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ANNUAL REPORT  
2009

## **Chairman's Introduction**

It is a great pleasure to report on another very successful year for the RYA NI. My three years as Chairman have passed so very quickly. I have enjoyed every minute of this time. This has been in no small measure due to the support of the Executive and Council but most particularly the hard work of all RYA NI staff.

## **Administration/Staffing**

Ronnie Browne our operations co-ordinator has again been exceptional in his leadership of the staff and in ensuring we have continued helpful and business-like relationships both with RYA nationally and Sport NI.

Lisa Waugh continues to manage the office, liaise with clubs, provide outstanding support to the Executive and Council and is for many people the face of the RYA in Northern Ireland.

Richard Honeyford has continued his very successful role in taking forward the Performance Agenda. He has built excellent relationships with clubs and sailors and provides unstinting support to developing young participants.

Bob Harper has ensured by his leadership that Sailability goes from strength to strength. The recent visit of the Tall Ships provided an opportunity for Sailability to promote it's activities both on and off the water at Clarendon Dock. RYA NI was very pleased to have the opportunity to use part of the Sailability stand area.

Cliff Burns has provided valuable help with Child Protection issues. Implementing the Access NI vetting scheme has required much hard work and would not have been possible without Cliff.

Alison Hawthorne has continued to provide invaluable support to our Honorary Treasurer in her role as book-keeper.

Robin Gray is due thanks for the capable way in which he so willingly undertakes his role as Regional Race Management Co-ordinator.

## **New Faces**

Mary Farrell was appointed to the post of Development Officer earlier this year. Mary is well known in sailing circles in Northern Ireland. She has settled in quickly and is enthusiastically taking forward this important role.

Denis Todd has recently been appointed to the post of Regional Rules Adviser. We wish him every success.

## **Farewell**

Eamon Masterson who was responsible for the training programme left when the funding for his post ceased. Eamon is greatly missed. He has left training on a sound footing and the Executive is aware that training must continue to have a high priority.

## **Thanks**

Sincere thanks to all the staff of Sport NI who have continued to provide such willing support. Norma Bowman our Sport NI Performance Consultant has been particularly helpful. RYA NI with Norma's support has had a most successful funding outcome with £506k being made available from SNI over the next four years. This is a considerable increase over our previous level of funding. This funding has enabled the appointment of the Development Officer and will also allow restructuring of the office staff as well as the appointment of a Director of Sailing and a part time Talent ID Coach.

Sincere thanks to Maeve Bell who led the planning and organising of another very successful Cruising Conference. Thanks also to all who assisted in anyway with that event including Chairmen, Speakers, and Sponsors.

Thanks are also due to all the clubs who hosted events or made premises available for meetings.

We are very grateful to Volvo NI for the sponsorship and hospitality provided to the lucky sailors who were their guests in Galway when the Volvo Ocean Race visited.

## **Council and Executive**

My thanks to all on the Council and the Executive for their support, commitment and sheer hard work during the year.

Oliver Lynas retires this year as Treasurer. He has had an outstanding three years and we are most indebted to him.

Curly Morris having led the Performance Committee with great flair and ability for many years felt the time had come to stand down. He will be missed. It is however a pleasure to report that Adrian Bell has stepped into this role. We can

be confident that as with everything Adrian does his commitment will be total. The Bell family put a great deal into sailing; Maeve, our Immediate Past Chair not only organised the Biannual Cruising Conference but takes full responsibility on behalf of RYANI for all matters environmental.

John Magowan has continued to drive forward the Education Training and Safety agenda and in recent times has agreed to lead the Development Programme.

### **Congratulations**

- To Chris Eames from SLYC who came first in the UK Topper National Championship
- To Doug Smyth a previous Chairman of RYA NI on being awarded a well-deserved RYA National Award, Doug continues to provide support and advice to RYA NI in such areas as Volvo Champion Club Accreditation and Child Protection issues. He also provided significant input into the organisation and sponsorship arrangements for the recent Cruising Conference
- To all the sailors and power boaters whose achievements are noted in the following reports

### **And finally.....**

As I step down as Chair my thanks again to the RYA NI staff, Council and Executive for their help and support over the past three years.

I do believe that with such committed people, with secure funding and most of all with enthusiastic sailors and power boaters the future of our sport has never looked better.

Stanton Adair

## **RYANI Performance Report 2009**

### **Volvo Champion Club**

In 2009 the Volvo Champion Club scheme has had a number of notable tiers throughout the year:

County Antrim Yacht Club and Ballyholme Yacht Club were both successful in their application to the Volvo Eco Challenge, resulting in grants awarded for their various eco projects.

