

DATE	NEWS
31/01/04	In about 2 weeks the <i>Clansman</i> is due in Garvel Dry Dock along with the <i>Loch Fyne</i> . The <i>Coruisk</i> will exit the dock, just before the arrival of <i>Clansman</i> .
28/01/04	Northlink News: <i>M.V. Hjaltland</i> arrived in Aberdeen at 07:00. Due to Adverse weather conditions the 19:00 departure for Wednesday 28th is expected now to depart at 0600 hrs on Thursday 29th. <i>M.V. Hamnavoe</i> departed Stromness at 09:00 and is expected to arrive in Scrabster at 11:15. The next scheduled sailing is the 12:00 departure from Scrabster to arrive in Stromness at 13:30. Adverse weather and tidal conditions may affect the above times.
27/01/04	Caledonian MacBrayne has confirmed that a limited passenger only service will operate during the closure of Tarbert linkspan at the beginning of March. It had been thought that Tarbert pier would have to close completely for a week while essential replacement work on the linkspan's suspension ropes is carried out. More Here...
26/01/04	Coruisk's new passenger gangway arrived yesterday at Rothesay, a similar one will be delivered to Wemyss Bay later. Lord of the Isles left Oban at 09:10 yesterday and arrived at Aberdeen today, around 11.20am for her annual overhaul. The <i>Clansman</i> returned to Oban at 1045 on Sunday 25th and took up the Barra/ Lochboisdale service at 1200.
25/01/04	Northlink News: It is confirmed that Hebridean Isles is due to cover for the Pentland Firth Vessel <i>Hamnavoe</i> for her annual overhaul, as to when is still unclear, although it should be soon. NorthLink Ferries will operate a revised timetable between Saturday, February 7 and Sunday, February 29 during which time its passenger ferries MV <i>Hamnavoe</i> , MV <i>Hrossey</i> and MV <i>Hjaltland</i> will each go into dry dock for up to eight days.
24/01/04	Coruisk is back at Ferguson's again. She is tied up to the fitting out pier at the yard. One of the <i>Streakers</i> has taken over on the Dunoon run.
24/01/04	Caledonian Isles is due back on station at Arran today, she was still in the JW dock last night. They were doing a series of light tests, at one point most of all the lights went out, and came back on again. The Barra run does not leave until midday tomorrow, so it gives plenty of time for <i>Clansman</i> to get there. <i>Update 15:47:</i> Caledonian Isles is sailing down the main channel opposite Wemyss Bay pier towards Ardrossan.
23/01/04	Lord of the Isles will make her second visit to Aberdeen for annual overhaul. She will leave Oban on Saturday night, then spend overnight at Craignure then depart 11.00 Sunday morning E T A Aberdeen 08.00 Monday.
22/01/04	Caledonian MacBrayne has confirmed that its Board has recommended that a new vessel should be constructed for the Kennacraig to Islay route and that a two vessel option should be available for the summer timetable. The ports of Port Ellen and Kennacraig should also be upgraded. More on Calmac's Official Site Here .

- 20/01/04 Pentland Ferries Limited the new owners of the ex Calmac vessel 'Claymore' are delighted to announce that they have just received their Class 2A Passenger Licence which will enable the company to carry 70 passengers per sailing on her throughout the Winter Period. The 1978 built Claymore has changed hands a few times since her departure from Calmac in 1996 finally ending up in the north of Scotland with her current owners awaiting a passenger certificate to enter service with another ex fleet mate from Calmac the 'Iona' Renamed Pentalina~B.
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- 19/01/04 Caledonian Isles and Jupiter had just moved from the drydock ending there annual overhauls.
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- 15/01/04 The troubled new vessel Coruisk is operating the Gourock - Dunoon service and now seems able to keep to the published time table since going back into service, following her last visit to Ferguson's. The operating problems seem to have been overcome which is good for all concerned. She is noted to start service at Rothesay in February if all goes to plan...
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- 14/01/04 Caledonian MacBrayne held a public meeting today regarding the new Lower Clyde replacement vessel. A SoC member went along: "The meeting was very interesting, first of all I would like to thank CAL MAC for taking the time to listen to the us. the ship looks really good, and there are a lot of plans for the future of the service, including a possible second vessel to replace the other stalker, and a possible new linkspan. it is the same length as the stalkers, a bit wider and the same depth. with a speed of 13/24 knots, will make the crossing in 30 mins, and a turnaround time of 15 mins. with also another plan for a new gangway to suit her higher passenger deck, varying with the tide of course. the inside resembles the Coruisk, which is good because the inside of the Coruisk is superb. she has an open end, with also an open after deck, which is covered over for passenger to sit outside, but not get wet. she has twin funnels, and a visor for future drive through service. also on the upper deck she has seats, and a walk round to the front of the ship. and a couple of decks above is the fully enclosed bridge, resembling the Hebrides. I personally think she is very similar to the claymore, well anyway that's what I thought when I saw it for the first time." I had a slight inkling that that's what she would look like based on the SIC new vessels that operate on similar slightly open waters. I much prefer this design, why change something that works perfectly well?! Well done Calmac, I wish this new vessel all the success of her predecessors. As to her name, we don't yet know but I would hazard a guess that it will either be a continuation of the planets or it may continue in the lines of the Loch_____ class (i.e. Lochnevis). My guess would be on the latter. More News on her as it comes in.
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- 12/01/04 Isle of Cumbrae seems to have gone to Timbercraft for overhaul, Loch Dunvegan is now back, her ramps seem to be ok and her car deck seems to of been painted.
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- 11/01/04 Saturn today made a strange direction change in the shape of a U Turn, she was heading to Wemyss Bay from Rothesay when she suddenly changed her course to Dunoon. She was later seen heading from Gourock to Wemyss bay and then back to her normal route, reason unknown as yet.
- The Clansman was due at Gourock at 18.20 but she was only spotted as she passed Wemyss Bay at 1800 hrs
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- 09/01/04 Both Jupiter and Caledonian Isles are in JW dry dock at Gourock for annual overhaul.
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- 06/01/04 Loch Dunvegan is getting tucked up for the night, they seem to have put a protective polythene over the bow ramp, the damage could be hydraulic, a hinge problem or cracking of her ramps themselves, she has had that problem before.

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- 06/01/04 Isle of Cumbrae is presumably covering for the Loch Dunvegan which went for emergency ramp repairs yesterday.
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- 05/01/04 Loch Dunvegan is sailing up the Clyde right now, just came down from the Kyles, bound for JWD for Ramp repairs.
- Caledonian Isles arrived at JWD today at 10:00 hrs. She went straight into the dry-dock behind Jupiter. Clansman is covering for her on the Ardrossan - Brodick route.
- The Coruisk was in service today on the Gourock - Dunoon run
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- 04/01/04 **NEWS FLASH!** MV PIONEER has had her radio and radar gear taken off her, wheelhouse has been boarded up - it seems she is now a dead ship and unlikely to sail again, not on the Clyde anyway. Coruisk appeared at Gourock pier possible to do the historic 1220 run but was gone at 12:05. It was this date 50 years ago that the ARRAN was first introduced on the Gourock to Dunoon service, the first of a new age of car ferries. On the 40th anniversary in 1994, Calmac offered special discounted fares to mark the occasion as they also did a couple of years ago at Colintraive. Calmac may offer a similar event to mark the 50th anniversary.
- From Ian McCrorie:*
- At 1210 on 4 January 1954 the first car ferry sailed on the Clyde – between Gourock and Dunoon.
- Following the derationing of petrol in 1950 car ownership had boomed and the days of loading vehicles over planks only at suitable states of the tide were surely numbered.
- The motor vessel Arran, fuelled by diesel rather than coal, had been launched from Denny's shipyard in Dumbarton late in 1953 and by the turn of the year was lying at Gourock waiting to enter service. Aft of her passenger accommodation was an electrical hoist connected to side ramps which allowed cars to be embarked and disembarked in all tidal conditions. The hoist, equipped with a turntable, could lower five cars at a time down to a spacious garage at main deck level.
- The steamer on the Dunoon ferry crossing at the time was none other than the Waverley, the five-year-old paddle steamer which is still gracing the waters of the Clyde half a century on. She arrived back at Gourock at noon that day and tied up. From the head of the pier the Arran inaugurated the new service with 12 cars aboard. Pier dues were suspended at Dunoon and a sizeable proportion of the town's population were there to greet the new vessel as she arrived on her maiden voyage. The car ferry revolution had begun.
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- 02/01/04 The southerly storm which hit the west coast on Hogmanay climaxed in the Minch in the early afternoon where it was reckoned to be Force 10 gusting to Force 11. Despite the great desire to get passengers home for the New Year there were widespread cancellations in the interests of safety. Whereas on the Clyde the gale did not blow out there was a lull in the north and Isle of Lewis and Hebrides eventually made Stornoway and Lochmaddy & Tarbert respectively. Almost every vessel was affected, although Hebridean Isles appears to have continued sailing to Islay. Caledonian Isles was originally going to sail at 1640 ex Brodick for Gourock but even that diverted sailing had to be cancelled. Cumbrae and Bute, both from Wemyss Bay and Colintraive, were cut off from around 1600 and Dunoon from 1520, although Western Ferries were able to continue to the more sheltered terminal of Hunter's Quay. LOTI had to put back to Oban in the morning as she was unable to approach either Coll or Tiree. That is why Clansman, which had come in from

Lochboisdale, was noted as being absent from Oban on New Year's Day. She left at 0815 for Craignure, Coll and Tiree, returning direct. Other vessels known to have been in action for an emergency special run on 1 January were Loch Dunvegan (Kyles of Bute), Loch Fyne (Fishnish) and Loch Buie (Iona). Ironically the one vessel with a scheduled service had to cancel - Canna was stormbound at Rathlin.

