the Sound of Barra and relieve **Loch Alainn**.



Lochnevis sitting pretty in JWD



Lochnevis nearest with Saturn ahead

23/10/08 It would actually be quicker to list the routes NOT affected by the weather today...

CLYDE:

The 0820 service from Brodick was diverted to Gourock, the 0945 from Ardrossan being retimed for 1100 and departing from Gourock, due to arrive in Brodick at around 1300. the 1105 ex Brodick and 1230 ex Ardrossan were cancelled as a result. The next sailing wasn't until 1640 and was again bound for Gourock. On returning to Brodick this evening **Caledonian Isles** tied up for the night. Tomorrow's 0700 sailing from Ardrossan won't operate as a result.

Staying with Arran, the **Loch Tarbert** saw her service suspended during the morning, before being cancelled altogether from 1300.

Argyle and **Bute** were initially able to get in at Wemyss Bay, however they too were diverted to Gourock from 1300. The last departure from Rothesay was at 1700 and from Gourock at 1900.

Isle of Cumbrae was next to succumb, with the Tarbert - Portavadie run cancelled from 1345.

Ali Cat didn't escape either as her 1745 sailing to Dunoon and back also fell by the wayside. **Jupiter** did appear to sail through the day though.

Loch Dunvegan does appear to have sailed today though, however the CalMac disruptions page was showing the Colintrave - Rhubodach service on amber alert (liable to disruption) later this afternoon.

It appear that Cumbrae did have a normal day though, with nothing showing on the disruptions page.



Argyle returning from Gourock to Rothesay



Caledonian Isles seen from Kilchattan Bay on Bute

WESTERN ISLES:

Things were just as bad, if not worse in the Western Isles. **Loch Linnhe** was unusually off this morning, however a sailing from Tobermory was attempted at 1000. Later this afternoon though, she was unable to get in at Kilchoan on her 1545 sailing and had to return to Tobermory.

Loch Alainn was unable to sail at all today and remained alongside at Ardmhor. At first there was to be a review at 1000, however when the situation hadn't improved this was put back to 1200 with a view to attempting the 1230 round trip to Eriskay. In the end this was ruled out and a final review took place at 1600, which then ruled out the last sailing of the day as well.

The 0645 sailing from Oban to Coll and Tiree was delayed and **Clansman** set sail at 1300. She sat in the shelter of the Sound of Mull for a while before a break in the weather allowed her to proceed to Coll and then Tiree before returning direct to Oban and omitting the 2nd Coll call. She was due into Coll at approx 1830 and Tiree at approx 2000, with an anticipated arrival time back in Oban of 2330. As a result, **Clansman's** afternoon sailing to Uist, Barra and returning overnight to Oban was cancelled. The next sailing is due at 0830 tomorrow when she will sail, weather permitting of course, for Castlebay and Lochboisdale before returning to Oban direct.

Loch Buie was off during the morning and a review was to take place at 1000 and then at 1200, 1300 and finally at 1400 when it was decided to cancel the service for the remainder of the day.

Loch Ranza was initially sailing on the Tayinloan - Gigha run, albeit subject to disruptions. In the end her day came to a premature end following the 1600 ex Tayinloan.

Both **Hebridean Isles** and **Isle of Arran** both fell foul of the weather during the course of the day. the 0945 sailing from Port Askaig was cancelled and the simultaneous departure from Kennacraig was suspended, pending a review at 1200. In the end the 1300 ex Kennacraig sailed on time and the other vessel also left Port Askaig at the same time. All remaining sailings were cancelled and tomorrow's 0700 inward sailing will now depart from Port Askaig instead of Port Ellen.

In the Outer Hebrides, **Loch Portain's** morning sailings were cancelled and the situation was to be reviewed at 1400. This then led to the decision that the 1400 ex Berneray and return sailing from Leverburgh would not be running. **Isle of Lewis** was stormbound all day at Stornoway due to conditions in the Minch. **Muirneag** is also not sailing tonight.

Coruisk missed her 0840 sailing from Mallaig and 0935 return leg from Armadale, while **Loch Bhrosda** and *Ullin of Staffa* both remained in port for the day; the 1020 sailing for the Small Isles being ruled out.

Even **Loch Striven** was affected by the weather; the Sconser - Raasay route showing on amber alert on the disruptions page.

Back in Oban, **Eigg** fared a little better, sailing as per timetable until she too was forced to miss her 1700 sailing to Lismore, returning at 1800.

What will tomorrow hold, as more bad weather is expected...?

22/10/08 Not as much disruption through today, even Port Ellen saw some ferries today, however the 1800 sailing from Kennacraig was diverted to Port Askaig once again.

Caledonian Isles is spending tonight on Arran rather than at Ardrossan. She will cross light to Brodick following her 1920 sailing to Ardrossan. Tomorrow's 0700 sailing to the island is once again cancelled.

Loch Shira is spending tonight at the wires in Gourock in favour of Fairlie.

Muirneag is not going out tonight, again due to the weather. **Isle of Lewis** was also reported running late earlier today.

It is expected that there will be numerous disruptions over the coming few days, with poor weather conditions on the forecast.

21/10/08 All services to Islay were once again operating to and from Port Askaig today due to the swell to be found at Port Ellen.

20/10/08 More bad weather today. This lot were affected:

Caledonian Isles - 1350 ex Brodick and 1515 ex Ardrossan were cancelled, while the 1640 ex Brodick was diverted to Gourock. She eventually arrived back in Brodick at around 2215 for the night. Tomorrow's 0700 ex Ardrossan is off as a result.

