

MAINSHEET

Newsletter of the National Yacht Club

Issue No. 45, September, 2006



Con Murphy, Commodore

THE BEST SAILING SEASON FOR OUR CLUB IN YEARS

The Club has had another wonderful summer sailing season. Our members have been very active at all levels of sailing both at home and abroad and our enhanced Clubhouse facilities, managed very capably by our Manager, Padraic Conneely and Sailing Manager, Ciara Dowling have come into their own.

A great spell of weather together helped the Junior section have their most successful and best attended programme for many years. Our Regatta, sponsored by our architects, Cantrell Crowley was a marvellous day of great racing and celebrating and the many other events we have run, have maintained and enhanced our reputation as a superb Club to sail from.

I would like to congratulate those many members who have represented the Club and Ireland at European and World Championships including our potential Olympic sailors, Aaron O'Grady in the Finn Class and Claudine and Annalise Murphy in the Laser Radial Class, Junior sailor Keith Coleman in the Laser 4.7, 1720 sailors Adam

those who joined the ICC cruise to Northern Spain under ICC commodore and NYC member, Cormac McHenry. Looking forward, we have a very busy event schedule for the remainder of the year and a particularly exciting programme for 2007 with four major events – the Dun Laoghaire to Dingle race, the Dun Laoghaire Combined Clubs Regatta, the Laser 4.7 Europeans and the 1720 Europeans. In support of these events, a huge amount of voluntary work will be done by the various organising committees over the winter months and I take this opportunity to thank them in advance.

Back in the Clubhouse, the reaction to the Club refurbishment continues to be very positive with a substantial increase recorded in the use of the dining room and bar. The new ramp to the front door is working extremely well and the outstanding builder's jobs and snags are being steadily completed. There has been a significant increase in applications for membership and I welcome those who have recently joined the Club. Our winter social programme kicks off in October with details on the back page. May I encourage you to join it and particularly take advantage of the excellent food and pleasant ambiance in the Dining Room.

Finally, I wish all our Members and Staff continued health, success and good sailing.

Con Murphy, Commodore



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WHISKEY GALORE ...



First things first. Many thanks to Ciara Dowling for the past year. In marked contrast to last year, we have had a very good summer with no major operational issues around the Boathouse and its activities. Our income is up and we are seeing a return on the investments we made over the winter. Tony and his staff have delivered an excellent service during the summer and the place looks good too! Ciara is moving back to her original role, running the admin side of the Combined Clubs Regatta, so she will not be far away.

However by the time you read this, Ciara will have been replaced as Sailing Manager by Olivier Prouveur. Olivier comes with a background in sailing and administration and was selected after an open selection process. We wish Olivier every success in his new role and look forward to continued high levels of performance from both Sailing and Boathouse activities. Best of luck to Olivier in his new role.

Now as the season draws to a close, thoughts need to be turned to the winter and the first major indication of its arrival will be our Lift Out. This is scheduled for Saturday, October 21. As ever, we will need all the summer dinghies off the platform well in advance of this date and

none of the winter dinghies to arrive before it! Those of you who do summer and winter will need to take your boats away for the period.

Winter storage and parking forms are already available, and with some uncertainty surrounding the availability of the Carlisle Pier this winter, forms need to be submitted early or we might not be able to offer a spot! Also, by the time you read this, we should have completed a major repair job on the breakwaters. A survey carried out earlier in the year indicated that there was significant damage to the underwater installations and that major repair was the only option. Unfortunately, unlike work on launches, this will not be something that is tangible to most of us, however we expect that by spending the money now we will avoid significant additional expenditure in the event of a NE storm.

Work planned for the winter includes an upgrade of the platform electrics, although this will be done on a phased basis over the next few years, reconditioning the flagpole, and the normal launch and mooring maintenance as well as supporting junior winter training and a significant number of Flying Fifteens, who plan to do "on the water training" in advance of their Worlds.

We have also set up preventive maintenance programmes for the launches, cranes, ribs, breakwaters and forklift which should mean that the expenditure we incurred this year is either avoided entirely or spread out over a number of years. It has also allowed us to develop a boathouse income and expenditure budget which we have been monitoring during the year and we are now formulating the 2007 plan with a significantly better understanding of both income and expenditure. This will allow us really to get to grips with costs and earning from the operation so that both can be managed in an active manner into the future.

