



THE NEWSLETTER OF THE NATIONAL YACHT CLUB

Issue No.37

Christmas, 2003



IN THIS ISSUE

3/4/5/6

Sailing News

6

Junior Sailing,
New Members Roll

7


Snooker News,
Navigator

8

Social Calendar

National Yacht Club
Dun Laoghaire, Co. Dublin.
Tel: 280 5725 Fax: 280 7837
email: nationalyachtclub@eircom.net
website: www.nyc.ie



 At an EGM on October 28, members voted in favour of proceeding with the refurbishment and extension plans to the National Yacht Club. Since then, however, many members have expressed concerns, surrounding the funding of this important development.

The Flag Officers and the Committee are still strongly of the opinion that the Club must move forward. However, to be sure that all members are of the same mind, it has been decided to hold another EGM on December 22 with the intention of rescinding earlier decisions, further discussion and for the Committee to present alternative financing and phasing proposals leading to consensus, hopefully, early in the new year.

Lift out

Lift out went without a hitch! Sincere thanks to Peter Ryan and his team, and of course to

house staff. Despite restricted platform space this year, all keel boats were accommodated with room remaining for, albeit restricted, winter sailing.

Summer Sailing Season

What a busy season! Despite hosting the Subaru Flying 15 Worlds, Sailing Secretary, Con Murphy managed to run many other successful events, as reported in the last edition of Mainsheet. Junior training with Cathy Macaleavey proved to be a resounding success with 120 participants.

Winter Season.

Things are busy on the social






finished. Wine Suppers, Quiz Nights and Class Dinners are now in full swing. Club Manager, Padraic Conneely and Social Secretary, Anita Begley have more delights in store during the festive season and into the New Year. Head Chef, Cormac Healy continues to produce fine food to further entice our members to dine at the National.

Santa will be making his way to the NYC as usual, on December 7 to meet all our junior members! With carol singing and festive fare we look forward to an enjoyable and, perhaps, energetic Christmas time.

Seasons greetings to all, from the Flag Officers and Committee.

Health & Safety

Thanks to our excellent team we had a good lift-out day. I would now like to ask for further co-operation from our boat-owners regarding the use of electric cables carrying 220 Volts on the platform during the winter season as follows :-

-  check carefully that cables are in good order without any damage to the insulation and plugs/sockets
-  ensure that plugs are not fitted with fuses rated higher than 13 Amps
-  cables should be without intermediate connections and with sound and undamaged outer sheath; if repaired or if repairs are needed this should be done with materials superior to the usual PVC tape which is far from weatherproof, e.g. self amalgamating tape or heat shrink sleeve.
-  do not leave any cables trailing along the ground, but raise them about 8-ft above the ground and tie them to the toe-rail or lower stanchion wire, if necessary from boat-to-boat until it reaches your boat (always in consultation with the other boat-owners involved)
-  at the point where it is plugged into the club's socket, leave a small loop in the cable to prevent rainwater running along the cable into the plug and/or socket

Gerry Pinkster, H&S Committee Liaison Officer.

Life Jackets

We have just learned that life jackets will be mandatory for all classes at next year's Dun Laoghaire Regattas.

NATIONAL YACHT CLUB CLUBHOUSE DINING

Evening Catering in
Dining Room Tuesday-Friday

Bar Lunch Tuesday-Friday

OBITUARY

John Walker

John Walker, trustee and long time member of the National, passed away in early November. Johnny enjoyed a life of sailing and his name is on many sailing trophies.

A Mermaid sailor at a time when the class was the biggest class in Dublin Bay and in Irish waters, Johnny and Audrey ensured that *Tiller Girl* was engraved on many Dublin Bay trophies. Later, Johnny was one of the early Dragon sailors and sailed *Andromeda*, again with great success. Giving up racing the more sedate *Moody Jacquaranda* was acquired for extensive cruising. While Johnny enjoyed his sailing he also was totally committed to the organization of sailing to ensure the enjoyment of all sailors.

A lifetime of service Johnny served the sailing community as Commodore of Dublin Bay Sailing Club, President of the Irish Sailing Association, President of the Dragon Association and Trustee of the National Yacht Club.

Johnny was the perfect gentleman with a warm personality and practical mind that ensured the respect and friendship of those around him, we will greatly miss a special member who contributed so much to sailing and his club.

Captain G.E. (Eric) Healy

In the closing stages of World War II, Eric Healy left Dublin and went to serve his apprenticeship at sea. After extensive voyaging as a ships officer, he became skipper of the *Asgard* in 1968. *Asgard* and Eric introduced many young people and indeed many NYC members to offshore sailing.