Argyle and/or **Bute** saw diversions to Gourock as well while Wemyss Bay was inaccessible.

Jupiter missed her 1620 round trip to Dunoon.

Loch Tarbert was at Lochranza for most of today, with the service initially suspended pending a break in the weather, only to be cancelled altogether.

Loch Buie was off service this morning, to be reviewed at 1415 with a view to resuming service

Loch Ranza was forced to abandon her schedule following the 1400 ex Tayinloan.

Isle of Arran and **Hebridean Isles** have been operating the Islay service to Port Askaig only, as Port Ellen was inaccessible.

Isle of Lewis was reported running about 2 hours late at one point earlier today .

In other news, **Loch Riddon** proceeded to Ardmaleish where was lined up with the slip and taken out of the water for her annual overhaul. Her place at the inner berth at Rothesay was taken by the Corran Ferry, herself freshly overhauled.

19/10/08 WESTERN ISLES:

Isle of Arran left Oban at 0645 bound for Coll and Tiree, however she was unable to get alongside at either pier, returning to Oban at 1500. **Clansman** diverted her inward sailing from Barra via the Gunna Sound and successfully berthed at Tiree shortly after 1000. She then sailed direct for Oban, arriving at around 1400.

Hebrides was reported running about half an hour late due to the weather and the need for bunkering.

Loch Portain didn't sail at all today due to the conditions in the Sound of Harris, while on Islay the **Hebridean Isles** was unable to get away from Port Askaig with her 0945 sailing. A review was to take place at 1200 and all remaining sailings were subject to delays or cancellation for the rest of the day. The 1800 sailing from Kennacraig was later diverted to Port Askaig instead of Port Ellen once again.

Loch Buie fell foul of the weather in the Sound of Iona, first seeing her 1230 sailing cancelled then later making for the Bull Hole for the rest of the day. Similarly **Loch Ranza** came off duty this afternoon, as did **Loch Alann** which missed her 1630 round trip to Eriskay.

CLYDE:

Bute diverted her delayed 1215 sailing to Gourock, leaving the island 15 minutes late. Wemyss Bay was inaccessible for the remainder of the day as both **Bute** and **Arlyle** sought refuge at Gourock.

Loch Tarbert came off service early in the day, remaining stormbound at Lochranza.

Caledonian Isles is missing her 1920 sailing back from Brodick and is spending the night on Arran. As a result her 0700 sailing from Ardrossan is cancelled.

Jupiter was reported running 10 minutes late this afternoon. Later on however she was forced to cancel a sailing due to tidal conditions at Dunoon.

So the winter has arrived then...

18/10/08 **Isle of Arran** left Kennacraig following her rostered inward sailing from Islay and proceeded to Oban in order to take tomorrow morning's 0645 sailing to Coll and Tiree, normally carried out by **Lord of the Isles**. **Lord of the Isles** left Oban this evening and is currently heading for Aberdeen, where she is expected to arrive tomorrow at around 2200.

Hebridean Isles diverted her 1800 sailing from Kennacraig to Port Askaig, instead of Port Ellen due to the weather forecast overnight. Her 0945 sailing tomorrow will be from Port Askaig as a result.

Both the 0730 and 1425 round trips to the Small Isles were cancelled today, with an unscheduled sailing taking place at 1300 with **Loch Bhrusda** and/or *Ullin of Staffa*.

17/10/08 **Coruisk** was forced to miss her sailing at 1335 due to low tides.

Lord of the Isles spent the day at the north pier in Oban and was repaired in time for her 1700 sailing to Colonsay and back. Traffic from yesterday's failed sailing to Lochboisdale was taken on **Clansman** to Barra on the 1340 sailing and an extra sailing was available across the Sound of Barra to Eriskay on the **Loch Alann** at c1930.

16/10/08 **Lord of the Isles** had to turn back on her sailing from Oban to Lochboisdale and Castlebay this evening due to technical difficulties. AIS showed her returning at approximately 10 knots. **Isle of Mull** sailed for an overnight berth at Craignure in order to create space for the stricken **Lord of the Isles** in Oban, with **Clansman** unusually spending the night at the north pier.



Clansman at the north pier tonight

15/10/08 **Coruisk** had to miss her 1215 sailing from Mallaig today due to tidal conditions in the Sound of Sleat. She resumed the roster with the next sailing.

14/10/08 **Clansman** suffered further technical problems while crossing from Barra to Oban this morning. Reports claim a large cloud of black smoke could be seen from Barra above the ferry after she had sailed, indicating a recurrence of the problem she encountered last week. She again completed her crossing on reduced power and arrived in Oban approximately 2 hours late. The 1500 sailing to Coll and Tiree was cancelled.

Loch Riddon carried out the Cumbrae Slip crossing on her own until 1555 while **Loch Shira** was out of service for repairs. The larger vessel then resumed service having sailed from Fairlie direct to Cumbrae Slip and the two ships worked together to clear the backlog of traffic.

Saturn and **Lochnevis** entered Garvel dry dock today as part of their annual overhauls.

13/10/08 **Loch Bhrusda** sailed for Eigg at 1030 this morning, following behind *Ullin of Staffa*. She arrived at Eigg at 1200 and left again at 1300. Her inward sailing was diverted via Rum in order to pick up a large student party that the smaller vessel was unable to carry. Arrival in Mallaig was further delayed awaiting the departure of **Coruisk**.



Loch Bhrusda at Mallaig, Eigg and Rum today

12/10/08 **Loch Tarbert** returned to Lochranza today and resumed her normal roster, allowing **Loch Riddon** to return to Largs.

