



Dear Members,

Welcome to our packed April edition of On the Pier! As the months have marched on it has been so heartening to see so many exciting things going on in the club.

This month our Commodore Lucy shares some thoughts for the season ahead, some of our volunteers attended the RYAN awards, our social scene has brought a buzz to the club and members have lots of lovely news to share! Michael Kane's feature for Cruiser's News could be the start of another EABC literary career... just as Tom Jobling launches his fabulous new book 'Four Short Stories.'

As the keelboats begin to appear on the slipway for launching, we look forward to another summer of sailing, racing and cruising knowing that more great stories will be borne over the coming months.

Our EABC community offers something for every member; sailor, shoreside supporter and family. If you are reading this, then this is your club too. If you haven't been down for a while, come and support some of the super events planned for summer.

See you all soon!

A Note from the Commodore...

"Things have been relatively quiet in the boat yard over the winter but activity over the last few weeks has been ramping up as our keel boats get prepared to go afloat. It would be great to see as many boats on the water as possible, both yachts and dinghies, over the spring and summer season.

It's been fantastic to have our entertainments committee back up and running, the team have been busy planning and running social events throughout the winter and have a full calendar for the rest of the year. There has also been a hive of activity with our social media posts, keeping everyone updated on news and events and promoting the Club. Thanks to both teams! May and June are going to be busy and planning is well underway for Discover Sailing, and the GP14's in May and the Optimist Ulsters in June. If you haven't volunteered yet please do, we really do need your help both on the water and ashore for these events.

I also wanted to take this opportunity to congratulate our winter racing and training team and Lucy Kane on being nominated for the RYA Awards. Although we didn't win on the night, everyone had a great evening!"

Lucy.



L-R: Debbie Hanna, Lucy Whitford, Gordon Kane, Lucy Kane, Heather Kane, Allison Liddle, Richard Doig and Cheryl Taylor.

Sailing

On Saturday 20th and Sunday 21st May we host the GP14 Ireland 2023 Ulster Championship. The Event Planning Team have been working hard to deliver a successful championship event and volunteers are still needed for roles afloat and ashore. If you would like to volunteer at the event, please contact honsec@eabc.org.uk or add you name to the list pinned on the Sailing Section noticeboard.

Our Keelboat Familiarisation/Training Initiative in partnership with Waverides Carrickfergus is now fully booked for May. If you, or any friend or family member is interested in this one-day training aboard Trinculo, a Sigma 400 for just £30 including lunch, spaces remain for our June and July dates below.

Keelboat Training 3rd June 2023

<https://membership.eabc.club/event/keelboat-training-day-with-waverides-may--1>

Keelboat Training 8th July 2023

<https://membership.eabc.club/event/keelboat-training-day-with-waverides-may--1>

Our keelboat racing season has been delayed due to recent inclement weather pushing back launching preparations. This will be reviewed by 7th May and we hope to start Tuesday and Thursday Club Racing very soon. Members will be updated in due course via email.

One EABC boat is gearing up for the 2023 Scottish Series. Richard Doig's Hydrology heads to Tarbert for the 26th to 29th May races. We look forward to hearing from Hydrology at this exciting race series. Good Luck to Richard, Gordon Kane, Stephen Liddle, Michael Kane, Kathryn Boyle and Lucy Kane, and have fun... we aren't jealous at all!

<https://clydecruisingclub.org/page/scottish-series-2023>



On the Social Scene

Bookings for the Coronation Tea Party will close on Thursday 4th May. Don't miss out on this opportunity to don your glad rags and best Ascot hat in celebration of King Charles III's Coronation on Saturday 6th May.

Booking may be made online via the link or tickets can be purchased from the Clubhouse bar.

<https://membership.eabc.club/event/coronation-tea-party->



Our Entertainment Committee have also been preparing an exciting Summer Calendar of Events.

Follow our Facebook page, Facebook Members Group and Instagram Page for updates about upcoming events and photos of all the fun!