Later Addition: Loch Alainn was able to resume service from Largs at about 1815 on 31 December with approx 60 cars at Largs

DATE	NEWS
29/02/04	Saturn passed Inverkip on her way up river from Wemyss Bay at 10.49 this morning. Isle of Mull seemed to be ok yesterday still due at Garvel 10.00 Thursday Isle of Arran to take up 08.00 sailing to Craignure seems Isle of Mull picked up a wire on her prop, she will be docked for 48 hours and will return to Oban next Sunday or Monday, Isle of Arran then to come down to Garvel of her overhaul. Plans of course may change.
28/02/04	Lord of the Isles was late in from Tiree with winch problems yesterday, so Isle of Mull took the outer isles traffic, calling at Craignure on the way out. Lord of the Isles called in to Craignure inbound from Tiree, then went back out to Mull. She will continue on the Mull run today until Isle of Mull returns. Hebridean Isles took the Colonsay run yesterday too.
27/02/04	Due to tidal restrictions, the 1110 sailing from Berneray and 1240 sailing from Leverburgh will be cancelled on both Monday the 8th of March and Tuesday the 9th of March NorthLink: Due to adverse weather conditions sailings from Hatston are subject to disruptions. There will be no sailing from Hatston to Aberdeen tonight, Friday 27th February. The next planned departure from Hatston will be a southbound sailing to Aberdeen at around lunchtime on Saturday 28th February. This time of departure of M.V. Hrossey tomorrow will be dependant on tidal and weather conditions and the progress of her previous sailing. Estimated time of arrival of the MV Hrossey into Lerwick is 0100 on the morning of Saturday the 28th February. The next planned sailing of MV Hrossey to Kirkwall and Aberdeen will be at 0400 on the 28th February. These times are subject to change, depending on progress of Northbound sailing.
26/02/04	So, just to recap on the current situation: Isle of Mull is ill still, she is down for docking in Garvel next Thursday. She is leaking oil from a damaged seal in one of her main props. Isle of Arran is taking over at Oban for her. Hopefully she will dock with Jupiter who is getting her prop fixed too after a blade went missing. Coruisk is on for another couple of weeks. Hebrides is due in after Isle of Mull. The Loch Portain is due in with the Isle of Arran, after the Hebridean Isles. The Isle of Mull is due back on station next Sunday or Monday. NorthLink: Latest Information at 07:00 - Due to the severe weather forecast later Pentland Firth sailings are under review. M.V. Hamnavoe departed Stromness at 07:00 and is expected to arrive in Scrabster at 08:30. The next sailing will depart from Scrabster when ready. M.V. Hrossey arrived in Aberdeen at 06:45 on Tuesday 24th February. M.V Hamnavoe departed Aberdeen for Stromness at 14:10 hrs. The next scheduled departure from Aberdeen will be on Thursday 26.02.04 at 17:00 sailing to Kirkwall and Lerwick. Due to adverse weather forecast, all passengers are advised to contact NorthLink Ferries for an update on this departure. Due to the severe weather conditions and in the interests of passenger safety tonight's sailing from Lerwick to Kirkwall and Aberdeen at 17:30 has been cancelled. The next scheduled sailing departure from Lerwick will be on Friday 27.02.2004 at 17:30 sailing to Kirkwall and Aberdeen. Due to severe weather forecast, the 23:45 sailing from Hatston to Aberdeen on Wednesday 25th February has been cancelled. The next scheduled departure from Hatston is the 23:45 sailing to Lerwick on 26th February. The next sailing to Aberdeen from Hatston will be on Friday 27th February at 23:45.

Harris Coaches: A bit of slightly related news that may interest Calmac passengers is the possible tender loss from Harris Coaches for the W10 Stornoway - Leverburgh bus service on Harris to a Lewis company. This will go ahead if the Western Isles Council accepts the lowest bidder. This will end a reliable and reputed service run by the company linking the Calmac terminals.

23/02/04 All quiet on the Western Front so to say at the moment. Saturn arrived at Wemyss Bay, not sure what's she's up to. Presumably down to relieve one of the boats. Juno must be covering Dunoon. this is this them probably swapping over instead of yesterday.

Update: Juno returned to service on the 1420 Gourock-Dunoon run. The Saturn moved to Wemyss Bay to take up the main Rothesay roster at 1515 and the Jupiter was therefore able to come up to the 'top wires' at Gourock for some essential maintenance.
The Coruisk is likely to be stationed at Rothesay for another 2 or 3 weeks.

22/02/04 Courisk is to be at Rothesay until 14th March, she will then go up to Mallaig. Hebrides and Loch Portian to be dry docked at Garvel together. Saturn is going back to Garvel for some work then when Hebrides and Loch Portain come out Jupiter is going in to have some work done on her props. Also a rumour that Isle of Mull might come down for quick dry docking in-between Clansman & Hebrides.

20/02/04 Juno arrived at the top wires at Gourock around 13:00pm today freshly painted.

Late News: Loch Fyne entered Garvel dry-dock at 10:55 on the 18th along with Clansman at 11:20 the same day.

19/02/04 NorthLink: M.V. Hjaltland will proceed to Dry Dock leaving Aberdeen at approx 10:15. The next scheduled departure from Aberdeen will be on Friday 20.02.04 at 1700 sailing to Kirkwall and Lerwick.

17/02/04 Loch Bhrusda was slipped on Monday at 7.55 at Ardmaleish boat yard Bute

Clansman arrived at Gourock this morning 0825, presumably to unload crew cars. Later sighted at 11:30am ish at Ferguson's.

Turns out Coruisk's gangway problem was a false alarm, there were a couple of glitches with the new gangway's machinery through the day but otherwise all went well.

16/02/04 06:30 - Coruisk left Gourock for Rothesay, 06:55 - Coruisk berthed at Linkspan at Rothesay and is trying the new gangway, She departed on time at 7.15 with 33 passengers and 11 crew.

Later Addition: MV Coruisk's first day in service on Rothesay-Wemyss Bay route this morning (Mon 16th).

Turnround at Rothesay going according to timetable although new gangway still not in operation. Passengers are boarding via her car deck - not sure yet if this applies at WB.

Conventional 'streaker' gangway at Rothesay has also been out of action for several days so passengers are used to taking the long way round!

15/02/04 Saturn left Rothesay, inbound for Dunoon, this will be to let Coruisk up to Garvel, to get her wing back on for tomorrow service in the lower firth. The port attachment has to be in position to allow her to use the new passenger gangway at Rothesay, where she berths port side to. It has to be

removed to allow her to use the gangways at Gourock and Dunoon. The regular gangways do not fit if the attachment remains in place. She can however operate to Dunoon with the starboard attachment still on as she only requires this for use at Wemyss Bay.

Loch Bhrusda's overhaul replacement wont be Isle of Cumbrae as she is at Lochaline, it is probably the Loch Linnhie. The Loch Fyne is due in with the Clansman on Wednesday 18th. the Loch Bhrusda will probably be going to Ardmaleish. Lord of the Isles arrived this morning to take up the Barra sailing at midday. The Clansman is still in Oban, but will leave tonight, to arrive at Ferguson's for 8:00am ish, then, on to Garvel on Wednesday. She is going to Ferguson's for an extension to her boat deck, this will give a roof over the deck directly behind the bar. She is getting it craned and tacked on, then down to dry dock for finishing touches.