Lochnevis left Craignure early this morning and continued her sailing to the Clyde, arriving at Gourock at 1620 to unload crew cars. She then proceeded to JWD to await entry into Garvel with **Saturn**.

11/10/08 **Coruisk** was unable to sail until 1335 due to high winds. She resumed her roster with the 1335 sailing and carried on as normal from there.

Lochnevis completed her morning sailing round the Small Isles and then left Mallaig during the early afternoon and made for an overnight berth at Craignure. **Loch Bhrusda** took the second round trip, leaving Mallaig at 1425, Eigg at 1605, Muck at 1655, Canna at 1935 and Rum at 2105. She finally got back to Mallaig at 2230. She is being partnered by the chartered *Ullin of Staffa* for the next few weeks and is expected to concentrate on only extra runs where vehicles are expected. *Ullin of Staffa* is to carry on the main roster, roughly following the scheduled timings.

10/10/08 **Loch Riddon** had to divert her 0930 sailing from Lochranza to Tarbert, arriving at 1100 and departing again for Arran at 1105 and then repeating the process with the 1315 sailing, leaving Tarbert at 1520.

09/10/08 **Isle of Lewis** spent much of the day at Ullapool today, as her 1030 sailing to Lewis and 1345 back from Stornoway were cancelled.

Loch Buie was subject to disruptions today and was operating an hourly roster.

08/10/08 **Lord of the Isles** undertook the 0600 sailing to Coll and Tiree again, handing over to the repaired **Clansman** for the 1340 sailing to Barra.

07/10/08 **Clansman** suffered technical problems on her inward sailing from Barra to Oban. As a result her Coll - Tiree sailing was undertaken by **Lord of the Isles** and left Oban at 1530, leaving Tiree for the inward leg at 1940. The 1530 sailing to Lochboisdale and Castlebay was cancelled as a result.

06/10/08 **Lord of the Isles** failed to call at Tiree this lunchtime and subsequently returned direct to Oban, abandoning her inward call at Coll (stranding 2 of SoC's team on Coll in the process).

05/10/08 **Loch Riddon** left Largs at 1020 this morning bound for Lochranza, passing the visiting QE2 en route. She then picked up the Claonaig - Lochranza sailing with the 1315 sailing. **Loch Tarbert** came off the service at 1305 and made for Gourock Wires via Largs for repairs and maintenance. **Saturn** undertook two special cruises to see the QE2, leaving Gourock at 1000 and 1400, and Dunoon at 1030 and 1430.



QE2 seen from Saturn

03/10/08 **Lord of the Isles** returned to Oban at midday in lieu of her cancelled inward sailing from Barra and Lochboisdale. She then picked up her normal roster with the 1700 sailing to Colonsay.

02/10/08 **Clansman** was forced to miss her 2nd call at Coll this evening due to the weather conditions. Instead she left Tiree and had to sail for Oban instead.

Coruisk was duly repaired and was then stormbound for the rest of the day.

Isle of Lewis was late back into Stornoway at lunchtime and her afternoon sailing was then cancelled due to the first autumn gales.

The Oban - Craignure service was subject to delays this afternoon. **Isle of Mull** arrived at Craignure nearly 45 minutes late with her 1600 sailing from Oban due to weather conditions experienced earlier in the day.

Loch Alann ran on her normal roster until 1715. She then performed a 1730 sailing from Barra, returning at 1820 and then an additional sailing from Barra at 1910, returning from Eriskay at 2000. This was due to **Lord of the Isles** being unable to sail to the Outer Isles. She instead crossed to Craignure for an overnight berth, arriving after the **Isle of Mull** left on her last inward sailing.

The 1205 sailing from Berneray and 1330 back from Leverburgh were cancelled as **Loch Portain** was stormbound.

01/10/08 **Coruisk** suffered problems this afternoon and was forced to turn back to Mallaig on her 1625 sailing from Mallaig. She returned to the linkspan by 1645 and remained there out of service.

Loch Bhrosda left Mallaig at 1000 this morning and made her first venture into Loch Nevis. She conducted berthing trials at Inverie and Armadale before returning to Mallaig.

DATE NEWS

30/11/08 **Argyle** moved from Gourock to Garvel dry dock, which she entered with **Hebridean Isles**. Meanwhile, down on her usual route, the newly overhauled **Bute** suffered technical problems and her sailings from 1600 onwards were cancelled, leaving **Coruisk** to cover for the rest of the day, delaying her 1815 sailing from Rothesay until 1900.

Loch Striven arrived on Bute today and was immediately slipped at Ardmaleish, alongside **Loch Alainn**.



Loch Striven passing Loch Striven!



Loch Striven at Ardmaleish

29/11/08 **Hebridean Isles** left Kennacraig at 0600 this morning and made her way round to the Clyde for the second time in a week. She dropped off crew cars at Gourock, where she bumped into **Bute**, before moving up to JWD for the night. **Isle of Arran** is looking after the Islay sailings on her own for the time being, however **Lord of the Isles** is rumoured to be heading down to assist once she is freed up by the return of **Isle of Mull** at Oban.



Hebridean Isles and Bute at Gourock



Heb Isles joining Isle of Mull in JWD

Until that time though, a one-ship service will operate, with departures from Kennacraig at 0700, 1300 and 1800. Inward sailings are 0415, 0945 and 1530 from Islay.

Argyle came off the Wemyss Bay - Rothesay route this evening after her 1900 sailing from the island. She handed over the service to sister **Bute** for the 1945 return sailing and then proceeded up the river to Gourock for an overnight berth. **Bute** had emerged from a 24 hour survey in the dry dock at 1015 this morning and spent the day on trials before heading down to re-enter service. **Loch Alainn** came off the Colintraive - Rhubodach service today at 1000 when the regular vessel, **Loch Dunvegan** returned. The relief ship then proceeded straight to Ardmaleish where she was slipped without delay for her own overhaul.

