

COCKLE ISLAND BOAT CLUB

NEWSLETTER

156 e Dinner

**VOLUME 146
SUMMER 1999**

*From the Bridge - Editorial
Membership News
Safety First!*

For Sale

*Reports on 25th Dinner
and Group 4 Trophy*

Special Feature - Sam's Yer Man!

EDITORIAL

Once again we have got off to a season which has been dogged by poor weather. There is always the hope that it will improve but the occasional good days have not been consistent.

As far as activities go the Crowe Cup races are well under way but there is concern that the turnout by members is not so good. Perhaps the weather has played a part but if you can, get out and enjoy the friendly rivalry around the buoys (- who said it was friendly?)

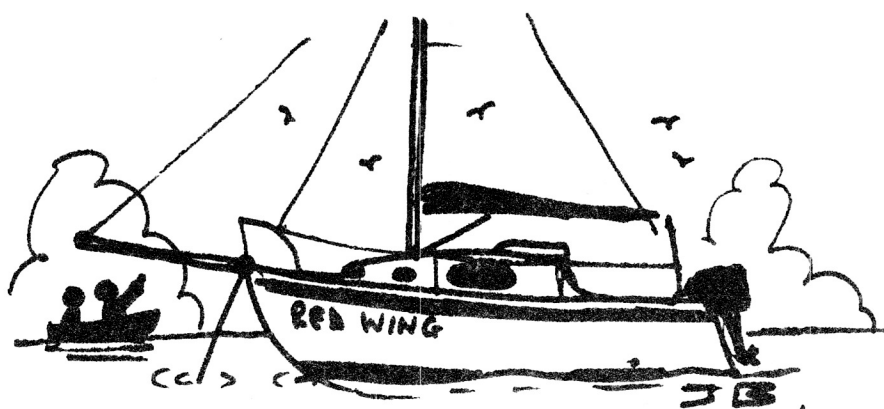
Our 25th Dinner Dance in May was a great success and we all thank Campbell Gardner and Par Crothers for another successful event. A report on this will appear later in this newsletter.

Our big event on the water was the Group 4 Trophy 1999. Once again we were at the mercy of the weather, and sure enough after a week of quite warm weather the Saturday turned out to be a very wet and dull day. There was a strong off shore wind blowing, and this made for a very challenging sailing event, which tested the skills of all the crews. A full report will appear later in this newsletter.

Many of our members have been boating in Scottish waters and from what we hear they have been having quite good cruises. I hope they have plenty of photographs, and will be willing to share their experiences in our winter programme.

Imagine thinking about the winter programme already! But the committee have to plan ahead and already they are putting down the basic programme. If you have any ideas for this programme, or know of any special subject that would be interesting let our secretary know as soon as possible.

In the meantime enjoy the rest of the season! - there's not much of it left!



"IT'S A BOWSPRIT FOR GEORGE'S
NEW HEAD SAIL...!!"

NEW MEMBERS

The Club welcomes the following as new members:-

"A" member Harry McCullough - 44 Marlo Park, Bangor. Harry is the builder and owner of "Fair Winds" a Ballerina sailing sloop.

"A" member Gavin Walker - 9 Bangor Road, Groomsport. Gavin has no boat yet, but is willing to crew for club members.

"A" member Fred Davidson - 57 Demesne Road, Hollywood. Fred is a crew member on Jim Gibb's "Suanca".

FOR SALE

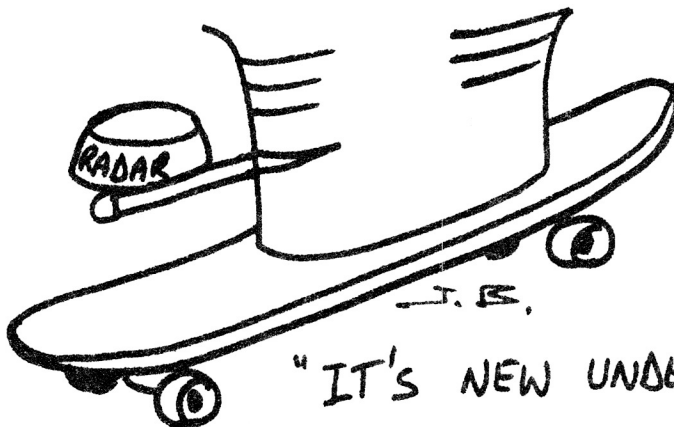
1. GARMIN 175 - GPS map. 12 Parallel channels c/w sea chart for the Irish Sea. Price £600 o.n.o
2. Auto Helm Personal Compass. Price £50 o.n.o
3. Hummingbird wide eye portable fish finder. Price £150 o.n.o

