

# MAINSHEET

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE NATIONAL YACHT CLUB

Issue No.35

May, 2003



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## AGM MARCH 2003

### Extracts from the Commodore's Address

With my first year in office completed, I would like to report on the committee's activities, and to look forward to the main issues confronting our club.

#### Sailing

You have all read the sailing updates in our Mainsheet publication, ably penned by our hard working sailing secretary, Con Murphy, which detailed the successes of NYC sailors at home and abroad.

Our Regatta last June attracted a large entry and with balmy weather, was a great success.

The National Topper Derby, a members fun event here in the harbour, was revived by Cathy McAleevy and stemmed from Carmel Winkleman's original Oppi Derby held some years ago.

Our Olympian sailors have travelled the length and breadth of Europe from Mallorca to Germany, to Turkey and Greece. Aaron O'Grady, Ross Killian and Maria Coleman are competing at the highest level in their campaigns to qualify this year in Athens.

Junior training last year was superbly run by Cathy McAleevy with 140 participants over nine weeks. Winter training, led by Colm Murray, was also a huge success, with about 60 boats training in two sessions over the cold season.

The Club ran no less than 18 events last year without a major glitch. Our good record of race organisation has been much enhanced. The great buzz around the Club last season and during the winter was due to the dedicated work of our sailing committee, event organisers and helpers.

Looking to the current sailing season, the Flying Fifteen Worlds, the Dun Laoghaire to Dingle race and our two Regattas stand out in an already full calendar of events. The Flying Fifteen event is the only World Class event in Ireland this year, and we are fortunate indeed to have it in the National



The Winter social programme is nearly behind us: Those members that like to winter in the NYC have enjoyed convivial evenings in the bar and dining room, and tested their knowledge during quiz nights and wine suppers.

Our cruising group hosted many well attended speaker suppers, and other winter attractions included an olympic fundraiser art evening, with €4,500 being added to our olympic sailing fund which supports our olympic hopefuls and other young people sailing away from home' under the burgee of the Club

Casino Night was a resounding success, with several members losing their shirts in the general



#### Lift In

Lift in was completed, in record time and with no mishaps, on April 12. The 'A-Team' ably cajoled by Peter Ryan and Rafe Shepherd performed to their well-established standard aided by an enthusiastic and committed crew from the boathouse. Congratulations to all on a job well done. Our thanks to those members who have removed their cradles, trailers, etc. and other possessions promptly, which allowed the platform to be tidied and generally readied for the new season; others please copy.



Bernard Smith and Andrew Grey at Lift-In

#### Mooring

On a trial basis, this season, each overnight mooring at the breakwater and pontoon will be invoiced. Boat owners will be given a number of vouchers, which may be used as credit notes, rather like the dining room vouchers. This proposal is in lieu of the previous arrangement of one free night per week, which has proven unwieldy.

#### Lifejackets

Last year, the wearing of lifejackets in Club launches was made mandatory. Members are requested to support this safety

*Continued from page 1*

## AGM March 2003: Extracts from the Commodore's Address

Our membership has continued to grow despite many concerns expressed as to the effects of the Marina on the National Yacht Club. Many sailors use our facilities on a regular basis, and during the season in particular, who are not members of this Club or indeed any other waterfront club. To this end, our committee will soon be in discussion with racing boat owners and skippers, with a view to enrolling their crew as members of the National. We have a generous and well thought out crew membership scheme, and these non-members who regularly use our facilities will be approached and invited to apply for membership. Please be tolerant if you are asked for evidence of membership during this season. I ask you all for your support in this membership initiative.

Our website is probably the best in the Irish Sailing scene. If you are not a regular viewer, do get on line. The password to the special members section can be obtained from the office.

