



Vice Commodore's Sailing Report - 2020

The year started smoothly (calm before the Covid storm!) with our annual Frostbite series which commenced in early February until mid-March. Thanks to our sponsor Harry Lewis of Custom Rigging, to our Race Officer John Stallard and his team of helpers.

That is where the world and, in this case, sailing took an unexpected stop with the rapid spread of COVID 19 and all focus shifted to the health and wellbeing of our club staff and members.

The March and April cruiser leagues were cancelled with the annual Keelboat regatta postponed in early May. We had two international sailing events scheduled on the 2020 calendar with the Squib Nationals planned for June and the Dragon Gold Cup in early September. It is with immense regret that both these events had to be cancelled with considerable work already gone into their planning by a terrific team of volunteers. I would personally like to express my gratitude to Ruth Ennis and the Squib committee, Tony Kingston and the Dragon committee for all their time and efforts.

Being still restricted to non-competitive sailing we managed to finally get some family cruises organised in June on days when the weather was spectacular and well attended.

Club racing for all fleets commenced in July starting with the Craemer Stockford trophy race. Club dining gradually resumed after sailing on a restrictive basis but none the less it was great for members to be able to use the club facilities again.

The Kinsale Regatta was cancelled earlier in the year which usually takes place over the August bank holiday weekend. This allowed the club to hold the McWilliam Sailmakers sponsored Fastnet race and Keelboat regatta over the bank holiday. Credit to both Race Officers and their teams; Donal Hayes (Fastnet), David O'Sullivan (Keelboat Regatta) and to our reliable mark layers Chris Clark and Dave Boyd.

The junior sailing course took place over the months of July and August and it was wonderful seeing so many children enjoying the water again following the long lockdown period. The junior course is one of the most important activities the club offers its members and the future of our club. The planning that went into this year's course in the most challenging environment was phenomenal and our sincere appreciation to John Stallard and the junior sailing committee for making it happen.

The Sailability class unfortunately had a more restrictive season but none the less it was terrific seeing them return to some on the water activities during the summer months. Well done to Donal Hickey and his team for getting the sailors back on the water.

The Laser Munster Championships sponsored by The Matthews Centre took place the first weekend of October. Race officer John Stallard and his team managed to get four great races sailed on the Saturday predicting the bad weather forecast for the next day. A good decision with Sunday's sailing ultimately being cancelled. Congratulations to local sailor Michéal O'Suilleabháin who won the Radial class and the other 11 KYC competitors in a fleet of nearly 60 boats.



Following the release of the national framework for living with COVID 19 by the Irish government and the increased cases of the virus it brought the club racing season to a premature finish in early October.

Each class captain has prepared a report for you to read on each of the classes' activities during the season. I would like to recognise their immense efforts over the year to get their respective fleets out on the water.

I would like to express our gratitude to the large group of volunteers who helped during the season. Without this voluntary support it would be impossible to hold club races or national events.

A shout out to our mid-week race officers Michele Kennelly and Pat Elliott on the Wednesday evenings, John and Valerie Stallard on the Thursday evenings and Donal Hayes on the Friday evenings.

Concluding, I would like to thank the clubs Hon. Sailing Secretary David Cullinane for all his hard work over the year. The season may have been shorter this year, but his drive and commitment meant we squeezed as much into the summer sailing season as we could.

Nollaig Shona agus Athbhliain faoi Mhaise Daoibh.

Stay safe,

Matthias Hellstern
Vice Commodore Kinsale Yacht Club.



Junior Sailing Report - 2020

Despite all the challenges that COVID -19 threw at us Junior Sailing at KYC proved to be successful with the number of sailors growing in all three fleets (Optimist, Topper and Laser) during the season.

While the topper fleet commenced their season with the Custom Rigging Frostbites in February, the season for the other fleets did not get going until the end of phase 1 lockdown in early June.