For the above items contact John Walker, Portaferry 729874

WANTED

1. AUTOHELM - contact Sam Andrews - 01247 464431 - with details and price

If members need a new fibreglass dinghy, or their Seagull outboard serviced contact Davey Megrath, 22 Seymour Hill Dunmurry - tel: 01232 625514. He makes a range of dinghies on his premises and servicing costs are very reasonable.



"IT'S NEW UNDERWATER
RADAR - AND A SET OF WHEELS -
JUST IN CASE I RUN AGROUND
NEXT YEAR...!!"

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

I, Derek Moffitt of 01247 469178 (and of reasonable sound mind and body), hereby give notice that I could be persuaded to part with "Suntrapper" - a Trapper 28 - which incidentally would only be of interest to those brave enough to own the fastest yacht in Groomspport.

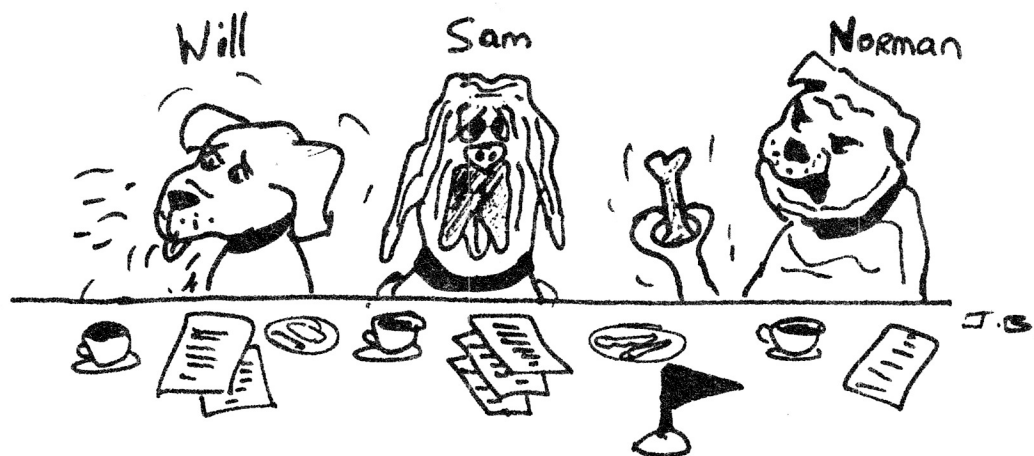
Some time ago the previous owner conducted an emergency braking test on the other side of the Copland Islands, which it passed with flying colours.

Given the right attitude of a would be purchaser, I might be persuaded to accept £6,000 O.N.O.

I look forward to the great demand there will be for this excellent vessel which, in the absence of wind has a 10hp diesel to power it.

A little remedial work might be required here and there, which accounts for the very reasonable price.

DON'T MISS THIS EXCELLENT BARGAIN OF THE YEAR!



" Hi, SAM - THESE ARE FUNNY BISCUITS YOU GOT FROM GEDGE! "

BATTERY BLUES ...!

(OR WHAT WAS HEARD AT THE BATTERY)

1

ONE SAILOR - " DO I HAVE A SPINNAKER?"

OTHER SAILOR - " I DON'T KNOW. IS IT NOT ON THE BOAT?"

SAILOR - "I DON'T THINK SO - MAYBE IT'S IN THE ROOFSpace!"

2

CREW ARRIVES AT BOAT FOR FIRST WRINKLIES RACE. NO SKIPPER!

PHONES - "HEY WHERE ARE YOU?"

SKIPPER - "WHY?"

CREW - " THIS IS WRINKLIES RACE DAY!"

SKIPPER (LONG PAUSE) " OH I THOUGHT THE RACE WAS ON TUESDAY!"