27/11/08 **Loch Striven** handed over the Sconser - Raasay service to **Loch Linnhe** today and commenced her long journey to the Clyde and her annual overhaul at Ardmaleish.

26/11/08 **Caledonian Isles** is spending tonight at Brodick, with the result that her 0700 sailing tomorrow will not be running. Also, another common disruption, the 1800 ex Kennacraig is diverting to Port Askaig tonight instead of Port Ellen.

Loch Linnhe left Tobermory at 0710, 10 minutes ahead of her own relief vessel on the Kilchoan run, **Raasay**, as she headed onwards to Mallaig for an overnight berth. She will complete her journey to Raasay tomorrow.

25/11/08 **Hebridean Isles** returned to her normal service after the short-lived jaunt to the Clyde over the weekend. She will not be back home for long though as she is due to sail for her own overhaul this coming weekend. **Loch Linnhe** appeared in Tobermory this evening. She is currently on her way up to Raasay where she is to provide relief for her former running mate at Largs, the **Loch Striven**.

24/11/08 After a night away from home, **Hebridean Isles** left Gourock at 1300 and proceeded back downriver, sailing unusually via the Largs Channel. With **Caledonian Isles** sailing as normal, after having mechanical issues dealt with last night, **Hebridean Isles** was heading back to Kennacraig to resume services to and

from Islay. She arrived back at Kennacraig at around 2130. The only delay to the Arran service today was caused by a low tide at Brodick this afternoon when **Caledonian Isles** arrived with the 1515 ex Ardrossan. **Isle of Mull** and **Loch Dunvegan** both came out of Garvel dry dock this afternoon and moved over to JWD to join **Bute** which is undergoing a wet survey.

Clansman made up for not going to the Outer Isles yesterday by sailing at 0530 this morning. She was destined only to sail to Barra though, with onward connections to South Uist being provided across the Sound of Barra by **Loch Bhrusda**. When **Clansman** returned to Oban she was able to pick up her scheduled roster with the 1600 sailing to Craignure.

A further update on the situation at Iona now. With the slipway in need of urgent repair work, **Loch Riddon** is operating a restricted timetable until 7th December which involves her giving only four return sailings from Fionnphort each day.

23/11/08 With the Arran ferry having problems, **Hebridean Isles** was despatched from Kennacraig at 0100 this morning and arrived off Brodick shortly after daybreak. **Caledonian Isles** spent all morning tied up at Ardrossan, having returned there from unsuccessful trials in the early hours of the morning. She was by this time stern in at the Irish berth.

Having sailed through the night,



Hebridean Isles circling off Brodick



Caledonian Isles and Hebridean Isles (circled) at Brodick

Hebridean Isles was unable to berth at Brodick due to strong north-westerly winds and spent the whole morning circling between Holy Isle and Corrie. She did attempt to berth at Brodick several times but was unsuccessful.

Caledonian Isles left Ardrossan on further sea trials shortly after 1200 and then crossed to Brodick where she was able to get alongside. The relief ship then headed north to Gourock in search of an overnight berth. The regular Arran ferry then left Brodick for yet more trials mid afternoon, returning around 1730 to await a lull in the weather. She eventually got away from Brodick at 2015 with an ad-hoc passenger sailing to Ardrossan. She is due to return to Brodick for the night and then pick up her roster from 0820 tomorrow morning.

Also on the Clyde today, **Loch Linnhe** left Rothesay at 1030 and proceeded to Lochranza where she then spent the afternoon running to and from Claonaig on an unpublished emergency service following the problems with the Ardrossan service over the last 36 hours. Her departures from Lochranza were at 1515, 1625 and 1735, returning from Claonaig 35 minutes later.

In addition to the fun and games to be had on the Arran services today, other disruptions were noted. Details as follows:

Loch Tarbert was forced to come off the Tarbert - Portavadie service this afternoon due to the weather. Her arrival from Lochranza was over half an hour late so she picked up her roster again with the 1615 ex Tarbert. **Loch Bhrusda** was stormbound at Ardmhor all day and didn't manage to get across the Sound of Barra at all. Neither did the **Loch Portain** have any more luck on the Sound of Harris run and she spent the day lying at Berneray.

Clansman has not ventured out to Barra and South Uist today.

Further to yesterday's report, we have now discovered that the situation on the Fionnphort to Iona crossing (ie the restricted timetable) is due to emergency slipway repairs being required at Iona.

22/11/08 **Caledonian Isles** appears to be having more problems today. She left Brodick at 1105 and her 1230 sailing from Ardrossan is cancelled. She will be alongside until the problem has been rectified.

Update (1510): The 1515 ex Ardrossan and 1640 ex Brodick have now also been cancelled. **Caledonian Isles** is receiving the attention of engineers and will hopefully run sea trials at 1600. If successful she will then return to service with the 1800 ex Ardrossan and 1920 ex Brodick.

Further Update (2340): No such luck for the folks trying to cross to Arran. **Caledonian Isles** went out on trials a short while ago having had attention to this 'ongoing problem'.

From Monday CalMac are advising that a restricted timetable will be operating on the Fionnphort - Iona crossing. As yet we are unsure why this is.

21/11/08 **Clansman** picked up her roster with the 1335 sailing from Lochboisdale to Castlebay and then back to Oban this afternoon. Her 0830 sailing from Oban was cancelled due to her being stormbound last night at Lochboisdale.