Asgard was replaced in 1975 with *Creidne* also christened by Eric or plans were completed and

OBITUARY

John Walker

John Walker, trustee and long time member of the National, passed away in early November. Johnny enjoyed a life of sailing and his name is on many sailing trophies.

A Mermaid sailor at a time when the class was the biggest class in Dublin Bay and in Irish waters, Johnny and Audrey ensured that *Tiller Girl* was engraved on many Dublin Bay trophies. Later, Johnny was one of the early Dragon sailors and sailed *Andromeda*, again with great success. Giving up racing the more sedate *Moody Jacquaranda* was acquired for extensive cruising. While Johnny enjoyed his sailing he also was totally committed to the organization of sailing to ensure the enjoyment of all sailors.

A lifetime of service Johnny served the sailing community as Commodore of Dublin Bay Sailing Club, President of the Irish Sailing Association, President of the Dragon Association and Trustee of the National Yacht Club.

Johnny was the perfect gentleman with a warm personality and practical mind that ensured the respect and friendship of those around him, we will greatly miss a special member who contributed so much to sailing and his club.

Captain G.E. (Eric) Healy

In the closing stages of World War II, Eric Healy left Dublin and went to serve his apprenticeship at sea. After extensive voyaging as a ships officer, he became skipper of the *Asgard* in 1968. *Asgard* and Eric introduced many young people and indeed many NYC members to offshore sailing.

Asgard was replaced in 1975 with *Crepidne* also skippered by Eric as plans were completed and



SAILING SECRETARY'S REPORT – NOVEMBER '03

Thursday, September 4 – End of season race
Sou'easterly 10kts, 52 starters.

Marvelous race in perfect conditions – started from the bandstand – in 2 flights – under and over 30ft – to the forty foot, around the Muglins and back to a bandstand finish. Considerable congestion at the start and through the harbour mouth made this years race a great spectacle for the pier walkers and a nerve racking experience for the boat owners. However no major damage and a great sail and evening followed. Line honours to *Voodoo Chile*. Club packed out for apres sail and prizegiving.



Jockeying at the start of the Topper Derby

DBSC Sept Junior series

Four Sundays racing hosted by NYC – good turnout from the club each Sunday of junior Optimists, Mirrors and Lasers. Such a success that racing continued for additional 3 Sundays until liftout. Laser Radial won by Claudine Murphy, 4.7 by Annalise Murphy, Dearbhla Byrne finished 2nd in the Mirrors, Fiona Byrne Ryan and Peter Mulvin were 3rd and 4th in the very competitive Optimist Fleet.

Dublin Bay Racing

The NYC dominated the Cruiser 1 Class this season in IRC with a 1, 2, 3 by *Loose Change*, *Kind of Magic* and *Voodoo Chile*. *Kind of Magic* also won the Cr 1 Class

Eamon Crosbie's Kerr 32, *Voodoo Chile*, *National Yacht Club Winner of Class O*, *Howth Autumn League*



NYC End of Season Race, fleet bunching after Start

overall on *ECHO*. In the Shipman Class, *Mulindi* and *Bluefin* dominated and NYC boats also did well in several other classes including Flying Fifteens, Mermaids, DB 24s, Ruffians and Cruiser 3s.

Key Events 1720 Autumn series

3 Saturdays of light winds and one 25kt day attracted a dozen competitive 1720s including the 4 top Howth boats. Local 1720 – Yoke (Adam Winkelmann) – close winner from Key Events on final day.

Mermaid/Flying Fifteen Frostbite

October series won by class national championship –



Gorman Trophy for Optimists

Roger Bannon and FF won by Justin Burke.

November 1/2 – Optimist Gorman Trophy

This event was a great success – the forecast gales never appeared allowing a full schedule of racing for the 50 Optimists who had traveled from around the country and from Wales for what is the final Optimist championship



of the season. Racing was run in Scotmans Bay on day one and in the Harbour on day 2 giving the competitors a good mix of conditions. Event winner was current national champion – Conor O'Brien of Lough Derg YC. Best NYC sailor was Fiona Byrne-Ryan who had a great result – 2nd girl and 7th place overall.

Without any doubt, this has been a great sailing year for the Club and our members. We have successfully run 20 separate racing events for all classes from Optimists to 60 footers, from the Junior regatta to the Flying Fifteen World Championships, from the End of Season Muglins race to the Dunlaoghaire to Dingle Race. Many of our members have had an outstanding season at both National and International level from our Optimists sailors to our Class 0 cruiser racers and from our Flying Fifteen crews to our Olympic campaigners.