My thanks to class captains Raymond Hanley; Optimist, David Akerlind (outgoing) & Chriss Baker (Incoming); Topper and James Matthews; Laser whose hard work and enthusiasm saw participation in all three fleets grow. They were ably supported by fellow Junior Sailing Committee members Gearoid Fitzgerald, Harry Lewis, Michael O'Sullivan, and Conor Dillon. It was through their support and work that we achieved so much this season.

June Training Camps

With the schools closed for the summer and children permitted to train for their sports, we commenced midweek coaching for all three fleets (due to COVID-19 guidelines, coaching was limited to experienced sailors). Forty five sailors participated in these sessions which proved to be a great success. These sessions were organised by the class captains and KYC coaches.

Junior Sailing Course

Throughout lockdown we continued with our plan to run the Junior Sailing Course as originally advertised. The course fully booked out in mid-May and due to the uncertainty of holding the course hiring of instructors was delayed. After completing a risk assessment and getting support from the KYC management committee we decided to go ahead and organise a modified sailing course. In a three-week period, the course was redesigned, places were offered to participants who had places booked on the original course and instructors were hired.

Much work had to be completed on short notice by KYC staff ably led by Brian Hunt, as they prepared the club's facilities and procedures to comply with the COVID-19 guidelines in advance of the course. Victor Fusco and Ruth Ennis ran an Instructor course and assistant instructor courses on the last week of June to have everybody trained in time for the commencement of the course.

The course itself ran for 8 weeks (normally 6) limited to a maximum of 40 participants in the club each day. The schedule for each level had changed significantly from what was originally planned and a number of intended participants were unable to take up places due to other family commitments. These vacant places were taken up by people from a waiting list that had developed.

The instructors and assistants played a huge part in the success of the course this year.

98 children participated in the course and out of 8 weeks sailing we just lost two days to poor weather conditions.

Thanks to parents, participants, instructors, and assistants for supporting us by complying with the additional requirements that we had to put in place in order to safely run the course this year.

Sailing Events

We had a busy year scheduled as we intended to host the Optimist Munster Championships and the Topper Southern Sprints. Both events were cancelled due to COVID-19 restrictions.

We hosted the "Matthews Of Cork" Laser Munster Championships on short notice in early October. Thanks to everybody who volunteered and made this event a great success.

To mark the August bank holiday, we ran an afternoon of junior dinghy racing on the Bank holiday Monday that was well supported by 30 junior sailors. Results at end of this report.



Autumn Coaching

We had a great turnout of sailors participating in the coaching sessions organised by the class captains on weekends. The large number of additional new members joining the optimist fleet is encouraging as it is to see sailors progressing onto topper and laser fleets. See fleet reports for further details.

KYC Laser Fleet Report

Our Laser fleet is continuing to grow in strength and numbers especially in the 4.7 category.

With the year that was in it our most notable success was running the “Matthews Of Cork” Laser Munster championship in early October.

John Stallard PRO, event chair and overall legend supported by a few determined committee members made the almost impossible happen.

David and Michele Akerlind very kindly provided the fabulous “Paragon” as committee boat.

It was the only regional laser event for 2020. In the 4.7 division, James Dwyer Matthews topped the leader board on three points, the former Optimist ace was first of nine Royal Cork Yacht Club boats that dominated the 26-boat fleet. Second was Harry Twomey on 6 points with Justin Lucas third on ten points. Other notable results were from our very own Ellie Cronin, Emer Heery, Rachael Akerlind, Daniel Mallon, Francesca Lewis, Hannah Akerlind and Clare Cronin.

The Radial Fleet had 3 KYC sailors with the genius of Michael O’Suilleabhain to the fore with a perfect score. I can personally say I have never witnessed such a magnificent display of boat handling. Michael Carroll finished 7, Dorothy Matthews 10, Jack O Sullivan 13.

May I take this opportunity to thank all those involved to make this happen.

