

# MAINSHEET

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE NATIONAL YACHT CLUB

Issue No. 9

September, 1995



## NYC SAILING 1995

from the Commodore

**T**he sailing season is nearly over, except for those hardy souls engaged in the Frostbite Series. What a season it was. Details of the outstanding successes are elsewhere in this edition of Mainsheet.

Club juniors, olympic and off-shore sailors brought home the bacon while in the DBSC series the NYC Flag was kept flying. Of course the most notable successes were John Lavery and David O'Brien's winning of the European and World Fireball Championships in successive weeks.

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Picture shows World Champion John Lavery with his Fireball.

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## 1995 – AN OUTSTANDING SEASON FOR THE NATIONAL YACHT CLUB

**N**ational Yacht Club Sailors continued to build on the successes of last season with some excellent results in various classes during 1995.

Unquestionably, the

outstanding result of the year, for Irish sailing in general, was John Lavery and David O'Brien's double victory in the *Fireball European & World Championships*. More about that later. However, all our other sailing members were

active throughout the season. Olympic contenders Aisling Bowman and Mark Lyttle continued to lead the way for the rest of the Irish Olympic Team, with excellent international results in the Europe and Laser Classes respectively.

Yet again, Mark captured the Irish Laser Title in Howth in September and was closely followed in second overall by our other outstanding Laser champion, Evan Dolan.

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## FROM THE COMMODORE

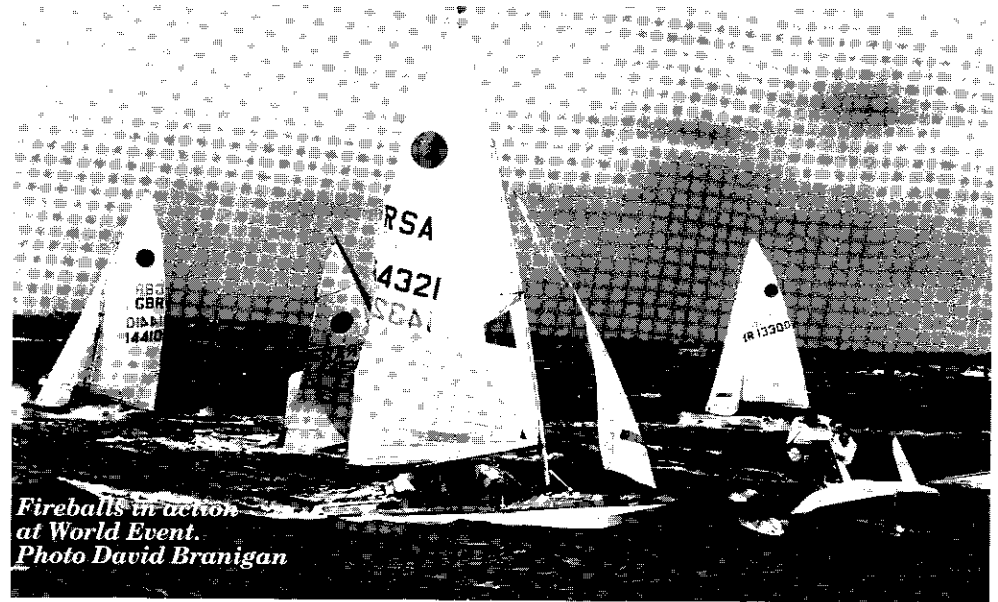
### 1995 Events

While our sailors were winning honours on the race course our alicadoos brought great distinction to the Club in the running of regattas and championships. All of these brought members working together to ensure that the competitions involved got fair and challenging sailing.

On behalf of the Club I say a heartfelt thanks to all who helped in the Annual Regatta, the Junior Regatta, the Europe Championships, the Clara Candy Dun Laoghaire-Dingle Race, the Heineken Fireball European and World Championships and the many other sailing events of the year.

