



# ANTRIM BOAT CLUB

News Sheet (No. 11)

AUTUMN 2006

### Message from the Commodore

In this cold and stormy season, as we approach the end of the first part of our Winter Series, it is hard to recall those sunny summer days such as the one pictured opposite of the Bann Rally which we hosted at the end of July. The picture, however, does not tell the story of the anxious delay at Ardboe while we waited for the wind to drop to 20 knots before a very brisk sail home, and the triumphant win by *Free Expression* (Lurgan) closely followed by our own *Silver Girl*. I'd like to thank the Organising Committee (chaired by Alfie Mayrs), the Ladies Committee and everyone else who put such a great effort into making the evening such a success in spite of the rather disappointing attendance. The summer also saw the re-introduction of GP14 events and a proper dinghy racing season should be possible next year now that 5 members have "safety driver" qualifications for the safety boats.



The Winter season is now well under way and I am delighted that **Firmus Energy** have agreed to be our new sponsors. I'd like to thank everyone who came to our AGM in November, which was very well attended, and a new Committee (see box below) has duly been elected for the year ahead. I am sorry that Alfie Mayrs decided to stand down as Sailing Secretary after 3 years in this demanding rôle. His contribution to the club cannot be over-estimated and I am glad that he will still be involved in our plans for the future. I am, however, very pleased to welcome Peter Frazer as our new Sailing Secretary, as well as Martin Kidd who will take responsibility for managing the safety boats. I know that they will both be very valuable members of the Committee, and wish them an enjoyable and rewarding term of office.

Looking to the future, I'm delighted that a new 25-year lease has been agreed with Shane's Castle Estates and is currently being drawn up. 2007 proves to be a most significant year for us: it will be our 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary and it will also be the centenary of the "Cat's Cradle" race. We will therefore be planning a special series of celebrations to mark these important milestones. I will look forward to meeting you all on these notable occasions.

Alan Reilly

### EVENTS DIARY

- |                            |          |                                     |
|----------------------------|----------|-------------------------------------|
| • Winter Series: (Part 1): | 10 races | Sundays, 15 October – 17 December.  |
| • Winter Series: (Part 2): | 10 races | Sundays, 7 January – 10 March 2007. |

### NEW MARINA NEWS

We are very pleased that our partners, Antrim Borough Council, agreed last month to fund their contribution to this project, which will be located in Kettlebottom Bay, and hopefully we will soon see the start of this long awaited development.

### OVERHEARD IN THE BAR

"I know that you believe that you understand what you think I said, but I'm not sure you realise that what you heard is not what I meant".

### **Message from the Sailing Secretary**

We have agreed a new procedure to minimise complaints between crews about who has or has not modified their boat in such a way as to require a new handicap. A new race entry form will include an option to declare any material changes from the standard for that boat. The handicapping committee (Charlie McAllister, Alan Reilly and myself) will then decide whether or not such changes are relevant, and issue a handicap for that season. A boat shall have its handicap formally reviewed at the written request of either the owner, a fellow competitor or a member of the handicapping committee.

**Peter Frazer**

### **Messages from the Membership Secretary**

- The committee has resolved to allocate up to five places for storage of dinghies on trailers of not more than 16ft overall, in the sailboard shed. The fee will be £6.00 per ft. per year. Fully paid-up members wishing to avail themselves of this facility should have all fees, including sailboard shed storage, with me not later than 30 December 2006. If more than five members take up this offer then a draw will take place (ASAP after this date) to determine the members to be allocated the places. As with all items at the Club, members' property should be clearly identified with their name and contact number. These places, as with moorings, are non-transferable and the terms and conditions may be changed by the committee.
- The barrier key will be changed this year, on or about the 31 December. I would ask that all old barrier keys be posted in the mail-box please.
- Thank you to everyone who has paid their fees promptly this year. It is greatly appreciated.

**William Surgenor**

### **RYA News**

#### **ANY OLD LASERS?**

In recent years The Sri Lanka Yachting Association has been trying to introduce younger children to sailing. They have done well with their Optimists but now these kids are growing out of the boats and sadly have no other dinghies to move on to.

Following the Enterprise World Championships held in Sri Lanka this year, a plan has been put together between UK and Irish Enterprise sailors to send a container out to Sri Lanka. The plan is to pack the container with as many Lasers, or Laser parts, as possible.

There must be a large number of old and unwanted Lasers or parts in garages, sheds and boat parks. This is a good opportunity to "recycle" them, clear some space at home or at the sailing club and at the same time help an emerging, less advantaged nation. Condition doesn't matter as all repairs and modifications required for the boats can be made locally there upon arrival.

Ideally the organisers are looking for donations of complete Lasers or laser hulls but will accept anything in the form of spare gear from spars to foils to sails etc.

If you feel you can help in any way towards this very worthy cause, please make contact with Alice Driscoll: Sri Lanka Appeal [Srilankaappeal@adpr.co.uk](mailto:Srilankaappeal@adpr.co.uk)

#### **OFFICERS and COMMITTEE (2006-2007)**

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