

County Antrim Yacht Club

Newsletter



OFFICIAL OPENING DAY RACE

Saturday 30th April 2005

Dates for your Diary

**St Patrick's Night
&
Trivial Pursuit Quiz Night
Saturday 19 March
At 8.00 pm**

**OFFICIAL OPENING DAY
RACE
Saturday 30 April
At 3.00 pm
(Entertainment TBA)**

**MID-SUMMER BBQ
Saturday 18 June
At 8.00 pm**

**FAT BOYS' RACE AND
LADIES' RACE
Saturday 2 July**

**RAFT RACE
IN AID OF THE RNLI
"New Date"
Sunday 7 August
At 3.00 pm**

**REGATTA DAY
Saturday 27 August
Racing Starts
At 11.00 am**

SAILING SNIPPETS

As mentioned in the last Newsletter there were possibly going to be some amendments to the Belfast Lough Regatta dates published.

The only change in the end is that the Royal Ulster Yacht Club regatta is now scheduled for 18th June and Holywood Yacht Club regatta is on 25th June.

Please note that the **RAFT RACE** in aid of the RNLI has been put back a day to:

Sunday 7th August

This is to accommodate the end of the Festival Week though the Club has asked for a Saturday date in the future as this coincides with normal Sunday sailing.

The Ice Breaker Series due to commence on 6 March is underway. We are very fortunate to have sponsorship for this series in place which will be known as the:

**JAMES J MACAULAY
(SOLICITORS)**

ICE BREAKER SERIES

There has been much talk on the number of boats ready to participate so this should set our sailing season off to a good start.

The new Rescue Boat launching trailer has been built and is ready for action.

Thanks again must go to Jim Rankin for taking the time to making this along with the work on the Kestrel trailer, fixing the leaks in the Heron and all the other activities he manages to do for the Club.

Renovations are ongoing in relation to the showers and toilets and it is hoped to have these completed very soon.

NEW RULES

The new racing rules have just been published and your attention is drawn in particular to the fact the 720-degree penalty no longer exists.

This penalty for infringing the rules is now known as '2 Turns' and is completed by completing 2 Tacks and 2 Gybes in the same direction. So the hail "Do your turns" now means exactly that.

The RYA is keen to ensure rules are not being infringed and we will be keeping a close eye on this throughout the season.

If you don't know a rule covering a particular situation please ask the more experienced sailors.

The RYA has produced a 'Handy Guide to the Racing Rules 2005 -

2008' which at £2.99 may well be worth a small investment.

Please contact John Lewis if you want a copy of this and orders can be placed.

COMMODORE'S NIGHT

Rory McKenna hosted Commodore's Night at the end of January. This took the form of a meal and with an excellent attendance this proved to be a very entertaining evening.

With the tables set out in a particular way it is evident that we could accommodate almost 50 people for a meal and probably more if we used the 'Snug'. Perhaps some day soon!

A review of a very successful 2004 was recounted along with some influential moments throughout the season.

Particular thanks were conveyed to our sponsors and it is hoped to have more sponsors 'on board' again in 2005.

Rory commented on the healthy family environment within the Club at the moment and hoped that this trend would continue with increasing numbers joining the Club.

He also thanked all those who had helped both within and outside the General Committee over the last 12 months and hoped that the support he had been given would continue in his second year in office.

The Commodore's Bell was awarded to John Rodgers who has worked tirelessly for the Club during the last 12 months.

The award was warmly greeted with a standing ovation from all who were there. John thoroughly merited the acknowledgement and we are very

fortunate to have Members in the Club such as this.

RYA SAILING COURSES

The format of the RYA courses has changed where there is now Stage 1, 2, 3 and 4 after which the Juniors will move in to the National Sailing Scheme (NSS) which incorporates Seamanship Skills, Spinnaker Handling etc. The dates for the courses are as follows:

4 – 8 July	Stages 1 - 2
18 – 22 July	Stages 2 – 3
25 – 29 July	Stages 4 - NSS

We are very fortunate to have the services of Fiona Mullan yet again this year and the Dinghy Instructors will be Catherine and Rachel Stanbridge.

As ever, it is important that the Juniors make every effort to practise their sailing before and after the courses.

The intention will be to ensure some further Assistant Instructors qualify this year and the Assistants who qualified last year given further experience with a view to going on to become Dinghy Instructors.

The cost of the courses will be as last season at £80 with a non-refundable deposit of £15. Please contact Sheela Lewis for further details.

The intention is to also have an Adults Assessment weekend which is scheduled to take place on 18th and 19th June.

This will concentrate on those adults who will be participating in the Wednesday evening training undertaken by Jim and Megan.

RYA SAFETY BOAT COURSE

Fiona Mullan and John Lewis will be running a Safety Boat course on 14 & 15 May. The cost will be £60 with a non-refundable deposit of £15.

Please contact John Lewis. Those people hoping to become Senior Sailing Instructors will require to have their Safety Boat Certificate completed as well as their PowerBoat Certificate.

