

DATE NEWS

31/01/07 **Western Isles:**

Loch Alainn arrived on Barra at 1600 this afternoon after her long trek from the Clyde. Her trials on the **Ardmhor - Eriskay** roster should begin shortly in view to displacing the **Loch Bhrusda**. The Clyde ferry has a greater car capacity of 24 over the Hebridean vessels 18 which should allow her to cope with increased demand for the route generated by new Island Hopscotch© tickets CalMac now provide.

Lord of the Isles is lying Bow first in Oban tonight while the **Isle of Mull** berthed in Craignure.

Isles of Arran took up the 1250 sailing from Kennacraig to Port Ellen. **Hebridean Isles** left Kennacraig at 1300 bound for Scrabster. Her ETA at the Pentland port is 1000 tomorrow morning.

Clansman is settling in to her relief duties on the Northern Minch roster between Ullapool - Stornoway.



Loch Alainn at Barra today



Clansman at Stornoway today

30/01/07 **Western Isles:**

Loch Alainn has been continuing her journey up towards Barra today. She was spotted in the Sound of Jura, off Loch Crinan at 1030 this morning which would indicate she was making for Oban and a passage through the Sound of Mull. She is due to arrive on Barra late tomorrow.

Isle of Arran was seen sailing south past Whiting Bay, Arran at 1315 this afternoon, she later arrived in Port Ellen this evening. She will sail for Kennacraig tomorrow morning and will take over from the **Hebridean Isles** for the 1300 sailing to Islay. **Hebridean Isles** will depart for Stromness at around 1400 as she is due to relieve on the Stromness - Scrabster route for NorthLink's **Hamnavoe**.

Company News:



→ **V Ships Pulls Out of Ferry Tender**
(external link to BBC)

→ **CalMac to Begin Meetings to Inform CHFS Tender Bid**

→ **CalMac Comment on CHFS Tender Process**

→ **CalMac Welcomes Clarification on Relocation**

→ **CalMac to Survey Bute Customers**

(external links to CalMac)



Loch Alainn heading north today



Isle of Arran at Port Ellen tonight

Did You Know...? This Page Has Been Viewed Nearly 14,000 Times So Far This Month!

29/01/07 **Isle of Lewis** arrived in the Mersey around 0600 this morning. She later berthed alongside Birkenhead at 0700.

Western Isles:

Isle of Mull was reduced to a crawl approaching Craignure this morning. She eventually docked at 0755 with more possible engine difficulties. She then completed a fast turn around and departed Craignure at 0805.

Raasay is now back on her winter station at Tobermory while **Loch Linnhe** has moved on, destination currently unknown.



Raasay at Tobermory today

Clyde:

Saturn was called upon to assist in a search and rescue operation off Wemyss Bay this afternoon. She missed one sailing and then made for Rothesay where she arrived at 1540. **Juno** sailed as normal and took the backlog of traffic caused by **Saturn's** missed sailing.

Loch Alainn called at Rhubodach yesterday en route through the Kyles of Bute to Lochranza.

28/01/07 **Western Isles:**

Isle of Lewis was passing Macarthur's Head on Islay today at 1400 southbound to Birkenhead for her overhaul. She was later noted sailing down the Kintyre coast around 1450 and emerged from the North Channel at 1630.

Update 2245:

Isle of Lewis was, at 2245, off the Isle of Man - Chickens Rock en route to Birkenhead for overhaul.

Lord of the Isles was 17min late arriving in Castlebay tonight. Her timetabled arrival was 2020, she arrived at 2037.

Clyde:

Isle of Cumbrae took over as Cumbrae ferry this evening. **Loch Alainn** sailed for Lochranza, calling at Rhubodach on the way. She is making for Ardmhor on Barra where she will carry out trials with a view to replacing **Loch Bhrusda** later this year. She will return to Largs in just over a week after the trials are complete.



Isle of Cumbrae arriving at Largs

Colintraive - Rhubodach (Loch Dunvegan):

Service is now running but may be liable to disruption or cancellation due to weather conditions.

Terminals:

Work to improve the Terminal at **Port Askaig** continues with further engineering works on site. Works vessel **Laura M** is currently on site with pontoon and excavator (Pictured opposite). Engineering work includes a new Linkspan, Sheet Piling and Berthing Dolphins. All ferries are currently still diverted to Port Ellen.



Laura M at Port Askaig

27/01/07 Birkenhead Ship Yard Expected Ferry Arrivals:

29/01/07 **Isle of Lewis** - No 4 Dry Dock

19/02/07 **Clansman** - No 7 Dry Dock

25/02/07 **Hrossey** - No 5 Dry Dock

Clyde:

Caledonian Isles resumes service today with a sailing at 0700 ex Ardrossan to re-position in Brodick for the first sailing at 0820.

Isle of Cumbrae is due to take up the Largs - Cumbrae roster tomorrow to allow the **Loch Alainn** to head north. The **Loch Alainn** will then trial her capabilities on the Ardmhor - Eriskay roster in view of displacing

the **Loch Bhrusda** on the crossing.

Loch Riddon was temporary grounded at Portavadie at 1045 due to the weight of a coach pushing her onto the slip. The coach then also grounded its self on the slip at Tarbert delaying the 1115 departure to 1123. The coach was conveying the Clyde River Steamer Club to Kennacraig for a sailing to Islay and back.

Isle of Arran is due to depart fro Kennacraig on Tuesday morning to relieve the **Hebridean Isles**.

› **Largs - Cumbrae (Loch Alainn):**

From mid-day on Sunday 28/01/07, **Isle of Cumbrae** will be operating the Largs - Cumbrae service while regular vessel, **Loch Alainn**, is away on trials.

This means a reduced vehicle carrying capacity on this service.

Loch Alainn is expected to return to service on the Largs - Cumbrae route on Sunday 04/02/07.

Western Isles:

Clansman is currently en route to Coll to drop off the gangway she used at Brodick and will make for Castlebay to drop off her other gangway she uses at Ardrossan before heading to Stornoway to relieve the **Isle of Lewis**. **Isle of Lewis** will most likely head for dry-dock (at Birkenhead) after her last run today which should allow her to reach the Mersey for Monday morning.

Update 1200:

Clansman is currently berthing in Castlebay en-route to Stornoway, she is expected to stay for the day in the harbour.

Update 1455:

Clansman is just departing Castlebay

Update 1505:

Clansman is now exiting the bay to and is making for Stornoway.

Clansman later arrived at Stornoway approx 2030.

Raasay was on the Tayinloan - Gigha run but was reported heading North yesterday, probably to Tobermory.

SoC Live! *Update 1550:*

Hebridean Isles is currently conducting fire and lifeboat drills.

The crew conducted an exercise on the stern car deck with fire fighting gear, her lifeboat was then lowered 6 feet and raised.



Clansman in Castlebay today



Clansman exiting Castlebay

26/01/07 **Western Isles:**

SoC Live! *Update 2135:*

Isle of Mull departed Oban at 2132 on her 2130 departure to Craginure.

Clyde:

A reminder for Saturday 3rd February 2007 - Withdrawn sailings:

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

The 1230 sailing from Ardrossan and the 1350 sailing from Brodick have been withdrawn from service on Sat 3rd February 2007, as per information printed in the winter timetable.

25/01/07 **Western Isles:**

Lord of the Isles performed some interesting manoeuvres this morning. At 0635 she was noted Bow first at Oban Linkspan, at 0735 she had switched to Stern first, by 0835 she was back to Bow first and seconds later she departed for Coll and Tiree, 1hour and 50mins down on her timetable. At 0930 - CalMac Advised that the 1530 sailing to Castlebay & Lochboisdale is running 2 hours late and Intending Passengers are

advised to check in at 1630. It is possible she may have a bow visor or bow ramp problem but it must have been fixed in readiness for her 0835 departure.

SoC Live! Update 1545:

Lord of the Isles is currently passing Pennygowan on Mull en route to Oban.

Update 1640:

Lord of the Isles called into Craignure at 1615 stern first to pick up traffic, she left again at 1630 for Oban almost full.

Isle of Arran is anticipated to depart Gourock for Kennacraig on Monday to take up the Islay roster. This will allow the **Hebridean Isles** to make fro Orkney and relieve the **Hamnavoe** for overhaul.

› **Oban - Castlebay / Lochboisdale (Lord of the Isles):**

Service is running approximately 2 hours late at present. All vehicles should check in at Oban at 1630 for boarding.

› **Oban - Coll / Tiree (Lord of the Isles):**

The ferry from Oban to Coll & Tiree is currently running 1hour and 50minutes late.

Clyde:

Clansman performed the 1800 departure from Ardrossan - Brodick while **Caledonian Isles** has sat for the day at the Irish Berth. **Clansman** later departed around 2000 leaving Brodick for the Western Isles.

› **Colintraive - Rhubodach (Loch Dunvegan):**

Due to technical problems with **Loch Dunvegan** the Colintraive - Rhubodach route may be subject to delays and cancellations.



Caledonian Isles today

24/01/07 **Western Isles:**

SoC Live! Update 1630:

Isle of Mull is currently just passing the mouth of Loch Spelvie presumably on her way back from Colonsay.

Loch Linnhe is still at Tobermory on the Kilchoan roster as **Raasay** is away.

Clyde:

Update 0745:

Caledonian Isles is just entering the Clyde area rounding the tip of the Mull at 11kts.

Update 1130:

Caledonian Isles is now berthed at the former Burns & Laird berth at Ardrossan. The changeover with **Clansman** will take place on Friday, exact time is to be confirmed.

Update 1900:

Caledonian Isles is still currently berthed in Ardrossan while **Clansman** sits at Brodick.



Caledonian Isles today

Isle of Cumbrae was floated out of Ardmaleish Boat Yard around 1500 this afternoon after her overhaul.

23/01/07 *Update 0740:*

Caledonian Isles is just passing through the Pentland Firth. Assuming there are no stop over's, she is

expected to be at Arran / Brodick by about 0700 tomorrow. **Clansman** will possibly not head off back to Oban tonight just in case there are any last minute difficulties. It's also a crew change tomorrow for **Clansman**, so she might hang around at Ardrossan in the morning.

Western Isles:

Lord of the Isles was berthed stern in tonight at Oban last night, she was later sighted passing Tobermory at 0836 bound for Coll - Tiree.

Update 1830:

Caledonian Isles is currently just off the north tip of Skye bound for the Clyde.

SoC Live! Update 1613:

Loch Fyne seems to have hit the forecasted gales first, she is making her crossing but kicking up some impressive spray.

22/01/07 **Clyde:**

Isle of Arran is still currently berthed at Gourrock Wires berth.

It is anticipated that **Caledonian Isles** will return to Arran after her overhaul on the 27/01/07, changing over with the **Clansman** on the evening or following morning.

Update 2015:

Caledonian Isles left Aberdeen at 2012 tonight, so she should be expected to be at Ardrossan for Wednesday morning.



Isle of Arran this morning

21/01/07 **Past Fleet News - On This Day...**

In 2005 both **Caledonian Isles** and **Isle of Mull** met up with each other at Gourrock, it was to be only the second time the vessels had met each other in such close quarters.

NorthLink:

› **Scrabster - Stromness (Hamnavoe):**

Hamnavoe arrived in Stromness at 1445.

The next scheduled sailing will depart Stromness at 1645 to arrive in Scrabster at 1815 due to adverse weather.

Update 1910:

Hamnavoe departed Scrabster at 1900 and is expected to arrive in Stromness at 2030.

The next scheduled sailing will depart Stromness at 0630 to arrive in Stromness at 0800 tomorrow.



Hrossey in Aberdeen today



Caledonian Isles in Aberdeen dock today

20/01/07 **Western Isles:**

Update 0925:

› **Fionnphort - Iona (Loch Buie):** Service suspended. To be reviewed at 1100.

› **Tarbert - Portavadie (Loch Riddon):**

Service suspended until further notice. Review mid-morning.

› **Tayinloan - Gigha (Loch Tarbert):**

Service suspended until further notice.

› **Kennacraig - Port Ellen (Hebridean Isles):**

0700 ex Kennacraig and 0945 ex Port Ellen cancelled. 1250 sailing to be reviewed at 1200.

Update 2000:

Hebridean Isles arrived at Port Ellen at 1530 and departed at 1545 due to weather.

› **Oban - Coll - Tiree (Lord of the Isles):** Due to adverse weather conditions the **Lord of the Isles** has delayed her departure from Oban to Coll and Tiree until 1200 today.

Update 1655:

Isle of Arran is noted heading to Gourock, she has just rounded the Mull of Kintyre inbound. Destination presumably Gourock, updates to follow on her location.

Update 2100:

Isle of Arran has gone straight into the wires with no unloading of Crew cars. This could suggest she is not hanging about on the Clyde. She could be just collect stores before heading back to Kennacraig to relieve the **Hebridean Isles**.

NorthLink:

› **Scrabster - Stromness (Hamnavoe):**

Hamnavoe departed Stromness at 1645 to arrive in Scrabster at 1815.

The next scheduled sailing will depart Scrabster at 1900 to arrive in Stromness at 2030.

The 0900 sailing from Stromness - Scrabster on Sunday 21st will be delayed and is now expected to depart at 1100.

The 1200 sailing from Scrabster - Stromness will be departing at 1300.

The 1645 sailing from Stromness and the 1900 from Scrabster is under review.

19/01/07 **Western Isles:**

Isle of Mull was having her starboard side liferafts refitted today. The liferafts and cradle were removed last Saturday and taken away by lorry presumably to have them checked.

› **Kennacraig - Port Ellen (Hebridean Isles):**

Due to the overnight forecast the Captain has advised that they will return to Kennacraig this evening rather than lie overnight in Port Ellen.

The vessel will sail as per timetable at 1800 to Port Ellen, on arrival they will offload and reload any traffic for shipment from the scheduled 0415 tomorrow (Saturday 20th January 2007).

The 0415 Saturday 20th January 2007 has been cancelled.

Next sailing as per timetable at 0700 Saturday 20th January 2007 - Weather Permitting.

Update 2105:

Hebridean Isles arrived at Port Ellen at 2045 and departed at 2100 for Kennacraig.

NorthLink:

New containers specifically designed for the transport of livestock from the Northern Isles will be trialled by NorthLink Ferries next month.

NorthLink expects to receive three prototypes of the newly designed livestock containers from its supplier's manufacturing plant in China early in February. The containers are being shipped in to Grangemouth, where they are scheduled to arrive on Friday, February 2.

Thereafter, they will be transported to the Northern Isles for inspection and trials on the company's freight vessels **Hascosay** and **Clare**. The ferry operator will consult with a range of interested parties on the prototypes,



NorthLink's new livestock container demo

including industry experts, farmers, buyers, and importantly, the appropriate health and welfare authorities. Once the testing and consultation process is complete, NorthLink will have the opportunity to make modifications to the design prior to contracting the full production run of more than 100 containers.

Gareth Crichton, NorthLink's commercial director, said: "We're looking forward to receiving the prototypes in the next few weeks and are very encouraged by photos showing one of the containers before they left China recently.

"The shipping of the prototypes is a significant milestone in the process of introducing a new system for shipping livestock from the Northern Isles. The next stage is for us to test the system's suitability in practice and this is crucially important. During this testing period we will also seek the views of those involved in the livestock industry, from farmers themselves and the appropriate regulatory bodies."

18/01/07 **Western Isles:**

SoC Live! Update 0750:

Isle of Arran is currently alongside the south berth (opposite the linkspan) in Craignure.

SoC Live! Update 1330:

Lord of the Isles is currently running late, she has just past Tobermory now.

SoC Live! Update 1615:

Isle of Arran has just fired up her engines as **Isle of Mull** entered Craignure Bay, destination currently unknown.

› **Kennacraig - Port Ellen (Hebridean Isles):**

Update 1400:

Hebridean Isles is currently running a hour late. Updates to follow.

› **Tayinloan - Gigha (Loch Tarbert):**

Service is currently suspended due to adverse weather conditions.

17/01/07 **Western Isles:**

SoC Live! Update 1000:

Isle of Arran is currently lying outside Oban bay waiting for the **Isle of Mull** to depart from the linkspan.

SoC Live! Update 1027:

Isle of Mull is now on the North Pier out of service and having her Liferrafts stowage attended too. **Isle of Arran** is just departing the linkspan with a delayed 1000 departure to Craignure. **Eigg** has just appeared in the bay arriving from Lismore.

SoC Live! Update 1615:

The weather has suddenly deteriorated in the Sound of Mull and **Loch Fyne** is struggling to make it across to Fishnish.

Dolphins were noted playing in front of **Lochnevis** on her way from Mallaig - Armadale today.

› **Barra - Eriskay (Loch Bhrusda):**

Due to Weather Conditions the Chargehand has cancelled the 1710 sailing ex Ardmhor and the return 1815 sailing ex Eriskay.

The next return sailing will be as timetabled for Thursday 18 Jan.

› **Kennacraig - Port Ellen (Hebridean Isles):**

Update 2100:

Due to Adverse Weather the 1815 departure ex Kennacraig by **Hebridean Isles** is returning to Kennacraig ETA approx 2100, where she will berth overnight.

This in effect will mean that the scheduled 0415 sailing tomorrow (Thursday 18th Nov) from Port Ellen

has been cancelled.

Next sailing to Islay will be as per timetable at 0700 (Thursday 18th Nov 07) - bound for Port Ellen.

Clyde:

Isle of Cumbrae is now in for her annual overhaul. **Loch Ranza** is currently sitting at Rothesay with her radar spinning presumably making ready to sail soon.

Past Fleet News - On This Day...

In 2005 we reported that Researchers at Southampton and Highlands & the Isles universities believe recent severe storms would become more frequent and stronger in future. They weren't half right!

16/01/07 Western Isles:

The Inflatable Liferrafts recently lost overboard from the **Isle of Mull** have appeared at Tralee Bay, near Appin, Benderloch.

The intended route from Oban - Craignure is shown opposite with the location of the Liferrafts recovered shown by the orange dot. They were carried by the tide up towards the Lynn of Lorn and were washed ashore in the bay.



SoC Live! Update 0720:

Isle of Arran was berthed stern in at Oban and departed the Linkspan 5min late (0655) and moved slowly towards the South Pier before leaving the bay very slowly bound for Coll / Tiree. The crew had to lower her anchor last night and retrieve it before leaving this morning. **Isle of Mull** spent the night in Craignure, all of her starboard side inflatable rafts are now missing following her roll on the 12/01/07.

SoC Live! Update 0737:

Isle of Arran is just passing Craignure bound for Coll / Tiree.

SoC Live! Update 0846:

Lord of the Isles is currently just passing Tobermory bay bound for Oban returning from Lochboisdale.

SoC Live! Update 0852:

Isle of Arran is just passing **Lord of the Isles** at Tobermory now. **Isle of Arran** 18min late outward bound and **Lord of the Isles** inward bound.

SoC Live! Update 0925:

Lord of the Isles is currently 15min late outbound for Castlebay passing Fishnish. **Isle of Arran** is also running late but only by about 5min, she should make this up on her run to Coll / Tiree.

SoC Live! Update 1102:

Lord of the Isles is just departing Oban for Colonsay now.

SoC Live! Update 1410:

Isle of Arran is currently running a hour late returning from Coll & Tiree, she is just visible nearing Tobermory now where she should be passing Fishnish.

SoC Live! Update 1650:

Lord of the Isles is just departing Oban for Castlebay and Lochboisdale, 1 hour and 20 mins late, a result of previous disruptions.

SoC Live! Update 1715:

After arriving in Oban and departing again, **Isle of Arran** is just arriving at Craignure for an overnight berth, a sharp turn around for the relief vessel in her busy emergency rosters and a well earned rest. **Isle of Mull** is just departing Craignure now on a late 1700 departure back to Oban, the delay caused by ferry congestion in Oban.

SoC Live! Update 1740:

Lord of the Isles is just currently passing Craignure running about 90min



Isle of Arran approaching Craignure

late outbound for Castlebay with supplies on her second run of the day to Barra after the recent storms

› **Oban - Castlebay / Lochboisdale (Lord of the Isles):**

Today's Amended Timetable for Castlebay & Lochboisdale will be as follows:

2100 dep Oban*

0220 arr Castlebay

0240 dep Castlebay

0435 arr Lochboisdale

0455 dep Lochboisdale

1015 arr Oban

* Last Night (Monday)

Lord of the Isles departed at 2101 last night en route to Castlebay as expected. Updates to follow on her progress.

› **Uig - Tarbert - Lochmaddy (Hebrides):**

Due to the weather conditions yesterday **Hebrides** will be running a revised timetable for today (weather permitting):

0730 dep Tarbert - Uig

0940 dep Uig-Lochmaddy

1150 dep Lochmaddy - Uig

1400 dep Uig - Tarbert

1600 dep Tarbert - Lochmaddy

1800 dep Lochmaddy - Uig

2000 dep Uig - Tarbert

› **Oban - Colonsay (Lord of the Isles):**

Due to adverse weather conditions over the last few days an extra sailing will be departing Oban at 1100 today.

› **Mallaig - Small Isles (Lochnevis):**

Loch Nevis is due to make a call at all four islands today in lue of missing them previously due to severe weather conditions. Timetable available form Mallaig office.

› **Tayinloan - Gigha (Loch Tarbert):**

Due to debris being cleared a Tayinloan, **Loch Tarbert** is now operating to normal timetable.

NorthLink:

Delays Affecting Aberdeen Arrivals:

Due to adverse weather conditions the 0700 arrival of **Hjaltland** has been delayed, she is currently estimated to arrive in Aberdeen at 1015.

Update 1030:

Hjaltland has just docked in Aberdeen at 1025. Her 1900 departure tonight is as timetabled.

NorthLink has confirmed this year's dry-dock schedule for the **Hamnavoe**.

The vessel will travel to the Danish port Fredericia for its annual maintenance, coming out of service on Saturday, February 3, returning on Wednesday, February 14.

During this period, the chartered ferry **Hebridean Isles** will operate to a revised schedule across the Pentland Firth, due to the longer crossing times.

The **Hamnavoe** departs for dock following the last arrival in Stromness on Friday, February 2.

The **Hebridean Isles** will stand in from Saturday, February 3, until Tuesday, February 13, with the **Hamnavoe** picking up schedule from 0630 Wednesday 14th February.

Stand-in timetable as follows:

Mon - Fri

0615 dep Stromness - 0815 arr Scrabster
0845 dep Scrabster - 1045 arr Stromness
1115 dep Stromness - 1315 arr Scrabster
1400 dep Scrabster - 1600 arr Stromness
1645 dep Stromness - 1845 arr Scrabster
1915 dep Scrabster - 2115 arr Stromness

Sat & Sun

0830 dep Stromness - 1030 arr Scrabster
1200 dep Scrabster - 1400 arr Stromness
1645 dep Stromness - 1845 arr Scrabster
1915 dep Scrabster - 2115 arr Stromness

Note: with the longer crossing time the rescheduled 1100 departure from Stromness will not for the period of the drydock connect with the scheduled 1300 coach or 1306 southbound train. NorthLink has therefore made arrangements to lay on a coach running from Scrabster to Train making a connection available with the southbound train from Train at 1542.

Foot passengers wishing a direct connection southbound are advised to use the first sailing off Stromness connecting with morning southbound bus and train schedules as usual.

On Sat & Sun arrangements have been made to move the scheduled sailing forward to 0830 to allow connection with the southbound coach at 1045.

15/01/07 **Caledonian Isles** is well underway with her annual overhaul in Aberdeen as these current pictures show.



Caledonian Isles in Aberdeen dry dock

Western Isles:

Isle of Arran was seen heading south in Firth of Lorne at 1345 into a strong South / South-easterly. It looked like she had maybe departed Craignure. Perhaps on the Colonsay sailing. She will be staying in Oban tonight with **Lord of the Isles** who is presumably preparing for either tomorrow morning 0645 or tonight's 2115 sailing.

Update 1800:

Lord of the Isles at 1615 had her Radar & Navigation Lights on, but her Bow Visor was sitting at 10 Degree angle off the closed position for some reason. She was also sitting south side of the pier in Craignure. It is currently unknown what is in Oban as there is nothing in at the Linkspan.

Update 1830:

Isle of Arran is currently backing stern first into Oban linkspan.

Update 2000:

Lord of the Isles is preparing to take the 2115 sailing to the Outer Isles, after which she should make the Colonsay sailing tomorrow morning. (See Colonsay Roster today).

Update 2105:

Lord of the Isles berthed stern first into Oban linkspan at 2040 and has just departed now at 2101 for the overnight sail to Castlebay. For Timetable see Castlebay roster below.

SoC Live! *Update 2337:*

Lord of the Isles is just passing Tobermory bound for Castlebay.

› **Mallaig - Small Isles (Lochnevis):**

Loch Nevis has been unable to berth at Isle of Eigg and Muck today due to adverse weather conditions. She is attempting to call at Rum at the moment with an ETA of 1220.

Update:

Loch Nevis missed both Eigg and Muck as she was unable to berth due to the weather.

› **Mallaig - Armadale (Lochnevis):**

The 1600 ex Mallaig and the 1645 ex Armadale have been cancelled for today due to severe adverse weather conditions.

Next sailing will be tomorrow 16/01/07 at 0840.

› **Oban - Colonsay (Isle of Arran):**

Due to adverse weather conditions, today's 1200 sailing from Oban (delayed until c1300) did not make it's scheduled arrival in Colonsay and has had to turn back for Oban arriving back around 1800.

The next sailing will be departing Oban at 1100 tomorrow morning performed by **Lord of the Isles** after she returns from the Outer Isles.

› **Oban - Castlebay / Lochboisdale (Lord of the Isles):**

Today's Amended Timetable for Castlebay & Lochboisdale will be as follows:

2100 dep Oban

0220 arr Castlebay*

0240 dep Castlebay*

0435 arr Lochboisdale*

0455 dep Lochboisdale*

1015 arr Oban*

* Tuesday

Update 2105:

Lord of the Isles berthed stern first into Oban linkspan and has just departed for the overnight sail to Castlebay.

› **Fishnish - Lochaline (Loch Fyne):**

Due to worsening weather conditions, the 1600 from Lochaline and the 1625 from Fishnish will be the last sailings of the day.

› **Leverburgh - Berneray (Loch Portain):**

Due to adverse weather the following sailings have been cancelled:

0800 ex Berneray

0940 ex Leverburgh

Update 1300:

All further sailings today have been cancelled due to the adverse weather.

› **Uig - Tarbert - Lochmaddy (Hebrides):**

Due to worsening weather conditions **Hebrides** returned to Tarbert.

The situation will be re-assessed at 1500.

Update 1530:

All sailings on this route have been cancelled for today as there is no improvement in the weather.

There will be a revised timetable for tomorrow in operation (weather permitting):

0730 dep Tarbert - Uig

0940 dep Uig-Lochmaddy

1150 dep Lochmaddy - Uig

1400 dep Uig - Tarbert

1600 dep Tarbert - Lochmaddy

1800 dep Lochmaddy - Uig

2000 dep Uig - Tarbert

› **Barra - Eriskay (Loch Bhrusda):**

The Chargehand has advised that due to the weather conditions he was cancelling the 0925 sailing ex Ardmhor and the return 1030 sailing ex Eriskay.

The next return sailing will be reviewed at approx 1200 today.

Update 1230:

With no improvement in the weather conditions the following sailings have also been cancelled:

1230 ex Ardmhor - Eriskay

1410 ex Eriskay -Ardmhor

The last return sailing will be reviewed at 1600 today.

Update 1730:

With no improvement in the weather conditions the following sailings have also been cancelled:

1710 ex Ardmhor - Eriskay

1815 ex Eriskay -Ardmhor

The next sailing should be tomorrow morning (weather permitting).

› **Ullapool - Stornoway (Isle of Lewis):**

1030 ex Ullapool and 1345 sailing ex Ullapool have been cancelled.

Isle of Lewis hopes to resume normal schedule at 1715 from Ullapool to Stornoway.

Update:

All further sailings today have been cancelled.

› **Sconser - Raasay (Loch Striven):**

Due to worsening weather conditions the 1000 ex Raasay and the 1030 ex Sconser are now cancelled. Further sailings will be reviewed on a sailing to sailing basis.

› **Tayinloan - Gigha (Loch Tarbert):**

Due to the ongoing problems at Tayinloan slipway combined by adverse weather conditions today, CalMac are currently operating the service between Kennacraig - Gigha.

Passenger numbers are restricted to 12 as with previous diversions.

If weather permits the next sailings will be

1315 ex Kennacraig - Gigha

1530 ex Gigha - Kennacraig

› **Fionnphort - Iona (Loch Buie):**

This service is currently suspended due to adverse weather conditions.

The next sailing will be 1415 ex Fionnphort, weather permitting.

Update 1430:

Service is still suspended due to adverse weather conditions. This will be reviewed at 1500.

Clyde:

Bute moved to James Watt Dock from Gourrock in the morning.

It appears **Jupiter** has 'lost' her Starboard 'Dodger' (the piece of glass that protects the crew on the flying bridge wing) sometime recently. It was last noted in place on the 11/01/07 so can only have disappeared recently. It's possible that they were taken off for some reason, but given the weather recently on the Upper Firth, it's equally possible that they were literally torn off by the high winds during the squalls.

The opposite image depicts the lower bridge deck dodger in place (brown fixing with glass) while the upper flying bridge deck is missing. It was of a similar appearance. Her Port side remains in place.



Jupiter minus 'dodger'
(intact on lower deck)

› **Wemyss Bay - Rothesay (Saturn, Juno):**

Due to a deterioration in the weather conditions further sailings will be reviewed at 1800.

The following sailings have been cancelled;

1730 ex Rothesay

1815 ex Wemyss Bay

Update 1745:

Juno is currently in Rothesay while **Saturn** is battling to get out of Wemyss Bay.

Update 1830:

Due to an improvement in the weather conditions **Saturn** will carry out the following sailings:

1815 ex Rothesay - Wemyss Bay

1900 ex Wemyss Bay - Rothesay

Weather permitting **Juno** will carry out last departures from Rothesay & Wemyss Bay.

Intending passengers are advised to check prior to travelling.

Update 1850:

Route now operating as timetabled.

NorthLink:

A gap in the weather seems to have allowed the **Hjalmland** to sail from Aberdeen northbound.

Hjalmland arrived in Lerwick at 0740 this morning and is scheduled for departure at 1900 sailing for Aberdeen.

Hrossey arrived in Aberdeen at 0650 this morning and departed Aberdeen at 1840 sailing for Lerwick.

Hrossey is scheduled to arrive in Lerwick at 0730.

› **Scrabster - Stromness (Hamnavoe):**

Hamnavoe undertook her 1315 sailings and arrived back in Stromness at 1445.

Owing to adverse weather conditions the 1645 sailing from Stromness and the 1900 sailing from Scrabster have been cancelled.



Hjalmland in Aberdeen...



...compared to Hamnavoe the other day!

14/01/07  **Disruptions to Ferry Services Caused by Severe Weather**

Light to moderate winds are forecast for a time on Tuesday, but strong winds and gales are set to return on Tuesday evening, Wednesday and Thursday along with a risk of severe gales or perhaps storm force winds in northern and western areas on Thursday. This is expected to lead to service disruptions across CalMac's network.

Western Isles:

Isle of Arran is currently on the **Oban - Craignure** crossing standing in for her fleet mate **Isle of Mull** which is currently out of service with a fault in her second engine again.

SoC Live! *Update 1000:*

Isle of Arran has just departed Oban and is currently heading for Craignure.

SoC Live! *Update 1140:*

Isle of Mull has been repaired in Oban and is currently operating a 0850 sailing to Coll and Tiree from Oban which departed this morning.

Lord of the Isles is currently assigned a 1530 timetabled Oban - Castlebay - Lochboisdale run this afternoon (weather dependant).

SoC Live! *Update 1155:*

Isle of Arran is just docking at Oban linkspan and will possibly return to Tobermory once she unloads. She is berthing Bow first suggesting a Stern load at Craignure. A pretty short return to service for the standby vessel.

The Castlebay - Lochboisdale sailing has now been cancelled although **Lord of the Isles** is currently circling Oban bay awaiting the **Isle of Arran's** departure. She may take up the Craignure roster until the **Isle of Mull** returns. Barra has not had a ferry from Oban since Tuesday now due to the adverse weather.

SoC Live! Update 1230:

Lord of the Isles is now at the Linkspan berth Bow First with **Isle of Arran** nowhere to be found.

Update 1900:

Isle of Mull is now stern in at Oban linkspan ready for a early departure.

Loch Linnhe left Gigha this morning at 0700 and made for Lochaline. She then changed over and is now at Tobermory to relieve **Raasay** which will make for Corpach and her overhaul tomorrow.

Loch Tarbert has taken up the Tayinloan - Gigha run today where she worked the 1200 & 1300 services to Gigha. Following completion of the Sunday schedule at 1320 **Loch Tarbert** then headed for Kennacraig where she was noted at around 1500. The illuminated notice at Tayinloan slip informs that sailings to Gigha will be from Kennacraig for the next few days.

› **Oban - Castlebay / Lochboisdale (Lord of the Isles):**

This afternoons sailing has been cancelled due to adverse weather conditions.

Mondays Amended Timetable for Castlebay & Lochboisdale will be as follows:

2100 dep Oban

0220 arr Castlebay

0240 dep Castlebay

0435 arr Lochboisdale

0455 dep Lochboisdale

1015 arr Oban

Lord of the Isles cabins may be required for these sailings!

› **Leverburgh - Berneray (Loch Portain):**

Due to the worsening weather 1330 ex Berneray and 1440 ex Leverburgh have been cancelled.

› **Kennacraig - Port Ellen (Hebridean Isles):**

Due to the adverse weather the 1800 sailing this evening from Kennacraig has been cancelled.

