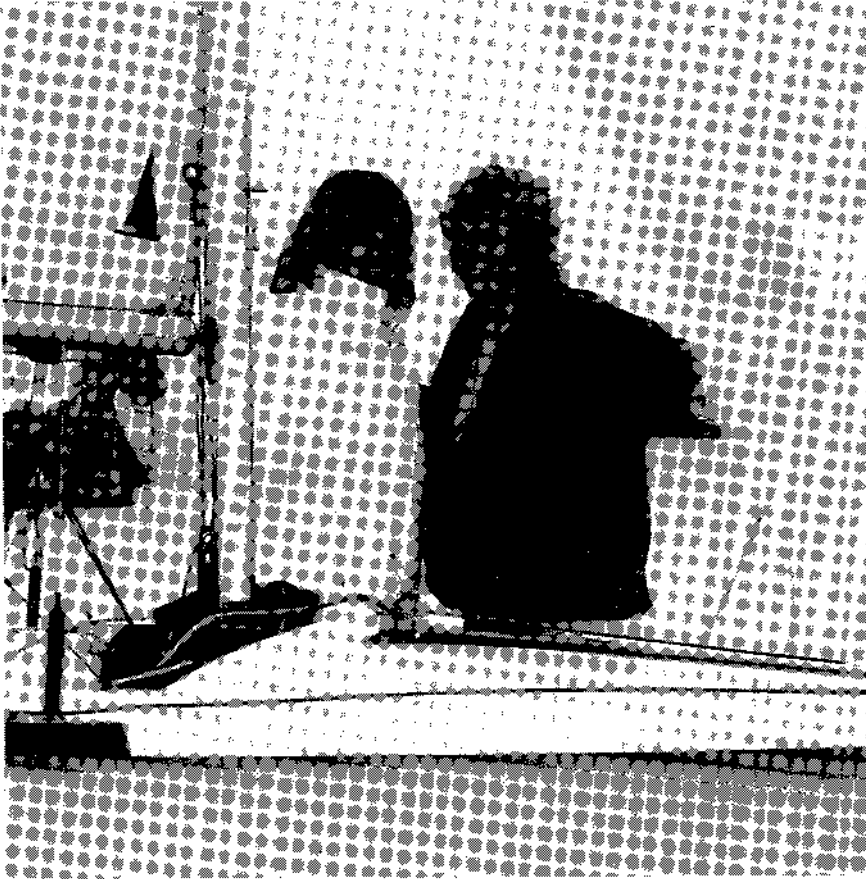




# UP HELM!

NO. 26

FEBRUARY 1987



OLYMPICS HERE WE COME !

AMEN: - Incongruous as this might seem for an opening, word has eventually filtered back to your poor scribe that his initials have given rise to some puzzlement and misunderstanding. Due to circumstances totally beyond my control my full name is Anthony Michael Ernst Neilland, thereby initialled AMEN, though answering to almost anything, usually Tony. So there, mystery solved.

#### IMPORTANT DATES TO NOTE

The RNLI AGM is on Monday 9th March.

Commodore's Dinner and this a rather important one, known as "Freddie's Farewell" is scheduled for Friday 27th March. In a departure from tradition, spouses of full members are welcome and for that reason I suggest early booking is essential.

The National YC AGM is on Monday 30th March and a full attendance is desirable. Prominent on the Agenda is the election of officers and committee for the coming year. Your out-going committee's nominations are:-

Commodore, John Byrne  
Vice-Commodore, Eddie Neville  
Rear-Commodore, Martin Croftly  
Hon. Sec. Sean Nolan  
Hon. Treas. Liam Ryan  
Sailing Sec. Brian Barry  
Boathouse Capt. John Leahy,  
Committee: Annette Bennett, Peter Cullen, Tony Jobling, John Henry McConnell, Tony Neilland, Dave O'Reilly, Bill Rickard and Dougie Stewart.

#### SUN FLOWER (World Record Attempt)

During the Seventies there emerged from America (where else) a concept of social mooring and skilled seamanship which, because it was all Stern To and Bows Outward in a circle, became christened the "Sun Flower". Anyway, in 1979 the Irish Cruising Club managed to put 76 in this fashion in Adrigale. The Cruising Club of America got into the competitively spirit of 136 boats. The world record was established in Lough Sunart in Scotland in 1985 with the incredible total of 191 boats.