Looking to the future, we have initiated the preliminary work leading to developing a Club strategy for the next five to eight years. I am indebted particularly to our Committee member, David Duffy, for allowing us to avail of his time and that of his company, Prospectus. Most members have heard that there is a possibility that the waterfront clubs would be in a position to buy out the leasehold on their premises. The Committee has been actively pursuing this option. The advantages are obvious – it would secure the Club's position well into the future.

#### Development Plans

To date, final planning permission has not yet been granted owing to some last minute requests from the planners for clarification and consultation. This is normal with works associated with listed buildings. Nevertheless, we feel confident that final planning will be granted in the near future leading to a commencement of building in October of this year, provided, of course, the membership approves the final plans and financial package. Our financial sub-committee is working to produce a plan to fund the building and renovations and I envisage a further information meeting in the very near future, leading to an EGM to vote on the issues. I cannot stress too much the importance of this development to the National Yacht Club.

The extensive renovation and redecoration of the bar and dining room, and the provision of new and updated changing rooms is only a part of this project. With increased space to expand our informal dining and bar activities downstairs; with improved office accommodation; with refitted kitchens, with new, more accessible toilet facilities and improved hallway layout, the Club will be in a position to move forward into 2004 with a new outlook and purpose. The Flag Officers, and Committee are as one on this development. I am looking for your absolute support when the time comes for you to cast your votes in this matter.

Our Staff continue to give their all in every way possible for all the many functions the National Yacht Club holds during the year, and

Continued from page 1

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The Regatta is the premier sailing event of the year and we look forward to all boats, yachts and dinghies competing. If, for any reason, you cannot enter your boat, please do volunteer to assist with the many tasks required to ensure the success of the day. Sailing Secretary's forms are available in the hall or on the web.

**The Flying Fifteen Pre-worlds and World Championships** are the big events of the year. Cooperation of members is essential to the success of the Championships. All non-competing boats and dinghies will have to vacate the platform in good time to allow space for the visitors. There will be no berthing on the breakwater or pontoons during the event and no crane service. Many volunteers will be required, so, please, do commit to supporting this event. Members are encouraged to enjoy the après race in the clubhouse.

Safety remains of paramount importance on the platform, pontoons and afloat. Please ensure that you advise your crew of the potential hazards and that personal flotation devices are worn at all times on the pontoons, in the launches and while afloat. All boat owners should advise the boathouse staff when going out sailing and of their expected return.

**This also applies to dinghy sailors.** Please leave the contact number of a person ashore any time you are sailing.

Sponsorship is always required for the various Club events. The Fifteen Worlds has major funding from the Sports Council. However, there is room for a major brand to come on board. Our Regatta and Junior Regatta also present opportunities for sponsors. Please do make contact with an officer of the Club if you think you can sponsor a Club event.

Yacht registration is a requirement for all boats with NYC on the transom. Only registered boats are permitted to fly the Club ensign. Registration forms are available on the website.

Our volunteers give enormous help in the running of events and it would not be possible to function without our team

Finally, if you are looking for a boat or dinghy, why not refer to the noticeboard on the excellent NYC website. Should you have a boat to sell, post it on the web noticeboard. Good sailing.

Ronan Beirne, Rear Commodore

## SAILING SECRETARY'S DIARY

### Recent events

**Dinghy Training Programme** – Sept/Dec course concluded on Sunday, Dec 7 with successful end of course regatta run in blustery NEly. Second 8 week programme ran from Jan 12 to March 2.

**Sigma 33 Charity Race Day** – Sat, Dec 28. Over 150 sailors turned out to race 14 Sigmas and 4 other cruisers in aid of the National Rehab Hospital organised by a team lead by Tim Goodbody and run under the Burgee of the NYC. The two windward/leeward races, run in ideal sailing conditions from DBSC's *MacLir* were won by Dermot Baker and his crew of 12! on *Shilelagh*. The NYC staff put on a tremendous show for the packed après sail drinks, meal and prizegiving in the Club.

**1 Meter class** – active throughout Winter.

### Round Ireland Record

Press reports during last few weeks that Colm Barrington will attempt to regain his round Ireland Monohull record. He has neither confirmed or denied report!

