



## ANTRIM BOAT CLUB

[www.antrimboatclub.co.uk/](http://www.antrimboatclub.co.uk/)

News Sheet (No. 18)

AUTUMN 2008

### **Message from the Commodore**

A well attended and good natured AGM has started our new year in a spirit of hope and enthusiasm that we can successfully address a number of the challenges facing our Club. I am pleased to have been re-elected Commodore for a second term and want to pay tribute to the out-going Committee for their contributions over the past eventful year. The new Committee (see box below) sees the return of some old faces but also a new one in the form of Geraldine Kelly who has taken on the responsibility of Hon Treasurer, and becomes the second woman on the team. I am also pleased that Firmus Energy has agreed to sponsor us for a further year.

Last year was a mixture of successes and disappointments. We had a number of sailing achievements outside our Club events. In addition to those at Cork week (reported in the last News Sheet), Jeff Harrison, crewed on *Ocean Spirit of Carlingford* which finished 9<sup>th</sup> of 47 boats, and was 2<sup>nd</sup> in her class, in the Round Ireland Yacht Race in July, and *Quickflash* (Alfie Mayrs) was first in her class at the Howth Autumn series. Our Open Day on 17 August was very successful and well supported, in spite of the terrible weather, and we had 13 registrants (all of whom went out on a boat of some sort). Thanks to everyone who helped with this, we now have the basis for more regular Open Days in the future. However, the subsequent flooding led to severe damage to our jetties, as seen in the picture, together with the sinking of 3 boats, 2 others being submerged and 2 more badly damaged. We owe a sincere debt of gratitude to Joe Allen and Martin Kidd who were on the scene from the early hours of the morning, and the many others who joined them and worked tirelessly throughout that Sunday to do what they could to limit the damage.



I was also disappointed that we weren't able to agree a Development Plan before the call for bids for an Enhancement grant from the Lough Neagh Partnership was announced. Although the bid we put in for training dinghies was successful, it had to be turned down because of a deep split in the membership over the issue that occurred at the General Meeting to discuss it on 25 September.

So we have a lot of work to do in the year ahead. Our jetties need repaired, the pathways in front of the Clubhouse need resurfacing, there are many calls to electrify the crane, to improve security, and to re-examine the possibility of getting a sailing school started again, to name but a few. What about solar heating? Television in the bar? All this underlines the importance of having an agreed Development Plan that can prioritise these needs and produce a Business Plan to address them.

But we mustn't lose sight of the main purpose of the Club: to help all of us to enjoy our passion for being out on the water!

**David King**

### **Message from the Sailing Secretary**

The Winter Series is going well and has turned out to be very exciting. Now that we have a properly established handicap system it looks as if we may attract some other boats from around the coast. May I remind all competitors to revalidate their IRC certificates for the 2009 Winter Series (Part 2)? More details about HOW (**H**op **O**nboard **W**orkshop) boating activities (see below) will follow.

**Alfie Mayrs**

## EVENTS DIARY

● Charity ("Santa") Race:		Sunday 21 December.
● Winter Series (Part 2):	7 races	Sundays 18 January – Sat. 28 February.
● HOW boating activities:		Saturdays 14 March – 18 April.
● Summer Series:	7 races	Thursdays 14 May – 25 June.
● ABC Regatta (TBC):		Saturday 30 May.
● Cat's Cradle (TBC):	Antrim to Kinnego	Saturday 6 June.
● LNSC Regatta (TBC):		Saturday 13 June.
● Home Counties Regatta:	Atlantic Challenge	Thursday 28 July – Sunday 2 August.

## SOCIAL CALENDAR

1. **Saturday 20 December:** Christmas Dinner, 7.00 pm.
2. **Sunday 21 December:** Children's Party, 3.00 – 5.00 pm. (Remember to leave Santa's gifts clearly marked with the child's name, in the Store Room, by 2.30 pm, please).
3. **Wednesday 31 December:** New Year's Eve party (TBC).
4. **Thursday 1 January 2009:** Atlantic Challenge annual New Year's Day swim.
5. **Saturday 28 February 2009:** Prize giving night.

Thank you for all your support and help last year in getting our Social programme going again. I would welcome any suggestions and help with organising more events in the New Year. **Catherine Millar**

### Messages from the Jetty Master

● In order to manage the trailer park efficiently and to everyone's benefit, *it is essential* that all trailers can be identified by the name of the boat and the owner's telephone number. Trailers not so identified will have to be moved in the New Year.

● I have been astonished to find that the access gate has been left open on a number of occasions recently, even last thing at night. In view of the security problems earlier this year it is in all our interests to insure that the gate is locked behind you, both on leaving and entering. **Joe Allen**

### Message from the Membership Secretary

Please note that the lock on the gate will be changed again early in January. A new key is provided as soon as the annual fees are paid. **Andy Speedie**

### Message from RYA Principal

We would like to increase the number of members with Power Boat 2 and Safety Boat training in order to be able to cover our Club events at all times. If anyone is interested in any of these courses, please contact me by mobile phone or email (see box below). Early booking is advisable since, due to increased running costs, we will have to increase the fees in March 2009. **Martin Kidd**

### OFFICERS and COMMITTEE (2008-2009)

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### OVERHEARD IN THE BAR

"What's this Weil's disease they were going on about in the last News Sheet?"  
"It must be something you get from a jellyfish".