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**ANNUAL REPORT
2008**

Chairman's Introduction

It is difficult to believe that two years have passed since I took over as RYA NI Chairman and that this is hence my second report.

I am delighted to be able to report another most successful year. This is evidenced by the very positive staff reports included below and by a continued robust financial position.

Administration/staffing

Ronnie Browne, our Operations Co-Coordinator continues to lead a dedicated staff. Ronnie's commitment to the RYA and sailing is exceptional. I am greatly indebted to him for not just his tireless efforts but his thoughtful and helpful input to your Council and in particular to me.

Lisa Waugh, our Business Manager has ensured we had another successful year both in the office and in the wider yachting fraternity. Without Lisa's time and effort the major successful events such as the Youth Championships would not be possible. I am also pleased to be able to report that Lisa successfully completed a Certificate in Management Studies at QUB during the past year.

Eamon Masterson has continued to take forward the training and development agenda. Eamon's experience and knowledge have ensured continued progress in this core area.

Richard Honeyford. Last year I commented that Richard had been taking forward the performance agenda at a cracking pace. If anything this has increased! Richard's enthusiastic leadership and providing a superb role model for our young sailors is something for which the Association is most grateful. It is in no small part due to Richard that the Youth Championships which are 'his baby' have been so successful.

Bob Harper continues with enthusiasm to take forward the Sailability agenda. We were so pleased that the work of Belfast Lough Sailability was recognised recently by a visit and boat naming by the Chair of RYA The Princess Royal.

Cliff Burns has put in long hours to help RYA implement the new Access NI vetting scheme and help keep us up to date on child protection developments. Cliff has provided Clubs and Centres with vital support in all areas of this work as RYA NI strive to attain full assurance in our Child Protection Audit.

The work of RYA in N.I. is greatly supported by staff from Sport N.I. We have continued to benefit from use of office space, and services, funding and training programmes. We are particularly grateful to our Sport N.I. Performance Consultant Ms Norma Bowman for not only the tangible advice and support we receive but also for her commitment in turning up for events most recently the Youth Championships.

RYA Headquarters staff have as always been helpful and available. This includes input not just in boating matters but also vital behind the scenes help with HR and IT, etc.

New Faces

Robin Gray has taken over from Ruan O'Tiarnaigh as Regional Race Management Coordinator. Ruan stood down due to work commitments and we thank him for his input during the year. Robin is a very experienced Race Officer and we welcome his expertise in this area of our work.

Council and Executive

Once again your Council and Executive met regularly to progress the business of the Association. The start of the incoming year will be particularly busy as we prepare the business case for the next funding cycle. Much work will need to be done if as we hope funding is made available to one of the bidders for 'elite' facilities. Partnership working with local councils will be necessary if we are to benefit from the new funding streams available.

I am confident your Council and Executive will seize with vigour every opportunity!

Once again we are grateful to all those clubs who hosted events and meetings. It was a particular pleasure to see so many young people and their parents at Carlingford Lough Yacht Club for the recent RYA NI Youth Championships.

Congratulations

- To Stephen Milne on representing Ireland with distinction at the 2008 Olympic Games in Beijing
- To the sailors and powerboaters whose achievements are noted in the following reports
- To John Magowan who has been awarded an RYA Regional Award. This will be presented at the RYA AGM in London in November.
- To Ballyholme Yacht Club and Carrickfergus Sailing Club for being selected to go forward to the next stage of the Elite Facilities Bid. This is tremendous news for sailing and we wish both clubs well as they strive to ensure that world class facilities become available in Northern Ireland.
- To Bill O'Hara on being selected to be a Jury member for the 2008 Olympic Games, Chairman of the jury for the ISAF Youth Worlds in July this year in Denmark and in the Volvo Ocean Race as the Principal Race Officer.
- To County Antrim Yacht Club and Donaghadee Sailing Club on obtaining funding for new premises.
- To Tiffany Brien for successfully completing a sponsored sail from Portpatrick to raise money for Sailability.

Any finally

Once again may I thank the RYA Staff, Council and Executive for the hard work and enthusiasm which has ensured another successful year.

