

RYA NI appoint a full time Performance Manager

Welcome to Richard Honeyford, our new Performance Manager. Recently Richard has been head coach of RYANI's Topper squad and coach to the Laser National Youth Academy of the ISA. He graduated in Languages and Geography from the University of Wales where he also won his Sailing Blue. After obtaining his Senior Dinghy Instructor qualification from the UK Sailing Academy, he went on to obtain his ISA Level 3 International Coaching and RYA Class Race Coach Certificates. Richard's career since then has spanned dinghy instructing, language coaching in France and Corsica, as well as working with Sailcoach. He has taught French, English and outdoor activities both at home and in Europe. As well as sailing his hobbies include rock climbing, windsurfing, skiing, and mountain biking and waterskiing.

He was Irish Topper Champion twice, Under 19 Youth Champion and represented Northern Ireland at the Eric Twiname Youth Regatta. In the Toppers in 1995, ranked no 1 in Ireland, he won all the regional championships. In 1996, as well as qualifying as a Sailing Instructor, he moved into the Laser class and competed nationally and internationally, taking 2nd in the Radial Nationals.

The next year he represented Ireland at the ISAF Youth Worlds in Japan and NI at the Nations' Cup in Largs, won the Irish Laser Radial Championship and represented the Laser class at the ISA Junior Helmsman's Championship. 1998 brought ISAF representation for Ireland again, this time in South Africa. In 1999 Richard moved from the Laser into the 1720 and was also skipper and helm for the University of Wales team at the Student Worlds in France taking 8th place. Richard's final competitive year in 2000 saw him as skipper and helm at the BUSA nationals, mainsheet in the Dragon Class Edinburgh Cup and Sigma 33 helm in Cork Week as well as 1720 helm in the class regional championships.

RYA NI Youth Championship

The 2006 Event was held on Sept 2nd & 3rd at Strangford Lough Yacht Club. The PRO Collin Cunningham did well to get the four races in on the Saturday in testing conditions, and two races on Sunday, in had more favourable conditions. The club was very welcoming and hospitable (over 140 scones were baked in their kitchen)! A big thank you goes out to everyone at SLYC who helped make the event a great success. On the competition front, 76 competitors raced in Lasers, Toppers and Optimists with a good crop of new sailors in all the fleets.

The Optimist Class was won by RNIYC sailor Jessica Brien who finished with a one point lead over her brother Jack.

The Topper Fleet of 39 boats was dominated by Oliver Loughhead BYC with four race wins, runner up was Matthew Kinkaid CLYC and Jonathan Henry BYC finished 3rd. Best Topper girl was Katherine Molloy EDYC.

Laser Radial was the second largest fleet with 24 boats. Rory Murphy QYC was the clear leader with four race wins on the Saturday, Neil Cody LEYC was second and Matthew McNicholl LNSC in third place.

The smaller fleet of eight 4.7s was hotly contested by Tiffany Brien RNIYC and Lisa Marie Maskey CSBC who finished first and second respectively with one point between them. Conor Simms BYC who has moved up from the Topper fleet had a great event finishing 3rd.

Overall Trophies went to Rory Murphy who took home the Youth Cup, and Oliver Loughhead the Junior Cup. The School Cup went back to Sullivan Upper for a second year.

Well done to all the young sailors who toughed out a windy weekend.

REMEMBER THE AGM

Just a reminder about the AGM; It will be held on Wednesday 4 October 2006 at Royal Ulster Yacht Club, Clifton Road, Bangor starting at 6pm. [The closing date for nominations for Council representatives is 6 September](#). All are welcome to attend the AGM although voting at the business part of the meeting is restricted to nominated representatives. Please let Lisa Waugh know if you plan to attend by emailing admin@ryani.org.uk.

The formal business meeting starts at 6pm followed by a break at 7pm and then a presentation by our guest speaker, *David Green*. David will talk about the Gypsy Moth 1V project - where he has been the prime mover and which has been a top news story since being nearly wrecked on a Pacific atoll - and also about his vision of inspiring young people by offering opportunities to sail aboard her on her circumnavigation. David is the Chief Executive of the UK Sailing Academy, a not for profit sail training organisation set up some 15 years ago, which offers watersports and marine training for everyone, at every level, from beginner courses to professional training for commercial work to MCA Deck Officer and beyond.

THE GREEN BLUE

The Green Blue is an important new environmental awareness initiative by the Royal Yachting Association and the British Marine Federation. And what you may not know is that Sarah Black, daughter of freelance journalist and film maker, Brian Black from Quoile YC, is the project manager. Sarah took up the post two months ago and is based in RYA HQ in Hamble.