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- 13/02/04 Lord of the Isles left Aberdeen this morning at 9.46am, sailing round to Oban after completing trials. Loch Tarbert was sighted tied up in Rothesay.
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- 12/02/04 The Eigg is due to depart Oban at 05.30 today for overhaul at Corpach boat yard. this will be her first time there. Clansman is due at Ferguson's on Monday, and dry-dock on Wednesday, so Lord of the Isles will need to be back from overhauls in Aberdeen by Sunday morning sailing to Barra. Loch Dunvegan has left JWD and is heading back to the Kyles for service.
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- 10/02/04 Isle of Cumbrae is currently sitting at the wires in Gourock. Coruisk seems to be on the Dunnon run.
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- 09/02/04 Coruisk has now taken up the Gourock - Dunoon roster. Jupiter and Saturn are on the Wemyss Bay - Rothesay service and Juno has joined Sound of Scarba (Western Ferries) in Garvel Dry-dock for her overhaul.
- See photo opposite for latest image at Gourock.
- Just when CORUIISK seemed to be back, she is presently at James Watt Docks. It appears that she is moored very close to the JWD entrance, and is tied up at a funny angle, which caused the entrance to the Docks to be obstructed. Cal Mac sailings at 1220 ex Gourock & 1250 ex Dunoon will be passenger only. AliCat currently at Gourock Pier (12:10) Saturn was seen heading down firth towards Wemyss Bay - possibly to take up the 1300 to Rothesay. A streaker as far as we know is heading up river.
- NorthLink: The Hebridean Isles, now on temporary charter to NorthLink, departed Scrabster at 13:20 and is expected to arrive in Stromness at 15:20. Due to the fact that the MV Hrossey is currently in Dry Dock there will be no sailing from Lerwick today. The next scheduled sailing from Lerwick will depart for Kirkwall and Aberdeen on Tue 10th Feb at 17:30.
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- 08/02/04 Isle of Mull noted back on Mull service today after her brief engine trouble.
- 12:40pm Coruisk has been sighted powering round Toward Point en-route to Rothesay. Saturn has gone on to the Dunoon service this morning having changed places with Jupiter.
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- 07/02/04 Coruisk was sighted sailing into Rothesay, not sure if she came from Wemyss Bay or Gourock. She was later seen heading back up to Gourock at about 16.00. She is trying out her new gangway, seemly the batteries on the gangway can only be used for 4 lifts before needing recharged.
- Loch Dunvegan is sighted sailing up from Rothesay at 14:00, not sure where she is off to, currently opposite Wemyss Bay. Last week she was off due to technical trouble, this could be the result of

that. Apparently she is requiring a spare part from Germany. She's replaced by Loch Tarbert on standby.

The CALEDONIAN ISLES was chartered by the CRSC and taken on an anti-clockwise circumnavigation of the island after disembarking her 0945 ex-Ardrossan passengers on a sail that lasted over four hours, allowing about an hour ashore at Brodick before her service run back to the mainland. Under the command of Captain McCrindle all 224 passengers seemed to thoroughly enjoy the day.

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- Later Addition: Isle of Mull's problems seemed to be her engine oil cooler went, filling the oil tank and the engine up with sea water. After cleaning her out and repairing the fault, a lot of oil under pressure was sprayed around the car deck when a hose used to fill the tank burst. That's why she didn't make it to Oban to do the 16.00 sailing as was expected.
- Later Addition: The Hebridean Isles returned to Oban about noon and so did not make it to Colonsay. She then left Oban going north presumably for Scrabster. The Clansman left Oban at 16:00 for Craignure and there is still no signs of the Isle of Mull. There is a unconfirmed report of some sort of 'spillage incident', Boom equipment had been ordered but was not required. She has not been allowed to sail on 1 engine so stuck in Craignure. SoC cant confirm this and no further details as of yet.
- Later Addition: It seems that Coruisk is due to berth at Rothesay on Sunday night while Juno comes up to Gourock. The former goes on No 2A Roster (secondary roster) first thing Monday and the latter goes into Garvel Drydock with the WF which is being delayed. It also appears that Hebridean Isles, which did Colonsay this morning, will be relieved by a repaired Isle of Mull for the 1600 Craignure and will then proceed to Orkney. Hamnavoe will not wait for her, less she loses her drydock slot. I assume the first run will just have to be cancelled if necessary.
- 06/02/04 The Isle of Mull has still not arrived back in Oban, the Hebridean Isles left Oban at 10:30 going south presumably doing the Colonsay sailing. The Hebridean Isles also did the Mull's 08:00 run.

05/02/04 The Isle of Mull was lying at Craignure with engine trouble today, she was spotted there since 11.00am. The Clansman has been called in from outer isles and picked up the afternoon traffic. Hebridean Isles is being diverted to Craignure en route to Stromness to cover in the meantime. A source notes that Isle of Mull's repair shouldn't take too long. Hebridean Isles arrived at Oban at about 1900hrs. She was loaded probably from Craignure and appears to be tied up for the night. Coruisk was in at Rothesay today trying out her new gangway, but apparently it does not fit. Her invalid left is still out of use and she was unable to sail on the 18:15 ex Rothesay tonight. She was at Gourock tonight waiting for an engineer to fix her broken lift. She is due to take up the Rothesay-Wemyss Bay service on Monday, all being well. Jupiter is still on the Dunoon run this afternoon.

04/02/04 Due to yesterdays adverse weather the the following will revised timetables will operate today, Calmac warn this is of course weather permitting.

Mull / Colonsay Service
Dep Oban 0800 Dep Craignure 0845 Arr Oban 0930
Dep Oban 1200 Arr Colonsay 1415 Dep Colonsay 1420 Arr Craignure 1700 Arr Oban 1745
Dep Oban 1800 Dep Craignure 1900 Arr Oban 1945

Uig/Oban / Barra / Coll Service
Dep Oban 0600 Arr Uist 1050
Dep Uist 1100 Arr Barra 1230
Dep Barra 1245 Arr Coll 1545
Dep Coll 1545 Arr Oban 1830
Tarbert/Lochmaddy
Dep Lochmaddy 0730
Arr Uig 0910

Dep Uig 0940
 Arr Tarbert 1120
 Dep Tarbert 1140
 Arr Lochmaddy 1320
 Dep lochmaddy 1340
 Arr Uig 1520
 Dep Uig 1540
 Arr Lochmaddy 1720.

NorthLink: M.V. Hamnavoe is currently in Stromness. Due to the severe weather and in the interest of passenger safety and comfort, the 09:00 departure from Stromness and the 12:00 departure from Scrabster on Wed 04.02.2004 have both been cancelled. The next scheduled sailing after this will be the 16:30 departure from Stromness followed by the 19:00 departure from Scrabster on Wed 04.02.2004. M.V Hjalmland arrived in Aberdeen at 06:50. Due to adverse weather conditions the sailing time of the Hjalmland has been delayed until 06:00 hrs on Wednesday 4th. Estimated time of arrival into Lerwick will be 18:00 hrs. M.V. Hrossey arrived in Lerwick at 07:20 this morning. Due to severe weather conditions, and in the interests of passenger safety, the MV Hrossey will not be sailing this evening. This situation will be reviewed at 08:00 tomorrow morning.

03/02/04 Isle of Arran will berth overnight on Wednesday at Port Askaig then depart on Thursday for Kennacraig and take up the 12.50 sailing to Port Askaig. Hebridean Isles will depart Kennacraig soon as unloading for the Pentland Firth.

NorthLink: Due to the severe weather forecast and in the interest of passenger safety and comfort, the 16:30 departure from Stromness and the 19:00 departure from Scrabster have both been cancelled. The 03:45 departure from Stromness tomorrow morning is currently under review and a decision is expected at 17:00 this afternoon.

02/02/04 Current Clyde Status: Coruisk is in Garvel DD, she moved there this morning for her annual survey. Jupiter is currently on the Gourock-Dunoon run. Saturn and Juno are on the Rothesay-Wemyss Bay run. Pioneer remains in JWD boarded up while AliCat continues the 1A roster from Gourock.

01/02/04 In Ferguson's again today, the Coruisk has a mobile type crane positioned over her. It appears as if heavy equipment is being moved or something suggesting there further modifications being carried out. Noted a few days ago but not listed was a additional external piece of metal added around her gangway entrance, possible allowing the new Gangways to attach better.

DATE	NEWS
28/07/04	Hebridean Isles left Lochmaddy yesterday at 1600 yesterday and arrived Tarbert 1800. Clansman left Tarbert at 1715 for Stornoway. Lochnevis tried out the new Muck slipway this morning.

27/03/04 There hasn't been much notable the last few days!, the Hebrides and Isle of Arran have been moving about in JWD. The Uig run finished at 1645hrs yesterday evening at Lochmaddy, after this, the Clansman will head for Stornoway, replacing the Muirneag on tonight's freight run. the Muirneag will then head for the Clyde either some time yesterday, or this morning. She could be in the Clyde by this morning. The Hebrides will head for Lochmaddy, for tomorrows sailing. Finally a bit of delayed news: The Loch Fyne was blown onto Fishnish slip last Saturday in a gale force 9-10, she had to be pulled off. Coastguard, Oban and Tobermory lifeboat were in

attendance. no casualties were reported, and after being escorted back to Lochaline, no damage was found by divers.

Loch Fyne on Sunday 28/3. She is chartered to MacLachlans the contractors in Oban to transport a crusher from Oban to Fishnish Eigg is heading to Corpach to have alterations to her ballast and stability re-calculated. Should be there mid day Friday 26/3 until Tues 30/3 approx. Hebrides will be loading crew cars at Gourock around midday today, then heading for Lochmaddy to berth there after Clansman leaves at 07:30 Saturday. Clansman will do all triangle runs on Saturday before departing Tarbert around 17:30 for Stornoway, with Hebrides arriving shortly after from Lochmaddy. (She is going to Lochmaddy to offload hardboard floor covering used while in dock) Muirneag is now possibly going to Birkenhead for repair as Aberdeen seemingly is not able to take her - it's going to be a rush job with Clansman starting her own schedule on Friday 2 April Clansman is scheduled to be doing all the Coll and Tiree sailings from Tuesdays to Saturdays which includes the Thursday extension to Castlebay from Tiree. She will also sail to the Outer Isles on Saturday and Sunday afternoons as well as the Wednesday and Friday 1330 return to Castlebay.

