

County Antrim Yacht Club

Newsletter



COMMODORE'S NIGHT

Saturday 29th January 2005

Dates for your Diary

COMMODORE'S NIGHT
Saturday 29 January
At 8.00 pm

St Valentine's Night
Saturday 12 February
At 9.00 pm

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
Thursday 17 February
At 8.00 pm

START OF SPRING SERIES
Sunday 6 March
At 3.00 pm

St Patrick's Night
&
Neville Hack Snooker Final
Saturday 19 March
At 8.00 pm

OFFICIAL OPENING DAY RACE
Saturday 30 April
At 3.00 pm

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COMMODORE'S REMARKS

As I approach the end of my first year in office I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Flag Officers and Committee Members for their time and support throughout the year.

I would also like to thank the members who helped out in so many different ways: transforming the snug, painting, cleaning, tents up, tents down, providing cover for Race Officer / Safety Boat rotas and generously donating towards the purchase of our new Rescue Boat.

I would also like to thank: AES KILROOT, HG CANNING & Co. ABBEY INSURANCE BROKERS, SUBWAY, ISHERWOOD & ELLIS, EUROTECH FIRE & SAFETY, N K FENCING and CABLE SERVICE STATION for their generous support.

It was a pleasure to see so many sails on the water, with interest being at an all time high. This would not have been possible had it not been for the team looking after the Rescue Boats, --- well done Bob, Dessie and Jim.

I wish you all a Happy New Year and look forward to seeing you in March - to help break the ice.

Rory McKenna
 Commodore



SAILING SNIPPETS

As mentioned in the last Newsletter the dates for the Regatta Days in 2005 have as usual been the subject of much debate. The CAYC Regatta will be on **Saturday 27 August** so please mark this date in your new diaries.

Of special note is the RAFT RACE which this year is provisionally scheduled for **Saturday 6 August**.

A full breakdown of the provisional calendar with all the regatta dates and details of Points Series can be found at the end of the Newsletter. As ever please note that these dates may be subject to change, but should give a good indication of what is up ahead for the season.

The representation at East Antrim Boat Club, Larne for the Lasers has been exceptionally good with 10 Lasers competing from CAYC. On one particular afternoon there were 22 boats on the water. Not bad for the middle of November!!

Yet more financial activity has been going on with Nigel Shaw repurchasing his Laser 'Plane Crazy' back from Alaister Kane. Bob Nixon has bought Nigel's old boat ensuring it is retained within the Club. Peter Edgar has joined the Club recently and owns a Laser thereby increasing the fleet yet again to a very creditable

18 boats. Jason Maitland who recently purchased a Laser has sold his Topper to Ben Kelso thereby again keeping the boat within the Club.

A very healthy state of affairs and it's only January, but as you know this was the time last year when boats were changing hands almost on a daily basis and it was difficult enough keeping up with what was going on.

If there are changes in boat ownership, please advise Carla Hughes our Hon. Sailing Secretary of the Boat Number and Boat Name. We need to keep our records up to date for inclusion in the Belfast Lough Yachting Conference.

The Spring Series last year was a major success and the Sailing Committee have announced that this year the Spring Series will commence on **Sunday 6 March**. The format may well take the form of 2 races each Sunday using the 'Red Courses' as this was quite popular during the Autumn Series in 2004.

This year we will have an inner course marked with 'Green Buoys' which will be for the Optimist sailors as they found some of the courses a bit too long for such small dinghies in 2004.

No shortage of marks to make up for the start of the season. Incidentally the 'Yellow Barrels' at Blackhead and Whiterocks will be replaced this year with 'Yellow Buoys' to save on the back strain when it comes to lifting them, as we do not need so much chain. Saving on Club funds as well!!

COMMODORE'S NIGHT

There will be a different format to Commodore's Night on this occasion, as this will take the form of a meal in the Club. Tickets will be approx. £12.50 each and numbers will be

restricted to approx. 40/45 so please ensure you purchase your tickets early to avoid disappointment.