On Sunday 14th June 1987 (weather permitting) in Dun Laoghaire harbour, there will be an attempt to set a new world Sun Flower record and the target is an horrendous 300 boats. It is to be in aid of the City of Dublin Lifeboat, and the Chairman of the Organising Committee is John Gore-Grimes. The National Yacht Club, as always will be in the van.

Let us all hope for benign conditions, it promises to be a truly momentous occasion and spectacle the target figure for the life-boat collection is £30,000.

#### Post Script

Don't forget, let's all give Cathy and Aisling all the help and moral support we can for their Olympic Efforts.  
AMEN

#### COVER STORY

Two Club members, Cathy McAleavy and Aisling Byrne have commenced a campaign to achieve a nomination for the ladies slot in the Irish Olympics Sailing Team in Korea in 1988. This is the first time that there is a specific event for a ladies team in the Sailing Olympics and it will be sailed in 470 dinghies.

The 470 dinghy is not extensively sailed in Ireland and to achieve the necessary degree of international training and experience, the girls have planned an extensive programme of participation in international events in 1987.

These include four Olympic qualifying events in the UK, an event in each of France and Holland, 2 events in Germany, Weymouth Week in the UK and the pre-Olympic Regatta in the Olympic sailing waters in Korea. This programme is coupled with an intensive training and practice programme which is already well in hands at home and, in effect, it requires an almost fulltime commitment for '87

The result for the girls at the pre-Olympic Regatta in late September 1987 will decide whether they will receive an Irish Olympic Council nomination for the team for '88. Should they achieve such a nomination, an even more intensive programme is planned for '88.

The cost of the programme involves over £25,000 for travel, subsistence and entries for 1987. On top of this, a new boat with sails and spars to International standards, will cost over £6,000. The cost must be met principally by

sponsorship and fund-raising and this programme is also in hands. Commitments in this regard have already been made by Canada Life Assurance Company, McCormick McNaughton, The Caterpillar agents in Ireland, and Michael O'Reilly & Partners, PR Agents.

The Club has agreed to contribute its facilities to the campaign and two fund-raising dinners are being organised at the Club. The first of these will take place on 13th March next, when a very good quality dinner will be served. Tickets will be £15 per head, most of which will go towards the fund, and members are urged to support this function by making up parties. Tickets will shortly be available at the Club, or from Cathy or Aisling, or their families. An interesting angle is that under recent legislation, arrangements can be made whereby anybody subscribing for 10 tickets or more can deduct the cost from their personal or corporate tax at their highest rate. Details of this scheme will also be available very shortly on request.

AMEN

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#### SONG OF KABER

(Continued from Issue 25, Dec 86)  
5th June, 0700. Change of watch. John Higness and Shane O'Loughlin have had a tough watch. The pre-venter on the fully reefed main has been doing it's stuff as Kaber sings along in surfing seas south of Oporto. Wind F/7.  
..... Page IV

Song of Kaber (From Page III)

Five hours of this ahead for Roddy and me. Ugh!

0900. Course cannot be held, so we gybe towards the coast in strengthening wind. The gale gusts are more sustained.

1022. Lighthouse at entrance to lagoon at Aveiro identified. We head for it. Four steamers anchored off in the roads. We negotiate the entrance and a harbour police launch indicates the way through the canalised lagoon system.

1230. Tie up off small fishing village. Informed we must go up the river to Aveiro for custom and immigration clearance. Listen to gale warning of CL 16. Good decision, sailing master, John Hughes.

1500. Tie up in Aveiro port. We have come up the Baixo (lower) Vouga through a recently developed waterway. Dhow-like lateen rigged scows loaded to the gunwhales with salt bat along in the gale-force wind. It is a much larger port than the chart indicates. The city is built on a canal network of the Vouga. It is an elegant natural place reminiscent of Amsterdam and Venice in their youth (when I first saw them). I hope to visit it again in safer company and not having to act as interpreter for six sex-starved matelots!

7th June, 1600. It's Friday. A week has evaporated in bonhomie and action. Storm bound. A yacht outside has more than a spot of bother finding the entrance. The lighthouse cannot see him on the

IV

radar to help him in.

We entertain ourselves with sea shanties and "music". A fiddle has been smuggled aboard. The ambiance isn't great, but the sun and gin are. What a way to be harbour bound. Fear of libel, revenge (and plain alcoholic miasma) does not allow the telling of what happened during two nights ashore.

8th June, 0530. Relatively calm. Beautiful morning. Terrible head set course for Cabo Mondego as we head south towards Lisbon.

