



ANTRIM BOAT CLUB

News Sheet (No. 16)

SPRING 2008

Message from the Commodore

Our Winter Series is over for another year already, 18 of the 20 races having been successfully completed and congratulations to the overall winner, on IRC handicap, *Murphy* (Liam Donnelly), with *Load of Mischief* (Peter Frazer and Pat Kelly) in second place and *Quickflash* (Alfie Mayrs *et al.*) in third. The overall helmsman's handicap results were: *Corinthian* (Andy Speedie), *Load of Mischief* and *Quickflash*, respectively. Our Prize Night was the last event to be held in our Clubhouse before its long awaited refurbishment. We are indebted to our sponsor Firmus Energy, and to all those dedicated Club members who made the series possible, particularly Peter Frazer, Aubrey Kincaid and his faithful crew, and Molly Mayrs and her soup team.

I am delighted that the Clubhouse refurbishment has indeed started on schedule and the work is well underway. Please try to curb your curiosity and stay out of the building until it is finished. It is both dangerous and time wasting to get in the way at this time. The sailboard shed is operating a limited bar facility and the ladies' toilet area will be accessible through the wet door during events although we hope the work will be finished in time for our Regatta on 14 June. The slings for the crane are in the safety boat shed in the meantime.

The strategy group, consisting of William Surgenor, Alfie Mayrs, Pat Kelly and myself, has met 7 times and we now have enough information to draft a Development Plan to bring to the Committee within the next few months. Already it appears that our consultation process has stimulated a lot of interest and enthusiasm and the power boaters in particular are to be congratulated on the programme of activities they have put together as can be seen below.

Our RYA RTC is continuing to be very active and I am delighted that we now have two new RYA qualified Sailing Instructors (Pat Kelly and Jeffrey Harrison). For further information see the enclosed flier from our Principal, Martin Kidd.

I am also pleased to report several successful meetings with Antrim Borough Council. The jet-skiers have agreed to join the North West PWC Club, to launch from the Rae's wood jetty, to stay out of the Six Mile Water and to avoid our race areas. A meeting regarding the new marina is planned for the near future and we have agreed to hold another Open Day as part of the lough-wide Loughfest events from 16-25 August. I will be asking for volunteers to support this by offering to provide trips in as wide a range of boats as possible that will also include our flagship, *Blue Thunder*.

Thank you all for your continued participation in and support for the Club, which I am confident, is going to grow from strength to strength in the changing times ahead.

David King

Messages from the Social Convenor

- Thank you for returning your Survey Questionnaire forms. The results of the 48 received so far are being collated and will be published in the next News Sheet. There is still time to return your form or I can send you another by email if you wish. The better the response the more representative the findings will be.
- Please email me if you would like to be kept informed of social events by email.

Catherine Millar



OVERHEARD IN THE BAR

"If it doesn't hurt when you lose, you're not trying hard enough."

EVENTS DIARY

● 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.
● Honda RIB Championships (EDYC):		Saturday 21 June.
● Country Life Fair event:		Saturday/Sunday 21/22 June.
● RB&LN Assoc. Bann Rally:		Saturday 26 July (TBC).
● "Lap-the-Lough" (LNSC):		Saturday 23 August.

OPEN EVENTS CALENDAR*

1. **Saturday 12 April.** FACT FINDING TOUR. This tour will be led by our Committee boat, *Blue Thunder*, and will point out the main landmarks and hazards of Lough Neagh. All boat owners (sailing or power) welcome. A small charge will be payable to cover the costs of fuel and administration.
2. **Saturday and Sunday 26/27 April.** MOTORBOAT WEEK-END. A day on the water finishing with a barbecue at a mystery destination, staying over-night on your boat and returning on Sunday.
3. **Saturday 17 May.** TREASURE HUNT. Test of boating, observation and brain-teasing skills. All boat owners (sailing or power) welcome.
4. **Sunday 18 May.** SKILLS TRAINING for MOTORBOATS. Basic training in boat handling skills for power boats followed by a visit and talk by the Lough Neagh Rescue team.
5. **Friday-Sunday (dates TBA).** BANN WEEK-END. Three day tour from Antrim to Coleraine and back via the river Bann. A delightful surprise for those who haven't yet done it and full of interest and beauty
6. **Saturday 16 August.** ANTRIM BOATING OPEN DAY. We hope that a range of boats will be available from motorboats and RIBs to sailing dinghies and sailing cruisers as well as *Blue Thunder*, for those who are too timid to go out on a smaller boat. A small charge will be payable to cover the costs of fuel and administration.

***Contact: Joe Allen 028 9446 7726; 078 6878 0341**

Messages from the Membership Secretary

- There are 5 members who have failed to pay for boat parking which is most unfair to everyone else.
- Please remember to keep me informed of any change in your address: one or two members will not have received this News Sheet because I have no current address for them.

Andy Speedie

Message from the Jetty Master

- Please note that we are trying to reserve all car-parking areas for the sole use of cars. Please avoid using these for either trailers or boats.

Joe Allen

OFFICERS and COMMITTEE (2007-2008)

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