All that leaves me is to wish you all an exciting season's end, and hope that as many of you as possible maintain an active involvement throughout the winter. I certainly plan to be on the water regularly to help clear the winter cobwebs!



This years Junior Section was one of the best we have had – nine weeks of glorious sunshine with only two days lost to wind. We ran four minor courses which proved to be very popular. It is a nice way for our future sailors to be introduced to the running of our Junior Section.

We ran all ISA Level Course up to Level 4 Advanced, a pre-entry instructors course and pre-entry exam, VHF course and First Aid course – a really comprehensive program for our junior members.

IMPORTANT DATES FOR YOUR DIARY:

- ❖ Friday September 29, Junior Dinner/Disco and Prize Giving (Please return trophies as soon as possible).
- ❖ DBSC Dun Laoghaire Harbour Company – September Junior Series – Sunday, September 3, 10, 17, 24 entry forms on www.nyc.ie.
- ❖ End of Season (Gorman Trophy) Optimists – October 28/29.
- ❖ Winter Training will run over 6 Sundays – November 5, 12, 19, 26 and December 3, 10 application forms will be available soon on www.nyc.ie
- ❖ Leinster Squad Training will be based again this year out of the NYC. Contact rory@sailing.ie or look at ISA web site www.sailing.ie under performance

Please remove all junior boats by September 30. You will be allowed to park your dinghy only if you are doing the winter training or the DMYC frostbite and you must show proof of entry. If your boat is not being used you may be asked to take it away. We need all the space on the platform to run sailing during the winter

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Our aim is to set up preventive maintenance programmes for the keels, rudders, ribs, breakwaters and forklift which should mean that the expenditure we incurred this year is either avoided entirely or at least over a number of years. It has also allowed us to better manage our income and expenditure budget which we are monitoring during the year and we are now formulating a plan with a significantly better understanding of both income and expenditure. This will allow us really to get to grips with our budget and earning from the operation so that both can be managed in an active manner into the future.

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Season (Gorman Trophy) Optimists – October 28/29.

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Our Squad Training will be based again this year out of the Club. Contact rorry@sailing.ie or look at ISA web site www.isa.ie under performance

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A Scottish Odyssey 2006

('Whiskey Galore' Kevin Blake tells his story of this seasons' Diageo Classic Malts Cruise)

Little did I know what a treat was in store for me when I accepted an invitation to crew on *Xavantes*, a Rival 41 owned and skippered by John Leahy from the NYC, which was the lead boat for the ten Irish boats taking part in this year's Diageo Classic Malts Cruise held from July 15-27. Run by the World Cruising Club each year who also run the ARC. About 75 boats participated with the majority coming from the UK and Ireland. There were also some from Sweden, Finland, France, Holland and Germany. The cruise started in Oban and took in three major distilleries as focal points for the flotilla – Oban on the Scottish mainland, Talisker on Skye, and Lagavulin on Islay. At each of these venues, a major reception was provided by the organisers, all included in the joining fee of £95 sterling per crew member.



John Leahy provided a "lead boat" role for the Irish fleet and kept in contact with as many as possible throughout the event. This led to great inter-boat camaraderie and a feeling of security.

On Monday, July 10, we left Dun Laoghaire at noon bound for Oban – for registration and the first major event of the cruise. On board were John, myself, and two students, Andy Lines and Kevin Fielding doing their ISA Day Skipper course. *Tanda II* – another NYC boat, owned and skippered by Tony Jobling with crew members Barry MacNeaney (NYC) and Brian Ward from California, also took part and joined us for the trip north, as did *Tir na nÓg* from Howth owned and skippered by Sean Walsh.

Malcolm McNeill, ferns, rhododendrons, camellias, azaleas, gunnera abound.

On Thursday, July 13, we set sail up the sound, with Islay and Jura on our port side and the mainland to starboard. The tide was again favourable which was no accident. Such planning was essential or we would not have got through. We touched 11.6kts SOG at one stage with an average boat speed of about 7.5kts and passed abeam of the infamous Gulf of Corryvreckan (breaking seas clearly visible to port), through the Sound of Luing, passed Fladda, then through the Sounds of Inch and Kerrera to Oban Yachts Marina, on Kerrera Island just opposite the lovely town of Oban. The excellent fully serviced marina is on an otherwise deserted island one mile from Oban, but they run a ferry service every two hours so it was not a problem.

