

ANTRIM BOAT CLUB



News Sheet (No. 15)

WINTER 2008

Message from the Commodore

I am very proud and pleased to have been elected Commodore, which I regard as an honour and great privilege, and I shall endeavour to represent the views of all members as impartially and fairly as I can. I intend to take forward the plans already in place and build on the past achievements of my predecessors. The spirited discussion at the last AGM suggests, however, that not everyone agrees with what has been decided in the past and that there are alternative views on the way forward. To address these concerns one of the first things I would like to do is to set up a strategy group with the aim of producing a development plan, perhaps with some guidance and advice from Eamon Masterson, Club Development Officer of RYA NI, and Janine Harvey, Sports Development Officer in the Antrim Borough Council. This plan would, of course, have to be discussed by our Committee and, if approved, presented to a General Meeting of the membership to invite further views and comments before being finally adopted by the Club. Such a development plan would, I hope, inform the way forward, our spending priorities, grant applications and other fund raising activities.



I am delighted to welcome four new members to the committee and I look forward to their contributions and hope that they will enjoy their opportunity to participate in the running of the affairs of the Club. I particularly want to thank Andy Speedie for taking on the onerous task of Membership Secretary and hope he will be able to continue the good work of his predecessor, Catharine Millar for taking on the rôle of Social Convenor, and Dave McIlwee for agreeing to take responsibility for the maintenance of the Club House until the refurbishment has been completed (don't worry Frank there'll be a special job for you too!). I'm also very pleased that Joe Allen has agreed to continue as Jetty Master *ex officio*. In this capacity he will be entitled to attend committee meetings but not to vote on any other items of business.

At our last Committee meeting our new Vice-Commodore, William Surgenor, was appointed as the Officer responsible for both Child Protection and Equality in the Club. This latter covers the Equality legislation and we have endorsed that aspect dealing with sport in the document: "The Equality Standard: A Framework for Sport". It is now an important requirement of all clubs affiliated to the RYA NI, and will also become a requirement for future grant applications.

At this meeting we also agreed to set aside a ring-fenced budget to cover training expenses, since, as an RYA Recognised Training Centre, we hope to develop further the resources for expansion in this aspect of our activities. I was also pleased to have been able to commemorate the 40th anniversary of the Club by introducing a new "Commodore's Award". This is for an outstanding new member (a member of less than 3 years who has made an exceptional contribution to any of the activities of the Club), and I was delighted to present this cup for the first time at our Christmas Party to Martin Kidd.

I also want to thank Firmus Energy for their generous sponsorship again this year, and Alfie Maysr for his success in achieving this for us.

I hope to meet you all at some stage either on the water or at one or other of our social functions. A most happy and enjoyable New Year and good boating in 2008 to you all!

David King

OVERHEARD IN THE BAR

"Never ascribe to malice that which is adequately explained by incompetence" (Napoleon Bonaparte)."

EVENTS DIARY (Provisional Dates)

● Winter Series (Part 2):	10 races	Sunday 6 January -- 8 March (Saturday).
● GP14 Series:	8 races	Saturday 5 April – 24 May.
● Summer Series:	8 races	Thursday 8 May -- 26 June.
● LNSC Regatta:		Saturday 31 May.
● Cats Cradle event:		Saturday 7 June (Lurgan to Antrim).
● ABC Regatta:		Saturday 14 June.
● Country Life Fair event:		Sunday 15 June (TBC).
● RB&LN Assoc. Bann Rally:		Saturday 26 July (TBC).
● "Try Boating" night:		Thursday 21 August.

Messages from the Sailing Secretary

- IRC 2007 handicaps will continue to be applied in Part 2 of this year's Winter Series.
- The results of Part 1 of the Winter Series were: IRC handicap: 1. *Load of Mischief*, 2. *Murphy*, 3. *Quickflash*; Helmsman's handicap: 1. *Murphy*, 2. *Load of Mischief*, 3. *Corinthian*.

Peter Frazer

Messages from the Membership Secretary

- Thank you all who have paid their subscriptions on time. Please note that all unpaid fees are now well overdue.
- I intend to change the barrier lock at the end of January. If there are any members who have not been issued with the new key, would they please let me know.

Andy Speedie

SOCIAL CALENDAR

● Poker Night:	Saturday 12 January.
● Pub Quiz: (proceeds to new Training Fund)	Saturday February (date TBA).
● Prize Night:	Saturday 8 March.

Catharine Millar

Messages from the Jetty Master

- A Personal Water Craft (PWC) (Jet Skis) meeting was held with Antrim Borough Council and the North Coast PWC Club on 29 November 2007. A PWC Club is to organise in Antrim and we will be invited to send representatives to the launch. PWC users will be advised not to use the Six Mile Water.
- Our old faithful "*Recovery II*" has now been sold to Jim Maxwell and will have a new life in retirement as another pirate ship. We wish both her and her new skipper well.
- Due to some careless use of the crane, it has now been locked. If you wish to use it please first contact John Turner (028 9446 7689 or 078 0391 9125) or myself (028 9446 7726 or 078 6878 0341).

Joe Allen

OFFICERS and COMMITTEE (2007-2008)

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