

County Antrim Yacht Club

Newsletter



Annual General Meeting – Tuesday 13th February 2007

Dates for your Diary

MOVIE NIGHT
SATURDAY 3 FEBRUARY
8.00 pm

FOLK NIGHT
SATURDAY 17 FEBRUARY
LATE LICENCE

ICEBREAKER SERIES
STARTS
SUNDAY 18 MARCH

SPONSORED CYCLE TO
DONAGHADEE AND BACK
IN AID OF R.N.L.I. AND A NEW
RESCUE BOAT FOR CAYC
SATURDAY 31 MARCH
LEAVING AT 9.00am

OPENING DAY
SATURDAY 28 APRIL
RACING STARTS AT 3.00 pm

PICNIC SAIL TO PORTMUCK
SATURDAY 9 JUNE

JUNIOR REGATTA
SATURDAY 23 JUNE

MID SUMMER BBQ
SATURDAY 23 JUNE

REGATTA DAY
SATURDAY 28 JULY

RAFT RACE DAY
SUNDAY 5 AUGUST

Check the Website & Posters
in the Club for details

TABLE QUIZ

Just a reminder that a Quiz is held on the 3rd Friday of every month. During the winter months this is a very enjoyable evening, made even more comfortable by the recently installed heating system.

BUILDING FUND

The RYA inspection in relation to our application to be a Volvo Champion Club took place on 30 January with Richard Honeyford, the RYA High Performance Manager in attendance at the Club. We will be organising race training between April to June with our Club Race Coaches involved i.e. Rory McKenna, Gavin Pollard, Sheela Lewis and John Lewis.

In conjunction with our Club Development Plan 2006 - 2010, we will be focusing on the 12-16 age group sailing in Toppers. The plan will be to hold the training on Saturday mornings. There will be a number of the Juniors contacted and asked to participate.

We also need, and expect, the help of parents as the plan will be for as many of the Juniors as possible to attend the 'Topper Traveller' events this year and ultimately be chosen for the Topper Squad and subsequently move on to the NI Youth Squad. As part of our grant application we must be pro-actively encouraging improved racing standards.

The Sports Council inspection took place on 31 January and all the relevant documentation has been provided. A small number of items need to be followed up and this is being undertaken by the Sub Committee.

Our grant application is to be submitted to the Lottery Committee on Tuesday 20 March after which we will know whether we have managed to pass through Stage One. If we are successful, an independent design team will be appointed to work with the Club on progressing to Stage Two.

A further grant application was submitted to the 'Foundation for Sport and the Arts' on 22 January. This was for £75,000 towards assisting with the overall project, but primarily with the redevelopment of the Ground Floor of the Club.

A grant application to Carrickfergus Borough Council was successful in providing a new sail for the Club Topper and support for the Club Race Coaches to allow them to participate on the course.

An application to the 'Northern Bank Community Grant' scheme was unsuccessful, but we will resubmit this again later in the year when the scheme re-opens.

A further application to assist with the replacement of the other side of the roof on the Club will be submitted in March / April through the 'Awards for All' scheme.

Further applications to Carrickfergus Borough Council to assist with the development of our existing Assistant Instructors in becoming Dinghy Instructors and Dinghy Instructors becoming Senior Sailing Instructors will be completed later in the year.

An enormous amount of work has gone into this over the last 5 months and all the team involved are to be thanked for their significant and valuable commitment to this extensive project. Hopefully all the hard work will be worthwhile.

SPONSORSHIP

Again this year we intend to have all our events sponsored. It is important that we do not continually go back to the same sponsors, so please advise the Sponsorship Committee, chaired by Stephen Foster, if you know of any potential sponsors. Already we have Tweed Fuels lined up to sponsor the Autumn Series. Quote CAYC for a bit of discount. Others are currently being followed up and we will provide a full list in the next Newsletter.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The AGM will be held on **Tuesday 13 February**. Note the change of date. Please make an effort to attend and show your support. This year is crucial for the Club in terms of all the grant applications that are going on.

CHILD PROTECTION AWARENESS

As part of the readiness for the Sports Council grant application we have been updating our Child Protection procedures including Codes of Conduct, Fair Play, Designated Officer, Children's Officers etc. All of this is on display in the Club. Please be aware that the CAYC Children's Officers are Gary Stanbridge and Sheela Lewis.

A Child Protection Awareness workshop is being held in the Club on **Thursday 1 March - 7.00pm to 10.00pm**. All those dealing with children which in fact means the vast majority of us within the Club should be attending this course. There are a maximum of 20 places where we are initially focusing on those on the General and Sailing Committees and those who would be manning the Rescue Boat. Please confirm with Gary whether you will be attending.

MEMBERSHIP FEES

Membership Fees are now due. Again there has been a marked increase in those paying by Direct Debit which is most encouraging. Please remember that the Membership Levy is being paid over 10 months for those on Direct Debit.

There have been a few resignations due to the Levy for the Building Fund, these being primarily from those who rarely or ever used the Club. However, there have also been a number of new Members recently and quite a few moving from Full Membership to Family Membership. We actually have over 90 Junior Members at the moment which is an excellent position to be in.

SPONSORED CYCLE IN AID OF RNLI AND A NEW RESCUE BOAT FOR THE CLUB

As ever, we will be having another sponsored cycle this year on **Saturday 31 March**.

This will be to Donaghadee and back taking in all the yacht clubs around Belfast Lough. At Donaghadee there will be an opportunity to visit the LifeBoat Station and the LifeBoat itself. The intention is to raise funds equally for the RNLI and ourselves which will go towards a new Rescue Boat.

At present there are 21 names on the list and the target this year is to have at least 30 in total. If everyone could raise £100 in sponsorship this would make a major contribution to the charity and for the Club.

The benefit of raising funds for the RNLI is that the charity will be able to claim back further funds for themselves through the Gift Aid scheme. Sponsorship forms will soon be available, but please contact John Lewis if you wish to take part.

RUGBY – SIX NATIONS

The 'Big Screen' will again be in operation for the forthcoming matches. Bread and stew will also be on offer. The dates of the Ireland matches are:

Sun 4 Feb	15.00	Wal v Ire
Sun 11 Feb	15.00	Ire v Fra
Sat 24 Feb	17.30	Ire v Eng
Sat 10 Mar	13.30	Sco v Ire
Sat 17 Mar	13.30	Ita v Ire

SAILING SNIPPETS

The Club will be hosting the next RYA NI Council meeting on Monday 5 February. In addition to this, the bi-ennial RYA Regional Race Officer conference is being hosted at CAYC on Saturday 17 February. Both of the above are a first for the Club and shows our willingness to facilitate and work with RYA NI.

A First Aid Course is being held on Saturday 24 March. The maximum number that can participate is 12 and it looks as if we will have a full attendance. Rory McKenna is co-ordinating this. There may be 1 or 2 places left so please contact him urgently if you want to be involved.

The IceBreaker Series will commence on **Sunday 18 March**. The format being two races back-to-back commencing at 3.00pm.

A number of dinghies have been purchased lately with 3 new Mirrors and another Flying 15 arriving in recent weeks.

And finally!

A big thank you to Raymond and Dorena Patton and all their helpers for an excellent Commodore's Night. With Raymond at the helm in 2006 the Club has had a very successful year, greatly enjoyed by the Membership.