



Dear Reader,

Welcome to the winter 2024 edition of the club newsletter.

All members should by now have received their notice of annual membership subscription renewal from the Honorary Treasurer. May I remind you if not yet addressed that it must be paid before 29th February.

A Note from the Commodore

I'm glad to see the 63 days of January over and as they say there's a brave stretch in the evenings.....which can only mean we're getting closer to Tues/Thursday night racing as well as the start of the club events kicking off on Paddy's weekend with the Topper Northern Championship; busy weekend at the club as we have racing, rugby and partying all to do in just two days.

Don't forget we would love to see members new and old down to volunteer at our events throughout the year. Don't be shy!!!! Cheers.

Chris Dorman. Club Commodore.

TICKETS NOW ON SALE

RNLI
200TH ANNIVERSARY
BLACK TIE CHARITY BALL

Friday 15th March 2024
in Magheramorne Estate at 6.30pm

Drinks Reception & 3 course meal

Tickets **£60** per person

Table of **10** booking **£550**

Ballot on the night

Cèilidh, Live Band & DJ Entertainment
by "Haste To The Wedding"

FOR ALL TICKETS AND PAYMENTS
please contact:

PAMELA MCAULEY
07718067747

ESTHER DORMAN
07516496945

ALISON CRAIG
07808581690

or email: LARNE@RNLI.ORG.UK

Sailing

After a prolonged period of no sailing, due to unsuitable weather conditions, club racing resumed on Sunday 11th February with the usual two races back-to-back from the committee boat start. Race officer Richard Doig was ably assisted by Heather Kane with Cheryl Taylor, her son Will and Stephen Swann all out on the water in the safety boats. We hope that the weather has now turned in our favour and look forward to more of the same each Sunday at the Club. Come on down and support our sailors or join them for a refreshing drink and some chat in the Club Bar, open from 2pm each Sunday.



Photo courtesy Richard Doig.

Please see, next page, the list of dates our Sailing Sub Committee have put together for club sailing events for the year ahead and also note the three events visiting classes will compete in for their respective championships.

There may be restrictions within club grounds during these dates, and the organising committee will be putting out requests for volunteers to assist in various roles nearer to those times.

There will be a yard clean up on Saturday 24th of February from 0930. Please attend and help keep our club tidy.



Club Sailing Calendar

MARCH

Sat 16th, Sun 17th Topper Winter C'ship.

MAY

Sat 4th, Sun 5th RS200/400 Northern C'ship.

Sat 11th, Sun 12th Optimist Ulster C'ship.

JUNE

Sat 22nd, Sun 23rd EABC Regatta.

Thu 27th – Sun 30th Bangor Town Regatta.

JULY

Tue 2nd Lady Helm Race.

Sat 6th Kitson Cup (Pursuit Race All Classes).

Sat 20th, Sun 21st Doig Cup (KA, KB Classes).

AUGUST

Thu 1st Crew Helm Race.

Thu 8th RNLI Race.

Sat 17th Glenarm Race.

Sat 31st Maidens Race (End of Season Party).

OCTOBER

Sat 5th, Sun 6th Ashton Trophy (Flying 15's).

Sun 27th Halloween Regatta.

DECEMBER

Sat 28th Christmas Regatta (Sailors Dinner).

Richard Doig. Hon Sailing Secretary.

Congratulations

Once again “our Andy” (Thompson) has proved himself alongside helm Tom Gillard by winning the 2024 Fireball World Championship at Royal Geelong Yacht Club in Australia. And not in their own boat may I add, (they had to borrow one from the association and set it up the way they wanted after their own was held up in shipment) quite an achievement overall. Well done Tom and Andy!



Photo from Fireball Australia Facebook page.

Congratulations also to EABC member Lucy Kane who was successfully selected for the British Keelboat Academy. An accomplished dinghy sailor and coach Lucy thought this would be a really good opportunity to develop her skills further at a higher level. Best wishes Lucy!



Lucy Kane at the helm of her family's yacht, Artemis.



On the Social Scene

Our Entertainment's sub Committee have put a calendar of events together and we look forward to everyone enjoying this varied range of social activities.

FEB. 23	QUIZ NIGHT
FEB. 24	EABC YARD CLEAN UP @9:30AM
FEB. 24/25	SIX NATIONS RUGBY @2:15PM • SAT. IRELAND V WALES @ 2:15PM & SCOTLAND V ENGLAND @ 4:45PM • SUN. FRANCE V ITALY @ 3:00PM
MAR. 9/10	SIX NATIONS RUGBY @2:15PM • SAT. ITALY V SCOTLAND @ 2:15PM & IRELAND V ENGLAND @ 4:45PM • SUN. WALES V FRANCE @ 3:00PM
MAR. 16/17	ST PATRICK'S WEEKEND • TOPPER WINTERS EVENT ON SAT /SUN • PADDY'S DAY CRAIC, SIX NATIONS & MUSIC
MAR. 24	EASTER PARTY EGG HUNT, CRAFTS & GAMES
MAR. 29	QUIZ NIGHT
APR. 13	WINE & CHEESE
APR. 26	BEETLEDRIVE
MAY. 4/5	RS NORTHERNS
MAY. 11/12	OPTIMIST NATIONALS
JUN. 01	SUMMER BALL SHORTS & SHADES SHINDIG - CELRBATES SUMMER SAILING

Follow our Social Media accounts for more photos and don't forget to add our events and entertainment to your diary!