This will mean the 0415 from Port Ellen tomorrow morning (Monday) will also be cancelled.

The next sailing from Kennacraig will be 0700 tomorrow (Monday).

› **Tayinloan - Gigha (Loch Tarbert):**

Due to the ongoing problem with the sand and seaweed compounded by tidal conditions at Tayinloan the AM sailings are subject to disruption or cancellation.

The **Loch Tarbert** is to be based at Kennacraig in the meantime instead of Gigha for the shelter and operational reasons.

Clyde:

Update 1100:

Wemyss Bay - Rothesay appears to be operating as normal. **Clansman** is still in Brodick and is timetabled to depart at 1105 to Ardrossan, updates to follow on her destination if she departs at all.

Update 1120:

Clansman appears to be on course fro Ardrossan making 16kts.

Update 1145:

Clansman appears to be just off Ardrossan as timetabled.

Update 1200:

Clansman has just berthed at Ardrossan as scheduled.



Clansman Battling The Firth Today

Company News:

Islanders see Catamarans As Sea Links Way Forward

Ferry Journey Cut Short By Hurricane Winds

13/01/07 Its is surmised the remaining Loch Class overhauls will run as follows:

Loch Fyne - late Jan / early Feb, covered by **Loch Tarbert**

Loch Ranza to return to Gigha (mid-late Jan) to release **Loch Linnhe**

Loch Linnhe to go out to Barra to release **Loch Bhrusda**

Loch Bhrusda - overhaul during early-mid Feb, covered by **Loch Linnhe**

Loch Portain - late Feb / early Mar, covered by **Loch Bhrusda** (**Loch Linnhe** remaining at Eriskay until **Loch Bhrusda** returns just before summer timetable)

Isle of Cumbrae - after **Loch Ranza**

Loch Tarbert - after **Isle of Cumbrae**

Eigg will not be doing the Islay - Jura relief this year for the Council operated ferry.

Western Isles:

An update on the current situation with **Isle of Mull** (see yesterdays Fleet News):

It is possible that the MCA had Detained the **Isle of Mull** because of the lack of liferafts now onboard but, however true it may be, she will be operating well within her limits for the time being as she is running on restricted passenger numbers as she normally does during the winter timetable. Her capacity is reduced to around 500 passengers including the car deck passengers. At this time there does not seem to be any evidence of the MCA detaining her though.

She will operate the 0700 this morning which should depart as normal as the winds are forecast in a southerly direction with a 5mph wind.

Update 1300:

Isle of Mull is currently running 1 hour late due to the fact that the pressure of the weather yesterday has managed to shut down her 2nd engine onboard. Reports are that it may be damaged again.

Isle of Mull has now been in Craignure again for the best part of today with **Lord of the Isles** arriving back in Oban and disappearing between 1430 and 1530.

SoC Live! *Update 1845:*

Isle of Arran has now moved from Tobermory and is currently sitting stern first in Oban Linkspan Pier which is usually allocated to tomorrows Mull sailings. It appears **Isle of Mull** is suffering some serious technical fault with her second engine and could be off for some time. It is assumed she may be making ready for a slow voyage to the Clyde for repairs.

Isle of Arran looks set as the Mull ferry for tomorrow at least.

Isle of Mulls liferafts and cradles have been taken away by lorry for checks.

SoC Live! Current Locations of the Fleet As of 1930:

Isle of Arran: Oban Linkspan Pier

Isle of Mull: Craignure Pier, South Side

Lord of the Isles: Craignure Pier North Side

Raasay has broken down this afternoon but is expected to be back in service shortly. **Loch Tarbert** has left Campbeltown to take over the Gigha roster but was diverted due to adverse weather to Kennacraig.

› **Oban - Craignure (Isle of Mull, Isle of Arran):**

Update 1300:

Isle of Mull is currently running 1 hour late due to the fact that the pressure of the weather yesterday has managed to shut down her 2nd engine onboard and reports are that it may be damaged again. Due to adverse weather the 1600 sailing from Oban to Craignure and the 1700 sailing from Craignure to Oban has been cancelled.

The next sailing from Oban will be at 1000 on Sunday 13th January presumably operated by the **Isle of Arran**.

› **Oban - Coll - Tiree (Lord of the Isles):**

The 0645 sailing from Oban today has failed to dock at either Coll or Tiree and is heading back to Oban - arrival time in Oban will be approximately 1600.

Next sailing from Oban to Coll and Tiree will be at 0900 - this is very much weather dependent and a final decision will be made on this sailing on Sunday morning.

› **Uig - Tarbert - Lochmaddy (Hebrides):**

Hebrides departed Lochmaddy @ 1150 for Tarbert.

Due to worsening weather 1330 ex Tarbert & 1530 ex Uig have been cancelled.

Next scheduled sailing will be from Lochmaddy @ 1200 Sunday 14th Jan.

Update:

Revised sailings for Sunday 14th Jan on the Tarbert Uig Service are as follows:

Dep Tarbert at 0900 (via Lochmaddy) arr Uig 1340

Dep Uig at 1400 (via Lochmaddy) arr Tarbert approx 1730

Clyde:

SoC Live! Current Locations of the Fleet As of 1930:

Clansman: Gourock

Jupiter: Further Up Clyde (Possibly Below Erskine Bridge)

Juno: Rothesay

Saturn: Gourock Possibly at the Wires

Loch Alann: Largs

Bute: Gourock

Coruisk: Rosneath

› **Ardrossan - Brodick (Clansman):**

Due to adverse weather conditions the 1640 will be diverted to Gourock.

There for the 1800 will be sailing from Gourock and will arrive in there at approx 1840.

Passengers are advised to be at Gourock for 1815. **Clansman** will then load and depart as soon as possible.

A bus will leave Ardrossan for Gourock at 1755.

Update 2000:

Clansman is currently passing Dunoon outbound for Brodick.

Update 2045:

Clansman is just arriving outside Brodick bay after transiting in service from Gourock.

› **Rhubodach - Colintrave (Loch Dunvegan):**

Due to adverse weather conditions the crossing has been suspended for the rest of this evening.

› **Wemyss Bay - Rothesay (Juno, Saturn):**

Due to an improvement in the weather the service is now operating as timetabled.

NorthLink:

Routes running to schedule.

Past Fleet News - On This Day...

In 2006 Eigg, was involved in the rescue of four divers after their speedboat, the *Sunbird*, broke down on the way to a dive site in Ardmucknish Bay off Ledaig north of Oban.

12/01/07 **🚫 Disruptions to Ferry Services Caused by Severe Weather**

Severe weather, including high winds and heavy rain, is forecast for Thursday and Friday. This is expected to lead to service disruptions across CalMac's network.

Comhairle nan Eilean Siar has advised of a Severe Weather Warning for the Western Isles for the next 24 hours. High water levels could lead to flooding, particularly on the West Coast of South Uist. Transport, particularly on exposed coastal routes is likely to be affected and drivers are urged to exercise caution. CalMac's OFFICIAL website (see above) will be updated with service disruptions, and all passengers are advised to check with the website or with their local port before setting out on their journey.

🚫 Please Check Above Company Links For Regular Updates.

Western Isles:

On the 0800 from Oban - Craignure, **Isle of Mull** headed through the Lighthouse and Lady Rock Marker where the 3 tides meet. The Swell coupled with the force of the tides meeting forced the vessel to list to starboard very heavily (it was reported that the Port side stabilizer was seen above the water) and she lost 2 inflatable liferafts positioned directly below the funnel. The **Isle of Mull** reached Craignure, unloaded and returned to Oban as timetabled but slightly late. She then returned to Craignure where she has sat since 1030 this morning. The ramp on which the Liferafts stay is reported to be wedged in to prevent anymore becoming loose and she was in Bow First with the visor up, reason currently unknown why. **Eigg** was sent to attempt to recover the liferafts but to no avail. **Isle of Mull** is currently berthed in Craignure tonight with **Lord of the Isles** in Oban stern first unable to get off the pier with the wind.

› **Sconser - Raasay (Loch Striven):**

1730 ex Raasay and 1800 ex Sconser, have been cancelled due to adverse weather.
Normal timetable will resume tomorrow, weather permitting.

› **Barra - Eriskay (Loch Bhrusda):**

The 1710 sailing ex Ardmhor and the return 1815 sailing ex Eriskay have now been cancelled.
Thus there have been no sailings on this service today.
Weather permitting timetable as normal for Sat 13/01/07.

› **Oban - Craignure (Isle of Mull):**

Due to adverse weather conditions the following sailings have been cancelled:

1600 ex Oban - Craignure

1700 ex Craignure - Oban

2130 ex Oban - Craignure

The next sailing from Oban will be 0800 Tomorrow

The next sailing from Craignure will be 0700 Tomorrow

(Both Weather Permitting)

› **Oban - Coll - Tiree (Lord of the Isles):**

The extra sailing from Oban to Coll & Tiree at 0500 this morning has failed to dock at either port and returned to Oban. The next sailing will be from Oban to Coll & Tiree at 0645 on Saturday 13th January as

scheduled.

› **Oban - Colonsay - Oban (Isle of Mull):**

Due to adverse weather conditions the 1000 sailing from Oban - Colonsay and the 1240s sailing from Colonsay - Oban have been cancelled.

The next sailing from Oban - Colonsay will be Monday 15th January at 1200 as timetabled.

› **Uig - Tarbert - Lochmaddy (Hebrides):**

Amended Timetable for Tomorrow (Saturday 13/01/07) Weather Permitting:

0300 ex Tarbert - Uig

0515 ex Uig - Lochmaddy

Hebrides will then resume normal service as per timetable at 0730 ex Lochmaddy after clearing a backlog of traffic built up from today's cancelled sailings.

› **Stornoway - Ullapool (Isle of Lewis):**

Due to worsening weather conditions the 1030 sailing from Ullapool, 1345 from Stornoway and 1715 from Ullapool today (12/01/07) have been cancelled.

Weather permitting **Isle of Lewis** will depart from Ullapool at 0400 on Saturday 13 January and hope to take up the scheduled timetable.

› **Kennacraig - Port Ellen (Hebridean Isles):**

Hebridean Isles cancelled her 0700 sailing to Port Ellen to day due to adverse weather, they departed Kennacraig at 1300 and got to the mouth of West Loch Tarbert and turned back due to the adverse weather, it is reported that she recorded winds of 90kts near the mouth.

The 1800 sailing from Kennacraig has also been cancelled tonight due to adverse weather.

This in effect will mean that the 0415 sailing tomorrow - Saturday 13th January 2007 has also been cancelled.

The next sailing to Port Ellen is at 0700 Saturday 13th January. (Weather Dependent)

› **Mallaig - Small Isles / Armadale (Lochnevis):**

All sailings cancelled today due to adverse weather.

Clyde:

› **Ardrossan - Brodick (Clansman):**

Due to adverse weather conditions the following sailings were cancelled:

1350 ex Brodick - Ardrossan

1515 ex Ardrossan - Brodick

1640 ex Brodick - Ardrossan

1815 ex Ardrossan - Brodick

Weather permitting the next sailing will be 0820 from Brodick Tomorrow.

› **Wemyss Bay - Rothesay (Juno, Saturn):**

1345 ex Rothesay - Wemyss Bay diverted to Gourock and returned at 1530. (**Juno**)

1600 ex Rothesay - Wemyss Bay diverted to Gourock and returned at 1820. (**Saturn**)

NorthLink:

› **Scrabster - Stromness (Hamnavoe):**

Hamnavoe undertook her 1115 & 1315 sailings and arrived back in Stromness at 1545.

Owing to adverse weather conditions the 1645 sailing from Stromness and the 1900 sailing from Scrabster have been cancelled.

The next scheduled sailing will depart Stromness at 0900 on Saturday 13th January.

› **Kirkwall - Aberdeen ():**

Due to severe weather conditions the 2345 departure from Kirkwall (Hatston) to Aberdeen on Friday 12 January has been cancelled.

The next scheduled departure from Kirkwall (Hatston) will be the 2345 sailing to Lerwick on Saturday 13 January.

› **Lerwick - Kirkwall - Aberdeen (Hjatland):**

Due to severe weather conditions the 1730 sailing from Lerwick to Kirkwall (Hatston) and Aberdeen has been cancelled.

The next scheduled sailing due to leave Lerwick is on Saturday 13th January at 1900 sailing direct to Aberdeen.

› **Aberdeen - Lerwick ():**

Due to severe weather conditions the 1900 sailing from Aberdeen to Lerwick has been cancelled.

The next scheduled sailing is due to leave Aberdeen at 1700 on Saturday 13th January.

Hrossey and **Hascosay** have been stormbound at Aberdeen and **Hjatland** has been stormbound in Lerwick since yesterday.

Past Fleet News - On This Day...

In 2005 the 11th and 12th of January were equally bay days for weather as has been this year. All routes were off on the 11th and almost the same again on the 12th!

11/01/07 **Western Isles:**

› **Kennacraig - Port Ellen (Hebridean Isles):**

Today the **Hebridean Isles** did not have any sailing to Port Ellen.

The following were canceled:

0700 depart Kennacraig,

0945 depart Port Ellen,

1300 depart Kennacraig,

1530 depart Port Ellen,

Hebridean Isles stayed in Kennacraig all day, the next timetabled sailing is at 0700 Friday 12th January 2007 (Weather Permitting)

› **Oban - Lismore (Eigg):**

1445 sailing Cancelled due to adverse weather.

› **Oban - Castlebay (Lord of the Isles):**

All sailings today have been cancelled.

SoC Apologises, Detailed News Unavailable for Remainder of Today

→ **News to Report?** Let Us Know via Email, Use the Links at the Top of This Page



Jupiter Battling The Firth Today

10/01/07 **Western Isles:**

› **Kennacraig - Port Ellen (Hebridean Isles):**

Due to the severe overnight forecast the Captain has advised that they will return to Kennacraig this evening rather than lie overnight in Port Ellen.

Hebridean Isles will then sail as per timetable at 1800 to Port Ellen, on arrival they will offload and reload any traffic for shipment from the scheduled 0415 tomorrow (Thursday 11th January 2007).

The Following sailings have been cancelled:

0415 ex Port Ellen - Kennacraig: Thursday 11th January 2007

Next sailing as per timetable at 0700 Thursday 11th January 2007, Weather Permitting.

Update 2115:

Hebridean Isles arrived in at Port Ellen at 2043 then departed at 2100. She unloaded her cargo and took the cancelled 0415 (Tomorrow AM) cargo back to the mainland.

The next timetabled sailing is 0700 ex Kennacraig - Port Ellen, Weather Dependent.

› **Oban - Craignure (Isle of Mull):**

Update 0900:

Isle of Mull is currently taking shelter in Oban due to adverse weather conditions.

As a result the following sailings have been cancelled:

0800 ex Oban - Craignure

0900ex Craignure - Oban

The master will revue the situation for a 1000 departure from Oban.

Update 1000:

Service now operating as timetabled.

› **Kennacraig - Gigha [Temporary Roster] (Loch Linnhe):**

Service now resumed from Tayinloan.

› **Tayinloan - Gigha (Loch Linnhe):**

Service now resumed from Tayinloan after debris have been cleared from the slipway. All sailings are now operating as to timetable.

Clyde:

Loch Tarbert was noted loading crew cars at Gourock.

Updates to Follow.

Past Fleet News - On This Day...

In 2005 Muirneag ran aground at 0430 on a routine departure from Stornoway. A high tide floated her off about an hour later and she made for Liverpool for inspection and repairs the next day.

09/01/07 Clyde:

ClydeSite AIS is showing **Saturn** arriving at Gourock (0920), which would indicate that the high winds are causing problems with berthing at Wemyss Bay. **Clansman** is having no such problems however, as she successfully got into Ardrossan with her first sailing of the day from Brodick.

08/01/07 Clyde:

Saturn moved from Rosneath to Gourock and then on to Rothesay where she took over from **Coruisk** for the 1600 sailing to Wemyss Bay. **Coruisk** then sailed for Gourock where she berthed at the wires for the night. Tomorrow she is due to sail for Rosneath after **Juno** sails down the river to re-enter service and replace **Bute**.

Western Isles:

› **Kennacraig - Gigha [Temporary Roster] (Loch Linnhe):**

Due to continuing problems with debris blocking Tayinloan slipway the timetable will be as follows until further notice as of today:

0830 ex Gigha - Kennacraig

0945 ex Kennacraig - Gigha

1130 ex Gigha - Kennacraig
1315 ex Kennacraig - Gigha
1500 ex Gigha - Kennacraig
1630 ex Kennacraig - Gigha

Passenger numbers onboard **Loch Linnhe** are restricted to 12 while this diversion is in place.

07/01/07 **Western Isles:**

Update 1200:

Caledonian Isles is just off the north end of Skye making for the Pentland Firth and Aberdeen for her Annual overhaul.

Update 2120:

Caledonian Isles is now just off Dunnet Head in the Pentland Firth making 17 knots. She's due in Aberdeen at 0900 tomorrow.

› **Kennacraig - Gigha [Temporary Roster] (Loch Linnhe):**

See Yesterdays Fleet News For New Timetable in Operation Tomorrow (08/01/07)

Clyde:

Update 1235:

Clansman is now in Ardrossan having run 20 minutes late on her first sailing of the day from Brodick.

Update 1320:

Loch Alainn has just left Troon on trials after dry docking for repairs, it is assumed she is now fixed.

Update 1450:

Loch Alainn is now passing through towards Largs suggesting she is headed back for service.

Update 1545:

Loch Alainn is berthing at Largs slipway now. **Isle of Cumbrae** has departed and is heading towards Rothesay or Gourock.

06/01/07 **Western Isles:**

Isle of Mull has had some paint scrapped off her Starboard bow side, presumably a result berthing in the recent strong winds. It is interesting to note it was on this day last year that she moved to Inchgreen repair quay for repairs to a dented bow from another incident. See **Fleet News 06/01/05**.

Clansman departed Oban at 1535 this afternoon and headed south for Brodick where she will take over from **Caledonian Isles**.

→ ~~Track the ships positions **LIVE!** via **ClydeSite** AIS HERE (external link).~~

Update 2000:

Clansman is nearing the tip of the Mull about to round it and head for Brodick. **Caledonian Isles** has just departed Brodick en route to her overhaul allowing the **Clansman** to berth overnight on her arrival.

Update 2145:

Clansman & Caledonian Isles are just passing each other of the south western tip of Arran.

Update 2230:

Clansman is nearing Whiting Bay on Arran on course for her 2330 arrival while **Caledonian Isles** rounds the Mull heading north.

› **Kennacraig - Gigha [Temporary Roster] (Loch Linnhe):**

Due to continuing problems with debris blocking Tayinloan slipway the timetable will be as follows until further notice as of Monday 08/01/06:

0830 ex Gigha - Kennacraig
0945 ex Kennacraig - Gigha
1130 ex Gigha - Kennacraig

1315 ex Kennacraig - Gigha

1500 ex Gigha - Kennacraig

1630 ex Kennacraig - Gigha

Passenger numbers onboard **Loch Linnhe** are restricted to 12 while this diversion is in place.

Clyde:

Loch Tarbert is now berthed at Rosneath with **Juno** and **Saturn** while she is not required for winter relief operations.

Bute is due to be replaced by **Juno** on Tuesday PM

Coruisk is due to be replaced by **Saturn** on Monday PM

Both replacements are for annual overhaul.

04/01/07 Western Isles:

> Mallaig - Small Isles (Lochnevis):

The Small Isles timetable has been changed for today and is going to do one call at the Isle of Eigg.

The timetable will be as follows:

	Dep	Arr
Mallaig	1020	
Eigg	1145	1135
Rum	1250	1240
Canna	1400	1350
Mallaig		1500

These times are all approx.

> Oban - Craignure (Isle of Mull):

Due to adverse weather conditions the following sailings have been cancelled:

Oban - Craignure 0800

Craignure - Oban 0900

Oban - Craignure 1000

Craignure - Oban 1100

Oban - Craignure 1200

Isle of Mull is currently stormbound in Craignure due to strong north-westerly winds. Her first sailing into Oban was berthed Bow In.

The next scheduled sailing from Craignure will be 1300 and from Oban at 1400 weather permitting.

Update 1300:

Route Now operating to timetable.

> Tayinloan - Gigha (Loch Linnhe):

Due to the problem at Tayinloan with the sand and debris caused by the adverse weather. There will be a sailing today from Gigha - Kennacraig see times noted below - also passenger numbers are restricted.

0800 dep Gigha - Kennacraig

1000 dep Kennacraig - Gigha

There will be divers again in attendance today at Tayinloan to try and clear the debris and if successful the service will again operate as timetabled from Tayinloan - Gigha

Update 1145:

Due to the ongoing problem at Tayinloan with sand and seaweed and now compounded by debris after the severe gale on Sunday 31st December 2006. CalMac are awaiting divers to come back tomorrow morning to clear the obstacles that are keeping the boat from getting into Tayinloan slip. So the boat will be operating a sailing from Gigha to Kennacraig please find times noted below:

Thursday 4th January 2007

0800 ex Gigha - Kennacraig

1000 ex Kennacraig - Gigha

1230 ex Gigha - Kennacraig

1500 ex Kennacraig - Gigha

CalMac are hoping the divers may have cleared the debris and then the sailings will operate as normal from Tayinloan - Gigha but still awaiting divers to advise.

Bookings are essential as passenger numbers are restricted to 12 only.

Update 1930:

Due to the ongoing problems at the Tayinloan slip, the Gigha Service is operating on a temporary basis from Kennacraig.

See below for route timetable.

› **Kennacraig - Gigha [Temporary Roster] (Loch Linnhe):**

Due to debris blocking Tayinloan the timetable will be as follows until further notice:

0830 ex Gigha - Kennacraig

1015 ex Kennacraig - Gigha

1230 ex Gigha - Kennacraig

1415 ex Kennacraig - Gigha

Passenger numbers onboard **Loch Linnhe** are restricted to 12 while this diversion is in place.

 **Please Check Above Company Links For Regular Updates.**

Clyde:

Loch Alainn was sighted heading outbound near Dunoon earlier this morning.

Update 1330:

Loch Alainn has been noted outbound passing Arran at 1335. Destination presumably Troon for repairs.

› **Largs - Cumbrae (Isle of Cumbrae):**

All sailings have been cancelled until further notice due to weather conditions.

Update 1145:

Service has now resumed.

› **Colintraive - Rhubodach (Loch Dunvegan):**

Due to the adverse weather conditions the Colintraive - Rhubodach route is operating a limited service until further notice.

Update 1700:

Route now operating to timetable.

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

The 1105 sailing will depart Brodick and head for Ardrossan. However, due to adverse weather conditions the Captain is giving no guarantee that he will be able to berth in Ardrossan. If he does, the next sailing from Ardrossan will be 1230.

Update 1300:

Route now operating to timetable.

› **Wemyss Bay - Rothesay (Bute, Coruisk):**

Due to adverse weather conditions the 0700 sailing from Rothesay (**Coruisk**) has been diverted to Gourock.

Therefore the 0800 sailing from Wemyss Bay and the 0845 sailing from Rothesay have both been cancelled.

The next departure from Gourock to Rothesay will be 0900. Transport will be made available between Wemyss Bay and Gourock.

Weather permitting there will be a 1010 sailing from Rothesay heading for Gourock. Intending passengers are advised to please check prior to travelling.

Update 1145:

Due to an improvement in weather conditions the Rothesay/Wemyss Bay service is now operating as timetabled.

› **Gourock - Dunoon Passenger Only (AliCat):**

Due to adverse weather conditions the passenger only service has been cancelled this morning.

❗ **Please Check Above Company Links For Regular Updates.**

NorthLink:

› **Stromness - Scrabster (Hamnavoe):**

Hamnavoe arrived in Stromness at 1100.

Due to adverse weather conditions the 1100 sailing from Stromness and the 1315 sailing from Scrabster have been cancelled.

The next scheduled sailing will depart Stromness at 1645 to arrive in Scrabster at 1815.

Update 1650:

Route now operating to timetable.

❗ **Please Check Above Company Links For Regular Updates.**

Past Fleet News - On This Day...

In 2006 Both the **Isle of Mull** and **Lord of the Isles** were Flying their Flags at Half mast in a mark of respect for the long serving Crewman of Colonsay pier Mr Charlie McKinnon that past away on the 21/12/06. The **Isle of Mull** also stayed an extra hour in Colonsay to let the crew attend the funeral.

03/01/07 **Western Isles:**

› **Ullapool - Stornoway (Isle of Lewis):**

Due to adverse weather the following sailings have been cancelled:

1030 ex Ullapool

1345 ex Stornoway

Isle of Lewis will remain in Ullapool until approx 1700 this afternoon.

› **Tayinloan - Gigha (Loch Linnhe):**

Due to the problem at Tayinloan with the sand and debris caused by the adverse weather. There will a sailing tomorrow (Thursday 4th January 2007) from Gigha - Kennacraig see times noted below - also passenger numbers are restricted.

0800 dep Gigha - Kennacraig

1000 dep Kennacraig - Gigha

There will be divers again in attendance tomorrow (Thursday) at Tayinloan to try and clear the debris and if successful the service will again operate as timetabled from Tayinloan - Gigha.

› **Kennacraig - Port Ellen / Port Askaig (Hebridean Isles):**

Hebridean Isles diverted her 0945 sailing to Port Askaig, due to the barley boat occupying her berth.

The later 1530 sailing arrived in at Port Ellen as normal but due to wind turning around to the west she was 20mins late departing.

› **Fionnphort - Iona (Loch Buie):**

This service is currently suspended due to adverse weather conditions.

The next attempt will be at 1430.

Update 1450:

The ferry managed a crossing at 1430 but weather conditions are still very poor.

The next attempt will be at 1615 ex Fionnphort.

Update 1600:

Due to worsening weather conditions there will be no further sailings on this route today.

02/01/07 **Past Fleet News - On This Day...**

In 2005 recently sold **Pioneer** (renamed **Brenda Corlett**) arrived around 1100 today at Gibraltar and is currently awaiting a berth at the port. Her next step will be the west coast of Africa.

01/01/07 **Welcome to 2007!**

SoC Crew & Reporters Welcome You To Another Year of CalMac Fleet News, all the best for 2007!...

New Year Timetable Restrictions:

There are NO sailings on Monday 1 January and restricted sailings on Tuesday 2 January.

Western Isles:

Loch Linnhe is now operating on the Tayinloan - Gigha crossing whilst the **Loch Ranza** lies at Rothesay awaiting her annual overhaul at Ardmaleish.

Clyde:

Also a reminder that the 1230 sailing from Ardrossan and the 1350 sailing from Brodick have both been withdrawn from service on Monday 8th January 2007 as per information printed in the current winter timetable.

DATE	NEWS
28/02/07	Hebridean Isles departed Port Ellen at 1635 this afternoon - just over an hour late thanks to the weather conditions making Port Ellen rather awkward to get into and out of. The 1800 sailing from Kennacraig was then cancelled for the same reason.

27/02/07 **Loch Linnhe** was seen in the Sound of Mull at 0810 this morning heading south from Tobermory back to Lochaline where she is back in service as required for large lorries unable to be accommodated on **Isle of Cumbrae**. This two-ship service will cease when **Loch Fyne** returns at the weekend.

26/02/07 **Western Isles:**

Loch Linnhe was spotted at Craignure pier this morning but then made her way up towards Tobermory later today.

Clyde:

Loch Fyne has completed her annual overhaul in the wet dock and was sent out on trials for a while this morning.



Loch Fyne returning to JWD after her trials

25/02/07 **Northlink:**

Hrossey made company history this afternoon by becoming the first NorthLink vessel to sail up the Mersey. She is having her annual overhaul carried out and is located in the dry dock adjacent to the **Clansman**. It is understood that part of her overhaul will see the addition of more cabins. She will also receive repairs to minor damage to her bow caused by heavy

seas recently.

During **Hrossey's** spell out of duty, her sister and running mate **Hjaltland** is maintaining a reduced timetable from Aberdeen to Kirkwall and Lerwick.



Hrossey on the Mersey today

24/02/07 **Clyde:**

Loch Portain left Campbeltown this morning and made for Largs where she is reported to have unloaded crew cars and then sailed up to Gourock where she berthed at the wires.

Juno underwent her planned inspection in relation to extending her passenger certificate for another two months this morning. The disruption to the Wemyss Bay - Rothesay timetable lasted only until early afternoon as **Juno** was able to re-enter service from the 1430 sailing.



Loch Portain arriving at Gourock

23/02/07 **Loch Portain** continued her journey south today and was sighted off the west side of the Mull of Kintyre around 1400. She is spending tonight at Campbeltown.

Juno came off the Wemyss Bay - Rothesay run at the end of the timetabled sailings today and made for Gourock in readiness for her MCA inspection tomorrow.

Coruisk went out briefly on trials this morning and is now back at Rosneath and **Bute** has relocated upriver to Glasgow. She is now lying in the King George V dock.

22/02/07 **Clyde:**

Coruisk and **Loch Fyne** are now both back in the wet dock for completion of their annual overhauls. **Loch Fyne** will be sailing for Largs to pick up crew cars and then making for Lochaline in the next few days. She will then resume normal service, freeing the **Isle of Cumbrae** for further relief work and the **Loch Linnhe** to linger around the Oban/Mull area until required.

Coruisk is expected to return to Rosneath until work at Rothesay is advanced enough to allow her and **Bute** to return to service.

This Saturday will see **Juno** being taken out of service temporarily while the MCA inspect her with a view to having her passenger certificate extended for the period she is still required at Rothesay. **Saturn** will sail on a restricted timetable while this takes place.

Western Isles:

Loch Portain arrived at Craignure this evening after completing the first stage of her journey to the Clyde and her annual overhaul. It is believed that **Loch Bhrusda** is currently to be found in her place on the Berneray - Leverburgh run.

21/02/07 **Clansman** arrived on the Mersey this morning and proceeded to the dry dock recently vacated by the **Isle of Lewis**. She will now remain there for the next couple of weeks undergoing her annual



Clansman entering dry dock

20/02/07 **Western Isles:**

Isle of Lewis reached Stornoway at around 0830 this morning and resumed service on her normal roster later on today. **Clansman** set off from Stornoway bound for Birkenhead. She passed through the Sound of Mull and then the Sound of Islay, passing Port Askaig at around 1730. She was then spotted on Ship Plotter off the south end of Gigha at 1930. She is expected to reach the Mersey during tomorrow morning.

15/02/07 **Western Isles:**

Hebridean Isles was spotted entering the Inner sound last night heading for the Skye Bridge. She is now (0940) off the top of Gigha approaching West Loch Tarbert.

› **Fionnphort - Iona (Loch Buie)**

Service is back on timetable from 1415.

› **Ardmhor - Eriskay (Loch Tarbert):**

Due to adverse weather the following sailings were cancelled today:

12:30 ex Ardmhor

1410 ex Eriskay

› **Uig - Lochmaddy - Uig - Tarbert (Hebrides):**

Hebrides arr Uig at 1000 from Lochmaddy.

Due to adverse weather conditions the 0940 sailing Uig to Lochmaddy is meantime cancelled and will be reviewed at approx 1400 with the intention of sailing - weather permitting - at 1500 to Lochmaddy and Tarbert.

(Combined traffic: 0940 Uig - Lochmaddy and 1500 Uig - Tarbert).

The 1245 sailing from Lochmaddy to Uig is cancelled.

› **Oban - Barra - Lochboisdale**

The 1530 sailing from Oban to Barra & Uist has been cancelled due to weather.

The next sailing from Oban will be at 0630 on Friday 16th February.

The timetable will be as follows:

0630 dep Oban

1150 arr Castlebay

1200 dep Castlebay

1720 arr Oban

Intending passengers for Lochboisdale are advised by CalMac that the 1230 from **Ardmhor - Eriskay** is

available and passengers from Lochboisdale are advised to travel on the 1030 from **Eriskay - Ardmhor** to connect with the 1200 back to Oban.

› **Oban - Col I - Tiree (Lord of the Isles):**

The 0645 from Oban to Coll and Tiree has now managed to dock at Tiree.
The ferry has now left Tiree at 1535 and is heading for Coll and then Oban.
Estimated arrival time in Oban is approximately 2000.

› **Oban - Craignure (Isle of Mull):**

Due to adverse weather the 1000 sailing from Oban to Craignure and the 1100 sailing from Craignure to Oban were cancelled.
The service is currently running approximately 20 minutes late and is liable to further disruption or cancellation.
The 1400 from Oban and the 1500 from Craignure have now been cancelled.
The next scheduled sailing from Oban will be at 1600 and from Craignure at 1700 - weather permitting.

› **Tayinloan - Gigha (Loch Ranza):**

Service cancelled until further notice due to adverse weather.

› **Mallaig - Armadale (Lochnevis):**

The 0840h ex Mallaig and 0925h ex Armadale are cancelled due to adverse weather. There will be an update at 1500h re. the 1600h sailing this afternoon.
Weather permitting the 1600h will be sailing as timetabled this afternoon.

› **Mallaig - Small Isles (Lochnevis):**

The 1020h sailing to the Small Isles today has been cancelled due to adverse weather conditions.

› **Sconser - Raasay (Loch Striven):**

Due to adverse weather conditions the above service will be prone to disruption for the day.

› **Ullapool - Stornoway (Clansman):**

Clansman departed Stornoway at 1608. The Captain has made the decision to cancel the 1715 sailing from Ullapool (Thursday) and the 0715 Stornoway - Ullapool sailing on Friday 16/02/07, all due to adverse weather conditions.

Clyde:

› **Wemyss Bay - Rothesay (Juno, Saturn):**

Due to adverse weather conditions there are no sailings from Rothesay to Wemyss Bay at present.

Juno will depart from Rothesay @ 1500 sailing to Gourock.

