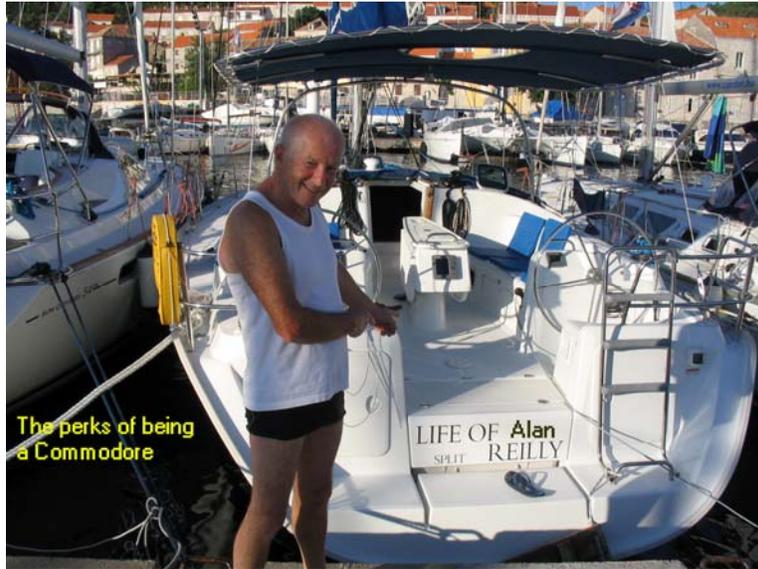


**Message from the Commodore**

Antrim Borough Council's Lough Fest events in August were a huge success, and, thanks to a great number of Club members, three involved boating, sailing or the use of our facilities. We were pleasantly surprised that about 40 visitors turned up for the Try Sailing Night on Wednesday 22 August. In spite of quite a brisk wind they all had an opportunity to go sailing and there were no untoward events! Some were also out on the RIB safety boats and other motorboats as well. Sincere thanks to all of you who turned up to help.

Four of our sailing boats joined the fleet at Kinnegoe on Saturday 25th. to participate in the inaugural Round the Lough Race, a 26 mile circumnavigation of the lough starting and finishing at Kinnegoe and rounding Rams Island. The Antrim boats had been left overnight at Oxford Island allowing the majority of the Antrim crews to arrive for the morning briefing in style,



showing off our new committee boat, *Blue Thunder*, to the envy of the Lough Neagh Boat Club. We acquitted ourselves well in 5 hours of close racing with *Quickflash* getting second place and *Eroica* a very creditable sixth. Three of the fleet sailed home in a fresh north west wind, a long beat to get to the club before the start of the fireworks show, a brilliant and colourful display laid on by the Council with an opening sequence of a large float in the shape of a swan coming down the river triggering a series of pyrotechnics, fire picture and fireworks, a very spectacular end to a long day on the water.

Congratulations to Martin Kidd, whose hard work has been rewarded: Antrim Boat Club is now an RYA Recognised Training Centre (RTC). Training sessions are now well underway and if you are interested in acquiring the Power Boat 2 or any other RYA qualification, please return the enclosed form to Martin ASAP.

Finally, I'm pleased to report that after many months of planning and discussion the long awaited refurbishment of our Club House has been agreed and will start at the beginning of March 2008. We hope to arrange some fund raising events in the autumn to help this project, which I hope you will support.

Since this will be my last message as Commodore may I say what a great privilege as well as a pleasure it has been, and to thank you all for your support over the past 2 years.

Alan Reilly

OVERHEARD IN THE BAR

Q: "Who is this Harry Borne?"

A: "The invisible man? Oh, he's only ever around when there's work to be done"

EVENTS DIARY

- **Winter Series (Part 1):** 10 races 14 October-16 December
- **Hallowe'en Party:** 3 November
- **AGM:** 22 November
- **Christmas Party:** 22 December
- **Charity Race:** 23 December
- **Children's Christmas Party:** 23 December
- **Winter Series (Part 2):** 10 races 6 January-9 March 2008 (to be confirmed)

Messages from the Sailing Secretary

• Starting with this year's Winter Series, all races in Antrim Boat Club will be according to IRC handicap. All boats that have indicated that they wish to compete in the next Winter Series have now been weighed and measured, and the 2007 IRC handicaps have been applied for. Please contact me if you wish to enter your boat in any future events.

• One of our most distinguished and experienced sailors, **Pat Kelly**, has kindly offered to give training sessions on Saturday afternoons at 1.00 pm, throughout October to anyone interested in learning to sail or to improve their technique. If you are interested please meet him at the Club House or call him on: 028 2565 4089. This is a very generous offer and I would urge any novices in the club to grasp this opportunity.

Peter Frazer

Message from the Jetty Master

• Correction and apology: Harry Borne's name was inadvertently and unforgivably omitted from those I thanked in the last News Sheet for their help with the new jetties. (Sorry Harry!)

Joe Allen

Committee Boats

Our OD, Aubrey Kincaid, Martin Kidd and David Collier have been appointed skippers and trainers for our new Committee Boat, *Blue Thunder*. If you wish to be able to use *Blue Thunder* and to join the list of approved users, please contact Aubrey on one of the numbers given below. Our old Committee Boat, *Recovery II*, is now offered for sale. Please contact the Commodore if you are interested.

OFFICERS and COMMITTEE (2006-2007)

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	Tony Brady	9058 8288		bradynel1@ntlworld.com
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Hon Treasurer:	Colin Grattan	9083 9740		colingrattan@msn.com
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	Martin Kidd	9446 3748	[077 2579 1317]	martin.kidd@bfsah.com