### Looking Forward

As winter approaches the Club activities swing into action ashore. If you



*Fireballs in action at World Event.  
Photo David Branigan*

can't find anything to interest you in snooker, bridge, hill walking, navigation classes, wine appreciation evenings or ladies' luncheons, there is always the bar and the dining room. Mr. Conneely would be delighted to accept bookings for parties of two to a hundred. Why not book now for your office Christmas party or the special occasion.

### Looking Further Forward

In the last edition of Mainsheet I mentioned the Business Plan being prepared by a group led by Shay O'Donoghue. The plan has been discussed by the General Committee and is now in the implementation phase. Crucial to its success is a substantial increase in membership. That is up to you, yes you, not "them", you. With your

support the plan will be successfully implemented making the National a better Club for all of us.

### George Lothian

Club Head Boatman, George Lothian, is still recovering from injuries, received while working on the Platform. Although "rarin" to go it will be some time yet before George gets the "all clear". We wish him a speedy recovery. Ω

# Members Race

**W**ednesday, August 23rd was a newcomer to our sailing calendar when the first "Members Race" and Sailing Supper was held on what turned out to be a very pleasant evening with the Jerry O'Connor All Stars playing jazz numbers *al fresco* on the balcony.

It is likely the race, run on the same staggered start system as that used for The End of Season Races over the past number of years will now replace The end of Season Race. There was racing for six categories ranging from Mermaids through to Cruisers.

Carefully calculated (pick a number and double it) time intervals were formulated to give each and every boat a chance of winning the results show worked more or less as planned. Unfortunately, the wind did not quite behave itself and just to

make life interesting for the O.O.D. and competitors alike, swung through a 180 degree wind shift five minutes or so before the first start. By this time the course had been decided and already signalled to the fleet. Later it shifted back again to where it should have been and settle down. As the eventual winner, Malachy Muldoon in his Shipman commented later on, he does not know many O.O.D.s who can manage to lay a triangular course consisting of all "Beats".

The second boat to cross the finishing line was a flying fifteen No. 3495 owned by Justin Burke but helmed by his nine year old son Nathan with Dad as Crew, surely a clear indication of a future champion in the making and proof of the value of a good crew and teamwork.

All in all a very enjoyable evening and good racing despite the mix of different boats and shifting winds. Ω

# Summary of the Business Planning Report

**F**ollowing the EGM held last November and in response to various issues raised by the meeting the Commodore proposed that a Business Planning Group be formed to examine and review all aspects of the Club's operation and to recommend a Business Plan for implementation over the next three to five years. The committee approved the appointment of Shay O'Donoghue as chairman of the Group which included Martin Crotty, Paul Fallon, Ken Slattery, Jim Gorman and Rear Commodore Barry MacNeaney.

The group identified four main areas as the focus of their attention: membership, usage, sailing and finance. Recognising the importance of both the implications for the future and the need to respond to issues raised by the meeting the Group undertook a postal survey of all full members which was supplemented by a number of personal soundings by the committee. A response rate of 38% was considered good enough to establish a broad view of members' requirements.

## Membership

Although club records on membership are incomplete in many details the following simple profile was established.

- Under 40 years of age: 25%
- Over 40 years: 68%
- Life members: 7%

While such a profile suggests a medium term problem the implications are serious in the longer term. As membership subscription is the most significant factor in the club accounts it is obviously an area of high priority. Recognising that previous recruitment drives were unsuccessful for a variety of reasons the principal recommendations from the Group include:

- Appointment of a senior committee member, whose specific brief is to champion and manage the recruitment drive with a target of 100 new members for 1996.
- A significant abatement of the entry fee which was considered to be a serious barrier to entry.
- Implementation of an incentive programme to recognise the introduction of new members by existing members.
- Target younger age groups and local business executives.
- Request members assistance in updating club records on membership details.

## Facilities Usage

With the help of the club management a detailed analysis of facilities usage was undertaken which clearly demonstrated a significant under utilisation of facilities. The principal data is detailed:

## Dining Facilities

	Lunch	Dinner
	%	%
Tuesday	12	19
Wednesday	17	15
Thursday	10	25
Friday	15	44
Saturday		62
Sunday	50	

It was established that Dining beverage accounts for 31% of dining room revenue and 48% of total bar takings. These facts clearly indicate the importance of greater use of the dining room facilities. In addition the Survey response suggests that price is less important than quality, service levels, decor and furnishings. Principal recommendations in this area include:

- Improvement of decor to include all furnishings and tableware
- Promotion of Special menu dinners, functions and events.
- Preparation of a promotional brochure.
- Adequate staffing levels.