Lord of the Isles is scheduled to cover the Sunday and Monday Coll and Tiree sailings, all Colonsay sailings which includes the Wednesday return trip from Oban before and after the 2 ship Islay service operates. She will also take the Tuesday afternoon to South Uist and Barra, the Thursday run to Lochboisdale and the return to Lochboisdale on Saturdays at 0900. Loti will also take the Tuesday Castles cruise as well as the 2230 Craignure sailing on Fridays.

Update:

Hebrides did indeed leave Gourock at 1305 yesterday and arrived at Lochmaddy at 0850 this morning. She's due to sail to Tarbert to arrive after Clansman leaves this afternoon at 1730. Muirneag left Stornoway this morning at 0845 for Birkenhead, which she should reach tomorrow afternoon. The plating job is not major and, deo volente, she should be back in Stornoway for her Thursday night run, allowing Clansman plenty of time to get to Oban for the start of the summer timetable.

Coruisk did indeed leave Gourock at 1140 on Monday 15 bound for the north, but had to put back because of severe weather off Holy Isle. She had been due to spend the night at Port Askaig. She then tied up at the top wires at Gourock for a week (time not being pressing) and left at 0500 on Tuesday 23, arriving Mallaig after a non-stop run at 1925.

On the Clyde, Loch Tarbert has already gone to Lochranza (Tuesday 23), Isle of Cumbrae is at Rothesay ready for her summer at Tarbert and Loch Riddon will then make for Largs as second vessel there.

23/03/04 Coruisk sailed early this morning for Mallaig form the Clyde.

22/03/04 Caledonian MacBrayne
Confirm placement of order for new ferry

Caledonian MacBrayne has confirmed that its new ferry for the Wemyss Bay to Rothesay route will be built in Gdansk in Poland.

Funding of up to £8.75million for the new ship was announced last October by Minister of Transport, Nicol Stephen MSP. The company has confirmed that, following a competitive tendering process, the ship will be built by the Remontowa Group in Gdansk. Representatives of the Group met CalMac executives in Gourock today (Monday, March 22) to sign the contract.

The Remontowa Group has a strong track record of building British ships and is currently engaged in work on two ships for Shetland.

CalMac Chairman Dr Harold Mills said: "The eight tenders received were very competitive and we

believe that we have achieved an outcome which will give us a ship which will be well suited to its purpose. The Remontowa option was clearly the best in terms of value for money, reliability and delivery guarantees. This is an important step towards the development of a 21st century ferry service for the island of Bute. The new ship will effectively bring the island closer to the mainland, connecting the two communities. With better access to the rail and road network, I hope that integration of services will lead to even more people using the route and we will obviously be working closely with the appropriate authorities to ensure that the shore infrastructure will match the first-class seagoing facilities.”

CalMac received tenders for the project from yards throughout Europe. Work will commence on the building of the new ship within the next few weeks and the ship is due for delivery in the Summer of 2005 to begin service on CalMac’s busiest route.

Tom McNeil, CalMac’s Technical Director, said: “Work now starts on the final detail of the ship’s form. I am delighted to confirm that she will have stabilisers and be propelled using an advanced version of Azimuthing Thrusters, enabling the ship-handlers to achieve high levels of manoeuvrability and control. It is worth noting that only one yard out of the eight tenders received, based in England, offered to build the hull within the UK. CalMac is always pleased to be building new ships.

The Streakers have served us well but are now coming to the end of their working lives. The new ship will be ideally suited to commuter traffic and will be a very fitting replacement for the Streakers.”

Procuring the new ship will cost up to £8.75million and will carry approximately 60 cars (nearly twice as many cars as the 38 carried by Streakers currently operating on the route) and 450 passengers on CalMac’s busiest route, and is due to enter service in 2005.

CalMac Managing Director Lawrie Sinclair also confirmed today that the Company will hold another meeting on Bute to detail the ship’s capabilities and performance once further work has been done on the design. He said: “It is important that everyone appreciates at the outset that there is a fixed budget for this project and that we have to achieve best value for money, while producing the most customer-friendly ship possible. I am very much looking forward to getting the project up and running and delighted to be starting the building process up again, so quickly after getting our two new ships into service last summer. We will go to Bute at the earliest suitable opportunity as we promised, when further work has been completed on the design, as we are aware that there were some people who did not get the chance to see the early proposals at our first meeting on the island. ”

19/03/04 Muirneag is due to leave the Hebrides at the end of the month and will be replaced by the Clansman on the Stornoway freight run.
Jupiter celebrated her 30th Birthday in style all flags flying and a birthday cake today.

17/03/04 Muirneag was missing from Stornoway today - perhaps on her journey down to the Clyde for repairs to her hull.

16/03/04 Loch Alainn has apparently developed steering problems and has gone to Rothesay for repairs. Loch Tarbert, which was lying spare at Rothesay, has taken over.

Disruptions: Gourock - Dunoon Service
Due to adverse weather conditions the 1920 & 2018 sailings from Gourock and the 1950 & 2045 sailings from Dunoon have been cancelled.

Ullapool - Stornoway Service

Due to adverse weather, the 1730hrs sailing from Ullapool tonight (16.03.04), and the 0715hrs sailing from Stornoway tomorrow (17.03.04) have been cancelled.

Sound of Harris Ferry

Due to tidal restrictions, the following times and dates have been amended:

Monday 22nd & Tuesday 23rd March.

Dep Berneray 1010hrs instead of 1110hrs

Dep Leverburgh 1130hrs instead of 1240hrs

All other sailings as per timetable.

-
- 15/03/04 Coruisk was alongside the end berth at Garvel, having her 'Lower Upper Firth of Clyde' gangway platforms removed. She was seen sailing up the Clyde, just past the Cumbrae's, in the main channel, she was possibly making the start of her trip back to Mallaig and had to turn back in the rough weather. Later reports suggest that she went down past Wemyss Bay just after mid day and back again about three hours later. Not really enough time to take a peek in to the North Channel. She was possibly doing more trials.
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- 14/03/04 12:29pm Coruisk unable to berth at Wemyss Bay now heading up to Gourock. 13:48pm - now approaching Toward inbound to Rothesay. She then departed for Wemyss bay at 14.30 full with 31 cars and a milk tanker and leaving 3 cars behind. She then came back over to Rothesay to pick up crew cars. She then went to Rothesay along with both Saturn and Juno. Following those wanders she headed back up to Gourock and onto Ferguson's for the morning, or possibly tonight. Her trip there is possibly due to a wee bump with Wemyss Bay pier today, which left her with a lovely dent on her port side. I believe this happened during the sailing which she was forced to abort the docking at Wemyss Bay and head to Gourock. The work there will also include: additional crew cabins, due to the fact she only has 7 or 8, when she needs 10. Also her stair wells need work done. The Loch Riddon departed Tarbert for the 1115 service but was back minutes later due to excessive gales blowing up Loch Fyne
- Disruption: Due to adverse weather conditions, the Isle of Mull has turned back from her sailing to Tiree & Coll and will arrive in Oban at 09.30hrs. The Lord of the Isles should now Oban at 12.00hrs as normal
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- 13/03/04 Isle of Cumbrae is temporarily back on her old haunting grounds at Largs.
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- 12/03/04 Northlink: Estimated time of arrival for the Hjaltland into Aberdeen will be 14:00 due to a swell at the harbour entrance.
- Normal service will resume on the Uig/Lochmaddy/Tarbert triangular route from Saturday March 13 at 15:30, ex Uig sailing to Tarbert. Maintenance work at Tarbert Pier has been completed ahead of schedule with the service to resume as timetabled on Saturday afternoon.
-
- 11/03/04 Due to tidal restrictions, the following times and dates have been amended:
Disruption: Monday 22nd & Tuesday 23rd March.
Dep Berneray 1010hrs instead of 1110hrs
Dep Leverburgh 1130hrs instead of 1240hrs
All other sailings as per timetable.
-
- 10/03/04 Loch Portain will double dock with Isle of Arran, she is currently in Oban on her way to the Clyde. This is her first spell off the Sound of Harris since she entered service on June 5 last year.
- Update: c 11:40am Loch Portian is now en-route to James Watt Dock from Largs.

Disruption: Due to essential maintenance work being carried out on the linkspan at Tarbert, Harris. There will be no vehicular service between Tarbert and Uig for approximately one week, following the 0730 departure from Tarbert on Monday 8th March 2004. Alternative routes for vehicles will be via Ullapool/Stornoway or Uig/Lochmaddy/Sound of Harris. A limited passenger only service will operate on the Uig/Tarbert route as follows:
Dep Tarbert Wednesday & Friday at 0730 hrs
Dep Uig Tuesday & Saturday at 1400 hrs and on Thursday at 1500 hrs.
Please contact Uig or Tarbert offices for further information.
14:20 Loch Portian has just entered James Watt Docks. Hebrides had entered Garvel drydock 10 mins earlier.

09/03/04 Caledonian MacBrayne has confirmed that the company, which has been operating the Ballycastle - Rathlin ferry service in Northern Ireland since 1996, has extended its contract to provide the service from 31 March, 2004 until 31 March, 2006.