Sunset in Biscay

A lot of thanks must go to the Boat House staff under Colm Dempsey for providing the support for our racing and training activities and maintaining our fantastic platform and pontoon facilities in top condition all season long, to the Manager and his staff for the welcome and service they give to members and visitors alike and to our web master, Brendan Chawke for his event support. Thanks also to the numerous volunteers who assisted in the organisation and running of events, in particular the owners of the fine flagships we have had the privilege of using this season.



The crew of Cormac McHenry, Chris Batt and Pat Pierce who took *Island Life* up the river Guadalquivir to her winter berth in Seville, Spain

have several Dinghy and Cruiser Championships being hosted by the Club to look forward to, starting off with the ISA Youth Championships after Easter. As well as our Olympic Campaigners, many of our younger sailors will be training hard over the Winter, aiming to qualify for National squads and teams and our big keelboat sailors will be working on their boats to ensure more success next season.

EXPERIENCE A HIGH !



hat memorable weather! The trade-off for seemingly endless weeks of sun was less wind than normal. Sales of diesel rocketed. Those who cruised the Irish coast, in August especially, found themselves in Cote de Glandore or Porta Kilmore – it was wonderful.

Wives, partners and bank managers were confronted by brazen, bronzed, bewitched skippers confidently justifying the wisdom of buying a boat. The previous cold years were forgotten and of course 2004 will be just as hot!

The Nationals cruisers carried the club burgee north and south. Cormac McHenry made it all look easy again by sauntering down the coast of France and Spain in *Island Life* and wintering in Seville.

John Hall nonchalantly (well almost) cruised 30 *Something* up to East Tarbert in Scotland. He took part in a hectic weeks of racing, returned to Dun Laoghaire and later covered 1800 miles down to Estapona on Pat Levin's





crew of Cormac McHenry, Chris Butt and Pat Pierce who land *Life* up the river Guadalquivir to her winter berth in Seville, Spain

several Dinghy and Cruiser Championships being organized by the Club to look forward to, starting off with the Youth Championships after Easter. As well as our Cruising Campaigners, many of our younger sailors will be training hard over the Winter, aiming to qualify for national squads and teams and our big keelboat sailors are working on their boats to ensure more success next season.

EXPERIENCE A HIGH!

What memorable weather! The trade-off for these seemingly endless weeks of sun was less wind than normal. Sales of diesel rocketed. Those who cruised the Irish coast, in August especially, found themselves in Cote de Glandore or Santa Kilmore – it was wonderful.

Partners and bank managers were confronted by the bronzed, bewitched skippers confidently rejecting the wisdom of buying a boat. The cold years were forgotten and of course winter will be just as hot!

National cruisers carried the club burgee north and south. Cormac McHenry made it all easy again by sauntering down the coast of France and Spain in *Island Life* and wintering in Seville.

John Hall nonchalantly (well almost) cruised 3000 miles up to East Tarbert in Scotland. He took part in a hectic week of racing, returned to Dun Laoghaire and later covered 1800 miles down to Estanona on Pat Levin's



On their way to Athens, Ger Owens and Ross Killian

Jim Gorman's *Helcia* pushed on into the Mediterranean and Jim finally relaxed in Sardinia. A fantastic trip!

France continues to exert a pull on Peter Cullen and Martin Crotty. It can't have anything to do with the suspicious clink of bottles from a slight starboard list as *Koala* came home.



Helcia, with a fair wind south

Temper Tantrum did not live up to her name as she carried Ciaran Hughes speedily and comfortably on a return journey down the French coast to La Rochelle.

Michael Campbell's *Movita* finally made it to the turquoise water, white sand and timeless beauty of the Scilly Isles. It was worth the wait.

Barry O'Mahoney's *Nora B* didn't fall into that trap. Barry, Pat and his crew were determined to visit as many harbours and restaurants on the south coast, as time would allow. They were successful – true, discerning cruisers.

Finally, a big congratulations to the Cruising Association of Ireland for its second year of activity. Well done.

To all our boathouse staff who were so helpful and supportive during 2003 – a grateful THANKS.

GAY GANNET'S CELEBRATION CRUISE TO WEST CORK



Forty years ago, *Gay Gannet* a Sterling, was built in Brixam, Devon. Twenty five years ago we became the proud owners.