There has also been considerable interest, among some new big multi-hulls, in making an attempt at the Round Ireland Record set in Sept. 1993 by *Lakota* in a time of 44 hrs, 45 mins.

There is some confusion about the two divisions in the Round Ireland Record – The Round Ireland Open Record and the Round Ireland Monohull Record and I would like to take this opportunity to clarify the situation.

In 1993, *Lakota* (a trimaran with five



Mirror Spring Regatta, March, 2003

Following *Lakota's* record, in order to broaden the scope of 'Round Ireland' record sailing, Cork Dry Gin put up an additional trophy, solely for monohulls: the Cork Dry Gin Round Ireland Monohull Record Trophy. This is the trophy that the Irish Independent crew were recently awarded following their breaking of the Monohull record with a time of 75hrs, 53 mins and which is now also on display (temporarily) in the dining room.

Also following *Lakota's* sail, it was agreed with the Irish Distillers and the NYC with the support of the ISA and the Minister of the Marine, that challenges for either of these trophies must be made through the NYC and that the NYC will supply officials to monitor any record attempt. The NYC continues to fulfill this role and full details, conditions of challenge and entry forms are on the Club website.

**Mirror Spring Regatta**, March 15/16, Youth Academy Training weekend March 15/16/17 – St. Patrick's Holiday weekend produced fantastic sailing with a warm F2-4 South Easterly all weekend. With the two events plus some 15 training and all the cruiser work being done on the platform, the Club was packed out all weekend. The five race Mirror regatta was won by Bobby Collins and Fintan Hughes of the NYC. The Club together with the Mirror Class and the ISA hosted a reception for the successful Mirror Worlds team on





*Cadet of the Year, Robert Collins and Fintan Hughes lead the fleet to win the DBSC September Series*

**Other winter sailing** – this winter in addition to sailing mentioned above, several other members are regularly sailing – either frostbiting dinghies on Sunday afternoons, (mainly Lasers and fireballs) or training – Mirrors – Lasers – Des Gibney and others are out training regularly, 420's, flying fifteens – worlds qualifiers plus some hopefuls (inc. Rear Commodore). Six NYC juniors sailed in the optimist team trials run over three weekends at Lough Derg, Howth and Kinsale in March and April – great learning experience for our young group.

**Earlybird Dinghy Regatta** – Sun, April 27 – omens were not good for our Earlybird again this year (postponed last year due weather) with the glorious spring weather breaking on the previous Thursday and replaced with fast moving frontal systems bringing lots of rain and wind. Based on the forecast, many had decided to go to the rugby European cup semi-final in Lansdowne instead. Despite this, there was a good turnout of 40 Lasers and Optimists including some very competitive visitors from Skerries, Blessington, Malahide, Howth and Sutton and they were rewarded with two good races around a harbour course in SW winds gusting up to 25 kts. Overall winners were Evan Dolan (NYC) in the full rig Laser, Bobby Collins (NYC) – in

## ROUND IRELAND SPEED RECORD

By Ian Downing

**W**hat started off as an opportunity to sail on a Maxi around the bay developed into three months of hard work, battered bodies, plenty of beer and the ultimate prize and to be able to say that I was a crew member of the boat that now holds the Round Ireland Speed Record.

Leading up to the attempt, we had plenty of opportunity to consolidate a crew that could work together as a team. We did the Howth Series, followed by training sessions every Saturday and Sunday. Everyone and every body could feel the amount of effort that has to go into a boat of this size. The size of fixtures and sheets as well as the loading on them is phenomenal.

Then came the most stressful part of the trip. When to leave. The weather continuously refused to play her part and so the boat remained prepared while we were pacifying our bosses about leave arrangements. Then the emails and phone calls started. Wednesday, 6 pm on the boat. We were finally leaving.