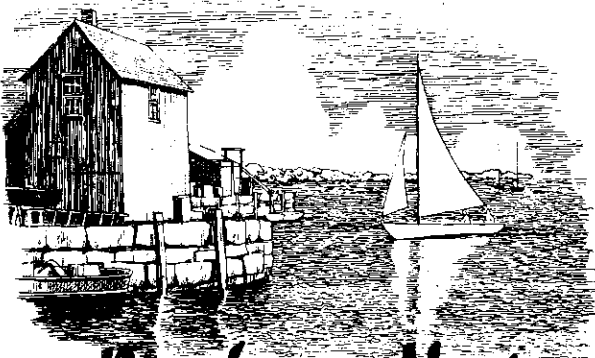
## Sailing and Associated Activities

In addressing business planning issues there is a tendency to focus on the trading and house aspects of club activities. However, it is vital to recognise that development in these areas is dependent on and secondary to the Raison d'Être of the clubs being – SAILING. It is interesting to note that 57% of boat owners responded to the questionnaire compared to 37% of all members. Many of the concerns of members under this heading related to the boathouse, which have been largely addressed by the boathouse charter.

It is vital to maintain and develop sailing activity within the club and ensure the continuation of the club as a significant contributor to National sailing activity. Principle recommendations include:

- Increased encouragement and recognition of members competing at National and International level and of cruising activities by club members.
- Active promotion and development of those events developed by the club and which the club owns, specifically:
  - The Round Ireland Speed Challenge (sponsored by Irish Distillers)
  - Dun Laoghaire to Dingle Race (sponsored by Clara Candy)
  - Corporate Cup (sponsored by Sail Ireland).

.....Continue on page 4.....



## Boathouse News

### Head Boatman

George Lothian is recovering from his injuries but he may not be back on duty before Christmas.

### Lift Out:

The "lift out" this year will be on 14 October. Due to the anticipated extra demand for space caused by the closure of other storage yards and also by the provision of extra platform space this winter for dinghy sailing, it may not be possible to accommodate all boats requiring winter storage.

To ensure a place this winter, it is vital that application forms be completed and accompanied by the appropriate fee. Applica-

tions from boats with outstanding boathouse account i.e. crane, diesel, mooring etc. will not be considered unless the outstanding account is included with the winter parking fee. Forms will be available from mid-September and must be returned by the end of September.

Due to a 40% increase in the hire charge of the crane, we will attempt to make efficient use of this cradles. To this end, all cranes must be erected prior to the lift out and must be in safe working condition. The lift out of heavier boats and those boats whose cradles are on trailers may be lifted

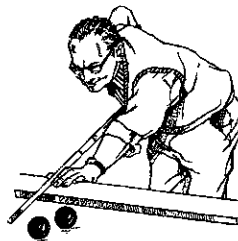
during the week before. All owners will be advised.

### Boathouse Charter - 1996 Season

To update/revise the Boathouse Charter for next season, members views, comments and constructive criticism are welcome by the Boathouse Captain. All comments should be in writing and left in the hall, market for his attention. Ω

*Peter Ryan,  
Boathouse Captain.*

## SNOOKER SCENE



This year sees a new committee chaired by former Commodore Freddie Cooney ably assisted by Hubert Kearns (Sec.) and Dean McElree (Tres.).

Freddie has asked that we express our thanks to outgoing chairman, Paddy Rotchilde for his great contribution to the snooker room over the past three years.

The season starts with the McWilliams Competition and entries must be in before 7th October! New members are especially welcome.

Plans are also afoot for a new interclub competition among the waterfront clubs. A home/away fixture with Howth YC has also been arranged. All in all a busy snooker season ahead. Ω

.....Continued from Page 3.....