James Matthews

KYC Optimist Fleet Report

Our restart to the 2020 sailing system was stopped before we got out of the blocks by the 1st Covid lockdown in early March. We were, however, able to get going on Sunday Jun 14th with a pod structure to stay with Covid guidelines and social distancing being adhered to in the dinghy park and on the slip. There was huge appetite amongst the sailors to get back on the water and, over the following 3 weeks, we ran sessions on Fridays and Sundays, coached by Kirsti Flynn and Cliodhna O’Sullivan, before pausing for the summer months and the sailing course.

The sailing course was a great success, as confirmed by the number of sailors, new and returning, who signed up for weekend coaching when we restarted on Sept 13th. Such was the demand that we ran a dedicated Saturday session for our newer Level 1 qualified sailors, Tristan Bendon, Shea Lynch, Jamie and Chloe Blennerhasset, Luke Johnston, and Charlotte Furney & Maia Green, coached by Cliodhna Ni Shuilleabhain and Francesca Lewis.

For our Level 2+ sailors, we continued with a pod of 15 on Sundays, expanding to 2 pods, with staggered launch/recovery times to cater for demand.

Coached by Cliodhna and Jack O’Sullivan this group were focused on race training with a number of sailors: Phelim Hanley, Matt Mapplebeck, Billy Mallin, Rory and Annabel Wilson preparing to travel to RCYC for the Cobbler League. Also planning to travel to RCYC was Inigo Ramirez, new to the KYC fleet having moved from the warmer waters of Cadiz, Spain.



With the Cobbler League cancelled, all sailors stayed at KYC for October, where healthy rivalry amongst the regular attendees: Emma Fitzgerald, Oscar Dillon, Beth Collins, Ailbhe Kiely, Eva Johnston, Eabha McCarthy, Nick Baker, Aoife Collins and Will Brugger was taken up another level by newer members of the fleet including Tom Cantillon, Megan Barrett and Thomas and Ollie Lyons.

Despite enthusiasm and the stellar work of sailors and coaches alike in running the sessions in adherence with the restrictions, we called a halt to activities on October 21st as the 2nd wave of lockdown came into effect.

At its peak on the weekend of Oct 17/18 we had 26 Optimists on the water over the 2 days - a great sight to see in these gloomy times and I trust that this fleet will return in the spring in similar numbers to again take to the water and keep the Oppie scene bussing at KYC.

Raymond Hanley

KYC Topper Fleet Report

The Topper fleet participated in the Custom Rigging Frostbites in February. After sailing a great series Hannah Akerlind was 1st overall with Frances Corkery 2nd and Harvey Matthews 3rd.

Lockdown prevented any sailing until mid-June when the fleet got to participate in training days.

The Topper fleet has grown this year to 15 active sailors which is an excellent number. All enthusiastically heading out for training every Sunday until the current lockdown put an end to that. A lot of the sailors had enjoyed the summer sailing course, so it was great to be able to keep them active with Sunday training. Well done to Scott O'Sullivan and his colleagues.

Unfortunately, due to the restrictions this year, there have not been any events to report on.

The fleet did take part in racing in August for the August regatta which they enjoyed. We hope to have them all back out again in the new year when conditions allow. Thank you to the sailors and their parents for making my role as class captain very enjoyable!

Chris Baker

August Bank Holiday overall Winners

| Fleet | Optimist | Topper | Laser |
|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| 1 st | Caoimhe Corkery | Olan Dillon | Ellie Cronin |
| 2 nd | Claudia Penwill | Cian Kiely | Francesca Lewis |
| 3 rd | Ailbhe Kiely | Adam Fitzgerald | Emer Heery |

Laser Radial won by Daniel Akerlind

Mixed dinghy won by Beau & Rio Doyle

John Stallard

Junior Organiser



Sailability Class Captain's Report – 2020

COVID 19 was not on the agenda at our A.G.M. in early January. We had discussed many new activities for this year's program but on March 14th everything changed.

Lockdown, social distancing, mask wearing and travel restrictions were the new normal and sailing became a nonessential activity.

Having endured the initial lock down we were lucky to get limited freedom to enjoy some activities on the water but needed to comply with I S A guideline of family hubs only. Social Distancing and no tuition by instructors this year.

