

ANTRIM BOAT CLUB

News Sheet (No. 5)

Winter 2005

Message from the Commodore

Our new season got under way with the start of a new Winter Series on 10 October 2004 as planned, and the results of Part I show that it will be a tightly fought contest between the two Starflashes: *Fait Accompli* in first place is narrowly ahead of *Quickflash* with equal points. We also had an interesting and well attended AGM, ably chaired by Mr Crawford Wilson, on 21 October 2004. The new General Committee is shown at the foot of this Newsletter, and I would like to record my thanks for the work and support of the outgoing members, Aubrey Kincaid, William McIlvenna and Ken Ewart. I am pleased to welcome two new members, Keith McCracken and Joe Allen, and look forward to their contributions over the next 3 years.

I'm afraid that it is my painful duty to mention the need for us all to care better for our site. It grieves me to see so much litter around our club, which must surely be one of the most attractive in the country. The area by the entrance gate is particularly offensive at times. Dog fouling also continues in spite of our previous requests that this must not happen. I would also like to remind all members to avoid using the new grass verges, and to keep to the special lay-bys provided, when meeting an oncoming car.

On the social front, I am delighted that our new young members produced 2 very lively traditional parties last Halloween and Christmas and I look forward to seeing as many of you as possible at this year's functions. May I wish you all a very happy new year and much happy boating!

Tony Brady

EVENTS DIARY

- **Winter Series:** Part 2: 10 races: 2 January - 5 March (Saturday) (Prize Giving Night).
- **ABC Lifeboat Race:** Sunday, 13 March.
- **Summer Series:** 10 races: Thursdays, 14 April - 16 June.
- **ABC Regatta:** Saturday, 18 June.
- **Cats Cradle:** Antrim to Kinnego: Sunday 19 June.
- **Lurgan Regatta:** Saturday, 25 June.
- **River Bann & Lough Neagh Association Boat Rally:** 29 – 30 July (provisional).
- **Winter Series:** Part 1: 10 races: Sundays, 9 October – 11 December.
- **Santa Race & Children's Xmas Party:** Sunday, 18 December.

Messages from the Sailing Secretary

● Although we all know that paper qualifications are of limited value, training for them improves skills, awareness of risks and safety on the water. It also means we can offer something tangible to attract new young members. The RYA encourages voluntary rather than mandatory schemes and I would like to encourage more members to pursue at least one sailing qualification. We have a few "Yachtmasters", and a couple of members recently received their RYA International Certificates of Competence (ICC), which licences them to sail in Europe. Several also have the new GMDSS Radio Operators licence which is a requirement for Digital Selective Calling (DSC). If we are to improve the use of VHF contact during races, all skippers will be required to have such a licence. We planned to run another VHF radio course if enough people were interested. We also need more members to train as qualified Rescue Boat crew. If anyone would like to receive any further information on these or any other RYA courses please contact me.

● There has been some progress with the bid for the new marina in partnership with the Antrim Borough Council. We were greatly encouraged at a meeting with the new Chief Executive, Mr David McCammick, on 25 October last year at which he appeared to be fully committed to the success of this project.

Alfie Mayrs

OVERHEARD IN THE BAR

"The man who invented the spinnaker has a lot to answer for."

Message from the Rear Commodore

- Seasonal greetings to everyone, especially those members who helped with the bar rota! Their help was very much appreciated. Bar prices are to be reviewed in January.

Eric Monaghan

Message from the Jetty Master

- Please remember that if you have a mooring it is your responsibility to care for your section of the jetty. There are still some places where overgrowing branches are a distinct hazard to others.

Alan Reilly

Messages from the Membership Secretary

- Thank you everyone who paid their membership subscription by the due date. This has been a huge improvement compared to last year and greatly facilitates the renewal process while reducing costs. Unfortunately there are a few memberships still due, and, if this applies to you, prompt payment would be appreciated.
- The barrier lock changed on **Saturday 8th January**.
- Welcome to all new members and I would encourage you to enjoy all of the facilities at the club and to bring your friends along to the many and various social events.

William Surgenor

Messages from the Social Convenor

- **Pub Quiz:** Saturday, 29 January.
- **Winter Series Prize Giving Night & Chinese Banquet:** Saturday, 5 March.
- **Dinner Dance:** (to be announced).

Phillip Smith

Useful Websites

- The boat club is now an affiliated member of Amazon.co.uk. What this means to us is if you purchase any books or other goods from **Amazon** we receive a percentage of the profits. However, to make this work you need to begin your order by clicking on the Amazon advertisement on the boat clubs website (<http://www.antrimboatclub.co.uk>). That way Amazon has a record that the advertisement on our site is generating sales and in return the club benefits by receiving a percentage of the goods purchased. Therefore it is to our advantage to use this route in future.
- As you know your Ship's Radio Licence should be renewed annually. Although the application can only be made by post, it appears that the form can only be obtained from the web! The address is: http://www.ofcom.org.uk/static/archive/ra/publication/ra_info/ra145.htm.

Keith McCracken

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