



Dear Members,

Welcome to June 'On the Pier!' This month we have lots of news, special club anniversaries, events and many new members to celebrate.

As 'On the Pier' takes a well-earned summer break, returning in September, we know many of our members are heading off on their own summer sailing and boating adventures, whether racing at events in Ireland and further afield or cruising the wonderful West Coast and Isles or the Clyde. We look forward to hearing about everyone's summer sailing exploits and perhaps reading about some of these in future editions!

Wishing you all Fair Winds,

Allison.

### A Note from the Commodore...

I would like to start this month by thanking all our volunteers and our bar staff who once again have been very busy during June. The month started with the Optimist Ulsters. It has been a long time since we have held an event of this size with 74 young sailors from all over Ireland taking part in the two-day event. It was lovely to see club members competing, from Penny and George who have been on the Oppie circuit for a while to Tom, Caspar and Sophia all competing in their first event and a visitor from Scotland Charlotte McGaughey. We have great feedback from IODAI on the organisation and hospitality over the weekend. Events like these take lots of planning and commitment from members but they also bring much needed revenue into the Club through entry fees and bar sales!

The Kitson Cup and Gala Day was another super Saturday. The Kitson cup is one of my favourite races of the year and this year didn't disappoint especially as it was so close at the finish. The return of Gala Day also brought members and friends together for fun and laughs in the afternoon. Although the weather wasn't too kind for the water-based activities (it was a tad windy), we still managed to have some raft racing. Hopefully we can build on this success for next year.

Last but not least was our Regatta weekend, this year sponsored by Bann River Cruises. It was great that James Nixon was able to join us for the whole weekend and thanks to them for supporting the regatta. Three good races over the two days and a healthy dose of craic both on and off the water.

To say it's been busy at EABC during June is an understatement.

However I couldn't finish this month without remembering Lilian Stewart and Alex Munro who both passed away in June. Lilian, a very close family friend and affectionately known as 'Auntie' Lilian to many of us of a certain age, was our first female

Commodore. From a family holiday in Greece with Lilian and her husband Dave, to my Mum sailing on their boats Edelweiss and Blue Moon, it was always fun times. Although Lilian had been unwell for a number of years, she still kept a keen interest in all the happenings at the Club.

Alex was a true gentleman and worked hard for the Club over the last 10 years in various roles but most recently on the yard committee and helping with Club upgrades. I got to know Alex well during that time but what was perhaps most inspirational was his tireless commitment to Larne Food Bank.

Lucy.

### Sailing

June saw another extremely busy month for our Sailing Committee and volunteers whilst our EABC Sailors continued competing at home and away.

The IODAI 2023 Ulster Championships were a great success for East Antrim and we have received some very welcome and kind feedback from both IODAI and our guests.

This weekend Peter Doig's Jack has travelled to The Volvo Dun Laoghaire Regatta 2023 facing a tough class and fresh conditions, whilst later in July Richard Doig's Hydrology and Gordon and Heather Kane's Artemis both head off for the 75<sup>th</sup> West Highland Yachting Week.

All series racing results are up to date and may be viewed at <https://eabc.club/sailing-1/>

The Glenarm, Race to Dál Riada takes place this Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> July with a midday start and EABC boats intending to berth overnight are reminded to advise the Hon Sec by 10<sup>th</sup> July.

Sailors are also reminded of the remaining events on our Summer Sailing Events Calendar:

**Sat 15 & Sun 16 July: Glenarm Dalriada Race/Cruise**

**Sat/Sun 29/30 July: Doig Cup & Adams Trophy**

**Tues 1 August: Crew's Race**

**Tues 8 August: RNLI Race**

**Sat 26 & Sun 27 August: Cushendall Regatta Weekend**

**Sat 2 September: Maidens Race**

Richard.



Follow our Social Media accounts for more photos and don't forget to add our remaining summer events and entertainment to your diary!

## On the Social Scene

Once again, our Entertainment's Committee pulled out all the stops to ensure Gala Day was a huge success. We look forward to this revived tradition becoming a yearly feature on EABC's Calendar of events!



Gala Day revival 2023!



Family fun at Gala Day.