08/03/04 11:46: Loch Fyne just sailed past Wemyss bay pier Outbound for Largs and Lochaline.
Update: Loch Fyne berthed at Largs on the outside of the pier around 1220. She was to have further trials this afternoon with MCA and Lloyds people onboard. The plan this afternoon was for her to berth overnight at Largs tonight and Campbeltown tomorrow night.

07/03/04 Hebrides arrived on the Clyde 9:30 berthing at Ferguson's port side to under the command of Capt. Alec McCrindle master of the Caledonian Isles.

06/03/04 Isle of Arran left Oban at 0800 this morning after doing the 0700 Craignure to Oban. She is bound for Gourock and JWD. Clansman relieved Hebrides today at Uig in time for the 1530 sailing to Tarbert. Hebrides is now on her way down to the Clyde for fitting of her new top deck at Ferguson's and then overhaul at Garvel. She is due at Gourock around 0900 tomorrow morning. Loch Bhrusda spent Friday night in Tobermory, she left there at 0600 this morning and is spending tonight at Lochmaddy. She will relieve Loch Portain for her overhaul in the next couple of days, allowing her to double dock with Isle of Arran in Garvel. Eigg left Oban at 1430 yesterday to relieve the Eilean Dhiura (Not a member of the Calmac fleet) on the Port Askaig - Jura service. Eilean Dhiura passed Gourock at 1500 before turning into the Gareloch bound for Timbercraft, Shandon. Muirneag is going for dry-dock shortly, for an estimated two days, to have the 'hole' in her plating repaired. A temporary repair has been effected meantime. The cause of the 'hole' is stated to be 'natural wastage'.

05/03/04 Clansman exited James Watt Dock, Greenock today at 11:00am followed by the Isle of Mull at 11:30am. Clansman stopped off the Roseneath Peninsula for setting compasses and life raft / boat trials. Hebrides is due at Greenock to have a similar superstructure extension as her sister fitted this Sunday / Monday. Jupiter has also had her emergency repairs completed.
Muirneag will shortly be going into dry dock to repair a hole in a steel plate caused by 'natural wastage'. She will be in dry dock for two days. The hole has been temporarily repaired and doesn't affect the vessel operating. She will be going to dry dock to have it properly repaired. No date has been fixed, but it could possibly be a week on Saturday. She will be away for probably two nights and, depending on when it is away, Calmac will be making alternative arrangements. She will sail as normal until that happens as it doesn't affect the safety of the vessel.

04/03/04 Isle of Mull and Jupiter are now in Garvel DD for annual overhaul.

Isle of Arran due at Gourock 12.30 on Monday then she will move to James Watt Dock to have her car deck shot-blasted and painted.

03/03/04	Isle of Arran arrived in Oban today with the Isle of Mull berthed at Craignure due to depart for Garvel at 23.00 tonight.
DATE	NEWS
29/04/04	Lord of the Isles historically berthed at Rothesay pier today (pictured opposite), the last time that a Lord of the Isles would be at Rothesay (apart from the Duke of Rothesay himself) would be about 1928.
28/04/04	Lord of the Isles is due to cover on the Clyde routes for the Jazz Festival. Friday to Monday. She will do trials at all four piers. If she cannot dock at Dunoon she will be on the Rothesay run, she will then head back home. This will leave the Hebridean Isles at Islay where required. Isle of Arran will leave tomorrow for Craignure, berth there Wednesday night, and then into Oban on Thursday morning to take Lord of the Isles roster to Colonsay.
21/04/04	The Saturn and Jupiter were both stuck at Rothesay for a few hours today. Services resumed at 4.30pm with Jupiter heading for Wemyss Bay. The cause was strong wind and high tide at Rothesay.
19/04/04	The Loch Alainn is due to go off service on Wednesday from 9.30am for around 12 hours due to work being done onboard. The Loch Riddon will takeover.
Northlink:	Hrossey departed Hatston at 01:10. Due to tidal conditions in Aberdeen harbour, arrival time tomorrow is expected to be 10:00. The next scheduled departure from Hatston is the 23:45 sailing to Lerwick on Tuesday 20th April. Final check in for both vehicle and foot passengers is 23:15.
18/04/04	Hebridean Isles will be at Rothesay for the Jazz festival between 30th April until 3rd May. The Loch Riddon berthed at Millport due to work being done on Largs pier. She was berthed at Rothesay during the day but berthed at Millport overnight.
17/04/04	Juno assisted a small sailing vessel today which was in distress, she was on scene until the Largs Lifeboat arrived.
16/04/04	Loch Alainn underwent minor repairs at Rothesay today, lasting until 18/04/04
14/04/04	Lord of the Isles was storm bound at Port Askaig due to adverse weather overnight.
13/04/04	Isle of Arran underwent trials this morning after her overhaul in Garvel dock. Isle of Cumbrae was off for a brief period with a rope round her prop in the morning. Raasay arrived in Gourock for lay up as spare Upper Clyde vessel.
12/04/04	Isle of Mull had to miss Colonsay due to adverse weather conditions. (she later made the sailing on a return). Raasay moved to Largs on her way to Gourock.
11/04/04	Raasay moved to Campbeltown where she spent the night on her way to the upper Clyde.

09/04/04	Loch Linnhe was on the Eriskay roster until yesterday, she then moved to Tobermory - Kilchoan roster today but was off service due to a mechanical fault later today - Raasay covered for her.
08/04/04	Loch Riddon is berthed at Millport Old Pier due to weather.
07/04/04	Due to high winds, Hebridean Isles returned from Colonsay 1hr late. Loch Bhrusda had been operating on the Berneray-Leverburgh roster until today when she moved to Lochboisdale and onto Barra for the Barra-Eriskay roster. Loch Portian arrived from Armadale at Leverburgh to start the 1600 roster.
05/04/04	Loch Portian set off for Berneray today but diverted due to weather to Armadale.
04/04/04	Loch Portian arrived in Tobermory today and spent overnight there.
03/04/04	Loch Portian set off for Largs then onto Campbeltown where she stayed overnight on her way home to the western Isles.
02/04/04	Isle of Arran will be leaving the Garvel Dry Dock sometime before 11:30am today with new hard resisting resin on her car deck. Clansman resumed the Oban-Coll-Tiree/Barra-Lochboisdale / (Craignure) roster from today. Isle of Cumbrae started on the Tarbert-Portavadie roster today. Loch Tarbert began the Claonaig roster from today.
01/04/04	Marking 30 years of loyal service and a lifetime with Calmac today is MV Pioneer, more on her day here . Clansman departed from Stornoway to Oban under the Skye Bridge. Eigg resumed the Oban - Lismore roster after her ballast adjustment at Corpach. Laig Bay now seems to be laid up due to the opening of the slipway at Eigg.
DATE	NEWS
20/05/04	The Loch Tarbert was absent from the Lochranza crossing for some unknown reason. Loch Riddon was dispatched to relieve during the morning (was spotted at Largs 0730) and was spotted approaching Claonaig with a very delayed 12.00 ex Lochranza. Only other news is that Isle of Arran has forsaken her Gourock berth for service in the Western Isles once more.
17/05/04 Northlink:	Dry-dock Timetable in Operation on Pentland Firth Route. Hascosay departed Scrabster at 07:10 and is expected to arrive in Stromness at 09:10. Further sailings will be subject to delays.
15/05/04 Northlink:	TEMPORARY ARRANGEMENTS IN PLACE FOR PENTLAND FIRTH ROUTE The NorthLink ro-ro ferry Hamnavoe, which operates on the Pentland Firth route between Scrabster and Stromness, will sail for dry-dock in Germany after completing her final scheduled sailing from Scrabster on Sunday evening (May 16). During this period, the Pentland Firth route will be served by Hascosay, currently operating on the Aberdeen – Kirkwall – Lerwick route. Hascosay, which recently underwent a comprehensive overhaul and re-fit, will operate a car, freight and limited passenger service on the existing Hamnavoe schedule. Passenger bookings will be affected. Northlink strongly recommend advance booking. For further information please
14/05/04	Isle of Arran left the James Watt Dock this afternoon and berthed at 1340 at the Top Wires at Gourock. She'll remain there until she's needed for service later in the month.

10/05/04 Raasay is currently at Largs relieving the Loch Riddon that's in JWD getting ramp repairs. Tying to keep up with these small boats and there wild travelling isn't easy! Just reported is that Raasay was missing from Largs yesterday but Loch Riddon was at the Millport Berth with Calmac men work on her stern ramp (The one she uses when she is at Largs).
- It now appears Raasay is back at Gourock!...

Waverley: If you have subscribed to Clydeshipping, there are quite a few images posted of her wee, but historical, trip around the inner western isles. Subscription details above.

07/05/04 Lord of the Isles left Colonsay at 07.50 for Oban as per timetable.

Disruption: The Tarbert - Portavadie service has been cancelled until further notice, due to "Technical Problems". Updates as and when.

04/05/04 Lord of the Isles went back to Oban after her brief stint on the Clyde for the Jazz Festival today.

03/05/04 Isle of Arran left Colonsay today after her run from Oban.

