



**UP
HELM!**



EDITORIAL:

Can it be a year, 12 months, 365 days since (what seems like) the yesterday that I wrote the Editorial for the 1986 Christmas edition of Up Helm! Calendars clocks, logic and 'ny disappearing and greylng hair tell me it is so and still I find it incredible.

It has indeed been a year of difficulty, effort and achievement, of challenge, courage and triumph. For the Club itself and for so many of the individuals there is much water that has passed under many bridges but, in the words of Winston Churchill there is, as ever "so much accomplished, so much still to do.

And the first thing to do is to wish you, all of you, the Flag, members, friends and our wonderful staff all the compliments of the season and a marvellous Happy Christmas. Let us the "gird our loins" for the challenges and triumphs of the coming year.

1988 will be special in many ways not least because it is the year selected as the Dublin Millennium and this impacts upon sailing as upon every facet of business and social life in the city.

We have visits by Viking ships and all kinds of other historical re-enactments some of which are scarcely passed the initial stage. There is a Jamboree Sailing on the Liffey on the weekend of July 16th and 17th. The G.P. 14 World Championships is being hosted by Hawth Yacht Club as one of the official Millennium events. The Irish National Sailing Championships for the Disabled is planned to happen in Dun Laoghaire, perhaps under the

burgee of our neighbour the "George" also as part of the millennium and we should remember to wish our said neighbours a Happy 150th Birthday. As an aside, wouldn't it be a wonderful opportunity for Tony Jobling, Annette Bennett and their comrades of the National "Cruising Group" to be part of the George's Channel Regatta scheduled to start on the 9th July next and followed by a wonderfully interesting and exciting week of racing cum cruising between DunLaoghaire and Wales.

BLAZING FORESTS

But before all that I must remind you that it is fast approaching "Panto" time again and our favourite Legal Eagle impresario, John Lavery, has instructed to put in an advance warning in "Up Helm!" advising members of their chance to see the best musical in years maybe even a 1000 years.

John has been given the task to whip-up the Club support and enthusiasm for the Show, Dougie Stuart please note. As you know the Panto is run with all benefits going to the R.N.L.I. On a slightly down or remonstrative note, it should be mentioned that the last show produced a below par turn out but I am confident that with the present level of energy, involvement and enjoyment, we won't see that occur again.

The Show will go on in March and please watch this space for confirmation of the precise date so that you can diary it forward and arrange to get tickets for the show. We anticipate a demand for seats this year that will require pre-booking to ensure a place. Cont'd Page 3

COMMODORE'S COMMENT

The Club has now settled well into its Winter Routine. Even though the emphasis has moved from sailing events, there is still a hard core of people continuing to sail throughout the year. Our members continue to have sailing successes in events such as the Autumn series, October series, etc. with a few participating in international events overseas.

Our thanks should go to John Leahy and his crew who did their usual effective work in craning out and setting up the platform for the winter. An additional burden was placed on the crew and on all the Club staff this year by having to make arrangements for an immediate full clean up of the platform and Club, as our Club was the base from which the Taciseach bade farewell to Asgard for her visit to Australia a few days after lift-out.

The Boat House group are also kept busy throughout the winter, with essential maintenance to moorings, launches, etc., apart from coping with the inevitable damage arising from winter storms.

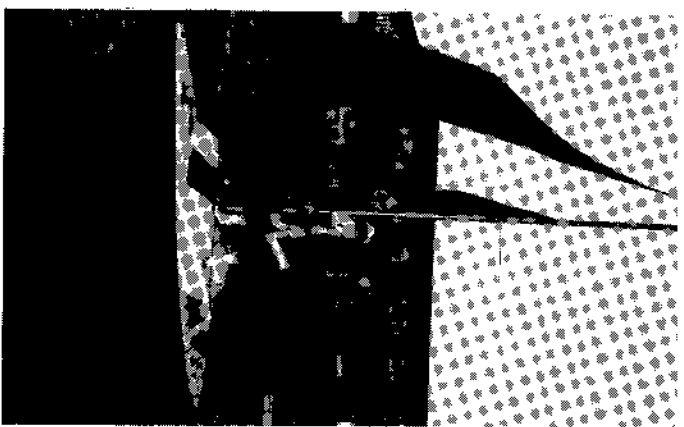
Within the Club I would like to welcome our new permanent manager, Paddy Twomey. Paddy has joined us following a distinguished hotel career abroad and those members who frequent the Dining room will be conscious of the quality of the food produced for functions and normal dining. We hope many more members will avail of the service, although it can frequently be difficult to obtain bookings for the various special events. We hope that Paddy has a long

and fruitful relationship with us.