**CALENDAR OF EVENTS**  
SUMMER: JUNE- SEPTEMBER 2023  
**EAST ANTRIM BOAT CLUB**

- JUN. 24 KITSON CUP GALA DAY**  
PURSUIT RACE FOLLOWED BY FAMILY FUN DAY
- JUL. 01 EABC REGATTA**  
RACING AFLOAT, BBQ & LIVE MUSIC ASHORE
- AUG. 12 DOIG CUP**  
RACING AFLOAT, FOLLOWED BY BBQ
- SEP. 02 MAIDENS RACE**  
RACING FOLLOWED BY LAYING UP DINNER
- SEP. 16 WINE & CHEESE**  
SAMPLE SELECTED WINES WITH ACCOMPANYING CHEESE

FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT [WWW.EABC.CLUB](http://WWW.EABC.CLUB)

## Training and Juniors

**Debbie Hanna RYA Principal**

Summer training is in full swing with our first Adult Level 1 'Learn to Sail' course now complete.

The Junior sailors and visitors have also been enjoying Friday nights at the club on the water for our 'RYA onBoard sessions- Bright Nights'. These will continue all summer and we hope to have many returning faces and aspiring sailors coming through!

Junior sailing schemes have also begun with 3 more weeks of courses planned and a further Powerboat course in July.

New Assistant instructors have been trained up to start their coaching journey. Tommy has been training those with Powerboat Level 2 qualifications to launch and recover the RIBS and a new apprentice in Joshua Kane, driving the club tractor for launching.

All this activity requires lots of volunteers during an already busy sailing season so thanks to everyone who helps to make this happen.

**Debbie.**



Al Lucy Wheeler leads Level 1&2 course Juniors down the Lough (Photos kindly provided by Kelly Patterson SI).



Is it even an EABC course without Wymers jumping?



Juniors having fun on their recent course.

### Member's News

**Whilst we love to welcome new boats to EABC this month sees a very special anniversary!**

On Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> July 1973, Tom Dorman's stunning new Nicholson 32 MK10 'Maid of Malin II' arrived into Larne.

Maid of Malin I her predecessor was a Laurent Giles



Brittany Class who was followed by Mist of Malin a 36' Motorsailor, before Maid of Malin II was commissioned.



Mist of Malin in Bangor in recent years.



She is also enjoyed by a fourth generation of the Dorman family.



Maid of Malin II begins her maiden voyage to Larne.

Crewed by Allan Dorman, Tommy Hutcheson, Steven Callan, Robert Gingles, Davy Marcus and Jim McCarlie, her arrival marked the beginning of her 50-year residency to date at East Antrim Boat Club.



Maid of Malin II remains in the Dorman family's ownership and is now treasured by club members Esther and Allan Dorman.



As she sits on her mooring in Larne Lough today, her distinctive smooth traditional lines still make Maid of Malin II one of the most beautiful boats in East Antrim Boat Club.



**Maid of Malin II on her mooring at EABC.**

In other Member's News, a very warm East Antrim Boat Club welcome is extended to our following new members:

**Nigel Martin**  
**Stephen Swann**  
**Julie Tully**  
**Rod Moore**  
**Ian Lorrimer**  
**Nicola Lorrimer**  
**Michael Eldridge**  
**Richard McIlwaine-Biggins**  
**Fiona McIlwaine-Biggins**  
**Amber McIlwaine-Biggins**  
**Gary McFarlane**  
**Ros Lockhart**  
**Gemma Lynd**  
**Spencer Lynd**  
**Gillian Foster**  
**Ben Foster**  
**Lucy Foster**  
**Billy Johnston**

We look forward to you all becoming fully involved in EABC activities!

**Cruiser's View**

**Michael and Joshua Kane, Serenity**

**OUR SUMMER CRUISE 2021  
Chapter 3**

Day 6: Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> July 2021, High Water Oban 1627 hrs. With several early starts in previous days,

Joshua and I woke late that morning in Oban marina (on the island of Kerrera). It had been decided to muster mid-morning having left the crew of yacht Mojo the night before to settle into their home for the forthcoming days. Prior to meeting up we had discussed various cruising options depending on the weather and crew availability. Accompanying Mandy and Mike were Josh, Mandy's son, and his girlfriend Claire who both had to get back to Oban town by the following Saturday to return home (not forgetting Daisy and Islay, Mandy and Mike's two young and lively dogs, a Springer and Cocker Spaniel).

Our planned options were to cruise northward via the Caledonian Canal to Inverness where Josh and Claire could board public transport to Oban, a circumnavigation of the Isle of Mull and back to Oban or navigate the Crinan Canal to Tarbert also with public transport available for returning to Oban.

