



# ANTRIM BOAT CLUB

News Sheet (No. 10)

SUMMER 2006

### Message from the Commodore

Now that we have a short pause in our sailing calendar, I'm delighted to report the results of a very busy racing season. The summer series was resoundingly won by *Quickflash*, but, after the 3 races in our Regatta, it was *Jamie Jess* who took the first place. Heartiest congratulations to both crews! I was particularly pleased and proud that the Cat's Cradle was won for the second year running by Antrim Boat Club thanks to *Silver Girl*, *Eroica* and *Starkers* who took the first three places, respectively, in extremely breezy and hazardous conditions (in which I personally had a close, although mercifully brief, encounter with the water!).



The final fixture of the year is the annual Bann Rally which will be from the Battery at Ardboe to Antrim, and we will be hosting the barbecue on the Saturday night (29 July). I hope as many boats as possible will turn out for this occasion which, as you know, has a motor cruiser event as well as the sailing race. We also need volunteers to help with the evening functions, which will include a roasting pig. Alfie Mayrs is chairing a small committee to co-ordinate everything for us and if you can help, please contact him directly.

In our last News Sheet I referred to a number of new developments. We have set up a small working group to explore the options for the complete refurbishment of the Club House, and this has met 4 times so far. I am quite excited by the architect's draft drawings which we have seen and we are now in the process of having these costed so that we will be in a position to invite members' comments over the autumn, particularly from frequent users of the facilities of the Club House. I also wish to congratulate our webmaster on his new web cam and excellent images now available on our website [<http://www.antrimboatclub.co.uk>].

Finally, the accompanying picture reminds us of what can happen to the best of us on the water and the need for a fully trained Rescue Boat facility. If you would be interested in receiving training for this or would like more information about it, again please contact Alfie Mayrs. We had a most valuable talk from Lough Neagh Rescue on 22 June and they invited all boats to register with the HM Coastguard Safety Identification Scheme. This data base will enable all details of your boat to be instantly available to the rescue services in an emergency. Forms are available from the Club Secretary.

Alan Reilly

### EVENTS DIARY

- |                                       |          |                                     |
|---------------------------------------|----------|-------------------------------------|
| • <b>RB&amp;LN Association Rally:</b> |          | Sat-Sun 29-30 July                  |
| • <b>Winter Series: (Part 1):</b>     | 10 races | Sundays, 15 October – 17 December.  |
| • <b>Winter Series: (Part 2):</b>     | 10 races | Sundays, 7 January – 10 March 2007. |

### OVERHEARD IN THE BAR

"To win you have to really hate losing: if you set out to enjoy yourself you'll lose".

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

- Dinghy racing: I'm very pleased that so many GP14s are now eager to compete and more crews will be most welcome to join us on Thursday evenings and Sunday afternoons. Nevertheless, there can be **no official series** until we have all the safety requirements in place. This means two adequately equipped safety boats available at all times, crewed by at least one fully trained skipper. We are not yet in a position to provide this and are short of trained crew. I would urge any members interested in doing Power Boat Level 2 and Safety Boat courses to contact me ASAP.
- I also need your support to ensure that the Bann Rally events are a success and to maintain the high reputation of our Club. Whatever your interest or expertise I am sure you can help in some way. Please contact me at the numbers or email address shown below.

**Alfie Mayrs**

### **Message from the Jetty Master**

- There is still a waiting list for moorings and we need about 14 new places. I am working on this as best as I can and some new places will soon be available, but it would be a great help if any of you who do not intend to use your mooring over the summer were to move your boat or contact me to discuss possible alternatives.

**Joe Allen**

### **Message from the Social Convenor**

- A form has now been produced for anyone wishing to use the Club House for a social event. As you already know this needs to be with the committee **two months** in advance.

**Colin Thompson**

### **NEW MARINA NEWS**

We have been informed by Antrim Borough Council that they have decided to instruct Atkins Water to carry out a detailed options appraisal to determine the most suitable location for the marina following the consultation exercise ongoing since January. This work is expected to take between three and four months which means that Council is unable to move forward with commissioning designers and tendering for contractors until the late autumn at the earliest.

### **RYA News**

**Government fund for facilities development for NI Olympic sports: Pre- Announcement Information.** This fund is to improve the facilities of sports which are in the Olympics. Government has announced that the size of fund is £53m of which approximately £15m is likely to be used for a 50 metre swimming pool. The balance remains for competitive bids from other Olympic sports including sailing. The level of grant is 75% with 25% to be contributed by other partners to any project. For further information please contact: Paul Scott, Facilities Department of the Sports Council for Northern Ireland on 9038 1222.

#### **OFFICERS and COMMITTEE (2005-2006)**

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