EABC Facebook Page (public)
<https://www.facebook.com/eabclarne/>

EABC Members (members only group)
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/570721286279182>

EABC Instagram page
<https://www.instagram.com/eastantrimboatclub/?hl=en>



Training and Juniors

Debbie Hanna RYA Principal

Our Junior members have been getting back on the water on Sunday mornings with our club instructors. Anyone who is interested in joining these sessions please contact Debbie for further info.

training@eabc.club

All our Summer Schemes and courses for Adults and Juniors are available to book now. Please book ASAP and spread the word around family and friends who might be interested in learning to sail.

DISCOVER SAILING will be taking place on Saturday 27th May, you will receive an e mail in the coming weeks outlining details and helpers required. This has been a great day for the club and our members in previous years and also an opportunity to showcase our club to potential members.

Debbie.



<https://afloat.ie/sail/youth-sailing/item/58553-northern-ireland-dinghy-sailor-success-at-howth-s-youth-sailing-nationals>

Member's News

In late March our Club President Curly Morris was one of four sailors to be the first inductees into the RYA NI Hall of Fame.

The Hall of Fame recognises the awesome history and achievements of sailors from Northern Ireland.



Curly Morris, RYA NI Hall of Fame inaugural inductee

RYA NI writes, "Curly represented Ireland in no fewer than 23 World, European and other major international championships. He competed in the Dragon class in the Munich 1972 Olympics.

As well as competing and coaching, Curly was involved in administration as a Sailing Secretary of East Antrim Boat Club, nationally in the Olympic Committee of the Irish Yachting Association and internationally as a member of the International Optimist Dinghy Association.

In 2019 was elected as President of the International GP14 class.

He is also an expert haematology consultant and received an OBE in 2008 for services to medicine."

Congratulations Curly!

It's been a busy April for our youth and junior sailors...

Kelly Patterson and Matthew McClernon finished 3rd overall in their RS400 in the Carrickfergus Sailing Club's Spring Series.

Tom Coulter was 1st overall in the ILCA 6 Munster championships in Baltimore, Cork.

At the Investwise Irish Sailing Youth Championship in Howth over Easter, Fred Doig in his first outing in his ILCA 4 (laser 4.7) finished 19th. George Doig finished 29th in the Optimist Class. In the highly competitive ILCA 6 Class Tom Coulter finished 3rd overall, Zoe Whitford was 7th overall and first girl, Callum Jackson was 14th and Jenna Reid 28th. Both Tom and Zoe got a wee mention in Afloat!

Something 'bout a boat!

There are some new dinghies in the boat park as several of our youth sailors move from topper and optimist to laser, congratulations to Tom O'Neill, Fraser Doig, Connie Wilson, Mollie McKeown, Fred Doig and Andrew Brownlees on your new purchases and happy sailing!

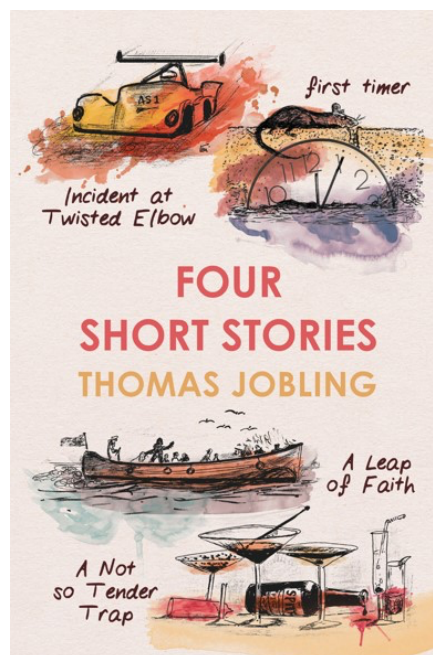
On the subject of new boats, congratulations also go to our Vice Commodore Chris Dorman on the arrival of Bandit his Redbay Stormforce 7.4m, to Dylan Campbell on the successful purchase and delivery trip of Pateila his 26ft Cruiser Racer and to Mark Wilkinson and Allison Liddle on their Tornado RIB 6.5m Aquila.