Stanton Adair
Chairman
RYA NI

RYANI Training and Development Manager's Annual Report 2008

RYA NI has been busy supporting Clubs and Centres through the year in areas of club development and training. Club development is of the upmost importance if our sport is to grow and attract new members from across the community. To this end we as the governing body have looked to our members through a club audit for their views on development and improving our sport.

Support has also been given to a our clubs and training centres with funding applications a number of which have been very successful and stand as examples of what can be achieved by a club and committee committed to the future and understanding the need to attract members from all sections of the community.

One area of membership that has made incredible progress is RYA Sailability and this progress can be attributed to superb efforts of the NI coordinator Bob Harper and his team.

Statistics show that club membership across all sports in NI is either in decline or just holding its own. I am pleased to inform you that NI has had an increase in the number of RYA affiliated clubs an increase in the number of RTC's and an increase in the number of commercial training centres. This is something we can be pleased with, but we must continue to adapt and improve if we wish to compete for members in a world that has such a wide range of activities on offer.

DEVELOPMENT

RYA NI Club Audit 08

Initial consultation with Jon White and Graham Manchester of RYA on the content of the club audit took place in 2007. I then went on to consult with a number of key club members as to the content of a club audit questionnaire. On the completion of the consultation period I then modified the sample questionnaire that had been provided by Graham Manchester and had the three RYANI committees, Executive, Development and Training review the result.

After a number of amendments the club audit questionnaire was circulated to all clubs by post and by email on Jan 07 and followed up by one to one phone calls where possible. A total of 12 Clubs responded. The club audit was

completed at the end March 2008 and the forms forwarded to Jon White at RYA HQ. The Club development division collated the findings into a excel format. RYA NI will use the information provided by this audit to shape the workshops and training offered in the future.

Assist clubs to develop membership/participation

Assistance by RYA NI to clubs in their endeavours to increase membership and participation has been on-going through consistent contact with clubs and their members. This contact has taken the form of, club visits, forums, and training courses and of course the use of phone, email and post. I have also promoted inter club cooperation with regard to development issues. For example one of our clubs, Donaghadee Sailing Club was very successful with a grant application to SNI. When another club, County Antrim Yacht Club wished to go down a similar route I arranged for the senior flag officers involved in both applications to meet. This meeting also helped to develop other links between these two clubs in both practical ways, by (joint training course and sharing of information) and at a social level.

Where possible we have made a concerted effort to encourage inter club contact on development matters. Many of our clubs have a vast wealth of experience in development issues and in seeking funding through for example grant application. One such club, Antrim Boat Club based on Lough Neagh is currently assisting another club in the area in its attempt to become RYA affiliated and eventually an RTC club.

As a result of a club development meeting held at Ballyronan in 2007 there is now a strong effort being made to create an Inland Waterways Helmsman Training Centre.

Facilitate school/club link

In particular we have devoted a lot of time in assisting the North Down Sailing Academy and Ballyholme Yacht Club. This has culminated in a “try a sail” day for 14 schools in the Bangor area with a total of 300 young people taking part. One of the spin offs from this event is that NDSA has increased the number of bookings for the courses it is holding at BYC, thus enabling more young people to experience the sailing club environment.

Assist clubs with development of volunteering

The subject of club volunteer development has been on the agenda of all RYA NI seminars and forums in recent times and is an issue I would constantly raise with clubs and indeed centres.

In a day and age where there is a marked fall in the number of people willing to give of their time freely I feel that incentives such as free training courses and support workshops for volunteers will help to improve the situation. However the need for the use of professionals with club training programmes is becoming obvious and should I feel be strongly considered by club officers. The need to continue to promote, encourage and support volunteers should never be over looked when dealing with club development issues.

Develop initiative to increase participation by the wider community

RYA NI has supported a number of our clubs in producing “club development plans”. Some of these clubs have used their development plan as a working tool to assist in the overall improvement of the club while others having found it necessary to produce a development plan as part of a grant application to the likes of the Lottery Fund/Awards For All and other funding bodies.