Juno will depart Gourock @ 1700 sailing to Rothesay.

Transport will be made available from Gourock to Wemyss Bay.

Update 1730:

Due to adverse weather conditions the service has been suspended for the rest of this evening.

On Saturday 24th February 2007, a single vessel (**Juno**) service will operate on the Route.

From Wemyss Bay:

0845, 1015, 1215, 1345, 1515, 1645, 1815, 1945

From Rothesay:

0800, 0930, 1100, 1300, 1430, 1600, 1730, 1900

› **Gourock - Dunoon (Jupiter):**

Due to adverse weather conditions the 1920 dep Gourock & 1950 dep Dunoon have both been cancelled.

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

Update 0940:

Caledonian Isles is currently heading for Gourock from Brodick as she is unable to berth at Ardrossan due to weather conditions.

Update 1330:

Due to adverse weather conditions the 1350 has been diverted to Gourock.

The 1515 sailing from Ardrossan will depart from Gourock as soon as possible thereafter.

The 1640 from Brodick and the 1800 from Ardrossan have been cancelled.

There will be no further sailings on this route when the ferry berths in Brodick.

› **Tarbert - Portavadie (Loch Riddon):**

Thursday 15th February 2007 - Service cancelled until further notice due to Adverse Weather.

› **Colintraive - Rhubodach (Loch Dunvegan):**

Service is liable to disruption or cancellation due to the weather.

Update:

Service has been suspended for the rest of this evening.

› **Largs - Cumbrae (Loch Alainn):**

The service between Largs and Cumbrae slip has suspended due to adverse weather.

Service will be reviewed at 1800 for a possible 1815 departure.

14/02/07 **Terminals:**

› **Fishnish**

There are currently some temporary measures for LGV's at Fishnish. CalMac staff are manning some lanes which measure the gross tonnage of the lorries and coaches that are currently using the crossing. This has been put in place due to the fact that the two smaller Loch class vessels currently on the route are not able to carry the same weight as the regular **Loch Fyne**.



Temporary lanes at Fishnish

NorthLink:

Hebridean Isles departed Scrabster at 0845 to arrive in Stromness at 1045 on her last relief sailing. The next scheduled sailing will depart Stromness at 1045 to arrive in Scrabster at 1215 which will be performed by the **Hamnavoe**.

SoC Live! *Update 1200:*

The **Hebridean Isles** arrived in Scapa Flow at 10:30 this morning and waited 15 minutes outside Stromness harbour for the **Hamnavoe** to clear the berth and harbour. The **Hamnavoe** departed Stromness at 10:45 and passed the **Hebridean Isles** in Scapa Flow at around 10:50 with the **Hebridean Isles** berthing shortly after. The **Hebridean Isles** then departed Stromness escorted by an Orkney Isles Harbour Pilot Vessel at 11:15 disembarking the pilot at the entrance to the Stromness Harbour. During her relief the **Hebridean Isles** was sailing with a NorthLink Master acting as Harobour



Hamnavoe departs Stromness while Hebridean Isles waits

Pilot and therefore only needed an external harbour pilot to finally leave the port. The **Hebridean Isles** is now bound for the Western Isles.

13/02/07 **Western Isles:**

SoC Live! Update 0803:

Isle of Cumbrae is currently running 10min late as she has two heavy lorries weighing her down making her slower than usual.

Some details of the new Islay ferry have been published in the latest edition of 'The Illeach' (The Independent Newspaper for Islay and Jura):

Open deck ro-ro Passenger / Vehicular ferry with forward and aft ramps, forward ramp protected by clam-shell doors.

Ferry to be about 85m overall length, about 16.4m beam, 3.2m draft

Service speed about 16.5 knots

Deadweight of around 700 tonnes with gross tonnage about 5,000

Requirement to carry about 62 cars or 10 x 44-tonne CVs plus 18 cars on mezzanine deck, together with about 600 passengers.

Propulsion to be direct drive CPP propellers, with options for azimuthing thrusters, either directly or electrically driven.

Anticipated date for award of contract September 2007, fabrication to commence September 2008 for delivery March 2010.

NorthLink:

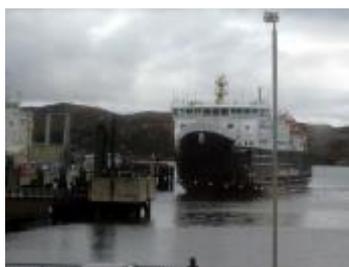
The **Hamnavoe** returned from her overhaul to Stromness this evening at 21:45. She berthed stern onto the inside West berth at Stromness with the **Hebridean Isles** on the East linkspan berth. The **Hebridean Isles** will complete the first two sailings (Scrabster return) of Tomorrow and the **Hamnavoe** is then expected to resume her service at 11:00 with the sailing to Scrabster.



Hamnavoe's AIS location at 2054

12/02/07 **Western Isles:**

Clansman was noted running 20 minutes late on her arrival into Stornoway at lunchtime today. Her crossing from Ullapool was delayed by the weather conditions.



Clansman at Lunchtime today

Clyde:

Loch Fyne and **Coruisk** moved to JWD and Garvel today where they will commence their annual overhauls.

Juno will be withdrawn from service on the Wemyss Bay - Rothesay route on Saturday, 24 February 2007. This is to allow the Maritime Coastguard Agency (MCA) to conduct a routine inspection of the ship. Successful completion of the inspection will allow CalMac ferries to extend the vessel's Passenger Certificate for another two months, enabling her to cover the period of time taken to complete Argyll and Bute Council's pier works at Rothesay.

The planned interruption of the two-vessel service will be as follows:

Juno will be taken off service on completion of her last scheduled sailing on Friday 23 February.

On Saturday 24 February, a single vessel service will operate from the 0800 sailing from Rothesay.

11/02/07 **NorthLink:**

NorthLink Ferries is facilitating the gathering of vital weather data from the North Sea between Aberdeen and the Northern Isles, in partnership with the Met Office.

An Automatic Weather Station (AWS), which records information such as sea-level air pressure and temperature, has been installed on the passenger ferry **Hjalmland**, which serves the route between the Scottish mainland and Orkney and Shetland...

More Here...

→ **The Appliance of Science on NorthLink Ferries**

(external link to NorthLink)

10/02/07 **Western Isles:**

› **Ullapool - Stornoway (Clansman):**

Due adverse weather the 1730 sailing from Ullapool to Stornoway on 09/02/07 has been cancelled.

Clansman will remain in Ullapool overnight with a view to sail around midday tomorrow.

› **Ardmhor - Eriskay (Loch Tarbert):**

Due to adverse weather conditions the following sailings are cancelled:

1710 ex Ardmhor - Eriskay

1815 ex Eriskay - Ardmhor

Clyde:

It is believed that the problem with **Loch Dunvegan's** ramp reported on Wednesday were due to the freezing temperatures which, at one point, dropped to minus 8 in the area.

Caledonian Isles was using the old 'Irish berth' today, presumably due to the strong easterlies that were blowing into Ardrossan harbour. The picture opposite shows her leaving at 1300. She was running about 30mins behind all day.



CI at the Irish berth today

› **Largs - Cumbrae (Loch Alainn):**

The 0645 sailing from Largs and the 0700 sailing from Cumbrae are cancelled due to adverse weather. The 0715 from Largs and the 0730 from Cumbrae are cancelled. The 0745 from Largs and the 0800 sailings from Cumbrae are cancelled also. Service will resume as timetabled at 0815 departing Largs.

NorthLink:

› **Hatston - Lerwick (Hrossey):**

Due to severe weather conditions the 2345 sailing from Hatston to Lerwick is cancelled. The next scheduled sailing is due to depart Hatston at 2345 on Sunday 11th February. However, due to a adverse weather forecast, this sailing is under review.

› **Lerwick - Aberdeen (Hjaltland):**

Hjaltland arrived in Lerwick at 0730.

Due to severe weather conditions the 1900 sailing from Lerwick to Aberdeen has been cancelled. The next scheduled sailing is on Sunday 11th February at 1900 sailing from Lerwick to Aberdeen. However, due to a adverse weather forecast this sailing is under review.

› **Aberdeen - Hatston - Lerwick (Hrossey):**

Hrossey arrived in Aberdeen at 0610.

Due to severe weather conditions the 1700 sailing form Aberdeen to Hatston and Lerwick has been cancelled.

The next scheduled sailing is on Sunday 11th February at 17:00 sailing to Hatston and Lerwick. However, due to a adverse weather forecast this sailing is under review.

09/02/07 **Western Isles:**

Loch Linnhe and **Isle of Cumbrae** are battling the Sound of Mull together today. They were seen this morning kicking up some impressive swell at Fishnish which later turned into a force 6/7 squall. As of 1000 there are no cancellations on the route.

› **Ardmhor - Eriskay (Loch Tarbert):**

Due to adverse weather conditions the following sailings are cancelled:

0715 ex Ardmhor

0820 ex Eriskay

Update 1230:

Due to continued adverse weather conditions the following sailings are cancelled:

1230 ex Ardmhor

1410 ex Eriskay

The last return sailing of the day has been brought forward and will depart at the following times:

1500 ex Ardmhor (Instead of 1710)

1600 ex Eriskay (Instead of 1815)

Past Fleet News - On This Day...

In 2005 the Wemyss Bay - Rothesay ferry **Bute** was launched in Poland.

08/02/07 **Western Isles:**

Loch Bhrusda is making for Kennacraig this afternoon, then onwards to the Clyde tomorrow.

07/02/07 **Western Isles:**

Loch Linnhe joined **Isle of Cumbrae** on the Lochaline - Fishnish service today. Both vessels had to be used in order to carry the traffic which is normally handled by the much larger **Loch Fyne**. A dual timetable was in operation with the ferries passing each other in the middle of the Sound of Mull.

Loch Tarbert passed Fishnish at 0805 this morning as she continued her journey up to Barra where she is

to relieve the **Loch Bhrusda** for her annual overhaul. In previous years **Loch Linnhe** has carried out this relief role however this year, due to increased traffic on the Sound of Barra route, the larger vessel is required.

Isle of Arran arrived at Port Ellen tonight at 2045 this is due to a late departure this afternoon.

Clyde:

➤ **Colintraive - Rhubodach (Loch Dunvegan):**

Services were cancelled from 0530 to around 0830 this morning due to a fault with one of the ramps on **Loch Dunvegan**.

Service now operating as timetabled.

06/02/07 **Western Isles:**

SoC Live! Update 0752:

Loch Linnhe is currently ticking over at Craignure, indicating a move elsewhere. Updates to follow.

Isle of Cumbrae appears to have settled into her relief roster at Fishnish.

Clyde:

Update 0900:

Loch Fyne has just rounded the Mull of Kintyre bound for Gourock via Largs. She is due at Largs around lunchtime to offload crew cars and proceed to JWD. She is due into JWD midweek with **Coruisk** for annual overhaul.

Update 1130:

Loch Fyne is currently passing Kildonan on Arran inbound for Largs.

Update 1330:

Loch Fyne is currently passing Ardrossan inbound for Largs.

Update 1500:

Loch Fyne sailed bow first from Craighouse to Largs. She has just berthed stern first at Largs along with Loch Alainn.

Loch Tarbert left Rothesay this morning bound for Oban where she will spend tonight. She will then proceed first thing in the morning for Barra to relieve the **Loch Bhrusda** for annual overhaul.



Isle of Cumbrae today



Loch Fyne berthed at Largs

NorthLink:

› **Scrabster - Stromness (Hebridean Isles):**

The following revised timetable will be in place today due to yesterdays cancellations:

Depart Stromness at 0830 to arrive in Scrabster at approximately 1030.

Depart Scrabster at 1400 to arrive in Stromness at approximately 1600.

The 1645 from Stromness and the 1915 from Scrabster will depart as scheduled.

Update:

Hebridean Isles departed Stromness at 0830 to arrive in Scrabster at approximately 1030.

Due to adverse weather the 0845 from Scrabster and the 1115 from Stromness have been cancelled.

The above revised timetable is still in place today.

Past Fleet News - On This Day...

In 2004 the Isle of Mull endured a rather slippery day when oil burst from a pipe on her car deck and seawater flooded her engine.

05/02/07 **Western Isles:**

Loch Linnhe still appears to be at Craignure awaiting her relief deployment elsewhere in the network.

Isle of Mull arrived and departed on time with the 0700 ex Oban sailing.

SoC Live! *Update 1315:*

Lord of the Isles is currently passing Tobermory on time inbound on her 0730 ex Lochboisdale - Oban.

Update 1610:

Isle of Cumbrae is now on the Lochaline - Fishnish roster allowing the **Loch Fyne** to go for her annual overhaul. **Loch Fyne** has departed the Sound of Mull en-route to Gourock via Largs for her annual overhaul.

› **Leverburgh - Berneray (Loch Portain):**

Due to Tidal Restrictions on the Sound of Harris route the following sailings are cancelled:

Sunday 18th February:

Dep Berneray 1330

Dep Leverburgh 1440

Monday - Wednesday 19th - 21st February inclusive:

Dep Berneray 1430

Dep Leverburgh 1540

NorthLink:

› **Scrabster - Stromness (Hebridean Isles):**

Hebridean Isles is currently berthed in Stromness.

Due to a severe weather and tidal conditions and in the interest of passenger comfort and safety the following sailings have been cancelled:

0615 ex Stromness

0845 ex Scrabster

1115 ex Stromness

The following revised timetable will be in place:

Depart Scrabster at 1400 to arrive in Stromness at approximately 1600.

The 1645 from Stromness and the 1915 from Scrabster are under review.

Update 1400:

Due to adverse weather conditions and in the interest of passenger comfort and safety the 1645 from Stromness and 1900 from Scrabster have been cancelled.

The following revised timetable will be in place on Tuesday 6th February:

Depart Stromness at 0830 to arrive in Scrabster at approximately 1030.

Depart Scrabster at 1400 to arrive in Stromness at approximately 1600.

The 1645 from Stromness and the 1915 from Scrabster will depart as scheduled.

04/02/07 **Western Isles:**

Isle of Arran departed Port Ellen at 1540, 11mins late, due to her late arrival from Kennacraig.



Coruisk at Rosneath today

03/02/07 **Clyde:**

Loch Tarbert is now lying at Rothesay inner berth, having completed her annual overhaul

Loch Alainn is now (1430) passing Millport and heading for Largs where she will resume service and relieve **Isle of Cumbrae**.

Update 1800:

Loch Alainn appears to be back in service on the Largs - Cumbrae Slip service.

Isle of Cumbrae left Largs today on route to Lochaline to relieve the **Loch Fyne**, she will stay overnight in Craighouse, Jura before finishing her journey tomorrow.

02/02/07 **Western Isles:**

Loch Linnhe is currently lying alongside Craignure Pier (Southside). It is possible that later today or tomorrow she will cover for the **Loch Fyne** allowing her larger fleet mate to go for her annual overhaul.

Loch Alainn left Barra this morning after completing her trails on the Ardmhor - Eriskay roster. She passed Port Askaig at 1545, which would indicate she sailed via the Gunna Sound and Sound of Iona. She will probably spend the night either at Craighouse, Kennacraig or Campbeltown.

Clyde:

Bute appears to have journeyed to James Watt Dock (JWD) for some touch up work today.



Bute in JWD today

Terminals:

Gourock, Wemyss Bay, Largs & Ardrossan

First ScotRail have announced that essential engineering work will be carried out on rail services serving the above terminals on Sundays from 4th February 2007.

We recommend that intending passengers check with First ScotRail on www.firstscotrail.com or 08457 550033 to check journey times during this period.

CalMac Ferries have announced they will endeavour to maintain connections where ever possible.

NorthLink:

Hamnavoe departed Stromness at 2110 for the Scapa Flow and on to Frederikshavn for her annual overhaul. **Hebridean Isles** will take up the Pentland Firth roster tomorrow morning.

01/02/07 **Western Isles:**

Lord of the Isles was sighted passing Tobermory at 1320, 10min late on her inbound sailing to Oban. She was noted sailing with a almost full compliment of passengers.

SoC Live! Update 1613:

Lord of the Isles is just passing Craignure on Mull outbound for Castlebay back on her timetable.

Loch Alainn was noted out on trials today between Ardmhor and Eriskay. She was noted deploying her ramps and systems while **Loch Bhrusda** went about her daily business. First impressions of her on the route are pleasing with the locals welcoming her arrival.

Loch Linnhe has been covering at Fionnphort while **Loch Buie** has been away for engine repairs, possibly to Corpach. She left Fionnphort about 1130 on Tuesday morning.



Both Lochs at Ardmhor



Loch Alainn at Ardmhor today

Clyde:

Isle of Cumbrae fresh from overhaul, is settling back into her role of relief vessel for her island namesake. She is expected to stay on the Largs - Cumbrae roster until the **Loch Alainn** returns from route trials in the Outer Hebrides between Ardmhor - Eriskay. **Loch Alainn** is expected back at her Largs station on Saturday night and is expected to return to service on the **Largs - Cumbrae** route on Sunday 4th February 2007.



Isle of Cumbrae at Cumbrae

NorthLink:

Hebridean Isles arrived in Stromness, Orkney today at 1200 to take up her relief roster on the NorthLink Scrabster - Stromness roster. This will allow the regular vessel **Hamnavoe** to make for her annual overhaul.

Hamnavoe is still currently in service and departed Scrabster at 1900 to arrive in Stromness at 2030. The next scheduled sailing will depart Stromness at 0630 to arrive in Scrabster at 0815.

Hebridean Isles's first sailing on the Pentland Firth crossing will be this Saturday.



Hebridean Isles at Stromness

DATE	NEWS
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31/03/07

Clyde:

Presumably the parts the **Isle of Arran** was awaiting have turned up as she left Garvel Drydock shortly before midnight last night and after trials berthed at Gourock top wires about 0230 this morning. She will then make for Oban to assist the **Lord of the Isles**.

It would appear that **Loch Riddon** is now lying in at Largs. Updates to follow.

→ **"Ferry Service Restored"** Gourock - Dunoon (internal link)

Western Isles:

Isle of Arran is currently heading for Oban (ETA 1900) to take up service there, along with **Lord of the Isles** providing the two-ship Inner and Outer Isles services, while **Clansman** remains at Uig for the time being.

Eigg is now sporting a new rescue boat as can be seen in the picture below. The original one can be compared to her sister **Raasay's** lying next to her. The new craft appears to be of RIB construction.



Isle of Arran passing her namesake island...then berthed in Oban & Eigg + Raasay in Oban today

Rathlin Ferries:

Caledonian MacBrayne have confirmed that agreement had been reached in principle to extend its contract to operate the Ballycastle -Rathlin Ferry Service until March 2008. Rathlin Ferries Ltd has been established as a wholly owned subsidiary of David MacBrayne Limited, to run the service, and continues to trade under the CalMac brand. From 30th March **Canna** will operate four return crossings per day.

30/03/07 **Clyde:**

It is possible that workers on **Hebrides** are encountering problems with her conversion, some black smoke was sighted yesterday, but still no movement in JWD.

Isle of Arran's return to service on the 02/04/07 on the Islay roster is looking doubtful. She is still currently awaiting a new propeller from abroad to be fitted.

Western Isles:

Clansman is undertaking an extra crossing back to Uig tonight from Lochmaddy. She will need to return to Lochmaddy for 0700 tomorrow to take up the service again. This is due to tomorrow's Oban - South Uist - Oban service operated by the **Lord of the Isles** being cancelled. The traffic has been diverted to Lochmaddy - Uig to get the traffic back to the mainland via the Skye bridge or by Armadale - Mallaig.

29/03/07 **Clyde:**

Juno has been absent once again this morning - presumably still undergoing repairs at Gourock to her engine. The CalMac website reports a one vessel service on the **Wemyss Bay - Rothesay** roster, though AIS has shown her as underway for at least the last hour.

Update 1207:

Juno is travelling up and down the lower firth at the moment, presumably on trials.

Bute is currently is berthed at Rosneath jetty and has been for the last couple of days. **Coruisk** departed from same site a few days ago.

Update 2030:

Juno has just returned to service with an extra sailing ex **Wemyss Bay - Rothesay** dep 2010 suggesting she is now repaired.

From the Buteman:

No Extra Easter Ferries for Rothesay...

CALEDONIAN MacBrayne has backed away from a plan to provide three car ferries on its Rothesay-Wemyss Bay route over the Easter weekend - in the face of vociferous opposition from Dunoon. The company had considered bringing all three 'streakers', Juno, Jupiter and Saturn, to the Rothesay run for at least Good Friday and Easter Monday to cope with the volume of holiday weekend traffic while MV Bute is still barred from the run because of the Rothesay pier reconstruction work.

But after an outraged reaction from Dunoon's councillors, and a similar response from MSPs, the company opted to stick with the present situation of having two streakers at Rothesay and one at Dunoon, with the chartered catamaran Ali-Cat used on the Dunoon peak passenger services as normal. Dunoon councillors Dick Walsh and Brian Chennell tabled an urgent motion at a meeting of Argyll and Bute Council last Thursday calling on the Executive to ensure that both Dunoon and Rothesay routes operated as normal over the holiday weekend.

And though we understand that using all three streakers at Rothesay was CalMac's preferred strategy, with Cowal vehicle traffic still having the Western Ferries option, the politicians' protests bore fruit in the end.

Rothesay's two remaining streakers will, however, sail through their lunch breaks and will operate later than normal on Easter Monday if required to clear any backlog.

Meanwhile, far from having the services of three streakers, the Rothesay run was served by only one such ship for part of Sunday, and most of Monday, after a burst cooling pipe ruled MV Juno out of action.

On a brighter note, a date has been identified for MV Bute to return to Rothesay for the first time in more than four months to test whether the building work has reached a stage where it is safe for her to berth.

Saturday, April 14 has been earmarked for the Bute to carry out berthing trials ahead of her return to the route, from which she has been missing since early January because of mono-piling work at the site of the new linkspan.

But contractor Balfour Beatty is hoping that the much-delayed work on Mono-Pile Number One - the

sticking point keeping the larger vessel away - could be completed in a little over two weeks, allowing the Bute room to berth safely while work on the linkspan and pier continues around her. That would finally ease the capacity pressures suffered on the route in recent weeks - and would at least be in time for the equally busy jazz festival period at the beginning of May. It would also come little more than a week before MV Juno's extended passenger certificate runs out. The Bute left her lay-up berth at the King George V Dock in Glasgow on Monday and had her hull surveyed by divers at Sandbank in the Holy Loch the following day before making for Rosneath in the Gare Loch.

28/03/07 Clyde:

Update on current Clyde Fleet Locations: Due Soon...

Western Isles:

> Kennacraig - Colonsay & Oban - Colonsay:

Another alteration to schedules are the **Wednesday** services operated to Colonsay.

Due to the delays in completing the works at Port Askaig, there has had to be a revamp of the schedules on the first three Wednesdays of the summer timetable, and the revised timings are given below:

Hebridean Isles

0745 dep Kennacraig
1005 arr Port Ellen
1025 dep Port Ellen
1305 arr Colonsay
1720 dep Colonsay
2000 arr Port Ellen
2020 dep Port Ellen
2240 arr Kennacraig

Lord of The Isles

1530 dep Oban
1750 arr Colonsay
1805 dep Colonsay
2025 arr Oban

NorthLink:

Hascosay is due in Dry dock until 03/04/07 for annual overhaul.

The freight roster is being maintained by the **Clare**.

Past Fleet News - On This Day...

In 2006 Strike action took place, as a result no services could take place on either upper firth routes all day. The action was out of CalMac's control.

27/03/07 Clyde:

Juno is currently on the 2a roster, she will then be going to the top wires tomorrow to repair a cylinder head gasket.

Bute was noted out this morning on the Clyde stretching her legs after her overhaul.

Western Isles:

Lord of the Isles was noted running 15min early passing Fishnish on Mull this afternoon outbound for Barra.

Customers are advised that due to the unavoidable delayed return to service of **Hebrides** from annual refit there will be a number of **timetable changes** to CalMac ferry services from Oban on Friday 30 March and Saturday 31 March 2007.

The services affected are as follows:

› **Friday 30 March 2007**

› **Coll and Tiree**

The 0600 Oban - Tiree - Coll - Oban 1315 service will now operate the following schedule:

1500 dep Oban
1830 arr Tiree
1845 dep Tiree
1945 arr Coll
2000 dep Coll
2255 arr Oban

› **Oban - Barra**

The 1340 Oban - Castlebay - Oban 2340 has been cancelled. Customers are advised to contact Caledonian MacBrayne to rebook on an alternative service.

› **Oban - Craignure**

The Oban - Craignure - Oban from 0745 - 1746 will operate as per timetable.

The 1800 Oban - Craignure - Oban 1946 has been cancelled. Customers are advised to contact Caledonian MacBrayne to rebook on an alternative service.

The 2230 Oban - Craignure service will now operate the following schedule:

2320 Oban - Craignure 0006

› **Oban - Colonsay**

The 1700 Oban - Colonsay - Oban 2155 service will now operate the following schedule:

1800 dep Oban
2020 arr Colonsay
2045 dep Colonsay
2305 arr Oban
2320 dep Oban
0006 arr Craignure

› **Saturday 31 March 2007**

› **Coll and Tiree**

The 0700 Oban - Coll - Tiree - Coll - Oban 1500 service will now operate the following schedule:

0700 dep Oban
0955 arr Coll
1005 dep Coll
1105 arr Tiree
1125 dep Tiree
1225 arr Coll
1235 dep Coll
1530 arr Oban

› **Oban - South Uist**

The 0815 Oban - Lochboisdale - Oban 1910 service has been cancelled. Customers are advised to contact Caledonian MacBrayne to re-book on an alternative service

› **Oban - Barra**

Subject to vessel availability, the 1530 Oban - Castlebay 2020 service will operate either on time or be subject to a delay of less than one hour. Due to traffic demand from the earlier Coll and Tiree service there will be a requirement to operate this service via Tiree.

› **Oban - Craignure**

The 0700 Craignure - Oban 0746 will depart 30 minutes earlier at 0630 instead of 0700. Services to Mull from 0730 will operate according to the normal Saturday Oban - Craignure - Oban timetable.

CalMac Ferries will detail all changes to the timetable as they become available and customers are advised to check the website, www.calmac.co.uk, to confirm their details of travel before departure. Up to date SMS text messaging information is also available and details of this are also on the company website.

CalMac apologises to customers for any inconvenience. Normal service will be resumed as quickly as possible.

26/03/07 **Western Isles:**

Raasay has now adopted **Burnishes'** old role at Oban as small stand-by vessel for the Northern Area.

Clyde:

Bute made her way from KGV Dock around 0915 this morning to The Wires at Gourrock, she berthed around 1130.

25/03/07 **Western Isles:**

Coruisk is expected to depart Craignure for Mallaig around 1030 this morning.

SoC Live! Update 1200:

Coruisk has just rounded Ardnamurchan Point northbound for Mallaig.



Coruisk berthed at and departing Craignure today

24/03/07 **Western Isles:**

Update From Oban Area Today:

Isle of Mull on Oban - Craignure route, **Eigg** moored at Oban pier, **Lord of the Isles** inbound to Oban. **Loch Fyne** at Fishnish, **Loch Linnhe** at Tobermory, **Coruisk** was waiting at Craignure for **Isle of Mull** to depart at 1700, she then headed for the pier, presumably to berth overnight prior to heading west tomorrow

23/03/07 **NorthLink:**

Hrossey returned to service after re-fit with a delayed departure from Aberdeen in the early hours of 21/03/07. She had been scheduled to take the evening sailing from Lerwick on Monday 19th but, due to heavy weather, she sheltered off the Isle of Man for around 18hours after dropping her Liverpool Pilot in Douglas Bay.

The **Buffalo Express** is again being chartered in September to provide extra capacity for livestock movements. The charter is initially for 6 weeks but with an option to extend if required. In future years it is hoped to use purpose-built 20ft livestock containers which can be carried on the Company's normal vessels.

[News Courtesy of [Ferry Publications](#)]

22/03/07 **Western Isles:**

› **Ullapool - Stornoway (Isle of Lewis)**

The vessel is running 15 minutes late on the 1345 sailing from Stornoway due to technical reasons. She is due to arrive in Ullapool at 1645.

21/03/07 **Loch Portain** sailed today for the Outer Isles where she will relieve **Loch Bhrusda** at Berneray. The **Loch Bhrusda** will then return to Barra and allow the **Loch Tarbert** to return to the Clyde ready to resume the Claonaig - Lochranza service at the start of the summer timetable.

Clyde:

Tidal conditions have led to disruption on the Largs - Cumbrae Slip service. **Loch Alainn** was off duty between 0700 and 0900 and will be off again from 1830 - 2000. This will be repeated through the week until Friday.

Western Isles:

Isle of Lewis is running late today due to a combination of weather conditions and volume of traffic. **Lochnevis** is making an additional call at Rum today due to the volume of traffic on the Small Isles route.

19/03/07 **Western Isles:**

Loch Portain left Oban this morning and is now tied up in Tobermory where she will remain until Wednesday morning. She had been at Oban since Saturday.

› **Oban - Craignure (Isle of Mull)**

The 0800 ex Craignure and 1000 ex Oban were cancelled this morning due to poor weather conditions. The vessel sailed at 1100 from Mull and then carried out an additional return sailing to Craignure at 1200. As a result the 1200 sailing to Colonsay was cancelled.

› **Lochboisdale - Castlebay - Oban (Lord of the Isles)**

This sailing was cancelled today as the vessel remained in Oban yesterday.

Other services were cancelled throughout the network, due to bad weather. It is also noted that the sand and seaweed problem at Tayinloan also resurfaced, forcing **Loch Ranza** to sail on a passenger only basis to Kennacraig today.

16/03/07 **Western Isles:**

› **Ullapool - Stornoway (Isle of Lewis)**

The vessel is currently running around 40 minutes late due to the weather.

› **Mallaig - Small Isles (Lochnevis)**

The call and Muck and the second call at Eigg have been cancelled due to the weather.

Loch Portain sailed from Gourock this morning and called at Largs in order to pick up crew cars. She is now (1515) passing between the Cumbraes on her long journey back to the Sound of Harris and is expected to stop at Campbeltown for the night after passing through the Kilbrannan Sound.

15/03/07 **Western Isles:**

› **Oban - Craignure (Isle of Mull)**

The 1300 sailing ex Craignure and 1400 sailing ex Oban were today cancelled. The official report is that weather conditions were too severe to sail, yet several reports to SoC claimed the weather had not deteriorated at all.

› **Ullapool - Stornoway (Muirneag)**

The 2330 sailing ex Stornoway and the early morning return from Ullapool have been cancelled due to weather conditions in the Minch.

14/03/07 **Terminal Information:**

› **Oban:**

The huge Mersey Mammoth has been in Oban as part of the terminal developments. She has lifted the new linkspan onto its hinge point adjacent to the terminal building. The blue linkspan is very similar to that Dunoon, however instead of an overhead gantry and vertical hydraulics, this one would appear to be adjusted with steel cables in the same way as the now 30+ year old one just a few yards away. There is still a lot of work required to finish what is currently supposed to be the overnight ferry berth in time for the start of the summer timetable at the end of this month.

Elsewhere in the network, it has been announced that the work taking place at Rothesay is now some 9 weeks late. **Juno** has already had to have her passenger certificate extended by two months in order to provide cover until 22nd April, however if the works are not completed to a stage that allows **Bute** to return to service by this point then it is not clear how the service will be maintained.

There is still no sign of work commencing on the rebuilding/realigning of Largs pier. This was intended to be completed by the time **Loch Shira** eventually enters service later in the spring, however it is currently anticipated that she will have to sail to Fairlie every night for a berth, while the smaller Loch remains at the pier as normal.

13/03/07 **Loch Portain** left JWD today in order to run trials. After successful completion of the trials she then berthed at the wires at Gourock.

11/03/07 **Clyde:**

Hebrides is due at Gourock at 1400 today. Both her and **Isle of Arran** will then move into Garvel Dry Dock at about 1430ish.

10/03/07 **Western Isles:**

Hebrides was noted passing Lochbuie on Mull at 2320 heading Southbound towards Colonsay and onto the Clyde for her annual overhaul.

09/03/07 **Clansman** left Birkenhead earlier today and has passed out into the Irish Sea. She will be sailing non-stop to Uig where she is due to relieve her sister **Hebrides** on the Tarbert and Lochmaddy routes from tomorrow afternoon. **Hebrides** will then sail for Garvel and her annual overhaul.

Western Isles:

Hebridean Isles departed Port Ellen this evening at 1545 due to the volume of traffic.

Clyde:

Isle of Cumbrae is back on the Clyde after her trip north. **Isle of Arran** and **Loch Portain** have both come out of Garvel dry dock today and are now back in JWD.

06/03/07 **Western Isles:**

Hebridean Isles arrived in at Port Ellen this morning at 1000 and departed at 1030 this was due to late arrival and volume of traffic, this afternoons arrival was 1550 and the departed at 1650 this was due to the same reason.

Eigg has now moved up to Corpach for her annual overhaul and is being relieved by her sister **Raasay**. With **Raasay** away from her usual winter employment, **Loch Linnhe** is now back on her regular route from Tobermory - Kilchoan. It is likely that, with the annual overhaul schedule nearing its completion, she will probably remain on the Ardnamurchan route until the autumn when she is required to provide winter cover once more.



Raasay at Oban slipway

Isle of Cumbrae is no longer in Oban. It is likely that she is making her way back round to the Clyde in readiness to resume the summer Tarbert - Portavadie run.

NorthLink:

Picture opposite shows the new crew cabins now in place on the stern of **Hrossey**. The new accommodation block was lifted on to the vessel at Birkenhead on 28th February.