SINCE WHEN WAS THE WRINKLIES HELD ON A TUESDAY!

3

CAR ARRIVES TEN MINUTES BEFORE RACE STARTS

"HEY WHAT TIME DOES THE RACE START?"

"14.00HRS"

"OH I THOUGHT IT WAS 15.00HRS"

WHY DO PEOPLE NOT READ THEIR SUMMER PROGRAMME?

LUNCH CRUISE

SUNDAY 5TH SEPTEMBER

Members are invited to a LUNCH CRUISE with the motorboaters. We will meet in Bangor Marina at 12.00 noon and plan to leave about 12.30 for the trip across to Carrickfergus.

From there we will go for lunch to Carrickfergus Sailing Club, which has been arranged for 13.30 hrs

On the menu will be a choice of Roast Beef with Yorkshire Pudding or Chicken and Ham; followed by a choice of Apple Tart and Cream or Pavlova; the meal will conclude with a choice of tea or coffee. The cost of the meal will be £10.00 per person.

Although there are quite a number of motor boats available the numbers that can be taken are limited so - to book your place - contact

RICHARD CROTHERS at 01846 / 601031

as soon as possible!!

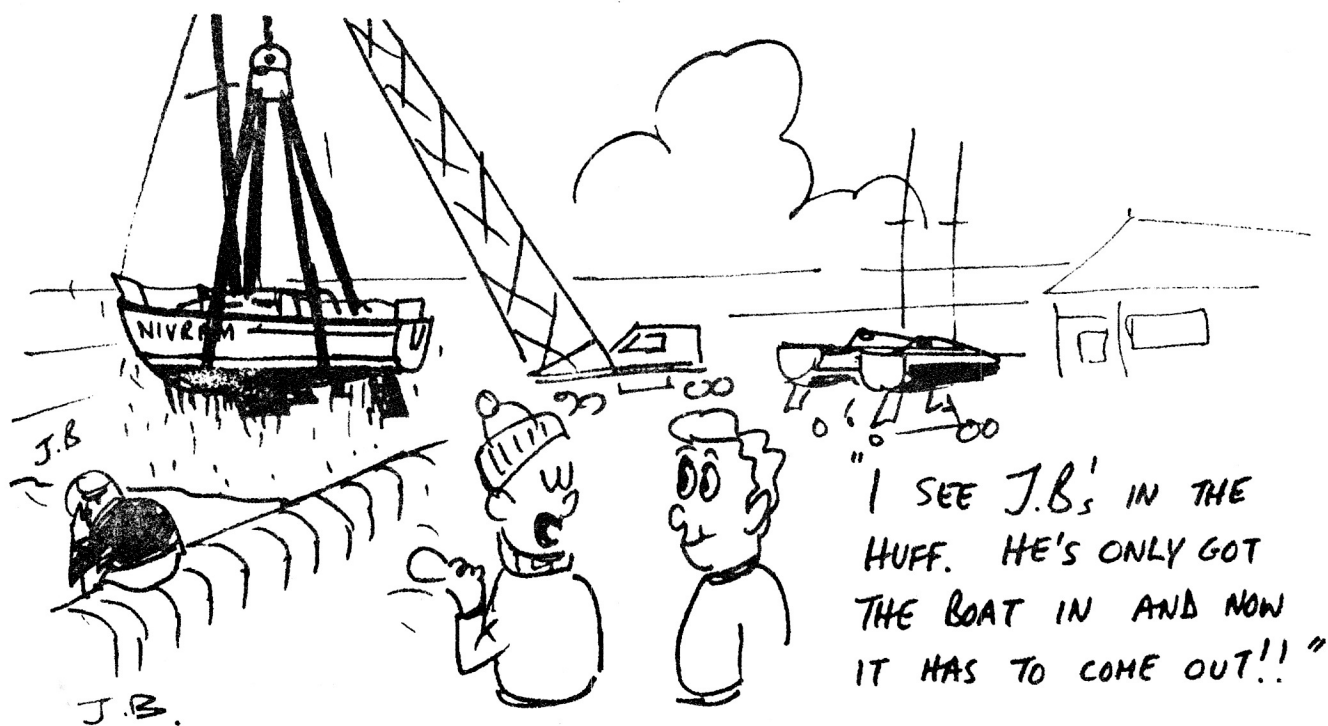
This should be a very enjoyable get together for the club members and friends, and we would thank the motorboaters for their kind invitation.