Development plans for Donaghadee Sailing Club, County Antrim Yacht and Newtownards Sailing Club have included some exciting initiatives to raise the appeal of Sailing/ Yacht clubs to the wider community, such as opening the club to the older members of the community during the day for a social get together; allowing the use of the club for a local ornithology club, the formation of a snooker club, making contact with other local sports clubs, developing a canoeing and cycling facility and forming links with schools and special needs organisations.

I feel that the assistance and support that we have given to these various clubs has contributed to the success they have enjoyed with their applications for grant support. Part of that grant approval process is based on the quality of the club development plan.

EDUCATION, TRAINING and SAFETY

RYA NI Education, Training and Safety Committee meetings were held in January, June and September. The Committee consists of Council Members, members from Champion Clubs and non Champion clubs and representatives from the Commercial, Statutory and Not for Profit Training Centres.

The role of this Committee is to assess training needs and formulate and monitor a training plan. In addition it disseminates advice under its main headings, organises an annual Forum and provides general support and advice for the Training and Development Manager

The recent performance of team GB at the 2008 Olympics is an amazing example of success at the pinnacle of the **Training triangle**, the top! However, we should not lose sight of the fact that the base of that triangle is, the “**introduction**”. The National Sailing Scheme, the Youth Sailing Scheme, Start Windsurfing and the Start Power Boat schemes are for most people their first structured sailing/boating experience and these courses are delivered by our RYA instructors. The importance of this first experience cannot be over emphasised. We get to make a first impression only once. Professor Istvan Balyi, who instigated LTAD has for example advised the Soviet coaching system considered the “Introduction” so important that they ensured that only their top instructors/coaches provided the first introductory classes.

RYANI has supported a number of training programmes this year for Senior Dinghy Instructors, Dinghy Instructors, Power Boat Instructors and Inland Waterways Instructors. A number of these being a first for NI, indeed a first for the island of Ireland in the case of the RYA NI Inland Waterways Helming Instructors Course and Inland Waterways Helming centre recognition. Power Boating in NI has never been healthier, with the increase in ownership of power craft, such as RIBs, ensuring a demand for tuition and instruction. The requirement for International Certificate of Competency in many EU countries has also ensured an ongoing demand for Power and Sailing courses. The number of safety boat courses being run ensures an increasingly high standard of rescue and safety boat cover at sailing events. RYANI has helped to promote and fund a number of these courses and this has encouraged further courses to be run at club level. RYANI would like to see an increase in the number of Intermediate and Advanced Powerboat courses and will help to promote interest in these courses.

A total of four **Dinghy Instructor** courses have been held. One of these RYA NI supported DI courses was delivered at Carlingford Lough YC, a training venue not used before. The use of CLYC as an Instructor Training venue should I believe encourage other RTC Principals to look at running Instructor Training programmes at their clubs. If we are to increase or even maintain our ability to train sailing instructors it is imperative that RTC Principals develop club instructor training programmes. It would seem that some Principals are unaware that as an RYA RTC Club they are in a position to not only run Power and Sailing courses but also instructor courses. RYA NI would be very pleased to support and assist with the organising of such training.

SAILING

RYA NI has successfully maintained the number of Coach Assessor in NI over the past number of years. As a result of an NI CA re-validation day, organised during the visit to the province of the National Coach (John Thorn) we have been able to maintain a total of four Coach Assessors. The challenge for the future is to increase that number to at least six.

The NI **Windsurfing Trainer** Jim Barr has re-validated and has also trained as an RTC inspector. As a result Jim is now taking a more active role with RYA NI and has completed his quota of RTC inspections. I am currently discussing with Jim the prospect of holding a windsurfing workshop in autumn 2009.

Regrettable there has been a poor response to the first of the **Advanced Dinghy Instructor** courses, which was due to be held in August of this year. The second course is due to take place in October and we hope for a good response.

Belfast Lough Sailability has requested support towards the training of **Keelboat Instructors**. BLS is at present seeking additional funding for this course from RYA Sailability. When the funding details have been agreed the course date will be confirmed.

