



POWERBOAT BRANCH

FROM SHIRLEY MULLINS & THOMAS MULCAHY



Austin making a splash!

A MAN WHO MADE MORE THAN A SPLASH: AUSTIN GUNNING.

Austin was one of the founding members of the Powerboat Branch and it was his energy and enthusiasm that has formed what is now a fantastic legacy. We will all miss his daily weather updates, funny Facebook posts and of course seeing him turn up at the powerboat events. The thoughts and sympathies of the entire Powerboat Branch are with Bernie and the extended Gunning family. May he rest in peace.

LOUGH ALLEN WINTER TRIP

The last trip of the year brought the powerboat gang to the Drumshambo Amenity Centre on the shores of Lough Allen the on weekend of 22 November. Although temperatures were low, spirits were high as everyone was long overdue a trip on the water and an opportunity to burn some petrol. Most of the gang arrived Friday evening and travelled from the four corners of the country, all with an array of boats, ribs and jet skis in tow.

Ciaran Morgan kindly offered his culinary skills over the weekend

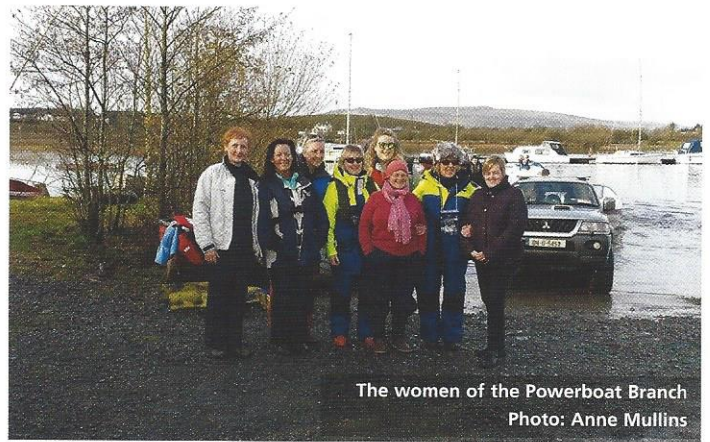
and everyone was well fed and watered throughout. With our bellies full, the gang suited up and headed for the slip way for a mid-morning launch. As there were no tides to battle with, launching was an easy process of

dipping and driving. Once the powerboat flotilla had fully assembled we embarked for a spin across Lough Allen which could have been mistaken for a millpond. It was a clear but frosty morning; the weather proof clothing was more than appreciated as we made headway across the lake.

We travelled until reaching the end of the navigation where some of the more adventurous power boaters journeyed a little further exploring the ever-decreasing depths. There was a quick stop of at the Lough Allen Adventure center for soup and sandwiches organized by Patsy Garland which provided us with the energy to get back to our weekend home at the Share Centre.

Everyone settled in for the evening and Ciaran Morgan took to the kitchen again like a regular Donal Skehan. Before we got a chance to sample Ciaran's fine food the Powerboat AGM was held.

Some new members joined the committee whilst others stepped down. Thank you to everyone who has tirelessly served the committee over the past few



The women of the Powerboat Branch
Photo: Anne Mullins

years and have truly helped to shape the branch. Cormac Smith was re-elected as chairperson by unanimous vote. The evening wrapped up with a productive discussion on the upcoming powerboat events with some new exciting ideas for this year's calendar which will be published soon.

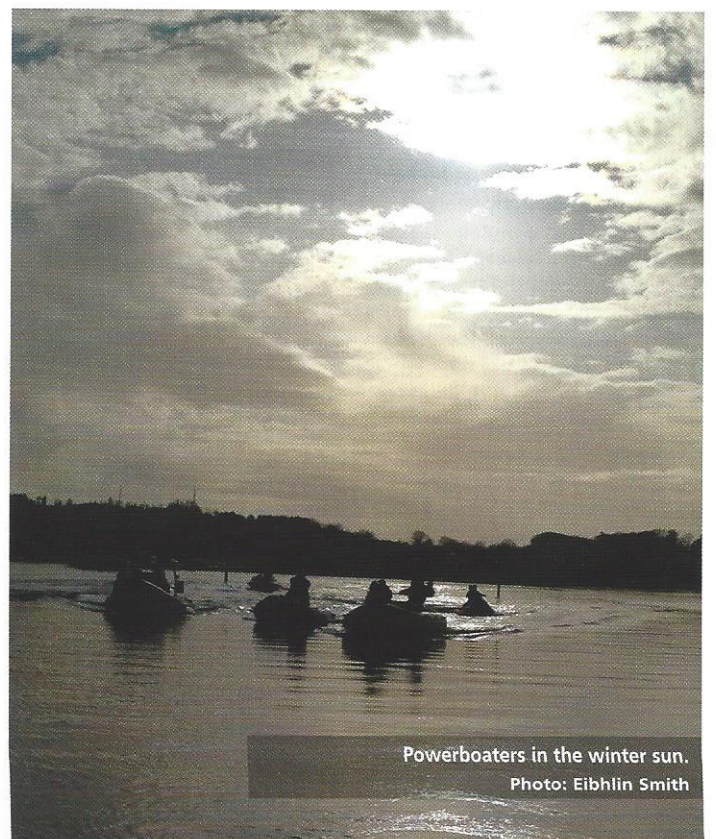
Sunday morning everyone had breakfast and bid their farewells to friends and the water for another year with anticipation for more events and reunions to come.

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

As the days lengthen towards the summer and more powerboat trips and outings are creeping nearer, it is also the annual signal for all branch members to renew their powerboat membership. Renewing or first time registration is simple; just log on to www.iwai.ie and click the 'Join/Renew Membership' button. New members are more than welcome so please tell a friend about membership in the Powerboat Branch.



Jack's Powerboat Branch Maiden Voyage
Photo: Anne Mullins



Powerboaters in the winter sun.
Photo: Eibhlin Smith