9th June, 0100. Shane and John on watch as we cross Lisbon Bay.

0300. Roddy takes come convincing that the lights 2 miles off are not on the Clontarf Road.

1750. We round Cape St Vincent in a good breeze - Kaber singing her songs. The monks at the lighthouse sit and ponder at the little craft from which ribald laughter rings across the water ... "they're all doomed" says the abbot.

10th June, 1900. Aidan bakes a loaf as we cross the Gulf of Cadiz - and beautifully crisp aromatic bread it is too. We're never hungry with Aidan. We acclaim him gourmand chef of the year. He's my buddy now.

2100. Course 090°W. Cape Trafalgar sighted. There is a large swell and a light easterly wind making the passage unpleasant.

Engine revs throttled back to prevent the propeller cavitating. This is not helped by a strong current coming out of the Straits of Gibraltar holding us almost

.... Page V

THE 420 NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

Winter dinghy sailing can be sometimes glorious, often hard but inevitably unpredictable.

Saturday, 1st November 1986, presented the OOD, Gerry Dunleavy with no real problem for the 420 National Championships being run under the burgee of the Dun Laoghaire Motor Yacht Club. It was blowing absolute "houligans" and he cancelled. Thus disappointing all 18 helms and crews who had turned up in high expectation of tough competitive racing.

That left only Sunday for all to be decided, everyone arrived bright and early with high hopes for a good day's sailing. The wind was gusty, ranging from about force 3 to force 5. The first race started bang on time at 11am over an olympic course, triangle, sausage, triangle and a beat and Gerry had done a fine job, the beats were spot on.

Mishaps were numerous, clearly dividing the fleet. Probably the most significant being leading contender Denise Lyttle's capsized during a gybe. Incidentally, the Lyttle/Fitzgerald combination have informed me that they are cutting down on the high protein diet and concentrating on weights. In the event, Jonathan Dillon, crewed by Brian Gorman came out on top.

The second race, somewhat hair-raisingly, was run in conjunction with the DMYC Frostbite Series. The 420 fleets sailed with the Portsmouth Yardstick class. At the start the wind was puffing a full force 4, but decreased to force 1 to 2 towards the end of the race. Near disaster struck

V

the Dillon/Gorman combination just before the start when they were hit by a 470. The race was won by D Lyttle and O Fitzgerald with J Dillon and B Gorman taking second slot and the championship overall.

Final results

- 1st J Dillon & B Gorman 1½ points
- 2nd M Doyle & S Seymour 5½ points
- 3rd L Dolan & D Fitzpatrick 7½ pts
- 4th D Lyttle & O Fitzgerald 7½ pts

Jonathan Dillon

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Song of Kaber (From Page IV)

Stationary off Trafalgar.

How did Nelson and Collingwood manage? or the French? It is said that Nelson did not put foot ashore at one period for three years. We know why. He spent most of that time trying to pass Trafalgar!

0630. Course 080°W. Speed in the heavy chop 4kn, over the ground 2kn. So near and yet so far.

0945. Made it! Engining into Gibraltar. Eleven days. Not bad by any account. Kaber sang her way into all our hearts. As sagely Sean O'Brien philosophised, "the plane home will be an anti-climax". And the ambiance ... !

J P Murray

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GOLF OUTING

December 30th 1986 saw the second NYC Annual Golf Outing doing its' best to destroy the environment of the stately Killiney Golf Club, under whose burgee the event was run.

In a brisk westerly breeze, 24 players survived the Arctic conditions to complete the course. All (Lunatic) starters finished except the O'Hare clan who showed incredible good sense by retiring at the penultimate hole. Richard Nolan and crew had to re-round the seventh because Tom Power denied them water even though they called mast abeam.

History was made in that ladies revealing in the delights of full membership of the NYC, played in the outing for the first time. Extraordinary to relate, they behaved themselves quite acceptably, both on and off the course. All three ladies finished in the top half of the fleet.

There were some very welcome guests participating, and in fact Owen O'Brien, sometime-crew in Setanta, and off a 7 handicap, had the best score, 23 points over 12 holes. He won the visitors prize which was a golf umbrella presented by Dave O'Reilly.

The overall winner was Noel Blake with a score of 22 points over 12 holes, good going in winter conditions with temporary greens. A strong rumour is going around the grapevine to the effect that he is turning professional now that he has sold his Corribee, Erica.