Tom's new book!

It's finally here. The much anticipated forth book from the pen of the Northern Ireland novelist, and EABC member THOMAS JOBLING. He is the author of 'Chasing Shadows', 'Arthur's Dead', and 'A Letter to a Lucky Man.'

This time Jobling has moved a little way from his usual nautical fiction but still delivers a character driven book of cringe-worthy humour balanced by tales perhaps too close to be comfortable. Simply entitled **'FOUR SHORT STORIES'** it is available as both an e-book and paperback. Described by Tom, as, "a compact little number", it has been sized as a unique jacket pocket travel read.

The book is priced @ £6.00. The stories are: 'First Timer' 'Incident at Twisted Elbow' – the anchor tale – 'Leap of Faith' and 'A Not so Tender Trap.'





Commodore Lucy added, "For our newer members, Tom (Jugger's bro) is a life-long member of EABC, a keen sailor, fierce competitor, and the current owner of the yacht 'Prodigal.' His writing career commenced way back in the late 60's when he took over the Larne Times sailing column. Thereafter his writings have appeared in Afloat, Yachts & Yachting, PBO and Yachting & Boating Weekly, to name but a few... Since retiring from a successful career in business, novel writing has become his new love. His first novel 'Chasing Shadows' was published in 2014 – he hasn't looked back since. Personally, I'm looking forward to the 'motorsport' story, ...Twisted Elbow."

Tom can usually be found hanging around the clubhouse after Sunday sailing or likewise after midweek points racing. Call him on 07809 691585 to pre-book a personalised copy of FOUR SHORT STORIES - talk to him...

Cruiser's View

Michael and Joshua Kane, Serenity

OUR SUMMER CRUISE 2021 Chapter 1

My plan was to recreate the adventures from a TV program that I had watched with Joshua some years previous. You might recall a series titled "The Hungry Sailors" where Dick Strawbridge, accompanied by his son James, sailed the Cornish coast in search of culinary delights. Well, it was the west coast of Scotland for Joshua and I!

We launched Serenity in late June just as the school year was approaching its end and after a prolonged period ashore due to a minor refit and Covid lockdowns. Sea trials followed proving that she remained a very comfortable, accommodating, and seaworthy vessel.

The long-range weather forecast for early July was good but departing then would mean missing the Club Regatta, though as we all know a fair weather crossing of the North Channel is the preferred option, so I gave our apologies to Artemis Skipper Gordon Kane who expressed that Joshua's absence would be felt and comically commented the crew could cope without me!

Thursday 1st July 2021, High Water Larne: 1730 hrs. Taking advantage of the afternoon flood tide we brought Serenity alongside Wymers Pier for ease of victualling. All stocked up, inflatable dinghy attached to the davits and two bicycles secured to the deck, we set off for our first scheduled stop in Redbay just as the tide was turning.



Serenity Leaving Larne.

Part of our passage plan should any issues arise was to turn around and head back with alternate ports if our passage had progressed to Glenarm marina or leave Serenity in Redbay, both having good transport links home to Larne. However, we made good time with the ebb tide and rounded Garron Point 2 hours later, at 8.5knts SOG, to rendezvous with yacht Sigmania helmed by owner James Farrell who led us to a mooring we had prearranged with him earlier that week. All secured we lowered the inflatable to go ashore and explore and a short while later, before the sun went down, we returned to Serenity for an early supper of tuna and pasta washed down with a glass of milk.



Rounding Garron Point.

Friday 2nd July, High Water Larne: 0533 hrs. I woke early the following morning at 0400 hrs to catch the next ebb tide, it turns north an hour early in the bay I had been informed, and leaving Joshua to sleep in his bunk as this passage was expected to take 6 hours.