DATE	NEWS
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30/06/04	The Isle of Mull on Wednesday (today) passed Duart Castle at 1130 while crossing to Oban with only one engine. She suffered a breakdown on the 1000 sailing to Craignure. After all passengers and traffic were disembarked at Mull, she crossed light to Oban where she remained for the rest of the day being repaired. The 1100 to Oban was cancelled and Clansman called at Craignure at 1240 enroute to Oban and carried out the 1300 sailing from Mull. As it was a Wednesday Hebridean Isles was on her way to Oban from Port Askaig and Colonsay. She sailed straight from Colonsay to Craignure and departed at 1425 for Oban, passing Clansman off Lismore lighthouse enroute to Barra via Craignure.
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24/06/04 Due to adverse weather conditions, the Caledonian Isles sailings were disrupted for a hour in the evening yesterday. The ex MacBrayne's small ship Lochnell (now a privet vessel) was a casualty of the bad wind and rain yesterday and drifted form her mooring onto the rocks in Gourock bay. She turned on her side and almost sank but was later rescued and the hole was patched, she is due to make a full recovery.

23/06/04 Lord of the Isles made a call at Craignure (16:15-16:30) during the Castles Cruise today. She brought back 50 cars to the mainland and left a further 20 for the Isle of Mull to collect.

22/06/04 The Loch Linnhe was suffering bow ramp problems on today. After leaving Kilchoan at 1345, it took three attempts to get the ramp locking hooks to engage. A lot of 'zig-zagging- course changes were observed on the way over to Tobermory.

21/06/04 Loch Dunvegan was sailing single ended with traffic using only her stern ramp (normally used at Colintraive) in operation and vehicles having to do 3 point turns on the car deck. Not sure what the problem was with the other ramp, it was possibly Jammed.

15/06/04 Oban / Craignure Service
Due to mechanical problems on the Isle of Mull the 0745hrs sailing from Oban and the 0845hrs sailing from Craignure have been cancelled. As a result the Castles Cruise has also been cancelled.

12/06/04
Newbuild
Update:

The front page of the Buteman paper today (Friday 11th June issue), was about the meeting recently held by Cal-Mac regarding the new Rothesay ferry. A couple of major issues dominated the meeting, mostly the concerns about car parking at Wemyss Bay as the car marshalling area is to be increased to accommodate the larger capacity of vehicles waiting for the ferry. The second was about the concerns of the loss of Pursers aboard the Rothesay ferry. Many people are particularly worried that the on-shore facilities would be unable to cope with large number of people at peak times and whether people alighting from train would have enough time to buy a ticket prior to boarding the ferry. However Cal-Mac remain confident that their shore staff would be able to cope.

The update on the new ferry:

As previously reported, Cal-Mac confirmed that the new Rothesay ferry would have stabilizers fitted.

At the meeting Cal-Mac said that the new ferry would

- i) be powered by Schottel twin propellers;
- ii) have its superstructure moved aft by 2.4m to aid with weight distribution; and
- iii) have the officers accommodation and wheelhouse made of aluminium to help reduce the ship's weight.

Other issues which was out to company officials at the meeting were:

- whether alcohol would be sold aboard;
- possible lengthening of the timetables;
- the reliability of fast lift for the disabled from car deck;
- providing trolleys for mobility-impaired with luggage; and
- any penalty clause if the new ferry was late from her Polish builders.

08/06/04

Apologies for the absence of fleet news due to emails and website being down. News as and when will be back to normal now.

Not much to report other than the Streaker rota change - Jupiter is now on Dunoon run (06/06/04). Loch Dunvegan appeared to be having problems with a sticking ramp on the 6th.

The 1600 from Wemyss Bay yesterday appeared not to run due to a mechanical fault with Juno who was laid up - the 1600 sailing and 1645 return from Wemyss Bay were cancelled. No indication yet to the problem or outcome or weather she was back on for the 1730.

01/06/04

Disruptions:

Berneray - Leverburgh Service

The following sailings are cancelled due to tidal restrictions:

Thursday 3rd June

Dep Bernaray 1205hrs

Dep Leverburgh 1325hrs

Friday 4th June

Dep Bernaray 1325hrs

Dep Leverburgh 1445hrs.

Day Cruises from Uig

Due to tidal restrictions on Thursday 3rd June and Friday 4th June, the Grand North Uist and South of Harris tours have been cancelled.

DATE	NEWS
29/07/04	Disruption: Due to technical problems the 0710hrs sailing from Rothesay and the 0800hrs sailing from Wemyss Bay have both been cancelled.
27/07/04	Lord of the Isles made an unscheduled call at Tobermory on Sunday afternoon. She was inbound to Oban when a passenger took unwell and required putting ashore at the earliest opportunity.
25/07/04	<p>CALEDONIAN ISLES IN SEA RESCUE</p> <p>A small vessel, with three people on board, was adrift midway between Ardrossan in Ayrshire and Brodick on Arran after the engine broke down.</p> <p>The captain of the Caledonian Isles ordered his crew to launch the high-speed rescue craft, as the Caledonian Isles circled the Stricken vessel.</p> <p>After being launched, the Fast Rescue Craft was able to tow the motorboat to Brodick under escort by the Caledonian Isles.</p>
07/07/04	<p>Isle of Arran had problems with her bow ramp at Kennacraig on at lunchtime - the forward section jammed solid against the linkspan whilst still in vertical position. After a few attempts at lowering it, the vessel moved back three feet and with the car deck alarm going off, cars were eventually able to leave.</p> <p>Hebridean Isles went for a wander during her layover at Oban - was captured re-entering the Bay from the northern end - am not sure where she had been during the 90 minutes while Lord of the Isles used the linkspan.</p>
DATE	NEWS
30/08/04	Clansman was diverted on her inward bound crossing from Barra to call at Tiree, in lieu of Lord of the Isles. She also made a call on her outward bound sailing from Oban.
29/08/04	Lord of the Isles suffered a breakdown and is currently lying in Oban. It is expected that Isle of Mull, Clansman or one of the Islay ferries, most likely Isle of Arran will cover the stricken ferry's duties until her return to service.
20/08/04	Clansman did her morning run to Coll and Tiree as usual before taking the Mull roster in the afternoon. Isle of Mull was covering the Barra route for the afternoon. After the Mull duties were done Clansman then performed an extra overnight crossing to Tiree and back for the cattle sales.
19/08/04	Calmac confirmed today that the Pioneer has finally been sold after almost a year laid up in the James Watt Dock. The end of her Calmac career has finally arrived. Click here to see the history of this well-travelled and popular ferry.
11/08/04	The sailing from Ardrossan to Brodick (15:15) was delayed due to the late arrival of the train, which was late because of flooding on the track. The Caledonian Isles left Ardrossan 15 minutes later at 15:30.
10/08/04	The 8am ferry from Rothesay this morning was delayed by 25 mins after a lorry on the incoming sailing was unable to manoeuvre off MV Juno's car deck. 8.45am ex Wemyss Bay and 9.30am ex Rothesay were cancelled to allow recovery of the timetable. Normal service resumed with the 10.15am from WB.

09/08/04	Raasay is due to overhaul at Corpach Basin, she is due to be slipped at 17:00 on Friday 13th.
06/08/04	Pioneer has moved in her berth in James Watt Dock to allow inspection of the dockside.
DATE	NEWS
30/09/04	Pioneer sits in James Watt Dock still, awaiting the journey to her new life. It is reported that her new name will be Brenda Corlett.
23/09/04	Hebridean Isles is due at Garvel on Tuesday 28th for her annual overhaul.
21/09/04	The Brodick - Ardrossan Service was back on service at 11.05 departing from Brodick to Ardrossan. The Rathlin - Ballycastle Service was affected by the adverse weather. The 1100 sailing from Rathlin and the 1200 sailing from Ballycastle were both cancelled in the interest of safety. The Chargehand at Fionnphort has advised that due to adverse weather forecast the Loch Buie's service may be liable to disruption and/or cancellation today. Due to the adverse weather the Chargehand at Tarbert - Portavadie Service has advised that this service will be suspended meantime . The situation will be reviewed at 1300hrs. Updates from CALMAC .
19/09/04	Caledonian Isles had to divert to Gourock this evening due to strong winds making Ardrossan impossible to get into.
18/09/04	Movement has been sighted on Pioneer in JWD. It is believed that her new owners are now aboard and her radar is spinning away. It looks like it will be pretty soon for her departure to warmer climates... Loch Alainn was delayed by 15min at 11:15am today due to a large coach grounding the rear section on the slipway while boarding.
17/09/04	Northlink: Due to adverse weather conditions Hrossey arrived in Aberdeen 09:15 and is scheduled to depart Aberdeen at 19:00 sailing for Lerwick. Vehicle check-in is 17:00 - 18:00 Passenger boarding is 17:00 - 18:30. Loch Fyne out on trials, after getting some repair work done to her Voith-Schneider Propeller(s).. She will subsequently head north once trials are complete, letting Loch Riddon back to Largs
16/09/04	News Flash: Clansman abandoned her Barra call due to adverse weather conditions. She got as far as Tiree (12:50) and had to turn back. She is now taking refuge in the Sound of Mull. She will attempt a call back at Tiree again later today. Updates to follow from onboard reporter... Also: Ardrossan-Brodick Service: Friday 17/09/04 Due to adverse weather conditions the (0700) from Ardrossan has been cancelled the (1920) from Brodick has also been cancelled. For further information please contact local port. And finally... Happy 30th Birthday to MV Juno. The second of the streakers was launched at Lamont's yard 30 years ago today.
15/09/04	Update: Loch Riddon covering Loch Fyne on Fishnish-Lochaline run. They must of swapped over between Coruisk returning and Loch Fyne proceeding to JWD. Bruernish is back at Largs, to help Loch Alainn at the busy times, in Loch Riddon's absence.

