



Rush Sailing Club Newsletter

NOVEMBER NEWSLETTER 2016

Issue Date

Commodore's Address

It's that time of year when the river starts to empty and most of us hang up our sailing gear for another year. However for some, the season continues on despite the weather and it's great this year to see so many Junior sailors on weekends continuing to develop their skills. The Chill Series is scheduled to kick off early November and we are aiming to increase the level of participation by making club boats available for hire. Check the website for details.

A special welcome to new members who joined this year. I encourage you to get involved in club activities and use the facilities. Our club is built on a strong history of volunteerism so if you would like to contribute in any way to improving our club please contact me or any committee member.

Early in the year the boat park wall, which had stood the test of

time for the past 30 years or more, ceded to high tides and strong winds resulting in the need for immediate repair work. In the true R.S.C. style the call went out and willing volunteers arrived in numbers providing manpower and equipment. Here's hoping this

job lasts as long as the original one. No pressure lads!

The home sailing season was mixed this year as you will read from the reports below. But our club was well represented by those who travelled to Regional,



National, and International events for the various classes. Paddy Dillon, Sailing Sec. also had a unique opportunity to sail Etchells this year in the UK, he shares his experience in this newsletter which will no doubt interest our more ambitious sailors.

Special congratulations to our **New National Champion**, Pat Kelly and the crew of 'Storm' who won the J109 Championships in October after a very competitive season. We look forward to the celebrations on the 19th November.

This year the Junior Sailing programme continued to grow in strength. The evening programme finished up on the 13th of June in dense fog and under the scrutiny of our ISA Inspector! Thankfully we passed with flying colours. Special thanks to our Junior Organiser Muriel Carthy, all our instructors, assistants, rescue and the many volunteers both on and off the water who make these programmes happen.

Many of you will be aware of the sad passing in the last year of Resa Kelly, Gary Doyle and Barney Murray. On behalf of all the members, I would like to express our sincere condolences to their families. They will be specially remembered at our annual commemoration for deceased members which will be held in the clubhouse at 8.30 on the 4th November.

Finally some of you may already be familiar with our Tús workers William and Gavin who have been beavering away in the background since early in the year. A huge thank you to both of them for their work and for the support they provide on an ongoing basis.

*Brenda McGuinness
Commodore*

Sailing Report 2016

The number of boats participating in club racing has varied throughout the season, with the highest turnout of 13 boats for 2 midweek evening races with a mixture of Lasers, Picos and Mermaids helmed by young, old, new and experienced members. Wind conditions tended to vary to the extent that on some occasions racing proved impossible despite being towed out of the river in the expectation of a stronger winds outside.

This year the Lambay race didn't see the 'Island' as kick-off of the Ireland match kept the course short and participants close to shore! It was good however to see the renewal of the Harbour race earlier in the season with Lasers and Mermaids making the trip around.

The Laser fleet actively participated in club racing and many travelled far and wide to compete. From the Provinces to the UK and Germany they represented the club very well with some great results recorded across the different classes and at the Radial World Championships which were held in Dun Laoghaire in July. See the Club Facebook page for updates on each event including race results. Well done to all.

The return leg of the Rush versus Skerries Mermaid challenge kicked the season off early with Rush taking the honours in a tight finish. The Mermaid Championships were held over 3 days in Howth this year in what was a well run event in good competitive conditions. The Regatta was held on the 3rd and 4th September in what proved to be challenging conditions with

poor visibility and a trapezoidal course causing great confusion on Saturday. Sunday turned out to be light winds and sunshine which brought its' own challenges but a gentle breeze filled in time to get racing in. See Facebook for the results in each class

Cruising some of our members travelled to other shores this summer with trips to the IOM, Tory island, Portugal, France and Spain not to mention day sailing in our local waters. See Cruiser report for details.