Serenity, Red Bay mooring.



When all checks were complete, I started the engine, emptied the bilges, and the engine now warmed up I set off for the Isle of Gigha (alternate port Ballycastle) our adventures well under way I thought. The sea was calm and there was little life to be seen as Serenity departed the bay and across the North Channel. I had the binoculars out looking for company but all I could see in the distance was a work boat heading south and a large tanker navigating the Traffic Separation Scheme, a while later my vision was consumed by the Mull of Kintyre as we passed its isolated western shore. It was a very welcome sight then after 5 hours at the wheel to see the 1st Mate appear, I had failed to reinstate the autohelm prior to departure from Larne as there was a slight issue with the wiring but intended to work on it when time permitted.

Joshua took the helm with the southern end of Gigha now in close view as I retreated to the galley and made coffee for both of us before retiring to relax in the cockpit. Enjoying the scenery at first only to be abruptly and unexpectedly startled with what had become a familiar and very friendly noise of the Perkins 4108 engine thumping rhythmically like a disco beat from a 1980's Bee Gee's number. Suddenly the beat started to slow... Radio! Phone! Coastguard! Anchor! All shot through my mind and I hurriedly re-entered the wheelhouse, the door having been left open. I could feel my brow starting to bead with sweat by now and immediately asked Joshua if he had noticed anything?! Only to observe him comfortably seated and resting his left arm on the throttle control which was slowly easing it back... emergency over.

The very early tide meant we arrived at our destination of Ardmish Bay as others were leaving and we found plenty of space on the long single pontoon to berth in time for breakfast and another strong coffee. Bellies filled and loaded with caffeine plus the additional excitement of our arrival in Scotland we discharged the bicycles to the pontoon and went off to explore this beautiful Island.



Michael and Joshua on Gigha pontoon.

I had been to Gigha previously but hadn't seen much of it other than the Hotel for dinner; this would come later along with a surprise for Joshua. We cycled as far north as the road allowed, about four miles, and stopped on our way back at the Twin Beaches, with its white sands blue sea and sky it was almost Caribbean like.



The Twin Beaches, Gigha.

Returning to Serenity mid-afternoon for a little nap prior to dinner, Joshua remained on deck to watch the comings and goings as by now the pontoon had become much busier with the arrival of more cruisers and day trippers in large RIB's.

I had booked a table for dinner in the Gigha Hotel required due to continuing Covid restrictions and limited numbers of staff, something we would encounter throughout our cruise, we didn't eat late that evening as our departure the next day was another early start yet again to catch the tide. After an enjoyable meal I asked the waiter if we could see the visitors book from the bar and looking through the many pages of comments I was able to show a very surprised Joshua entries from people who had previously visited including friends on their yachts with easily recognised names such as Artemis, White Spirit, Sirius, Iolair Mhara, and I duly added Serenity to the list!

Back to the boat for a nightcap and early to bed, planned departure the next morning was 0530 hrs for Craobh marina and another 6-hour passage.

To be continued...

Michael



Photo of the Month

We had so much fun at the club over the past month that it was impossible to pick just one 'Photo of the Month!'

So here are two of our favourites...

Team EABC at the Investwise Irish Sailing Youth Championship in Howth over Easter **and** our youngest members with a very special visitor at our Easter Fun Day!



Pictured L-R: Tom Coulter, Jenna Reid, Zoe Whitford, Fred Doig, George Doig and Callum Jackson.



The Easter Bunny visiting EABC for our Easter Fun Day!

Memory Lane

Thanks to Jill Doig for this Easter photo from around 7 years ago of some very cute little people!



Behind L-R: Fred Doig, George Doig
In Front L-R: Caspar Wilkinson, Penny Doig.

The next 'On the Pier' will be circulated end of May 2023. Please send any news or contributions to Allison, honsec@eabc.org.uk