Climbing onto the boat with my spare foul weather gear and toothbrush (in the interest of keeping the boat as light as possible) it appeared to be a situation of organised chaos. With several questions in our heads: will I be warm and dry enough; have I forgotten anything; why am I doing this; everyone went about their duties and in no time at all the *Irish Independent Challenger* slipped her moorings and headed off to the Kish Lighthouse, the official start/finish line.

Shortly after 10pm we bade the Dun Laoghaire lifeboat farewell and surged over the line full of confidence and a hint of trepidation. Almost immediately, we fell into a watch system. Three hours on and three off. As the boat below is of a spartan nature, together with the exposed winch gearing, any chance of

kite around the forestay. Almost immediately the decision was made. Up went the bowman who proceeded to cut the kite away. Unfortunately, due to the sea conditions and in the interest of safety, the kite could not be fully removed and so we decided to reassess the situation in the daylight. Daylight came, the kite was finally cleared and a headsail raised. This was a great morale booster for the crew as we continued to race north under a clear blue sky, with the Mull of Kintyre in the distance.

Darkness rapidly engulfed the boat as we continue around the north. At the moment we are ahead of schedule and spirits are high. Then out of the darkness she appeared. A loud throbbing noise and a piercing light. A welcome visit from The Air Corps Sea King helicopter and an opportunity for some great photographs.

Daylight and the Atlantic arrived almost simultaneously. Unfortunately the wind had eased a little leaving the sea very confused. As we raced south, it felt as though the sea was controlling the boat, as we were violently shaken about while slamming off the back of waves. The Atlantic was living up to its reputation. Together with relentless sail changes and the necessity of moving all weight to the windward side after each tack, any chance of sleep was forgotten.

As we slipped past the Fastnet Rock on Saturday morning, hopes were high. The record was still achievable. We could almost taste that first pint. Then the wind died.

We slowly crept up the Irish Sea with the tide behind us. By now the watch system had been forgotten, everyone was on sitting on the leeward rail trying to coax every bit of speed out of the boat. You could see the tiredness and look of uncertainty in everyone's faces. No one spoke as we mentally calculated distance versus time, always keeping that result to yourself. You can't jinx the boat when you are that close.

And then out of the blue, the wind picked up, we reefed the main and charged down towards the Kish. With flares glowing on the foredeck and under the scrutiny of the *Granuaile* we crossed

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Award winners

media, radio operators, weather providers, lifeboat crews and the National Yacht Club.

And a special thanks to all my fellow crew members who made this opportunity become a reality: Gary Keegan, Krys Owczarek, Conor Kissane, Stephen Harris, Patrick Delfense, Eion Leehey, Dave Doherty, Dave Bolton, Ruari Herraghty, Mick Liddy, Marius Klupinski, Stuart Fogarty, James Gunn, Jozek Soszyki, Mark Maloney, Eamonn Maloney, Ben O'Sullivan, Eoin Quinlan, Andrea Dunbar, Barry Hayes, Eion Healey, Juliette Nash, Karl McGinty, Karen Steward.

## CRUISING GROUP

The cruising group's winter programme concluded on Thursday, April 3 with a talk on weather at sea by Willemien Van Hoeve. Frank Cassidy's talk on his involvement in the ARC race was so popular that we had to run it twice. Equally successful was the talk by Barbara and Frank Fitzgibbon on their two year sail around the world. Ray Marshall organised a very successful supper / seminar on the subject of chartering overseas with presentations by Barry

## SAILING AWARDS

The Annual Sailing Awards Dinner, the occasion when we recognise the special achievements of our fellow members in cruising, racing and service to the sport of sailing, was held on Saturday, April 12, 2003

The National Yacht Club has seven annual awards for outstanding sailing achievements by members of the Club. Arising from nominations received from members of the Committee and Sailing Sub Committee, the awards for the 2002 season were as follows:

**The Township Cup** – which was given to our predecessors, the Edward Yacht Club, as a small cruise challenge cup in 1927, is now awarded for the most impressive cruise – Frank Cassidy for his participation in the ARC from Las Palmas to St. Lucia and subsequent cruise home via Bermuda and The Azores.