Despite the difficulties these conditions imposed the offer by Kinsale Yacht Club to use the power boat fleet made it possible to accommodate the Sailability families each Saturday. We managed to get all afloat using four sailing boats that accommodated single families and creating social hubs for others on power boats.

Amazingly we had 45 people on the water one Saturday. Despite the short season we enjoyed some beautiful sunny weather and many visited Sandycove and Oysterhaven for the first time.

Thanks to the safety boat drivers, our onshore volunteers and committee members for all your help this year and I thank Kinsale Yacht Club for the continued support to Sailability.

I hope 2021 brings more freedom for all but in the meantime Keep Safe.

Donal Hickey
Sailability Class Captain



Squib Class Captain's Report - 2020

2020 promised to be a bumper year for the Squib Class in Kinsale with the hosting of the Squib Nationals and an increase in the fleet numbers. We got off to an early start with the Frostbite series and, thanks to the commitment of the 2020 committee of Ruth Ennis, John Stanley, Michele Kennelly and Colm Dunne, entrants for the Nationals were progressing well.

And then, along came Covid 19. This led to the cancellation of all racing with many events having to be postponed and eventually cancelled. These included the Nationals, Kinsale Regatta and the Inlands Championship. We did manage to get back to Club racing in July and run the Sailpower and EventFalcon series. Numbers of entrants were understandably reduced. Away events were mostly cancelled but we had a very strong representation at the Southern Championships hosted, For the first time, by Cove Sailing Club. 7 boats from Kinsale of a fleet of 13 was a great turnout and well done to Ian Travers and Colm Dunne for promoting the event so successfully.

Our thanks to our sponsors: Sailpower, EventFalcon and Custom Rigging. Thanks also to our Treasurer, Denis Cudmore for keeping the books and in agreeing to remain in office for 2021.

Custom Rigging Frostbites:

1st Allegro 134 Colm Dunne/Rob Gill
2nd Outlaw 785 Ian Travers/Keith O'Riordan
3rd Longshot 781 Sean O'Riordan/Harry Lewis

Custom Rigging Frostbites: Echo:

1st Outlaw 785 Ian Travers/Keith O'Riordan
2nd Allegro 134 Colm Dunne/Rob Gill
3rd Sibú 794 Denis Kieran/Geraldine Kieran

Sailpower Series:

1st Flora 643 Bobby Nash/Dave Ross
2nd Sibú 794 Denis Kieran/Geraldine Kieran
3rd Buznn 559 Frank McGowan/Richard Calanan

EventFalcon Series:

1st Flora 643 Bobby Nash/Dave Ross
2nd Sibú 794 Denis Kieran/Geraldine Kieran
3rd Sensation 523 Denis Cudmore/Brid Cudmore

Southern Championships Cove Sailing Club July 2020

1st Allegro 134 Colm Dunne/Rob Gill
4th Outlaw 785 Ian Travers/Keith O'Riordan
7th Flora 643 Bobby Nash/Dave Ross

Victor Fusco
Squib Class Captain



Dragon Class Captain's Report - 2020

In what should have been a historic year for dragon sailing in Kinsale, hosting the Gold Cup for a third time, unfortunately like many other things, Covid took charge and sailing was limited. However, what makes the class in Kinsale is the fun and comradery, and what was lacking in events was made up for in craic!

To start our 2020 sailing report, we are delighted to be able to announce that Kinsale Yacht Club has again been selected to host the Dragon Gold Cup in 2024. Exciting times ahead for this evergreen class!

This year unfortunately despite huge effort, no regional events were held. The flipside, however, is that the class once again enjoyed great numbers for Club racing, making the most of some spectacular sailing on our home waters and certainly the competition was just as hot!