After a late breakfast then muster on Mojo we all agreed on the Crinan Canal, often referred to as "the World's most beautiful shortcut", stopping in Ardfern marina that night before entering the canal the following day. A quick check of the tide indicated we should leave before lunch and both crews readied for departure with Mojo refuelling and Serenity leaving first at about 1230 hrs. It was another fine and sunny day cruising south via the sound of Kerrera as we left Oban bathing in sunshine behind us when I received a call from Mandy on my mobile. She had phoned the canal office to enquire if we should expect any delays; something that can often happen with ongoing maintenance issues, bridges or lock gates not opening or even a shortage of water that supplies the canal. Just our good luck then that she had been informed, due to the fabulously good weather we were enjoying, the water level in the canal was indeed low and they were operating with restricted access.

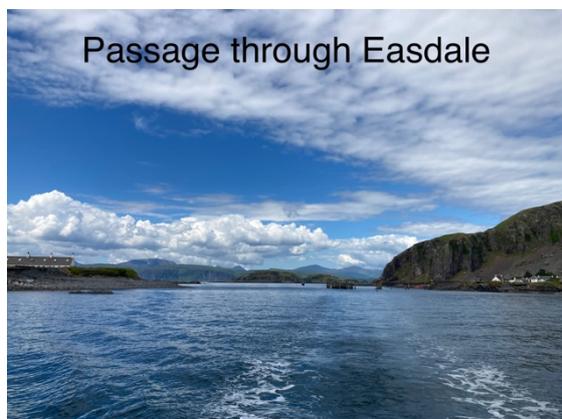


**Leaving Oban**

Basically, we would be held up as they were closed until Thursday. This gave us an extra day before we could enter the canal at the Crinan basin, so we made the decision to stop enroute to Ardfern and stay that night in Craobh marina with a short passage to Ardfern the following day before entering the canal on Thursday. The tide in our favour Serenity



continued to Craobh through the narrow passages of Easdale and the Cuan Sound.



Joshua took the helm through both these passages with an eye on the chart plotter as instructed and the other on me as I guided him from the bow, with a number of tight turns required. We arrived back in Craobh marina about 3.30pm and were secured on the same berth we'd been in just a couple of nights previous... this time with an almost spellbindingly surprising sight beside us!



Yacht Mojo was a little further behind and we watched for them coming in then walked around to the other side of the marina to take their lines but they were already securely berthed before we reached them. We enjoyed coffee aboard and discussed our change of plans agreeing to return that evening after dinner, it would be another late start the next day with a short passage to Ardfern so it suited everyone to have a little social gathering that night. Joshua and I returned to Serenity to relax and further study our planned route for the coming days when we were interrupted by a couple walking along the pontoon and who had approached our boat. It was Gordon and Heather Kane! What a delightful surprise and that which had caught my attention earlier in the afternoon as we came into our berth was indeed the familiar and mighty yacht Artemis beside us.

We enjoyed a brief chat; they were both tired after a 14-hour overnight passage from Larne having completed the club annual regatta and spending the following day victualing their very fine Westerly Fulmar before departing EABC on Monday evening. Heather asked us what we were doing for dinner and as we had dined in the local restaurant a couple of days before Joshua and I were just going to eat aboard but Heather insisted we should join them. An invitation the "hungry sailors" couldn't refuse! After a restful afternoon we enjoyed a delicious dinner on board yacht Artemis followed by a short walk around the peaceful surroundings of Craobh marina before



we all gathered on yacht Mojo for a truly memorable EABC party.



Later the sun was setting and the sky lit up with flames of colour reflected in the water only to be broken by the yachts in the marina and the islands beyond with the silhouette of Josh and Claire caught in a romantic embrace...



## CLUBHOUSES OLD AND NEW



Michael

### Photo of the Month

June's Photo of the Month celebrates the 74 young Optimist Sailors who competed at EABC's recent IODAI Ulster Championships.



### Memory Lane

This month's Memory Lane features another special EABC Anniversary as Tommy Hutcheson writes about the present Clubhouse's 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary on 12<sup>th</sup> July 2023.

Allan Dorman has also shared some fabulous old photos of the harbour area from a personal collection.

As we approach the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the opening of the "new" clubhouse on 12<sup>th</sup> July 1963, I thought I would put together a few jottings about the history of the clubhouses.

The old clubhouse consisted of two Nissen huts, presumably a legacy from the yard being requisitioned by the Admiralty during WW2 for the maintenance and repair of MTBs and other small craft.

The front Nissen hut was the clubhouse and was "heated" by a pot-bellied stove which roasted the front of you while your back froze. The back hut housed a billiard table. I am told by Henry Fletcher that the roof leaked so when balls were cued on a wet day, they sloshed their way across the cloth surface leaving a soggy trail behind them.



A new facade was added to the front one which greatly improved this area:



The building in the background is Sammy Adams' boatshed and beyond that can be seen the chimneys of the Coastguard cottages.