We have seen a number of current Champion Clubs developing their race training programmes and getting more young people involved within their clubs and club racing.

Donaghadee Sailing Club and County Antrim Yacht Club have updated their facilities with thanks to Sport NI funding. This will help accommodate the growing number of young sailors in the clubs and look to underpin the already excellent work being done by club members.

In February the RYANI hosted the Volvo Champion Club & Coaches conference at RNIYC. 18 Club representatives and coaches from the majority of Champion Clubs were in attendance with workshops delivered by Kirsty Bonar, RYA GBR 4.7 National Coach and Richard Honeyford, RYA NI Performance Manager. These included topics such as the Coaching Skills Model and empowering coaches to deliver sessions using the new VCC Handbook, CD-Rom and posters to maximum effect. It has been great to see these posters on club walls and to observe coaches using the handbook/resources during sessions.

### **Open Pathway Training**

5 Open Pathway Training days (previously named County Training Days) were run in 2009. Despite a lack of funding for this programme, it was felt that the support was good enough to continue the programme as in previous years. 79 sailors took part in the first 4 of the 5 days, increasing from 75 in 2008. In addition to this RYANI have been successful in securing funds for 2010 which will help us continue to better and potentially expand this programme for young club sailors looking to sail at regional or national level and get involved in Class Association events.

## **Coach Development**

6 coaches have received the Level 2 Club Race Coach award this year to date. We also anticipate a further course before the end of the year to qualify coaches and help them with club race training programmes.

Barry McCartin, CSBC, was selected to undertake the L3 Class Race Coach award and will be completing this before the end of the year. Barry and Steve Martin, SLYC, must undertake an observed session from a National Tutor to complete the qualification.

## **Junior Squad**

The Topper Junior Squad has had a very successful year, most notably with different sailors winning at UK National Level and additional success at the World Championships. We also had a large percentage of sailors on both GBR and IRL Squads.

Robbie Gilmore and Christopher Eames, both SLYC, were selected for the GBR Topper National Squad and, in addition, Eion Curran, EDYC; James O'Hare, CLYC; Ben Regan, EDYC; and Jack Brien, RNIYC, were also selected for the ISA National Topper Squad.

Most notable results:

- Chris Eames: UK Topper National Champion, Irish Topper national Champion, 5<sup>th</sup> World Topper Championships, 1<sup>st</sup> Pool Nationwide, 3<sup>rd</sup> UK Topper Inlands, 1<sup>st</sup> Irish Laser 4.7 Nationals;
- Robbie Gilmore: 8<sup>th</sup> Topper Worlds, 11<sup>th</sup> UK Nationals, 21<sup>st</sup> UK Inlands, 3<sup>rd</sup> Irish Laser 4.7 Nationals;
- James O'Hare: 1<sup>st</sup> Eric Twiname Final; 1<sup>st</sup>, Silver Fleet Topper World Championships.

## **Youth Squad**

Youth Squad sailors have been attending a number of events throughout the season. The RYA Youth Nationals and UK Laser Nationals were supported by RYANI Squad Head Coach, James Farrell.

A number of sailors continue to be selected for National level squads with Chris Penney, CSC/EABC, Ross Vaughan, RNIYC, and Oliver Loughhead, BYC, continuing on the Irish Youth Academy and Michael Molloy, EDYC, and Sophie Murphy, QYC, selected for the Irish Youth 4.7 Squad.

Most notable results:

Chris Penney, CSC/EABC: 10<sup>th</sup> Laser Radial Youth Europeans, 20<sup>th</sup> Laser Radial Youth Worlds

Ross Vaughan, RNIYC: 13<sup>th</sup> Laser Radial Youth Europeans, 31<sup>st</sup> Laser Radial Youth Worlds

Oliver Loughhead, BYC: ISA National Radial Youth Champion, 12<sup>th</sup> (2<sup>nd</sup> U17) Laser Radial Youth Worlds

Michael Molloy, EDYC: 1<sup>st</sup>, ISA National Youth 4.7 Champion, 6<sup>th</sup> UK Laser Nationals.

### **Mary Peters' Trust**

5 sailors were put forward by the RYANI Performance Committee for a Mary Peters Trust Award this year. All were accepted for a variety of awards:

- James Espey, BYC, Developmental
- Michael Molloy, EDYC, Foundation;
- Sophie Murphy, QYC, Foundation;
- James O'Hare, CLYC, Foundation.
- Barry McCartin also received a grant sponsored by Skandia of £1000 through MPT for his 470 sailing.