A **Senior Instructor** course is scheduled to take place at Peninsula/Newtownards SC sailing at the end of January 2009.

A total of three **Dinghy Instructor** courses have taken place so far this year with another fully booked course taking place in November. This course will involve all four NI coach assessors and is promising to be one of our biggest courses of the season.

A very successful **Dinghy Instructor** course was held at Carlingford Lough Yacht Club. A total of six candidates completed the course successfully. This is the first time an instructor course has taken place at this club and it should serve as an example to other clubs that it is very possible to organise and run instructor training at club level.

POWERBOATING

A well attended Safety Boat Course was hosted at RNYC. Mike Meharg who was assisted by Robert Hastings and Frank Haslet delivered the course. Nine

candidates took part, one of whom has gone on to become a Powerboat instructor.

Interest in the **Honda RYA Youth RIB Championship** continues to increase. 23 competitors attended the Regional Finals in East Down Yacht Club. This was the best attended final in the UK. Gary Fekkes (EABC) won the 8-12 age group and Paul Magowan (QYC) won the 13-16 age group. They subsequently went on to finish 5th and 6th respectively at the National finals at Southampton.

A one day **Personal Watercraft** course was successfully held at Wave Riders on the north Antrim coast in September.

Two **Power Boat Instructor** courses have been run this period. N Ireland is setting a very high standard across the board in powerboating., and I am delighted to report an increase in the number of younger members becoming powerboat instructors.

RYA NI promoted an **Inland Waterways Helmsman Instructor** Course during this period. This was led by Paul Mara the RYA Chief Powerboat Instructor.

SHORE BASED.

Twelve Clubs were represented at the **RYA NI Training Forum** held on 8 March at RNIYC. John Thorn, the National Dinghy Coach attended. The theme of the Forum revolved around 'Developments within the RYA Dinghy Scheme. Joe Byrne from CLYC gave a talk on the new two day Navigation course. Despite the important theme of the forum and the attendance of the National Sailing Coach, the number of clubs represented and the turnout of instructors was disappointing when one considers the attendance, at an individual level represented about 6% of the invitations sent out.

David Young from Killyleagh YC is currently organising a **First Aid Instructors** course. The course will be delivered by Sara Hopkinson from RYA HQ. The RYA NI Education, Training & Safety Committee is investigating the possibility of providing NI with its own resident First Aid Instructor Trainer. This would allow for more cost effective courses to be delivered in the future.

Joe Byrne continues to run the two day **Navigation and Safety Training** course. This is proving to be a very popular course and has no doubt raised the standard of boating and contributed to safer use of our coastline.

Both Paul Magee and Lindsey Buckley have been providing top level training in both **VHF and Sea Survival**. These courses come highly recommended for all sailors and are a requirement for the commercial endorsement of boating qualifications

As from the 30th of September, due to the loss of funding support my post will be reduced to a part time position, which will conclude in March 2009. I would like to sincerely thank everyone involved in supporting RYA NI Training and Development and to acknowledge the committed efforts of the RYA NI Executive, the RYA NI Education Training and Safety Committee, the RYANI Development Committee, our colleagues at RYA Hamble finally my thanks to our Trainers, Coach Assessors and Instructors and of course our fine volunteers.

Many Thanks
Eamon Masterson.

Performance Committee Annual Report 2008

2008 saw our Olympic sailors looking to tackle the final hurdles on the road to Quindao. 3 campaigns were running in total, each of which could qualify to represent Ireland at the Olympics.

Stephen Milne, BYC, and Peter O'Leary paired up the Olympic Star class and began a whirlwind campaign which would see them putting in some World Class performances on their way to selection for Quindao. Stephen proved his talents as a crew at this level and the pair went on to represent IRL at the Olympics, taking a few international race wins on their way. Stephen is now looking towards London as a future target after finishing 13th in the Star class.