Finally, I would just comment that the Winter is also a very busy time for your committee. Considerable work is in hands by the various sub-groups - Premises, Boat House, Sailing, Platform, Entertainment, Membership, Finance, etc. to ensure that the Club continues to function smoothly and to plan for 1988 and further years. The results of their work are frequently not seen but in most cases, tend to emerge at or around the Annual General Meeting.

May I take this opportunity to wish all members and staff a happy Christmas.

John J Byrne
COMMODORE



SANTA ARRIVES SEE OVER

Poor old Rudolf traded in his red nose for a red mainsail on Sunday 13th December, for his visit to the National Yacht Club.

Alstair and Arthur Runball and Viking Marine earned our most sincere appreciation and the awed excitement of what seemed to be every child in Christendom gathered in the Dining Room and on the Balcony of the NYC.

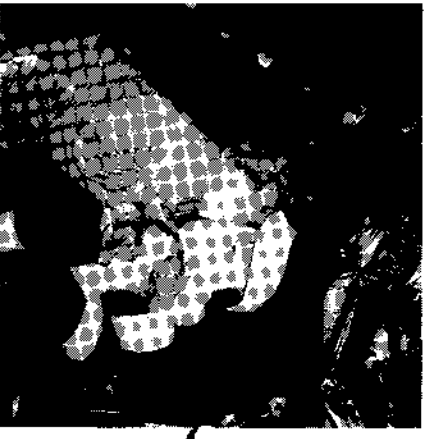
Entertainment doesn't even begin to describe the events that followed the appearance of the Viking Marine Red Sail around the corner of the Carlisle Pier and the emergence of one Eddie Totterdel a magnificent Saint Nicholas, bearded, red cloaked and with Ho-Ho-Ho's in abundance. Santas Senior Elf took the sweetie form of the ebullient Carmel Winklemann whose squeaky falsetto (whenever Eddie made a mistake between boys and girls) was paralytically funny.

The Reading Room was converted into an extraordinarily effective Santas Cave by using black plastic bags and buckets of imagination, Dougie and his Entertainments Committee deserve great praise and special mention must be made of young Trevor Jobling and his pal who played the parts of Elves and Advisors to perfection. While we are handing out plaques and commendations, would Carmel Meany please stand up and take a bow. She was super, the acquisition of presents and all the background donkey work were cheerfully undertaken and wonderfully accomplished. Thank you Carmel.

Next year, unquestionably, we must

charge admission for such a wonderful days entertainment!

AMEN



SANTIA AND CHIEF ELF CARMEL

The Show itself will have all the usual stars and from the title as you can imagine, it is going to be a Western with a nautical flavour. One really doesn't have to be an "optimist" to appreciate the Show fully and it will star the "Lone Ranger, Tom Tom, Good-time Sal and her Show Boat and of course Big Chief Passing Water" among many others.

Anyone who hasn't seen the show before, you don't know what you've missed and those who have, ain't seen nothing yet.. Or so John Lavery assures me.

So, after your super Christmas let us be agreed it will be a thrill packed, pleasurable and progressive New Year for one and all, lets look forward to it.

AMEN

"BRAINS-OF-THE BAY"

Inter-Yacht Quiz

We have reached the halfway stage in this the most prestigious Quiz competition West of the Irish Sea. The quality of competition, fun, knowledge and expertise gives a whole new meaning to the expression "Brain drain". We, as everyone who has ever sailed through the turbid and semi-solid waters of the bay, know that there are loads of brains in the Bay and this competition, inaugurated last year, shows clearly that the level and quality of brains is comparable.

On Wednesday evening 9th December your humble scribe in desperate search of knowledge (and editorial) visited the nether regions of the NYC, to the Reading Room or is it Santas' Cave,

there to find in the smoke filled interior a scene reminiscent of Dante's Inferno. A smoke filled room dominated by the lowering face and booming voice of Cas. (Magnus Magnus) Smullen flanked on the sinister by the delicious Helen McAlister and on the dexter by the delectable Brenda Nolan. Beauties and the beast indeed.