VI

The very reasonably-priced meal, in the golf club afterwards was superb, including melon stuffed with smoked salmon and prawns, and fillet steak cooked to perfection. We met the genial Killiney Captain Johnny Connaughton who entertained us to a song. Tony Drennan played piano and various crews performed their party pieces. Dougie (Londonderry Air) Stewart is an entertainer par excellence on piano and his presence is de rigueur (Ed's note, I think that means mandatory), for a successful outing next year.

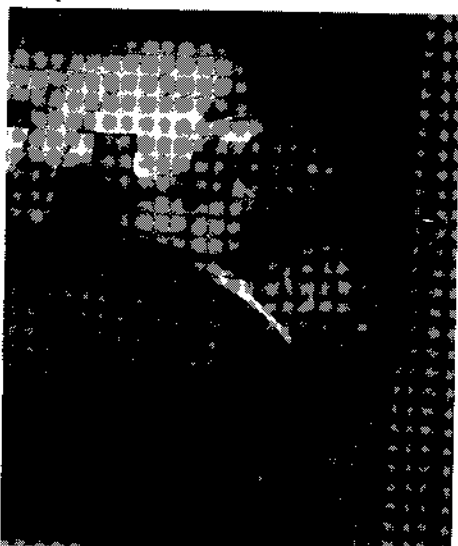
Tom Power, reputed to have done his level best to have done Andrews Schollevar cut in halves by Dickie Gomes was third on the day and was followed on the prize list by Regal Kenny, Dave O'Reilly and Peter Harrison. Our three most prominent lady golfers were Pat Dolan, Zita O'Hare and Jennifer Blake.

Ronnie Lynam and Freddie Cooney, could they have been in their cups, promised to donate a perpetual trophy next year when it is intended to have handicaps of up to 36 and, hopefully, to hold the cutting in October.

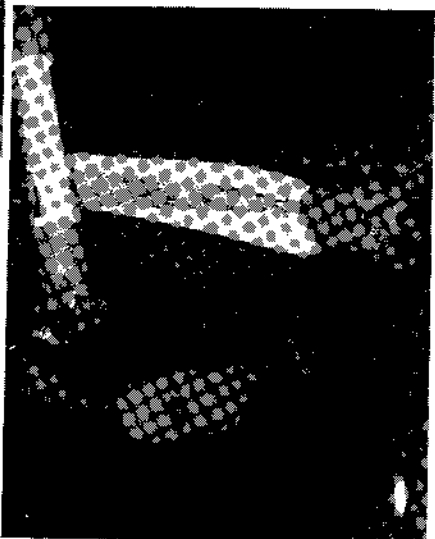
A wonderful time was had by all, our most sincere thanks to Killiney Golf Club, here's to next year.

Kevin Blake

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... WINNER ALL RIGHT



COOSHD ?  
BUT HIS ARMS ARE CROSSHD !!



... Oh! IT'S ONLY AN UMBRELLA  
AND BROTHER KEVIN

CADET SECTION

A date has now been set for the opening meeting of the Cadet Section - MONDAY 23rd FEBRUARY - at 7.30pm in the bar of the dining room. Do be sure to come along and get this show on the road! You are a strong (and getting stronger) force - 110 members.

J Gorman  
Committee Member

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JUNIOR SECTION

Another year has started to tick - the Junior committee has been working on this season's programme and here are a couple of important dates to make a note of:-

MONDAY MARCH 2nd, 8.00pm ...

PARENTS' MEETING

SUNDAY APRIL 26th ...

EARLYBIRD REGATTA

Parents of present Juniors, parents of intending Juniors and members who would like to know more about this active and fun section of our Club should come along, meet other parents and learn all about it. Membership of the Junior section is open to cadets and to children of full members who are at least nine years of age before 31st December, 1987. There is usualy a great variance in the age of the beginners. The numbers in each group are limited as demand is quite high - bookings are taken in order of receipt, early booking will be necessary. Parents who are new to this section of the Club will gain much information at this meeting about these summer courses and activities. Please note the Earlybird Regatta date of April 26th - varnish and paint take time to dry and harden. Repairs take time. How about commencing work on these boats NOW and have them ready for our opening event of the season.

J Gorman  
Junior Affairs Officer  
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OTHER DATES TO NOTE

JUNIOR SECTION STARTS 8th JUNE  
(to be confirmed)

CHILDREN'S MEETING 8th JUNE,  
1700 hours

JUNIOR & CADET REGATTA 28th JUNE

JUNIOR CRUISE 3rd JULY

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THE GREAT "BRAINS-OF-THE-BAY" INTER YACHT QUIZ

some teams choose to dine before, or after, their quiz round and although timing can be tricky, it is possible to take both in. The "buzz" in the Clubhouse is self-evident.