Debbie Hanna, EABC, knew she had a tough draw with her main competition, Ciara Peelo putting in some credible performances added to the pressure of qualifying IRL at the World Championships in New Zealand in March 2008. Debbie has shown incredible tenacity throughout the year and although she was not selected in the end, proved her worth at the Europeans in France, finishing 28th overall against a strong field.

The McGovern brothers (Russell and Matt are both BYC/RUYC) had also faced the bitter pill of not qualifying to go to the Games. They prepared themselves well for the 2008 Worlds in Australia but narrowly missed the cut as the regatta finished. Matt will be looking to pair up with Ryan Seaton, CSC, as they start a new bid for the London Games in 4 years time.

Ryan Seaton's Laser campaign started to bear fruit at the main Olympic events, with a 37th at Kiel Olympic week and a 54th at the Laser Senior Europeans. It has been a difficult decision for Ryan to switch disciplines to the 49er, but he is looking forward to a fresh campaign and building in his experiences from the Laser Class.

Junior and Youth Squads

Our Junior and Youth Squad sailors have continued to impress, with Ross Vaughan, RNIYC, Tiffany Brien, RNIYC, Chris Penney, CSC and Oliver Loughhead, BYC/RUYC all selected on the Irish Youth Academy. Chris Eames, SLYC and Robbie Gilmore, SLYC, were also recently selected for the GBR National Topper Squad following some excellent results throughout the year.

Tiffany has also been accepted into the Sports Institute of Northern Ireland, where she will receive specialist advice on the physical and mental demands of

her sailing. This will allow her to balance her school work etc against her training programme. Tiffany becomes a developmental sailor this year.

James and Mary Farrell have done great jobs heading up the Youth and Junior Squad respectively along with the assistance of a number of other coaches. The 2008/09 Squads will be selected soon, with the programmes kicking off once again at the end of October.

An overview of key achievements by sailors at international level can be found below:

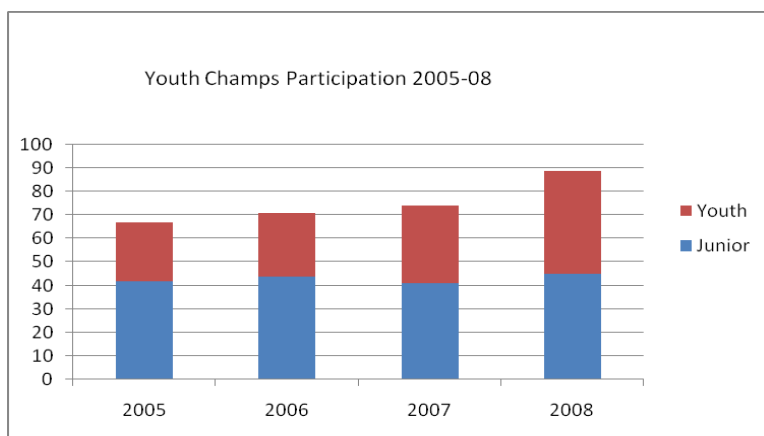
Results

Sailor	Club/ class	Event	Result
Chris Eames	SLYC, Topper	World Championships, July 2008	15 th
Robbie Gilmore	SLYC, Topper	World Championships, July 2008	26 th
Michael Molloy	SLYC, Topper	World Championships, July 2008	27 th
Oliver Loughhead	BYC/ RUYC Radial	Radial Youth European Championships, FRA, July 2008 UK Laser Radial Nationals, August 2008	10 th (2 nd U17) 3 rd overall
Chris Penney	EABC/ CSC Radial	Laser Radial Youth World Championships, NZL, March 2008 UK Laser Radial Nationals, August 2008	13 th 4 th
Tiffany Brien	RNIYC/BYC Radial	ISAF Youth Worlds, DEN, July 2008 Laser Radial Women's Youth European Championships, FRA, July 2008	12 th 15 th
Ross Vaughan	RNIYC Radial	Andora Europa Cup, ITA, March 2008 Warnemunde Europa Cup, GER, July 2008	7 th 11 th
Debbie Hanna	EABC Radial	Miami OCR, USA, January 2008 Laser Radial Women's Europeans, FRA, July 2008	15 th 28 th
James Espey	BYC/RUYC Standard	Hyeres Olympic Class Regatta, FRA, March 2008	19 th 11 th

