

Cockle Island Boat Club

Christmas Newsletter 2025


Merry Christmas  
&  
Happy New Year



[www.cockleislandboatclub.com](http://www.cockleislandboatclub.com)



# COCKLE ISLAND BOAT CLUB NEEDS YOU!



Do you have a flair for writing, layout,  
storytelling or simply enjoy keeping people  
informed?

CIBC is looking for a volunteer Newsletter  
Editor to help produce a clear, engaging and  
regular update for our members.

No professional experience required - just  
enthusiasm, reliability and willingness to help  
bring our club's news to life.

## Interested?

We'd love to hear from you.

Speak to Campbell Gardner or any member of the Committee

[honorary.secretarycibc@outlook.com](mailto:honorary.secretarycibc@outlook.com)

# The View From The Bridge

Fellow Cockle Islanders, it has been an honour to serve you all as Commodore this year. I have greatly appreciated the help and support I have received from everyone, especially as this was a position well out of my comfort zone.

At the start of the year, there were retirements and changes in the Committee, however throughout the year we have managed to muddle through and going into next year, I believe the Committee can only get stronger under the leadership of John Cleary.

I particularly enjoyed getting to know you all through the days out, dinners and Winter Programme. The craic has been mighty and I have been humbled by the amount of people coming to these functions. Listening to other clubs, I believe that Cockle Island has the most loyal, kindest people and I feel overwhelmed when I talk to the other Commodores about our club.

My thanks go to all of you for your help, words of wisdom and advice, all of which has been so beneficial and readily accepted.

I've been so proud to be Commodore this year. I know you will all keep supporting the club, as will I.

Onwards and upwards,

Gemma





## NOTICE OF 51st ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING



You are invited to attend the 51st Annual General Meeting to be held in the Boathouse, Groomsport on Wednesday 14th January 2026 at 20.00 hours.

### Business of the Annual General Meeting:

- To receive the report of the Executive Committee for 2025.
- To receive the accounts for the financial year ending 31st December 2025 and the report of the Honorary Treasurer.
- To appoint Office Bearers and the Executive Committee for the year 2026. These appointments shall be made by, and from, Full Members as rule 7(a).

### Nominations for Office:

Commodore – John Cleary

Vice Commodore – Niall Orr

Rear Commodore – TBC

Honorary Secretary – Campbell Gardner

Honorary Treasurer – Ron Hutchieson

Committee Members – Richard Bunting, Claire Trimble, Brian Galbraith, Bryan Lawther, Harry Patterson, TBC

Immediate Past Commodore (ex officio) – Gemma McCoubrey

- To appoint the Honorary Auditor to audit the accounts for the year 2026.
- To transact any other business agreed by the Executive Committee.
  - A member wishing to raise a subject for discussion shall give at least seven days' notice in writing to the Honorary Secretary (Rule 7.5).

Yours Sincerely Campbell Gardner Honorary Secretary



# Proposed Membership Subscriptions 2026



**Full Membership Fee: £55**

**Early Payment Discount: £50 if paid before 1st April 2026**

**Associate Member £20**

Payment of Subscriptions

Should be paid to the CIBC Treasurer,

Ron Hutchieson

Cheques should be made payable to Cockle Island Boat Club

Or by Ebanking to

Cockle Island Boat Club

Santander Bank

Account Number: 92039532 Sort Code: 09-01-28

If paying by Ebanking please don't forget to add your name.





**End of Season Dinner and Prize Giving  
2025**

**Crowe Cup**

**Bird of Sunset Trevor Dynes/John Cathcart**

**Wrinklies**

**Merry Jack Bryan Lawther**

**Round the Lough  
Tony Patterson**

**Round the Islands  
Merry Jack Bryan Lawther**

**Late Series**

**Lara John Cathcart/Trevor Dynes**

**Portpatrick Osprey Kyle Colville**

**Glenarm**

**Michael & Mary McSorley**

**Duncan McInnes Cup  
Merry Jack Bryan Lawther**

**Commodores Cup  
Joan D'arcy**

## **A Cockle Island Christmas – Reflections on a Year at Sea**

**As the lights twinkle across Groomsport Harbour and another year draws to a close, Cockle Island Boat Club looks back on a season filled with everything that makes our small club special: good sailing, good company, and a community spirit that remains the envy of the Lough.**

**2024–25 brought us a busy programme on the water. From the Wrinklies to the Crowe Cup, from blustery evenings to those calm, glassy weekend mornings, our fleet made the most of every weather window Belfast Lough was willing to give us. Participation may have dipped slightly this season, but the atmosphere on the slipway—and the stories exchanged over a mug of tea—certainly didn't.**

**Off the water, the club has been just as lively. The Winter Programme has once again delivered a fantastic mix of talks, with old friends, visiting speakers, and a welcome stream of new faces. Our social nights continue to remind us that CIBC isn't just a club—it's a family. And whether you've raced every week or haven't hoisted a sail since Easter, you're part of what keeps its heart beating.**

**This festive season also gives us a moment to recognise the tireless volunteers who keep CIBC afloat. From the Executive Committee and race officers to the tea-makers, boat-lifters, tidy-uppers, and quiet do-ers in the background—your contribution is felt in every safe and well run event, with every member welcomed at the door. The club quite literally could not function without you.**

**As we look ahead to 2026, excitement is already growing for next summer's racing calendar, our ever-popular Regatta, developments in club administration, and fresh opportunities to grow our membership and strengthen our boating community. There is plenty still to do—but plenty to look forward to as well.**

**For now, though, let's pause, breathe, and enjoy the season. Whether you spend Christmas dreaming of next year's tides, tinkering with winter maintenance, or simply enjoying a quiet dram by the fire, the Executive Committee and Officers of Cockle Island Boat Club wish you a peaceful Christmas and a safe, prosperous New Year.**

**Here's to fair winds, good sailing, and another unforgettable year at Cockle Island.**

**Merry Christmas everyone.**

**CIBC Hon. Secretary & Executive Committee**





**Cockle Island Boat Club  
Winter Programme**



**21st January Peter McCabe talk to be confirmed**

**28th January Anthony McGeehan The Terns of Cockle Island**

**4th February Committee Meeting**

**11th February Alison Murphy Sailing Ships and Sea Captains of  
Portaferry**

**18th February Mark Johnston- PS Waverley- Confessions of a Bar  
Steward**

**25th February Kerry and Fraser Buchanan- Small boat sailing on the  
Bann**

**4th March Committee Meeting**

**11th March- TBC**

**18th St Patrick's Day celebration**

**25th March Quiz**

**1st April- Committee Meeting**



**Neill**  
ESTATE AGENTS