The season started off with The Bendon Family Summer League. Big thank you to Adrian & Naomi Bendon for their sponsorship. Racing was over a number of Thursday evenings and Saturday

afternoons and despite the current environment we managed to race almost 20 races throughout the shortened season with up to 7 boats participating, including Scarlett Ribbons first full season and Darryl Hughes made a brief appearance and hopefully we will see more from him next year.

When all tallied up TBD (James Matthews, David Good & Fergal O'Hanlon) took the win, Serafina (Maeve Cotter) second, Mar J (Adrian Bendon) in third place, Tenacious (Anthony O'Neill) in fourth and Scarlett Ribbons (Tomas O'Brien) in fifth.

Over the August Bank Holiday weekend, the fleet held a shortened one-day Ted Enders memorial Keel Boat Regatta. This was a massive success with the full fleet of 7 dragons taking part. Dave Sull on his beautiful new yacht, together with his motley crew on board ran 5 fantastic races (The only complaint came from Simon Furney who moaned he didn't have enough time to eat his sandwich between races such was the efficiency of the team). Dave was ably assisted by Dave & Chris along with Harry & Jane.

Serafina whose crew are the slimmest of all the dragon sailors thought it was going to be their day, winning the first two races and leading the third. However, the breeze increased mid-way through the third race allowing "the fatties" on board TBD and "the chunkies" on Little Fella back into the hunt. All three boats won races; however, it was Little Fella who used all their experience (and weight!) to clinch the victory from TBD with Serafina third.

Some of the fleet then headed west to take part in the Rose Bowl in Glandore. Most owners towed their boats but not our Shawn Kingston in Grey Hair who headed off at 7.30 on the Wednesday evening with Navionics freshly loaded onto his phone. Shawn claims to have seen dolphins and whales on his night cruise and even thinks he saw Mary the Mermaid of Glandore welcome him!! We will never know!!

2020 being the year that kept on giving resulted in Saturday's racing being blown out, the Kinsale lads quickly came up with a new plan and all headed to Mary Anne's for the afternoon!

Sunday brought big seas and winds. Little Fella unfortunately lost their rig on the first run of race one, which opened the door for the team on Serafina - Brian Goggin, Sean Murphy, Dan Murphy & John O'Connor (who incidentally



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with 4 up still weighted less that the lads on Little Fella!!!) to battle it out with reigning National Champs Phantom. It came down to a duel on the last race with plenty of shouting and threats of protest but Serafina held their nerve to win the event on a score line of 2,1,1. Grey Hair with Shawn & Tony Kingston together with the always happy Harry Lewis, sailed a very consistent series to finish 3rd overall and had a couple of shifts not gone against them, would certainly have been further up the leader board

Back on home waters, we quickly got back to club racing, with particular emphasis on the Saturday racing. This was enabled by Matthias Hellstern as Race Officer

The Saturdays was certainly where TBD came into further form with James, Dave and Fergal winning the first miniseries. Everyone came off the water exhausted, some more than others and there was complaints from Sandycove of shouting between Grey Hare and Mar-J!!!

The final day of sailing was on Saturday the 19th of September. Grey Hare, with Shawn, Happy Harry and guest for the day Sean Murphy, won the day convincingly with a 1,1,3 to round off a very enjoyable season!

The Kinsale Dragon Class then got a welcome addition in October when Colm Dunne and Colm Daly's new boat arrived in Kinsale. Well ware lads and we look forward to welcoming you properly next season. The fleet is now 8 and already there is active discussions about a new 9th team looking to acquire. The dragons are the place to be!!



