

# Open Canoe Sailing Group Meet & Trial Raid Report

## Dates & Venue:

Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> May – Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> May 2024 at Milarrochy Bay Campsite, Loch Lomond

## Turnout (or Attendance):

20 boats and 29 members

## Weather & water conditions:

Dry, warm and sunny. Mostly very light winds (F1) with only occasional sudden spells of very gusty winds (F5) from variable directions for the first 2-3 days. Light winds (F2) on the final day provided some very pleasant sailing conditions.

## Activities:

The inaugural “Raid”, a type of on-the-water, individual orienteering challenge was held over two days. Seventeen boats took part on each day. The course on the first day was on the southern end of the loch and involved sailing and paddling up to 18 miles, visiting up to 6 control stations. On the second day, there were 7 control stations towards the northern end and involved up to 23 miles. The lack of wind favoured paddling, but occasional, stronger, and unpredictable winds made for some interesting sailing too. A full write up will follow on the website.

The last two days took the form of a standard meet with very pleasant, less strenuous trips to the excellent cafés at Luss and Balmaha. Some went to Inchconnachan, one of the islands, on an unsuccessful wallaby search, while others undertook some serious research into the paddling power output required to propel the boat through the water and whether this exceeded the calorific input from the pubs and cafes! This involved towing a boat with an electric motor at 3 knots and noting the extra power consumption. Investigations will continue at Bala!

## Remarks:

Despite the lack of wind, the trial Raid was enjoyed by all who took part. It will undoubtedly become a regular event and will evolve with feedback from participants. It had taken a considerable amount of effort to organise. Thanks go to Mark Aplin and the organising group for all their work.

## Photos:



The start of the Raid (with photographer in kayak!)



Evening de-brief on the beach.