Friday, July 14, was "Registration Day" for the Malts cruise. Just above the harbour is an unfinished folly a bit like the Coliseum in Rome, built around 1890 by a gentleman for his wife. She died during the building so it lies still unfinished dominating the skyline. We finished the day with an excellent seafood dinner in the tent behind the marina office. We were joined by Pat O'Donoghue of *Padem* (RIYC) and his crew. A sing-song on a boat from Carrickfergus with the guitar playing Commodore of Carrickfergus Yacht Club meant another late night to bed – far too late!

Saturday, July 15 was the formal start of the cruise with a Buffet and Ceilidh (sic) in Oban Distillery. Here we were joined here by Pauline Leahy and Barry MacNamara (commercial yacht master and Ballymaloe trained chef) who stayed with us for nearly two weeks. After a superb meal in the Oban Distillery and copious drafts of malt (for those who like that kind of thing), we were piped, down from the distillery to the pier and ferried to our marina on Kerrera Island.

Sunday, July 16 – After a parade-of-sail twice around Oban Harbour, led by the replica of *Spray* (Joshua Slocum) the lead boat for the cruise, we set sail up the Sound of Mull in company with about 75 other yachts taking part.

Xavantes sailed to Loch Aline, a lovely spot in between hills on Morvern across the sound from Mull, a trip of 25 Miles. We visited an old church and graveyard there. A site, one mile from the pier, shows the remains of a settlement where the houses had one course of stone, with walls composed of wickerwork and turf; some were still used into the 20th Century. That night we enjoyed a great meal in the Loch Aline Hotel.

Monday, July 17 – We motor-sailed to Tobermory, northeast of Mull and thanks to John's ingenuity, got a berth on the small pontoon marina, partially sitting in the mud at low water, only a minutes walk to all facilities. Tobermory is a superb town with all the facilities you could ask for along the coast, as in Oban.



sunshine, and we caught three mackerel on one line. Barry tried using one as bait in the hope of catching a sea-monster and thank goodness none appeared! Later we caught two larger mackerel just south of Loch Harport so had enough for a starter for dinner. We anchored in about 8 metres off the Talisker distillery among about 60 other participating boats – quite a sight. That evening we dined aboard *Xavantes* with the mackerel for starters. The sunset over the Cullin Mountains was magnificent in the peaceful Loch.



Marina at port Ellen, in the south of Islay

Thursday, July 20 – After another malt tasting we had the second party of the cruise consisting of a ceilidh, venison buffet and dancing in Talisker Distillery until midnight. Pauline had obviously been in the cast of *Riverdance* at some stage! That night was the worst midge attack of the trip. On the way back to the boat there were swarms of them. Happily they do not go out over the water so we were able to sit in the cockpit and watch the stars.

Friday, July 21 – We sailed south with *Tanda II* past Ardnamurchan Point to Loch Droima Buidhe (Drumbuie) opposite Tobermory. Here we anchored in the quiet calm inlet for a brilliant starlit night.

Saturday, July 22 – We sailed back down the Sound of Mull to Oban, once again in lovely weather, with the Aires Self Steering doing the work. It is truly magical to watch this Heath-

We then enjoyed our best sail down the western side of Jura in a flat sea on a close reach all the way to Loch Tarbert where we anchored at 16:00hrs with about twelve other Malts yachts. This place is utterly remote with no people and beautiful sandy beaches. We went ashore with the crew of *Tanda II* and walked on the hillsides covered in heather and turf. Only one house was visible, with raised beaches everywhere. That night we spent a restless night anchored on rock and as the wind kept changing, so the chain made horrible noises dragging over the seabed.

An early start was needed the next day, Tuesday, July 25, so as to benefit from the favourable tide down the Sound of Islay to the south side of the island and on to Port Ellen. The forecast was for south-easterly force 4-5 winds, which was not great, but that is sailing for you. The tide rips through at 5kts southbound and we accomplished the first fifteen miles in an hour and a half! The southerly wind kicked up a big sea, especially at the southern end of the sound in the open waters, but we kept going well, arriving in Port Ellen at lunchtime. What a delightful little port this is, not unlike the Scillies. It being Tuesday, and the final party not scheduled until Thursday, we did some maintenance on the boat and fixed the exhaust pipe, which had developed a leak.