### **Olympic Sailors**

Currently 7 Northern Irish sailors are undertaking Olympic campaigns – Ryan Seaton, CSC, and Matt McGovern, BYC, 49er; Debbie Hanna, EABC, Laser Radial; Tiffany Brien, RNIYC, Laser Radial; James Espey, BYC, Laser Standard; Barry McCartin, CSBC, and Finbar Bradley, CLYC, men's 470. Four of these sailors are currently on Athlete Support funding and members of SINI. Ryan Seaton and Matt McGovern joined as a team in the 49er in April and started with a 35<sup>th</sup> at the Kiel World Cup and 49<sup>th</sup> at the 49er Worlds, after just 4 months in the boat together. This is an encouraging start to a new team, who hope to go on to Australia to train and compete over the winter months. Debbie Hanna has come back from a difficult Olympic year and has continued to prove her talent with solid results at the Europeans, 34<sup>th</sup> European overall, and maintaining her title of Irish Women's National Champion.

Tiffany Brien became a senior sailor in 2009 and has shown her potential early with 35<sup>th</sup> at the World Championships and 32<sup>nd</sup> at Princess Sophia World Cup. Tiffany is now ranked 79<sup>th</sup> in the World. This is an excellent start on the senior circuit.

James Espey has found form in 2009, with consistent top 40 finishes at World Cup regattas, including a 10<sup>th</sup> at Miami OCR and 9<sup>th</sup> at the US Laser Midwinters. James is currently ranked 39<sup>th</sup> in the World.

Barry McCartin and Finbar Bradley have joined together in the men's 470. This is a young team who have been steadily developing over 2009 and looking to develop their programme in 2010.

### **Athlete Support Programme**

2009 has seen Sport NI adjust the application of the Athlete Support Programme (Lottery). 9 Northern Irish sailors secured over £36,000 in 2009 following their international performances. We also remain one of the Sport Institute of Northern Ireland's (SINI) key sports with 4 of our Olympic sailors currently receiving services from the Institute.

September 2009 has seen an additional tier added to the SINI set up. Performer Development Centres have been set up across Northern Ireland to allow younger athletes to access key Strength and Conditioning and Physiotherapy services to help them prepare for international competition. Chris Penney, CSC; Ross Vaughan, RNIYC; and Oliver Loughhead, BYC are the first sailors in Northern Ireland to be accepted on to this programme, and we hope to maintain and develop this number through 2010 and beyond.

## **Development Report**

Eamon Masterson left his post with the RYA NI in March 2009. Sport Northern Ireland's (SNI) new round of funding, 'Investing in Performance Sport' allowed for the new post of Development Officer and Mary Farrell was appointed in June 2009 after a round of advertising and interviews.

The role of Development Officer has changed to that of the previous post, now having an increased emphasis on:

- Club Development
- Increasing club membership
- Increasing participation within the sport
- Facilitating school/club links
- Developing volunteering

Although the emphasis has moved away from training, the RYA Development Officer still has a responsibility to ensure that the infrastructure of Instructor to Coach Assessor is still available. RYA NI will still help with the running and set up of major instructor courses, acting as a contact for all courses, as well as helping to advertise them.

Particular goals of the post are:

- Increase participation by 5% in the next 4 years.
- Visit each club within the first year.
- Encourage each club to write a development plan.
- Provide funding advice for clubs.
- Create a system of monitoring number of people sailing in NI, and in particular monitoring sailing in Clubs.
- Create one new Volvo Champion Club per year (taking over from the Performance Manager)
- Running one Club development conference each year.
- Reporting on SNI's 'Clubmark NI' and RYA RTC's

## **Training and Education**

The new '4 year' funding line did not include funding towards training, impacting on the RYA NI's previously supported training and education programme.

This summer RYA NI allocated funds to help support the top level of Sailing Instructor; Coach Assessor. Northern Ireland has had a shortage of Coach

Assessors, who run instructor courses, this has severely limited the number of instructor courses being run in NI. RYA NI set up a pre-entry assessment in Newtownards and an Advanced Instructor course at Ballyholme to help the new Coach Assessor applicants on their way to success. We now have three new Coach Assessors who will be fully qualified after a short period of mentoring. Special note should go to Coach Assessors (Robbie Richardson and Kevin Balmer) working in Newtownards Sailing Club who have been running many successful courses throughout the winter.