Caledonian Isles today saw her 1230 round trip from Ardrossan cancelled due to a technical problem. She then ran late on the 1515 sailing and didn't leave Brodick until 1735, almost an hour late. She was observed with her bow visor raised whilst alongside at Brodick.

Elsewhere, today signalled the end of the construction work at Rothesay. All that remains is to have a few fences erected here and there, but now **Argyle**, **Bute** and of course relief ship **Coruisk** now find themselves arriving at a pier rather than a construction site. Pictures of the rebuilding work from the last couple of years can be found [here](#).

20/11/08 **Clansman** made it out to Barra and then Lochboisdale, however she is spending the night on South Uist, having had her overnight inward sailing to Oban cancelled.

19/11/08 The 1800 sailing to Islay is yet again diverting to Port Askaig this evening, with the 0700 inward sailing tomorrow morning now sailing from there instead of Port Ellen.

Pentalina B is not sailing tonight due to adverse weather conditions in the Minch. Next scheduled sailing will be the **Isle of Lewis'** 0715 ex Stornoway tomorrow morning.

18/11/08 Changeover finally happened on the Wemyss Bay - Rothesay run today, with **Coruisk** leaving Gourock and proceeding to Wemyss Bay, where she lay off until approx 1250. The rare spectacle of all three 3rd Generation Clyde ferries together was attained briefly this afternoon, as **Argyle** took the 1215 ex **Wemyss Bay**, **Bute** lay off with the 1145 ex Rothesay and **Coruisk** waited patiently to enter service. The latter then swapped places with **Bute** which in turn headed north for her overhaul. **Coruisk** will remain on the so-called 2A roster for the duration of her time on the Bute run, while first **Argyle** and then **Bute** will carry out the main roster.

Meanwhile, over on Bute, **Loch Linnhe** was out and about on trials around Rothesay Bay too this afternoon.



Loch Alann conducting drills, Loch Linnhe out on trials and Coruisk arriving on Bute

17/11/08 **Coruisk** was noted out and about this afternoon undergoing sea trials following completion of her overhaul.

Further north, *Pentalina B* was noted on AIS leaving Loch Broom late this afternoon, indicating that she is continuing to carry out sailings in addition to the rostered overnight freight runs.

15/11/08 **Loch Linnhe** is now back at the inner harbour at Rothesay, having re-entered the water at Ardmaleish this morning. Her next tour of duty will see her relieving her sister **Loch Striven** at Raasay, however for the time being she will be lying at Rothesay while her maintenance work is completed.

14/11/08 **Loch Buie** did indeed sail early from Campbeltown this morning, passing through the Kilbrannan Sound and the Kyles of Bute before arriving at Rhubodach at 1130. She unloaded crew cars and then set sail for Ardmaleish where she was to go straight up onto the slip.



Loch Buie meeting Loch Alainn at Rhubodach and then Loch Linnhe at Ardmaleish

Elsewhere, **Hebrides** was running approximately 4 hours late this evening on her inward run from Tarbert to Uig. This was due to a combination of weather and technical problems. She returned to Uig and then sailed for Lochmaddy where she is staying the night.

Lochnevis was running late on her afternoon Armadale sailing. She actually sailed at 1500 from Mallaig on an additional sailing, which in turn delayed her 1600 run. Her Small Isles sailing was showing as disrupted earlier today.

13/11/08 **Loch Buie** was observed to the south of Gigha this afternoon. She is making for an overnight berth at Campbeltown later this evening and will continue to Bute tomorrow.

Isle of Mull arrived at Gourock at around 0720 this morning and unloaded crew cars before moving upriver to Garvel, entering the dry dock behind **Loch Dunvegan**.



Loch Dunvegan and Isle of Mull arriving at Garvel and Ali Cat joining Coruisk in JWD

12/11/08 **Isle of Mull** left Oban at 1800 this evening and will be sailing via the Sound of Islay and through the night to Gourock where she is to unload crew cars and then proceed to JWD. She will be going into Garvel dry dock along with **Loch Dunvegan**, now that **Coruisk** has vacated the dock. **Lord of the Isles** will now take the Mull and Colonsay sailings until the return of the regular vessel, from which time she will be relieving elsewhere.

11/11/08 A bit of normality today with not as many disruptions. However, the morning sailings to and from Arran were cancelled until the 1105 sailing from Brodick.

In the Western Isles, the first two round trips across the Sound of Barra were cancelled as **Loch Bhrusda** was stormbound. **Hebrides** was sailing to an amended timetable today (even more amended than running on a summer timetable in winter that is...) to clear traffic from yesterday, serving Harris all day with the exception of the 1400 round trip from Uig to Lochmaddy. As events turned out, **Isle of Lewis** was

brought from Ullapool to Uig and she carried out an additional sailing to from Uig to Tarbert and back before returning to Ullapool and then Stornoway this evening. The chartered *Pentalina B* was noted as still being at Uig this morning, having not returned to Stornoway overnight.

Further south the **Loch Ranza** was again off service for a time this morning, while nearby, **Hebridean Isles** and **Isle of Arran** were both running to and from Port Askaig once more.

Loch Riddon spent last night at Tobermory and today proceeded down the west side of Mull to Fionnphort where she changed over with **Loch Buie**. The regular Iona ferry then made for an overnight berth at Craignure (we think) and should continue her journey tomorrow, with an eventual destination of Ardmaleish at the end of the week.

10/11/08 More routes affected today! See below:

CLYDE:

Caledonian Isles diverted her 1105 ex Brodick sailing to Gourock and was in good company while she was there, for the Rothesay ferries were also using Gourock, and even **Loch Dunvegan** put in an appearance, making for the shelter of the wires.