National Champions

In an exceptionally busy season Pat Kelly and the crew of 'Storm' were competing and gathering trophies everywhere but it all reached a new peak in Dun Laoghaire on the first weekend of October. After finishing 2nd in Cork Week in J109 IRC2 class they finished the year as the J109



National Champions after a very impressive season. The racing was red hot – several races saw the entire fleet across the finish line with 3 minutes – and at the end Pat helming 'Storm' rounded out a magnificent season to win by 3 points.

Adam Barker, a recent junior member crewed with his brother Shane in the Hansa Nationals in Kinsale and came home in first position. Well done to both.

Junior training and club racing is continuing as we go to press and Chill series is due to kick off in November. This year the series will be kept in the river to encourage more people to participate. So even if you don't fancy getting wet come down and see the racing and make it a social occasion! The Annual prizes giving will take place at the laying Supper on the 19th November.

Cruiser Report

This year got off to a good start in mid-April with the lift in, always an anxious time! From then the cruising season kicked off and listed below are just some of the journeys travelled by members this season.



In May, Terry McGuire and I went sailing in Corfu. I was skipper on a 36ft Beneteau and Terry was on a 40 footer. First day out, we got caught in the worst storm in years but thankfully the sailing and weather was great for the rest of the week. A trip to be repeated next year, fingers crossed!

Jonathan Mason took Calimbo to Spain for two months, and I was delighted to go on the outward trip to La Corona 5 and a half days at sea. We were met there by Aine Carroll and Percy Boyle in Hair Raiser. They left the same day but arrived 24hrs before us, they

took the shortcut! We went the scenic route, out towards Fastnet and then south. Glad we did as we were joined 170 miles out by a large pod of around twenty Long Finned Pilot Whales and they stayed with us for more than an hour.



Jonathan continued his cruise south to Ria Vigo and then along the north coast of Spain as far east as Santander in company with Hair Raiser before crossing Biscay to La Rochelle, to find Brenda and Caoimhe Ruigrock in the marina on board Emilija, awaiting the arrival of Noel and Martin Reddin.

Sailing recommenced when Calimbo was joined by our Commodore Brenda McGuinness, and Hair Raiser was joined by Coleman and Bríd Grimes and their four month old son Dillon, who shows every sign of a grand sailing career to come! The two boats island hopped north to Brittany, with the final leg home from La Baie de Pouliguen completed with George Forde on board Calimbo, Percy and Aine following a few days later from Camaret sur Mer.

Emilija, having left Malahide in June, carried on South from La Rochelle to cruise the north coast of Spain, eventually berthing in Vigo, where she will spend the winter. Declan Keane and his good lady on Fougère on the otherhand, made their way back to Rush in time for the autumn lift out, having spent several seasons in France.

'Brandon' made 3 trips to the Isle of Man, crewed by myself, Brian

Cronin and my brother David. Weather fantastic, sailing great at times. We will be going back next year! Other activities by our members were fishing and diving both at home and abroad so all in all a good year on and under the water!

The cruising season finished with trips to Greystones and Poolbeg when 5 boats sailed in company in light conditions to witness a fabulous sunset over Dublin. Thanks to Mr Noel's 'Simark' who having spent the summer in Poolbeg, had returned to Rogerstown in time to make space for us on the Marina!

For various reasons, it can be difficult for individual cruisers to make expeditions beyond our



beautiful waters so next season we may schedule a couple of weekend cruises to travel in company. But that's for next year!

As with all sailing seasons the lift out comes around very quickly indeed, 15th October this year with 20 boats lifting. The last two boats lifting two and a half hours after high water, a close run thing indeed!

Brian Rafferty
Cruiser class captain

Mermaid

The Mermaid season this year could be described as poor as seems to be the case in general with other dingy classes. But saying that, R.S.C. was well represented at all the Mermaid events i.e. the Munsters in Foynes in June, Leinsters in Wexford in



July, the various regattas and the Championships which were held in Howth in August.