Popular activities at the time included country dancing and at least one fancy dress dance was held.



If you can identify any other people in the photograph, please let me know.

In 1962 the General Committee decided the time had come to build a new clubhouse to provide better facilities for the expanding membership. Plans were drawn up by Eddy Phillipson and the rear Nissen hut was demolished at the end of the season to enable construction to start on the new building. Club folklore (confirmed by Henry Fletcher) has it that the building was designed around the steel roof joists that Neilly had acquired "at the right price" when the Aluminium Works was demolished.

At that time the club was only a tenant and therefore had no collateral to secure an overdraft. However, in those days bank managers had considerable autonomy in how they ran their branches and the then manager of the Bank of Ireland had sufficient faith in Neil Kitson and Graham Gingles to arrange an unsecured overdraft facility of £1,800 to let construction commence. To put this in perspective, the annual subscription at the time was 5/- (25p) so it was a large amount of money.

The work was done by direct labour (the only name I can remember was that the plasterer was called Nat), supervised by Ernie Stewart the club Honorary Treasurer.

Once the new building was wind and watertight the front Nissen hut was demolished.

The opening date was 12<sup>th</sup> July 1963 and I can still in my mind see Graham Gingles (Graham and Robert's father) on his hands and knees applying the final coat of varnish to the main floor the night before the opening. I can only assume it was quick-drying varnish!

For those who may not know, the floor is maple and was the dance floor in Maxwell's Loughview Hotel in Curran Road (where Loughview flats now are) which was demolished about that time and again acquired by Neil Kitson. This means the floor is well over 100 years old – another example of proper re-cycling!



The "new" clubhouse comprised the present main hall, the kitchen with two small changing rooms (the present training room) and toilets behind it and the Committee Room – now the bar – in front of the kitchen.

View of the new clubhouse from the sea:

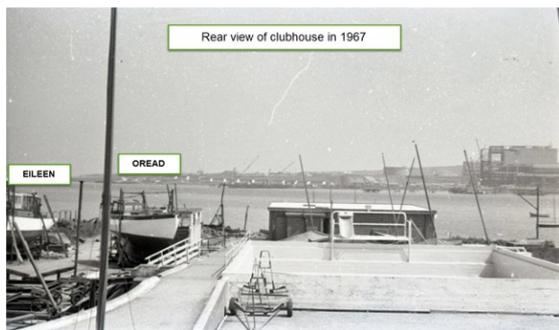


GP14s: 3772 Tishomingo (Curly Morris), 5818 Calibar (Mike Ford-Hutchinson), 2938 Maeve (John Spiers).



Side/Rear view of clubhouse as built in 1963.

The steel structure visible between the winch house and the clubhouse is the carriage for the "patent slip" which had the capacity to haul ships up to 300 tons and was used to slip the dredgers from the Blue Circle Magheramorne cement works for maintenance work. Neil Kitson also built a dredger called the "Magheraglaur" on the big carriage.



Rear view of clubhouse in 1967

Until the Leisure Centre was built the swimming pool was the only swimming pool in Larne. It was drained, cleaned and re-filled with seawater every week in the summer by Rossi McKeown – Sadler’s brother and Geordie Gardiner’s great-uncle. Harry Fletcher (Henry’s father) maintained the electrically driven pump which was located on the beach.

The “toast rack” dinghy road trailer was made for me by David Kitson to take two OK dinghys side by side.

Note also the power station under construction at Ballylumford with the “new” Blue Pool (Ballylumford Harbour) to the north of it.

Over the years there have been many additions and alterations:

The changing rooms soon proved to be inadequate so in 1970 a new male changing area (now the Ladies) was built and the original ones were re-ramped into one area (now the Training Room) to provide better female facilities. The new area had the luxury of showers for the first time.

Sadly, Neil Kitson was taken from us at an early age in 1966 so it was entirely appropriate that this major extension was dedicated to his memory.



Bar lounge extension under construction 1993.

Finally, in 2020, Peter Doig roofed over the patio to provide a sheltered outdoor bar area in according with the Covid19 “social distancing” regulations, so completing the clubhouse as we know it today.

I am indebted to several of us “more mature” members, mainly Richard and Peter Doig, Henry Fletcher and others for their contributions and correcting my, at times faulty memory.

**Tommy Hutcheson.**



Larne Harbour with land reclamation under way.



Can you name the ships berthed above?

**The next ‘On the Pier’ will be circulated in September 2023. Please send any news or contributions to Allison, [honsec@eabc.org.uk](mailto:honsec@eabc.org.uk)**