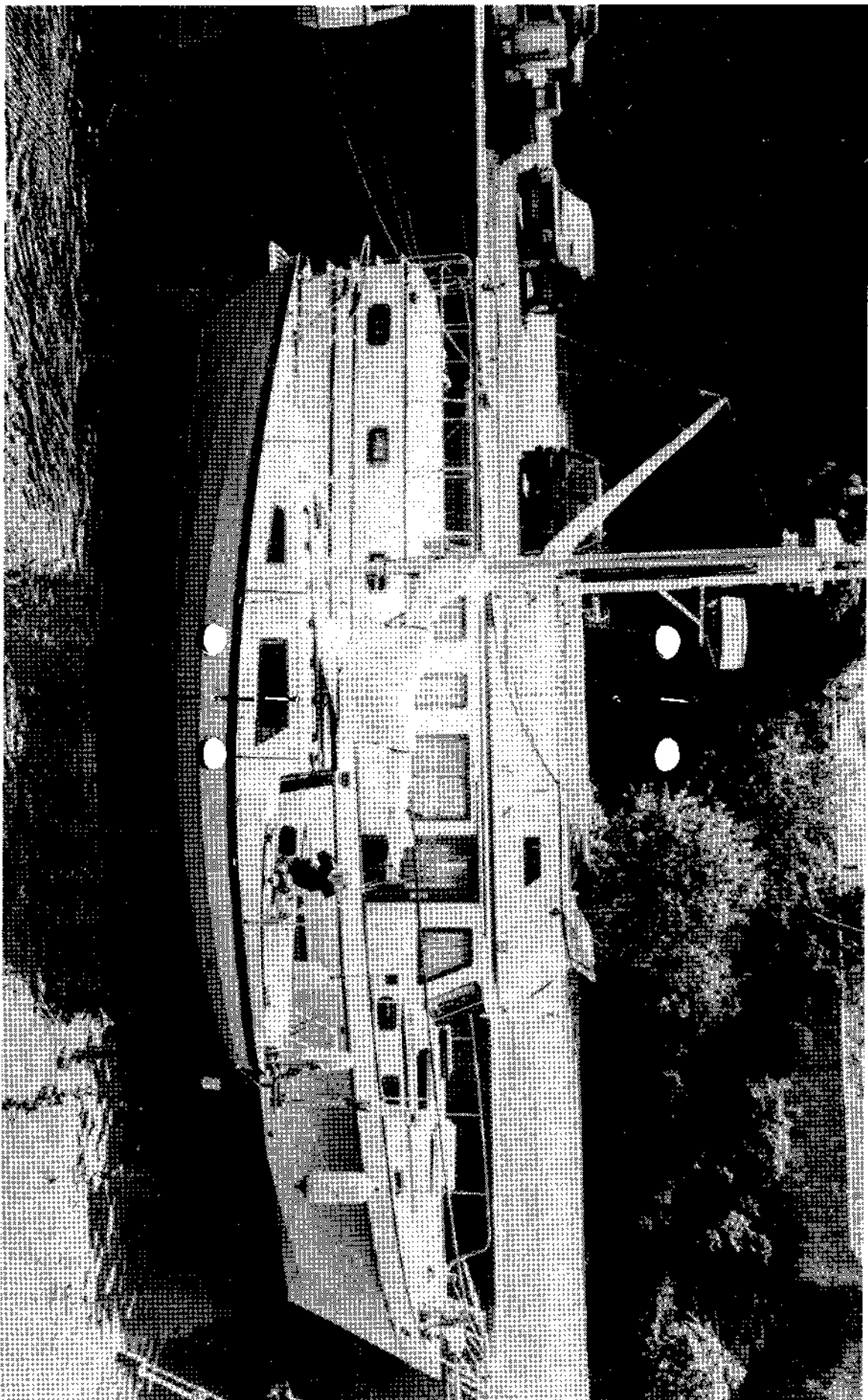
Cringing in front of this formidable array were two quartets of awed competitors whom Cas proceeded to "fillet" individually and communally and, I have to say, their response was impressive, almost heroic. I'm sure I would be forgiven for making special mention of the incredible wealth of unconnected pieces of random general knowledge possessed by Hubert Kearns. From the mating habits of the American bald eagle to the approximate weight of the badminton shuttlecock his performance for the team called "BOAT" was electrifying.

As Dougie Stuart said the relief on each face, with the notable exception of Huberts', once the personal ordeal was over had to be seen to be believed.

The whole concept of "Brains of the Bay" has been super and impacts very pleasantly on the atmosphere in the Club House on Wednesday evenings. In combination with Supper Night it really adds a new dimension to the mid-week ambience of the Club.

The grand finale is scheduled for February 24th 1988. Finalists and beaten semi-finalists will be invited to a "Sherry Reception" at 19.30 hours, Cont'd Pg 9

1988 CRUISING IS ONLY A FEW MONTHS AWAY !



Cormac McHenry once again proving that super cruising is not confined to the Med. -

His "Ring of Kerry" in Port Dinorwic at the I.C.C. Whit Rally last June epitomises the pleasures of the Cruising Group.

As the festive season approaches it is easy to forget what a busy season it has been on the water this year - perhaps the most comprehensive sailing programme that we have ever hosted. I know that you will all join me in thanking the boathouse staff George Lothian; George II; Jack & David for all their hard work during the season, and wishing them a very well earned and Happy Christmas.