Jupiter off Dunoon



Caledonian Isles and Argyle at Gourock

Loch Alainn left Gourock at 0845 this morning and battled through the swell, round Toward Point and into the Kyles of Bute where she took over the Colintrave - Rhubodach service.

Jupiter was off service for a while once again today, though this time it was due to the weather rather than technical problems. She did resume sailings from 1120, however by 1730 she was running late and it was decided to cancel all remaining sailings.

Loch Tarbert actually managed to sail to Lochranza and back, though by the time she returned she was an hour late - the 1515 ex Tarbert and 1545 ex Portavadie being cancelled as a result.



Loch Alainn, Loch Dunvegan and Caledonian Isles on the Clyde today

WESTERN ISLES:

Isle of Mull ran an hour late on the 0700 sailing to Craignure and back this morning due to the weather and the remaining sailings during the day were also liable to running late or cancellation. As it was she didn't even attempt the 1200 sailing to Colonsay.

Lochnevis didn't venture out from Mallaig at all today, cancelling her morning and evening runs to and from Armadale and her round trip to the Small Isles.

Eigg didn't manage to get onto the slipway at Lismore on her 1000 sailing this morning. She returned to Oban where she remained stormbound for the rest of the day.

Hebrides was running very late again today, with the 0940 sailing from Uig leaving at 1400, and the 1400 leaving at 1800 etc... The scheduled 1600 inward sailing from Tarbert was cancelled, as was the 1800 sailing to Lochmaddy.

Loch Bhrusda failed to manage any sailings across the Sound of Barra today, remaining instead at Ardmhor. Similarly, **Loch Buie** was unable to get across the Sound of Iona today and **Loch Ranza** saw her service cancelled for the day.

From today the linkspan at Ullapool is closed while its cables are replaced. All vehicle traffic is being routed

via Uig and Tarbert on the **Hebrides**, while **Isle of Lewis** will be doing a passenger only service from Stornoway to Ullapool at 0715 and back at 1715.

09/11/08 Autumn appears to have been bypassed altogether with winter becoming well established - at least in terms of the weather anyway. This was how things took shape today:

CLYDE:

Argyle made for Wemyss Bay on her 0800 sailing from Rothesay, passing **Loch**

Shira battling down towards Largs in

the process, however after seeing the state of the swell at the pier, made a sharp turn and proceeded instead to Gourock, arriving at 0920. She then left at 1000 for Rothesay and continued to divert for the rest of the day. **Bute** did fare a little better, managing at one point to get in at Wemyss Bay, though she too was diverted during the afternoon and evening.

Jupiter missed her 0920 sailing, instead tying up at the wires to have an oil problem tended to while **Argyle** occupied the linkspan for the first call of the day. She then returned to service with the 1020 ex Gourock..

Loch Tarbert was noted running approx 15 minutes late at one point this afternoon, but at least she kept going!

WESTERN ISLES:

Clansman failed altogether to get alongside both Coll and Tiree today, returning to Oban for 1500. She then remained in Oban while her 1530 sailing to the Outer Isles was cancelled. Her sister **Hebrides** was also forced to suspend sailings for a while, with the situation due for review at 1400. She eventually sailed at 1620 for Lochmaddy.

In non weather-related news, **Loch Riddon** has left Rothesay (we're not sure exactly when) and is somewhere between there and Mull, where she is due to relieve the **Loch Buie** in the next few days.



Argyle and Jupiter off Gourock



Jupiter off duty at the wires with Loch Alainn

08/11/08 A little disruption today, with **Caledonian Isles** once again spending tonight at Brodick, although rather than cancelling the first sailing tomorrow, she will carry out an unscheduled 0820 sailing from Brodick - weather permitting of course!

This evening's sailing to Islay will divert to Port Askaig instead of going to Port Ellen, while out in the Hebrides, **Loch Bhrusda** did not sail on her 1730 round trip.

07/11/08 **Clansman** is calling in reverse order at Castlebay and Lochboisdale today for technical reasons.

04/11/08 It was revealed today that when **Muirneag** goes for her overhaul this coming weekend, she is to be relieved by former CalMac vessel **Iona**, now sailing under the name *Pentalina B*. The former CalMac ferry has spent the last few months on livestock sailings out of Dover and is now being chartered back to her former owners for the second time (the first being when she sailed in tandem with **Pioneer** on the Oban - Craignure shuttle service while **Isle of Mull** in turn covered for a breakdown of the **Isle of Lewis** a decade ago). With Ullapool linkspan closing at the weekend, *Pentalina B* will carry out two sailings a day between Stornoway and Uig, while **Isle of Lewis** will sail in the mornings to Ullapool and returning in the evenings in a passenger-only mode. All vehicle traffic normally carried by **Isle of Lewis** will be redirected via Uig and will sail on **Hebrides** to Tarbert.

Elsewhere, **Saturn** is back in service following her overhaul and is currently carrying out sailings on the Gourock - Dunoon crossing while **Jupiter** lies at the wires.

03/11/08 Having undergone minor modifications at Ardmaleish, **Loch Alainn** left the Bute yard today and made her way to Gourock where she will lie until the time comes for her to relieve **Loch Dunvegan** on the Cointraive - Rhubodach crossing. This is expected to happen this coming weekend. **Coruisk** took her place in Garvel dry dock today to undergo her annual overhaul.



