



Dear Members,

Welcome to May's action-packed edition of **On the Pier**. Commodore Lucy opens with her round up of an exciting month and some thoughts for the summer ahead.

Our keelboat fleet continues launching and racing has commenced. Some of our boats are already out cruising and we look forward to future tales for Cruiser's View. This month however, Michael and Joshua make it to Kerrera and Chapter 2 of Serenity's 2021 Scottish Odyssey.

May's edition closes with a fabulous blast from the past... which is timely given the revival of Gala Day on 24th June!

We capture so many images of club activities each month and it would be impossible to include all of these On the Pier. Please follow our Facebook page, Facebook Members Group and Instagram Page for updates about upcoming events and countless photos of all the fun!

EABC Facebook Page (public)
<https://www.facebook.com/eabclarne/>

EABC Members (members only group)
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/570721286279182>

EABC Instagram page
<https://www.instagram.com/eastantrimboatclub/?hl=en>

A Note from the Commodore...

May has been another very busy month at EABC and we have certainly packed a lot in! From our Coronation Tea Party at the start of the month, Discover Sailing at the end of the month and a yard and clubhouse tidy up, plus the GP14 Ulster Championships in between. I would like to say a huge thank you to our organising teams and volunteers without whom we couldn't run these events.

In addition to having a great buzz around the Club in the run up to and during, events also help Club funds primarily through bar sales and it is great to see our income coming back to pre-Covid levels.

Although unfortunately we don't have Friday evening meals at the moment, the bar is still open and our Friday evening Bright Night junior sailing returns in June.

We have also purchased a new gas BBQ for Club use!

Dinghy sailing and training continues on Sundays, and we have started the keel boat season on Tuesday and Thursday evenings.

Looking to June dates for your diary, are the Optimist Ulster Championships and the Kitson Cup and Gala Day. This year after the Kitson Cup your Entertainment's Team are planning to bring back Gala Day. For those of you who haven't been to one before this will be an afternoon of fun and games including a raft race (it's legendary). This is definitely one to get booked in your diary and not to be missed!

Planning is now well underway for the Oppie Ulsters and if you can help in any way over the two day event please let myself or Allison know.

Finally, if you haven't handed in your boat insurance declaration this is now well overdue. Can you please urgently complete the insurance declaration form and put it in the post box in the main clubhouse. All boats must be insured.

Lucy.

Sailing

Our keelboat racing season has started and up to date results for both keelboats and dinghy racing on Sundays, may be found on the Sailing page of our website or by following the link <https://eabc.club/sailing-1/>

The IODAI 2023 Ulster Championship is being hosted by EABC on Saturday 17th June and Sunday 18th June. As always, we are reliant on all of our wonderful members and volunteers to host a successful event. If you can, please volunteer at honsec@eabc.org.uk or add your name to the list pinned on the Sailing Section noticeboard.

The month ahead also sees the Kitson Cup Pursuit Race on 24th June followed by the revival of Gala Day. Our own EABC Regatta is then scheduled for 1st and 2nd July.

We look forward to seeing as many of you afloat this season as possible!

On the Social Scene

The Coronation Tea Party was a huge success and lots of fun was had by all. We have included some images of the day below.







Make sure you update your diary with our summer dates from our Calendar of Events below.

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

Training and Juniors

Debbie Hanna RYA Principal

Discover Sailing

Thanks to all our club volunteers who took on roles at the Discover Sailing event on the last weekend in May. We had a great day with lots of new and returning faces visiting the club and having a go on the water. We hope to see these visitors returning for our summer courses and getting on the water with us.

RYA OnBoard Bright Nights

Bright Night Sailing for 8-16 year olds, starts in June and runs until August every Friday night. These sessions are for members and visitors and are a fun way to get on the water and learn something each week.

RYA Start Sailing (Adults)

We have a Level 1- Start Sailing course running on Thursday evenings in June. There is another course planned in July and a Level 2- Basic Skills course in August.

Debbie.





Member's News

Congratulations to Penny Doig pictured below receiving her IODAI Development Squad Jacket at Lough Ree recently.



Ellen Barbour has transitioned from the ILCA 6 and has been invited onto the Irish Sailing 49er FX Development Squad. She has been training with Dublin sailor Elysia O'Leary at camps in Dun Laoghaire, at the Irish Sailing base. We look forward to seeing what events and travels Ellen has on the horizon.

Tom and Zoe have formally been invited onto the Irish Sailing Academy. Their exams are finished and they have headed off for a couple of weeks training in Dublin before leaving for Poland and the Youth Worlds and Youth Europeans back-to-back. Good Luck Zoe and Tom!

Cruiser's View

Michael and Joshua Kane, Serenity

OUR SUMMER CRUISE 2021 Chapter 2

Day 3: Saturday 3rd July 2021, High Water Larne 0628 hrs. I woke early to another fine morning in Ardmish Bay and my usual routine of reviewing the weather and passage plan, boat checks, starting the engine and emptying the bilges was becoming a regular thing. All of the other boats seemed unaware of Serenity's movements as they remained silently asleep and appeared to be using Gigha as a staging post before catching the tide south later in the day. I

almost imagined hearing the mystical tones of The Lonesome Boatman whistling in my ears as I slipped our lines from the pontoon at 0545 hrs.

My plan was to head north navigating the Sound of Jura, this allowed a choice of destinations and alternate ports such as Craighouse on the isle of Jura to our west or Tayvallich near the head of Loch Sween. I had never been to either before and both would have meant tying to a mooring, my other options were Crinan or Ardfarn but my aim was Craobh Marina. We were making good progress picking up 2 knots of tide halfway through our passage when Joshua appeared and took the helm. It seemed a fairly straight bearing without much deviation in our direction and calm sea, so I retreated to the galley to make breakfast, a couple of bacon baps and a much needed mug of coffee for us both, simple but hearty if not very healthy. Not long after we experienced some unintended twists and turns as we passed west of the Dorus Mor, a tidal race south of Loch Craignish, the wonders of nature forcing it's influence on Serenity's long keel with the tide moving in different directions beneath us.