The 'Commodore's Bell' will be presented to the person who is deemed by the Commodore to have made a major contribution to the Club during 2004.

Anybody who is not attending the meal can still come down and support the evening. The intention will be to use our new 'lighting and music system' to provide entertainment for the remainder of the evening after Rory has reviewed his first year in office.

SNOOKER TEAM

The snooker team is going well in Division 1 and are still in the top half of the table as we go to press. The Turkey Final prior to Christmas was won by Robin McLernon with Chris Todd as the Runner Up. It would have been nice to see a little more support for the final. Perhaps next time!!

Table Quiz Nights 3rd Friday of every month



The quiz nights continue to go along successfully. Please make every effort to provide your support.

MEMBERSHIP FEES

During late November / early December there was an extensive review undertaken of the current

Membership List with over 130 amendments made, some minor and some major. This has been required for some time now and after the Commodore made considerable effort to deliver the October Newsletters, it was quite evident that this needed to be sorted out. Members have simply not updated us with their address changes.

Having cross checked all the lists of addresses between those who pay by Direct Debit to those who have paid by cash and cheque, we are now 99.9999% sure that the database is accurate and up to date. Please ensure that you advise the Hon. Membership Secretary of any address changes in the future.

The Membership Fees for 2005 have been distributed along with the last Newsletter. Gary Stanbridge has volunteered (never look a gift horse in the mouth) to take on the post at the AGM. However, after due consideration, Gary has agreed to take on the post now, primarily as this will allow him to maintain the accurate records that we now have, as the fees are returned.

Fees are being returned already and it is crucial that all the hard work in updating the database is used to reconcile against the list of Members paying their fees and the distribution of Membership Cards. Our thanks must go to Davey McAughey for maintaining the Membership records during 2004. No doubt he will be glad to pass on the baton of responsibility.

There were a significant number of new Members joining the Club last year with an increasing number of Family Memberships which is great to see. This reflects highly on the turnout of boats on the water during the sailing season.

As the list is up to date and as per the Club rules, those Members who have not paid their fees by **28 February**

will have their names displayed on the Membership Board. Any Member who has **not paid** their fees by **31 March** will be subject, as per the rules, to a 50% surcharge on their fees and must have these paid by **30 April** at the latest.

This year the General Committee is keen to increase the volume of Members paying by Direct Debit. Payments are spread over 3 months and are debited to your bank/building society account on the last business day of January, February and March.

Please return your Direct Debit Instructions as soon as possible if you wish to avail of this excellent facility. There has been a marked increase in Members wishing to pay this way already since the 2005 fees have been sent out.

Anyone paying by Direct Debit will, of course, not have their names displayed on the Membership Board for late payment. Completed Direct Debit Instructions need to be returned to the Hon. Membership Secretary by **Saturday 15 January**.

Junior Membership Fees are also due now, so parents please be aware of this.

SUNDAY AFTERNOON WORK PARTY

Jim Rankin, John Rodgers, Raymond Patton and others have been merrily working away on refurbishing the 'Snug'. This has turned out to be superb with new flooring down and new picture frames in place to retain photographs of the Club history.

Additional projects are in the pipeline with a new launching trolley for the new Safety Boat high on the agenda. A refurbishment of the General Room is required, but cannot be commenced until we find the leak in the ceiling which is proving to be quite a chore as the rain only 'drips'

in when the wind is blowing in a particular direction. We'll get to the bottom of it (or top of it) somehow!!

On a more positive note, we are now the proud owners of a 'big screen'. The plan is to have a digital picture in place for the New Year when the Six Nations Rugby Championships will be televised.

We are borrowing a projector in the short term, however, if this works out well, we will consider purchasing one for the Club. Film nights, Training videos etc. are all options to be considered.

A big 'thank you' to John Rodgers and Jim Rankin for arranging all of this. (Apparently, there are moves afoot to organise 'Chick Flick' nights.)