The Green Blue aims to educate and inform the recreational boating community about our environmental impacts, emphasising how you can avoid or minimise these impacts, by taking a few incremental steps.

The Green Blue is for everyone who enjoys getting out on the water, or whose livelihood depends on boats and watersports. By working towards an environmentally self-regulating boating community, we can save money, avoid red tape and safeguard the waters and habitats we enjoy for the future.

The Green Blue is looking for volunteers in Northern Ireland to act as ambassadors for the project. For details email Sarah on sarah.black@thegreenblue.org.uk
For more information visit www.thegreenblue.org.uk

ON THE WATER SUCCESS

Topper Squad

At the Topper British Nationals Gold Fleet in Weymouth, Chris Penny finished 4th with a 2 and 3 his best scores. Oliver Loughhead came 19th with a seventh and ninth as his best race results. On to the Irish Championship at Wexford: Chris had a well deserved result of 2nd overall, and won the Irish National championship trophy, after bagging three firsts out of 9 races. Other good scores came from Oliver (9th) and Conor Simms 19th.

YOUTH SQUAD

Barry McCartin had a decisive first overall in the 4.7s at the Irish Laser championships, finishing very comfortably ahead of runner up George Kenefick. This was Barry's second win in this event.

Theo and Mathew Murphy from Quoile finished 17th and 18th in the 63 boat Silver fleet at the Laser Radial Youth Worlds in Los Angeles. In the Girls section Kylie

McMillan was 22nd out of 39. Theo followed that with a mid fleet 23rd in the Radials at the Laser Irish in which Rory came fourth and Matthew 18th in the standard rig. Neil Cody of Lough Erne was 9th.

OTHER NOTABLE PERFORMANCES

Eighteen year old Ryan Seaton from Carrickfergus Sailing Club excelled at the World Laser Radial sailing championships in California, finishing in 5th place in a top notch international fleet of 71 competitors from 22 countries. He was representing Ireland, is a member of the Irish Sailing Association Development Academy and an ex RYANI Youth Squad member. Ryan is supported by the Sports Council Northern Ireland Lottery fund. Seaton's 5th place finish was the **best single handed dinghy result by a Northern Ireland sailor in the last twenty years** and follows his excellent 10th place finish in Brazil last December in the 2005 World championship. These placings keep him on course for the London Olympics in 2012.

Ryan's excellent form continued at the Irish Laser Nationals in which he won the Radial division with a run of scores never outside the top seven and which included five first places.

NI reps in RIBs

Good luck to David Furney and Emma Sandford who represent NI in the final of the RYA Honda RIB Challenge at the Southampton Boat Show towards the end of the month.

RYA COURSES

First Aid

One day course on 14th September at the Craigavon Watersports Centre from 0900hrs until 1830hrs; Fee £45.

Contact: Eamon Masterson RYANI 02890 3838 75,078344 15034. or email eamon.masterson@ntlworld.com

Diesel engines

A one day maintenance course on 14th October at Carrickfergus Sailing Club from 0900hrs until 1700hrs; Fee £80.00.

Contact: Moore Campbell 077406 28200 or email moorecampbell@hotmail.com

RYA Day Skipper

RYA Coastal Skipper/Yachtmaster

RYA Ocean Yachtmaster

RYA Ocean Yachtmaster

RYA First Aid and DSC/VHF licensing every other Saturday.

Evening courses at the International Yachtmaster Academy in central Belfast.

Starting Monday 2nd October for 22 weeks.

Contact 02890 314 789 or e-mail dave@yachtmaster.co.uk or <mailto:dave@yachtmaster.co.uk>

Enquire at the office about RYANI grant support for certain courses.

SHAREPOINT

With communications key to spreading information about our sport to club members and potential sailors, a club website is a great asset. Many clubs in Northern Ireland have websites and this month you're invite you to visit two, which in my opinion, jump out as being lively and informative. They are Carlingford Lough Yacht Club – www.clyc.org and Lough Erne YC – www.leyc.net

Both are colourful, busy and kept updated regularly. Needless to say, it's a bonus to have a club member who can design a site, or to be able to afford a designer, but no doubt most clubs will have a whiz kid computer enthusiast amongst its

members who might be persuaded to volunteer to take on the task.

ALL YOU EVER WANTED TO KNOW ABOUT MOTORBOATING

FAQs

Leslie King, a corresponding member of the RYA's national Cruising Committee, has kindly answered questions posed by a new motor boater – useful info for anyone starting fresh.