SNOOKER TEAM

The snooker team continues to compete admirably in the Larne & District League.

On close inspection of the league table survival in Division 1 looks to be quite achievable which is tremendous to see.

It is important that the traditional tournaments such as the Neville Hack Trophy and Norman Evans Doubles Trophy are played for, so guys let's see some action on these fronts.

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

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.

There has been a tremendous uptake on the Direct Debit option this year following the concentrated effort to encourage this means for the payment of fees.

The figure for the last few years has been approx. £3,000. This has jumped to £6,000 and means that the Hon. Membership Secretary can get on with the administration of the job a lot more easily.

Even if you have paid your full Membership Fee by cheque for this year, completion of a Direct Debit Instruction for next year's fees can be done now. A number of Members have done this already. Thank you.

Please be aware that the 50% surcharge will be invoked this year for late payment as we endeavour to ensure that the Membership list is kept right up to date.

Many of the Overseas Members have taken out the Direct Debit option this year which is to be encouraged.



ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The AGM took place recently in the Club. As ever the numbers were relatively low, however, the

important factor was that all posts were filled and are detailed as follows:

Commodore
Rory McKenna

Vice Commodore
Paddy Hughes

Rear Commodore
Raymond Patton

Captain
Steven Canning

First Officer
John Rodgers

Second Officer
Stephen Foster

Safety Officer
Jim Bothwell

Child Protection Officer
Mary Stanbridge

Hon. Secretary
Julie Haveron

Hon. Treasurer
Vivien Bishop


Hon. Membership Secretary
Gary Stanbridge

Hon. Sailing Secretary
Carla Hughes

General Committee Members

Sheela Lewis
Alistair McCarlie
Sara Carse
David Jamison
Jim Rankin
Andy Best

As per the Notices of Motion we required the appointment of a Trustee to bring our numbers up to six and Evan Orr was duly elected.



For your information the other Trustees are:

Capt Bob Annett
Capt Angus MacDonald
Robert Logan
John Lewis
David McAughey

The proposal to increase Membership Fees by 5% for 2006 was passed as was the important proposal to reduce the Student Membership to 25% of the Full Membership Fee.

This was felt to be particularly important to ensure we encourage those primarily in the 18 - 22 age group to retain their membership

This is an area where we have lost members in the past and we have now tried to address this.



BIG SCREEN REMINDER

As many of you now know the big screen for the rugby matches is now in place and has proved to be an absolute success. The digital picture has really made a big improvement.

The recent Ireland versus England match found the Club completely full with standing room only for the latecomers.

For many parts of the afternoon there was a necessity to have 3 people operating behind the bar which certainly was a reflection of the numbers of people in the General Room.

The final 2 matches in the Six Nations will of course be screened so make sure you are down early to get a seat! The General Committee will certainly have to invest in a projector as the one we have is currently on loan.

ENTERTAINMENT QUIZ

You will see from the 'Dates In Your Diary' section that a Trivial Pursuit Quiz Night is due to be held on:

Saturday 19 March

The intention will be to have this as an interactive quiz using the big screen.

This is currently being checked out and should be in place for the night, so please come down to the Club and support the event.

TSUNAMI SPONSORED CYCLE

What started out as a bit of a joke, suddenly turned in to something a little more serious. A number of Members decided on a sponsored cycle from Portrush to CAYC.

The intention was to run this as a relay to cover the 70 mile route. Out came the old bicycles and Madigans Cycle Centre in Carrickfergus had some joyous moments fixing up bikes that had not seen much daylight for a few years.

Anyway those who took part 'thoroughly enjoyed' the training to ensure everyone survived.

The list of Members included Harry Carse, Rory McKenna, Steven Canning, Stephen Foster, John Lewis, Gary Stanbridge, Bob Nixon, Mark Winters and Sharon Magee.

We had additional support from a number of other friends and probably had in total approx. 16 cyclists.

The intention was to raise sufficient funds to purchase a fishing boat in

Sri Lanka to be built and used by the locals.

At the time of writing this we should have sufficient funds to buy 2 boats that cost in the region of £1750 each.

So no mean achievement by all who took part particularly bearing in mind the 'fitness levels' that were achieved in a short 4-week period.

Additional thanks must go to the support teams and cars that included Keith Black, Jane Black, Richard Henning and David Jamison.

Many photographs were taken just to prove we completed the course.

It must be said that quite a few of those participating intended, as indicated, to complete sections of the course as a relay, but as the day went on there was a real determination to finish all 70 miles. Well done to all!!!

BAR OPENING HOURS

At the AGM there was some discussion on bar opening hours and whether these should be reduced or amended.

After a range of views was submitted, it was decided to maintain the current bar hours in the meantime.

Please note that during the months of June, July and August the bar will open at 5.00 pm on Fridays to accommodate the Friday sailing fraternity and for those who would like to just to have a tea time facility other than some other well known establishments 'up the road'.

And Finally!

If you want to give sailing a go just let it be known around the Club. There will always be someone willing to take you out and let you experience how easy it all is.