## SUMMARY OF THE BUSINESS PLANNING REPORT

- Selective encouragement of One Design and Dinghy Fleets.
- Promotion of the Club as a venue for Championships, Local, National and International.
- Adult Sail Training
- Encouragement of Cadet Sailing and related social activities.
- Training of Race Officers and Race Management Personnel.

### Finance

Implementation of the recommendations regarding the club facilities - Dining Room and Bar - is likely to cost in the region of £100,000. Funding will be met in part from cash flow, part from the expected buoyancy in the figures for 1995 plus an option for limited borrowing to complete the programme.

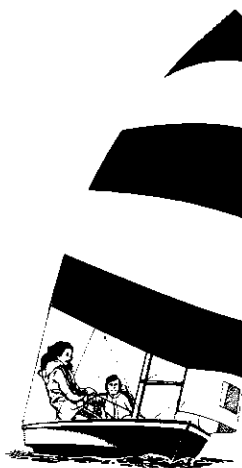
### Conclusion

If the recommendations herein are followed through and implemented, the Group concludes that the programme will leave the Club in a radically stronger position with enhanced earnings, enhanced services and enhanced membership and the ability to plan for our future free of unnecessary concerns. Ω

## HILL WALKING

Now that another sailing season is drawing to a close, there is no excuse for not keeping that ruddy complexion - and I don't mean by drinking whiskey.

Join the NYC hill walking group on the first Sunday of October, November and December for a not too strenuous ramble through the Wicklow and Dublin foothills. A minimum of equipment is required for these walks but a good pair of walking boots is essential. A rainproof jacket and leggings are advisable, as is a black plastic sack for sitting on when having a coffee break. The walks are usually 3 to 3.5 hours duration including breaks and start at 1300 hours sharp. The meeting place for each walk will be displayed in the club hall during the week prior to the walk. Any further information can be obtained by phoning Barry Mac Neaney at 2824463 (home). So make a note in your diary; Sunday, October 1st, Sunday, November 5th and Sunday, December 3rd. Ω



# Junior Sailing

by Simon Coate

**T**his year in the NYC saw eighty seven juniors enjoying sailing in nine weeks of nearly non-stop sunshine under the guidance of Niall Peelo (Head A) and, at various times, nine other Instructors and three shore "Mums". When the boats were not

launched it was usually because of lack of wind rather than too much - what a contrast to some of the previous years.

Not only did we have fun but we learnt to sail as well. This being shown by the fourteen 1st stage passes and the eleven 2nd stage passes. Also seven sat the third stage exam and

five sat the Advanced Certificate Exam - the results of which should be out by the time you read this.

During the summer our Mirror and Optimist sailors were given incentive by Ross and Rebecca Killian and David Crosbie, Ross and Rebecca ending up National Champions in the Mirrors and David, having won the Leinsters and Munsters, being pipped at the post at the Optimist Nationals. Well done to all three. (Incidentally this year there were eight NYC Optimists at the Nationals - let's double that next year in RCYC!)

The Discos continued this year with the NYC "Jiving in the Jacks", (we had to change the name from the "Bog-house boogie" because of complaints), proving as popular as the RIYC

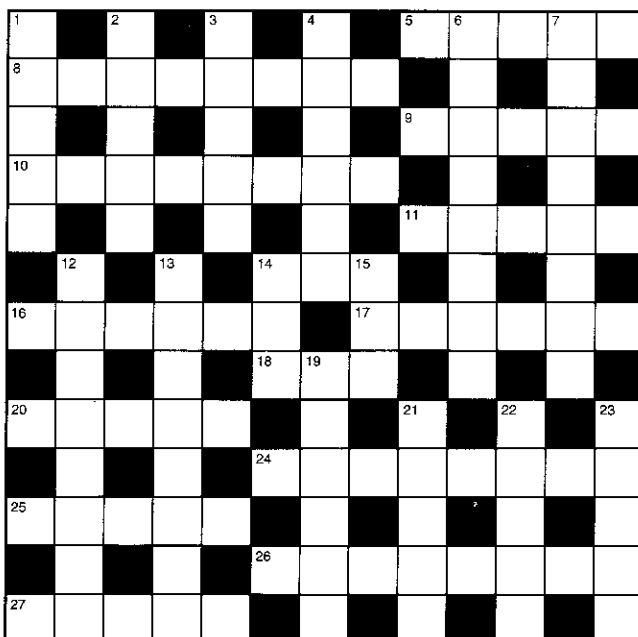
"Boathouse boogie".

