



Message from the Commodore

The New Year brought some really good news: our grant application to the **Lough Neagh Partnership (LNP)** was successful and we can now look forward to the new Committee Boat shown in these pictures.

“*Blue Thunder II*” was selected from 7 tenders for the project. She is a 1996 Aquastar 27, LOA: 27’8”, with a Sabre Perkins 225hp diesel engine, and comes fully equipped with VHF radio, colour echosounder, GPS, interfaced autopilot and radar. She will be sailed across from Wick on the east coast of Scotland and should be at the Club by the middle of March.



Most (75%) of the funding for this comes from the **EU (NI Programme for Building Sustainable Prosperity)** and the **Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (DARD)**, and I’m delighted to thank Alfie Mayrs, ably assisted by our Vice Commodore, for this initiative.

I’m also pleased that the deliberations of our Working Group on the refurbishment of the Club House have finally concluded and one of our longest serving members, Charlie McAllister, has been appointed to undertake the work. There will be a new bar and function room area upstairs and refurbished changing rooms and toilet areas on the ground floor. I hope to be able to post the proposed plans on the notice board shortly.

The end of the first part of the Winter Series found *Quickflash* (A. Mayrs and S. Downes) in the lead just one point ahead of *Atlantic Challenger* (P. Kelly and C. McAllister). We have now almost completed the series with our last race on 10 March and the competition is still very close and being closely fought!

Below is a list of the Sailing Programme for the next few months which I hope will be supported enthusiastically. Remember this is our 40th birthday and the centenary of the Cat’s Cradle. Safe and happy boating to you all!

Alan Reilly

OVERHEARD IN THE BAR

“Sure one man’s DYSLEXIA is another man’s DAILY SEX”.

EVENTS DIARY

• Winter Series: (Part 2):	10 races	Sundays 7 January – 10 March.
• National GP 14 event:		19 - 20 May.
• Club GP 14 series:	6 races	Tuesday nights (TBA).
• Summer Series:	8 races	10 May – 5 July.
• Cats Cradle event:		2 June (Antrim to Lurgan).
• LNSC regatta:		9 June.
• ABC regatta:		30 June.
• Round the Lough Event:		25 August (part of LNP "Loughfest").
• "Try boating" night:		26 August (part of LNP "Loughfest").

Message from the Jetty Master

We have successfully added a number of new moorings to our jetties bringing the total to 56 river moorings, and all current members are now accommodated. All the old fender boards are also being replaced with new wooden beams in a rolling programme. **NB: only fenders may be used on these. Please DO NOT hang tyres** on them as their weight destroys the wood over a period of time. Look after your jetty and the jetty will look after your boat!

Joe Allen

Message from the Membership Secretary

I have been embarrassed by the number of members who failed to pay their fees by the due date this year (31 December 2006). It has therefore been proposed that a "lapsed membership" rule be introduced and this is currently under active consideration by the Committee. This would mean that all privileges of membership would be forfeited (including access to the Club premises) until all outstanding debts and a rejoining fee were paid. If this is agreed by the Committee, an EGM will then be called to introduce such a change to our Club Rules.

William Surgenor

LOUGHFEST

The Lough Neagh Partnership is organizing a week of events on and around Lough Neagh from 18 – 27 August. There are plans for a number of innovative and interesting activities to interest families and the general public, eg. canal and riverside walks, an around the lough cycle race, swimming competitions, pond dipping, bird watching, history talks, a children's wildlife session at the Discovery Centre, a fishing and shooting night, a food festival, barbecue, boat cruises (Maid of Antrim, power boats and traditional currachs), trips to Rams and Coney islands, rescue boat displays at Kinnego and the Battery Harbour, canoeing and boating tuition, and a clinker boat building work-shop. We have been invited to contribute by offering a sailing boat tour and a "try boating" night on the last Saturday and Sunday. Our Sailing Secretary is involved in the details of these arrangements. For further information on the other aspects of the week, contact Eimear Kearney (eimear@loughneaghpartnership.com).

OFFICERS and COMMITTEE (2006-2007)

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