**The Muglins Cup** – which was presented by past member and Commodore Mr. JJ O'Leary in 1946 and is now awarded for the most interesting family cruise – Cormac Mc Henry for his voyage home from Holland via Norway and the Caledonian Canal in Island Life.

**The Boyne Regatta Cup** – originally presented by the Kingstown Harbour Boat Club in 1870 – is now awarded for the best performance in offshore racing.

**The John Byrne Memorial Trophy** – presented to the NYC by Mrs. Hilda Byrne and her family in 1989 in memory of her husband and past Commodore, John is awarded for the greatest contribution to sailing in the NYC during the previous year or years – John Walker for his service to the sport as a long standing member of the Club, former president of the IYA, Dragon class, Mermaid class, National race officer, Commodore of DBSC and present trustee of the NYC.

**The Winkelmann Trophy** – a new trophy, this year, presented by Mrs. Carmel Winkelmann, first junior organiser of the NYC in 1967 and long time event organiser and supporter, to be awarded to the Cadet member of the National Yacht Club who is deemed, by virtue of his sailing ability, to be 'Cadet of the Year' – Bobby Collins (18) for his great season including winning the ISA Junior Helmsman of the year sailed in Firefly's at the RYC in September and finishing 4th in the Mirror World Championships in Tasmania in January.

## MAVIS RETURNS

Mavis was designed, built and successfully skippered for over thirty years by John B Kearney of the National Yacht Club. Skipper Kearney designed many yachts and boats over a lifetime and is best remembered for the Dublin Bay Mermaid in which many Dublin Bay sailors have served their apprenticeship.

After the Mavis was launched Skipper Kearney's sailing companion, Gerry Coath, built a fine model of the Mavis which has been presented on loan to the Irish Cruising Club by his grandchildren Louise and Edward Drew.

Skipper Kearney was a former Flag Officer of the National Yacht Club. In recognition of the long association of the Skipper and the Mavis with the National Yacht Club. The Irish Cruising Club have given the very fine model to our Club for safekeeping.



Dear Parents,

This summer, there will be four two-week courses as follows:

**Course 1** Mon, June 2 – Fri, June 14

**Course 2** Mon, June 16 – Fri, June 27

**Course 3** Mon, June 30 – Fri, July 11

**Course 4** Mon, July 14 – Fri, July 25

Application forms, together with full details, are now available in the Club hall or on [www.nyc.ie](http://www.nyc.ie). Applicants must be children of members or be a cadet member. The closing date for applications is Friday, May 9, 2003. Course places are limited and allocated on a first come, first served basis.

All applicants must have a boat or have a prior and definite arrangement to share a 2-man boat with another child. Boats must be in good condition and safe for racing in Dublin Bay. The swimming test for new applicants is scheduled for Thursday, May 29 at 6 p.m. A briefing for Parents will be held in the Club on Monday, April 28 at 8 p.m. This will include a presentation from the ISA's Youth Performance Manager – Bill O'Hara – on youth sailing in general.

The Club's Earlybird Regatta for Dinghies will be held on Sunday, April 27. I encourage all junior sailors to enter this one day/two race club event – full details and entry forms are available. I also ask you to consider travelling to some of the open events being held around the country this summer – participation in these improves junior sailors enormously and is essential for those who wish to progress to Levels 4 and 5. Examples of such events being run over the May bank holiday weekend are the **Connaught Optimists Championships** in Mullaghmore and the **Ulster Laser Championships** in Enniskillen.