Thursday, July 27 was the final party – ceilidh and good fun in Lagavulin Distillery. Transport was provided from Port Ellen by Diageo. We enjoyed an unbelievable seafood banquet, the like of which I have never seen, – giant oysters, crab claws, lobster, prawns, herrings, salads etc. all washed down with whatever you liked! It went on and on, and we finally left around 23:00hrs so as to get a little sleep – we had an early start next morning to get to Bangor! Barry MacNamara left us here. Hugh and Val Pilsforth then joined us for the remainder of the trip south.

Friday, July 28 – We left at dawn with a forecast of southerly winds increasing later. It was our first day of bad weather with heavy rain for the first five hours, but it did clear up during the afternoon and we ended up sailing into Bangor in sunshine.

Sure enough the southerly wind arrived as per the forecast and bowled all night, so with no let-up in the forecast for a couple of days, we returned to Dublin by train to await better conditions expected by the following Wednesday.

The registration fee of £95 per person (paid to The World Cruising Club) included all food and entertainment ashore at the three distilleries and each crew member received a fleece and hat bearing the cruise logo.



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Wednesday, July 27 was the final party – ceileidh and good fun in the main Distillery. Transport was provided from Port Ellen by bus. We enjoyed an unbelievable seafood banquet, the like of which I have never seen, – giant oysters, crab claws, lobster, salmon, herrings, salads etc. all washed down with whatever was available! It went on and on, and we finally left around midnight so as to get a little sleep – we had an early start next morning to get to Bangor! Barry MacNamara left us here. Hugh Pilsworth then joined us for the remainder of the trip.

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Club Regatta – June 17

Our summer sailing season began in earnest with our now biennial regatta in June. Although at 245 entries it was not our biggest regatta ever, excellent sailing conditions, slick race management and hugely improved onshore facilities combined to make it surely one of the best in recent memory.

Next year of course our regatta will once again be incorporated into the Dun Laoghaire Regatta Championship in co-operation with our neighbouring clubs. Committee member and former Rear Commodore Ronan Beirne is representing the club on that event's organising committee.



Tuthal McColgain 420 Class, Analise Murphy Laser radial and George Kenefic Laser class at the 2006 ISAF Youth Worlds Helms.

420 National Championships – June 25

This was a two-day event, but the first day's racing was included in the RIYC regatta. The event was marred by a disappointingly low turnout, but those that showed up enjoyed close racing in excellent sailing conditions.



Laser Radial Fleet start – Leinsters

Autumn Events

The Autumn season will be busy, with six big events and our own Members' Race planned:

- ❖ Beneteau 31.7 National Championships – September 2/3;
- ❖ Members' (End of Season) Race – September 7;
- ❖ Flying Fifteen East Coast Championships – September 9 and 10;
- ❖ Key Events Autumn Series (1720s) – four dates in September and October;
- ❖ Mermaid, Flying Fifteen and Squib Frostbites – five Sundays in October;
- ❖ ISA Helmsman's Championships – October 7 and 8
- ❖ Optimist End of Season Championships (Gorman Trophy) – October 28 and 29





Alison Blake and crew, Pippa IV, Sigma 33. Winner of Ladies' Race 2006. Also winners of D.B.S.C. Tuesday Races overall 2006 with a total of 11 points. Prizes being presented by Sigma 33 Vice-Captain Chris Moore. Pippa IV has now won these races for the second year.

- ❖ John Hall and Sue McDonnell, 30 something (Beneteau 31.7) won the IRC Cruiser Class 4 at the Bell Lawrie Scottish Series in Tarbert in June, having also won their class in the feeder race from Bangor to Tarbert
- ❖ Ann Kirwan and crew were runners up in the Ruffian 23 nationals at the RStGYC in July, with Richard Godley and crew taking the silver fleet trophy
- ❖ As already mentioned by the commodore, Eamon Crosbie and crew were runners up in the BMW Round Ireland race in July
- ❖ Conor Byrne, sailing under the NYC burgee, won the Laser National championships in Ballyholme in August. Annalise Murphy was 2nd Lady and 1st Junior Lady
- ❖ Ken Dumbleton and crew (comprising mostly National Yacht Club Flying Fifteen sailors) won the Sonata Irish Championships at Strangford Lough in August
- ❖ Dermot Hicks and the Cruising Group have been active and we hope to report their activities in the next edition of Mainsheet.

Event Volunteers

We are again indebted to race office manager Sandra Moore and all of the volunteers who run the club events and the generous members who lend us their committee boats and RIBs for use during events. New volunteers are always welcome and volunteer forms are available from the club secretary or sailing manager.