After an absence of 50 years, the Mermaids returned to Howth for our National Championships and we were well received by Howth Y.C. and many of the former Mermaid sailors who reside there. This year was a 4-day event but the championships was achieved in 3 days and was won overall by Sam Shields S.S.C. in Azezy. Rush boats Wild Wind and Vee were hot in pursuit, achieving daily prizes and Paddy Dillon, with his crew Johnny and Maureen, finishing in 2nd position overall. The

event was run in conjunction with one of the oldest one design boats in the world the Classic Howth 17s of which there were 18 boats on the water. It was an amazing sight with the 23 Mermaids and 18 Howth 17s, that brought many spectators to Howth YC to have a blast from the past of traditional boats racing.

Back to club racing, the fleet numbering 5 boats this year were

seem to be working at club and national level.

In the Rush area there are at least 12 boats that could potentially be sailed but unfortunately there are only 5 boats active. On a positive note the Mermaid fleet continues to be the backbone of many of the northside dinghy regattas with 18 boats competing in Skerries and 15 boats at our own regatta in September. We would

appreciate if some of the previous participants in the fleet, young and old would get involved again and bring their own ideas as to how the class could go forward. We could look at the possibility of some of our boats being relaunched and made available for them to sail as we urgently need to boost

our fleet. Anyone who may be interested in going forward can contact me or log on to the Mermaid Sailing Association site for more information on the fleet.

out for various races during the year from Sunday mornings to Weds evenings in conditions that varied from flat calm to heavy winds. The interclub Rush Skerries challenge took place in May with Rush taking the honours and sending the wooden spoon back to Skerries, We would like to thanks the boats who came from Skerries to participate in the event which we hope will continue next year.

our fleet. Anyone who may be interested in going forward can contact me or log on to the Mermaid Sailing Association site for more information on the fleet.

Special thanks to JoMo, Gwen and Brian for providing racing and rescue during the year.

*Anthony Weldon
Class Captain*

Going forward, the Mermaid class will have a lot of soul searching to do to try to get more boats on the water and crew to commit to Mermaid sailing. A new approach to this will need to be taken in 2017 as the old system doesn't

Junior Report

by Muriel

Junior Report The junior sailing season doesn't kick off anymore it now goes on all-season keeping parents busy winter and summer. Training under the tutelage of our newly qualified Senior Instructor Cameron McCrum commenced in April with the assistance of Aine, Alan, Erica and Clara with evening training moving to Monday by popular demand. Sailing took place in every weather over the 9 weeks to the horror of the new parents of junior members who had not met Aine before. She smiles as she pushes kids away from the slip as parents protest that it must be too windy to sail. We have re-instated the ferry crossing to Donabate which has not happened since Brian Warren's sailing days as we have a large number of new junior members from across the water.

This training can only happen due to the army of volunteers who help out. Thank you!!! Special praise has to be given to Roger Bell and Conor Monks who took over the 'Burger Babe' title, who knows how many burgers they incinerated but everyone loved them. The 9-week course finished with an ISA inspection which we passed due to the great team work on and off the water. Special thanks have to be given to Joe as equipment manager and his new junior trainee Fionn Higgins. Thanks also to Gwen Fox and Anthony Carthy who turned up to every junior event we ran throughout the year. Having such great people makes the role as junior organiser so much easier. Demand for training this year has exceed expectations with boats becoming a limiting factor. We urge all of you who have boats abandoned at the club to



consider donating or allowing the club the use of your boat. This could give an adult or child an introduction to sailing without having to spend too much money. There are also a number of juniors looking to purchase boats so let me know if you are interested in selling. We ran a Try-Sailing event in conjunction with the ISA early in the year with our 7 newly qualified assistant instructors taking charge. We only had a small number of trainees on the day as the weather was more-than-miserable for beginners. Our new trainees prove not only to be great instructors but great sales men and women as they persuaded 8 of the 10 trainees to sign up to the summer course. The Summer programme which is still in its infancy (this is only our second year to run this programme) was totally booked-out with a long waiting list. Cameron and Erica, our two instructors, did an excellent job keeping our kids entertained over the summer while also teaching them to become very confident and capable young sailors. The end of season awards are planned for Friday 12th Nov, we will award Certs from the years various training programmes and have an end of season party before we start into the chill series. Competing in events isn't only for