→ Bigger Picture [HERE](#) (external link to Ferry Publications)



Cabins in place

05/03/07 **Western Isles:**

Hebridean Isles arrived in at Port Ellen at 1015 and departed at 1055, she arrived in at Kennacraig at 1315 and then departed at 1415. She got so far and turned back to Kennacraig this is due to the adverse weather. The 1800 sailing from Kennacraig tonight was cancelled, the next timetabled sailing is at 0700 Tuesday 6th March 2007.

Picture opposite is her departing Port Ellen at 1055.



Hebridean Isles today

04/03/07 **Western Isles:**

Isle of Cumbrae has relocated down to Oban and is currently tied up at the North Pier while she awaits her next spell of duty. **Loch Fyne** is now back in service on the Lochaline - Fishnish route.

› **Berneray - Leverburgh (Loch Bhrusda)**

The 1330 sailing ex Berneray and 1440 sailing ex Leverburgh are today cancelled.

› **Ardmhor - Eriskay (Loch Tarbert)**

All sailings on this route are today cancelled. Next sailings will be on Monday if the weather improves.



Isle of Cumbrae today

› **Oban - Castlebay - Lochboisdale (Lord of the Isles)**

Due to adverse weather conditions the 1530 sailing to the Outer Isles this afternoon will not sail. Consequently tomorrow's inward sailing is also cancelled. The next sailing to Barra and South Uist will be at 1530 on Tuesday as per the timetable.

› **Kennacraig - Port Ellen (Hebridean Isles)**

Due to the adverse weather conditions all sailings to Islay today are cancelled, as is tomorrow morning's 0415 sailing from Port Ellen

› **Fionnphort - Iona (Loch Buie)**

(1400) All sailings on this route are cancelled today, as is the 0610 sailing from Iona to Fionnphort on Monday morning.

Clyde:

› **Colintraive - Rhubodach (Loch Dunvegan)**

Due to the weather conditions, this service may be liable to disruption and delays.



Bute in KGV today

03/03/07 **Loch Fyne** left Campbeltown at around 0800 this morning to continue her journey back to Lochaline.

02/03/07 Loch Fyne departed JWD this morning and made for Gourock where she tied up at the wires briefly. She then made her way down the Clyde and through the Kilbrannan Sound during the afternoon and is spending the night in Campbeltown.

01/03/07 **Western Isles:**

Isle of Mull missed her 0800 sailing to Craignure and back. The 1000 round trip was also subject to disruption. The vessel had a steel rope wrapped around her propeller and was unable to sail. The rope was released by 0945 however problems with the anchor saw the 1000 sailing delayed by 45 minutes. **Lord of the Isles** apparently carried out a relief sailing however we are unsure of the times involved.

Hebridean Isles was running late this afternoon due to heavy traffic. She left Port Ellen at 1605 - 35 minutes late.

DATE NEWS

30/04/07 **Argyle** is undergoing a minor aesthetic modification... She is having her Gaelic name repainted in lower case, in line with the rest of the fleet.

29/04/07 **Argyle** arrived on the Clyde early this morning. She hung around in the Upper Firth before moving to Gourock linkspan at 0830 after **Jupiter** commenced her day's duties to Dunoon. She is shown in these three photos making her way up the Clyde to Gourock, where she berthed for the first time.



26/04/07 **Argyle** has reached Portland where she has been taking on fuel and her crew have been going through customs formalities.

Western Isles:

Raasay is currently employed on the Ballycastle - Rathlin route on a relief role, while **Canna** receives attention at Corpach. It is understood that **Canna** made her way from Rathlin to Corpach on Monday. This could be an early overhaul - she was last overhauled in September 2006.

24/04/07 CalMac Chairman, Peter Timms, announced at a meeting in Rothesay last night, **Argyle** has suffered a 'computer blip'. It is now reported she is due to leave Gdansk at 1100 BST this morning.

Update:

Argyle is reported to be already on her way (0935 BST) she is heading out into the Baltic. There is currently no information from CalMac on re-scheduling Fridays event - it will clearly have to be cancelled though as the vessel will not arrive in her home water in time.

Clyde:

Loch Shira was out on the Firth of Clyde this afternoon. Just off Wemyss Bay about 1530 - 1600 doing trials of some kind.

23/04/07 **Argyle** is still being shown on the Gdansk AIS as still being alongside the yard. It is now unlikely for her to be in the Clyde region in time for her naming ceremony this Friday. From the previous **Bute** experience, it took 5 days to sail round to Gourock.

A useful AIS site which covers Gdansk:

→ www.vesseltracker.com (external link, new window)

You can register free on it, and info is delayed about 1/2 hours.

22/04/07 **Clyde:**

Juno has now moved from Gourock to Rosneath. Is this the end for her?! Watch this space...

21/04/07 **Clyde:**

Bute re-entered service this afternoon, displacing **Juno**. **Juno** left Wemyss Bay at 1430 on her last public sailing to Rothesay. She then returned light to Wemyss Bay at 1515, exchanging horn blasts with **Saturn** to mark what could well be the end of her public service before heading up the firth to the wires at Gourock.

Loch Riddon is out of service at present. She is lying at Ardmaleish having a new Voith unit installed.

19/04/07 **Argyle** is apparently departing Gdansk tomorrow for her long journey across to the Clyde. At present we are not 100% certain which route she will take but she is expected to arrive on Tuesday or Wednesday. It is assumed that berthing trials will take place on Thursday and her naming ceremony will then take place next Friday.

Clyde:

Bute spent part of today undergoing berthing trials at Rothesay, making sure she can access the linkspan with the current delayed work taking place. It is expected that she will re-enter service alongside **Saturn** next Monday morning.

18/04/07 **Clyde:**

Bute moved over from Rosneath to the wires at Gourock today, in readiness for her berthing trials at Rothesay.

17/04/07 **Western Isles:**

Clansman was berthed bow first at Castlebay this morning.

12/04/07 **Clyde:**

Loch Shira is starting sea trials today. She moved very slowly down river before retuning to Ferguson's Newark Quay. She was accompanied all day by Munro's *Battler*.



Loch Shira on trials on the Clyde then returning after completing her days testing today
Argyle was also out doing tests this morning off Gdansk. She returned back to the yard at 1210 UTC.

Terminals:

› **Port Askaig:**

Mersey Mammoth has now left **Port Askaig** (around 2000 this evening) bound for Liverpool. The linkspan is now in place along with the roundhead. However work wont be finished until around 7th May.



New linkspan & roundhead at Port Askaig now in place and belting yet to be fitted

11/04/07 Clyde:

Bute has now sailed from Rosneath pier where she has been laid up for the past few weeks. Rosneath Pier is owned by DRB Marine Services (A local company) The pier is part of what was formerly the Rosneath Fuel Oil Depot and is situated at the mouth of the Gareloch about half a mile South of Rhu Narrows. This site has now been cleared of all oil fuel tanks and is now a thriving boat and caravan storage yard and providing moorings for small vessels and has been used by CalMac for some time now.

Update:

Bute looked as though she sailed up through the Largs channel this evening. She was sighted passing Dunoon this morning. She was berthed at Fairlie Pier today having an underwater survey carried out by ROV. This is in addition to work carried out at Sandbank the other week which consisted of an underwater inspection by divers. They were unable to carry it out at Sandbank due to poor visibility. CalMac have their own ROV for this purpose.

She is expected to trial her berthing at Rothesay in the middle of next week, Balfour Beattie (contractors working on Pier) depending.

Update:

Bute has returned to Rosneath jetty this evening after an absence of five or six hours.



Loch Dunvegan flying the Royal Mail pennant today



Bute out on the Clyde today

10/04/07 **Argyle's** latest departure date from her shipbuilder in Gdansk is the 18/04/07 but this is subject to successful completion of trials etc.

09/04/07 Past Fleet News:

Stephen Humphreys, the current owner of ex CalMac Eigg flit boat **Laig Bay** has sold the vessel to an operator down in Weymouth. She is to be operated down there as a passenger boat again and run trips to Lulworth Cove from a beach near Weymouth.

08/04/07 Western Isles:

Clansman is now back on her usual roster and can be seen opposite (image, right) departing Oban on her sailing to Castlebay, Barra & Lochboisdale, South Uist. This, one of the longest crossings in the network is commonly referred to as the "Barra-Boisdale" sailing. There are no reports yet as to how the **Hebrides** fared on her sisters sailings. It was however noted that she loaded passengers via her car ramps at Oban and Coll due to the gangway arrangements on the piers. Updates to follow.



Clansman departing Oban today

Clyde:

› **Wemyss Bay - Rothesay (Saturn, Juno):**

Update 1200:

Crossing is currently delayed due to volume of traffic. An hours wait is possible for vehicles departing from Rothesay. Passengers are being reminded that the Colintraive - Rhubodach service is available as an alternative route.

Terminals:

› **Port Askaig:**

Mersey Mammoth recently lifted the new Roundhead at Port Askaig into place at the north end of the pier. The protecting fenders that line and protect the structure from vessels impact have still to be fitted in place. The new roundhead is to the left of the image (right), the tower like structure rising from it is part of the huge cranes supports.



**Mersey Mammoth &
roundhead**

07/04/07 **Western Isles:**

Hebrides has finished her unusual stint on the Oban-based routes and is sailing tonight for her usual stomping grounds in the Little Minch. **Clansman** left Tarbert this evening and is making her way to Castlebay where she will return to her regular duties after an extended period of relief work at Uig.

06/04/07 **NorthLink:**

Source: [Orkney Today](#) (external link)

Hjaltland Berthing Trials Planned for Stromness and Scrabster

NorthLink is planning to stage berthing trials with **Hjaltland** at Stromness and Scrabster harbours on Saturday, April 14. The trials, which will be weather and tide dependent, are intended to determine whether the sister ships **Hjaltland** and **Hrossey**, which operate on the Aberdeen - Kirkwall - Lerwick route, could fill in on the Pentland Firth route in the absence of **Hamnavoe**. **Hamnavoe**, at 110 metres, is slightly smaller than **Hjaltland** and **Hrossey** which each measure up at 125 metres. If the berthing trials are successful then it may be that one of the larger vessels could operate the Scrabster - Stromness service on a temporary basis when **Hamnavoe** is away on refit. NorthLink chief executive Bill Davidson said: "Neither of the bigger boats has docked at Stromness or Scrabster. We have been discussing the feasibility of doing so with the harbour boards. "If the trials were successful then, as a company, we would have to decide whether this was the way we wished to go. There would be obvious implications for the Aberdeen - Orkney - Shetland route if one of the bigger boats was used on the Pentland Firth. "Nothing has been decided and, in any case, we wouldn't envisage **Hamnavoe** going to routine dry dock until 2009 at the earliest. "We decided to carry out the trial next week because **Hjaltland** will be en route from Aberdeen through the Pentland Firth to Birkenhead for her scheduled dry-dock inspection. It made sense, while she was passing, to carry out feasibility studies at both Stromness and Scrabster. We appreciate that there's a bit of local interest in the situation and once the test has been carried out we'd let everyone know how it went," he said.

05/04/07 **Clyde:**

Loch Shira is showing a destination on AIS as "Clyde Sea Trials" which she has had that on since she was activated. She did not move all day today, it is not clear when she will venture out on trials. Her car deck also still needs painting. They also spent all day today cleaning the bridge windows. There also appeared to be to be several people working away with the electrical panels within the bridge control panels. Two workers were also spotted up on top, working with the compass. The radars have been seen operating before, but today they never turned at all.

Western Isles:

A reminder of changes to services on the following routes:

› **Kennacraig - Islay (Hebridean Isles, Isle of Arran):**

Due to essential Pier Work at Port Askaig all sailings will operate to & from Port Ellen. A two ferry service will be in operation as of Monday 2 April.

› **Kennacraig - Islay & Colonsay (Hebridean Isles):**

A temporary timetable from Kennacraig - Colonsay for the following three dates - 4th, 11th & 18th April has been put in place.

Timetable as follows:

0745 dep Kennacraig
1005 arr Port Ellen
1025 dep Port Ellen
1305 arr Colonsay
1720 dep Colonsay
2000 arr Port Ellen
2020 dep Port Ellen
2240 arr Kennacraig



IoA & Hebridean Isles passing near Port Ellen yesterday

Terminals:

› **Port Askaig:**

The huge *Mersey Mammoth* made it to Port Askaig at 1000 this morning loaded with Port Askaig's new Linkspan. She was only doing half a knot on her way up the Sound of Islay against the tide. She is still in Port Askaig at the moment and is expected to be there for a few days to carry out work. They still have the linkspan onboard and the roundhead is still on the pier getting some finishing touches. The roundhead will be lifted into place tomorrow morning hopefully. The *Boisterous* is anchored in Proaig Bay on the South East side of Islay near the entrance to the Sound of Islay, she has the pre-cast for the top of the roundhead on board for installing.



New linkspan onboard today

Past Fleet News - On This Day...

In 2006 **Caledonian Isles** was withdrawn from service for 48 hours following a number of the crew being struck down by a Norovirus infection. A reduced capacity service to Brodick was provided by **Isle of Arran** which rushed from Stornoway to cover.

04/04/07 **Western Isles:**

Hebrides appears to be enjoying her spell relieving for her sister at Oban, having successfully made her first ever trips to Castlebay and Coll / Tiree yesterday.



Hebrides in the Sound of Mull - Berthed at Castlebay - Entering Oban Bay yesterday

Clyde:

Loch Shira is expected to begin her sea trials tomorrow. This will begin the process of her being made ready to enter service in the next month or so. Updates to follow on her progress.

From The Buteman: Argyle Nearly Ready To Go...

BUTE'S second new ferry should arrive on the Clyde in time to be named at the end of this month, Caledonian MacBrayne announced this week. **Argyle's** crew are currently working up to the start of the

ship's sea trials in Poland, and if those, and berthing trials on the Clyde, go to plan, the sister ship to **Bute** will be officially named by Mrs Tish Timms, wife of CalMac's chairman Peter Timms, on Friday, April 27.

Due to the building work and restricted public access at Rothesay pier, it's CalMac's intention that the naming ceremony should happen while the ship is in the bay, having loaded guests at Rothesay, with the ship as close to the shore near the Pavilion as safely possible.

Subject to the successful completion of her sea trials, **Argyle** is expected to arrive in Scotland at the beginning of that week.

CalMac has also announced that the results of its public consultation on Bute's ferry services will be revealed at a public meeting in Rothesay's Pavilion on Monday, April 23 at 1900.

03/04/07 **Western Isles:**

Isle of Arran departed Kennacraig at 0700 this morning bound for Islay and the start of her 2nd Roster on the service.

Hebrides made her first sailing from Oban to Barra today covering for her regular sister while she is at Uig.



Hebrides at Castlebay today

02/04/07 **Western Isles:**

Hebrides arrived at Craignure early this morning, lying off the pier to the north (opposite the Isle of Mull Hotel). She later departed Craignure at 1350 for Oban, following **Lord of the Isles**. She will take over from **Lord of the Isles** (on **Clansman's** roster as of the 1510 sailing to Barra). **Lord of the Isles** will then resume her own roster at 1700 with the Colonsay sailing, allowing **Isle of Arran** to head for Islay. **Hebrides** will continue on **Clansman's** roster until next Saturday when she will take the single sailing out to Barra before heading up to Lochmaddy, effectively swapping places with **Clansman**, so that from next Sunday morning each respective vessel should be in its correct place.

Isle of Arran departed Oban this afternoon bound for Kennacraig she will start the route at 0700 on Tuesday morning.



Hebrides waiting off Craignure

01/04/07 **Clyde:**

It is possible that **Hebrides** may visit Oban before heading back north to Uig upon departure from the Clyde.

Update 1400:

Hebrides is noted making down the Clyde, presumably on trials.

SoC Live! Update 1730:

Hebrides is now passing Ardrossan on Trials.

Update 1905:

Hebrides is currently passing McInroy's Point heading to Gourock, after afternoon trials.

Update 2010:

Hebrides has just left Gourock en route back to Uig, she is expected to pass through the Sound of Islay, she will stop in Oban on her way North to take over the routes normally carried out by the **Clansman** for approximately one week. It is possible that this will be the first time that **Hebrides** has operated on any other route other than her usual Uig - Lochmaddy - Tarbert route. She has however been at Ardrossan for bow-ramp berthing trials before she left the Clyde to enter service.



Hebrides on trials today



Hebrides passing Juno

Update 2125:

Hebrides is currently doing about 16.6 knots off of Arran bound for Oban.

Western Isles:

In response to the reduced sailings to Barra recently, **Raasay** was called out today to take two lorries to Castlebay which required urgent shipping.

[Editors Comment 2200: This of course was a 1st April Wind Up - Although I'd pay good money for that trip!!]

NorthLink:

Today's Freight Service Arrivals and Departures:

Hascosay

Delayed in Dry dock until 16th April 2007

Clare

Scheduled to depart Aberdeen at 1500, ETA Kirkwall 0500 Monday 02 April.

MN Toucan (Chartered to cover for the Hascosay)

Arrived Kirkwall, Hatson 0942. Scheduled to depart Hatston at 2200 for Lerwick.

DATE	NEWS
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31/05/07 **Western Isles:**

Isle of Arran sailed to **Port Askaig** today for berthing trials at the new pier and linkspan. Trials were understood to be successful in ready for the first sailings shortly.

30/05/07 **Western Isles:**

› **Oban - Colonsay - Port Askaig - Kennacraig (Hebridean Isles):**

Due to essential Pier Work at Port Askaig all sailings will operate to & from Oban.

A temporary timetable from Oban - Colonsay will operate today using **Lord of the Isles:**

1530 dep Oban

1750 arr Colonsay

1805 dep Colonsay

2025 arr Oban

› **Kennacraig - Port Askaig - Colonsay (Hebridean Isles):**

Due to essential Pier Work at Port Askaig all sailings will operate to & from Port Ellen.

A temporary timetable from Kennacraig - Colonsay will operate today:

0745 dep Kennacraig

1005 arr Port Ellen

1025 dep Port Ellen

1305 arr Colonsay

1720 dep Colonsay

2000 arr Port Ellen

2020 dep Port Ellen

2240 arr Kennacraig

Clyde:

Loch Shira made a return visit to Largs today where she underwent more berthing trials prior to her entrance to service shortly. She then headed to Fairlie Pier where she underwent more berthing trials. She is expected to tie-up there in heavy (windy) weather as Largs is currently too exposed for her taller superstructure. She then returned to Gourock.



Loch Shira at Largs today

29/05/07 **Western Isles:**

› **Tobermory - Kilchoan (Loch Linnhe)**

Service is temporarily suspended today due to mechanical problems with the **Loch Linnhe**, normal service is however expected to resume at approx 1600.

Update 1600:

Normal Service Resumed at 1600.

Clyde:

› **Claonaig - Lochranza (Loch Tarbert):**

Due to essential maintenance the Brodick to Lochranza Road, A841 will be closed between 0900 and 1600 Today until Friday 1st June 2007. An alternative route is the B880 from Brodick then A841 North to Lochranza. Passengers for Brodick should follow A841 to Blackwaterfoot then the B880 to Brodick. This diversion may add an extra 90 minutes to your journey.

NorthLink:

› **Kirkwall (Hatston) - Lerwick (Hrossey)**

Hrossey is currently running late and is not expected to arrive in Kirkwall (Hatston) until approximately 2330 this evening.

The onward sailing to Lerwick is estimated to depart Kirkwall (Hatston) at 0000 with scheduled arrival time in Lerwick at 0730 on Wednesday 30 May.

28/05/07 **Western Isles:**

› **Tobermory - Kilchoan (Loch Linnhe)**

Service was temporarily suspended this morning due to mechanical problems with the **Loch Linnhe**, normal service has however resumed at approx 1130 but with substantial delays.

Past Fleet:

ex CalMac Ferry *Hebridean Princess* made what appears to be a first overnight visit to Loch Buie on Mull. The vessel anchored off for the night in the bay after a early evening arrival.



Hebridean Princess today

27/05/07 **Terminals:**

› **Port Askaig**

Works completion on the new linkspan is now due early June, vessels should be able to utilise the new facility in the first week or so of the month. The CalMac temporary timetable using **Port Ellen** should then be reverted back to usual sailings.

26/05/07 **Western Isles:**

SoC Live! *Update 1655:*

Loch Fyne is currently running 15min late due to the volume of traffic heading onto Mull. Sailings from the Island however appear to be quiet.

SoC Live! Update 1725:

After Three attempts at departing Fishnish, **Loch Fyne** is now on her way over to Lochaline. The first attempt saw her lower her ramps again for a late passenger, the second saw her lower her ramps again after the late Service Bus arrived and two passengers required transport to the Island. She is now running 20min late.

› **Mallaig - Eigg - Muck - Rum - Canna - Mallaig (Lochnevis)**

Due to a Major Sporting Event taking place on the Isle of Rum this weekend there will be a limited number of spaces available on the following sailing today:

0730 ex Mallaig - Eigg - Muck - Rum - Canna - Mallaig

25/05/07 **Clyde:**

Jupiter appears to have a canopy draped across her rear open passenger deck while she sits in JWD. She is beginning to look pretty forlorn in her current state.

Terminals:

› **Oban**

There appears to be heavy traffic in the Oban area due to bank holiday traffic, please take extra time when planning travelling by car.



Jupiter today

24/05/07 **Clyde:**

Caledonian Isles had to perform a full 360 degree turn to avoid two vessels (*Pluto* and *Aasheim*) in the Clyde vicinity today.

Loch Shira will be open to the public today at Millport Pier from 1600 till 1900. She is expected to commence service on the 1st of June.



Loch Shira today: gangway arrives At Millport Pier - approaching Millport - viewing upper lounge

→ More Pictures Available on [Loch Shiras's Updated Profile](#)

Company News:

CalMac confirms additional sailings to Arran

Ferry operator Caledonian MacBrayne has confirmed that the company will again be deploying MV Saturn on the Ardrossan-Brodick service this summer. The ship will begin service on Monday, June 11 and will operate until August 28, 2007.

CalMac Ferries Ltd Managing Director Lawrie Sinclair said: "I am delighted that we are once again in a position to deploy MV Saturn on the Arran service. I know that the additional capacity brought to the route during the summer months last year was greatly appreciated."

The Arran Ferry Committee has welcomed CalMac's confirmation that the additional summer sailings will take place in 2007. Ken Thorburn, Chairman of the Ferry Committee said: "The Isle of Arran Ferry Committee is pleased that CalMac has been able to make MV Saturn available for a limited sailing period during the peak summer months. The Ferry Committee remains committed to working together with CalMac to ensure the best possible service between Brodick and Ardrossan so that all sectors of the island

community can benefit.”

NorthLink:

Pictured opposite, **Hamnavoe** departs Stromness on another one of her routine sailings across the Pentland Firth to Scrabster.



Hamnavoe leaving Stromness

23/05/07 **Western Isles:**

› **Oban - Colonsay - Port Askaig - Kennacraig (Hebridean Isles):**

Due to essential Pier Work at Port Askaig all sailings will operate to & from Oban.

A temporary timetable from Oban - Colonsay will operate today using **Lord of the Isles:**

1530 dep Oban

1750 arr Colonsay

1805 dep Colonsay

2025 arr Oban

› **Kennacraig - Port Askaig - Colonsay (Hebridean Isles):**

Due to essential Pier Work at Port Askaig all sailings will operate to & from Port Ellen.

A temporary timetable from Kennacraig - Colonsay will operate today:

0745 dep Kennacraig

1005 arr Port Ellen

1025 dep Port Ellen

1305 arr Colonsay

1720 dep Colonsay

2000 arr Port Ellen

2020 dep Port Ellen

2240 arr Kennacraig

22/05/07 **Western Isles:**

Coruisk is currently sailing 'single ended' - travelling only bow first between Mallaig and Armadale today to utilise her stabilizing fins in the swell currently in the Sound of Sleat.

› **Mallaig - Eigg - Muck - Rum - Canna - Mallaig (Lochnevis):**

SoC Live! Update 1115:

Due to the adverse weather conditions there may be no call at Muck today, updates to follow.

SoC Live! Update 1315:

Lochnevis is currently on her way from Eigg back to Muck for her planned second call of the day, the swell around the island having subsided a little.

21/05/07 **Other News:**

Blaze Ravages Historic Leven Built *Cutty Sark*

Firefighters attended a devastating blaze this morning aboard the famous 138-year-old tea clipper *Cutty Sark*.

More From [BBC News Online](#) & [Shipping Times](#) (external links, new windows)

20/05/07 **Western Isles:**

SoC Live! Update 1015:

Isle of Arran is currently performing a abandon ship and lifeboat drill en route to Islay. Passenger numbers are also very small onboard this morning with almost more crew than passengers!

19/05/07 **Western Isles:**

SoC Live! Update 1250:

Lord of the Isles is currently running 25min late heading into Lochboisdale.

Update 1615:

Isle of Mull departed Oban at 1615, 15min late on her Craignure sailing.

Update 1815:

Isle of Mull arrived back in Oban late after her delayed 1600 departure, her 1800 sailing also departed late at 1815.

SoC Live! Update 2120:

Isle of Mull ran 15min late for the remainder of the day, her 1900 departure left at 1915 ex Craignure. The late running **Lord of the Isles** ran parallel for a time next to her inbound from Lochboisdale but slowed to let her fleet mate into Oban before her to utilize the linkspan.

Isle of Mull then vacated the linkspan allowing the **Lord of the Isles** to unload & rest for the night before heading to Coll / Tiree in the morning.

› **Fionnphort - Iona (Loch Buie):**

This service may be disrupted today due to adverse weather conditions.

› **Mallaig - Armadale (Coruisk):**

All sailings have been cancelled until further notice due to adverse weather.

Update 1300:

All sailings have resumed after a clearance in the weather.

› **Mallaig - Eigg - Muck - Rum - Canna - Mallaig (Lochnevis):**

Due to the adverse weather conditions there will be no call at Muck today.

Clyde:

Update 1400:

Caledonian Isles was noted heading towards Lamlash on Arran at approx 1300. This was presumably due to the strong winds and for passenger comfort as she is currently back on course for Brodick.

› **Claonaig - Lochranza (Loch Tarbert):**

Due to adverse weather **Loch Tarbert** has been diverted to Tarbert

She is expected to depart Tarbert at 1300 sailing for Lochranza.

She is due to arrive back in Lochranza at approx 1430.

A decision regarding later sailings will be made on the arrival at Lochranza.

Update 1430:

Loch Tarbert is currently running 20min late on her diverted route due to the adverse weather.



Isle of Mull at Oban 1615



LOTI following IoM into Oban



LOTI holding off allowing IoM to use the linkspan

18/05/07 **Western Isles:**

Lord of the Isles left Oban on time at 1700 for her evening cruise to Colonsay despite it is blowing a force 9 - 10 gusting 11 at squall force. She arrived back in Oban at 2225, it is unclear if she will perform her 2230 sailing.

The 1500 **Isle of Mull** sailing ex Craignure ran 20min late due to adverse weather.

Isle of Lewis also ran 25min late due to adverse weather on her last sailing.

› **Mallaig - Armadale (Coruisk):**

Updated 1430:

All remaining sailings have been cancelled today due to to adverse weather.

› **Berneray - Leverburgh (Loch Portain):**

The following sailings have been cancelled for the remainder of today due adverse weather:

1730 ex Berneray - Leverburgh

1840 ex Leverburgh - Berneray

Weather permitting normal service to resume on Saturday 19th May.

› **Kennacraig - Port Ellen (Isle of Arran, Hebridean Isles):**

Isle of Arran arrived at Port Ellen at 1515 and later departed at 1555 due to adverse weather and large volume of traffic at the port.

Clyde:

Loch Shira appears to have moved back down river to Gourrock HQ today from her builders. She was noted passing the Customs House Quay where she is pictures opposite at 1430 today.



Loch Shira passing CHQ today

› **Wemyss Bay - Rothesay (Argyle, Bute)**

Due to technical reasons with what appears to be **Argyle**, the 1430 sailing from Rothesay has been cancelled.

Update 1515:

Due to technical reasons the following sailings have been cancelled:

1515 ex Wemyss Bay - Rothesay

1600 ex Rothesay - Wemyss Bay

Argyle is currently lying off Wemyss Bay.

Update 1625:

Argyle is resuming service at 1645 ex Wemyss Bay - Rothesay.



Bute at WB with Argyle holding off

Northern Ireland:

Canna is now back on station while relief vessel **Raasay** is currently making her way back to Oban.

17/05/07 **Clyde:**

Jupiter moved a few yards up James Watt Dock in Gourrock today in preparation for her annual overhaul which is expected to start shortly. She currently looks a little worse for wear - which is not surprising for all the effort she's put in recently!

Western Isles:

› **Berneray - Leverburgh (Loch Portain):**

The following sailings have been cancelled due to tidal restrictions:

1205 ex Berneray - Leverburgh

1330 ex Leverburgh - Berneray



Jupiter in JWD today

NorthLink:

› **Aberdeen - Lerwick (Hjaltland):**

Hjaltland arrived in Lerwick at 0730 this morning after her delayed departure from Aberdeen last night.

16/05/07 **Clyde:**

Argyle & Bute are now on the Wemyss Bay - Rothesay service. **Saturn** is now on the Gourrock / Dunoon

service while Jupiter has moved to James Watt Dock and is expected to then enter Garvel Dry Dock. **Loch Shira** ventured out again today on trails, she headed for Largs this morning and later berthed for a while at Fairlie. This is understood to be her overnight berth until the alterations at Largs pier are completed allowing her to tie up there.



Loch Riddon, Shira & Alinn at Largs - Lying at Fairlie - Passing Jupiter at Gourrock, all today

Western Isles:

› Berneray - Leverburgh (Loch Portain):

The following sailings have been cancelled due to tidal restrictions:

1040 ex Berneray - Leverburgh

1205 ex Leverburgh - Berneray

1330 ex Berneray - Leverburgh

1445 ex Leverburgh - Berneray

There will be an extra sailing departing Berneray at 0940 and departing Leverburgh at 1050.

› Oban - Colonsay - Port Askaig - Kennacraig (Hebridean Isles):

Due to essential Pier Work at Port Askaig all sailings will operate to & from Oban.

A temporary timetable from Oban - Colonsay will operate today using **Lord of the Isles**:

1530 dep Oban

1750 arr Colonsay

1805 dep Colonsay

2025 arr Oban

› Kennacraig - Port Askaig - Colonsay (Hebridean Isles):

Due to essential Pier Work at Port Askaig all sailings will operate to & from Port Ellen.

A temporary timetable from Kennacraig - Colonsay will operate today:

0745 dep Kennacraig

1005 arr Port Ellen

1025 dep Port Ellen

1305 arr Colonsay

1720 dep Colonsay

2000 arr Port Ellen

2020 dep Port Ellen

2240 arr Kennacraig

NorthLink:

› Aberdeen - Lerwick (Hjaltland):

Hjaltland arrived in Aberdeen at 0630 this morning. Due to low water at Aberdeen Harbour entrance she is estimated to depart Aberdeen at 2030 and is scheduled to arrive in Lerwick at 0730.

Past Fleet News - On This Day...

In 2006 **Hamnavoe** suffered an electrical fault which saw her strike the Outer Holm island at the mouth of Stromness harbour. After safety checks in Stromness, the Maritime & Coastguard Agency gave its approval for the vessel to sail without any injury to passengers, crew or the vessel.

15/05/07 Clyde:

Argyle passed Inverkip heading down river at a very slow pace of knots at 1055 this morning. She virtually appeared to stop at one point and then carried on at slow speed.

Western Isles:

› **Berneray - Leverburgh (Loch Portain):**

The following sailings have been cancelled due to tidal restrictions:

1205 ex Berneray - Leverburgh

1330 ex Leverburgh - Berneray



Argyle passing Inverkip

14/05/07 Clyde:

Argyle has been out on trials today and at 1350 is currently heading back towards Gourock. The following press release has also been issued today, regarding the new **Loch Shira**:

Company News:

Open day for MV Loch Shira

24th May 2007

MV Loch Shira has joined the CalMac Ferries Limited fleet today and an Open Day for islanders to view this vessel will be held on Thursday 24th May 2007 from 1600 hours to 1900 hours at Millport Pier, on Cumbrae. All are welcome to attend and there will be members of staff on hand to answer any questions. Mr Lawrie Sinclair, Managing Director said, "There will then be a programme of crew familiarisation before the vessel enters service which will greatly benefit the island of Cumbrae."

Past Fleet News - On This Day...

In 2006 Lord of the Isles utilised her hoist at Colonsay after the Linkspan was out of action undergoing essential repairs.

13/05/07 Western Isles:

Lord of the Isles arrived in Castlebay at 0050 with the delayed 1530 sailing from Oban in place of **Clansman**. She loaded with vehicles for the mainland and left Barra at 0110 this morning.

Clansman meanwhile spent today in Oban at the south pier. It turns out that something went wrong yesterday while attempting to leave Oban. She was forced to go back onto the linkspan and offload her traffic and lie in the bay while other vessels moved in and out.

This afternoon's sailing to Barra and Lochboisdale was been delayed until 1730 and was taken by **Lord of the Isles** once again. The 1730 sailing to Colonsay was delayed by half an hour and was carried out by **Isle of Mull**.



Lord of the Isles arriving at Barra this morning

12/05/07 Western Isles:

Clansman has missed her 1530 sailing to Barra this afternoon for reasons as yet unknown, although it could well have something to do with the unusually large amounts of thick black smoke seen coming from her funnel this afternoon. **Lord of the Isles** sailed in her place at 1945 The return sailing, scheduled for 0920 tomorrow has been retimed for 0130 tomorrow morning to allow the **Lord of the Isles** vessel to return to her schedule as normal tomorrow with the 0900 sailing to Coll and Tiree.



