

BELFAST LOUGH SAILABILITY

Belfast
Lough



NEWSLETTER

Volume 5, April 2011

Welcome to the Start of the Sailing Season

The Sailing Season is nearly upon us and we are all hoping for as successful a one as we had last year. It's certainly shaping up that way with the delivery of the Displacement Boat, funded by Sport NI, and the Sea Rover, which was purchased by the Peoples Millions, due to arrive at the end of April.

The new BLS Cabin is finished and with the aid of grant from Carrickfergus Literary & Scientific Society for Office Equipment it is now a fully functional base for our activities. All our volunteers have been working flat out during the Winter ensuring that everything is in place and we can hit the water running! There have

been several boat maintenance days, which have been very well supported despite the rather cold and miserable weather and the Fund Raising Committee has been hard at work to make sure we have the necessary funds to operate safely and efficiently.

Sainsburys' continue to give fantastic support in this regard. Being their Charity of the Year has been a real boost for BLS. Special thanks go to everyone who has helped throughout the year at the Bag Packs and all the other fund raising events they have organised.

Please keep an eye out on Facebook and your 'in tray' for details of future activities and if you can spare a couple of hours or have a friend or relative who might like to help

please contact Nicky Blythe.

Our aim to become an RYA Recognised Training Centre is well on track and hopefully will be achieved during the 2011 season. This will enable BLS to provide nationally and internationally recognised courses and qualifications to our members and volunteers.

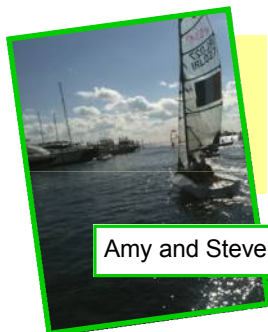
The RYA Sailability Log Book scheme is in its infancy and for those who wish to participate it will provide a means to record and certify volunteers' achievements and qualifications.



Rosy on the water at last

Photo Gallery

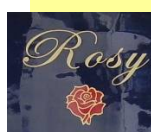
We are looking for your pictures please send them to Kirstie@sailni.co.uk



Amy and Steve at Miami 2011



Kayak challenge



Named after Rosy Meadow Hon Sec 2001 - 2010 and founder member of BLS



Naming ceremony - Sail NI Stand at the 2011 Irish Boat Jumble

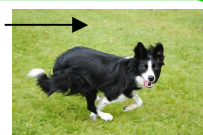


So as I said, this year is certainly shaping up to be another busy one. None of this could be done without you the volunteers, members and supporters. So a personal thank you for making it happen and giving so many people the chance to get out on the water who until now would never have had the opportunity. Oh, and for giving me the opportunity to be part of it.

Nigel Thompson
Belfast Lough Sailability Chairman

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What's going on and BLS contact details



What's going on 2011 PROGRAMME.

There are two very exciting Fund Raising Campaigns under way. The Kayak Challenge is being organised by the McConnell Family in memory of their Father who was tragically drowned late last year. The intention is for Glen McConnell to Kayak from Port Patrick to Belfast Lough. Glen's sister Karen is raising funds for a Hawk Trailer Sailor for BLS. Please check out the Kayak Challenge Website at <http://www.kayakchallenge.com>

Tiffany Brien is also hard at work on her next fundraising event for BLS. Her intention this time is to sail 'Willpower' the BLS Skud - which she originally raised the funds to purchase - with Mark Pollock from Port Patrick to Carrickfergus. Mark is visually impaired and originally became involved with BLS during his participation in the Round Ireland Yacht Race when we provided him with an Audio Compass. Since then Mark was involved in a tragic accident that has meant he is currently a wheelchair user. He is undertaking a course of therapy in the USA at 'Project Walk' which we all hope will do just that and enable Mark to get back on his feet.

You can follow Mark's progress at <http://www.markpollock.com/blog/blog.asp> and also see a recent BBC interview at <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-12314687> . Truly inspirational!

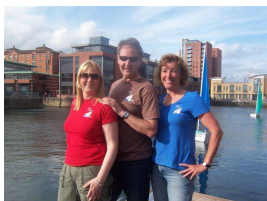
Events Calendar

- 16 April Volunteer Training Day @ The BLS Cabin
- 16 April Bloomfields' Mall Promotion Day (Kayak Challenge)
- 17 April Joint Training exercise. RNLI and BLS, Carrickfergus Harbour
- 20 April First Open Sailing Session of the Season 7pm (6.30pm for volunteers)
- 23 April Fundraising bag pack for BLS - Sainsbury's - from 10am
- 02 May Deep River Rock Belfast Marathon 2011 - Fundraising for BLS
- 28/29 May Celtic Rally - Visiting boats from Isle of Man, Scotland and Cumbria
- 28 May Last Fundraising bag pack for BLS - Sainsbury's - from 10am
- 18 June Kayak Challenge - Scotland to NI - across the North Channel.

Forthcoming events

Summer 2011 participation in Regattas and sailing events around Belfast Lough. Including Whitehead Regatta - CAYC, Carrickfergus Regatta - CSC and hopefully Royal North of Ireland Yacht Club and Holywood Yacht Club.

Wear the colours



There is a catalogue of promotional clothing available all with the BLS embroidered logos



New Operations Base

'Pinky' outside the BLS Cabin, located just to the left of the Carrickfergus Sailing Club entrance

Check in at the Cabin for all BLS activities

How can I find out more about Belfast Lough Sailability...?

Anyone interested in finding out more about participating in or volunteering for Belfast Lough Sailability, should visit our website www.belfastloughsailability.com or contact

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