I had phoned ahead to Craobh Marina when it became clear that it would be our final destination and they duly informed me of available berths. We arrived early at 11am, a speedy passage of just over 5 hours, and after securing Serenity alongside made our way to the Marina office. Though having been here before I had wondered was there a road over the hill to Ardfarn, "about an hour's walk" the friendly lady in the office informed me. We made our way back to Serenity for lunch after a stroll around the pontoons and then off we set on our bicycles over the hill to Ardfarn. The tarmac road soon turned into a stony lane up the hill then down again and back to a



tarmac road, quite rough in places. The nice lady in the Marina office must be a marathon walker as it took us nearly an hour on the bikes, Joshua could probably have done it much faster but I wanted to stop occasionally to enjoy the view (and get my breath back). We enjoyed some refreshments in the Galley of Lorne and returned to Craobh the way we came. Arriving back on Serenity my thoughts turned to home and the Boat Club Regatta, I duly adorned my Artemis emblazoned crew kit and toasted all those sailing fair winds and competitive racing. Dinner was in the Lord of the Isles and early to bed though it would be a later start the next day, I was tired after all that day's exercise.



Day 4: Sunday 4th July (my birthday, also celebrated in America!), High Water Oban 1445 hrs. I had previously been using tide times for Larne (high water 0731 hrs) but being closer to Oban it made sense to change, making my calculations much simpler. I had planned a later start if the weather was good and though we had a choice of destination my preference was Puilladobhran, pronounced Puldoran and means Pool of the Otters. A popular anchorage, long and narrow with good holding in thick mud, off the Isle of Seil which is notable for its "Bridge over the Atlantic". I got chatting to my neighbours in Craobh Marina who mentioned they were also for the anchorage as the weather was good and they planned to leave at 0930. This got me thinking had I got my calculations correct as I intended to leave at 1230?! On further conversation I discovered they planned to take the more cautious route and long

way round via the Sound of Luing. My planned route was taking us the much shorter passage via the narrow channels of the Cuan Sound and Easdale, quite tight in places but would take us half the time. We enjoyed our first relaxing morning secured to the pontoon after our neighbours had left and met up with them again as we exited the passage of Easdale an hour from we departed Craobh Marina, proving I'd got my calculations correct!

Our welcome was not what I had hoped for when we arrived in Puilladobhran as the dark clouds appeared and it started to rain just as we were on deck readying the anchor for deployment, a drill practised many times on Larne's Trent Class Lifeboat in my time as crew. I returned to the wheelhouse to manoeuvre Serenity astern and Joshua joined me in the shelter for a coffee after I was happy we were secure. Once the rain had passed we lowered the inflatable dinghy and off Joshua went exploring the many inlets and islets which surrounded us, I relaxed in the comfort of Serenity's saloon and reviewed our plans for the next day. Joshua returned and we both went ashore finding the well-trodden path over the hill to the famous bridge and luckily got the last table in the Tigh An Truise Inn, they seemed to be operating with reduced staffing levels due to Covid 19. After a delicious celebration dinner we walked back over the hill to where we'd left the inflatable along with all the others and back on Serenity we observed true to its name Pool of the Otters as many of these small mammals frolicked in the water close by.





Day 5: Monday 5th July 2021, High Water Oban 1540 hrs. I was abruptly awakened by the sound of rain that morning and although the anchorage was beautiful lying at anchor in bad weather wasn't much fun.

We decided to depart for the safety of nearby Oban Marina in case the weather got any worse, engine started, anchor weighed and we were off. Less than two hours later we were secure on the pontoon of Oban Marina on the Island of Kerrera, not to be confused with the Transit Marina on Oban towns North Pier (opened in 2017).

Good fortune was on our side as the weather improved with sunshine and blue sky once again. We booked in at the marina office and checked the ferry times, they operate a small passenger ferry the short distance to Oban town back and forth throughout the day though only every two hours, the last ferry at 1830 that day. We went for a short walk before catching the ferry and came across the local Fire Station on the island but no one was in to answer our knock, or they were all asleep after a busy day!

We got off the ferry a little later and walked around the bustling tourist town of Oban restocking with provisions for the boat and met up with our friends Mandy and Mike who were accompanied by Mandy's son Josh and his girlfriend Claire. It was our plan to cruise together from before we left Larne just five days ago when we met up with yacht MOJO and her crew. Joshua and I hitched a lift back to the island aboard Mandy and Mikes Moody 34 but there was little time for socialising that evening as the crew were settling into their new yacht and so it was decided we should muster the following morning to discuss our options. Back in the saloon of Serenity Joshua and I enjoyed a steak dinner, wondering what adventure and surprise the next day would bring...

Michael.

Photo of the Month

May's 'Photo of the Month' is a drone image of the club on the Saturday Morning of the recent GP14 Ulster Championship. Kindly shared by Chris Dorman.





Memory Lane

This month's Memory Lane features a superb collection of photographs from the Gala Day Raft Race in 1988. The pictures were kindly shared by Sue Kitson in advance of this year's Gala Day revival, on 24th June after the Kitson Cup race.

These images are sure to ignite some wonderful EABC memories!

For June's walk along Memory Lane, we look forward to displaying some wonderful images from the harbour area kindly supplied by Allan Dorman.





The next 'On the Pier' will be circulated end of June 2023. Please send any news or contributions to Allison, honsec@eabc.org.uk