Clansman belching out thick black smoke in Oban

11/05/07 **Clyde:**

Loch Shira today sailed down to Cumbrae where she undertook berthing trials and loaded vehicles. She returned upriver in the middle of the afternoon. **Argyle** is now at Gourock out of service awaiting attention to one of her propulsion systems. She is still capable of service, however given the current situation at Rothesay, it seems sense to allow **Saturn** to take over temporarily.

10/05/07 **Clyde:**

› **Wemyss Bay - Rothesay (Argyle, Bute)**

Update 1120:

Currently disrupted due to technical reasons.

The 1300 **Argyle** sailing from Wemyss Bay and the 1345 sailing from Rothesay have been cancelled.

All other sailings will operate as timetabled.

Company News:

CalMac Ferries Ltd has confirmed that it has, in accordance with the procedures laid out in the Scottish Executive's Invitation To Tender (ITT), formally lodged the documentation detailing the company's bid to provide Clyde and Hebridean Ferry Services (CHFS).

In the Executive Summary to the Tender, CalMac Ferries' Chairman Peter Timms said: "The submission of this tender represents the culmination of around six years hard work. During this period, the board of CFL have implemented a complete restructuring of the company and simultaneously introduced fundamental changes to day to day management and operations. I believe these changes, together with over 150 years experience of operating in the CHFS network area, have resulted in a value for money tender which meets the requirements of the Service Specification in all respects."

Mr Timms continues: "CFL's Mission Statement details our determination to providing a reliable, high quality service, focusing on customers' needs and comfort, providing value for money to its customers, a stimulating workplace for all its employees and protecting the environment. CFL is committed to the very highest management standards and aims to be acknowledged as the leading UK ferry operating company." CalMac's tender was submitted to the Scottish Executive in Glasgow at 1pm this afternoon, Thursday, May 10. The deadline for submission was Friday, May 11 at 3pm.

CalMac has also confirmed that it has used the Scottish Executive's electronic facility to submit its bid. Had the documentation been printed in full, the seven volumes would have come to more than 100,000 pages of detail. The Executive Summary and Tender Overview have also been submitted bilingually in Gaelic and English.

The tender will now be evaluated in accordance with procedures laid out in the ITT and CalMac Ferries Ltd will be making no further comment on the tender or its contents, pending conclusion of the evaluation process.

09/05/07 **Western Isles:**

› **Oban - Colonsay - Port Askaig - Kennacraig (Hebridean Isles):**

Due to essential Pier Work at Port Askaig all sailings will operate to & from Oban.

A temporary timetable from Oban - Colonsay will operate today using **Lord of the Isles:**

1530 dep Oban

1750 arr Colonsay

1805 dep Colonsay

2025 arr Oban

› **Kennacraig - Port Askaig - Colonsay (Hebridean Isles):**

Due to essential Pier Work at Port Askaig all sailings will operate to & from Port Ellen.

A temporary timetable from Kennacraig - Colonsay will operate today:

0745 dep Kennacraig

1005 arr Port Ellen

1025 dep Port Ellen

1305 arr Colonsay
1720 dep Colonsay
2000 arr Port Ellen
2020 dep Port Ellen
2240 arr Kennacraig

08/05/07 **Western Isles:**

Isle of Arran departed Port Ellen at 1600, 30mins late due to volume of traffic.

07/05/07 **NorthLink:**

Hjalmland arrived in Lerwick Harbour at 0930 this morning after sailing direct from the Mersey.

06/05/07 **Western Isles:**

> **Berneray - Leverburgh (Loch Portain):**

Updated 1000:

Following Sailings Cancelled Due To Adverse Weather:

0900 ex Berneray - Leverburgh

1010 ex Leverburgh - Berneray

> **Sconser - Raasay (Loch Striven):**

Updated 1000:

Following Sailings Cancelled Due To Adverse Weather:

1030 ex Sconser - Raasay

1630 ex Sconser - Raasay currently sailing as normal.

Clyde:

Argyle is out and enjoying her spell on her crossing today. She is captured opposite taking the often 'brisk' Clyde in her stride after departing Wemyss Bay for Rothesay. The Type 23 Frigate *HMS Kent* passes her by heading upriver.



Argyle's first 'rough' water

NorthLink:

Hjalmland is due to depart Liverpool on the 0200 tide this morning. Her ETA for Lerwick is estimated to be around 0900 Monday.

Update 0100:

Departed Alfred Lock at 0025 and passed Langton at 0038.

Update:

She later passed the radar tower at 0050, Mersey Bar at 0140 then dropped her Pilot off. She later proceeded to pass Chicken Rock at 0515 with a average speed of 18.5knots. She then passed Rathlin Island at 1045 at appximatly 13 knots. She the passed near the Summer Isles (In the Minch) at 2140 sailing at 24 knots.

05/05/07 **NorthLink:**

Hjalmland left dry dock at 2150 and moved to Alfred lock, arriving at 2310.

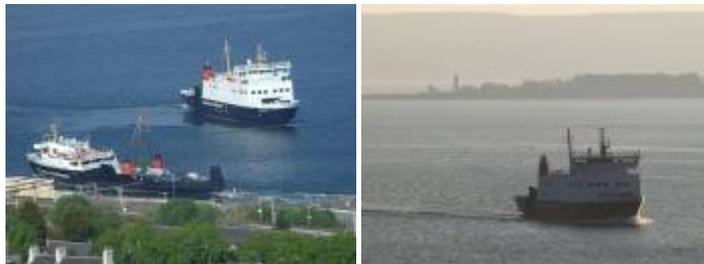
04/05/07 **Clyde:**

Argyle performed her Naming Cruise today. She arrived at Wemyss Bay to collect VIP's for a special cruise and was then named by Mrs Tish Timms, wife of CalMac Ferries' Chairman Peter Timms. Dave and Graham represented Ships of CalMac on the cruise. **Argyle** then cruised down the east coast of Bute towards Kilchattan Bay, before turning towards the Tan. She continued on to pass Millport, Largs and then

crossed towards Loch Striven and the East Kyle, before returning to Rothesay to land Bute-based guests. **Argyle** then headed for Wemyss Bay to unload the final passengers onto a coach on her car deck before she returned to Gourock to land the caterers. She had to await the 1620 departure of **Jupiter** before she was able to berth. She also conducted her first fare paying trip from Wemyss Bay a little after 1815, while **Saturn** lay off. She then took the delayed 1900 Rothesay to Wemyss Bay and is pictured below at 1950 this evening.



Argyle: Approaches the pier as Bute departs - passing Millport at 1309 today



Oldest (Jupiter) & newest CalMac vessels together - returning from Rothesay this evening

Argyle, Bute and **Caledonian Isles** were flying the red ensign and house flags at half mast today in respect of a past crew member who passed away. The Flags on Ardrossan and Brodick Terminals were also lowered.

Caledonian Isles left Brodick for Ardrossan at 1410. She was late due to volume of traffic, although she did catch up as the day progressed arriving back in Brodick for 1625.

02/05/07 Western Isles:

› **Oban - Colonsay - Port Askaig - Kennacraig (Hebridean Isles):**

Due to essential Pier Work at Port Askaig all sailings will operate to & from Oban.

A temporary timetable from Oban - Colonsay will operate today using **Lord of the Isles**:

1530 dep Oban

1750 arr Colonsay

1805 dep Colonsay

2025 arr Oban

› **Kennacraig - Port Askaig - Colonsay (Hebridean Isles):**

Due to essential Pier Work at Port Askaig all sailings will operate to & from Port Ellen.

A temporary timetable from Kennacraig - Colonsay will operate today:

0745 dep Kennacraig

1005 arr Port Ellen

1025 dep Port Ellen

1305 arr Colonsay

1720 dep Colonsay

2000 arr Port Ellen

2020 dep Port Ellen

2240 arr Kennacraig

Clyde:

Argyle ventured out from Gourock today to undertake berthing trials at both Wemyss Bay and Rothesay. She will enter service immediately after her VIP cruise on Friday afternoon so as to allow increased capacity over the Bute Jazz Festival weekend, replacing **Saturn** and completing the upgrade on the primary Bute crossing. Once the new linkspan is finally finished this latest phase in Upper Clyde service upgrades will be complete.

Following **Argyle's** introduction, **Saturn** is rumoured to take over on the Gourock - Dunoon run to allow **Jupiter** to undergo an overhaul.

01/05/07 Western Isles:

› **Oban - Craignure (Isle of Mull):**

1050 Craignure - Oban sailing cancelled due to engine trouble.

1155 Oban - Craignure and return 1255 Craignure - Oban covered by **Lord of the Isles**.

NorthLink:

Unconfirmed information suggests **Hjalmland** is leaving Birkenhead tomorrow after her overhaul and addition cabins fitted. This gives her plenty of time to pick up schedule on Monday.

DATE NEWS

30/06/07 Western Isles:

Lord of the Isles was running about 40 minutes late this evening as she returned from Lochboisdale. She ran side by side with **Isle of Mull** between Craignure and Duart Castle, before passing through the Lismore gap and slowing to allow the Mull ferry to arrive at Oban before her. Once the **Isle of Mull** had left at 2000, **Lord of the Isles** then berthed about an hour behind schedule.



Lord of the Isles waiting to berth at Oban this evening

27/06/07 Western Isles:

Update 1030:

Loch Ranza is currently out of service with a technical fault. It is unclear when she will return to service on the **Tayinloan - Gigha** crossing.

Updates to follow.

25/06/07 Western Isles:

Update 1400:

Loch Bhrusda is now back in service after a minor technical problem delayed her. She departed 1340ex Eriskay.

24/06/07 Clyde:

› **Ardrossan - Brodick (Caledonian Isles, Saturn):**

Cancelled today due to adverse weather the 1830 **Saturn** sailing from Ardrossan.

A decision regarding the 0715 **Saturn** sailing from Brodick tomorrow morning will be made at 0530 tomorrow morning Monday the 25th June 07.

18/06/07 Clyde:

Loch Alainn moved from her recent lay-up berth at the wires this afternoon and left Gourock at 1220. She initially headed down past Dunoon before turning towards Rothesay and then proceeded up to Ardmaleish and the boatyard where she was slipped, making her the largest CalMac vessel to use the facility to date.

Western Isles:

Update 2125:

Clansman is currently berthed bow first at Castlebay linkspan, she usually berths stern first at the island.

Other News:

The Smyril Line ferry **Norrona** berthed at Scrabster Today, her first call on her new Torshavn - Bergen schedule. She also made her first call at Lerwick on 20th May.



Loch Alainn leaving Gourock today

17/06/07 Clyde:

Saturn appears to be enjoying generous amounts of traffic on her secondary Ardrossan - Brodick route. She is seen opposite today backing into Ardrossan main linkspan.

› **Wemyss Bay - Rothesay (Argyle, Bute):**

Due to technical reasons the 0930 from Rothesay and the 1015 from Wemyss Bay have been cancelled.

Unknown which vessel at present.



Saturn at Ardrossan today

16/06/07 **Past Fleet News - On This Day...**

In 2005 **Oban Terminal** was given the go-ahead to commence work on a new 2nd linkspan for the port. Engineering works are still currently under construction.

→ [Oban Terminal](#) (internal link)

15/06/07 Clyde:

› **Colintraive - Rhubodach (Loch Dunvegan):**

Service maybe subject to disruption or cancellation due to adverse weather today.

› **Claonaig - Lochranza (Loch Tarbert):**

Due to adverse weather conditions this service is the subject of delays for the remainder of the day.

13/06/07 **Western Isles:**

Lord of the Isles followed **Isle of Mull** over to Caignure this afternoon, after finishing her day's rostered sailings at 1420. She arrived and berthed on the south face of Caignure pier at 1650 and will remain there until early tomorrow morning. With **Hebridean Isles** now able to resume her normal summer Wednesday sailings up to Colonsay and Oban, **Lord of the Isles** sees no action between arriving from Barra and South Uist on Wednesday afternoons until her departure for Colonsay at 0900 on Thursday mornings. With the second berth in Oban still unavailable, she is expected to use Caignure as an overnight berth on Wednesdays throughout the summer.



Lord of the Isles seen from Isle of Mull at 1703

12/06/07 **Western Isles:**

› **Kennacraig - Port Ellen / Port Askaig (Hebridean Isles, Isle of Arran):**

The following sailings are still disrupted after the partial opening of **Port Askaig** Terminal:

1800 ex Kennacraig - Port Askaig (Mondays & Fridays)

0700 ex Port Askaig - Kennacraig (Tuesdays & Saturdays)

Both sailings will operate from Port Ellen for the foreseeable future.

Terminals:

› **Port Askaig:**

While the linkspan is back in operation, it is currently unavailable as an overnight berth. The Eilean Dhuira currently uses the pier in case of emergency overnight ambulance runs to Jura and will continue to do so until the next phase of the redevelopment, involving a new Jura ferry slipway is complete.

11/06/07 **Western Isles:**

Hebridean Isles is on her way up to Port Askaig, she now appears to be visible on AIS Live (see opposite). Fleet mate **Clansman** is also noted to be visible at Tiree on AIS.

Raasay has been running backwards and forwards between Tobermory and Oban recently, presumably to cover for the technical difficulties the **Loch Linnhe** is currently encountering. Her sister, **Eigg** also currently requires some minor maintenance.

Note:

If you are trying to view the Island Class vessels on AIS, they are not visible because they fall under the minimum tonnage that requires the fitting of AIS.



**Hebridean Isles
en Route To Port Askaig**



**Hamnavoe Enjoying Crowds
of
Summer Passengers
Recently**

10/06/07 **Clyde:**

Saturn & Jupiter called to each other as **Saturn** headed downriver today. **Saturn** was then noted heading south passing Skelmorlie at 1730 tonight bound Ardrossan.

Her extra service will run from Monday 11 June to Tuesday 28 August (See Below).

Jupiter meantime appears to be settling in on her stint on the Gourock - Dunoon roster resplendent after her recent overhaul.

Loch Alainn continues to sit at the Wires Spare berth at Gourock awaiting her move north to Barra to displace the **Loch Bhrusda**.

› **Ardrossan - Brodick (Caledonian Isles, Saturn):**

The extra scheduled sailings utilising spare Clyde ferry **Saturn** will run from Monday 11 June to Tuesday 28 August.

Timetable Below:



Jupiter Passing Gourock Pool



Monday - Sunday

0715 ex Brodick - Ardrossan (except Sat & Sun)

0900 ex Ardrossan - Brodick

1030 ex Brodick - Ardrossan

1330 ex Ardrossan - Brodick

1545 ex Brodick - Ardrossan

1830 ex Ardrossan - Brodick

Saturn Passing Skelmorlie
Tonight



Loch Alainn at Gourock
Today

08/06/07 Terminals:

> **Port Askaig:**

Hebridean Isles performed berthing trials today at Port Askaig. They were understood to be successful and all afternoon sailings will resume from Port Askaig as of Monday 11th June. There is still a lot of work to be done inside the passenger terminal, the next phase however will be for the council operated Jura ferry & then the new terminal facilities.



Hebridean Isles
at Port Askaig Today

Clyde:

Saturn is due to take up the secondary **Ardrossan - Brodick** summer roster this weekend. She is expected at Gourock to load crew cars then berth overnight at Brodick with a arrival to be timed after **Caledonian Isles** departs at 1920 on Sunday. She will commence the 3A roster from Monday 11th June.



Saturn & Juno at Rosneath
Today

Saturn and **Juno** are still tied up at Rosneath. **Saturn**, as mentioned above will commence her summer Arran roster on Monday. The fate for her older sister still awaits her.

Updates as and when.

Loch Riddon still solders on at Largs while her much larger and newer fleet mate **Loch Shira** continues to settle in.

Loch Alainn still awaits her move to Barra at Gourock Wires.



Loch Riddon at Cumbræ Slip
Today

07/06/07 Clyde:

Loch Shira suffered some technical difficulties this morning with what is unconfirmed to be her start up mechanics. **Loch Riddon** coped with a backlog of traffic as it was decided the **Loch Alainn** was un-required to dash back to Largs from Gourock to cover. **Loch Shira** appeared to be back in service by 1000.

Other News:



Dagalien at Kirkwall

Shetland Islands Council ferry *Dagalien* was in Kirkwall today en route north to Shetland after a overhaul.

Past Fleet News - On This Day...

In 2006 **Isle of Lewis** was withdrawn from service due to suspected Norovirus affecting 8 of the crew. All **Ullapool - Stornoway** traffic was diverted to the **Uig - Tarbert** roster using the **Lord of the Isles** which dashed from Oban to assist **Hebrides** with additional traffic.

06/06/07 **Clyde:**

Loch Shira has appeared to have settled down into service on her Largs - Cumbrae roster nicely.

Western Isles:

› **Oban - Colonsay - Port Askaig - Kennacraig (Lord of the Isles):**

Due to essential Pier Work at Port Askaig all sailings will operate to & from Oban.

A temporary timetable from Oban - Colonsay will operate today using **Lord of the Isles**:

1530 dep Oban
1750 arr Colonsay
1805 dep Colonsay
2025 arr Oban

› **Kennacraig - Port Askaig - Colonsay (Hebridean Isles):**

Due to essential Pier Work at Port Askaig all sailings will operate to & from Port Ellen.

A temporary timetable from Kennacraig - Colonsay will operate today:

0745 dep Kennacraig
1005 arr Port Ellen
1025 dep Port Ellen
1305 arr Colonsay
1720 dep Colonsay
2000 arr Port Ellen
2020 dep Port Ellen
2240 arr Kennacraig

Terminals:

› **Port Askaig:**

More berthing trails are set for this Friday 08th June at the new linkspan. The Pictures opposite show the new roundhead and it in its stowage position, the works vessel *Margaret Sinclair* alongside.



Loch Shira Today
Crossing to Largs



Port Askaig's New Pier /
Roundhead



Port Askaig's New Linkspan

05/06/07 **Clyde:**

Jupiter is now back on the **Gourock - Dunoon** route from around lunchtime today.

Saturn has arrived at Rosneath Jetty and is tied up outboard of **Juno**.

NorthLink Ferries (Freight):

Due to technical difficulties, **Clare** is not due to arrive in Aberdeen until early evening on Tuesday 05 June.

02/06/07 Clyde:

Loch Shira's delayed entry into service yesterday is due to take place this morning.

Update:

Loch Shira successfully completed her first run this morning. She departed at 0645 from Largs on her 'maiden voyage'.

Loch Alainn departed Largs at 0615 for the Wires at Gourock, she soon after arrived for a short lay-up before moving to Barra.



Loch Shira's First Run Today

Company News:

Fairplay 1 June 2007

UK Yards in CalMac Newbuild Bid

GLASGOW 01 June - Two UK shipyards - Ferguson Brothers and Appledore - are among seven European yards invited to tender for an 85m-long ferry urgently need by CalMac, the Scottish Executive-owned operator, for its service between Kennacraig and Port Ellen on the Scottish island of Islay. At least one is known to be in Poland. The £20M (\$39.5M) vessel will have a capacity of more than 60 cars and about 500 passengers. A CalMac spokesman told Fairplay the company needed the vessel urgently because demand is strong, but the shortage of building slots means it is unlikely to be in service until 2010. A relief ship is contributing to a two-ship service. CalMac is the only bidder left in the tender for the Clyde and Western Isles ferry services, routes that CalMac already operates. The Scottish Executive said it is "proceeding with the tender in the hope of having a new contract in place by October."

01/06/07 Western Isles:

SoC Live! Update 1500:

Raasay is now moored up in Tobermory Bay where she has been since 1400 today.

It looks like the new linkspan at **Port Askaig** won't be open for a little while yet, the temporary Wednesday timetable as noted previously will be in effect again this Wednesday 06/06/07. For times see Fleet News for 30/05/07. Times will be published again on 06th.

Clyde:

Loch Shira was due to enter commercial service today but due to unforeseen circumstances she will now start tomorrow morning at 0645.

She is on her way down from Gourock and sailed past McInroys Point around 1900 this evening presumably bound for Fairlie for the night.

It is anticipated that **Loch Alainn** will then shortly after move to Barra for the Eriskay crossing. She is thought to require some small steel work alterations prior to her move though.

Company News:

Ferry operator Caledonian MacBrayne has opened a new facility in Fort William to develop key aspects of its business in the Lochaber area and beyond. The CalMac Tourshop, which is located in the Fort William transport interchange, opened this week and will offer the full range of CalMac's booking, ticketing and marketing facilities.

NorthLink Ferries:

NorthLink Ferries will invest another £50,000 over the next six months in supporting local charities, events, athletes and artists in the Northern Isles.

The sponsorship funding will take the form of free travel and discounted fares and will benefit several individuals and organisations in Orkney and Shetland. Since 2002, NorthLink has donated more than £400,000 in sponsorship funds.

DATE NEWS

29/07/07 **Western Isles:**

Lord of the Isles was running around 40 minutes late on her return sailing from Colonsay this evening.

20/07/07 **Clyde:**

Loch Shira has re-entered service after receiving successful repairs at Fairlie. **Loch Bhrusda** will lie at Fairlie on standby in case she is needed again on emergency relief.

18/07/07 **Clyde:**

Update 1400:

Loch Bhrusda is currently running about 10min late on the Cumbrae roster - so much so that the **Loch Riddon** on the 2nd roster has caught up with her and is having to await her larger sister to clear each respective slipway.

Updates on **Loch Shira's** condition due soon, she is currently awaiting engineers to look at one of her Voith units.

15/07/07 **Western Isles:**

Hebridean Isles was expected back in service for tonight's 1800hrs sailing to Port Ellen. In the end it was **Isle of Arran** that took the sailing, delayed until 1900 and thus allowing her to return to her own roster, resuming with the 0700 ex Port Ellen tomorrow morning. **Hebridean Isles** now has her bow ramp locked out of use and will be operating as a stern-loader only until proper bow ramp repairs can be carried out.

(See Yesterdays News and the picture from yesterday opposite, shown on blog.islayinfo.com)



Hebridean Isles' damaged bow ramp

14/07/07 **Western Isles:**

Hebridean Isles went off service at Kennacraig this afternoon due to a problem with her bow ramp. One of her ramp hinge pins sheared, causing the ramp to lie at an angle. It is thought that an overloaded lorry caused the wear-and-tear and eventual failure of the component. The 1300 was carried out later on in the day. **Isle of Arran** made an additional run from Port Ellen at around 1240 - 1300ish to Kennacraig and then took the delayed 1300 sailing to Port Askaig, departing 3 hours late.

She then returned to Kennacraig later in the evening and took the delayed 1800 sailing to Port Ellen at 2115, leaving Port Ellen on the return leg at midnight.



Loch Bhrusda Still at Largs Today

13/07/07 **Clyde:**

Friday 13th appears to have struck for **Loch Shira**. She failed with solenoid problems leaving **Loch Riddon** to cope on her own until **Loch Bhrusda** arrived from Rosneath during the afternoon. **Loch Bhrusda** has since been the main Cumbrae vessel but as she carries 18 cars (which **Loch Alainn** was restricted to on that run) it isn't causing too much of a problem with both vessels running in tandem.

10/07/07 **Company News:**

Shipping Times:

"No Sunday Sailings to Hebrides" ([opens in new window](#))

06/07/07 **Clyde:**

Loch Bhrusda left Lochranza early this morning and made for Largs where she unloaded crew cars. She then made for Rosneath where she will lie as spare unit until required on relief or as emergency cover.

05/07/07 **Western Isles:**

Loch Bhrusda left Lochaline early this morning and continued her journey towards the Clyde. She is spending tonight at Lochranza with the **Loch Tarbert**.

04/07/07 **Western Isles:**

Loch Alainn left Craginure early this morning and reached Barra during this afternoon after crossing the Minch. She changed over with the **Loch Bhrusda** and entered service on the Ardmhor - Eriskay run with the 1545 departure from Ardmhor. **Loch Bhrusda** then proceeded back across the Minch and is spending the night at the timber pier at Lochaline as Tobermory, Oban and Craginure are all unavailable. She will return to the Clyde and assume the role of Clyde relief vessel.



Loch Alainn on her first departure from Ardmhor

03/07/07 **Western Isles:**

Loch Alainn left Craighouse in the early hours this morning and passed Port Askaig at around 0600 as she continued her way towards Barra. This route would indicate she may be travelling via the Sound of Iona and the Gunna Sound, rather than the route she used a few months ago which took her through the Sound of Mull.

Update:

Loch Alainn did indeed proceed through the Sound of Iona and Gunna Sound, however her radar suffered technical problems and she was forced to return via the Sound of Mull to Craginure where she is spending tonight. Engineers were carried by **Isle of Mull** on the 1800 sailing ex Oban and they are working on repairs this evening.



Loch Alainn lying at Craginure this evening

Clyde:

Ali Cat is still out of service today with possible gearbox problems. **Jupiter** continues sailing as per her timetable.

02/07/07 **Clyde:**

Loch Alainn finally set out from Gourock this morning at the start of her long journey to the Outer Hebrides. She passed the south eastern tip of Arran at around 1320 and will berth tonight at Craighouse on Jura. She is expected to take over from the **Loch Bhrusda** on Wednesday, becoming the dedicated Barra - Eriskay ferry.

The **Ali Cat** appears to be out of service today. The Company website (external link above) is advertising the passenger-only sailings as cancelled today.

DATE	NEWS
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31/08/07 **Clyde:**

Loch Bhrusda is back in service, this time assisting the **Loch Shira** on the Largs - Cumbrae crossing. She is on the secondary roster due to the island anticipating a large influx of visitors over the weekend.

Western Isles:

Isle of Mull left her usual roster this afternoon and sailed with the delayed 1340 sailing to Castlebay and back. She is believed to have left Oban at around 1500 on the long sail out across the Minch. She arrived at Barra at around 2130 and will be back in Oban in the early hours. **Clansman** took the Oban - Craignure sailings from 1400 onwards. Once she had finished Mull duties, she then sailed for Tiree on an extra cattle sailing. It is anticipated that both vessels will return to their normal rosters tomorrow.

Raasay sailed from Oban this morning, heading down to Rathlin where she is to spend the next 3 weeks covering for **Canna**.

30/08/07 **Western Isles:**

Raasay left Corpach today to start the journey down to Rathlin. She is spending tonight in Oban.

29/08/07 **Western Isles:**

Raasay underwent post-overhaul trials today. She left the pier at Corpach yard before heading out into the loch, returning a while later. She tied up in the basin by the entrance to the Caledonian Canal and is due to leave for Rathlin shortly.



Raasay today: Heading out on trials - Returning to Corpach - Alongside in the basin

28/08/07 **Western Isles:**

Loch Buie left Fionnphort today bound for Corpach where she is to undergo repairs to her stern ramp. She is due to leave the yard after the weekend for the return journey to Mull. **Loch Riddon** continues to provide cover at Iona in the meantime.

27/08/07 **Loch Riddon** left the Clyde today and passed through the Sound of Islay at 1630 heading north. She is heading for Iona where she will provide relief for the **Loch Buie** from tomorrow, while the regular ferry goes for repairs at Corpach.

24/08/07 **Clyde:**

A reminder that **Saturn** will not be operating the additional Ardrossan - Brodick service this weekend. She is instead operating extra sailings to and from Dunoon alongside **Jupiter** over the Cowal Games Weekend. She is expected to return to Arran on Monday evening.

23/08/07 **Clyde:**

Loch Tarbert set sail from Gourock this morning, en route back to Lochranza where she will take over from the **Loch Bhrusda** once more. **Loch Bhrusda** will return to Fairlie to resume her spare role until she is next required.

20/08/07 **Clyde:**

Loch Tarbert sailed for Gourock and the wires this morning. She is off service for three or four days receiving engine maintenance. **Loch Bhrusda** will be handling all Claonaig - Lochranza sailings in the meantime.



Loch Bhrusda at Claonaig today

16/08/07 Clyde:

Loch Riddon is out of service today and **Loch Shira** is carrying out all sailings on a half-hourly timetable.

Western Isles:

A press release has today revealed that **Hebridean Isles** will be taken out of service and dry-docked from Thursday 6th September until 11th September for her much-needed bow ramp repairs. This period has been chosen after careful consideration of all forthcoming bookings. For the duration of this period **Isle of Arran** will sail on the main roster and those sailings marked 'A' in the timetable will not run. Anyone who is affected by this situation is requested to contact CalMac directly.



Loch Shira sailing alone today

15/08/07 Clyde:

Loch Riddon was unable to carry vehicles from mid-morning today due to a problem with one of her ramps. She continued through the day sailing single-ended and carrying passengers only on departures xx00 and xx30 from Largs (secondary roster) while **Loch Shira** carried all vehicles on her sailings.

13/08/07 Clyde:

A reminder that services to Arran will revert to the normal one-ship timetable this coming Saturday as **Saturn** will probably be required to carry out additional sailings on the Wemyss Bay - Rothesay route for the Bute Highland Games weekend. She has done this in the last two summers and will probably be back on the Arran run for Sunday morning. **Loch Riddon** was running single ended today, suggesting a possible problem with one of her ramps. she was on a passenger only service. **Loch Shira** was carrying all cars between Largs and Cumbrae Slip.

Western Isles:

Hebridean Isles continues to sail as a stern loader only. Repairs to the bow ramp apparently cannot be carried out fully until the vessel can be taken out of service - given that all sailings are departing fully loaded at present would suggest that this will not be for some weeks yet.

08/08/07 **Lord of the Isles** covered **Clansman** again today with the 0600 return to Tiree. She then took the delayed 1340 sailing to Barra. **Clansman** returned from Lochboisdale on the scheduled sailing and sat at Oban before swapping back with **Lord of the Isles** tomorrow.

07/08/07 **Western Isles:**

Isle of Lewis did not sail with the 0715 ex Stornoway this morning. The return sailing at 1030 was accordingly cancelled due to the weather. **Lord of the Isles** took the 1500 sailing to Tiree in lieu of **Clansman** who later sailed to Tiree and on to Lochboisdale. This was to allow **Clansman** to carry some cargo regarding the re-surfacing of Tiree's Air strip.

Also...

Caledonian MacBrayne have announced that they are selling two boats! The vessels in question are the fibreglass lifeboats from **Canna** and **Eigg** which were removed after their last overhauls and replaced with inflatable launches.

06/08/07 **Western Isles:**

Tonight's overnight freight sailing by **Muirneag** is cancelled due to adverse weather.

Raasay commenced her annual overhaul on the slip at Corpach this morning. Her gantry mast has been completely removed to allow her to fit into the shed at the yard. She is to be "Sand Blasted" back to the steel before receiving a fresh coat of paint. This has to be done to all ships every 10 coats of paint so they do not get overweight which can cause problems when in rough weather etc. Once her overhaul is complete, it is expected that she will follow last year's routine of heading down to Rathlin to relieve the **Canna**.



Raasay sitting on Corpach slip

04/08/07 **Western Isles:**

Lord of the Isles had to put in to Tobermory on her way out to Lochboisdale this morning. This was due to a medical emergency onboard. The vessel left the Mull port at 1050 and then ran an hour late for the remainder of the day.

01/08/07 **Western Isles:**

Raasay and **Eigg** changed duties this morning and the former is now in service on the Oban - Lismore route. She will remain as such until Saturday evening. This is so that crews can identify possible items to receive attention in her forthcoming annual overhaul at Corpach. **Eigg** is meanwhile lying at the spare berth adjacent to the slipway in Oban. **Raasay** will sail for Corpach on Sunday and her overhaul will commence on Monday.

DATE	NEWS
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30/07/09 **Western Isles:**

On Tuesday 02/10/09 the Maritime and Coastguard Agency (MCA) are to carry out a Lifeboat exercise onboard the Loch Portain. All her relief crew and standard crew are taking part. The exercise is the same that happens when a vessel is finished being built and is ready for trials to meet MCA / Coastguard / Lloyds regulations. The plan is to deploy a COSALT Liferaft (the inflatable ones in the circular plastic capsuals) and to "simulate" an abandon ship into one. After the exercise when the MCA have been satisfied, COSALT will remove the liferaft and take it away to be repackage and refit it to the Loch Portain.

28/09/07 Western Isles:

Raasay is once again back at Corpach. She called into Oban between 1730 and 1800 last night. It is unclear what she is doing there at present.

There is the following alteration to Clansman's timetable today to accommodate livestock traffic this evening:

Friday 28th September

DEP	CASTLEBAY	1850
ARR	LOCHBOISDALE	2020
DEP	LOCHBOISDALE	2030
ARR	OBAN	0130

It is also reported in the [SoC Forum](#) that the possible fault for the Clansman's recent out of service was due to an engine lining malfunction. It was resolved the next day.

Lord of the Isles will sail early from Craignure tomorrow morning in order to take the Lochboisdale sailing slightly ahead of schedule. The reason for this is the anticipated very low tide at Lochboisdale early in the afternoon.

Company News:

CalMac confirms additional winter services to Islay Back

28 September 2007

Ferry operator Caledonian MacBrayne has confirmed that additional sailings are being provided on the Islay service over the winter to meet the demands of the burgeoning whisky industry.

Following an approach from the island's distillers, who are experiencing unprecedented levels of demand and increasing production levels, CalMac agreed to investigate ways in which the pressures on current carrying capacity could be alleviated. This has now led to the confirmation of a series of additional sailings which will begin on October 21, 2007. CalMac has confirmed that from that date they will run a two vessel service to Islay to meet these traffic demands. The two-vessel service will operate until the end of the Winter timetable in March 2008, except for two key periods when a single vessel service will apply, due to CalMac's vessel overhaul requirements: Saturday, November 10, 2007 – Saturday, November 24 inclusive and Saturday, January 26, 2008 – Wednesday, February 16, 2008 inclusive. (The additional sailings are highlighted in bold on the revised timetable.)