Alan's group, we now have a strong Oppi team and a Topper / Laser Squad trained by Erica. Well done Adam Barker, Fionn Higgins and Darragh Brett who competed in their first events during the season. I expect even better things next year from the entire junior section. We can be extremely proud of Alan and his entire group who all competed in the Laser Radial Worlds held in Dun Laoghaire and the 4.7 Laser Worlds held in Germany during the summer. In fact as I type, this group are on the water in the wind and rain training. They also have to load boats when they finish training to travel to UK next weekend. Alan will probably also make them run on the beach before he lets them go home. This group continue to push their parents and their plans get more ambitious every year (I have not checked where the laser worlds are next year). Now that you have skills, its time to put them to practise and move to the next level. I urge you to compete in our club racing every week. The chill series schedule is now on the club website.

Thank you again to everyone who has helped make this a stand-out year for junior sailing.

Etchells Campaign

by Patrick Dillon

This sailing season started for me back in December last year when I travelled to Cowes to meet the owner of an Etchells who had asked me to crew with him for the 2016 season.

It was agreed, on that weekend just before Christmas, that myself and Ruairi Grimes, an ex-member of Rush S.C. and my old mermaid crew, would team up again to sail on an Etchells and finish the year with the World Championship in Cowes in September.

This was an opportunity not to be missed so with the support of my family I signed up to a campaign for the season ahead. The reason for me to go sailing in England was the level of talented sailors from around the world who were competing in this class which was something I wanted to be involved in.

We started the year with some training regattas for the usual

practice and come April we got stuck into the real racing. We were doing well at the beginning of the year when it was the local Cowes fleet of about 20 boats. We were finishing in the top half of the fleet which we were happy with. These are very well matched boats and 20 Etchells will round the first weather mark within 30 seconds.

Things started to change in June when teams from different parts of the world started to turn up. All of a sudden the fleet was 30 boats and with every pasting event two a month the fleet got bigger. Soon we were racing with 40+ boats with some of the best sailors in the world.

Come the Worlds in September there were 60 boats gathered in Cowes with the who's who of sailing.

In all there were:

12 Etchells World champions

22 World champions from different classes

15 Americans Cups sailors

2 Mermaid National champions!

This is why I wanted to do this campaign and I would urge anybody young or old if they get the opportunity to do something like this to take it.

We didn't finish the World as good as we had hoped to 52nd overall but it was some of the best and hardest sailing I have ever done and enjoyed every minute of it.

The World Champion for 2016 was a man called John Bertrand from Australia. He won this event in 2010 in Howth and was the man who skippered the Australian team to victory in the 1983 Americans Cup. (Can you remember where you were I can).



Other Activities

Boat park: special thanks to all who provided gear and who participated in the work to repair the grounds after the tidal damage earlier in the year.



New Website: Thanks to Phil Casey who upgraded our website to the current version which is iPhone compatible. Anyone with high quality photos that can be uploaded please forward to the club email.

St Patrick Day Parade:

Congratulations to JoMo for all his hard work in building a pirate ship and encouraging us to fly the RSC flag in this year's parade. We were delighted with a runners up prize.

Raft Race: Well done to team RSC who took 2nd place in the RNLI raft race in Skerries under the muscle power by Gwen, Lynn, Darren, Fergus, Sean and David.

The Blessing of the Boats was held for the first time on a Saturday, the 25th June thanks to Fr John Collins who officiated on the day.



RNLI Fundraiser: JoMo organised a table quiz in September to raise funds for the Skerries Branch of the RNLI. Over £1,000 was raised on the night so well done to all who supported this worthy cause.



Dates For The Diary

Month	Date	Event
November	Friday 4 th	Mass For Deceased
	Saturday 12 th	Junior Prize Giving
	Saturday 19 th	Laying up Supper
	Wednesday 23 rd	AGM
December	Sunday 11 th	Santa Visits RSC
	Sunday 25 th	Christmas Swim



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Linkside, Rogerstown
Rush, Co Dublin