*Looking forward to a good junior season,  
Yours sincerely, Cathy Mac Aleavey, Junior Organiser NYC*



## Snooker News

It is with great sadness that we report the death of John P. Maguire. Despite his diminutive stature John was larger than life. Every snooker player in the waterfront clubs has their own favourite

'Goo' story. He has been a stalwart supporter of the NYC and Inter-club competition. He was responsible for a number of ventures outside Dublin bay, notably, the 'Landlubbers Voyage' to Howth. Our sympathies go to Maura and his immediate family.

The NYC has won the Inter-club competition again this year and the trophy is back in its natural home.

The final of the Preston Ball was played between Michael Creedon and David Gorman. David won over two frames which were entertainingly fought out. The second frame in particular was wonderful to watch with both players switching between defence and attack. Congratulations to David, commiserations to Michael and thanks to both for a well fought final.



## JUNIOR DISCO

Cadets and their guests must be 18 years of age for admission to the bar. Only those with satisfactory evidence of age (e.g. Garda I.D.) will be admitted. Inspection of I.D. will be enforced.

The Committee

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The Committee

## MME 2003

## NEW MEMBERS ROLL

Welcome to these members who have recently joined the NYC

### FULL

Nick Fishy  
Ciaran Deerey  
Dennis Hewitt  
Thomas Leonard  
Andrew Mackley  
Ross Cahill O'Brien  
Tony O'Rourke  
Rickard Nally

### CADET

Darran Byrne-Ryan  
David Gibson  
Tom Hill  
Neil Maher  
Scott Mathews  
David McDonagh  
Paul O'Brien

### COUNTRY

Austin Power  
Harry Hogg  
Catherine McGrath  
Euan Sellar

### OVERSEAS

Anthony O'Connor  
Frederick Coxon  
William Shaffer

### ENSIGN

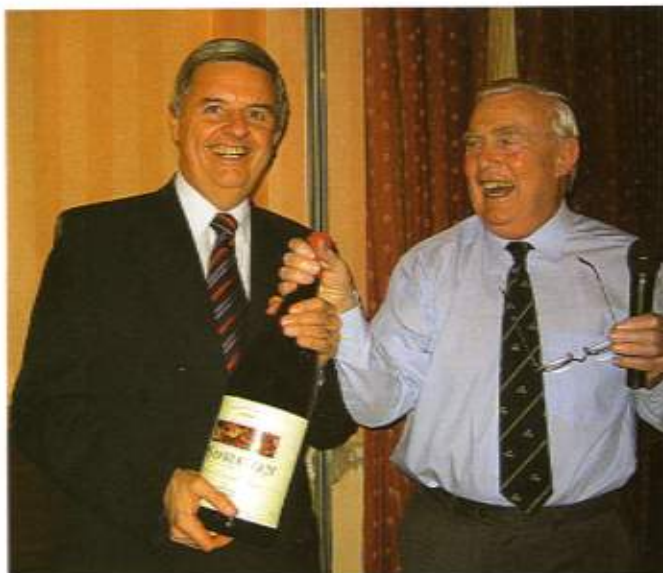
Anthony Terryson

### SPOUSE

Mary Nowlan  
Anthony Shanks

### HOWTH

Paul Anthony Williams



Ken Slattery, accepting his prize for the wine quiz from wine expert, Pat Byrne

## CHILDREN'S OFFICER

Deirdre Byrne has been appointed children's officer of the NYC. In respect of this, it is important that members should know and understand the function of the position which is authorised and encouraged by the ISA.