Dates for you diaries for the Ireland matches are as follows:

Italy v Ire	Sun 6	Feb	K.O.	15.30
Scot v Ire	Sat 12	Feb	K.O.	16.00
Ire v Eng	Sun 27	Feb	K.O.	15.00
Ire v Fran	Sat 12	Mar	K.O.	13.30
Wal v Ire	Sat 19	Mar	K.O.	15.30

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Please note that the AGM will take place on **Thursday 17 February** when all posts will be up for re-election as usual. Our Commodore has indicated that he would like to retain the 'top job' for another year which is extremely gratifying to hear as Rory has worked diligently throughout his first term in office and no doubt will continue to do so during 2005 (if elected!!!).

As per last year, an agenda will be sent out and the reports and accounts will be distributed on the night. This has saved considerable costs in terms of photocopying and was acceptable to the Membership in 2004.

CHRISTMAS PARTIES

There were approx. 25 Juniors at the Younger Kids' party in the Club on 12 December with another 20 participating in the Karting in Ballymena. Thank you to all involved with the organisation of both these events and particularly to all those Members who took the time to provide food and help out.

Both events were very successful. It was particularly encouraging to see as many of the 'older Juniors' taking on the 'younger Seniors' on the racetrack and giving them a good run for their money. May be next year!!! The gauntlet has been thrown down!!!

Thanks also to all the Ladies who helped organise the Senior Members' Dinner particularly Pauline, Moira and Pat. This turned out to be a great success with 32 of our 'older Seniors' enjoying a superb meal. A word of thanks for those who kindly made donations to the Club on the evening. Thank you.

RNLI FUND RAISERS

Thanks must go to Paul Abraham who acted as our host in the wine tasting evening in November. Very entertaining and the only time that one can recall where we were actually turning people away days before the event due to the interest this generated. With over 65 people in the Club the grand sum of £500 was raised for the RNLI which was a fantastic achievement.

Additionally, Bob Harper gave us a thoroughly entertaining talk of his round the world trip with his wife Christine which took over 5 years to complete. Again all the proceeds were given to the RNLI.

Sunday 6th March	Spring Series Start
Sunday 24th April	Spring Series Close
Saturday 30th April	Official Opening Day
Sunday 1st May	Early Sunday Series Start
Wednesday 4th May	Early Wednesday Series Start
Saturday 11th June	Cockle Island Boat Club Regatta
Saturday 11th June	Sail and BBQ (BROWN'S BAY)
Saturday 18th June	Mid Summer's Night BBQ
Saturday 25th June	Hollywood Yacht Club Regatta
Saturday 25th June	Royal Ulster Yacht Club Regatta
Sunday 26th June	Early Sunday Series Close (9 in total)
Wednesday 29th June	Early Wednesday Series Close (9 in total)
Saturday 2nd July	Fat Boys Race / Ladies Race
Sunday 3rd July	Summer Sunday Series Start
Wednesday 6th July	Summer Wednesday Series Start
Saturday 23rd July	Carrickfergus Sailing Club Regatta
Saturday 30th July	Balloon Race
Saturday 30th July	Ballyholme Yacht Club Regatta
Saturday 6th August	Raft Race (Organised by CAYC in aid of RNLI)
Saturday 6th August	Donaghadee Sailing Club Regatta
Saturday 13th August	Royal North of Ireland Yacht Club Regatta
Saturday 20th August	East Antrim Boat Club Regatta
Saturday 27th August	County Antrim Yacht Club Regatta
Sunday 28th August	Sunday Summer Series Close (9 in total)
Wednesday 31st August	Summer Wednesday Series Close (9 in total)
Saturday 3rd September	Closing Day Menagerie Race
Sunday 4th September	Autumn Series Start
Sunday 2nd October	Autumn Series Close

Some of the above details have yet to be finally agreed as some Regatta dates are still under discussion. We will advise you of any changes in due course, however, the dates for the Sailing Series within the Club are correct.