



# LOUGH ERNE NEWS

FROM MERVYN ROLLS



Lough Erne in September

16:03 21/SEP/2013

The branch has had little activity since last Autumn, and with the perpetually awful weather there is no enthusiasm to engage in some short winter cruising on Lough Erne, which in past winters has been most enjoyable.

We had some re-thinking to do at our AGM, held later than intended on 7 December 2013, as Brian Cassells had resigned as chairman and committee member, John Weir had resigned as secretary though remaining on the committee and Tom Robinson had also resigned from the committee. We thank all three for their efforts on behalf of the branch, and wish them well for the future.

Brian Cassells has worked tirelessly over a number of years on behalf of the branch, and of course for the IWAI as a whole, becoming President for 3 years. With his many connections and his speaking and writing skills he has been able to bring an

expertise to all matters relating to the waterways.

He has been instrumental in bringing the Northern Branches and the IWAI in general to the level of respect with which they are held by many other organisations, both voluntary and governmental. We wish him and his wife, Maree, success in the future, and thank them both for all they have done. They will be much missed at committee meetings, and we hope to see them at future branch events.

Likewise John Weir has been a very successful secretary, as well as carrying out his other duties as Events Organiser. He has strongly supported the aims and developments of the IWAI with the help of his wife, Connie, and gained the respect of many members, both North and South. He has always gone out of his way to help those in need of advice and assistance. His abundant skills as secretary will be much missed.

Fortunately we have had people able to fill their positions, namely Ken Bell as chairman, and Frank Woods as secretary.

Ken Bell was a very successful secretary before John Weir, and branch members can look back at very enjoyable events he organised with the help of his wife, Jane. He was a unanimous choice to take up the role as chairman, and all was well until he had an unfortunate fall at his home in early January, hitting his head. Urgent attention was needed with a hospital admission and operation. We are delighted to report that he is now back at home, still recuperating, but functional. Naturally he was not at our first committee meeting of 2014 on 8 January, but should be able to take up his role at the next one.

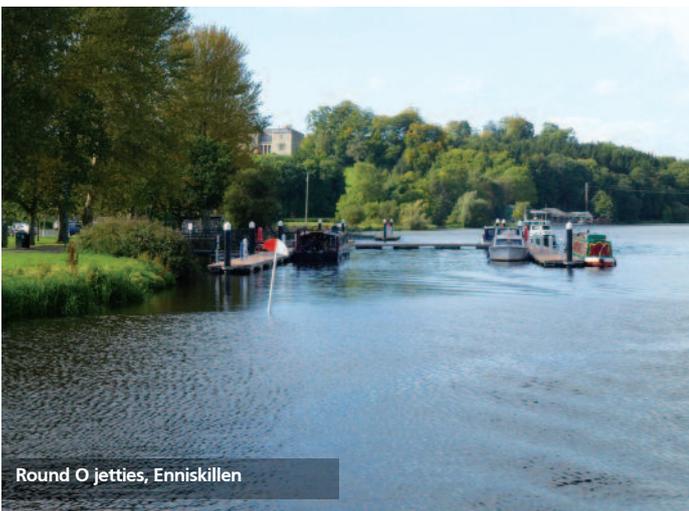
Frank Woods has always been a strong supporter of the branch and IWAI, having successfully organised events, and was the magazine contributor before I took up this role. With his PR and organisational skills he is an ideal person for the position, so we look forward to supporting and working with him.

It is felt that we start 2014 with an able committee, and already have plans for a branch trip to France and helping with the HBA barges visit to the Erne System at the end of July and over the month of August. With other regular branch events, we appeal to members for their attendance, they will be very welcome. Information is always available on our web site, [erne.iwai.ie](http://erne.iwai.ie) under the umbrella of IWAI.

**Photos: Mervyn Rolls**



Portora weir & lock, Enniskillen



Round O jetties, Enniskillen

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