COMPOSITE MERMAID

Peter and Conor Cronin's new all glassfibre Mermaid was launched on September 3 in The National. The sixth composite boat built by Chris Allen over the last 18 months. It incorporates a

The inaugural regatta for the Composite Mermaids will be held in Heir Island in West Cork in mid September where all the composite boats built to date will be raced against an invited group of current and former Championship winners, including *Zuleika*, *Endeavour* and *Paula*. An opportunity will be provided for as many people as possible to sail and race both the top traditional and composite Mermaids during the weekend. Two composite and maybe three boats will augment the Dun Laoghaire Mermaid fleet during the October Frostbite series. Anyone interested in having a go in one of these boats is very welcome.



Noel Casey's Kish at anchor, Camineras during the Irish Cruising Club rally on the north coast of Spain - full story next issue.

Bridge News

Ida Kiernan, Bridge Convenor

It's very hard to think of cold dark evenings when we are nearing the end of a wonderful summer. Unfortunately we are fast approaching autumn and winter and maybe we can lift some of the winter blues each Thursday evening in the NYC with a game of Bridge. We throw in a few chess and lots of chat. Bridge will

Social Calendar



We hope you enjoy the facilities and services available at the Club. All comments, complimentary or otherwise are welcome to: pconneelynyc@eircom.net This feedback will be of enormous benefit to us in order to maintain and improve our standards.

SEPTEMBER

- Tue **12** Ladies day lunch
Autumn Gardening – Preparing for Spring. Time: 1pm
Speaker: Harry Byrne, Byrnes Garden Centre Sandycove.
- Sat **16** Club Dinner with piano music
- Sun **17** Family Lunch
- Sat **23** Club Dinner
- Sun **24** Family Lunch
- Mon **25** Registration for Navigation classes 7.30pm.
- Thu **28** NYC bridge club reconvenes
- Fri **29** Junior Dinner and Disco
- Sat **30** End of Season Dinner with live music
– early booking advisable €40 pp

OCTOBER

- Wed **4** Bar table quiz – Round 1 8.30pm – see highlights
- Sat **7** Helmsmans Championship Dinner
- Sun **8** Family Lunch
- Tue **10** Ladies day lunch
- Wed **11** Wine Supper – see highlights
- Fri **13** Olympic fund raising night – see highlights
- Sat **14** Club Dinner
- Sun **15** Family lunch
- Wed **18** Bar table quiz – Round 2
- Sat **21** Lift-out dinner
- Sun **22** Family lunch
- Wed **25** Wine supper
- Sat **28** Club dinner
- Sun **29** Family lunch

NOVEMBER

DECEMBER

- Fri **1** Irish Cruising Club Lunch
Ladies Christmas Dinner
- Sat **2** Club Dinner
- Sun **3** Family Lunch
- Wed **6** Wine supper
- Sat **9** First Christmas Dinner – Booking Forms
- Sun **10** Santa party. Santa will arrive at 12.30pm. Booking forms for Santa visit at porter's desk. PS. Lunch on this day is booked out. Bar food available
- Wed **13** Christmas Bar table quiz
- Thu **14** Bridge: Pairs Competition, Christmas Party & Prizegiving
- Sat **16** Second Christmas Dinner – Booking Forms
- Sat **23** Club Dinner
- Sun **24** Christmas Eve Lunch – Booking Forms
Clubhouse will close at 4pm and will reopen on Thursday, December 28 with normal bar and catering facilities
- Sat **30** Club Dinner
- Sun **31** New Years Eve Lunch – Booking Forms
Clubhouse will close at 7pm.

JANUARY

- Thu **11** Bridge: Christmas Dinner

Bar Table Quiz/Wine Suppers



On alternate Wednesdays you can *discover a new wine* over a *splendid supper* or join in the fun of the very popular quiz.

To reserve a table for the Wine Supper phone 2805725/2801198. To enter a team for the quiz, complete the entry sheet on the Club notice board.

Ladies Lunches



The ladies day luncheons are one of the best supported of all the Club's social activities with *speakers from the world of art, fashion, garden experts, antiques and lots more*. So, ladies put the second Tuesday of every month in your diary and let us entertain you.

End of Season Dinner

Saturday, September 30. Dinner served 8.30pm with live music featuring *Tropical Storm*. Early booking advisable

Olympic fund raising night