PONTOON

Our new pontoon was damaged recently during a storm, although not seriously. The damage is, we believe, attributable to defective construction in one of the concrete sections and we are pursuing the case with the manufacturers. There will be no problem in having the pontoon back on station by the next season and we will carry out a few other modifications at the same time. The damaged section is presently moored just off the club platform, but although it seems to be doing an imitation of the last moments of the Titanic, it isn't as serious as it looks!

DRY SAILING OF FLYING FIFTEENS

There is much interest in dry sailing and it seems to work very well provided that the boat is provided with a suitable trolley and that the crew know what they are doing. Consequently we will increase the number of boats to a maximum of seven next season. This means that there are three new spaces available and if you would like to try dry sailing,

please apply now to Mrs Field in writing.

MOORINGS

Please remember that if you intend to change your boat for a larger or smaller craft, that there may not be a mooring available for you. This is particularly true for that of larger keelboats. The club only has a limited number of moorings of each size: - 33' and up; 27' - 33' and under 27' length (sizes approximate). Consequently you must let me know now of any plans to change your boat and I will try to let you know your chances of obtaining a mooring for your new class of boat. However the picture does not always become clear until the Spring. Moorings forms will be available on the club desk on January 1st.

DINGHIES

There are a number of dinghies on the platform which have not applied for winter parking. These boats will shortly be identified and unless their owners come forward soon to apply properly and pay Mrs Field the parking fee, they will incur the usual penalty of being refused use of any of the club sailing facilities next season. It is simply not fair to the other frostdibers to be crowded out of the limited space on our platform by "poachers". Summer parking application forms will be available on the hall desk on January 1st. Please note that all dinghies must be removed from the main platform (where the keelboats are stored for the winter) by MARCH 31st at the latest.

Cont'd Page 9

Continued from Page 5.

If you have the time to visit them, the boathouse staff are still to be found out on the platform working away on the Winter programme and I know that they would appreciate a personal call from any of the members just to remind them that there is other life on the planet!

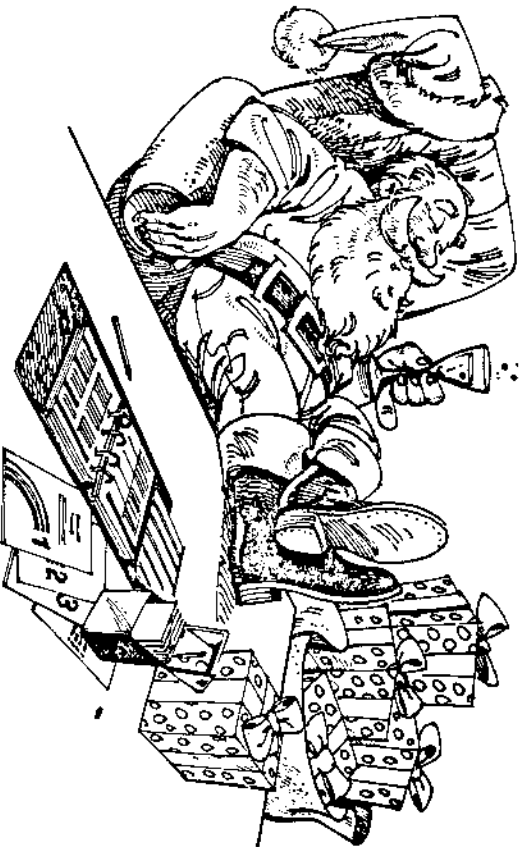
A very Merry Christmas to you all from myself and the staff.

John Leahy,
Boathouse Captain.

HOW DOES SANTA DO IT ?

and the final will take place in the Dining Room immediately after supper, at about 21.30 hours. You really should come down to the Club, take in supper and witness firsthand the battle for "Brains of the Bay" 1988. This mythical title vying in importance with such as the "Triple Crown" will be bestowed in what I am sure will be an evening of tremendous excitement. Let us look forward to it with pleasure.

AMEN



**A GOOD DAY'S WORK
EDDIE**

AND A WELL EARNED REST

AND A HAPPY CHRISTMAS TO ALL OUR JUNIORS



WHERE ARE YOU NOW?

In order to update our records, would you please complete and return the following as soon as possible:

NAME (Block letters)

ADDRESS

.....
.....

TELEPHONE No.

BUSINESS ADDRESS

.....

TELEPHONE NO.

BOAT OWNER

CLASS

NAME

Morred/Stored N.Y.C. Yes/No (please delete)

(Simply tear off the back cover and send to Mrs Field, N.Y.C.)

Please give this cover, having completed the questionnaire inside,
to Rudolph below, for return to the N.Y.C.