14/09/04 Hebridean Isles was off the Islay run today due to mechanical problems, Isle of Arran was covering the Port Askaig run in her place. Isle of Cumbrae was back at Tarbet-Portavadie, but no sign of the Loch Riddon at Largs. The Coruisk has arrived back at Mallaig, dispatching the Loch Fyne to the Clyde, for repairs. She arrived this afternoon. Not sure what boat is covering Fishnish-Lochaline, will update with details from Dave Wolstenholme who will be there tomorrow.

10/09/04 Coruisk sailed from JWD for Mallaig this afternoon via an overnight berth at Cambeltown. The Bruernish arrived at Largs today, to cover the Loch Riddon, she will then presumably go for overhaul and become spare on the Clyde.

09/09/04 Isle of Cumbrae is covering for Loch Fyne (Lochaline - Fishnish), with Loch Riddon covering Isle of Cumbrae (Tarbert - Portavadie).

Update: Lord of the Isles was only off service for Sunday sailing to Colonsay, she was back in service last (30/08/04) Monday night for a delayed sailing to Colonsay.

07/09/04 Coruisk has made a arrival on the Clyde for a new drive unit to be fitted. Covering for her on the Skye crossing is the super loch class Loch Fyne. She seems to be coping well with her duties on this crossing which normally sees on of the larger units operating on it. Its not the first time she's been dispatched for this service run. No reports on how long she will be there.

01/09/04 News Reporting for a year! Yes, last August / September saw the start of our Fleet News reporting which has become quite successful in its own right! We would like to thank all contributors of fleet news for the past year and hope to continue to bring you the latest news of events in the future. We have a team of dedicated local reporters that send updated reports as and when they happen.

ARCHIVE FROM OCTOBER UNNAVALBLE

DATE	NEWS
30/11/04	The overhaul relief circuit continues... When Loch Buie returns to Fionnphort she will resume Iona duties. Loch Linnhe will then head north to Skye and relieve the Loch Striven on the Raasay crossing. Meanwhile, the Tobermory - Kilchoan crossing is being maintained by the Raasay throughout the winter. (Thanks to Ian McCrorie for the news update)
29/11/04	Coruisk left Garvel Dry Dock this afternoon having completed her annual overhaul.
27/11/04	Loch Buie is now at Rothesay, having previously come down from Iona for her annual overhaul at Ardmaleish. Loch Linnhe is covering on the Iona crossing. Loch Fyne is due to come down to the Clyde for her overhaul and is expected to go in with Jupiter. We expect that when Loch Dunvegan returns to service at Colintrave, she will release the Isle of Cumbrae to go and relieve at Fishnish. Loch Riddon is on the slip at Ardmaleish.
25/11/04	Isle of Arran has arrived at Gourock from her previous berth at Stornoway. She is believed to have called at Oban overnight earlier this week. Loch Riddon has also arrived in the JWD for remedial work on her ramps - she will sail shortly for Ardmaleish and annual overhaul. Currently in Garvel Dry Dock are Coruisk and Loch Dunvegan - the latter is also receiving new bow and stern ramps which recently arrived by sea from Poland, along with the new Dunoon linkspan and a new linkspan for Oban which will be kept in storage until such time it can be installed. Upon completion of her overhaul, Coruisk will relieve Jupiter on the Wemyss Bay - Rothesay crossing while the

streaker goes in for her overhaul. It is likely that she will be partnering the Juno when she celebrates the 30th anniversary of her entry into service on 2nd December.

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- 19/11/04 The new linkspan for Dunoon was installed today.
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- 17/11/04
🚫 Disruption It has been announced that on Monday, 13th December there will be no 1230 sailing from Ardrossan to Brodick. The return sailing at 1350 from Brodick is also cancelled. It states in the published timetables that on a Monday these sailings are subject to cancellation at short notice.
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- 16/11/04 Isle Of Lewis was spotted passing Scalpay on her return to Stornoway today following her refit. Travelling at some speed, she passed Scalpay at around lunchtime.
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- 13/11/04 Dunoon linkspan upgrade is due to step up another level with the fitting of the actual linkspan on Tuesday. It will be lifted into place by the Mersey Mammoth, after delivery from Polish manufacturers. Also coming on the coaster are the Loch Dunvegan's new ramps. She is currently sitting in JWD with no ramps fitted to her at all.
- Isle of Lewis has had internal refurbishment with the addition of more child-friendly amenities and facilities specifically designed to cater for the disabled. The former TV Lounge is being altered to a family room suitable for children up to the age of 14 incorporating a TV, small snack bar and seating area for adults to enable them to watch over their children. The Soft Play Room has now been converted into a Games Machine Room. Disabled customers will have better access to the cafeteria and pet-owners will have more comfortable seating and the Pet area has also been expanded. TV screens are to be fitted in the Bar area and better coffee and snack facilities are also to be available in the bar area. Calmac have decided not to make the costs of the changes available to the public. She is due to leave dock in Liverpool next Tuesday and should be back on the Stornoway run by 20 November. Taken from Friday's 'Hebridean'. → For current pictures of Isle of Lewis in Birkenhead, visit [Mersey Shipping](#).
- 🚫 Disruption NorthLink: Please note that due to weather conditions, the sailings on the Pentland Firth may be subject to delays or cancellations.
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- 12/11/04 Caledonian Isles is subject to delays due to heavy winds at Arran - some sailings may be cancelled in the interest of passenger safety. Lochnevis sailed to Eigg this morning but had to abort the landing at Eigg due to her bow thrusters not working correctly. She lay off Eigg for about an hour before informing the passengers waiting to depart that she was heading back to Mallaig. This is also due to heavy winds.
- 🚫 Disruptions: Mallaig / Small Isles / Armadale The 1600h sailing ex Mallaig and the 1640h sailing ex Armadale are cancelled this afternoon, there will be an additional call at Muck tomorrow weather permitting. Oban / Colonsay Service Next sailing MV Isle of Mull on Sunday at : Dep Oban 0930 Arr Colonsay 1200 Dep Colonsay 1230 Arr Oban 1500 Sound of Barra Service. Due to adverse weather conditions all sailings for the remainder of the day have been cancelled
- Northlink: Pentland Firth: Hamnavoe departed Scrabster at 12:00 and is expected to arrive in Stromness at approximately 14:00. Due to adverse weather conditions and in the interest of passenger comfort and safety, the scheduled 16:30 sailing from Stromness to Scrabster and the 19:00 sailing from Scrabster to Stromness have been cancelled.



12/11/04 Caledonian MacBrayne Press Release...

Ferry operator Caledonian MacBrayne has confirmed that the name of its new ship to service the

Isle of Bute will be named after the island. MV Bute is currently being built by the Remontowa Group in Gdansk, Poland.

Funding of up to £8.75million for the new ship was announced in October, 2003, by Minister of Transport, Nicol Stephen MSP. The ship is due to enter service as the newest addition to the CalMac fleet in the summer of 2005.

The name of the new ship was confirmed today (Friday, November 12), by CalMac's Chairman Dr Harold Mills, at the Conference organised by the Firth of Clyde Forum on "Transport on the Clyde" being held today in Glasgow. Dr Mills said: "The new MV Bute will actually be the seventh ship on the Clyde to have the name. The first was one of the original paddle steamers built for the Wemyss Bay Railway when it opened in 1865, while the next four were cargo ships sailing all the way from Glasgow and discharging at the various small piers on the Firth until they reached Rothesay and beyond. The best known Bute, however, was the car ferry which entered service for The Caledonian Steam Packet Company on the Wemyss Bay-Rothesay crossing on 6 December, 1954."

Dr Mills continued: "She was the third member of the trio of dual-purpose vessels - Arran, Bute and Cowal - which revolutionized the Clyde services half a century ago. Until their appearance car drivers had to experience the trauma of negotiating narrow wooden planks and then only if the tide was suitable. The 'ABC ferries' introduced the concept of hoist-loading where vehicles were driven on to the lift at any state of the tide and subsequently parked in a spacious garage beneath the passenger accommodation. This new ferry will mark the start of the latest generation of car ferries and we are pleased to be able to confirm good progress. This is an important step towards the development of a 21st century ferry service for the island of Bute and we have already begun to prepare for her introduction next summer."

Dr Mills concluded "I am pleased that the Board has decided to name the new vessel MV Bute, especially since I served in the late fifties on the previous MV Bute as an Assistant Purser to well known Rothesay Purser Peter Shaw."