LIFT OUT DAY AT GROOMSPORT

Please note that there is a change in the lift out day for boats at Groomsport Harbour.

It will now take place on - FRIDAY 24th SEPTEMBER (hw 11.17hrs)

To book your place contact - **MORRIS BOAL** at 01247 / 459012



SAM'S YER MAN!

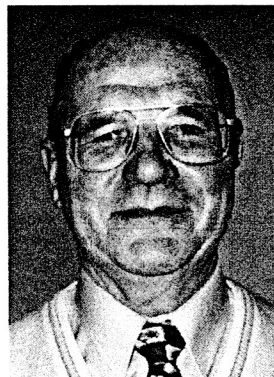
WE'VE GATHERED HERE TO CELEBRATE
THE BIRTHDAY OF OUR SAM;
TO GIVE HIM OUR BEST WISHES
AND MAYBE HAVE A DRAM!

AS SECRETARY OF THE BOAT CLUB
HE WORKS WITH HEART AND SOUL;
BUT NEVER SAILS ON SATURDAYS
HE'S AT THE NINETEENTH HOLE!!

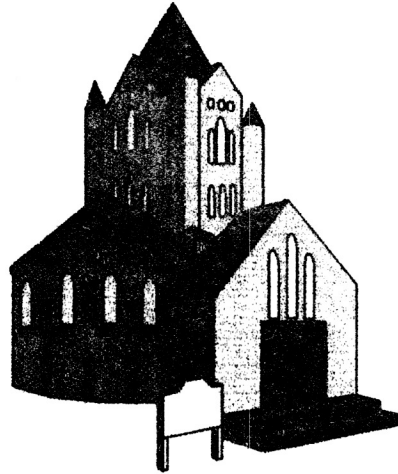
HE SAILS IN GENTLE ZEPHER
AND HAS WON A PRIZE OR TWO
HE SHOUTS AND BAWLS LIKE CAPTAIN BLIGH
AND STRIKES TERROR IN HIS CREW.

BUT IF YOU NEED A HELPING HAND
OR YOUR RIGGINGS IN A JAM
DONT' LOOK ANY FURTHER
YOU KNOW THAT - SAM'S YER MAN!

ANON.



25th ANNIVERSARY CHURCH SERVICE



Sunday 3rd October 7.00 p.m.

**As this is our 25th Anniversary year
the service takes on a more significant role
in our thanksgiving for the years of
enjoyment**

we have had on the sea.

**We hope to have a guest choir to sing at our
service.**

**Make a point of coming along this year -
even if you**

**don't normally go - to reflect upon our
dangers at sea and
the well being of our club.**

sincerely John Bell

SAFETY MATTERS - NUMBER 1

I wonder when was the last time you checked your life jacket and other safety equipment on your boat? Do you always wear you life jacket when going from the shore to your boat in your dinghy? A certain incident happened in Larne Harbour in May and Sam Andrews our secretary feels it is worth repeating the details for member's consideration.

Neils Fekkes, Hon Sec of the Larne RNLI and his brother Peter were going out in the dinghy to Peter's boat when the outboard fouled on a floating rope resulting in the dinghy being overturned and both men being flung into the sea.

Neils was wearing an automatic life jacket, but to his horror it did not inflate and he was left struggling in a freezing choppy sea. He and his brother were being swept out to sea and after about forty minutes they were spotted by a freight ferry that contacted the local lifeboat by which they were eventually rescued.

Neils later remarked, "I don't think I was ever as cold in all my life". The brothers spend the night in hospital recovering from hypothermia.

When I read of this incident I remembered it was a long time since I checked my own life jacket which is not automatic. Down at the boat when I tried to inflate the life jacket, there was no air in the canister! Where did the air go in a sealed canister? SO be warned! Check those jackets and wear the thing going out to your boat in the harbour. It is quite amazing to note the number of members who get thrown into the water just going to their boat moored in the harbour. {There have been three this season alone!}

Sam Andrews

SAFETY MATTERS - NUMBER 2

Fire on board a boat is always a frightening event, as it can spread so quickly and with fuel and cooking gas cylinders on board, the risk of explosion very real. Past Commodore John Bell had this experience while launching Nivram.