Fay Harris, CalMac's Regional Manager Islay said: "Clearly, the whisky industry is having a very good spell with lots of extra traffic being generated. Whilst this is obviously very welcome, it creates an additional demand for space which we can only meet at this time by creating additional capacity on extra sailings. We have consulted with the distillers and local hauliers to address their specific concerns and the timetable we have devised should enable them to meet their production requirements. We have been able to dovetail our own vessel overhaul programme to coincide with the traffic pressure points. In addition to meeting the needs of the whisky industry we are of the view that the increased frequency of sailings and the additional capacity this provides, will benefit the whole island. I am sure this initiative will be welcomed by the islanders, other island businesses and visitors to the island." The distillers have welcomed the additional capacity being offered. Campbell Evans, Director of Government & Consumer Affairs, Scotch Whisky Association, said: "The industry has had helpful discussions with CalMac and the Scottish Government in recent months and the improvements to capacity serving Islay are a big step forward. We look forward to continuing to work with our partners to ensure the service is able to support the growing international demand for Islay whiskies, which is so integral to the local economy."

Details of the additional sailings are being made available through CalMac's website www.calmac.co.uk and will be made widely available through local media and leaflets, which are also available on ships and in terminals.

Meanwhile, CalMac confirmed that it expects to hear from asset-owning company Caledonian Maritime Assets Limited soon about the ordering of the new vessel for the Islay service, which is due for delivery in 2011. A number of yards throughout Europe have tendered for the order, which is due to be confirmed shortly.

Last week, the Scottish Government confirmed that, following the recent tendering process, CalMac has been awarded the contract to operate the Clyde and Hebrides Ferry Services. As part of that contract Islay will be served by two vessels for the whole of the summer timetable for the duration of the six-year contract, starting from October 1, 2007.

Clyde:

Saturn is due in Garvel Dry Dock on the 29th of September and back out on the 13th of October for her overhaul. She is also getting a new sewage tank installed.

Meanwhile Juno still lies at Rosneath awaiting her final fate after being withdrawn.

25/07/09 Western Isles:

Due to Adverse Weather the Following Sailings are Disrupted:

DEP	ROUTE	SHIP	STATUS
1345	STORNOWAY - ULLAPOOL	ISLE OF LEWIS	CANCELLED
1715	ULLAPOOL - STORNOWAY	ISLE OF LEWIS	CANCELLED
	STORNOWAY - ULLAPOOL [FREIGHT]	MUIRNEAG	CANCELLED
	ULLAPOOL - STORNOWAY [FREIGHT]	MUIRNEAG	CANCELLED

> Leverburgh - Berneray (Loch Portain):

Reminder of some timetable changes due to tidal conditions:

Wednesday 26th September

Depart Berneray 1100, Depart Leverburgh CANCELLED

Thursday 27th September

Depart Berneray 1205, Depart Leverburgh 1330 CANCELLED

Friday 28th September Depart Berneray 1100, Depart Leverburgh 1215 CANCELLED

ADDITIONAL SAILINGS

Depart Berneray 1000, Depart Leverburgh 1110

Saturday 29th September Depart Berneray 1205, Depart Leverburgh 1330 CANCELLED

ADDITIONAL SAILINGS

Depart Berneray 1000, Depart Leverburgh 1110

Sunday 30th September

Depart Berneray 1330, Depart Leverburgh 1440 CANCELLED

24/09/07 **Western Isles:**

Due to technical difficulties with **Clansman**, today's 1510 service to Barra will be delayed by around 1-2 hours. **Lord of the Isles** will return as normal from Coll and Tiree at 1615 and then sail for Castlebay. The loading time in Oban will be longer than normal due to the bow visor being unavailable for use on this vessel. Tomorrow afternoon's return sailing will leave Barra on time but will be approx 1 hour late into Oban due to the vessel being slower than **Clansman**.



Clansman at the 2nd Oban berth this evening

This afternoon's 1700 sailing to Colonsay, normally operated by **Lord of the Isles** will instead be operated from Kennacraig with a departure of 1800. The **Hebridean Isles** will sail via Islay to Colonsay and berth there overnight. Tomorrow morning's return sailing will depart Colonsay at 0700 and return to Kennacraig (1035) via Port Askaig (0810-0830). As a result tomorrow's 0700 ex Port Ellen will leave from Port Askaig as part of this return leg from Colonsay. The 0945 from Kennacraig to Port Ellen will depart around 1115. Upon arrival at Port Ellen the **Hebridean Isles** is due to sit until her 1800 sailing and so will resume her normal timetable at this point.

Hebrides is subject to delays today to accommodate traffic diverted from Barra via Uist.

Loch Alainn is running late with her 1110 sailing leaving at approx 1200. Again this is for technical reasons.

Update on Islay Service:

› **Kennacraig-Port Ellen / Port Askaig / Colonsay / Oban:**

Due to technical problems with **Clansman** the following service will be operating:

Monday 24th September

Dep Kennacraig	~ 1800
Arr Port Askaig	2005
Dep Port Askaig	2030
Arr Colonsay	2140

Tuesday 25th September

Dep Colonsay	~ 0700
Arr Port Askaig	0810
Dep Port Askaig	# 0830
Arr Kennacraig	1035
Dep Kennacraig	# 1115

🚫 Service Notes

The scheduled 0700 sailing from Islay and the scheduled 0945 from Kennacraig will be running approx 1 hour later than normal.

~ The 1800 sailing from Kennacraig on Monday 24/09/07 and the 0700 sailing on Tuesday 25/09/07 from Islay will operate from Port Askaig

CalMac Apologies for any inconvenience caused.

Canna left Oban at 0800 this morning and reached Rathlin at 1800.

Clyde:

Due to adverse weather the Ardrossan - Brodick sailing by **Saturn** at 1545 sailing from Brodick has been cancelled.

A decision regarding the **Saturn's** next departure from Brodick will be made at 1645. **Caledonian Isles** is operating as the timetable.

20/07/09 **Company News:**

CalMac Ferries Ltd has today signed a Public Service Contract to provide the Clyde and Hebrides Ferry Services. The Scottish Government contract, which is effective from October 1, 2007, will last for 6 years. The signing marks the company's successful completion of a tender process in accordance with the requirements procedures set out in the Scottish Government's Invitation to Tender.

19/09/07 **Western Isles:**

Canna has now arrived in Oban after her visit to Corpach. She will presumably stop for a refuel and overnight rest before heading back south to Rathlin Island tomorrow.

Update:

Is is now understood **Canna** will remain in Oban until Monday while her transit crew are working on **Loch Riddon** for the weekend.

15/09/07 **Clyde / Western Isles:**

Saturn left the Clyde for the first time this morning. She sailed from Brodick at 0600 bound for Port Ellen, which she reached at 1215. She undertook berthing trials at both the concrete ramp and the linkspan before leaving again at 1250. She then sailed for Port Askaig but had to lie off in the Sound of Islay as both **Hebridean Isles** and then **Isle of Arran** used the pier. **Saturn** then docked successfully shortly after 1530 before sailing for Kennacraig. She will spend tonight at the north berth before sailing for Brodick once more tomorrow morning.

Western Isles:

Hebridean Isles carried out the 0700 round trip from Port Ellen (**Isle of Arran's roster**) before sailing for Port Askaig light. She then loaded traffic for the 1530 sailing to Kennacraig and resumed her own roster. **Isle of Arran** arrived at Port Askaig with the 1300 ex Kennacraig, just as her partner left and then unloaded before sailing light for Port Ellen. Both ships are now back on their own rosters.

14/09/07 **Clyde:**

Hebridean Isles left JWD this morning bound for Gourock. She was kept there for longer than planned due to a rope fouling a propeller, but she eventually got away late this afternoon. She will arrive in Port Ellen around 0100 tomorrow morning.

13/07/09 **Western Isles:**

The following services are cancelled for today due to adverse weather conditions:

DEP	ROUTE	SHIP	STATUS
ALL	MALLAIG - ARMADALE	CORUIK	CANCELLED

12/09/07 **Western Isles:**

Lord of the Isles arrived in Port Askaig this evening, running slightly late. This is her first trip to Islay this year, and the first time she has berthed at the new terminal facilities there. She is also still operating as a stern-loader only. The problem is apparently not to do with her bow ramp, but the visor. She will operate the following revised tameable for today only:

Wednesday 12th September

DEP	OBAN	1530
ARR	COLONSAY	1750
DEP	COLONSAY	1800
ARR	PORT ASKAIG	1900
DEP	PORT ASKAIG	1910
ARR	COLONSAY	2010

DEP	COLONSAY	2020
ARR	OBAN	2240

11/09/07 Clyde / Western Isles:

Hebridean Isles emerged from Garvel Dry Dock over the weekend and sat in the wet dock for a while, however she has re-entered the dry dock following the discovery of another problem, believed to be associated with one of her stabiliser compartments. As a result she will not be back in service as planned tomorrow. **Isle of Arran** will sail for Port Askaig and Colonsay in the morning, as per the shoulder period timetable. **Lord of the Isles** will also operate a 1530 sailing from Oban to Colonsay and Port Askaig. These sailings are instead of the Kennacraig - Oban run.

06/09/07 Clyde / Western Isles:

Hebridean Isles entered dry dock this morning. Services to Islay are now in the care of the **Isle of Arran** which will be operating those sailings in the timetable that are NOT marked 'A'.

Clyde:

Loch Riddon has arrived back at Largs and is back on her secondary Cumbrae roster. **Loch Bhrusda** has moved up to Rosneath to resume her lay-up.

05/09/07 Western Isles:

Hebridean Isles arrived back at Kennacraig as normal, following her regular trip to Oban and then sailed at 2200 for Garvel where she is to undergo bow ramp repairs. At 2330 she was off the west coast of Gigha making 13 knots. **Isle of Arran** has carried out an extra sailing from Port Ellen at 2030. This is so that she can take over the main Islay roster from 0700 tomorrow morning and carry out the single-ship roster while her consort is away.

Lord of the Isles is now also reported to be suffering from bow ramp problems. Apparently she too is now only able to use her stern ramp and this may last until her annual overhaul next month at Garvel. Advance notice has been given that this Friday's sailing to Barra will see an additional call at Lochboisdale on the return leg. After leaving Castlebay at 1850, **Clansman** will arrive at Lochboisdale at 2020 and leaving for Oban ten minutes later. ETA in Oban is expected to be 0130.

Clyde:

Saturn has returned to Arran for the last week of her summer duties.

04/09/07 Western Isles:

Loch Buie left Oban at around 0700 this morning and made straight for the Sound of Iona. She resumed service with the 1145 sailing to Iona and **Loch Riddon** sailed for Craignure, via Tobermory and the Sound of Mull, arriving at around 2030.

03/09/07 Western Isles:

Loch Buie finally left Corpach this afternoon and made for Oban. She will return to the Sound of Iona tomorrow and re-enter service, allowing the **Loch Riddon** to head for Craignure and an overnight berth before she in turn heads back to the Clyde.

Clyde:

Saturn left her Arran duties after the 0715 sailing from Brodick this morning. She will be undertaking additional sailings on the Wemyss Bay - Rothesay route over the next couple of days.

02/09/07 Western Isles:

Canna arrived at Corpach today. She joined **Loch Buie** which is having stern ramp repairs finished off.

01/09/07 **Western Isles:**

Canna arrived in Oban this evening, where she will spend tonight before continuing her journey north up Loch Linnhe to Corpach tomorrow.

Clyde:

Loch Bhrusda has continued to support the **Loch Shira** through the weekend on the Largs - Cumbae run while **Loch Riddon** remains in the Western Isles.

DATE NEWS

31/10/07 WESTERN ISLES:

Loch Alainn sailed from Tobermory to Lochaline yesterday afternoon. She carried out one single sailing to Fishnish with two log lorries in order to carry out berthing trials. She then sailed to Oban for a crew change and then onto Craignure for an overnight berth. She will then head to Colintraive tomorrow to relieve the Loch Dunvegan to allow her fleet mate to go for overhaul.

UPDATE 1230:

Loch Alainn is currently passing Gigha southbound to round the Mull on her way to Bute.

UPDATE 1400:

Loch Alainn is now nearing the Mull of Kintyre. It is unclear where she is heading at present - possibly Largs.

› Ullapool - Stornoway (Isle of Lewis)

UPDATE 1730:

Vessel currently sailing but delayed due to adverse weather in the Minch.

TERMINALS:

› **Oban**

The new gangway appears to be all sheeted in now and as of yesterday the internal lighting of the walkway has been connected up and working.



Oban terminal latest

CLYDE:

Isle of Cumbrae spent since Sunday lunchtime at Lochranza after changing over with the **Loch Tarbert** for winter duties. She is now at Gourock after a brief call at Largs.

Coruisk is now in the dry-dock with **Lord of the Isles** both for their annual overhauls.

Edit SoC Editor 2001 01/011/07

Coruisk is NOT in Dry Dock yet as reported above.

30/10/07 WESTERN ISLES:

› **Ullapool - Stornoway Freight (Muirneag)**

UPDATE 1830:

The following sailings are cancelled due to adverse weather conditions in the Minch:

Tonight's Sailing ex Ullapool - Stornoway

Tomorrows return Stornoway - Ullapool

› **Kennacraig - Port Ellen / Port Askaig (Hebridean Isles)**

SERVICE REMINDER:

1720 Monday ex Kennacraig - Port Askaig

0700 Tuesday ex Port Askaig - Kennacraig

These sailings will operate to and from Port Ellen until further notice due to the ongoing Pier Work at Port Askaig.

CLYDE:

Coruisk trialled Rothesay's new pier setup today before making her way to James Watt Dock to begin her overhaul.

NORTHLINK FERRIES:

UPDATE 1850:

All Passenger & Freight sailings are operating to timetable.

29/10/07 **WESTERN ISLES:**

Coruisk left Mallaig at 0625 and proceeded via the Sound of Mull towards Gourock. She was noted passing Port Askaig at 1340. **Loch Linnhe** is also continuing her voyage to the Clyde for her overhaul, having left Craignure early this morning.

UPDATE 1915:

Coruisk is currently off the South East coast of Arran making her way upriver towards Gourock.

UPDATE 2030:

Coruisk is currently passing the Island of Bute

Clansman was observed in the Sound of Mull this afternoon carrying out a lifeboat drill using her starboard side boat, which was lowered and released into the water while the ferry was stationary. With the timetable on the Col and Tiree and Outer Isles routes being designed to allow for the slower speed of **Lord of the Isles**, the larger and faster vessel has time to spare while carrying out these sailings.

Loch Bhrusda set out from Tobermory first thing this morning and is now back in service as the Sound of Barra ferry. **Loch Alainn** set sail from Barra late morning and arrived at Craignure shortly after 1400. She is spending tonight there and will continue down the Sound of Mull to Craignure tomorrow, where she is expected to arrive after **Isle of Mull** leaves at 1700.



Coruisk passing Jura today



Coruisk on AIS off Arran 1915

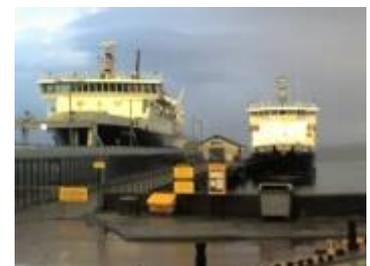
28/10/07 **WESTERN ISLES:**

Lochnevis left Craignure shortly after 0900 this morning and continued her journey back to Mallaig. **Raasay** left for Tobermory when the **Lochnevis** arrived back at her home port and the **Loch Linnhe** in turn sailed from Tobermory to Craignure for an overnight berth.

CLYDE:

Argyle and **Bute** were not required to undertake the anticipated diversions to Gourock this morning. The linkspan work at Wemyss Bay had been completed well ahead of schedule and normal Sunday service was operated today.

The Portavadie and Lochranza services made the switch over to the winter schedule today, one week after the rest of the network. **Loch Tarbert** is in charge of the combined Tarbert - Portavadie and Tarbert - Lochranza schedule while **Isle of Cumbrae** is rendered spare for the



SoC LIVE Lochnevis at Craignure with Isle of Mull

winter, either until March 2008 or until such time as she is needed for unforeseen relief duties.

27/10/07 **WESTERN ISLES:**

Loch Bhrusda left Craignure making her usual racket this morning and made for Tobermory, where she will lie until a clearing in the weather allows her to cross the Minch.

Lochnevis left Port Ellen this morning to continue her journey back to Mallaig. She was defeated in her attempt to round Ardnamurchan Point by the weather conditions and instead made for Craignure where she is spending tonight, in the company of **Isle of Mull. Raasay** therefore stayed in Mallaig instead of relocating back to Tobermory where she is due to take over the Kilchoan service for the next three months. **Loch Linnhe** is due to sail for Ardmaleish in the next few days.



Lochnevis at Port Ellen this morning

› **Ardmhor - Eriskay (Loch Alainn):**

UPDATED 1330:

The following have been cancelled due to adverse weather:

1230 ex Ardmhor - Eriskay

1410 ex Eriskay - Ardmhor

The last return sailing for today will operate as per timetable:

1710 ex Ardmhor - Eriskay

1815 ex Eriskay - Ardmhor

› **Sconser - Raasay (Loch Striven):**

UPDATED 1300:

1315 ex Sconser has been cancelled

All further sailings disrupted due to adverse weather.

Chargehand will review departures on a sailing to sailing basis.

› **Fionnphort - Iona (Loch Buie):**

UPDATED 1500:

Cancelled for today due to adverse weather.

CLYDE:

› **Claonaig - Lochranza (Loch Tarbert):**

UPDATED 1230:

Service may be liable to cancellations or disruptions due to adverse weather.

UPDATED 1300:

This service has been suspended meantime, a decision regarding the 1430 sailing from Lochranza will be made at 1415.

UPDATED 1500:

This service has been suspended meantime, a decision regarding the 1545 sailing from Lochranza will be made at 1530.

› **Wemyss Bay - Rothesay (Argyle, Bute):**

UPDATED 1500:

Currently disrupted due to technical reasons. One vessel has been off service since 1345 and is not expected to return to service until its 1645 sailing.

 **As always, please check the Official CalMac website for current live disruptions.**

26/10/07 WESTERN ISLES:

It appears **Loch Bhrusda** is still tied up at the north pier in Oban as of 1300 awaiting the weather to clear before heading across the Minch to Barra.

UPDATED:

Loch Bhrusda left Oban at 1545 and made for Craignure, arriving at 1500. She is spending tonight alongside at the south face of the pier.

› **Barra - Eriskay (Loch Alainn)**

UPDATED 0710:

Due to adverse weather conditions the following sailings have been cancelled:

0715 ex Ardmhor - Eriskay

0820 ex Eriskay - Ardmhor

The next return sailing will be reviewed at approx 0900 today

› **Uig - Tarbert (Hebrides)**

UPDATE 0745:

0730 ex Tarbert - Uig

Sailing is currently delayed due to adverse weather, Hebrides is awaiting daylight before departing.

UPDATE 0915:

0730 ex Tarbert - Uig was delayed due to weather. Hebrides departed approx one hour late at 0825.

This delay will affect later sailings, please use the official CalMac website above for current information.

Passenger and Vehicle check in at Uig for the 0940 ex Uig - Lochmaddy will be as normal.

› **Sconser - Raasay (Loch Striven)**

Service was disrupted due to adverse weather.

› **Fionnphort - Iona (Loch Buie)**

UPDATE 0930:

Service is currently cancelled due to adverse weather.

Next sailing is at 1000 weather permitting

UPDATE 1030:

The next sailings will be

1215 ex Fionnphort - Iona

1230 ex Iona - Fionnphort

(weather permitting)

› **Ullapool - Stornoway (Isle of Lewis)**

UPDATE 0600:

Due to adverse weather conditions the following sailing has been cancelled:

0715 ex Stornoway - Ullapool

Isle of Lewis spent the night in Ullapool after a cancelled sailing last night. She will remain there until her scheduled departure later today.

› **Mallaig - Armadale (Coruisk)**

UPDATE 0820:

Due to adverse weather conditions the following sailings have been cancelled:

0840 ex Mallaig - Armadale



Loch Bhrusda at a grey north pier in Oban today



Lochnevis at Port Ellen tonight

TERMINALS:**> Oban:**

An update on the new gangway / linkspan at **Oban**. The new gangway is similar to Rothesay on the Clyde or Stromness on Orkney where the connecting unit slides along to suit each vessel. When the vessel is berthed at the linkspan the gangway can be altered in height and positioning along the pier side to fit correctly. It is unlike the current one at Oban in that it is fixed directly to the Terminal building. It seems it will be finished soon and they will finally shut the old berth to get it ready for the 2008 season. Hebrides (although being a sister ship to Clansman) is unable fit in the existing gangway because her passenger access door is further astern than her sister. Clansman's was brought forward on one side to accommodate the new gangway at Oban, the other side is the same as Hebrides.

CLYDE:

Lochnevis appears to be alongside Gourock HQ as of 1400 today making ready for her long trip back up to Mallaig for her winter service.

She departed shortly after and is currently (1430) just north of Inverkip heading down the Clyde at 11.5 knots.

UPDATE 1602:

Lochnevis is just rounding the Cock of Arran very close to land.

Her destination on AIS shows Mallaig at 1700 today - which is obviously impossible! She is expected to berth overnight in Port Ellen.

UPDATE 1832:

Lochnevis is just passing Sanda Island with a ETA in Port Ellen of 2230 tonight.

Pictures to follow.

> Ardrossan - Brodick (Caledonian Isles):**UPDATE 1845:**

Service is running approximately 30minutes late due to volume of traffic and weather conditions.

Vehicle drivers are still to check in as normal.

> Gourock - Dunoon (?):**UPDATED 0650:**

Due to adverse weather conditions the following sailings have been cancelled:

0650 ex Gourock - Dunoon

0720 ex Dunoon - Gourock

UPDATED 0750:

Also cancelled:

0750 ex Gourock - Dunoon

0820 ex Dunoon - Gourock

> Wemyss Bay - Rothesay (Argyle, Bute):

Continuing refurbishment work on Wemyss Bay Pier will mean that the following services this Sunday morning (28/10/07) will operate between Rothesay and Gourock.

Bute will operate a revised timetable as follows:

0800 dep Rothesay

0900 arr Gourock

0910 dep Gourock

1010 arr Rothesay

She will then carry out drills and take up No 2AS roster from 1215.

Argyle will carry out drills then operate the revised timetable as follows:

1020 dep Rothesay

1120 arr Gourock

1130 dep Gourock
1230 arr Rothesay
She will then take up No 2S roster from 1300.

Jupiter will carry out No 1 roster with drills being carried out prior to service.

› **Tarbert - Lochranza (Loch Tarbert):**

UPDATED 0850:

Service may be liable to cancellations or disruptions due to adverse weather.

UPDATE 1030:

This service has been suspended until further notice. A review will be made at 1300.

UPDATE 1315:

This service is still suspended until further notice. A review will be made at 1415.

UPDATE 1420:

This service is resuming at 1430, although landing is not guaranteed.
Updates to follow.

 **As always, please check the Official CalMac website for current live disruptions.**

25/10/07 **WESTERN ISLES:**

Loch Bhrusda will tonight berth at Tobermory after calling briefly in Oban en route for Eriskay.

UPDATE 1900:

Loch Bhrusda will tonight berth at Oban and not as stated above before making her way out to Barra.



Loch Bhrusda arriving at Oban

› **Ullapool - Stornoway (Isle of Lewis)**

UPDATED 1700:

The following sailings are cancelled due to adverse weather conditions in the Minch:

1715 ex Ullapool - Stornoway

0715 ex Stornoway - Ullapool (tomorrow morning)

› **Ullapool - Stornoway Freight (Muirneag)**

UPDATED 1700:

The following sailings are cancelled due to adverse weather conditions in the Minch:

Tonight's Sailing ex Ullapool - Stornoway

TERMINALS:

› **Craignure**

Passengers are currently boarding the ferry at Craignure via the car deck for the time being following technical difficulties encountered with the gangway on Wednesday night.

CLYDE:

Lochnevis will leave JWD tomorrow for trials and then make for an overnight berth at Port Ellen (weather permitting) on her way back to Mallaig. It is then expected **Coruisk** will leave Mallaig and make her way down to the Clyde over the weekend for her annual overhaul and winter Clyde relief duties.

A few recent shots of **Raasay** and chartered vessel **Ullin of**



Lochnevis yesterday in JWD

Staffa covering for the **Lochnevis** at Mallaig are depicted below. The regular vessel is expected back on station by the end of the week after completing her overhaul on the Clyde.



Ullin of Staffa Departs Mallaig While Raasay Loads at the Linkspan - and Returns From the Small Isles

24/10/07 WESTERN ISLES:

TERMINALS:

> Oban

Clansman today trailed the new Oban linkspan at 1500 berthing bow towards the facility and lifting her visor. The **Isle of Mull** also trial berthed at the new pier this evening which is directly behind the current linkspan.



Clansman at the new Oban linkspan today

CLYDE:

Loch Bhrusda left Rosneath today to commence her journey to Eriskay for winter service. It is believed she will spend the night at Campbeltown before heading for Tobermory tomorrow.

Lord of the Isles is now in James Watt Dry Dock, Greenock for her annual overhaul. It was thought that the crane pictured right was going to lift the bow visor, but a reporter noted no action for a considerable period. As reported previously is not 100% clear as to whether her bow visor was welded shut around its outer seal or inner securing mechanism, updates to follow. The resulting damage to the bow was caused by striking the new Oban pier for a second time, she also hit it with her stern as well and caused a little dent at her stern. She also hit Tiree pier hard last winter. Her crew have been monitoring the visor, taking weekly measurements all season to ensure safety was 100% satisfactory.



LOTI in Dry Dock

23/10/07 CLYDE:

A clearer image depicting the bow visor damage to **Lord of the Isles** has been posted in the [SoC-i Forum](#).

It shows the damage to the upper part of the visor to the left and the weld seam where the visor has been sealed for safe operation until the fault can be fixed. It is anticipated a crane will have to open her visor as she is understood to have problems with the mechanism required to lift it independently. Full repairs will be carried out during her annual overhaul currently underway in JWD.

Updates to Follow.

→ [Lord of the Isles Overhaul Thread on the Forum](#) (internal link)



LOTI Bow Damage

22/10/07 WESTERN ISLES:

› **Uig - Lochmaddy (Hebrides)**

UPDATED 1245:

Hebrides departed Lochmaddy at 1240, 50 minutes late due to an engine problem.
Updates to follow

CLYDE:

Lord of the Isles was still in the wet dock this morning. She will deploy her Port side shoot before entering dry dock later today or tomorrow. **Saturn** has now left JWD and returned back over to Rosneath this afternoon. She sailed over to Gourock first at 1500 then did a lap of the Clyde to Hunters Quay, then turned and sailed direct for Rosneath, arriving at 1730.



Saturn Fresh in JWD Today



Lord of the Isles Testing her Port Side Life Shoot Today in JWD

› **Claonaig - Tarbert / Lochranza (Loch Tarbert)**

UPDATE 1015:

Service currently disrupted due to adverse weather conditions.

21/10/07  **CalMac Winter Timetable Starts Today**

WESTERN ISLES:

Lord of the Isles is well on track for the Clyde, she was noted rounding the tip of the Mull of Kintyre at around 1030 this morning having left Oban in the early hours.

UPDATE 1245:

Lord of the Isles is now making her way up the east side of Arran approaching Holy Island near Brodick.

UPDATE 1315:

Lord of the Isles is now passing the stern of **Caledonian Isles** as the Arran vessel makes for Brodick.

UPDATE 1500:

Lord of the Isles has now arrived at Gourock and docked Stern First onto the Ro-Ro Berth to unload Crew Cars (1451).

She will then proceed to Garvel wet dock before entering the dry dock later on this evening.

Rathlin Ferries:

Canna now has the company URL printed below her builders plate under her bridge windows.



LOTI rounding the Mull



SoC LIVE LOTI arriving at Gourock



SoC LIVE Stern first at Gourock

20/10/07 WESTERN ISLES:

Lord of the Isles is due in for her overhaul on Monday on the Clyde. She is still currently sailing with her bow visor welded shut awaiting repairs and operating as stern loader only.

UPDATE:

Lord of the Isles will depart at 0500 ex Oban tomorrow, passing Port Askaig around 0800 - 0900 before rounding the Mull of Kintyre en route to the Clyde for her overhaul.

It is reported that **Saturn** will only cover at Islay if there is a breakdown during the two ship scheduled service to the island. She wont be covering for overhauls as anticipated.

CLYDE:

It is confirmed **Isle of Mull** will defiantly cover at Arran on the **Brodict - Ardrossan** roster while the **Caledonian Isles** goes for overhaul on the 26th November.

19/10/07 CLYDE:

In James Watt Dock **Saturn** looks very fresh after newly overhauled and **Lochnevis** now in the dry-dock.

Forthcoming Service Alteration:

› **Wemyss Bay - Rothesay (Argyle, Bute)**

The linkspan at Wemyss Bay is to be painted overnight on Saturday 27 / Sunday 28 October as part of a redecoration of Wemyss Bay pier.

This will mean that the following services will be Cancelled on Sunday 28 Oct:

0845 ex Wemyss Bay - Rothesay

0930 ex Rothesay - Wemyss Bay

1015 ex Wemyss Bay - Rothesay

1100 ex Rothesay - Wemyss Bay

1215 ex Wemyss Bay - Rothesay

Instead the following sailings will take place:

0800 ex Rothesay - Gourock

0910 ex Gourock - Rothesay

1020 ex Rothesay - Gourock

1130 ex Gourock - Rothesay

Unconfirmed which vessel will operate these sailings as of yet.

18/10/07 WESTERN ISLES:

Service Reminders:

› **Mallaig - Eigg - Muck - Rum - Canna (Raasay, Ullin of Staffa)**

While a Island Class vessel is operating overhaul relief this service is NOT suitable for day cruises from Mallaig. The timetable is also slightly effected.

Contact CalMac for official updates on the service using the above link.

› Kennacraig - Port Ellen / Port Askaig (Hebridean Isles, Isle of Arran)

1800 sailing Mondays & Fridays ex Kennacraig - Port Askaig

0700 sailing Tuesdays and Saturdays ex Port Askaig - Kennacraig

Both will operate to and from Port Ellen until further notice due to the ongoing Pier Work at Port Askaig.

15/10/07 WESTERN ISLES:

› Mallaig - Eigg - Muck - Rum - Canna

Due to weather conditions today's sailings were disrupted

14/10/07 WESTERN ISLES:

Loch Linnhe is assisting **Loch Fyne** at Lochaline today with Fishnish traffic for the Mull Rally. She commenced the second boat sailings at 1030.

CLYDE:

Lochnevis arrived on the Clyde today for her annual overhaul. By mid-afternoon she was moored in the James Watt Dock, Greenock

Company News:

Ardmaleish Boatyard has received a 3 year deal with CalMac to overhaul there Loch Class vessels with **Loch Riddon** due first for overhaul this winter as soon as the winter timetable starts.

NORTHLINK FERRIES:

All Passenger & Freight sailings are operating to timetable.



SoC LIVE Loch Linnhe at Fishnish Today



Saturn in JWD During her Overhaul

13/10/07 WESTERN ISLES:

If the anticipated Colas charter goes ahead on Wednesday 17 October the following rosters will take place.

› Sunday 14th Oct

Lord of the Isles: Oban - Coll - Tiree - Coll - Oban - Colonsay - Oban

Clansman: Castlebay - Tiree - Oban - Castlebay - Lochboisdale

Vessel to have mezzanine deck in use from Barra due to surf traffic boarding at Tiree. Vessel will be full from Tiree, as will **Lord of the Isles** on her scheduled run.

› Monday 15th Oct

Clansman: Lochboisdale - Castlebay - Oban - Castlebay (as normal)

Lord of the Isles:

0600 Oban - Craignure (positioning)

0700 Craignure - Oban (extra sailing for rally traffic)

0800 Oban - Coll - Tiree - Coll - Oban - Colonsay

› Tuesday 16th Oct

Clansman: Castlebay - Oban - Lochboisdale - Castlebay (taking LOTI roster from Oban at 1530)

Lord of the Isles: Colonsay - Oban - Coll - Tiree - Oban (taking Clansman's roster from Oban at 1500)

› Wednesday 17th Oct

Clansman: Castlebay - Lochboisdale - Oban - Tiree - Oban (*see note)

*Colas Charter ex Tiree - departure subject to speed of embarking traffic. If possible vessel to arrive back in Oban at or around 0130 OR arrive back in Oban 0600 due availability of pier staff. Either way vessel to vacate No1 berth by 0725 to allow access for the arriving IOM which is due to arrive Oban 0731

Lord of the Isles: Oban - Coll - Tiree - Oban - Castlebay - Oban

› Thursday 18th Oct

Both ships back to normal roster.

Clansman to perform last Oban - Coll - Tiree - Barra - Tiree - Coll - Oban sailing of the season.

As a result the following sailings will be affected:

› **Oban - Coll - Tiree - Coll - Oban - Colonsay**

› **Oban - Coll - Tiree - Barra - Tiree - Coll - Oban**

› **Oban - Castlebay - Lochboisdale**

Please contact official [CalMac Port Offices](#) for further information (external link).

A final decision on weather this will take place will be subject to the weather forecast on Monday afternoon / Tuesday morning.

If the decision not to go ahead with the charter takes place then normal Tuesday / Wednesday vessel scheduling will prevail.

02/10/07 TERMINALS:

› **Brodick (Arran):**

["Improvements Hope for Brodick Pier"](#) (opens in a new window, external link to Arran Banner)

› **Oban (Mainland):**

A few recent pictures of the construction work currently underway at **Oban Terminal** to install a second linkspan. The first image shows the new linkspan in place, the middle image shows the new passenger walkway (or 'airbridge') from the second floor of the terminal building that will directly link it with the vessel berthed there. The last image shows contractor lifting in the tinted glass for the side panels of the airbridge.