Loch Alainn heading for Gourock

01/11/08 **Loch Alainn** left Campbeltown early this morning and proceeded up the Kilbrannan Sound and via the Kyles of Bute to Rhubodach where she unloaded crew cars. Shortly afterwards she headed down to Ardmaleish where she met with **Loch Linnhe**. The smaller vessel had arrived earlier in the day and tied up at the pier. **Loch Alainn** was aligned with the slipway and then taken out of the water.



Loch Alainn, Loch Linnhe and Loch Dunvegan around Bute

DATE	NEWS
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29/12/08	Loch Ranza left Gigha this morning and proceeded via the Kilbrannan Sound and Kyles of Bute to Gourock wires for a berth until she can be accepted at Ardmaleish.
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28/12/08 After spending Christmas at Tobermory, **Loch Linnhe** arrived at Gigha today and relieved regular vessel and younger sister **Loch Ranza** at 1600.

26/12/08 It's Boxing Day and the fleet are back in action today, albeit on a reduced timetable. All three major vessels are operating from Oban, with **Isle of Mull** taking sailings to Craignure, **Clansman** sailing to Barra and **Lord of the Isles** heading for Colonsay. Normal winter service, with just two vessels will resume tomorrow. For full details of special timetables for the bank holiday, check the pdf timetables for each route on the Company's website.

25/12/08 **Merry Christmas from all at Ships of CalMac!**

It's the fleet's day off today - and ours too so no news to report (hic)

24/12/08 **Lord of the Isles** returned from Lewis to Oban today, in readiness for her next duty on Boxing Day, when she will be carrying out the Colonsay sailing. Following her refit on the Tyne, **Muirneag** is tonight making her way up the east coast as she heads back to Lewis to resume the freight run after Christmas.

Down on the Clyde, **Loch Alainn** enjoyed a morning in service following her own overhaul, as she was called in to relieve **Loch Dunvegan** on the Colintraive - Rhubodach run. The regular vessel lay at her berth with one



Loch Alainn and Loch Dunvegan at Colintraive

ramp folded while the smaller ferry carried out the service runs until lunchtime. She then returned to Rothesay when **Loch Dunvegan** resumed service this afternoon.

22/12/08 **Loch Striven** completed her journey back to Raasay today, arriving there at approx 1330. She then swapped with **Loch Linnhe** and took the 1340 sailing to Sconser, while **Loch Linnhe** returned to Tobermory to lie over the Christmas period (info and photo obtained from '[Life At The End of the Road](#)')

Pentalina B left Stornoway at 1130 this morning as her charter to CalMac came to an end. She was due to head back to St Margarets Hope to spend Christmas in the company of her new fleetmate, catamaran *Pentalina* which finally arrived recently.



Loch Striven and Loch Linnhe changing over

21/12/08 Both **Loch Bhrusda** and **Loch Portain** were disrupted by the weather today. The former might have managed a sailing at 1530 ex Ardmhor (tbc) but the latter was off all day.

Lord of the Isles left Lochboisdale at 0820 and arrived in Stornoway at 1415. She will take over the overnight freight run to Ullapool tonight for three nights.



Lord of the Isles in Stornoway with Pentalina B leaving behind

20/12/08 **Lord of the Isles** was out and about making good the cancellations yesterday to Colonsay and the Outer Isles. She is spending tonight at Lochboisdale and will sail for Stornoway tomorrow to allow her to adopt the role of freight vessel on the Ullapool route.

Isle of Lewis is sailing on an amended timetable today, allowing an extra sailing from Ullapool. Departures from there are 0600/1245/1915 while departures from Stornoway are at 0930 and 1600.

Hebridean Isles returned to service on the Islay roster today.

Loch Striven sailed from Campbeltown this morning and is making for Tobermory where she is expected to lie until Monday, awaiting another clear spell in the weather.

19/12/08 Major disruptions across the network today as a storm blew across the country. Details we have are as follows:

CLYDE:

Argyle and **Bute** were both running to and from Gourock this afternoon, performing simultaneous departures from each port. The last sailing from Gourock was the 1900 sailing, carried out by **Bute**.

Jupiter was off duty during the afternoon and early evening, though she was able to sail at 1830 for Dunoon.

Caledonian Isles saw her Arran sailings diverting to Gourock too. She was spotted off Wemyss Bay from **Argyle** at around 1520, making her way back south to Brodick. She was then due to leave again at 1640 for Gourock, however conditions meant berthing was not guaranteed. As it turned out, conditions worsened and she spent the rest of the night at Brodick, meaning there will be an extra 0530 sailing to Ardrossan tomorrow morning to resume her timetable from 0700.

Loch Shira was off service from 1645 until shortly after 1900.



Caledonian Isles seen from Argyle at 1520

WESTERN ISLES:

Clansman didn't attempt her 0830 round trip to Barra and South Uist this morning and instead remained tied up alongside Oban's berth 2. **Isle of Mull** joined her from 0945 at berth 1 when her Colonsay sailing was cancelled.

Isle of Lewis didn't venture out of Stornoway today, with reports of winds up to 85mph at times.

Services to and from Islay were, understandably, diverted to Port Askaig instead of Port Ellen - the first affected sailing being the 0700 ex Kennacraig (**Isle of Arran**).

Eigg was forced to abandon her sailings from 1250 due to high winds in the Firth of Lorn.

Even the mighty **Hebrides** had to seek shelter during today and came off service at 1125 in Lochmaddy where she remained for the rest of the day.

Loch Bhrusda didn't venture out from Ardmhor at all today, neither did **Loch Portain** leave her berth at Otternish. Other Loch Class vessels affected included **Loch Riddon** (Iona service off), **Loch Linnhe** (busy trying to keep herself alongside the pier on Raasay and avoid snapping cables) and **Loch Ranza** (on the Gigha service).