While waiting for the rising tide, Nivram was sitting on the trailer waiting for the water to come over the sail drive so that the engine could be started. I was inside the cabin and switched on the batteries prior to turning the key in the ignition. However as it happened I remained in the cabin to watch the voltmeters register the state of the batteries. {I never start the engine until both batteries are at full charge}

Suddenly there was a flash and clouds of intense black smoke plumed out of the engine bay. I quickly switched off the batteries and got out of the cabin immediately. The smoke did not get any worse, so the hatches were taken off the engine to see what had happened. One of the heavy cables had melted meaning that there had been a short circuit some where.

Later examination showed that one of the cables' insulation had worn through, due probably to engine vibration over many years, and the bare wire had touched part of the engine causing the short circuit. I was lucky that it happened while in the relative safety of the harbour but it was a situation that could have happened out at sea. Like Sam's account of the life jackets, when was the last time you checked the wiring in your boat for any potential short circuits? And if the boat did catch fire what is the state of your fire extinguisher? Have you even got one? Have you checked all the fuel and gas fittings for security?

John Bell

These two incidents are stark reminders that perhaps we take our sailing too casually and we should remind ourselves that checking our equipment every year should be part of our preparations for each season, and to have emergency procedures in place should any potential dangerous situation arise.

25TH ANNIVERSARY DINNER DANCE

This year's special event was held in the Crawfordsburn Country Club. We last had an event there four years ago and were very happy to return.

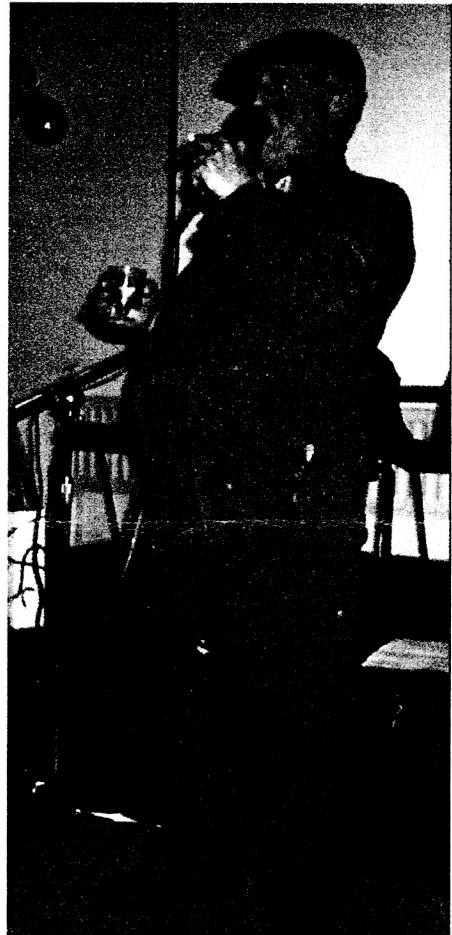
About one hundred and fifty six members and guests came together to celebrate our twenty-fifth Anniversary. They dined in very pleasant surroundings and enjoyed an excellent meal of roast sirloin of beef with wine, compliments of CIBC who also subsidised the meal.

Before coffee was served, our lady Commodore Mrs Pat Crothers made a short speech reflecting on the significance of the event and welcoming many of the founding members and past Commodores who had come to help celebrate this event. She then cut the anniversary cake specially made for the occasion.

The popular band Fiesta provided some lively and enjoyable music. During the break for the ballot, we were entertained by "the wee man from the Yard", our own Bill Ferguson!

There are many to thank for a very successful evening. We would like to thank Bert Armstrong for one of the ballot prizes. We would also like to thank Brian Irvine, a member of both CIBC and the Country Club who sponsored us by arranging lower priced drinks at the bar. This was much appreciated by the guests.