		UK Laser Nationals, Abersoch, August 2008	
Ryan Seaton	CSC Standard	Kiel Olympic Week, GER, June 2008 Laser Standard Europeans, BEL, July 2008 UK Laser Nationals	37 th 54 th 7 th
McGoverns	BYC 49er	49er Europeans 2007 49er World Championships 2008	12 th 36 th
Stephen Milne	BYC Star	Star Bacardi Cup, Miami Star World Championships Olympic Games, Quindao, August 2008	9 th 17 th 13 th

Youth Championships

The RYA NI Youth Championships were held in Carlingford Lough Yacht Club on 6th and 7th September. 90 entries across 3 classes were received. This has shown a steady increase in numbers over the last 4 years. This included an increase in female participation (37% over 2007) and by the number of clubs participating.



CLYC did a great job to fit in the 4 races on Sunday, after racing had to be abandoned because of high winds on the Saturday. The club did a great deal of work to make the Championships a success and our thanks go out to Henry McLaughlin and his team for making the event such a success.

The final results:

Youth Champion: Oliver Loughhead, BYC/RUYC

Junior Champion: Fraser Wright, EDYC
Lady's Champion: Sophie Murphy, QYC
Schools' Cup winners: Methodist College Belfast

Regional Development Programme

The Regional Development Programme has gone from strength to strength with over 60 U16 sailors taking part in the programme throughout 2008. This programme has shown an increase year on year and 6 days were run over the course of the summer. These days now play a crucial part in identifying young talent and assisting all young sailors in the basics of racing for regional level.

Coach Development

12 new Club Race Coaches have been qualified this year. 2 courses were run by James Farrell (RYA Coach Tutor) in January with a good number of new coaches coming through the course to help deliver race training at their local clubs.

Stephen Martin, SLYC, was accepted on to the RYA Class Race Coach course in January. Stephen has already undertaken a weekend of the training and will be going on to complete the course later this year. Stephen has been assisting in the Junior Squad programme and Regional Development programme, as well as putting work in to his own club training programmes.

Elite Facilities

The Sport NI Elite Facilities competition has reached stage 2. Ballyholme Yacht Club and Carrickfergus Sailing Club have continued in their bids to secure funds for such a facility. Stage 3 is set to be decided in early 2009 and we anticipate that one bid should secure funds to have a World Class Training facility in place.

Richard Honeyford
RYA NI Performance Manager

RYA NI Council 2007

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	Chairman Performance Committee

Ex Officio

Maeve Bell OBE

Irish Sailing Association Representative

ISA CEO Harry Hermon

Club Representatives

<i>Antrim Boat Club</i>	David King
<i>Bangor Marina Berth holders Association</i>	W M Watson
<i>Carrickfergus Berth Holders Association</i>	Ken Atkinson
<i>Carrickfergus Sailing Club</i>	John McClure
<i>Cockle Island Boat Club</i>	John Cleary
<i>Coleraine Yacht Club</i>	Denzyl Dinsmore
<i>Comber Cruising Club</i>	Norman Brashaw
<i>County Antrim Yacht Club</i>	Sheila Lewis
<i>Donaghadee Sailing Club</i>	James Ogg
<i>East Antrim Boat Club</i>	Gavin Doig
<i>East Down Yacht Club</i>	James Curran
<i>Hollywood Yacht Club</i>	Andy Browne
<i>Killyleagh Yacht Club</i>	David Young
<i>Lough Erne Yacht Club</i>	Fred Ternan
<i>Lough Neagh Sailing Club</i>	Shirley Sheard
<i>Newcastle Yacht Club Ltd</i>	Jonathan Linden
<i>Newtownards Sailing Club</i>	Newenham de Cogan
<i>Quoile Yacht Club</i>	John Magowan
<i>Royal North of Ireland Yacht Club</i>	Frank Haslett
<i>Royal Ulster Yacht Club</i>	John Bell