Can anybody buy a boat?

Anyone can buy a boat or ship from a £ 1 to a £ billion. However at the higher end qualifications start to be needed to operate the vessel. An example of this: I can go out and buy a speedboat or pwc and launch it off a public slipway. No one will worry whether I am capable or not. If I had the money I could buy a megayacht but these cannot be launched off public slipways and require harbours, marinas etc and other factors start coming into play.

Insurance?

Insurance is not required by law but if you want to enter a harbour or marina the authorities will require confirmation of third party cover of at least £1m. However trying to save money by not insuring your boat is in my opinion gross stupidity.

Now insurance will cost you money and this cover will be assessed by the insurance company on the value of the ship or boat, your experience and the areas you wish to operate your vessel in. I would expect if you bought a motorcruiser at £300,000 the insurance company would want certain minimum qualifications in boat handling, navigation and the 'Rules of the Road' which is the International Regulations for the Prevention of Collision at Sea. However if you bought a speed boat for waterskiing then there may be no problem if the area you wished to operate in was judged safe.

Do I need a licence?

Nowadays most things we operate need licenses to show the user is capable of operating the equipment properly, e.g. your car licence. This also goes for VHF equipment and it is both from an operating point of view and being proficient in its use in an emergency.

How do I find out about training?

Join a club. Can't find one in your area? Then ring the RYA NI office on 028 9038 3812 and the staff will send you a list of NI Yacht Clubs or visit www.ryani.org.uk.

The RYA has beginner's courses in powerboating; these are available at some Yacht Clubs or at commercial Training Schools. Make sure the club is recognised as a training centre by the RYA and you will acquire a RYA qualification for your money. Navigation theory can be learnt in a classroom during the winter. Some Further Education Colleges run various levels of navigation training with RYA theory qualifications to be gained. Of course you then also need the practical experience to round this off but at the end of it all the joy of setting sail on a cruise with the confidence in yourself, crew and vessel is one of life's great pleasures.

Where can I travel?

One of the great advantages of a boat is you can go practically anywhere you want with a few exceptions. Commercial Ports for instance do not like leisure craft

mixing with commercial shipping and they restrict entry or discourage use of the port. Belfast is an example of this. Marinas are there to provide a service to the leisure boater and always have available visitors berths and some fueling arrangements (this may be only diesel fuel). So, providing your boat is capable of the passage and you have the necessary experience, then you can go anywhere. However a few caveats. If I owned a 15ft speedboat I would not venture across the Irish Sea even though I could see the Scottish Coast on a clear day as to me this boat is not fit for the purpose. I would wish for something at least 25ft long with preferably two engines. If I owned a 20ft RIB with a good inboard diesel engine then however things look different because of the superior sea keeping qualities of a RIB. Of course some navigation knowledge is also essential

What about refuelling?

Re-fueling in a powerboat or motorcruiser is always going to be an issue. In most marinas and harbours diesel is available because most motorcruisers and yachts run on this fuel as does the fishing fleet. Petrol is generally available but you need to check in advance if you need more than you can carry in a few jerry cans. I would hate to have to fuel a petrol powerboat needing 100 gallons from a local petrol station with 5 gallon petrol cans just because I didn't check availability of petrol before making the journey.

What about towing fun toys?

The use of toys behind your boat is not restricted in the open sea. Common sense would hopefully prevail because someone must always watch behind for the safety of the person on the toy. Of course someone has to drive the boat so you can see that the minimum needed is three people, one to drive, one to observe and one to play. How many times have you seen one in the boat and one on the toy! There are however restricted areas for these activities and I'll give a few examples: beaches with people swimming (Ballyholme Bay in Bangor), marinas and harbours, shipping channels, interfering with a yacht race (sailors get quite red under the collar), yacht moorings. Some of these are covered by law such as Harbour By-Laws, others by good manners. Obviously near swimmers is a definite no-no.

What size of craft would I be advised to start with?

Starting small helps build up your seamanship, confidence and respect for the sea. If I could afford it I would purchase a new or second hand RIB, preferably with an inboard diesel engine or failing this a four stroke outboard (two of them). The RIB can be either towed on a trailer and launched off a beach or slipway or can be kept afloat in a marina.

YOUR INPUT IS NEEDED

Please feel free to send any RYANI related information for inclusion in the next bulletin to admin@ryani.org.uk by Friday.

This bulletin is compiled by Regional Communicator Betty Armstrong and produced by Lisa Waugh.