Training and Juniors

Club race coaching has also resumed each Sunday morning and there will be a range of various training programmes in the near future to enable our juniors to progress their skills. You may also have noticed the arrival of two new dinghies' in the Club Yard; these were purchased with money mainly raised through fund raising partnerships. I look forward to seeing these on the water.

Debbie Hanna. Club RYA Principal.

Cruiser's View

Taking another break from the usual tales once again, here we have an interesting article which appeared in "Mainsail Autumn 2023" from our very own Club President and highly accomplished sailor Prof Curly Morris OBE.

Now and Then– Then and Now

Driving home from a memorable British Nationals in Looe I reflected that while it had been sixty years since I sailed my first British Nationals as a teenager, my finishing position was exactly the same - 16th overall. There had however been a lot of changes in the meantime.



Roughly centre spot and about to pole out spinnaker

The entry at Llandudno in 1963 was a little over 220 boats. We shipped our six boats to the venue by British Rail - it was the cheapest as ro-ro ferries were in their infancy and still expensive. Most of the boats were home or amateur built. With so many boats most launched down the beach. The easiest way to get the boats up and down the beach was to carry them.



1960-nb wooden mast & boom, jib with hanks, lifting handles on fore and aft deck. Early attempt at centre sheeting. Lucas sails.

I believe we did have spinnakers (recently introduced) but the genoa was still to come so we sailed with the original small jib.



The gate start had not been introduced. The starting line was a very long line with a buoy in the middle which was part of the line. A lot of sailing needed to establish the best place on the line to start.

We sailed one long race per day. The first two days were lost to a gale leaving three races to sail. Despite only three races a discard was allowed, so the event was won with results of 3, 3, and 50, beating 1, 6 and seven by 3/4 of a point. The Irish contingent finished with results of 2nd, 4th, 8th 10th 16th and 25th. Irish participation in the event has been regular ever since.

The people we meet at the Championship nowadays are every bit as pleasant and fun as they were then. The biggest difference is the standard of the boats and helmsmanship and crewing. I believe that almost every sailor competing at Looe would easily have finished in the top half of the fleet in 1963.

My crew at the event was one of my oldest friends, Graham Gingles, then an art student, now one of Ireland's leading gallery artists. Also sailing in the event from Northern Ireland were Burton Allen, who would win the title in 1965 and Bill Whisker who went on to win the 1975 World Championship. Eric Twiname was also competing (at much the same level as myself) as GP14s were in his family, although he was probably better known in Fireflies.



Carrickfergus R&SC Regatta-61 or 62



Sailing with Ann in Larne Lough, still jobs, now with transom scupper, Bruce Banks sails.



Larne Lough with Graham Gringles

Looking back everything was simple and cheap - no roller blocks, minimal sail controls, plywood foils, and wooden masts. Sailing clothing was also basic - the first wet suits (mostly made from kits in thick neoprene) were appearing, decent life jackets were also coming on the market and waterproof clothing was mainly yellow oilskin smocks. RIBs were only being invented in the 60's so we always had to take responsibility for our own safety and that of those out sailing in company with us.

Coaching was non-existent. I was fortunate enough to be young and to be able to spend all my summer holidays (at school and Uni) at my sailing club, often sailing morning, afternoon and evening. Even if sailing to a distant beach or small harbour with the idea of getting an ice cream, we were competitive to arrive there first but also took great pride in doing things in a seamanlike manner. Great criticism could be heaped on someone failing to complete a complex manoeuvre correctly, so even without coaches we were forever attempting to improve our standards. It was a different time but the only thing I would really want to salvage from it is my youth.

But it was fun back then too, **Curly Morris**.



Mystery Place

Did anyone recognise the mystery place in our Winter 2023 edition?



It is of course the Crinan Canal Lighthouse, viewed from the beautiful old hotel which overlooks the sea lock at the western end of the canal, often referred to as "The Worlds most beautiful shortcut". The canal opened in 1801 though the lighthouse wasn't established until some fifty years later in 1851. I would guess it has witnessed many skippers and their crew on passage or stopping for a welcome pause in the Crinan Basin over the years, including in more recent times cruisers from East Antrim Boat Club.

Keeping to the lighthouse theme can you name the mystery place in this edition?



And finally

Thank you to all those who submitted a contribution to this and previous editions of our Club Newsletter, it would not be possible without your participation.

If you would like to add to future editions please get in touch.

Michael Kane.