Photo - Shane Goggin



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Finally, we would just like to thank some of the club members, who made the season possible for us:

- Adrian & Naomi Bendon – sponsors of our Summer League
- John & Valerie Stallard – Our Thursday night Race Officers
- Matthias Hellstern – Our Saturday Race Officer
- Dave Boyd & Chris Clarke (who also gave the class captains a lesson in how to lift a mark!)
- Dave Sull & Team – for the keelboat regatta
- Rob and the kitchen team – for suppling us with the food we required to have pints legally!!
- Paul, Conor, Mikey and all the bar staff

Brian Goggin & Daniel Murphy
Joint Dragon Class Captains



White Sail Class Captain's Report - 2020

The Season got off to a very slow start with all of the Spring Series races being cancelled due to Covid restrictions. Eventually the first series of TGIF got underway in July. There was a good turnout with 13 boats competing across the 4 races all in the safe hands of race officer Donal Hayes. John Stallard's Siboney took the overall ECHO, with John Whelan on Wheels and Sean O'Riordan on Y- Dreams as the series runners up. Valfreya, Miss Charlie and Dermott Lannigan's Privateer also had some good results in both ECHO and IRC.

As the weather improved through August the 2nd TGIF Late Summer Series got underway, again kindly sponsored by Doyle Solicitors. With 14 boats competing in the 5 races we saw some great competition in a variety of weather conditions on the harbour. David Riome and Mark Leonard on Valfreya had a successful series taking both the overall ECHO and IRC, with Patrick Beckett's Miss Charlie 2nd in ECHO and 3rd in IRC. Sean O'Riordan with Y-Dreams took 3rd overall in the ECHO class and John Stallard on Siboney 2nd in IRC. There were also some good races for Martin Hargrove's Deboah and Hansemer and Wheels.

The season for the White Sail Fleet continued into September as part of the Mary P Saturday Cruiser Series, kindly sponsored by Neil and Felicity Prendeville. In some sporting conditions John Twomey took the series podium with Shilleagh winning 3 of the 4 races in ECHO. Zubenelgenubi skippered by Brian Jolly took 2nd overall and Dave O'Sullivan with Cimarron finished the series in third place. The IRC was won by Patrick Beckett on Miss Charlie. Nigel Dann and Tony Scannell also had a good series on Val Kriss and Hansemer respectively. Anthony O'Brien's White Tigers only outing this series in the 3rd race was rewarded with a 1st place in ECHO.

Sadly the first race of the Sunday October series, The Cimarron Trophy, was cancelled due to poor weather and the rest of the season abandoned including the Dick Hegarty Memorial Trophy due to restrictions placed on racing.

This season we were very fortunate to have the services of Dave Cullinane, Breda Beckett and Sonia Leonard in the results office. The enjoyment of racing was certainly enhanced by getting a result immediately after competition. Thank you also to Donal Hayes for presiding as Race Officer this season and giving us some great courses. I would also like to thank Doyle Solicitors again for their generosity in supporting the White Sail Fleet for 2020/21.

We look forward to some excellent White Sailing in the Spring and wish you all the best in these uncertain times.

Mark Leonard
White Sail Class Captain



Cruiser Class Captain Report – 2020

Writing this cruiser report for 2020 I am reminded by the Vice Commodore that I am extremely late and am the last Class captain to send their article in. Why is this I ask myself? Am I just trying to forget about 2020 and the c word or am I wondering did we get any sailing in.....?

Anyway, after a glance back at 2020 results, I am pleasantly surprised on how well we have done as a class considering all the restrictions we have had to contend with, along with all the RAMS documents provided by Dave Cullinane (short for risk assessment method statement) to allow us get on the water in a meaningful safe way. Anyway, enough of me waffling on.....

The season for cruisers finally kicked off with the very popular Carroll's Cycles Wednesday night series with a very impressive 14 boats. There was a great initiative by Brain Carroll in putting up a very nice bike as a prize which was drawn for on the final night, with the stipulation that you had to enter each race in the series to be eligible to win it. The winning ticket was drawn by Brian's Mum and the bike went to "No Notions". The event also incorporated the Craemer Stockford echo trophy which was won by the brand new sexy flying machine "Cinnamon Girl" belonging to Cian Mc Carthy. Results for the series were as follows.