To celebrate these two events, and indeed our own forty years and more of sailing together, we took her back to West Cork for five and a half weeks of sheer pleasure, the highlight of which was the Glandore Classic Regatta, a unique event in the sailing calendar. A committee of great talent and enthusiasm create an unforgettable week. "Its like a children's party," someone commented "everyone goes home with a prize!" As we stood on the tiny pier in this truly beautiful place, we overheard two children chatting "Its the Queen's boat" one said. "Yea, but I don't think she's on it" the other replied.

Looking towards Adam and Eve it was no bad



Sailing News

6



Memories? The full fleet sail past on Sunday – all colour and excitement. Fuchias and ferns. The warm wall outside The Glandore Inn and Hayes Bar, morning, noon or sunset! Fireworks and

dancing with Rockin' Gerry where grown men and women became teenagers, and everyone knew the songs.

Seafood and steaks in the Glandore Inn. The people, the welcome. We could go on and on! And for the rest of the month we did indeed do so, meandering as far as Castletownbere and all places in between, connecting with family here and there.


Laurence Cove, Mizen, Crookhaven, Cape Clear, Sherkin, Schull, Baltimore, Long Island. Back to Kinsale, Cork Harbour, Crosshaven and East Ferry; where thoughts of the return home reluctantly crossed our minds. Waterford Harbour and another fireworks display eased the pain of departure. Pretty Kilmore Quay, familiar Arklow, and home. Once again, our beloved Gay Gannet had taken us to paradise and back. P.S. And indeed Gay Gannet did win a prize!!



Junior Sailing

Winter Junior Sailing

Frostbite and Optimist Dun Laoghaire/Howth Polar series

 Junior Frostbite racing series organised by the NYC continues each Sunday until mid December and the NYC/HYC Optimist Polar series has also been running to bring the Dublin area fleets together for racing over 6 weekends – alternating between

NOEL CASEY – ARC RACE – CANARIES TO ST. LUCIA

Noel Casey is crossing the pond (ARC, Canaries to St. Lucia) having left the Canaries on Saturday, November 25 with Greg and Sylvia Barnicoat. Aboard Kish. Also braving the Atlantic and "doing the ARC" (Atlantic Rally for Cruisers) is Conor O'Regan aboard Pamina with crew Brendan O'Regan and Henretia Sakellariou.



ATHENS IN SIGHT



So where are we now, with eleven months to go? We now have Olympic slots secured in Europe, Finn, Star and 470M class.



In Europe and 470M we have just one campaign per class. Maria Coleman in Europe and Ger Owens and Ross Killian in the 470. Barring disaster they will be our representatives in Athens next year.

Ger Owens and Ross Killian Bill O'Hara, ISA's Youth Performance Manager has been selected by the International Sailing Federation to be a member of the International Jury panel that will adjudicate at the Athens Olympics in August 2004.

Bill was the ISA 2000 Olympic Team Manager and sailed the Finn dinghy in the 1984 and 1988



DEL CASEY – ARC RACE – CANARIES TO ST. LUCIA

Del Casey is crossing the pond (Canaries to St. Lucia) and left the Canaries on Monday, November 25 with Sylvia Barnicoat. Also braving the Atlantic and "doing the ARC" (Atlantic Rally for Cruisers) is Brendan O'Regan aboard Pamina and Maria Sakellariou.



ATHENS IN SIGHT

So where are we now, with eleven months to go? We now have Olympic slots secured in Europe, Finn, Star and 470M class.



In Europe and 470M we have just one campaign per class, Maria Coleman in Europe and Ger Owens and Ross Killian in the 470. Barring disaster they will be our representatives in Athens next year.

Bill O'Hara, ISA's Youth Performance Manager has been selected by the International Sailing Federation to be a member of the International Jury panel that will adjudicate at the Athens Olympics in August 2004.

Bill was the ISA 2000 Olympic Team Manager and sailed the Finn dinghy in the 1994 and 1996

Snooker News



Welcome all to the new season. The draws up for the Elgan and McWilliams competitions are on the notice board and players are asked to arrange and play their matches as soon as possible.

If you have not played before and would like to get involved in future competitions please let us know. Ability is not an issue! Any questions, queries, entries can be sent to omurphy@actons.ie. On behalf of all players we thank outgoing Chairman, David O'Reilly and Secretary, Joe Buckley for their hard work over the last few years.

Let the games commence!



CLUB MERCHANDISE

Christmas is at hand – wondering what to get the Sailor who has everything? Look no further! The club has sourced a wide variety of keenly priced merchandise including those listed below. All clothing items can be embossed with the Club Burgee.