Towards the end of the season we purchased a second hand Optimist for the Club, through the generosity of an anonymous sponsor, and completed fitting it out (through the generosity of Des McGraph of Seaspace), in time for the last three week Course. Thanks very much to you both.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Trish Field, Padraic Conneely and his staff and Tony and his colleagues for all their help and for putting up with the little idiosyncrasies of the Juniors and their Organiser!

I finish with a reminder of the next most important and fun date in the Junior Calendar - The Junior Dinner, Prizegiving and Disco - to be held this year on Friday October 27, details to be announced. Ω

## Navigator No. 5



Answers to Navigator No. 4:

Across: 5. Coals; 8. Bollards; 9. Tears; 10. Cantieles; 11. A Slow; 14. Etc; 16. Banner; 17. Aboard; 18. Get; 20. After; 24. Seamles; 25. Pints; 26. Dear Wife; 27. Aside.

Down: 1. Aback; 2. Sling; 3. Paris; 4. Odd Lot; 6. Oversea; 7. Larboard; 12. Gaff Rigs; 13. Indented; 14. Erg; 15. Cat; 19. Eyelet; 21. Smart; 22. Peril; 23. Osier.

The winner of Navigator No. 4 was Paul Murphy.

Two tickets for Christmas Dinner and a bottle of house wine with their meal for the first correct entry opened.

Entries to **The Editor, Mainsheet, National Yacht Club, Dun Laoghaire** to arrive not later than 5 p.m., on Wednesday, November 15th, 1995. Test your skill and beat the Navigator to win our super prize.

### Across

5. Old fashioned dinghy for the bird
8. Bit of a blow with the girl to go around
9. To clean with the pole - have a go
10. Sounds like lack of footwear in the cold
11. Ad here
14. V.I.M.
16. To avoid 9 across keep it dry
17. Urge on
18. The way back
20. Pre start position for the jib in
24. CH in sooner for the ships drink
25. CIROB up for an antiseptic 16 across
26. Left hand aperture
27. The barrel is in the boat for stability

### Down

1. Level with the sea
2. Not under your own steam
3. Broad cut
4. A silence for the metal element - not at sea
6. Not old stuff (3,5)
7. Smokers rest?
12. Snag the moorings with this
13. Conforming
14. Interfere
15. Where you sit in church sounds hot
19. Stopper
21. You don't usually get one of these for being first
22. When you are this you are not down under
23. Sounds cold when you let go

# Clara Candy Dun Laoghaire to Dingle Race

**T**wenty five entries for the second Clara Candy sponsored Dun Laoghaire to Dingle Race was almost double the number for the first race in 1993. Competitors ranged from the mighty 53 ft Oyster Haven (RIYC) to the minimum permissible 28 ft LOA of Striopach from the DMYC, both of which retired.

Light northwesterlies prevailed from the start on the evening of Tuesday 4th July and carried spinners beyond Wicklow Head. By the time the leaders rounded the Tuskar on Wednesday morning the wind had, predictably, backed SW, where it remained almost to the finish. With 20 to 25 knots on the nose the fleet had a good thrash along the South coast, not freeing until after rounding the Mizen.

While Adrian Lee's Sigma 400 *Janey Mac II*

(RStGYC) lead for a time in the Irish Sea, Denis Doyle in *Moonduster* (RCYC) was the undisputed champion of the event.

Finishing in an elapsed time of only 46h 16m 10s *Moonduster* took the Clara Candy trophy for first overall on CHS and the new Seamus Gallagher Trophy for the first boat over the line. Finishing nearly 5 hours later, *Janey Mac* was second overall and first in the Sigma division.

