



East Antrim Boat Club

# Main Sheet

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## COMMODORE'S REPORT.

*"Just when you thought it was safe to come out of the water, more thoughts from commodore pat"*

Well the big boat season is over again, and again it is over too quickly, the weather Gods have again forsaken our cruisers although a few managed to find their way to the Western Isles and Jugger even found his mechanical problem. Jim Stewart is still circumnavigating the globe with a quick return home for a wedding, welcome back Jim. We also welcome back Norman Surplus who has had to take a sabbatical due to weather but is set to return to complete his circumnavigation in the New Year and hopefully beat that G. Dam Yankee! The sailing scene this summer has been a bit hectic with people going every where, well done to Andrew Penny who competed at the Topper Worlds in Lake Garda, its alright for some! and to the rest of our Juniors who have been travelling nearly every week-end. Katie Kane, Gary Fekkes, and Helen Rutherford are going from strength to strength although the other week-end was a sad one for Helen as she said good-bye to her Topper, good luck in the Laser next year. Another junior to start making her mark this year is Erin Blake who on the week-end of the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> Sept came 30<sup>th</sup> out of 68 boats at the ITCA traveller held at Ballyholme even though she broke her main sheet "Thingy" her words not mine! A big thank you to every-one who worked on the training side, helping to bring a new crop of youngsters into the sport and to Peter Doig and team who have just started adult sail training.

I personally though the Regatta was a great success with lots of visitors and strengthening of relationships with our main sponsor, the

Port of Larne. I also learnt that we are not alone in some of the decisions we have had to make this year as other clubs are having the same problems as ourselves so once again I will write our war cry, "Support YOUR local club" To this end I would ask you to make note of our up coming events which started with the Prize Giving, not to mention the Hot Toddy week-end and of course our Annual Dinner Dance. Go on, come on down, have a party, you know you want too.

## Winter Bar Hours

Wednesday	8.00 – 11.00pm
Friday	6.00 – 11.00pm
Saturday	4.00 – 10.00pm
Sunday	12.30 – 6.30pm

## Entertainment

**Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> November 2010**

East Antrim Boat Clubs

Annual Dinner Dance

(Music by Esler Burke)

A limited number of tickets will soon be available from Committee Members.

## Juniors

Back by popular demand, its time again for the Fancy Dress Halloween Party to be held at the Club on **Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> October 2010**, watch the Club notice board for further details

Looking back over the summer the Junior Sailing Course was well supported and enjoyed by all concerned and from it we have increased our squad of upcoming Junior Sailors on the water.

## Honda Rib Challenge 2010 Report

Four members from EABC qualified to go to the RYA Honda RIB Challenge NI finals at Kinnego Marina on Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> of May.

In the 8-12 age group there were 9 finalists and in the 13-16 age group there were 14 finalists.

The day had very difficult conditions and the course was extremely tight.

The younger age group consisted of Callum MacRae who finished a very credible 6<sup>th</sup> position, with this being Callum's very first time at the Honda Rib Challenge. We are all very pleased to announce that Rory Fekkes won the 8-12 age group and will go on to represent NI in the finals in Southampton in September.

In the 13-16 age group there was Katie Kane who finished 10<sup>th</sup> and Gary Fekkes who came 7<sup>th</sup>. These were both very good performances. These finals show that there is great talent in EABC. It's great news to see that the Club now has a new rib and we will hopefully be able to practise in it this season and next as it is the same sized rib as the one at the finals. The Rib Challenge for kids our age is all about getting out there and having fun, and you never know we might be the rescue boat drivers in years to come, as some of us already have our RYA Power boat Level One qualification. Let's hope that we don't drive cars as fast as we drive RIBs whenever we're older or else we'll be getting a few speeding tickets!!!!!!

By Gary & Molly Fekkes.

## **ITCA Topper Traveller Series Update**

The topper traveller series consists of five, one day events organised by the ITCA IRL (International Topper Class Association in Ireland) over the spring/summer months. Each traveller is scheduled to have three races. This year the first traveller was hosted at Howth Yacht Club, which was a lovely sunny day with light winds. The next traveller was held at County Antrim Yacht Club. This was an easy one for us to get to and sailing conditions on the day were good with a good

strong breeze. Next was, Quoile Yacht Club in Strangford Lough, which was enjoyable but quite shifty winds. The penultimate traveller was at Courtown Sailing Club, Gorey, Co Wexford, which was an incredibly Irish-Mediterranean weekend. This commenced with camping on the Saturday, and sailing on the Sunday. Thanks to S Penney for the salubrious campsite and facilities. Ballyholme Yacht Club held the final traveller, in very light winds and only managed to get one race started.

We had 6 junior sailors from EABC competing in the traveller series, everyone doing very well including our newest colleague to the toppers Erin Blake. The final placings from the traveller series were, Katie Kane 6<sup>th</sup>, Helen Rutherford 9<sup>th</sup>, Gary Fekkes 13<sup>th</sup>, Andrew Penney 15<sup>th</sup> and Erin Blake 70<sup>th</sup> which are excellent considering there were 102 boats competing in the traveller series. Rory Fekkes is also to be commended on finishing 3<sup>rd</sup> in the 4.2 Rig.

The travellers are great fun and if you are a topper sailor, I would really recommend having a go at them, check it out at [www.irltopper.com](http://www.irltopper.com)

By Katie Kane.

## **RNLI FUNDRAISERS - CHRISTMAS SHOP**

*We are hoping to have our usual shop during the week 21 - 27 November when Christmas Cards etc. will be on sale somewhere in Larne - watch the club notice board for location and times. This year we are trying to order enough cards for our regular customers but not to have too many left over, so this is just to say that if you get the chance to call in - come early in the week when the choice will be greater. Thanks as always for your support.*

## **Sailing Calendar**

### **GP14 - Hot Toddy**

Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> and Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> October.

**Halloween Regatta** - Sun 31<sup>st</sup> October.

**Christmas Regatta** - Mon 27<sup>th</sup> December.

**Winter Series (Sun)** - 7<sup>th</sup> Nov to 19<sup>th</sup> Dec.

**Jan - Feb Series (Sun)** - 2<sup>nd</sup> Jan to 27<sup>th</sup> Feb.