Finally thanks must be made to Campbell Gardner and Pat Crothers who made all the arrangements from booking the meal, to collecting money, organising tables, to getting balloons, drink and prizes etc., On behalf of the members of CIBC a big "THANK YOU" goes to Campbell and Pat for another successful social event in the history of Cockle Island Boat Club.



19TH JUNE GROUP 4 TROPHY 1999

Despite the most meticulous preparation by the Group 4 sub-committee, there were many anxious moments regarding the race this year. Having a nice period of good weather it did us no favours by providing a wet and windy fresh south-westerly wind that increased all day and was recorded as touching 35 knots in the afternoon. There was an excellent turnout of 35 boats with the family class having the most entrants.

However although the spectators ashore may have thought the day was not great, the wind provided the yachtsmen in the race with very challenging and exciting racing conditions that brought out the real boatmanship talents of each crew.

Nevertheless the spectators enjoyed the Laganvale Silver Band who played inside the larger marquee. The bar facilities were also enjoyed. Outside the children had a bouncy castle which proved a great success. Back inside the marquee there were talented face painters for the children, but there were some "big" children who also had the "warpaint" on, as can be seen in our photogallery. The fancy dress event had some very good entrants, ranging from bats to spiderman. All the child who took part received a well deserved prize - and thanks to the parents who prepared the children so well.

Soon the different crews arrived in the tent and immediately there were tales of deeds of daring on the high seas. From the animated talk the race was an outstanding success and after being well fed from a great spread of sandwiches and sticky buns supplied by the CIBC members and well watered thanks to John Cleery and Co., the Deputy Mayor of North Down, Valerie Kinghan, presented some beautiful prizes and trophies.

We learned that Group 4 had changed their sponsorship policy and would not be sponsoring any more yachting events which meant that this would be the last Group 4 Trophy Race. It was then fitting that it should have been such a success. This is due to many people and members of Group 4 and CIBC who co-operated with the hard working committee. I don't think any of the team would object if the secretary Mark Lomas was named for a special thanks but it was due to his organisational skills and meticulous planning sheets that enabled the event to go so well.

Now - what shall we do next year?

RESULTS

GROUP 4 TROPHY 1999

CLASS	SAIL No.	BOAT NAME	POINTS RACE 1	POINTS RACE 2	POINTS TOTAL	PLACE
1	4557	Playmate	2	1	1	1
1	1730	Relling Sails	1	4	5	2
1	5645	Scooby Doo	3	2	5	3
1	4313	Cariad	5	3	8	4
1	4295	Starshine Challenger	4	6	10	5
1	6660	Up n' Down	6	5	11	6
2	7130	Twister	1	1	2	1
2	260	Freewill	2	2	4	2
2	363	Crusader	3	4	7	3
2	10	Chloe	6	3	9	4
2	386	Wild Goose 2	4	5	9	5
2	418	Kili	5	6	11	6
2	7036	Caralou	8	7	15	7
2	788	Baillington	7	8	15	8
3	501	Fiddlers Three	2	1	3	1
3	46m	Piper	1	2	3	2
3	446	Gypsy Lady	4	3	7	3
3	1757	Bellatrix	3	4	7	4
3	259	Alana Too	5	6	11	5
3	272	Claire	12	5	17	6
3	278	Samira	12	6	18	7
3	268	Tigger	6	15	21	8
3	8124	Suanca	7	15	22	9
3	241	Time Out	8	15	23	10
3	226	Gentle Zephyr	9	15	24	11
3	594	Gasp	10	15	25	12
3	35	Ultravine	11	15	26	13
3	007	Rasputin	12	15	27	14

PORTPATRICK

YACHT	P.Y. No	ELAPSED TIME (secs)	CORRECTED TIME (secs)	PLACE
Dovelet	1189	12300	10345	1
Nokomis	1072	11400	10345	2
Claire	1120	12520	10634	3
Eothen	1096	12420	11332	4
Nutcracker	1126	13140	11670	5
Pinocchio	1050	12410	11819	6
Kili	1096	13500	12318	7
Sail No 6550	No info.	-	-	8

CROWE CUP RACES (best of 10 races)