The Remontowa shipyard's technical department employs the most up to date technology and has recently introduced three-dimensional modelling techniques for steel and outfit production information.

Norrie Brown, who is supervising the project on behalf of CalMac said: "One of the most interesting features of the project has been the creation of a new ship model and it is, for example, possible to "walk through" the engine room and accommodation to get an impression of what the compartments will eventually look like. Production of steel units is now well advanced and assembly on a transportable arrangement has commenced, prior to integrated blocks being transferred to the launch way. This will be a "sideways" launch, so there will be quite a splash!" Testing of the stabiliser equipment took place recently in the Rolls-Royce works in Dunfermline. Procuring the new ship will cost up to £8.75million and MV Bute will carry nearly 60 cars (nearly twice as many cars as the 38 carried by Streaker's currently operating on the Clyde) and 450 passengers on CalMac's busiest route, and is due to enter service in the summer of next year. Further details on MV Bute's progress and her anticipated arrival on station will be confirmed as she takes shape and progress will regularly be updated on the Company's website www.calmac.co.uk

→ [MV Bute on SoC](#)

06/11/04 Loch Linnhe is at Rothesay having just finished her overhaul. Isle of Cumbrae is covering for the super loch at the Kyle's of Bute. Loch Tarbert sailed full while covering at Portavidie and the Hebridean Isles has had all her external decks covered with a new non-slip matting at her last overhaul.

05/11/04 Ex Hebridean CalMac ferry Hebridean Princess arrived on the Clyde this morning for docking at Garvel.

04/11/04 Castlebay Timetable Amends due to Linkspan Maintenance (6/11 - 11/11)
 🚫 Disruption The Castlebay linkspan will be shut down for scheduled maintenance from Saturday 6th November until Thursday 11 November inclusive. To allow the shipment of articulated vehicles to and from Barra, it will be necessary to reroute services via Lochboisdale in order that articulated vehicles can use the Ceann a Gharaidh – Ardmhor (Eriskay – Barra) service. Other vehicles (cars and rigid commercial vehicles/vans) will be conveyed to and from Castlebay where they will be loaded/discharged via the use of the vessels (Lord of the Isles) side loading hoist. Customers are advised to contact either the Castlebay or Lochboisdale offices prior to travel to confirm that there have been no further changes to the following revised timetable. Saturday 6 November No scheduled service Sunday 7 November 1500 Oban - Lochboisdale 2020 2035 Lochboisdale – Castlebay 2225 Monday 8 November 0730 Castlebay - Lochboisdale 0920 0935 Lochboisdale – Oban 1455 Tuesday 9 November 1530 Oban - Lochboisdale 2050 2105 Lochboisdale – Castlebay 2255 Wednesday 10 November 0730 Castlebay - Lochboisdale 0920 0935 Lochboisdale – Oban 1455 Thursday 11 November 1530 Oban - Castlebay 2050 2105 Castlebay - Lochboisdale 2255 2310 Lochboisdale – Oban 0540 (Friday morning) Friday 12 November 0930 Oban – Lochboisdale 1450 1505 Lochboisdale – Castlebay 1655 1710 Castlebay – Oban 2230

02/11/04 Loch Dunvegan left the Kyles of Bute for the James Watt Dock this morning. She is expected to go into Garvel dry-dock for her annual overhaul in the next few days where she is believed to be receiving new ramps. We believe Isle of Cumbrae is currently operating on the Colintraive - Rhudodach route. Coruisk has also been put into service on the Gourock - Dunoon crossing today while Jupiter lay at the 'wires' berth.

DATE	NEWS
29/12/03Not much happening folks I'm afraid! Keep the updates coming in, Regards, News Team.

28/12/03 CORUIISK seems to have a new position of her navigation lights. They appear to have been heightened, possibly because of the side ramp.

19/12/03 HEBRIDEAN FERRIES - Oban 1525hrs today.
 CLANSMAN departs for Lochboisdale 5 minutes early to allow ISLE OF MULL onto the linkspan on arrival from Isle of Colonsay and to load for it's 1600hrs departure for Craginure (Isle of Mull) while LORD OF THE ISLES lies alongside the Railway Pier "off roster". CLANSMAN is due to relieve on Kennacraig - Islay run to allow one of these vessels (HEBRIDEAN ISLES or ISLE OF ARRAN) to go for annual but yards are closed over the festive period so there's a bit of work-sharing at Oban. It now appears to Calmac that because of yet more objections from the Fishing Industry they may well have to abandon plans for Oban's second linkspan. This is bound to affect next summer's proposed timetable that would have allowed the three ships increased frequencies to the Isles. The 1530hrs sailing today of the CLANSMAN to Lochboisdale and Castlebay returning to Oban at 0540hrs tomorrow is the last overnight sailing of the Winter timetable - from Friday 9 January the return sailing from Lochboisdale will be at 0730hrs via Castlebay (0925hrs).

18/12/03 It seems MV PIONEER is being mothballed and stripped of her Calmac internal fittings and is looking a very sad sight in JWD, could this be the end? More updates to come... (Later Update, thanks to Derek Crawford:) Way back in August PIONEER's crew all said that she was to be mothballed, ie having all windows and doors covered over with metal plates to completely seal the vessel up, with no crew on board bar a watchman. When she finally did arrive back in Greenock she was on 24 hour notice to sail and was active in sense of maintenance being carried and part of a crew was on board. Now it would appear that they have gone back to the original idea which, to put it mildly, is bad news. At a guess I would think the end is nigh...

A report has come in about Alicat's incident, apparently she did not come into contact with anything floating in the water. One her own rudders came away from the assembly and contacted the propeller and consequently damaged the prop.

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- 17/12/03 Loch Alainn has left JWD Glasgow and was spotted heading for the Skelmorlie Channel to Largs at 1315h today.
- There seems to be some activity around Pioneers Berth in the JWD today too, further updates as they come in.
- The Lord of the Isles was rostered to complete Clansman's sailings yesterday, today and tomorrow, allowing Clansman time off at Oban. Lord of the Isles then has Sunday and Monday off at Oban. At 4.30pm today Clansman was still alongside the Railway Pier - Lord of the Isles went to Craignure with the 4.00pm departure and Isle of Mull was due back from Colonsay at 5.00pm.
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- 16/12/03 Coruisk is expected on the Rothesay service for Friday. Alterations are presently being made to the pier there and they are awaiting delivery of the new gangway. Coruisk is to have her belting modified again to allow her to operate on this service. It is possible that Coruisk's timekeeping may be slightly better on the Rothesay run. Her main problem appears to be when manoeuvring into the berth so the longer run between piers may allow her to catch up slightly.
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- 15/12/03 The Loch Tarbert is due to leave Largs today, probably because the Loch Alainn will be returning from her overhaul. The Loch Tarbert will probably just be sitting in Rothesay until needed.
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- 14/12/03 CORUIISK was spotted heading for Rothesay, probably on "Berthing trials" again. JUNO and JUPITER maintain the Wemyss Bay - Rothesay shuttle while SATURN (and presumably ALICAT) are on the Gourock - Dunoon shuttle.
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- 11/12/03 ALI CAT was today spotted coming out of what looks like Garvel dry-dock - perhaps problem fixed.
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- 10/12/03 ALI CAT hit a submerged object off Gourock this morning, and this is the reason for her fouled prop and rudder. SATURN should be operating at Gourock today with CORUIISK taking up ALICAT's sailings. Unknown if CORUIISK will be taking cars or not. CORUIISK may also undertake berthing trials at Rothesay and Wemyss Bay as well today.
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- 09/12/03 SATURN seems to be operating without one of her side ramps, will update when more information comes in.
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- 6/12/03 The Loch Tarbert is covering the Largs run while the Loch Alainn is away. The Loch Riddon may be at Tarbert-Portavadie if the Loch Linnhe is at Sconser.
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- 3/12/03 MV Saturn left Garvel drydock this morning, and berthed in the James Watt Dock. MV Loch Alainn then took her place in the Garvel drydock.
- There is a small rumour that MV Pioneer will be reinstated into the fleet for use as a spare vessel after an overhaul this winter. Watch this space.
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SHIPS OF CALMAC - FLEETNEWS – 2004

- 2/12/03 Launched Today 1984: at Ferguson's was the Isle of Arran. Loch Alainn is in James Watt Dock for her annual overhaul. Loch Riddon has been sent to replace her. Loch Tarbert was at Largs tonight, after docking she slipped into her overnight berth. Loch Striven may join the Loch Alainn and the Jupiter in JWD. After the Loch Linnhe was replaced on the Iona run by the newly overhauled Loch Buie, she sailed to Sconser to replace the Loch Striven (who is reportedly now heading for Timbercraft).
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- 1/12/03 On Wednesday 3rd December 2003 the following sailing will replace the scheduled service: Departing Mallaig at 1025hrs following that Muck, Eigg, Muck and back to Mallaig. For more information contact the Calmac Mallaig office on (01687)462403
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- 1/12/03 Saturn is currently in Garvel Dry Dock along with AliCat and Pioneer in James Watt Dock
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- 1/12/03 Loch Alainn was sighted inbound for James Watt Dock this morning, later to be seen heading back down towards Largs, will report further updates as they come in.