## **The Committee**

The Education, Training and Safety Committee which has not been in operation for some time will now be reconstituted as the Development Committee, meeting around the same issues that are brought up through the new post. The members of the committee will consist of:

- A Chairman and two Council members, who will be elected by the Council of RYA NI.
- Two Volvo Champion Club Members and two non-Volvo Champion Club Members who will be elected by their clubs.
- Two representatives of Class Association,
- One member from a commercial or 'not for profit' background.

It is vital that such a committee exists to help keep communications between clubs and different organisations open. It has become clear in that this is not currently happening, seriously hindering the development of sailing in Northern Ireland.

## **Club Survey**

A club survey was carried out by Eamon Masterson in 2007/2008 asking Clubs to provide information on their junior participation numbers and on how Club's marketed themselves. Although returns on the survey were small the results will still be used to help create the basis for a new survey. The data gathered from the new survey will be used to assess the impact of SNI's investment in sailing and boating in Northern Ireland, and will help RYA NI with future strategic planning exercises. The new monitoring survey will look at membership break down, course attendants and racing participants. The success of the survey relies entirely on help from the Club volunteers who will provide RYA NI with the data in these different areas of activity within the Club.

## **Funding Applications**

An important part of Club development is the ability to secure funding. RYA NI has developed a list of funding sources which may suit clubs and organisations. We are also a point of contact for SNI for consultation on applications from our sport. There have been several funding applications submitted under different funding streams through Sport NI.

Two major funding successes are that of Donaghadee Sailing Club and County Antrim Yacht Club whose new buildings have now been officially opened.

### ***Funding bids 2009***

#### **Active Communities**

Ballymena, Larne and Carrickfergus Consortium, in conjunction with Carrickfergus Sailing Club, have successfully secured funding for a sailing coach to help school to club links, club training, and aim to lift participation levels in otherwise less represented groups like female participants and people with a disability. The new coach will work with Belfast Lough Sailability, Carrickfergus Sailing Club, County Antrim Yacht Club, and East Antrim Boat Club. RYA NI is working closely with the Consortium and with the Clubs to help maximise the impact this invaluable resource can have in the Consortium area.

#### **Places for Sport**

Strangford Lough Yacht Club applied for improvements in the Club grounds including a new pontoon with disability access and new boats to help the growth of their highly successful junior section.

Ballyholme Yacht Club applied through this funding for 3 polyethylene rescue boats, again to help support their dinghy and junior classes.

Mary Farrell  
RYA NI Development Officer

## ***RYA NI Council 2008/2009***

### ***Executive Officers***

Dr Stanton Adair	Chairman
Jay Colville	Vice Chairman
Irene Aston	Honorary Secretary
Oliver Lynas	Honorary Treasurer

### ***Executive Committee***

John Magowan	Chairman Education Training & Safety Committee
Dr Curly Morris/Adrian Bell	Chairman Performance Committee

### ***Ex Officio***

Maeve Bell OBE

### ***Irish Sailing Association Representative***

ISA CEO Harry Hermon

#### **CLUB Representatives**

Antrim Boat Club	David King
Ballyholme Yacht Club	Elaine Taylor
Carrickfergus Berth Holders Association	Roger Woodward
Carrickfergus Sailing Club	Geraldine Duggan
Cockle Island Boat Club	John Cleary
Coleraine Yacht Club	Denzyl Dinsmore
County Antrim Yacht Club	Sheela Lewis
Donaghadee Sailing Club	James Ogg
East Antrim Boat Club	Gavin Doig
East Down Yacht Club	Michael Bell
Hollywood Yacht Club	Dermot Johnson
Killyleagh Yacht Club	David Young
Lough Erne Yacht Club	Fred Ternan
Newcastle Yacht Club Ltd	Frank Campbell
Newtownards Sailing Club	Newenham de Cogan
Quoile Yacht Club	James Heron
Royal North of Ireland Yacht Club	Frank Haslett
Royal Ulster Yacht Club	John Bell

#### ***Child Protection Officer***

Cliff Burns

#### ***Regional Race Management Coordinator***

Robin Gray

#### ***Regional Rules Advisor***

Dr Denis Todd

#### ***Regional Sailability***

Bob Harper

#### ***Coordinator***

#### **STAFF**

##### **OPERATIONS**

Ronnie Browne

##### **COORDINATOR**

##### **BUSINESS MANAGER**

Lisa Waugh

##### **PERFORMANCE MANAGER**

Richard Honeyford

##### **DEVELOPMENT & TRAINING MANAGER**

Eamon Masterson

##### **DEVELOPMENT OFFICER**

Mary Farrell