This morning they also tried to position the new gangway with **Lord of the Isles** but couldn't physically connect the two together because of the lack of the connecting ramp. A large section of the new assembly was also noted heading north on the M6 near Carlisle late last night bound for Oban.

Larger images have been posted in the SoC Forum (see links to the left).



Oban Second Linkspan Construction Work Continues

› **Port Askaig (Islay):**

An update on the current situation at Port Askaig.

The first photo shows the new slip for the Jura Ferry or Loch Class vessels, the steel structure will curve round now to the mini round head where the entrance to the harbour will be. The second image shows the new Jura slip which hasn't gone down well with the Jura ferry crew, it apparently is set too high for the vessel. Either to the left or right of the mini roundhead shown in the last picture will be the entrance to the Small Fishing Boat Harbour.

Larger images have been posted in the SoC Forum (see links to the left).



Port Askaig Construction Work Continues

01/10/07 WESTERN ISLES:

> **Kennacraig - Port Ellen / Port Askaig (Hebridean Isles, Isle of Arran)**

Service Reminder:

1800 sailings Mondays & Fridays ex Kennacraig - Port Askaig

0700 sailings Tuesdays and Saturdays ex Port Askaig - Kennacraig

Both will operate to and from Port Ellen until further notice due to the ongoing Pier Work at Port Askaig.

DATE NEWS

30/11/07 WESTERN ISLES:

Loch Bhrusda set out across the Minch this morning and is now back in service on the Sound of Barra. **Loch Linnhe** is now en route for Raasay and her next relief duty, covering **Loch Striven**. She will spend tonight at Mallaig.

29/11/07 CLYDE:

Isle of Mull left JWD for trials and adjustments before berthing at Gourrock at 1230 to collect crew cars. She then made for Ardrossan to undertake berthing trials and discharge the cars and she then sailed across to Brodick, exchanging places with **Caledonian Isles** in time to take over with the 1920 ex Brodick. **Caledonian Isles** then sailed north direct to JWD, where she arrived at around 2130.



Isle of Mull unloading at Ardrossan this afternoon

WESTERN ISLES:

Loch Bhrusda left Campbeltown this morning and made for Mull, berthing at Tobermory this evening.

28/11/07 CLYDE:

Loch Bhrusda and **Loch Buie** now appear to be out of Ardmaleish Boat Yard after there annual overhaul. **Loch Alainn** was noted hovering nearby waiting to get in for her turn. She eventually went in sometime after 1300.

UPDATE:

Loch Buie is now sitting in Rothesay harbour and **Loch Bhrusda** made for Largs and then Campbeltown to pick up crew cars and for an overnight berth respectively. She is expected to head North for relief tomorrow.

Isle of Mull is to take on crew cars at Gourrock tomorrow at 1140. She will then perform berthing trials at Ardrossan at 1515 and Brodick at 1700 in preparation to entering service on the Arran roster with the 1920 ex Brodick.

Caledonian Isles will discharge her load at 1855 at Brodick and head for Garvel dock where her annual overhaul will be carried out. She is expected to deploy her MES systems at 1100 on Friday, and remain in dock for 17-18 days for her overhaul.

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

Due to a high tide passengers arriving from Ardrossan on the 1230 & leaving on the 1350 had to use the car deck to board / alight the ferry.

27/11/07 **CLYDE:**

Isle of Mull is expected to take up the 1350 ex Brodick on Thursday from **Caledonian Isles**. She is also expected to perform trials tomorrow to finalise her preparation for the route, it will be the first time the Western Isles vessel has operated on this Clyde route.

26/11/07 **CLYDE:**

Isle of Mull continues to have work carried out on her stern ramp in JWD - a task that has been being carried out for the past few days.

COMPANY NEWS:



'**Thousands Against Sunday Ferry**' ([external link, new window](#))



Workers on Isle of Mull today

25/11/07 **CLYDE:**

Loch Shira was back at Largs at c1200 today after receiving repairs. **Loch Alainn** departed at 1245 after swapping over with her larger counterpart at 1230 and headed straight for the Wires, Gourock arriving there at 1400.



Loch Alainn and Loch Shira at Largs

24/11/07 **WESTERN ISLES:**

Isle of Arran diverted her 0700 sailing from Kennacraig this morning to Port Askaig instead of Port Ellen. She Docked at Port Askaig at 0945 then departed at 1008, this was due to adverse weather conditions.

Hebridean Isles:

UPDATE 1700:

Hebridean Isles is currently off the Garvellach Isles. It appears that she travelled via the Sound of Sleat and then Sound of Mull probably due to the bad weather.

UPDATE 2000:

Hebridean Isles arrived at Port Ellen tonight at 1923 where she will spend the night. She will then depart at 0800 tomorrow bound for Kennacraig where she will berth until her 1800 sailing tomorrow night.

Isle of Arran is due to do the timetabled sailings tomorrow then finish off in Kennacraig tomorrow night. She will then depart Kennacraig at 0700 Sunday morning bound for Port Ellen where she will take up her 0945 sailing to Kennacraig and will do the 1300 sailing to Port Askaig then finish up at Kennacraig on Sunday Night.

Monday 26th November the Islay timetable will be back to normal.

CLYDE:

Caledonian Isles appears to have suffered some kind of engine failure and had problems berthing at Ardrossan today. She eventually berthed safely at the mainland terminal on the 1350 sailing. It is possible she lost her bow thrusters & nudged into the pier before berthing. After attempting to rectify the malfunction it was decided to cancel any remaining sailings for today.



Loch Shira at the Wires today

23/11/07 **Hebridean Isles** is expected to depart Aberdeen at 0900 this morning. However as of 0930 she was still moored near Pocra Quay with newly arrived ex fleet mate **Claymore**.

UPDATE 1800:

Hebridean Isles departed Aberdeen today bound for Port Ellen her ETA is tomorrow night where she will berth overnight. She will then depart at 0700 Sunday morning bound for Kennacraig and remain there until her timetabled 1800 to Port Ellen that evening.

Isle of Arran will perform the timetabled sailings tomorrow, she will then finish off in Kennacraig tomorrow night. She is then expected to depart Kennacraig at 0700 Sunday morning bound for Port Ellen where she will take up her 0945 sailing to Kennacraig. She will also do the 1300 sailing to Port Askaig then finish up at Kennacraig on Sunday Night.

Monday 26th November the Islay timetable will be back to scheduled.

WESTERN ISLES:

There are numerous expected disruptions due tomorrow as a result of forecasted adverse weather. Please check the official disruptions page above for further updates.

› **Ullapool - Stornoway (Isle of Lewis):**

Isle of Lewis remained in Ullapool last night due to adverse weather, as a result the 0715 sailing from Stornoway this morning has been cancelled.

› **Ullapool - Stornoway Freight (Muirneag):**

The overnight freight service from Stornoway - Ullapool tonight & return tomorrow morning has been cancelled due to adverse weather.

CLYDE:

Saturn (currently on layup at Rosneath) is in the process of running her engines and making a lot of smoke as of 0950 this morning. Updates on her movements (if any) to follow.

UPDATE 1900:

No reported movements.

Isle of Mull was noted receiving attention to her stern ramp today while she nears completion of her annual overhaul in JWD. She also has a new radar set fitted in the shape of Sperry Marine similar to **Saturn's**.

Loch Alann tested her fast recovery craft this afternoon at Largs launching while she sat at the slipway.

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

Caledonian Isles is berthing in Brodick tonight due to adverse weather. Therefore the 0700 departure from Ardrossan tomorrow has been cancelled.

The first sailing, weather permitting from Ardrossan tomorrow will be 0945.

NORTHLINK FERRIES:

› **Aberdeen - Kirkwall (Hatston) - Lerwick (Hjaltland, Hrossey):**

Hrossey departed directly for Lerwick at 1650 yesterday evening omitting her call at Kirkwall due to severe weather conditions. She is expected to arrive in Lerwick c0730 this morning.

Therefore the next call at Kirkwall will be **Hrossey** tonight at 2300 en-route from Lerwick - Kirkwall - Aberdeen.

22/11/07 **Hebridean Isles** is due to depart Aberdeen tomorrow morning bound for Kennacraig after completing her annual overhaul. It is estimated to take her between 34 & 36 hours to complete the voyage round the North coast of Scotland (weather dependant).

WESTERN ISLES:

› **Ullapool - Stornoway Freight (Muirneag):**

It appears the overnight freight service ran last night but is subject to heavy delays on retuning this morning due to adverse weather.

› **Ullapool - Stornoway (Isle of Lewis):**

All sailings have been cancelled for today due to adverse weather.

Isle of Lewis will remain in Ullapool tonight, as a result the 0715 sailing from Stornoway tomorrow is also cancelled.

Please call Stornoway or Ullapool office for further details or see link above for official updates.

› **Mallaig - Eigg - Muck - Rum - Canna (Lochnevis):**

All sailings disrupted today due to adverse weather.

› **Kennacraig - Port Ellen / Port Askaig (Isle of Arran):**

Isle of Arran diverted her 1300 sailing from Kennacraig to Port Ellen today. She arrived at Port Ellen at 1545 then departed at 1615 she was 45mins late due to adverse weather and volume of traffic.

CLYDE:

Isle of Mull is due to relieve **Caledonian Isles** as of Monday 26/11/07 on the **Ardrossan - Brodick** roster for an estimated three weeks. This will allow the regular Arran vessel to receive her annual overhaul. Normally the relief is provided by the Outer Isles vessel **Clansman** but in a first the Mull vessel will stand in.

Isle of Cumbrae arrived at Largs this afternoon c1345 and briefly unloaded crew cars before heading to Rosneath for her winter layup with **Juno** and **Saturn**.



Isle of Mull in JWD today

NORTHLINK FERRIES:

› **Scrabster - Stromness (Hamnavoe):**

Hamnavoe took the alterative route from Scrabster- Stromness this morning. She sailed round the East side of Hoy as appose to the West side and past the Old Man of Hoy. This route is much more sheltered than the East side but slightly increases the passage time between ports. She sailed back via the usual East side on he return.

UPDATE 1330:

Hamnavoe departed Scrabster at 1325 and is expected in Stromness at 1455.

As a result of adverse weather the next sailing will be:

1645 dep Stromness

1815 arr Scrabster



Hamnavoe's position at 1500
Track: blue south | green north

UPDATE 1350:

Hamnavoe is again retuning via the East side of Hoy as noted above to Stromness.

UPDATE 1550:

Hamnavoe arrived in Stromness Bay at 1520 and is expected to depart at 1645 with a arrival at Scrabster of 1815.

UPDATE 2000:

Hamnavoe spent the rest of the day heading North via the East side of Hoy and South via the West.

› **Aberdeen - Kirkwall (Hatston) - Lerwick (Hjaltland, Hrossey):**

Hrossey arrived in Aberdeen at 0710 this morning and is scheduled to depart directly for Lerwick at 1700 omitting her call at Kirkwall due to severe weather conditions.

Therefore the next call at Kirkwall will be tomorrow at 2300 from Lerwick - Kirkwall - Aberdeen.

Hjaltland departed Lerwick at 1900 sailing directly for Aberdeen.

› **Aberdeen - Kirkwall (Hatston) - Lerwick Freight (Hascosay, Clare):**

UPDATE 1100:

Clare is currently en route for Lerwick, upon her ETA of 1400 she will not return as scheduled at 1800 to Aberdeen due to adverse weather predicted.

Hascosay arrived in Aberdeen at 0752 this morning and is expected to sail at 1800 directly for Lerwick.

21/11/07 **WESTERN ISLES:**

Loch Bhrusda left Ardmhor, Barra at 0950 this morning - destination unknown but it is anticipated she is heading South.

Isle of Cumbrae has now left Tobermory and is currently heading for an overnight berth at Craighouse, Jura. **Raasay** is now on the Tobermory - Kilchoan roster having been awaiting her turn patiently at the buoy.

› **Ullapool - Stornoway Freight (Muirneag):**

UPDATE 1000:

Muirneag was entering Loch Broom Ullapool bound at c0315 and was returning mid-Minch at c0630 and arrived in Stornoway at c0815 this morning.

The overnight freight service from Stornoway - Ullapool tonight & return tomorrow morning has been cancelled due to adverse weather.

CLYDE:

UPDATE 1030:

Isle of Mull has just departed Garvel dry dock in the past 30mins and moved to the wet dock.

PAST FLEET NEWS:

ex CalMac ship **Claymore**, now owned by Pentland Ferries has today sailed from Gills Bay to Aberdeen for a passenger certificate survey and minor overhaul rumoured to be in anticipation for her to operate the revised Campbeltown - Ballycastle service.

20/11/07 WESTERN ISLES:

Loch Linnhe arrived at Barra today to relieve the **Loch Bhrusda**. The smaller ship arrived at 1500 this afternoon and both vessels berthed at Ardmhor, Barra while crews prepared the vessels for their appropriate duties. **Loch Bhrusda** is due to leave Ardmhor tomorrow morning.

Isle Of Arran arrived at Port Askaig at 1520 this afternoon and departed at 1546 due to a strong tide against her on her way into Port Askaig. There was also a large volume of traffic for the sailing.

TERMINALS:

› **Oban:**

The new linkspan at **Oban** was used by **Lord of the Isles** today on returning from Craignure at 1540 and again on the outward at 1600. The new passenger gangway was not used, instead foot passengers boarded the vessel using stern ramp.



Loch Bhrusda & Loch Linnhe at Ardmhor, Barra today



Lord of the Isles at the new berth

19/11/07 WESTERN ISLES:

Clansman trailed the new linkspan berth at Oban today. She berthed bow in.

› **Kennacraig - Port Ellen / Port Askaig (Isle of Arran):**

Due to Adverse Weather the additional 1800 sailing tonight and the return sailing at 0415 tomorrow from Port Ellen have been cancelled. Normal Service will resume as per timetable tomorrow.

Saturn has had a brand new, larger and much more sophisticated main radar unit in the shape of a Sperry Marine fitted during her overhaul. **Jupiter** and **Juno** still have old ones. A lot of the fleet are due to receive new radar units this year, one reason being upgrades from CRT Displays to Flat Panel. **Lord of the Isles** had two new Furuno Radars fitted at her recent dry docking, the new 'S' band being quite different from the old Decca one. **Isle of Mull** will also receive new ones at this overhaul docking. It is unsure what kind though. It is possible that hers will not be Furunos to give the company a comparison between two different kinds.

CLYDE:

Saturn has been temporarily fitted with ribbons attached to her guide wires on her masts while she is in her lay up period. This is to help stop birds / gulls messing on her decks.



Clansman at the new berth today



Saturn's Sperry Marine radars



Saturn's new radar & ribbons

18/11/07 CLYDE:

SoC **LIVE** UPDATE 1320:

Loch Alainn and **Loch Dunvegan** are currently changing over at Rhubodach. **Loch Alainn** is due to head down to Largs later this afternoon to relieve the **Loch Shira**, while the latter goes up to Gourrock for repairs.

Loch Alainn and **Loch Shira** have now changed rosters at Largs, the latter will now presumably make for repairs at the Wires, Gourrock. It is thought that possible shaft alignment corrections and minor deck work is expected but not confirmed during this period.



Lochs Alainn & Shira today

COMPANY NEWS:

Independent Market Research to be Carried out Onboard Ferry on Stornoway - Ullapool Service

Caledonian MacBrayne has received a number of representations from certain groups wishing to see a change to the ferry timetable on Saturdays, requesting, in particular, the opportunity to return later from the mainland on Saturday evenings.

Consultation meetings have been held with various groups and with the Comhairle nan Eilean Siar but, to sound out the views of the wider community, Caledonian MacBrayne has engaged the services of an independent market research company whose staff will be travelling on MV "Isle of Lewis" this Saturday, 17 November, and for the following three consecutive Saturdays.

In addition to the current timetable, two suggested alternative timetables are being investigated, one involving a later start on Saturday mornings from Stornoway and one altering the times of Saturday afternoon sailings. No changes would take place without detailed consultation with connecting coach operators to ensure that their services would be adjusted to suit.

Caledonian MacBrayne welcomes the opportunity, now that the new contract has been signed, to consider such requests from communities in order to continue to improve timetables where possible.

Source: **CalMac** ([external link, new window](#))

17/11/07 WESTERN ISLES:

Loch Linnhe departed Campbeltown today, heading round the Mull of Kintyre and North to Craignure this evening to spend the night then presumably onto Barra.

UPDATE:

Loch Tarbert is to relieve **Loch Bhrusda** early in 2008. **Loch Linnhe** was not due to go to Barra at all this winter, as she can only carry 12 cars and they ideally need an 18-car vessel. She's also no longer due to relieve at Raasay. It is now expected that **Loch Riddon** will be doing that once she is able to get away from Iona relief. It is therefore thought that **Loch Linnhe** is on her way to cover the **Loch Bhrusda** and allow her away either for maintenance or to cover on the Sound of Harris.

› **Fionnphort - Iona (Loch Riddon):**

UPDATE 1000:

May be liable to disruption / delays due to adverse weather.

CLYDE:

Loch Alainn and **Loch Dunvegan** are due to change places tomorrow on the Kyles of Bute crossing. The later returning from her annual overhaul.

Loch Alainn will then go to spend the next 10 days or so on the Largs - Cumbræ run. **Loch Shira** will go to the wires for repairs.

Saturn and **Juno** continue to lie at Rosneath jetty. **Saturn** in a reserve mode for Clyde emergencies and **Juno** lied up awaiting her inevitable future.



Loch Alainn's novel hose reel

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

May be liable to disruption / delays due to adverse weather.



Saturn & Juno at Rosneath

16/11/07 **CLYDE:**

Loch Linnhe appeared at Rothesay, Bute last night and spend the morning receiving minor repairs to her ramps via welding. She then departed again for an overnight berth at Campbeltown.



Loch Linnhe at Rothesay

15/11/07 **CLYDE:**

Loch Dunvegan is now moored at the Wires in Gourock awaiting her return to service after her overhaul. She left JWD around 1345 and reached Gourock about half an hour later.



Loch Dunvegan at Gourock

13/11/07 **WESTERN ISLES:**

Loch Buie departed Craignure this morning at 0800 heading south for her overhaul. She was meant to spend the night at Kennacraig but she is now at Gigha. She will head round the Mull of Kintyre tomorrow morning.

➤ **Uig - Tarbert (Hebrides):**

1330 Tarbert - Uig sailing has been delayed by 30 minutes due to an earlier delay

➤ **Oban - Craignure (Lord of the Isles):**

SoC **LIVE** UPDATE 1300:

Lord of the Isles is currently running 20min late due to high winds.



SoC Live Loch Buie at Craignure this morning

CLYDE:

It appears that one of **Hebridean Isles** lifeboats has made the long road trip back from Aberdeen to the Clyde. The vessel is currently undergoing her annual overhaul in the North Eastern port and left Islay with it onboard. The fast recovery craft was sighted on the back of a trailer heading down the main road through Gourock towards CalMac HQ at the Pier.

RATHLIN FERRIES:

➤ **Ballycastle - Rathlin (Canna):**

Due to adverse weather conditions the following sailings have been cancelled:

1500 ex Rathlin - Ballycastle
1600 ex Ballycastle - Rathlin

COMPANY NEWS:

HOPES GROW FOR FERRY SERVICE TO OUTER ISLES

Hopes are high that the ferry link between Mallaig and Lochboisdale could be renewed after a lapse of over thirty years. A new steering group including representatives of both Mallaig and Uist is at present being set up to push for the service to Lochboisdale in South Uist.

Residents of Uist as well as Lochaber are very much in favour of the re-establishment of the route, which would cut travelling time considerably. The steering group will consist of MSPs and MPs, Community Councillors, Transport Executives and representatives amongst others.

Fergus Ewing MSP has already had a positive meeting with Caledonian MacBrayne at the beginning of the month and the group have now arranged to talk to Scottish Minister for Transport, Stewart Stevenson, before the end of the month.

They are still researching facts and figures in an attempt to find out why the service was not included in the new contract awarded to CalMac earlier this year, when the communities on both sides of the water have made their desires for the service known. The link would save up to three hours travelling time. The route from Oban takes over 5 hours and from Mallaig it would last just over 2 hours. The extra road time from Glasgow is only 30 minutes or so and the improvements intended for the A830, the A82 and at Crianlarich will make it an easier journey.

Source: [Road to the Isles Online](#) (external link, new window)

12/11/07 WESTERN ISLES:

Loch Riddon arrived at Fionnphort at 1025 this morning allowing the regular vessel **Loch Buie** to make for Ardmaleish and her annual overhaul. **Loch Buie** fuelled then left at 1115 heading north. She is spending tonight at Craignure before heading south for the Clyde tomorrow.

CLYDE:

Isle of Mull vacated JWD sometime mid morning today and lay off of Greenock Esplanade for a while. Once the **Loch Dunvegan** had vacated gravel Dry Dock and berthed in the JWD, the **Isle of Mull** entered dry-dock at 1250 / 1300.

Saturn departed the Wires (Gourock HQ) at 1230 for Rosneath, with **Jupiter** duly restored to service on the Gourock - Dunoon roster after repairs.

NORTHLINK FERRIES:

› Aberdeen - Hatston - Lerwick (Hjaltland, Hrossey):

Sailings delayed.

Hjaltland departed Kirkwall at 0045 and arrived in Lerwick at 0725.

The next scheduled departure from Kirkwall will be the 2345 sailing to Aberdeen on Wednesday 14 November.



SoC LIVE Lochs Buie & Riddon changing at Fionnphort 1030

11/11/07 **Hebridean Isles** passed through the Pentland Firth en route to Aberdeen at 0740 this morning. She is expected at Aberdeen c1600 this afternoon to commence her annual overhaul.

UPDATE 1640:

After loading the pilot **Hebridean Isles** was in Aberdeen Harbour by 1630.

WESTERN ISLES:

› **Kennacraig - Port Ellen / Port Askaig (Isle of Arran):**

Additional 1800 sailings on Monday 12 & 19th November and Thursday 15 & 22nd November from Kennacraig and also additional 0415 sailings on Tuesday 13 & 20th November & Friday 16 & 23rd November from Port Ellen.

Due to the ongoing pier work at Port Askaig all 1800 sailings from Kennacraig will operate to Port Ellen.

CLYDE:

Isle of Mull passed both the Island of Bute and her fleet mate **Bute** at 0815 this morning inbound for Greenock to commence her annual overhaul. **Lord of the Isles** is now performing her sailings out of Oban.

SoC LIVE UPDATE 0925:

Isle of Mull has just arrived at Gourock HQ after sailing directly from Oban overnight.

Later in the morning she deployed her side cute and fast rescue craft for testing purposes.



A few shots of various movements around the Clyde today

1) Jupiter & Saturn at Gourock 2) Isle of Mull just arrived in JWD 3) Coruisk and IoM in JWD

TERMINALS:

› **Kennacraig:**

UPDATE on 04/11/07 News Report.

Following the landslip on the A83 between Arrochar and Cairndow at Rest and be Thankful (Marked **RED** on map), the road has now been cleared in one direction and is open to traffic. It is however traffic lighted and single carriageway so passengers heading for Islay still need to take a little extra time to reach the terminal.

10/11/07 As part of the Island class overhaul it appears the car decks are being sprayed and coated with a non slip surface as found on some of the larger fleet's passenger decks. Loch Riddon is the latest example of this safety initiative.

WESTERN ISLES:

Hebridean Isles departed Kennacraig this Morning bound for Aberdeen her ETA at the Eastern port is 1600 on Sunday 11th November.

Isle of Arran has taken up the **Hebridean Isles** roster for the Islay Run.

Lord of the Isles is due to relieve **Isle of Mull** at 1600 on Saturday. **Lord of the Isles** will take the 1600 to Craignure while **Isle of Mull** will then move to Craignure until 2200 before leaving for the Clyde. Her ETA for Gourock is currently 0900 Sunday.

› **Kennacraig - Port Ellen / Port Askaig (Isle of Arran):**

SERVICE REMINDER:

1720 Monday ex Kennacraig - Port Askaig

0700 Tuesday ex Port Askaig - Kennacraig

These sailings will operate to and from Port Ellen until further notice due to the ongoing Pier Work at Port Askaig.

CLYDE:

SoC LIVE UPDATE 1315:

Loch Alainn is now in Rothesay Bay and beginning to make her way to Rhubodach after repairs to free a trapped object at Ardmaleish boat yard.

SoC LIVE UPDATE 1415:

Loch Riddon is now leaving Rhubodach after swapping over with **Loch Alainn** and heading out through the narrows possibly for Lochranza or Campbeltown.



Loch Alainn & Loch Riddon changing at Bute today

› **Gourock - Dunoon (Jupiter, AliCat, Relief: Saturn):**

UPDATE 0845:

Vehicle sailings cancelled for today due to technical reasons.

Jupiter left Gourock on her first roistered sailing to Dunoon at 0650 but suffered problems en-route and returned light to Gourock at 0800 after berthing at Dunoon.

A passenger only service will be resumed on arrival of the **AliCat**.

UPDATE 1000:

AliCat has now arrived and as a result the service is currently operating as passenger only. **Jupiter's** crew have secured her alongside CalMac HQ and have journeyed across to Rosneath (presumably on the Kilcreggan ferry) to make ready **Saturn**. **Saturn** then left Rosneath at 1155 and would appear to be going to replace her older fleet mate.

UPDATE 1230:

AliCat performed the 1020, 1120 and the 1220 Gourock - Dunoon passenger only.

UPDATE 1300:

Saturn appears to be on station now as of 1230 to provide vehicle traffic with a crossing. She left Gourock at c1325 en route for Dunoon.

Normal service resumed.

09/11/07 All passenger sailing are now back on schedule after yesterdays cancelations due to adverse weather.

WESTERN ISLES:

Hebridean Isles arrived in at Port Ellen at 2030 tonight, she will depart at 0415 tomorrow bound for Kennacraig. She will then lye at Kennacraig until she departs for dry dock.

Isle of Arran will depart Kennacraig at 0700 bound for Port Ellen, she will then commence the winter **Hebridean Isles** roster.

› **Ullapool - Stornoway Freight (Muirneag):**

Tonight's sailing may be cancelled due to adverse weather in the Minch.

CLYDE:

Loch Alainn departed Gourock at 0900 bound for Ardmaleish boat yard where she will undergo her annual overhaul. She had to wait for about an hour outside while the Corran Ferry **Corran** made ready for her departure.

Lord of the Isles is still in James Watt Dock this morning at 1145 after her overhaul. It is expected she will leave tonight at the latest and journey direct to Oban to relieve the **Isle of Mull**.

UPDATE 1600:

Lord of the Isles departed JWD around 1400 and was noted passing Wemyss Bay at 1500 heading south. She is now passing Brodick on Arran with a eta to Oban of 0200 tomorrow.

NORTHLINK FERRIES:

All passenger sailing are now back on schedule after yesterday's cancellations due to adverse weather.

› **Aberdeen - Hatston - Lerwick Freight (Hascosay, Clare):**

Hascosay arrived in Aberdeen at 0428 yesterday morning, her estimated time of Departure is 0900 this morning with an ETA in Lerwick of 2200 this evening. Loading was commenced last night in anticipation of this departure. **Clare** arrived in Lerwick at 0810 yesterday and has a estimated time of departure of 0700 to 0800 hours this morning dependant on ongoing weather conditions. Loading was due to commence yesterday afternoon in anticipation of this departure.



Hamnavoe arriving in a slightly calmer Stromness 1045 this morning

08/11/07 Due to gale force winds resulting in adverse weather conditions on the West Coast and in the Northern Isles, most of today's sailings have been disrupted or cancelled.

Main List Updated at 1000, further updates as annotated.

WESTERN ISLES:

› **Ullapool - Stornoway (Isle of Lewis):**

All sailings cancelled today due to adverse weather in the Minch.

› **Ullapool - Stornoway Freight (Muirneag):**

All sailings cancelled today due to adverse weather in the Minch.

› **Berneray - Leverburgh (Loch Portain):**

Due to adverse weather conditions the following sailings have been cancelled:

0800 ex Berneray - Leverburgh

0920 ex Leverburgh to Berneray

Will review afternoon sailings at 1300 today.

UPDATE 1230:

Due to continuing adverse weather conditions all sailings have been cancelled today.

› **Barra - Eriskay (Loch Bhrusda):**

Due to adverse weather conditions the following sailings have been cancelled:

0715 ex Barra - Eriskay

0820 ex Eriskay - Barra

0925 ex Barra - Eriskay

1030 ex Eriskay - Barra

The next review for this service will take place at approx 1200.

UPDATE 1200:

Due to continuing adverse weather conditions the following sailings have been cancelled:

1230 ex Barra - Eriskay

1410 ex Eriskay - Barra

UPDATE 1530:

Due to continuing adverse weather conditions all sailings have been cancelled today.

› **Mallaig - Armadale (Lochnevis):**

This service is currently suspended due to adverse weather conditions, the situation will be reviewed at 1400.

UPDATE 1400:

Due to continuing adverse weather conditions the following sailings have been cancelled:

1600 ex Mallaig - Armadale

› **Mallaig - Eigg - Muck - Rum - Canna (Lochnevis):**

All sailings cancelled today due to adverse weather.

› **Tobermory - Kilchoan (Raasay):**

Cancelled due to adverse weather, update due at 1500.

UPDATE 1530:

Due to continuing adverse weather conditions all sailings have been cancelled today.

› **Lochaline - Fishnish (Loch Fyne):**

Disrupted / delayed due to adverse weather.

The next attempt will be at 1045 ex Lochaline and 1110 ex Fishnish.

› **Fionnphort - Iona (Loch Buie):**

This service is currently suspended due to adverse weather conditions, the situation will be reviewed at 1200.

› **Oban - Caignure (Isle of Mull):**

Isle of Mull is currently berthed at Caignure.

Due to adverse weather conditions the following sailings have been cancelled:

1100 ex Caignure - Oban

1200 ex Oban - Caignure

The situation will be reviewed at 1230.

UPDATE 1400:

Due to continuing adverse weather conditions the following sailings have been cancelled:

1300 ex Caignure - Oban

1400 ex Oban - Caignure

The situation will be reviewed at 1430 for a possible departure from Caignure at 1500.

UPDATE 1530:

Isle of Mull departed Caignure bound for Oban at 1525 and is currently en route for the mainland.

› **Kennacraig - Port Ellen / Port Askaig (Hebridean Isles, Isle of Arran):**

Hebridean Isles arrived at Port Ellen this morning at 0945, 25mins late due to adverse weather. She departed at 0955.

Isle of Arran departed Port Ellen this afternoon at 1420 due to adverse weather.

Hebridean Isles diverted her 1300 sailing to Port Ellen this afternoon due to adverse weather plus the swell in the sound.



Hebridean Isles departing a windy Port Ellen today

› **Tayinloan - Gigha (Loch Ranza):**

UPDATE 1420:

Due to adverse weather conditions **Loch Ranza** departed Gigha at 1405 if she is able to land at Tayinloan she will then depart Tayinloan again at 1430 back to Gigha where she will tie up for the remainder of today.

Cancelled sailings:

1500 ex Tayinloan - Gigha

1530 ex Gigha - Tayinloan

1635 ex Tayinloan - Gigha

1705 ex Gigha - Tayinloan

1735 ex Tayinloan - Gigha

Normal Service will resume as per timetable tomorrow, weather permitting.

CLYDE:

Lord of the Isles is due to depart James Watt Dock, Greenock tomorrow morning at c1100 (weather dependant).

She is expected to sail direct to Oban with no calls at company HQ in Gourrock as is the usual fro such overhaul completions.

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

This service is currently suspended due to adverse weather conditions, the situation will be reviewed at 1500.

UPDATE 1330:

There will be a 1515 sailing from Ardrossan to Brodick.

The 1640 departure from Brodick and the remainder of the sailings today may be subject to disruption or cancellations due to adverse weather conditions.

UPDATE 1500:

Crew at Ardrossan are about to attempt to fit four sailings of bookings on to one boat for a 1515 departure.

Bookings have now closed for tomorrow suggesting that the weather is not particularly optimistic for tomorrow. Sailings are also presumably backlogged from today.

› **Wemyss Bay - Rothesay (Bute, Argyle):**

Most sailings today have been liable to slight disruption / delays due to adverse weather.

› **Largs - Cumbrae (Loch Shira, Loch):**

UPDATE 1200:

May be liable to disruption / delays due to adverse weather.

RATHLIN FERRIES:

› **Ballycastle - Rathlin (Canna):**

All sailings cancelled today due to adverse weather.

NORTHLINK FERRIES:

› **Kirkwall (Hatston) - Lerwick (Hjaltland):**

Due to severe weather conditions the 2345 sailing has been cancelled. Further sailings are under review.

› **Aberdeen - Hatston - Lerwick (Hjaltland):**

Hjaltland arrived in Aberdeen at 0645 this morning.

Due to severe weather conditions the 1700 sailing has been cancelled. Further sailings are under review.

› **Lerwick - Hatston - Aberdeen (Hrossey):**

Hrossey arrived in Lerwick at 0730 this morning.

Due to severe weather conditions the 1900 sailing has been cancelled. Further sailings are under review.

› **Scrabster - Stromness (Hamnavoe):**

Hamnavoe is currently berthed in Stromness.

All sailings cancelled today due to adverse weather.

PAST FLEET NEWS:



Caledonian Isles made fast at Ardrossan today



SoC Live Ferry traffic at 1600 in Brodick awaiting the Caley Isles



Loch Shira battling on today

On this day in 2005, Craignure gangway was damaged last night resulting in passengers boarding / alighting via the car deck ramps on the Oban - Craignure crossing. **And in 2003**, it was reported in today's Herald that CalMac are to abolish the position of Purser on their vessels.

