



Dear Members,

The sailing season is upon us, with **Shannon One Design** sailing starting at Easter in Mountshannon. Next up the Lough Corrib Regatta in Cong and the Quaker Cup for **Cruisers** with both of these events taking place on the May Bank Holiday weekend. For the **Juniors** the season never really ended and the Club will host a Mirror Regional event in early May. Last season was busy for the Club with many external events taking place and I would like to thank the many Members who helped make these events a success. This year should be quieter giving us time to look after **Club sailing** as we prepare for a busy year ahead of us in **2020**, when our Club will celebrate its **250th anniversary**.

The Club would like to extend a big a thank you to Jim McNamara who donated his Laser to the Club in 2018, this boat has already seen use. More recently Pat Ennis has kindly donated his Etap 20, Tap Dancer to the Club. We are certain to put this to great use both for Adult and Junior training. It would be great to see Tap Dancer racing again in the Cruiser fleet.

Environmental management of clubs is thankfully something we are beginning to see more of. I will take this opportunity to remind our Members of our own **Environmental Policy** which can be found [here](#). Our first course of action is to implement/encourage a **ban** on single use plastic drinking bottles, just walk the shore during a busy sailing event and it will become evident why this should happen. Most people already have re-usable bottles however the Club will also sell **RNLI** re-usable bottles for those who do not. Over the next few months, more evidence of this ban will be apparent. We are asking for the Members support with this both to abide by it but also to help enforce it. We are also looking at a more sustainable way of managing our waste at our site, however there will be more on this later.

Hoping to see you at the Club and on the water in 2019.

Garrett Leech
commodore@lryc.ie

Club Work in

First club work in of 2019

Saturday April 27th

Many hands make light work!

Junior Sailing

Optimists

It has been a good winter for Oppies with reasonably mild weather allowing sailing most Sundays. We usually have 3-4 kids out on Sundays at the moment and look forward to a good summer with hopefully more kids getting involved.

We had just 2 sailors in Baltimore this year, conditions were windy but all sailors got out every day which is very good for February.

Mae Byrne was presented with a hat for most improved sailor over the week, thanks in part to having been out on the lake over Christmas and most Sundays in January.

The IODA! calendar for this year is printed here. It would be great to see kids from LRYC attending. The regatta fleet at these events is coached so it is a good way to pick up tips and make friends.

Remember that the last event of the 2019 calendar will be at LRYC on September 7th & 8th, this promises to be a busy weekend and great fun for anyone taking part.

Mirrors

The Mirror Class continues to grow at Lough Ree with a strong fleet training throughout the winter. Over the past few years LRYC has become the centre for winter race training with boats travelling from Sligo, Clontarf, Blessington, Derg and Mullingar to take part.

This year we have the pleasure of working with two LRYC Mirror National Champions as coaches, Caolan Croasdell and Jack Ryan, as well as Conor Twohig from Sutton and Sarah White from Sligo. Training started in January and runs every month until the race season starts in April. There is no doubt that **'winter training makes the summer sailor'** and our youth fleet are showing strong signs heading into a competitive season.

Thanks must be extended to parents, as always, who turn up every Sunday and get boats on the water quickly and efficiently.

Many thanks to LRYC for allowing us to use their facilities for coaching. The next event is a training weekend in Sligo combined with the O'Dowd trophy regatta from 26 to 28 April with a good number of Mirrors from LRYC planning to take part.



Optimists sailing during Baltimore Training week 2019

2019

Regional Optimist Events (except Crosbie cup)

25-26 May

Ulster's

Skerries Sailing Club

15-16 June

Leinster's

Malahide Yacht Club

20-21 July

Munster's

Waterford Harbour Sailing Club

15-18 August

National's

Howth Yacht Club

7-8 September

Connaught's

Lough Ree Yacht Club

2019

Regional Mirror Events

26-28 April

O'Dowd Trophy

Sligo Yacht Club

11-12 May

Northern's

Lough Ree Yacht Club

29-30 June

Western's

Sligo Sailing Club

20-21 July

Eastern's

Blessington Sailing Club

12-18 August

National's

Clontarf Yacht & Boat Club

14-15 September

Southern's

Royal Cork Yacht Club



Water Bottles

Lough Ree Lifeboat station have aluminium water bottles for sale as a fundraiser towards the new boathouse at Coosan Point. These cost €10 and are for sale in the Bar or from Vincent Rafter. Please support and help reduce the amount of plastic waste.