The Navigator

No. 30



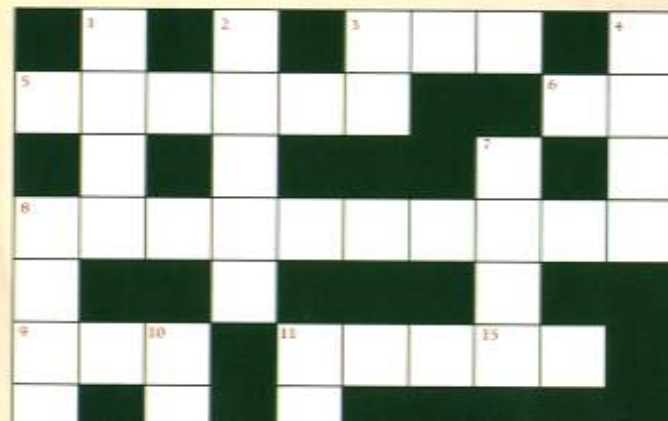
A nice easy one to relax over at Christmas. Entries to reach the Navigator before Sundown January 31, 2004. As usual the prize for the first correct one opened will be dinner for two with a bottle of house wine.

Across

- 3 Secret Agent (3)
- 5 Marks for twenty (6)
- 6 With A for the fuss (2)
- 8 Old lady of Dublin Bay can't get the key to the door (10)
- 9 Writing fluid (3)
- 11 Forms a relationship (5)
- 12 Verbal (4)
- 13 Snake (3)
- 15 Operating system (3)
- 16 Could it carry the candle (6)

Down

- 1 With fifty, a powerless boat might frown (4)
- 2 The sea (5)
- 3 With nothing in between a cry for help (2)
- 4 Not wealthy (4)
- 7 With a Chinese boat not worth much (4)
- 8 In the plural they had their day (Wyndham) (7)
- 10 Sounds like they do not have it (5)
- 11 Rubbings (3)
- 14 ... gloria transit mundi (3)



Social Calendar



Bar Table Quiz

The Bar Table Quiz is now building to the Grand Final in March.

See calendar below for dates.

Ladies Luncheons

Ladies luncheons are held every second Tuesday of the month – guest speakers and fine fare. Check calendar below for dates and Club Notice Board for further details.



Rugby Internationals

Enjoy the excitement and great atmosphere – Rugby brunch, big screen in the bar or dining room and full bar service.

Mothers' Day Luncheon

Book early as this is one of the most popular Sundays at the Club.



St. Valentine's Day

This special, romantic day can be celebrated with Dinner and Dancing till late – early booking advisable.

€35 per person.



Wine Suppers

Wine suppers are held on alternative Wednesday evenings.



DECEMBER 2003

- Tue **2** Cruising Group Talk and Supper with John Hall
- Wed **3** Wine Supper
- Sat **6** First Christmas Dinner
- Sun **7** Santa Party *Booking forms at Porter's Desk – Santa will arrive at 12 noon*
- Tue **9** Ladies Day Luncheon
- Wed **10** Christmas Bar Table Quiz
- Sat **13** Second Christmas Dinner
- Sun **14** Family Luncheon
- Sat **20** Club Dinner followed by dancing to live music till late
- Sun **21** Family Luncheon
Christmas Carols – in the bar from 5 pm, mince pies, an evening for all the family
- Wed **24** Christmas Eve Luncheon *Clubhouse will close 4 p.m.*
- Mon **29** Bar will re-open at 12 noon
- Tue **30** Normal Bar and Dining Facilities
- Wed **31** New Year's Eve Gala Dinner & Dance *Black Tie Evening Booking Forms – Non Voucher Evening*

JANUARY 2004

- Thu **1** Clubhouse Closed

FEBRUARY

- Sun **1** Family Luncheon
- Wed **4** Bar Table Quiz
- Sat **7** Club Dinner with *piano music*
- Sun **8** Family Luncheon
- Tue **10** Ladies Day Luncheon
- Wed **11** Wine Supper
- Sat **14** Rugby International France v Ireland, kick off at 2 pm
Brunch & Big Screen in Dining Room
St. Valentines Dinner & Disco
- Sun **15** Family Luncheon
- Wed **18** Bar Table Quiz
- Sat **21** Club Dinner with *piano music*
- Sun **22** Rugby International Ireland v Wales, kick off at 3 pm
Big Screen in Bar
Family Luncheon
- Tue **24** Supper & Talk with Hal Sisk –
Topic: The Colleen Bawn 'Taking the Blonde to Sweden'
Supper at 8 p.m. – €20 per person
- Wed **25** Wine Supper
- Sat **28** Club Dinner with *piano music*
- Sun **29** Family Luncheon

MARCH