

ANTRIM BOAT CLUB

News Sheet

Spring 2004

Message from the Commodore

We've had an exciting start to this year's boating season with a successful Winter Series which was so closely contested that the final order was decided on discards. Warmest congratulations to the overall winners: 1st, *Yellow Peril* (Simon Hutchinson), and 2nd, *Jamie Jess* (William McIlvenna). Commiserations are due to the crew of *Underdog* which was knocked down and sank in the 5th race, just before Christmas. Peter Frazer was nevertheless determined to recover his boat and is now working hard to restore her for further races in the near future. We are thankful that everyone survived and we all learned an important lesson about being prepared for the worst. In particular we have arranged regular talks on safety in the water the first of which will be given by **KEVIN RAHILL of the RNLI on TUESDAY 4 MAY 2004 at 7.30 PM in the Club House**. I hope to see as many of you as possible there.

We have also been making important progress in the long standing dream of a new marina. This will be in partnership with the Antrim Borough Council (see details below). We will be trying to expand our social activities as well and have co-opted Phillip Smith on to the committee to help with these.

Finally may I make a plea to those of you who appear to have lost interest or enthusiasm for boating? The club is thriving and there are many new members using the club every week who have not yet been able to be allocated a regular berth. We also have a waiting list for those wanting to join. If you really don't intend to use your berth, it would be appreciated if you would please let someone else have it. The Jetty Master (Alan Reilly) will be happy to discuss alternative arrangements with you.

Tony Brady
Commodore

EVENTS DIARY

Summer Series: 8 weekly races, starting Thursday 29 April at 7.30 pm.

RNLI Water Safety Talk: Tuesday 4 May, 7.30 pm (Kevin Rahill).

Lurgan Regatta & Cats Cradle: 19 June

ABC Regatta: 26 June

RB&LN Association Rally: (ABC) July 30, 31 August 1

SAILING

On 26 February veteran and champion sailor, Pat Kelly, gave us an inspiring talk on racing tactics and "crew management". We were all delighted and flattered to hear that he thought that the standard of sailing in ABC had greatly improved in recent years and we hope our club will continue to generate and foster some of Ireland's best sailors in the future. (High spirits are all part of the fun but throwing snow balls, particularly out of season, must be curbed!).

Speaking of fun, we hope to see as many boats as possible in the Summer Series on Thursday evenings. If you can sail at all and your boat floats you will be most welcome. The competition is open to all grades of skill and experience (or lack of it!), but if you don't want to take part immediately why not just follow us round the course? It is a fantastic way to start and to improve your sailing skills at the same time.

SOCIAL CALENDAR

- **Pub Quiz:** 15 May
- **Barbecue & Dance:** 26 June

OVERHEARD IN THE BAR

(after Winter Series race in 30 knot gusts)

"Out there you know you're alive....that your heart's working!"

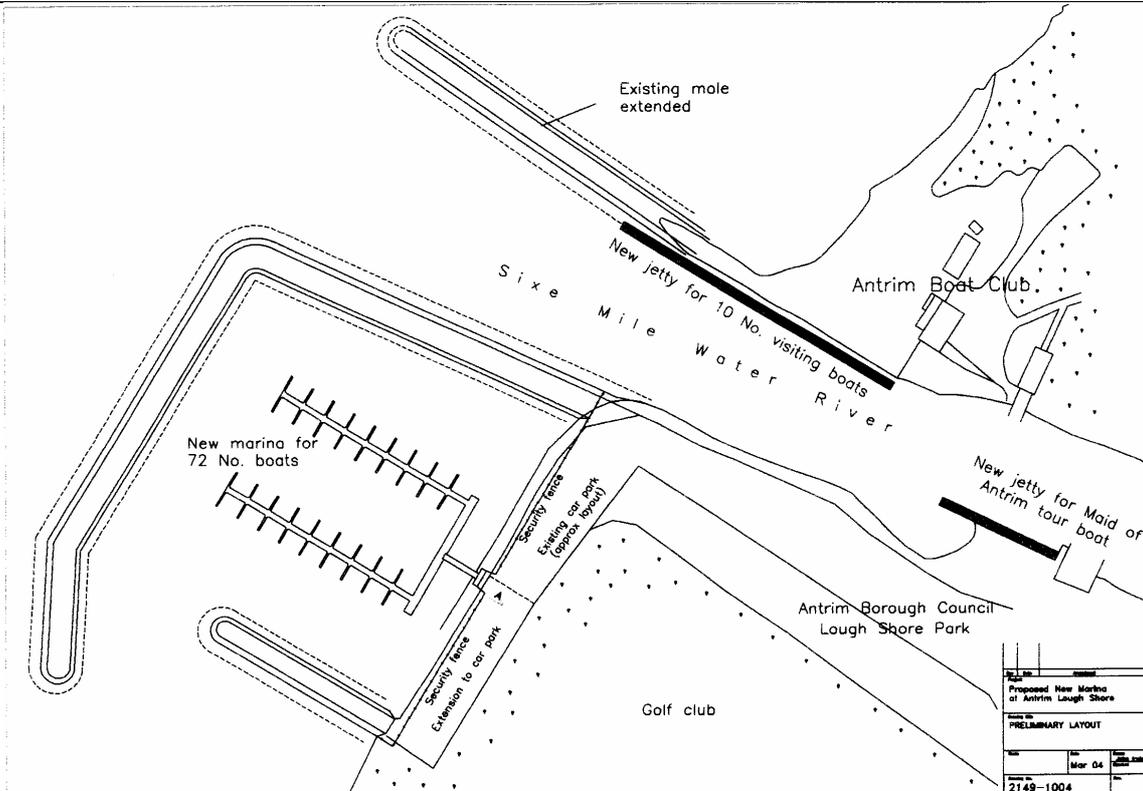
NEW MARINA PROJECT

An application from Antrim Borough Council with Antrim Boat Club as co-applicant has been submitted to the Lough Neagh Partnership Fund for grant aid. At present £500,000 has been approved and £150,000 has been applied for from the Lough Neagh Partnership. The total project is estimated at £1m and the council will be applying elsewhere to fund the balance.

A major lough shore redevelopment programme with a new marina based on plans submitted by us (see diagram below) will include both sides of the Sixmilewater. As part of this overall development Antrim Boat Club has agreed to refurbish and modernise its club house and the visitors' jetty.

The general committee has now put steps in place to prepare for this new venture. Any suggestions for improvements to the club house will be welcome. Should you have any objections please express these in writing to the Club Secretary (John Irwin) before 1 June 2004.

If we have not heard from you by then we will assume that you approve of these plans.



OFFICERS and COMMITTEE (2003-2004)

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