The two NYC Sigma 41s enjoyed their usual private race-within-a-race. On this



*Race Patron, Charles J. Haughey presenting Liam Shanahan (Sarah Mercedes) with third overall and second in Sigma Division*

occasion Liam Shanahan's *Sarah Mercedes* triumphed, taking third overall and second in Sigma Division

ahead of Peter Cullen and Martin Crotty in *Koala*.

Another well matched NYC battle was between



*"Koala" departing for Dingle*



**Jenny Cullen of Clara Candy and John Austin at the prizegiving barbecue.**

Commodore Michael Horgan and Peter Ryan's *Emircedes* and her Shamrock sister ship, Paul Kirwan's *Boomerang*. In a relatively close finish after 70 hours racing, *Emircedes* took seventh overall with *Boomerang* in eighth place, finishing less than one hour later.

The remaining NYC entries retired, and like most competitors, spent several weeks cruising the Southwest. Aidan Foy and crew from *Modus Vivendi* reached Dingle by road from Kinsale to take part in that essential ingredient of the Dingle Race, the social aftermath! Cormac McHenry wisely remained with his ship but he sent *Erquy* crewmen Johnny Rooney and Conor Pierce to liven up the proceedings. That was not *Erquy's* only success, for she later completed a dignified circumnavigation returning to Dun Laoghaire in late August.

The next Clara Candy Dun Laoghaire to Dingle Race will start on the evening of Tuesday 1st July, 1997 and will, no

## OUTSTANDING SEASON FOR NYC

.....Continued from Page 1.....

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### ... dominated the Mirror and Optimist Classes

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**Ross, Rebecca Killian and David Crosby** dominated the *Mirror* and *Optimist* Classes where, between them, they had victories in almost all the Regional Championships and one National Title in their respective classes. **Ward Woods and Roger Bannon** achieved 9th and 10th places respectively in the J24 European Championships in July.

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### ... the only boat to win two races in the National Championships

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In the *Mermaids*, **Gay Brennan** in "Tiller Girl" was the only boat to win two races in their National Championships in Clontarf, where he finished fourth overall with John Davis finishing first. Our offshore sailors continued their winning ways in the ISORA series with *Emercedes*, *Escapade* and *Samaki* achieving a regular crop of top three results. **Sean Lemass, Tony Tennyson and Alan Repko** put the skates on "Nyala" this season, taking a few trophies on Dublin Bay and, in the first race at the Autumn series in Howth, they were second in their class. "Nyala" is also the most consistent Dublin visitor to West Cork for Calves Week and, this year, they won the 20th Anniversary Cape Clear Regatta – the first Dublin

boat ever to do so.

The Cruising Group are always busy in their attempts to get as far away from the Club as possible! **Cormac McHenry** took "Erquy" around Ireland and **Leonard Sheil and Family** in "Gay Gannet" undertook some interesting passages in Scottish waters.

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### ... the Club was active in the race management area

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As usual, the Club was active in the race management area, hosting a number of regional, national and international championships and regattas. The Clara Candy Dun Laoghaire to Dingle race was a huge success with double the entries over the inaugural event in 1993.

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### to cap it off and make it all seem worthwhile, we ended up with the winner from the host country and the host club

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Finally, to the Fireball European & World Championships. Two weeks of intensive racing in all kinds of conditions, over 100 volunteer helpers from the Club, dozens of club members boats, the full resources of the boathouse, club facilities and staff, an outstanding Race Officer in *Jack Roy* and, to cap it off and make it all seem worthwhile, we ended up with the winner from the host country and the host club. As the organiser of the event, I couldn't have asked for more. With nearly 90

Fireballs from eleven countries, we had our work cut out for us and, again, I extend my thanks to all the boat owners and helpers who gave up their free time to make this an outstanding event.