## The Navigator

No. 29

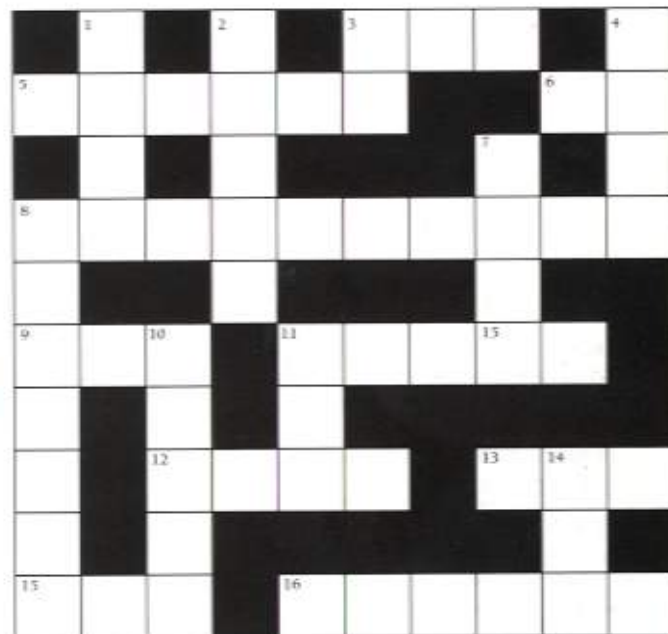


### Across

- 3 does he create a buzz (3)
- 5 & 12 Eskimo washer (6,4)
- 6 be quiet (2)
- 8 & 16 marine debris (7, 3, 6)
- 9 Not E, low (3)
- 11 Drops confused persuader (5)
- 13 Fool (3)
- 15 Printers measures (3)

### Down

- 1 verbal (4)
- 2 brief statistics (5)
- 3 not Ad (2)
- 4 African state (4)
- 7 "... of brothers" (4)
- 8 no charge (7)
- 10 goes against the sun (5)
- 11 vegetable (3)
- 14 ... one of seven (3)



Entries should reach the editor before sundown on July 25, 2003. As usual, the prize will be dinner for two with a bottle of house wine for the first correct entry opened.

Results of Navigator 28: Across: 3. IOU, 5. trapped 6. eg. 8. twentyones, 9. eye, 11. scram, 12. rroue, 13. ate, 15. sos, 16. stitch. Down: 1. crow, 2. opens, 3. id, 4. egos, 7. inca, 8. theorys, 10. earns, 11. spurs, 14. tic. Winner no 29: Hubert Kearns.

# Social Calendar

## MAY

- Tue **13** Ladies Day Luncheon
- Sat **17** Club Dinner with piano music
- Sun **18** Family Luncheon
- Sat **24** Baily Bowl Sailing Supper
- Sun **25** Family Luncheon
- Sat **31** Club Dinner with piano music

## JUNE

- Sun **1** Family Luncheon
- Sat **7** Club Dinner
- Sun **8** Family Luncheon
- Sat **14** Club Dinner with piano music
- Sun **15** Family Luncheon
- Mon **16** Bloomsday Lunch *see Highlights*
- Sat **21** National Yacht Club Regatta
- Sun **22** Bar Facilities Only
- Sat **28** Club Dinner with piano music

## JULY

- Tue **1** Dun Laoghaire to Dingle Race Start 1100 hrs
- Sat **5** Club Dinner
- Sun **6** Family Luncheon
- Sat **12** Club Dinner with piano music
- Sun **13** Family Luncheon
- Wed **16** National Yacht Club Junior Regatta
- Sat **19** 1720s East Coast Championships  
Club Dinner
- Sun **20** Family Luncheon
- Sat **26** Club Dinner with piano music
- Sun **27** Family Luncheon
- Tue **29** Flying 15 Open Championship of Ireland and

## Bloomsday Lunch

June 16 is now firmly established as one of the highlights of the summer season and the timetable is as follows:

1-00 p.m. Wine and Cheese Reception followed by readings

1-30 p.m. Lunch

3-00 p.m. Live music with cameo

Early booking is advisable, €30-00 per person.



## National Yacht Club Regatta

Afternoon sounds in the marquee with the Stedfast Band

Regatta Dinner at 8-30 p.m.

Disco in Marquee 9-30 till 12 midnight

Live music in Marquee midnight till 2 a.m. Fresh strawberries, burgers and sandwiches available in the afternoon

Children's facepainting.

Full bar service in marquee until 2 a.m.