IRC 1 – 1st Chancer 2nd Artful Dodger 3rd Reavara Too
Echo 1 – 1st 1601 2nd Chancer 3rd Artful Dodger
IRC 2- 1st Valfreya 2nd Cirrus 3rd Gunsmoke II
Echo2- 1st Valfreya 2nd Cirrus 3rd No Notions

Next up in our reduced season was the ever popular Fastnet Race. This year it was a Scora race with Barry Hayes from McWilliam Sails sponsoring some beautiful McWilliam kit bags. Being a Scora race it attracted outside entries that were looking to make up the qualifying mileage for the Round Ireland race in June. This race proved to be as popular as ever with 4 visiting boats from Cork and Dublin. Amongst them, was the very modern Grand Soleil 34 Justina and the beautiful totally optimised and jockeyed up Grand Soleil 40 Nieulargo from Royal Cork. The Sunfast 3300 offshore specialist Cinnamon Girl was also on the start line for her 1st long distance offshore race. The race ended up being a true windward leeward race with a beat to the rock and a run home. The race was nip and tuck at the front with Tom Roche's "Meridian" taking line honours from "Nieulargo" followed by "Cinnamon Girl", but when the score masters worked their computing skills it was "Nieulargo taking the chocolates on IRC and echo with your scribe's "Artful Dodger taking 2nd place on both handicaps only being beaten by just over 3 minutes in a 19 hour race. Results as follows.

All in IRC – 1st Nieulargo 2nd Artful Dodger 3rd Cinnamon Girl
All in Echo – 1st Nieulargo 2nd Artful Dodger 3rd Reavara Too

With no annual pilgrimage to West Cork we had a very well attended and enjoyable 15 boat Autumn cruiser series with very generous weekly sponsorship of wine by Ger Campbell of Riverside Veterinary. Some very pleasant sailing evenings were had, and the overall results are as follows.

IRC 1 – 1st Justus 2nd Artful Dodger 3rd Freya
Echo 1 – 1st Justus 2nd Artful Dodger 3rd Freya



IRC 2- 1st Gunsmoke II 2nd Cirrus 3rd Valfreya
Echo2- 1st Gunsmoke II 2nd Miss Charlie 3rd Cirrus

A new initiative was tried by your Class Captain for the September series as we were keen to make the best of the short season. The challenge was to have racing every Saturday with FG at 17:55. This proved extremely popular allowing skippers and crews deal with the domestics on Saturday and rock up for some sailing and refreshments late on Saturday evening. Yet another sponsor was needed in a hurry and the ever-young Mr NJ Prendeville stepped into the breach to provide great sponsorship for this very popular series. Neil also pressed ganged at short notice a full race team led by Tony Small with Kevin Leary's beautiful Exodus officiating as Committee boat. A grand total of 21 boats came to the start line for this series where we had starts for IRC1, 2 and white sail. Great racing was had by all with John Twomey's Shillelagh taking the Mary P trophy for winning white sail echo which had the biggest fleet of the series. Part of this series was the Daunt race which was won by the majestic X50 Freya. A bonus for this series was that the club restaurant was booked out every Saturday evening after racing. This is a series to be kept running for 2021. Results as follows.

IRC 1 – 1st Artful Dodger 2nd Freya 3rd Justus
Echo 1 – 1st Artful Dodger 2nd Freya 3rd Justus
IRC 2- 1st Valfreya 2nd Chameleon
Echo2- 1st Valfreya 2nd Chameleon
White Sail IRC 1st Miss Charlie 2nd Shillelagh
White Sail Echo 1st Shillelagh 2nd Zubenelgenubi 3rd Cimarron

Having very generous sponsors within the club makes it very easy for your class captain to organise our club sailing and we as a class owe a great debt of gratitude to these club members who put their hands in their pockets and come up with very generous prizes. Long may this generosity and tradition continue.

Looking back on the season I did not realise how much racing we managed to squeeze in between lockdowns. Enormous thanks and appreciation must be given to club staff and volunteers who worked tirelessly in helping us to get on the water. A massive thank you from the cruiser class!

Stay safe, and hope to see you all on the water for the Gunsmoke Bell on the 26th December.

Finbarr O'Regan
Cruiser Class Captain