"Brains-of-the-Bay" final is scheduled for 11th March. Finalists and beaten semi-finalists will be invited to a "Sherry Reception" at 19.30 hrs and the final will take place in the Dining Room immediately after supper at about 21.30 hrs. Why not come down and take in supper (£5 for 3 courses and coffee), and witness, first hand, the battle for "Brains-of-the-Bay 87".

Doug Stuart

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Wednesday, 10th December saw the launch of this light hearted but competitive quiz. Thirty two teams of four, plus a reserve, were to do battle, four teams at a time, most Wednesdays through to the grand final on 11th March. The prize, apart from participation in the Sherry Reception for finalists and beaten semi-finalists, is the mythical but nevertheless highly prestigious title "Brains-of-the-Bay '87", together with a magnum of champagne. Surprisingly, quizmaster Cas Smullen seems to have little or no difficulty in calling for hush as competitors, sometimes highly vociferous round the cans, meekly sit like lambs for the slaughter and inwardly pray that they won't let the side down. Flanked on each side by two efficient (and equally attractive) scrutineers in the personage of Pauline Leahy and Brenda Nolan, Cas' booming voice is seen to impact on the unsuspecting competitor, who, in a split second, will sit bolt upright when his/her name is called, thoughtfully under on the question, take a deep breath and hope for a prompt from the audience. The relief on each face, once the personal ordeal is over until their turn comes again, has to be seen to be believed!

All-in-all, the "Brains-of-the-Bay" has had a very pleasant impact on the atmosphere in the Clubhouse on Wednesdays. As Wednesday night is supper night,

## PLATFORM

Although to some of us the Summer sailing season still seems a long way away, preparatory work is already well in hand and platform dinghy parking plans will soon be drawn up. To help this it is important that you send in your dinghy parking application forms as soon as possible, though not later than April 15th.

The charges for dinghy parking remain in the same as last year and a "new improved" application form is now available in the hall desk. Please ensure that these are filled out and handed in to Mrs Field by the above date, together with the appropriate fee. Applications which are not accompanied by the full fee cannot be registered for space allocation. As space is limited, and is usually exceeded by the demand, allocations will be made strictly on a "first paid, first served" basis.

The fee scale is as follows:-

Two man dinghies	£55
Lasers (on ground)	£40
Lasers (in rack)	£30
Optimists (in rack only)	£15
Inflatables (in rack only)	£25

There is a special parking fee of £35 for mirrors used by members of the Junior Section during Junior Section training. All other mirrors are subject to the full fee of £55 for a two man dinghy.

X

Having applied and paid for a parking space, boats may be brought to the Club after April 24th, where they will be supplied with a transom sticker showing their parking allocation. It is very important that all dinghies which are parked on the ground have their own serviceable launching trolley since, due to space restraints, it is frequently necessary to manoeuvre boats. Boats which do not have a suitable working trolley will not be permitted.

Finally, a reminder to all keel boat owners who are hoping to have a Club mooring this season. The moorings are already being allocated and your application should have been handed into Mrs Field together with the full payment. The scale fees are given on the application forms which are also available in the hall desk.

Tony Jobling

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## OLD FOLKS LUNCHEON PARTY

On Saturday 31st January, Club members played host to the Old Folk from Dun Laoghaire, Glasshule and Shankill. In addition various old people, nominated by Club members were very welcome guests.

Following the traditionally superb NYC lunch, we had entertainment laid on by Sean Murray, Eddie Neville, Ray Phillips and others. May Dalton very kindly came along and tinkled the ivories to great effect.

The usually unflappable Brendan "volunteered" to sing though rumour has it he was brought in to do his piece first.

The highlight was a torrid tango danced by Sean Murray, with his guitar and a sprightly young lady in her mid-seventies.

The entertainment committee would like to express thanks to the staff and to May Dalton who very kindly gave their services free of charge. Many thanks are also due to the donors of prizes and subscriptions, to the supporters of the Christmas hamper draw which provided our principal funding, to the entertainers both voluntary and involuntary and indeed to all the members who came along with lifts and help in serving and who in every way made our guests feel welcome.

Sean Nolan

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## CRUISING GROUP NEWS

Sorry, Annette, I got my timing wrong.

Next issue OK ?

AMEN