	"A" CLASS	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	total
1	Wild Goose		5	3	5	4	3	5	5	2				35
2	Cursader	5	4	5	-	5	5	4		4	4	5	5	46
3	Kili	4	2	-	-	-	4	1	4	5	5	4	4	33
4	Bellatrix	1	3	-	4	3	2							17
5	Pinocchio	1	-	-	3	1		3					3	11
6	Eothen	2	-	-	4	-	-							6
7	Caralou	-	-	-	1	2				3		3	2	11
8	Fiddlers 3	-	-	-	2	1			2			2		7
9	Claire	-	-	-	1	-			2	1				4
10	Nutcracker	-	-	-	1	1			1			1	1	5

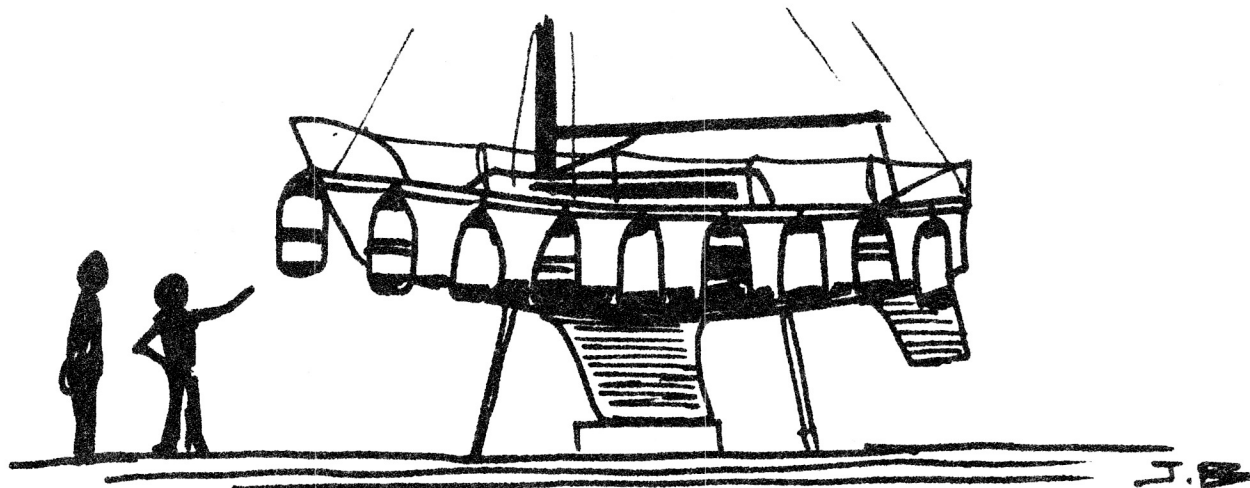
	"B" CLASS	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	Total
1	Piper	5	-	4	4	5	5		4	3	5	2	4	41
2	Dovelet	3	5	5	5	-			5	4	4	5	3	39
3	Gentle Zepher			3	2	4			2					11
4	Suanca	4	4	-	-	-			3			4	2	17
5	Time Out	-	-	-	3	-	4							7
6	Red Wing							5	1	1		1		8
7	Talsiman	-	-	-	1	-				5		1		7
8	Samira								1	2				3
9	Gypsy Lady											3	5	8

ROUND THE LOUGH RACES

Place	Boat	1	2	3	TOTAL
1	Wild Goose 2	3			3
2	Crusader				0
3	Alana Too				0
4	Kili	4			4
5	Pinocchio	1	4	5	10
6	Sun Trapper				0
7	Chloe				5
8	Talisman			3	3
9	Eothen	1		4	5
10	Bellatrix	1			1
11	Dovelet	1	3		4
12	Suanca	1			1
13	Playmate	5			5
14	Caralou				0
15	Piper	2			2

SUNDAY RACES "A" CLASS

	"A" CLASS	1	2	3	4	total
1	Crusader	5				5
2	Wild Goose 2	4				4
3	Bellatrix	1				1
4	Kili	1		5		6
5	Pinocchio	2				2
6	Chloe	3				3
7	Eothen					0
8	Nutcracker			3		3
9	Fiddlers 3			4		4



"NEXT YEAR, WE HAVE TO RACE WITH A FULL SET OF FENDERS ATTACHED, TO PREVENT COLLISIONS...!!"