Lochnevis remained in Mallaig all day and as a result her Skye and Small Isles sailings were cancelled.

Isle of Mull was able to provide the 1600 sailing to Craignure where she then became stormbound. **Loch Fyne** was also seeking shelter at her berth in Lochaline from 1600 and so it appears that little **Raasay** was providing the only link with the island on her 1545 ex Tobermory to Kilchoan!

In other news (non-weather related) **Loch Alainn** was out and about this morning, making a call at Rhubodach before returning to her berth at Rothesay.

With **Hebridean Isles** due to arrive back on the scene at Islay, **Lord of the Isles** left this evening to return to Oban. With the cancellations of today, she will carry out an extra 0815 sailing to Colonsay tomorrow morning, before sailing with stranded traffic to Castlebay and Lochboisdale at 1345.



Bute in the poor evening light off Dunoon



Loch Alainn and Bute at Rothesay

18/12/08 **Loch Portain** was noted running almost two hours late due to weather conditions this morning, her 0815 sailing leaving Berneray at 1000 for Leverburgh and immediate return.

Lord of the Isles saw her 0700 sailing from Kennacraig diverting to Port Askaig; something which **Isle of Arran** copied with her 0945 ex Kennacraig. **Lord of the Isles** then left Port Askaig some 45 minutes late for the return sailing, however she made up all that time with a following wind and tide and was in Kennacraig for 1205.



Isle of Arran leaving West Loch Tarbert...



...and Lord of the Isles appearing not long after

17/12/08 **Coruisk** left Gourock and proceeded up to Glasgow and a lay up berth in the KGV dock

16/12/08 **Coruisk** came off the Rothesay service at lunchtime and handed over to **Argyle** in time for the 1300 sailing from Wemyss Bay. The relief vessel then proceeded up to Gourock and the wires.

15/12/08 **Argyle** was noted out and about this lunchtime as she underwent trials following her overhaul. She is expected back in service, relieving **Coruisk** sometime tomorrow.

13/12/08 **Loch Bhrusda** was forced to cancel her 1710 sailing from Ardmhor due to poor conditions in the Sound of Barra. On the Clyde meanwhile, **Argyle** moved out of Garvel dry dock and back into JWD to have her overhaul finished off.

12/12/08 **Loch Striven** returned from Ardmaleish to Rothesay today to complete here annual overhaul. **Loch Alainn** remains up on the slipway at the yard as her work continues.

Lochnevis was forced to miss her Small Isles sailing today due to poor weather. She will carry out a sailing calling at all four isles tomorrow to make up for today's cancellation.

The 1030 ex Ullapool and 1345 ex Stornoway were also cancelled, as was the afternoon sailing across the Sound of Harris.

Isle of Mull was affected as well and the 1000 sailing to Colonsay and back was cancelled. **Clansman** was also forced to turn back to Oban on her sailing to the Outer Isles and back.

Loch Ranza was forced off service following the 1400 sailing from Tayinloan, while on the Clyde, **Caledonian Isles** had to divert her 1640 sailing from Brodick to Gourock - not because of the weather but instead a power failure to the Ardrossan harbour navigation lights. **Jupiter** was forced of service from 1910, but this was due to the weather. **Bute** and **Coruisk** were both subject to diversions to Gourock this evening.

Interestingly though, as it was pointed out on our Forum today, **Lord of the Isles** was able to continue on her normal roster without having to divert Port Ellen sailings to Port Askaig.

08/12/08 **Loch Shira** was disrupted this evening when construction teams at Largs discovered an unexploded bomb while working on construction of the new pier. The ferry was forced to lie at Cumbrae Slip from 1655 to 2000 when she was able to resume service

06/12/08 **Loch Riddon** continues to run to a restricted timetable as the repair works continue at Iona. This was initially meant to be for up to two weeks but is now 'until further notice'.

05/12/08 **Loch Buie** finally left Rothesay this lunchtime and made her way out past Toward Point and off up to Gourock where she is apparently to remain until the end of the year, while **Loch Riddon** maintains the Fionnphort - Iona service around the repair work being carried out on the 'scared Isle's' slipway.

03/12/08 **Caledonian Isles** is once again spending tonight in Brodick due to the weather forecast. The 0700 sailing tomorrow morning is therefore off. **Isle of Arran** was able to resume her own supplementary sailings to and from Islay today, as **Lord of the Isles** took up the roster normally assigned to **Hebridean Isles**. She commenced her stint as an Islay ferry with the 0700 inward sailing to Kennacraig.



Loch Striven returning to Rothesay



Lord of the Isles at Port Askaig

02/12/08 **Isle of Mull** spent the morning at the north pier while **Lord of the Isles** carried out the Oban - Craignure sailings on her behalf. She resumed the Mull and Colonsay roster late this afternoon to allow the smaller vessel to head south to Islay and her next relief role.

Loch Buie was observed out and about in Rothesay bay today. She went out on trials shortly after **Coruisk** sailed with the 1145 ex Rothesay and returned to the inner harbour about 15 minutes later and remained there for the rest of the day.

01/12/08 Bute suffered further technical problems today and was caused to miss her 1430 sailing from Rothesay and the return leg at 1515 from Wemyss Bay.

Isle of Mull left JWD at 1115 this morning and proceeded to Gourock where she collected crew vehicles and set off back to Oban, where she is expected to arrive late tonight. She was also out on trials in between leaving JWD and arriving at Gourock.

Loch Dunvegan was observed working single-ended for a while today - presumably due to technical problems affecting one of her ramps.



Isle of Mull leaving JWD



Heading downriver