Especially, I would like to thank *Jack Roy, Hilda Byrne, Eddie Ferris, John Duff, Jack Owens, Jack Murray & Family and Brien & Anne Barry* who put in countless hours in preparation before the event. Thanks are also due to other club members for their tolerance during the event, as the club was taken over by a host of International sailors and also the snooker players who missed two weeks practice as their billiards room was commandeered!

*John Lavery and David O'Brien's* achievement will go down as one of the highlights in Irish sailing in the last fifteen/twenty years. Their dedication to winning the event was 100% and anything less than first would have been a disappointment to them.

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### ... bask in their reflected glory and congratulate two NYC members on a superb, world beating performance

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We will hear more of their achievement at another time but, for the moment, they may forgive us if we bask in their reflected glory and congratulate two NYC members on a superb, world beating performance.

*Martin Byrne,*  
Sailing Secretary

# Dates

# Catering and Entertainment

# Highlights

## OCTOBER

- Sat 7 Flying Fifteen East Coast Championship Dinner  
 Tue 17 First Ladies Luncheon  
 Fri 20 First Wine Supper  
 Wed 25 First Quiz Night

## NOVEMBER

- Wed 1 Wine Supper  
 Fri 3 Mermaids Frostbite Dinner  
 Wed 8 Quiz Night  
 Fri 10 World Championship Celebration  
 Wed 15 Wine Supper  
 Fri 17 Cruisers I Class Dinner  
 Sat 18 Dinner & Dance Night  
 Mon 20 EGM 7.30 p.m.  
 Tue 21 Ladies Luncheon  
 Wed 22 Quiz  
 Fri 24 Flying Fifteen Annual Dinner  
 Wed 29 Wine Supper

## DECEMBER

- Wed 6 Quiz  
 Fri 8 Ladies Dinner  
 Sat 9 First Christmas Dinner – Booking Forms  
 Sun 10 Santa's Party  
 Wed 13 Wine Supper  
 Sat 16 Second Christmas Dinner – Booking Forms  
 Tue 19 Ladies Christmas Luncheon  
 Sun 24 Christmas Eve Luncheon – Booking Forms  
 Club Premises closed from 4 p.m.  
 Thu 28 Club Re-opens – Normal Bar and Catering  
 Sun 31 New Years Eve Gala Dinner  
 – Booking Forms, Black Tie

As in previous years the Clubhouse will be the focus for many social events over the coming months. Set out below you will find a brief outline of the many activities to be enjoyed.

## — NEWSFLASH —

A Celebration Dinner to honour World Fireball Champions John Lavery and David O'Brien will be held on Friday, 10th November, 1995. Reservations will be strictly limited to 100 members and guests. Tickets (£15.p.p) from Club Manager

## Wine Appreciation Course



Following on the interest shown by members and friends at the last Wine Tasting Dinner (it was a great success), it has been decided to introduce a Wine Appreciation Course.

The course will comprise a series of 10 tastings/ suppers over the winter months. The first of these Tastings will be hosted by Prince Alain of Pomery Champagne and will take place on Friday, October 20th. Subsequent presentations will take place on alternative Wednesdays from November 1.

The fee for the complete course is £100, payable in advance, to include 10 Suppers and Wine Tasting and Course Fee. The Course will be restricted to a maximum of 32 people. Applications to be made to the Club Manager.

## Quiz Nights



The ever popular Bar Table Quiz re commences on Wednesday, October 25th.

Questions as usual, will be set by Levinus Killeen and your Quiz Master once again will be Ken Dumpleton. These evenings are great fun and new teams and faces will be more than welcome. Detains from Ken Dumpleton and the Club Manager.

## Dining & Dancing



Saturday November 18th is the date for the first of our D'n'D Nights. Excellent Value.

## Speakers Suppers



Come along and be entertained, over a pleasant supper, by personalities from the world of Sport or Entertainment.

## Ladies Luncheons



Mid October sees the resumption of these popular Luncheons. As usual the topics will be varied and interesting and of course the food will be of the highest standard. See Club Manager and watch Notice Board for details.

## New Members



New Members who wish to learn more about any of the above are invited to contact Entertainment Officer, Ken Dumpleton or Padraic Conneeley (Club Manager) for additional information.