

BELFAST LOUGH SAILABILITY



NEWSLETTER

Volume 4, Jan 2011

Thanks for the tremendous support in 2010 and 'Happy New Year' from All at Belfast Lough Sailability . Welcome to the 2011 programme.

Well this year looks like it will be every bit as busy as the last. The Season has already kicked off with two boat maintenance days preparing the boats ready for the water when Spring eventually arrives. 2010 saw many notable milestones for BLS. The SKUD18 was officially named and launched in Belfast Harbour and the event was organised by the Brien's Family, attended by the funders, including representatives from Belfast Harbour, the RYA and Sport NI. I would take this opportunity to thank Belfast Harbour Port Authority for all their continuing support both financial and in kind.

Sport NI were also generous in awarding a grant which has allowed us to place an order for a specially built 21' Displacement Boat. Both vessels have very different roles to play in the organisation and with the increasing numbers of participants they are vital for the safe and efficient operation of our group.



Sainsbury's continue to provide marvellous support, BLS being their chosen Charity for 2010. The Staff have been working hard all year fund raising through events such as Bag Packs and Pub Quizzes. I'm also led to believe there is still the opportunity to help them raise yet more funds through a sponsored Abseil at the Europa Hotel. If you don't mind heights - and for what is a really fun and exhilarating experience - get in touch with Nicky Blythe for further details.

Thanks also to Carrickfergus Literary and Scientific Society and Tesco's for their support and to Carrickfergus Borough Council and the Community Forum, who look after us so well.

The final event of the year for BLS saw our very own Hon Secretary Lisa Waugh tie the knot with Terry Hopkins. Lisa and Terry met earlier in the year through the Celtic Rally when Terry was part of the 'Pride of Man' Crew. Romance blossomed and the rest, as they say is history. They were wed in fine style with a civil ceremony in the Town Hall followed by a 'ships' blessing in the Waterfront followed by a reception in the Sailing Club and Dancing through into the new year. I'm sure you'll join me in wishing Terry & Lisa a long and happy marriage!

The Sailing Season started off early for Steve Frecknall, in fact it never actually finished. He has been practising hard with Amy Kehlahan right throughout the winter in the SKUD 18. They are both now in Miami sailing in the Rolex Miami OCR Race as part of their 2011 Paralympic Campaign. You can follow their progress through the following website http://rmocr.ussailing.org/Rolex_Miami_OCR.

Nigel Thompson, Chairman.



Support also came in 2010 from the general public by way of the People's Millions. With a colossal 8,300 votes saw us awarded £50,000 to buy the new Sea Rover Safety Launch.



RYA Francis Elkin Award

Francis Elkin award for volunteering services. presented by HRH Princess Royal to Bob Harper. Regional Officer, RYA Sailability (NI) 'I feel I am picking up this award for all the volunteers I have worked with over the last 30 years.'



Photo Gallery



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What's going on

and BLS contact details

What's going on. Last year also saw BLS finally getting a home to call it's own thanks to the generosity of Carrickfergus Sailing Club who have loaned us the site. Many people were involved and with lots of hard work the Mobile Building was finally finished. A huge debt of thanks is owed to Norman Grant who sponsored the ramp access to the building and bequeathed the Mooring Bollards that gives the area that bit of a nautical feel. Gary Blythe also needs a special thanks for the use of his very broad (and sometimes sore) back during the foundation preparations. All the hard work as I'm sure you will agree was well worth it.

2011 PROGRAMME.

- **Wednesday 26 January @ 7.30pm Induction of Team Sailability Log Book Scheme, Marina Building, Carrickfergus Waterfront. All welcome. Log books available on the night.**
- **Thursday 27 January @ 8.30pm BLS is supporting the RNLI Quiz at Carrickfergus Sailing Club.**
- **Saturday 29 January 10 am - 6pm Sainsburys Bag Pack. Proceeds to Belfast Lough Sailability. If you are free to help please get in touch. There's only 4 more to do***
- **Saturday 26 February 10am to 3.30pm Disability Awareness Course, Marina Building, Carrickfergus Waterfront.**
- **Sunday 10 April All Day Boat Jumble at Carrickfergus Sailing Club.**
- **Sunday 10 April Abseil - contact us for sponsor forms and more info**
- **2 May Belfast Marathon - all welcome - join in the relay**

Other planned activities—Dates to be confirmed.

- **Start of 2011 Sailing Season**
- Training sessions and Courses for volunteers.
- Race training sessions for advanced volunteers - Skud
- Summer 2011 participation in Regattas and sailing events around Belfast Lough. Including Whitehead Regatta - CAYC and Carrickfergus Regatta - CSC
- Taking part in the Maritime Festival Belfast Docks.
- Celtic Rally.



Wear the colours



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

Sainsbury's Bag Packing Dates*

FEB -	Saturday 19 February 10am to 6pm
MARCH -	Saturday 19 March 10am to 6pm
APRIL -	Saturday 23 April 10am to 6pm
MAY -	Saturday 28 May 10am to 6pm



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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