

## ANTRIM BOAT CLUB

News Sheet (No. 6)

Spring 2005

### **Message from the Commodore**

A most exciting winter series has just come to an end, and extremely closely fought it was too. Congratulations to the ultimate winners of this 18 event series, Noel Young and veteran Pat Kelly in *Fait Accompli*, the runners up, Alfie Mayrs and Stephen Downes in *Quick Flash*, and to Peter Frazer and Jeff Harrison in *Underdog* in third place. We really were very fortunate with the weather overall, only two races being cancelled, although some, including the final, were fought in 20-30 knot (Force 6) winds that tested the mettle of most of us.



My particular thanks are due to our OD, Aubrey Kincaid, for setting the courses (and taking responsibility for deciding whether a course could in fact be set), to Dave Collier for his regular weekly reports in the *Antrim Guardian*, always fair and accurate (indeed I have to read his accounts to know what really happened out there sometimes!) and, finally to our Sponsor, the Stables restaurant. The prize night was combined with a sumptuous Chinese Banquet, which was a resounding success thanks to the hard work of Phillip and Sarah Smith.

The concluding Lough Neagh Lifeboats Charity Pursuit race on 13 March, which was held in difficult almost windless conditions, was convincingly won by William Surgenor demonstrating his skills in *Resolute* in both name and deed. Thank you all of you who were involved in this event, which raised a total of £160.

We were delighted to learn that our joint bid with the Antrim Borough Council to the Lough Neagh Partnership Fund for a grant towards the creation of a new marina has been successful. Older members of the Club will remember that this development has been mooted for 20 years or more, and now there seems to be a real chance of success if the Council is able to identify the rest of the necessary funding. However, a consequence of this is that the Committee has agreed to limit development spending to essential maintenance until the outcome of discussions with the Council has been determined. Notwithstanding this I'd like to congratulate Dave Collier and Harry Borne, ably inspired and cajoled by Joe Allen, for the installation of extended water supplies to the riverside jetties and power at the slipway. These new water taps and the electricity supply at the slip must not be abused or used inappropriately.

Now that Spring is in the air I'm sure even more of you will be out on the water and I look forward to seeing as many as possible entering for the summer series which starts on Thursday 14 April at 7.30 pm. Happy boating!

**Tony Brady**

### **EVENTS DIARY**

- **Summer Series:** 10 races: Thursdays, 14 April - 16 June.
- **Country Fair Race:** Shane's Castle, Saturday 11 June, 2.30 pm. The event at the Castle is free and the BBQ at half price to all competitors. For more details see: [http://www.countrysportsandcountrylife.com/sections/country\\_festival/index.htm](http://www.countrysportsandcountrylife.com/sections/country_festival/index.htm)
- **ABC Regatta:** Saturday, 18 June.
- **Cats Cradle:** Antrim to Kinnego: Sunday 19 June.
- **Lurgan Regatta:** Saturday, 25 June.
- **Strangford Lough Race Week:** 13-16 July. For more details see: <http://www.slrw.org.uk/>
- **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.

### **OVERHEARD IN THE BAR**

“Sailing is the fine art of getting wet and becoming ill while slowly going nowhere at great expense.”

#### **Messages from the Sailing Secretary**

- There will be an Entry Form but no fee for the summer series.
- All boats participating in the races and which are equipped with VHF radios are requested to switch them on and tune to Channel M1.
- Any sailing boats or motor-sailers not interested in racing in the summer series are encouraged to cruise around the course and have some fun. If there is a demand, alternative activities for motor boat people can be arranged for Thursday nights when the racing is on. These include Boat Handling, Navigation Exercises on the water and ‘Red Arrows’ type formation motoring, the ultimate goal possibly being an ABC display team for the Shane’s Castle and Bann Rally events (see above). Motor boat people would need to select a coordinator to link up with me regarding these activities.
- I am still looking for lost trophies, can anybody help?

**Alfie Mayrs**

#### **Messages from the Jetty Master**

- All craft launched from the river slipway should observe the river speed limit. Speeding creates wash, which causes moored boats to bang against the jetty and, as it’s nesting season, birds will be building close to the waterline. (Lately jetskiers have been going a little too fast, possibly new members not aware they are causing a problem)
- All boats on temporary winter moorings should be prepared to move back to their allocated spot as boats go back in for the summer.

**Alan Reilly**

#### **Messages from the Rear Commodore and Bar Convenor**

- The price of drinks in the bar has not increased since I took on the responsibility of managing the bar. We have absorbed many increases during this period of fifteen months and it’s now time to amend our drink prices. To make the job of our members who man the bar easier, we are rounding up prices to the nearest 5p. Our new prices will still be excellent value.
- I would like to put on record my thanks to all those members who have voluntarily given up their free time to help, and to those new members who have not yet done a spell behind the bar: I will be in touch!

**Eric Monaghan**

#### **Messages from the Social Convenor**

- **Pub Quiz:** Saturday 9 April in support of the charity PHAB.
- **ABC Regatta Night:** Saturday 18 June.
- **Night with Hypnotist:** To be arranged.

**Phillip Smith**

#### **Notices to Jetskiers**

- A number of new jetskiers have joined the club recently and you are very welcome. Please remember that the club is for all categories of boating and, in the interests both of safety and good relationships, it is important to stay away from sailing boats and *especially* windsurfers when you are on the water.
- It is also essential that you stay well away from the old firing head, since this is an important nesting area and a site of special interest to ornithologists and environmentalists.

#### **RYA News**

- The new 2005-2008 edition of the RYA *Racing Rules of Sailing* is now available (£6.00) or in a simplified form (*Handy Guide to the Racing Rules*) in slash-proof format at £2.80. Both can be purchased either online at: [www.rya.org.uk/shop](http://www.rya.org.uk/shop) or by calling: 0845 345 0372.

#### **OFFICERS and COMMITTEE (2004-2005)**

Please see last News Sheet or our website: <http://www.antrimboatclub.co.uk>.