07/11/07 WESTERN ISLES:

› **Ullapool - Stornoway (Isle of Lewis):**

UPDATE 1100:

There is the possibility of a disruption to service tomorrow due to adverse weather predicted in the Minch.

› **Ullapool - Stornoway Freight (Muirneag):**

UPDATE 1100:

Freight service from Stornoway - Ullapool & return on 07/11/2007 has been cancelled due to adverse weather.

CLYDE:

Loch Riddon was back on her original route at Colintraive today covering for **Loch Alainn**. **Loch Alainn** has suffered a tangled rope or similar around her machinery and is currently at Gourrock for repairs.



Loch Riddon at Rhubodach Today

NORTHLINK FERRIES:

› **Scrabster - Stromness (Hamnavoe):**

Early sailings disrupted due to weather, see yesterday's news for details.

UPDATE 0930:

Route running to schedule

Hamnavoe is currently berthed in Stromness.

The next scheduled sailing is due to depart Stromness at 1100 to arrive in Scrabster at 1230.

06/11/07 WESTERN ISLES:

Raasay sailed today from Port Askaig at 1235 bound for Tobermory and is due to arrive near 1930 tonight. She has completed her brief charter for the *Eilean Dhiura* at Jura. (See Yesterday's News)

NORTHLINK FERRIES:

› **Scrabster - Stromness (Hamnavoe):**

Hamnavoe departed Scrabster at 1930 and is expected to arrive in Stromness at 2100 this evening.

Due to adverse weather conditions and in the interest of passenger safety and comfort, the following sailings have been cancelled on Wednesday 7th November (tomorrow):

0630 ex Stromness - Scrabster

0845 ex Scrabster - Stromness

The following sailings are under review and a decision will be made at 0800:

1100 ex Stromness - Scrabster

1315 ex Scrabster - Stromness

Vehicle and Passenger check-in still opens 90 minutes prior to departure and closes 30 minutes prior to departure.

05/11/07 WESTERN ISLES:

Raasay arrived at Port Askaig at 1300 today for a brief charter to take up the **Port Askaig - Jura** ferry run for the regular Council owned vessel **Eilean Dhiura**. The regular ferry having been off since Saturday with bow ramp hydraulic issues.

› **Oban - Colonsay - Oban (Isle of Mull):**

Sailing cancelled for today due to adverse weather.

The next sailing from Oban - Colonsay - Oban will be Wednesday 07/11/07 at 1200.



Raasay at Jura today

04/11/07 CLYDE:

Loch Linnhe left Largs this morning about 0645 heading north.

Loch Riddon is currently Lying at Rothesay having finished her overhaul. She is due to head north to Iona and relive **Loch Buie** for her annual overhaul towards the end of next week.

Loch Dunvegan is in currently receiving shot blasting to her underside. She will be out for the arrival of **Isle of Mull**.

WESTERN ISLES:

Raasay is now not heading directly for overhaul / repairs at Corpach. She is to spend the next two weeks relieving the Islay - Jura council owned ferry.

Loch Buie is due for her annual overhaul at Ardmaleish on the 12th of November.

› **New Islay Ferry Update**

A few more details on the new build due in spring 2011.

There is to be an outside viewing area overlooking the bow accessed from the upper deck restaurant. The main deck forward is crew accommodation etc.

There will be outside decks overlooking car deck - similar to Argyle and Bute and upstairs (which from the diagram look to be level with bridge, so obviously it will not go all the way forward.)



New Islay ferry profile

TERMINALS:

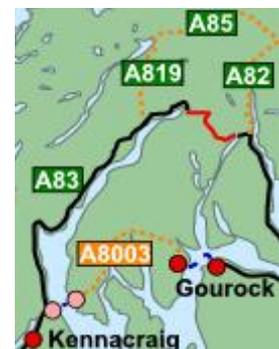
› **Kennacraig:**

Following the landslip on the A83 between Arrochar and Cairndow at Rest and be Thankful (Marked **RED** on map) on Sunday 28th October engineers from Transerve Scotland said on Friday that the road would remain closed for the foreseeable future. Road engineers are on site but it is too dangerous to work on and bad weather is making the situation worse. Transerve Scotland has staff on site but is unable to begin work to re-open the road.

Passengers who are travelling to Kennacraig for the Caledonian MacBrayne ferry service to Islay should allow up to forty minutes extra travelling time as the diversion involves a 25-mile loop detour.

Suggested Option 1: Take the A82 north to Crianlarich and then head up for Tyndrum. Head west to Dalmally on the A85 and then take the A813 south to Inveraray where drivers will gain access to the A83.

Suggested Option 2: Take the CalMac ferry from Gourock to Dunoon and head north on the A815 through Strachur or head for Portavadie and take the CalMac ferry to Tarbert via the B836, A886 and A8003 through Tighnabruaich.



Source: The Herald, 02/11/07 | Additional Information: Duncan Wilson | Map: Ships of CalMac



PAST FLEET NEWS: Isle of Arran making headway to Islay in a winter storm. February this year

03/11/07 CLYDE:

Isle of Cumbrae left Rosneath at lunchtime and sailed to Largs arriving at about 1600 where she briefly lay at the slip until **Loch Shira** came in. She collected a couple of crew cars and lay on the outside the **Loch Linnhe** on the outside of the pier until about 1615 before heading south. She's due to relieve the **Raasay** which possibly requires repairs. **Loch Linnhe** called in at Rhudodach at around 1400 prior to crossing over to Largs. She dropped off crew cars while **Loch Alainn** was over at Colintraive.



Two lochs & IoC at Largs today



Lord of the Isles in James Watt Dock today completing her overhaul
1) welders working on stern 2) Coruisk tied up astern 3) bow complete

02/11/07 WESTERN ISLES:

Loch Linnhe went from Craignure to Oban this morning for fuel and is now headed down towards Islay - hopefully passing via Port Askaig but may go down the Sound of Jura.

CLYDE:

› **Gourock - Dunoon (AliCat, Jupiter):**

Currently disrupted / delayed due to volume of vehicle traffic on service.

COMPANY NEWS:

Caledonian MacBrayne Welcomes New Ferry for Islay...

Ferry operator Caledonian MacBrayne has welcomed the confirmation today (Friday, November 2, 2007) by asset owning company Caledonian Maritime Assets Ltd that a new ferry will become available on the routes serving Islay from the mainland within four years.

The new ship, which will cost a total of £24.5 million will be built by the Remontowa yard in Gdansk, Poland, and delivery is expected in spring, 2011. The Remontowa yard has already completed two highly successful ferries operated by CalMac on the route from Wemyss Bay to Rothesay, MV Argyle and MV Bute.

CalMac's Managing Director, Lawrie Sinclair said: "The new ship will enable CalMac to provide the additional capacity on the routes from Kennacraig to Islay which is required to meet the demand of a

booming economy and to offer improved services to local residents, businesses and tourists.

CalMac has consulted extensively with the local community to establish the best level and type of service to be offered. It was very important that we took every opportunity to consult and explain the type of vessel we had in mind and the facilities she will have. The community became involved in the process of achieving the desired outcome at an early stage, and we are confident that we will be able to operate a very high level of service with the new vessel, along with another ship, giving the island the level of service it needs.”

The ship will be 89.90m long and capable of 16.5 knots. She will be a modern Ro-Ro Euro Class B passenger vessel designed to carry 550 passengers, up to 88 cars, as well as coaches, cars and commercial vehicles. The vessel will also be capable of carrying dangerous goods.

Passengers will be accommodated on two well-appointed decks, with access gained at the lower of the two from an enclosed passenger gangway. and modern, comfortable facilities. The design and quality of the passenger accommodation will match the new standards set by the two ships previously built at the Remontowa yard and according to CalMac will provide Islay with a ship to match the islanders’ aspirations. There will be two lifts, one on each side of the ship, to all decks. The ship will also be built in line with DPTAC guidance on facilities for customers whose mobility is impaired.

01/11/07 WESTERN ISLES:

Loch Linnhe changed over with **Raasay** today.

CLYDE:

Isle of Cumbrae arrived at Rosneath jetty this morning.

Loch Alainn is now in service on the Colintraive - Rhubodach route after departing Campbeltown c0700 having sailed via the Kilbrannan Sound to Bute. She changed over with **Loch Dunvegan** at 1130 at Rhubodach after she berthed at Colintraive briefly this morning. The latter is now berthed at the wires in Gourrock next to **Coruisk**.

UPDATE:

Loch Dunvegan is now at James watt Dock getting ready for her annual overhaul.



Two lochs at Rhubodach today

MAJOR VESSEL OVERHAUL PLAN:

An update on the major units overhaul plan so far...

VESSEL	VESSEL TO COVER	DOCK YARD	ENTER DOCK	EXIT DOCK
Lord of the Isles	N/A	Garvel (Clyde)	22/10/07	08/11/07
Hebridean Isles	Isle of Arran	Aberdeen	12/11/07	22/11/07
Isle of Mull	Lord of the Isles	Garvel (Clyde)	12/11/07	22/11/07
Lochnevis	Ullin of Staffa	Garvel (Clyde)	16/10/07	30/10/07
Caledonian Isles	Isle of Mull	Garvel (Clyde) TBC	26/11/07	13/12/07
Isle of Lewis	Clansman	Garvel (Clyde)	07/01/08	24/01/08
Clansman	N/A	Garvel (Clyde) TBC*	28/01/08	14/02/08
Hebrides	Clansman	?	25/02/08	13/03/08
Isle of Arran	N/A	?	28/01/08	14/02/08

* Also in for fuel conversion similar to Hebrides

TBC - To Be Confirmed

PAST FLEET NEWS:

On this day in 2003, much favoured CalMac vessel **Pioneer** made her final trip round the Small isles

leaving her name tagged on the rocks as a permanent reminder to her visits there.

OTHER NEWS:

 **New Plane Planned For Beach Strip** (external link, opens in new window)

DATE NEWS

31/12/07 CLYDE:

Loch Tarbert came back to life this afternoon and she left Rosneath to move to Campbeltown via Largs for crew cars. She will lie in Campbeltown over the New Year and is due to relieve **Loch Ranza** on Thursday or Friday this week

30/12/07 WESTERN ISLES:

Loch Striven set off on her journey south this morning. She spent the night alongside Raasay pier with **Loch Linnhe** alongside her, ready to keep the service running. As yet we are unsure what the problem with **Loch Striven** is.

Update: A small CalMac vessel was reported in the vicinity of the Garvellachs at around 2100. We believe this is the **Loch Striven** continuing her long journey back to the Clyde for repairs.



Loch Linnhe alongside Loch Striven

29/12/07 WESTERN ISLES:

Loch Striven is suffering from technical problems today. **Loch Linnhe** was summoned from Tobermory and was seen passing Eigg late this morning. She entered service on the Sconser - Raasay service from 1500 this afternoon. We have heard that **Loch Striven** will be needing repairs that cannot be carried out in situ.

CLYDE:

Loch Shira spent last night at the wires in Gourock, as confirmed by our SoC Forum member Balephuil Bay (who was looking out of his window at 0125)



Loch Linnhe passing Eigg en route for Raasay

28/12/07 CLYDE:

Caledonian Isles is spending tonight in Brodick; her 1920 sailing to Ardrossan being cancelled. As a result her 0700 sailing tomorrow is cancelled and the vessel will pick up her schedule with the 0820 from Brodick.

27/12/07 CLYDE:

Argyle and Bute started this morning by sailing to Gourock instead of Wemyss Bay. Sailings from the island were at 0800 and 0930, with returns from Gourock 90 minutes later. The situation was to be reviewed at 1000.

Update - Wemyss Bay service back to normal with the delayed 1215 service ex Wemyss Bay.
Further update - 1515 ex Wemyss Bay cancelled - service liable to disruption for the rest of the day.

WESTERN ISLES:

Lochnevis did not sail to Armadale on her morning run today. Her Small Isles service was also liable to disruption due to the weather, however we believe she did manage to get to Rum and Canna, as well as her afternoon run to Skye.

Both **Isle of Arran** and **Hebridean Isles** were diverted to Port Askaig due to the weather.

25/12/07 No sailings today on the west coast of Scotland, however **Canna** is scheduled to do one return sailing from Rathlin as part of her regular duties.

24/12/07 **WESTERN ISLES:**

As part of the pre Christmas movements in the Oban area, all three large vessels have been in service. **Isle of Mull** came off duty after her arrival in Oban at 1145 to make way for **Lord of the Isles** taking the 1200 sailing to Colonsay. **Isle of Mull** is spending Christmas at Oban berth No 1, **Clansman** at berth No 2 and **Lord of the Isles** is out of the way at Craignure.

Loch Striven relieved **Loch Linnhe** at Raasay earlier today. **Loch Linnhe** has returned to Tobermory for Christmas.

23/12/07 **WESTERN ISLES:**

Loch Portain and **Loch Bhrusda** are both remaining tied up today with no sailings being carried out due to the high winds expected today. **Clansman** is also delayed until midnight tonight on her Oban – Castlebay – Lochboisdale run. She will reach Lochboisdale at 0700 tomorrow morning in time to pick up the return leg as per timetable.

Hebridean Isles was delayed by 20 minutes due to high winds while en route for Port Ellen this evening. She was 20 minutes late in.

Lord of the Isles was putting her day off to good use this afternoon and she was observed carrying out fire, abandon ship and lifeboat drills. Her fast rescue craft was seen being launched at one point later on in the afternoon.

Loch Striven made it as far as Tobermory and she is spending tonight on Mull. She will return to Raasay tomorrow and resume her regular service

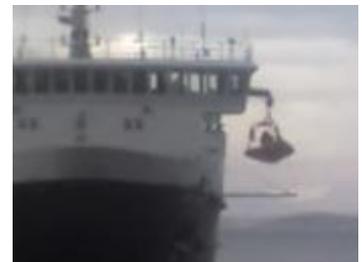
22/12/07 **CLYDE:**

Loch Striven left Rothesay today and made for Campbeltown where she is staying overnight. She will continue her journey back north tomorrow

19/12/07 **Isle of Mull** left Ardrossan at around 0730 this morning and is making her way to Oban.

UPDATE 1230:

Isle of Mull is in the Sound of Islay and is approaching Port Askaig



SoC LIVE Lord of the Isles testing her FRC



SoC LIVE Isle of Mull off Port Askaig



Relief in the Western Isles: Loch Linnhe off Sconser, Lochnevis at Armadale and Raasay at Tobermory

18/12/07 CLYDE:

Bute became the first vessel to commence loading at Rothesay's new linkspan this evening. After many years of talking, the prospect of full drive-through operation is now at last a reality, with vessels using their stern ramps at Rothesay and continuing to berth bow-in at Wemyss Bay. The linkspan now becomes the main berth, while the old side-loading berth becomes the overnight berth for the 2a vessel.

14/12/07 WESTERN ISLES:

For the third morning running the 0700 to Port Ellen did not go to Port Ellen. The **Isle Of Arran's** 0945hrs from Kennacraig did however go to Port Ellen as scheduled

13/12/07 WESTERN ISLES:

Hebridean Isles was again diverted to Port Askaig with this morning's sailing, as was **Isle of Arran**.

12/12/07 WESTERN ISLES:

The **Hebridean Isles'** 0700 sailing from Kennacraig was diverted to Port Askaig today due to strong southerly winds. She arrived Port Askaig at 0930.

The **Isle of Arran's** 0945 from Kennacraig to Port Ellen was also diverted to Port Askaig due to the continued strong winds. After unloading on Islay at 1245 she then left the berth so the **Eilean Dhiura** could use the linkspan and then the **Heb Isles** at 1530hrs. **Isle of Arran** anchored in Bunnahabhain Bay until she was ready to sail back to Port Askaig for the 1800hrs departure for Kennacraig.



SoC LIVE Isle of Arran in Bunnahabhain Bay this evening

09/12/07 WESTERN ISLES:

Oban - Coll - Tiree (Clansman):

Clansman failed to berth at Tiree but did manage to berth at Coll due to adverse weather conditions. The next sailing from Oban will be Tuesday 11/12/07 at 0645 and from Tiree at 1100 as scheduled.

CLYDE:

Ardrossan - Brodick (Isle of Mull):

Due to an adverse weather forecast later today, this service may be the subject of disruptions or cancellations.

NORTHLINK FERRIES:

Aberdeen - Kirkwall (Hatston) - Lerwick (Hjaltland, Hrossey)

Hjaltland arrived in Lerwick at 0730 this morning, due to weather conditions at Aberdeen harbour she is scheduled for a delayed roster as follows:

2200 dep Lerwick

* 1000 - 1200 arr Aberdeen

Due to tidal conditions the 1700 sailing of the **Hrossey** from Aberdeen to Hatston and Lerwick has been

delayed and will operate as follows:

0000 dep Aberdeen

* 0700 arr Kirkwall (Hatston)

* 0800 dep Kirkwall (Hatston)

* 1400 arr Lerwick

* Tomorrow

All times estimates depending on weather conditions.

08/12/07 WESTERN ISLES:

Ardmhor - Eriskay (Loch Bhrusda):

The remaining sailings: 1710 and 1815 have been cancelled due to adverse weather - there are no more sailings today.

Fionnphort - Iona (Loch Buie):

Due to adverse weather conditions the last sailing today will be the 1430 ex Iona.

Kennacraig - Port Ellen / Port Askaig (Hebridean Isles, Isle of Arran):

Hebridean Isles timetabled 1300 sailing from Kennacraig today was diverted to Port Ellen due to the Jura ferry occupying the berth. The council vessel could not get off her berth at Port Askaig due to the high winds in the Sound of Islay which was a good 45-50knts.

She arrived at Port Ellen at 1530 then departed at 1550, the wind was also strong in Port Ellen today.

UPDATE 2200:

Isle of Arran departed Kennacraig tonight at 1720 as timetabled and was due in at Port Ellen at 1940.

However, due to the adverse weather she did not berth at Port Ellen until c2130.

She had to wait off the Pier until the wind which was gusting at 50knts died down before berthing safely. The average wind speed was 45knts on Islay today. The average gusting wind was 53knts. Today was one of the windiest days Islay has had for a long time. Coupled with a heavy sea swell the two ferries retained a cancellation-free yet safe service to the island today, hats off to the crews!

CLYDE:

Tarbert - Lochranza / Portavadie (Loch Tarbert):

UPDATE 1145:

Due to the adverse weather this service has been cancelled for the remainder of the day.

Ardrossan - Brodick (Isle of Mull):

UPDATE 1030:

The 0530 ex Brodick additional sailing ran this morning & left about 20 cars.

The 0820 ex Brodick ran & left possibly more but at least 20 cars.

The 0945 sailing is just arriving in Brodick from Ardrossan. **Isle of Mull** is running 40mins late with volume of traffic & foot passengers using the car deck.

This service may be liable to disruption or cancellation throughout the day due to adverse weather.

UPDATE 1130:

The 1105 ex Brodick headed to Ardrossan 40mins late. **Isle of Mull** appeared to clear all the backlogged traffic on the sailing.

UPDATE 1800:

This service is currently running 35mins late due to volume of traffic.

Due to adverse weather conditions, there will be no 1920 service. All other sailings will be operating to timetable.

07/12/07 WESTERN ISLES:

The severe wind has also caused disruption with the Skye Bridge - the road has been shut for considerable

periods for safety reasons over the last few days. A warning still remains for caution when crossing.

Ullapool - Stornoway (Isle of Lewis):

1030 sailing delayed until 1200 due to adverse weather.

Schedule for rest of the day will be reviewed on a sailing by sailing basis.

UPDATE 1520:

Isle of Lewis appears to have left Ullapool slightly earlier than her anticipated delayed departure of 1200, she was at the mouth of Loch Broom by 1220. Her return departed Stornoway just after 1500 bound for Ullapool.

Ardmhor - Eriskay (Loch Bhrusda):

The 0925 from Barra and the return 1030 from Eriskay are now cancelled.

The next update will be at 1200.

Mallaig - Armadale (Lochnevis):

Is liable to disruption due to adverse weather condition. Some earlier sailings cancelled.

Fionnphort - Iona (Loch Buie):

Disrupted / delayed due to adverse weather.

CLYDE:

Largs - Cumbrae Slip (Loch Shira):

Is liable to disruption due to adverse weather condition.

Ardrossan - Brodick (Isle of Mull):

Due to an adverse weather forecast later today, this service may be the subject of disruptions or cancellations.

UPDATE 1400:

1350 from Brodick and the 1515 from Ardrossan have been cancelled.

A review regarding the 1640 will be made at 1600.

UPDATE 1600:

Due to continuing adverse weather conditions the 1640 sailing from Brodick has been cancelled.

There will be no further sailings on this route today.

The next sailing weather permitting will be an unscheduled sailing at 0530 tomorrow.

RATHLIN FERRIES:

Ballycastle - Rathlin Island (Canna):

Disrupted / delayed due to adverse weather.

Due to adverse weather the 1500 from Rathlin & 1630 ex Ballycastle have been cancelled.

06/12/07 WESTERN ISLES:

Ullapool - Stornoway (Isle of Lewis):

UPDATE 1445:

The 1715 sailing between Ullapool and Stornoway has been cancelled.

Therefore the 0715 sailing between Stornoway and Ullapool tomorrow morning has also been cancelled.

Ardmhor - Eriskay (Loch Bhrusda):

The remaining sailings: 1710 and 1815 have been cancelled due to adverse weather - there are no more sailings today.

Oban - Lochboisdale - Castlebay (Clansman):

Possible disruption due to adverse weather forecast today.

UPDATE 1330:

Due to adverse weather conditions today's sailing has been cancelled.
The next sailing will be tomorrow at 0930 as per timetable.

Fionnphort - Iona (Loch Buie):

Disrupted / delayed due to adverse weather.

UPDATE 1600:

The 1800 and 1810 Return have been cancelled due to the adverse weather.

Mallaig - Armadale (Lochnevis):

Is liable to disruption due to adverse weather condition.

UPDATE 1445:

1600 ex Mallaig - Armadale has been cancelled due to adverse weather conditions.

Mallaig - Rhum - Canna - Muck - Eigg (Lochnevis):

Is liable to disruption due to adverse weather conditions. A call at Canna may be unlikely due to berthing conditions.

CLYDE:

Wemyss Bay - Rothesay (Argyle, Bute):

Is liable to disruption due to adverse weather condition.

UPDATE 1330:

Due to technical problems with **Bute** there will be a one vessel service operating from Wemyss Bay to Rothesay.

The following temporary timetable is in effect using the **Argyle**:

1300 dep Wemyss Bay - Rothesay

1345 dep Rothesay - Wemyss Bay

1430 dep Wemyss Bay - Rothesay

1515 dep Rothesay - Wemyss Bay

1600 dep Wemyss Bay - Rothesay

1645 dep Rothesay - Wemyss Bay

Service Information will be updated at 1600.

Ardrossan - Brodick (Isle of Mull):

Due to an adverse weather forecast later today, this service may be the subject of disruptions or cancellations.

UPDATE 1200:

The 1105 ex Brodick departed 10mins late due to volume of traffic.

Brodick Pier are advising people that the weather is closing in and the captain is unsure if the 1640 will sail this afternoon for safety reasons.

Anyone wanting to get away today is being advised to leave on the 1350.

UPDATE 1230:

Due to the deteriorating weather conditions the 1920 sailing from Brodick has been cancelled.

Passengers intending to travel on 1640 sailing should travel on 1350 and the 1800 from Ardrossan on the 1515.

UPDATE 1330:

Due to the deteriorating weather conditions the 1350 sailing from Brodick and the 1515 sailing from Ardrossan have been cancelled.

The situation will be reviewed at 1600 although the weather is expected to worsen this afternoon.

UPDATE 1600:

Due to the continuing adverse weather conditions there will be no further sailings on this route today.

As a result of **Isle of Mull** berthing in Brodick overnight the 0700 sailing from Ardrossan tomorrow has also been cancelled

NORTHLINK FERRIES:**Scrabster - Stromness (Hamnavoe)**

Hamnavoe departed Stromness at 0900 to arrive in Scrabster at 1030.

Due to adverse weather conditions the following revised timetable will operate today:

Depart Stromness 0900 Depart Scrabster 1315

Depart Stromness 1645 Depart Scrabster 1900

UPDATE 1500:

Hamnavoe arrived in Stromness at 1445. The next Scheduled sailing will leave Stromness at 1645 arriving in Scrabster at 1815.

Due to adverse weather conditions the 0630 sailing from Stromness and the 0845 sailing from Scrabster are cancelled tomorrow.

All further sailings will operate as scheduled.

Aberdeen - Kirkwall (Hatston) - Lerwick (Hjaltland, Hrossey)

Hjaltland arrived in Aberdeen at 0700 and is scheduled for departure at 1700 sailing for Hatston and Lerwick.

The Northbound call to Kirkwall (Hatston) is subject to cancellation dependant on weather conditions in Orkney at the scheduled time of arrival.

If able to berth, **Hjaltland** is scheduled to depart from Kirkwall (Hatston) at 2345 sailing to Lerwick.

05/12/07 WESTERN ISLES:

Loch Buie is now back at Iona after making the dash from Craignure earlier today. **Loch Riddon** is expected to head south - destination unclear at the moment.

Ullapool - Stornoway (Isle of Lewis):

Is liable to disruption due to adverse weather conditions.

UPDATE 1300:

Isle of Lewis is currently mid-Minch making for Stornoway.

1345 sailing ex Stornoway & 1715 sailing ex Ullapool have been cancelled due to adverse weather.

Ullapool - Stornoway, Freight (Muirneag):

Delayed due to adverse weather.

Uig - Lochmaddy (Hebrides):**UPDATE 1030:**

Disrupted due to adverse weather conditions. Amended timetable operating as follows:

0940 dep Uig

1125 arr Lochmaddy

1135 dep Lochmaddy

1510 arr Uig (via Tarbert, Harris)

1530 dep Uig

1710 arr Lochmaddy

All is weather permitting and all times subject to change. Please check official site above for current information.

UPDATE 1300:

Hebrides is currently nearing Tarbert on her revised timetable (see above).

Ardmhor - Eriskay (Loch Bhrusda):

The remaining sailings: 1710 and 1815 have been cancelled due to adverse weather - there are no more sailings today.

Mallaig - Armadale (Lochnevis):

Is liable to disruption due to adverse weather condition.

UPDATE 1445:

Remaining sailings cancelled due to adverse weather conditions.

Mallaig - Rhum - Canna - Muck - Eigg (Lochnevis):

Is liable to disruption due to adverse weather conditions.

Fionnphort - Iona (Loch Riddon, Loch Buie):

UPDATE 1545:

Remaining sailings cancelled due to adverse weather conditions.

Kennacraig - Port Ellen / Port Askaig (Hebridean Isles, Isle of Arran):

Due to adverse weather the following sailings will operate to and from Port Askaig and not Port Ellen as per timetable.

1800 ex Port Ellen - Kennacraig (**Isle of Arran**)

1800 ex Kennacraig - Port Ellen (and return tomorrow) (**Hebridean Isles**)



Port Ellen minus any ferries

CLYDE:

Ardrossan - Brodick (Isle of Mull):

UPDATE 1030:

Disrupted due to adverse weather conditions.

The 0820 sailing has been diverted to Gourock. The 0945 sailing from Ardrossan will be a delayed departure from Gourock and vehicle drivers are advised to be at Gourock for 1015.

The 1105 sailing from Brodick and the 1230 sailing from Ardrossan have been cancelled. A decision regarding any further sailing will be made at 1300.

UPDATE 1300:

Isle of Mull has just arrived (1315) from Gourock and has tied up at Brodick.

The 1350 sailing from Brodick will be heading for Ardrossan although berthing is not guaranteed.

Due to the worsening weather any further sailings later today may be liable to disruption or cancellation at short notice.

UPDATE 1530:

1515 departure to Brodick left Ardrossan at 1530.

Isle of Mull will sail to Brodick and after she arrives there will be no further sailings today.

A decision will be made in the morning regarding the 0820 ex Brodick.



Isle of Mull diverted to Gourock

Largs - Cumbrae Slip (Loch Shira, Loch Riddon):

Is liable to disruption due to adverse weather condition.

UPDATE 1845:

Loch Shira is once again heading up the firth to Gourock where she will spend the night sheltering from the adverse winds.



Loch Shira arriving in Largs

RATHLIN FERRIES:

Ballycastle - Rathlin Island (Canna):

Due to adverse weather the 1500 from Rathlin & 1600 ex Ballycastle have been cancelled.

NORTHLINK FERRIES:

Lerwick - Kirkwall (Hatston) - Aberdeen (Hjaltland, Hrossey):

Due to adverse weather conditions expected tonight, the sailing at 1730 ex Lerwick - Kirkwall - Aberdeen will omit the scheduled 2345 call at Kirkwall. **Hjaltland** will sail direct to Aberdeen from Shetland.

The next scheduled departure from Kirkwall (Hatston) will be the 2345 sailing to Lerwick tomorrow 06/12/07.

04/12/07 **WESTERN ISLES:**

Loch Buie is currently berthed at the North Pier in Oban. She will spend the night there and make for Mull tomorrow morning (weather dependent).

Loch Striven is currently berthed at Rothesay while Loch Alainn remains in Ardmaleish Boat Yard.

Ullapool - Stornoway, Freight (Muirneag):

Delayed due to adverse weather.

UPDATE:

Cancelled for the remainder of the day due to adverse weather.

Ullapool - Stornoway (Isle of Lewis):

UPDATE 1330:

Cancelled for the remainder of the day due to adverse weather.

Ardmhor - Eriskay (Loch Bhrusda):

The remaining sailings: 1710 and 1815 have been cancelled due to adverse weather - there are no more sailings today.

Oban - Lochboisdale / Castlebay - Oban (Clansman):

Due to an adverse weather forecast, today's 1530 sailing to Lochboisdale (only) has been cancelled.

The service from Oban to Castlebay is still scheduled to depart Oban at 1530 today.

Similarly, tomorrow's sailing from Lochboisdale to Oban at 0730 has also been cancelled, but the Castlebay to Oban sailing at 0935 is still scheduled to depart as per timetable.

Sconser - Raasay (Loch Striven):

UPDATE 1300:

May be liable to disruption / delays. Departures are currently being reviewed on a sailing to sailing basis due to adverse weather.

UPDATE:

Cancelled for the remainder of the day due to adverse weather.

Mallaig - Rhum - Canna - Muck - Eigg (Lochnevis):

UPDATE 1300:

May be liable to disruption / delays due to adverse weather.

Fionnphort - Iona (Loch Riddon):

Due to adverse weather conditions the 1630 sailing from Iona will be the last sailing of the day.

Kennacraig - Port Ellen / Port Askaig (Hebridean Isles, Isle of Arran):

Due to impending adverse weather conditions the 1800 sailing from Port Ellen has been cancelled.

There will be an additional sailing from Port Ellen at 0700 tomorrow and the service will continue as per timetable thereafter.

CLYDE:

Loch Shira is heading to Gourock top wires tonight. It is expected a south or southwest 9 gale is on its way which means she can't lie at Fairlie which is exposed. She is leaving Largs after the last run at 2030 and will be back to Largs for the 0645 tomorrow morning.

Ardrossan - Brodick (Isle of Mull):

UPDATE 1300:

May be liable to disruption / delays due to adverse weather.

1350 ex Brodick is about to sail to Ardrossan

1640 ex Brodick will be reviewed later may sail to Gourock

1920 ex Brodick today & 0700 ex Ardrossan tomorrow have been cancelled

NORTHLINK FERRIES:

As of 1955 all routes appear to be operating as scheduled.

03/12/07 **WESTERN ISLES:**

Kennacraig - Port Ellen / Port Askaig (Hebridean Isles, Isle of Arran):

SERVICE REMINDER:

Due to ongoing Pier Work at Port Askaig the 1720 sailings from Kennacraig on Mondays and return sailings at 0700 on Tuesdays from Port Askaig will continue to operate to and from Port Ellen for the foreseeable future.

CLYDE:

Isle of Mull settled down into Clyde relief service and today carried out a full day of Arran sailings without being diverted to Gourock. One of our crew was on hand during the day - see the pictures below:



Isle of Mull 1) crossing from Arran, 2) Lying at Brodick and 3) departing Ardrossan

02/12/07 **WESTERN ISLES:**

Loch Linnhe arrived at Raasay at 1100 and is now in service on the Sconser - Raasay route. **Loch Striven** left Raasay at 1130 to commence her journey to Ardmaleish. We are unsure where she is spending tonight but it is likely to be either Tobermory or Craignure.

CLYDE:

Loch Buie left Rothesay this afternoon and called in at Rhubodach to collect crew cars, before heading down in the direction of the Kilbrannan Sound. She expected back at Fionnphort during the next week sometime to resume service and relieve the **Loch Riddon**.



Loch Linnhe and Loch Striven at Raasay today

01/12/07 **CLYDE:**

Isle of Mull suffered her first weather-related disruption of her relief service today. Her 0820 sailing from Brodick was diverted to Gourock, where she arrived at 1030. After loading traffic sent up from Ardrossan by road, she then left again at 1100, passing **Jupiter** off Kempock Point. She reached Brodick at 1310 and the decision was then taken to cancel the 1350 sailing. She next sailed at 1640 and again made for Gourock instead of Ardrossan. She left around 1900 for the return sailing to Brodick. It is expected that **Isle of Mull** will be visiting Gourock quite a bit during her stint on the Arran run. We understand that she will not attempt the tight turn in Ardrossan harbour in winds above 25-30 knots.

WESTERN ISLES:

SHIPS OF CALMAC - FLEETNEWS – 2007

Loch Riddon did not sail again after her 1530 ex Iona due to weather conditions. **Loch Ranza** was also affected by the weather and her 1705 round trip from Gigha was cancelled.