

BELFAST LOUGH SAILABILITY



NEWSLETTER

Volume 2, Jan 2010

Welcome to Belfast Lough Sailability and the 2010 sailing season.

What a fabulous year we had in 2009, the year started fairly quietly last April but soon we were rushed off our feet by events.

Our first weekend visit by sailors from Scotland and the Isle of Mann happened, this has now been adopted as the Sailability Celtic Rally and hopefully will become an annual event.

We also changed our sailing group meets from Sunday mornings to our current Wednesday evening sessions. This has proved extremely successful and as a result we were able to recruit quite a few new helpers with sailing experience.

In June our first daytime group came from Mitchell House School in Holywood, this was a return visit following the success of 2008 and in August the second group to visit were young people from The Lighthouse Trust summer scheme, again another positive event and we hope they come to visit again this year.

Then the Tall Ships visited Belfast; we were invited by Belfast City Maritime Committee to play our part in this spectacular event. The support we received from people who had not previously been involved with BLS was phenomenal. I can't thank and praise them enough.

As a result of the Tall Ships event we were contacted by a number of groups and organisations that work with young people with learning difficulties and Autism. On one evening we had over 50 people arrive to try sailing/boating for the first time. Even so we still managed to get everyone who wanted to be on the water in one boat or another.



Cedar Grove Foundation

We also had visits by groups including Heart and Stroke Association, a local Deaf /Blind group and also young people from the Youth Council for NI.

I know I have missed a few groups for which I apologise and I hope you all get in touch again this year.

For 2010 we look forward to another full calendar, we are planning an Information Day for our regular volunteers on Friday 12th February.

We also hope to run a number of pre-season theory training sessions on the 21st and 28th February also the 14th and 21st March in Carrickfergus Marina Building, these are open to everyone who wishes to participate.

A pre-season Dinner on around the 27th March is also to be confirmed.

I look forward to seeing you all again soon because I have a feeling that 2010 is going to be even bigger than the last couple of years .

BLS Sailing

Unfortunately weather is a big factor in the sailing calendar but there is a shore based winter programme in place to take us through to the start of the sailing season Wednesday 14 April 2010

AND – there is always the latest acquisition the Skud to look forward to taking BLS very definitely into the world of competitive sailing.

First Shorebased event of the year

Date – Friday 12 Feb. Time 10.30am to 3pm with a break for lunch - **The Information Workshop** – for all volunteers and people interested in working with Groups with disability – to help them in this role. **4 guests speakers.** On this occasion covering Autism, Blindness, Wheelchair bound and RYA courses available, racing/power boat.

The Workshop is to give our volunteers the opportunity to learn more about the different needs of groups using BLS and will be a very worthwhile exercise. All happening in the comfort of the Conference Room Marina building Carrickfergus.

No charge for this event but please confirm for catering purposes.



Bob Harper & Oska

RYA Sailability
Regional Co-ordinator

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What's going on
and BLS contact details

What's going on.

2010 PROGRAMME.

- **Information Workshop** Friday 12th February 2010
Management Committee & Regular Volunteers. **Book now places limited.**
- **Theory Session** Sunday 21st February 2010 10.30am – 1pm
Conference Room Marina Building.
- **Theory Session** Sunday 28th February 2010 10.30am – 1pm
Conference Room Marina Building.
- **Disability Awareness Course** Sunday 7th March 2010 10.30am - 3.30pm
(make own arrangements for lunch) Conference Room Marina Building.
- **Theory Session** Sunday 14th March 2010 10.30am – 1pm
- **Theory Session** Sunday 21st March 2010 10.30am – 1pm
- **Fitting Out Lunch & Prize Giving (TBC)** Saturday 27 March 1pm
Lower Deck Carrickfergus Sailing Club.
- **Boat Preparation Day** Saturday 10 April 2010. 10am
- **First Sail 2010 Season** Wednesday 14th April 2010 7pm
Outside Sea Cadet Building.
- **Irish Boat Jumble** Sunday 18th April 2010
- **First Aid Course** Date to be Confirmed
- **Thank you Kite Surfers** Date to be Confirmed
- **Launch of Skud dinghy** Date to be Confirmed

Other planned activities.

- Saturday morning training sessions for volunteers.
- Race training sessions for advanced volunteers - Skud
- Participation in Regattas and sailing events around Belfast Lough.
- Taking part in the Maritime Festival Belfast Docks.
- Celtic Rally.

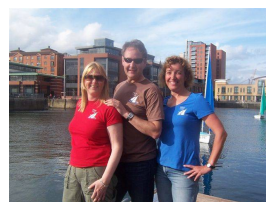
How can I find out more about Belfast Lough Sailability...?

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

Mrs R.Meadow, Hon Sec.
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Wear the colours



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