There are a number of 'Water Points' around the club where bottles may be filled. It is treated town water which is safe and free.

New Committee Boat

The club was very fortunate to receive a donation of a boat for use as a Race Flagship. The boat is undergoing extensive renovation so it will be a boat we are proud of.

All volunteers welcome to help with this considerable undertaking. If you can help with cleaning, sanding, painting, varnishing, woodwork, boat electrics, rigging, sealing windows etc!

Please contact
Denis Bergin on 087 2253190
if you can help in any way.

250th Celebration

Your committee is currently working on a suite of planned activities to celebrate our very significant 250th year in existence. It is an exciting project for 2020 and it marks an important milestone for our club and indeed the town of Athlone as well as our sister clubs in the midlands.

You are invited to make submissions with regard to celebratory ideas and suggestions for consideration by the committee. Also suggestions as to memorabilia to mark the occasion are welcome.



Examples of the 225th Celebration Merchandise

It is the wish of the committee that we celebrate this 250th year over the 12 month period and all ideas are welcome (within reason!).

Junior Sailing (Cont.)

420's

For the first time in many years, a 420 fleet has developed in Lough Ree Yacht Club.

Sailors who had successfully competed in the Optimist and Mirror classes over the past number of years, have opted for the challenge of racing the boat recognized as the 'Pathway Boat' by Irish Sailing, the 420.

The 420 is a natural progression from the Mirror Class. With the addition of a trapeze and a good deal more speed, it's the natural next step for sailors who have already developed double-handed sailing skills.

It is a fast, light double-handed boat with a mainsail, jib and symmetrical spinnaker. The helmsman controls the mainsail and hoisting and dropping of the spinnaker. The crew manages the jib and mainsail gybes, while suspended over the side by the trapeze wire. As you can imagine, when they're not tearing across the lake, they're capsizing spectacularly. They're almost as much fun to watch as they are to sail.

Two Lough Ree boats, competed at the 420 national and regional events last year. They were crewed by Ben Graf/Alexander Farrell and Alex Leech/Lughaidh Croasdell.

This year they've been joined by two more boats, each boat with a Lough Ree sailor.

Morgan Lyttle/Patrick Whyte (LRYC) and Matthew White/Luke Johnston (LRYC).

Robert Dickson, who late last year won the U23 49er World Championship with Seán Waddilove, has been running coaching weekends to help to develop the class.

The racing season started in February in Schull in West Cork. After a week



of intensive training at the Fastnet Marine & Outdoor Education Centre, the Munster Championship was held.

For the first few races we had the satisfaction of seeing the top positions held by Lough Ree boats, as Morgan Lyttle/Patrick Whyte, Ben Graf/Alexander Farrell and Alex Leech/Lughaidh Croasdell put in strong performances. Matthew White/Luke Johnston were unfortunate to discover a leak in their forward buoyancy tank, which put paid to their chances. The event finished with 1st place for Lyttle/Whyte and 2nd for Graf/Farrell.

The next stop was Wexford Harbour Boat & Tennis Club for the Leinster Championship. All four Lough Ree boat took part again.

Once again they had a very successful outing 2nd for Lyttle/Whyte and 3rd for Graf/Farrell.

Leech/Croasdell were 2nd in the silver fleet.

As I write Ben Graf/Alexander Farrell and Morgan Lyttle/Patrick Whyte are competing in the UK in their highly competitive Youth National Championship in Weymouth.

The Irish Youth Nationals Championships are on in two weeks in Crosshaven, where all of the Lough Ree boats are due to compete.

Most of us are still preparing our boats for the start of the season. These guys are well and truly race hardened at this stage. We wish them the best for what has been a superb season so far.

Please spare a thought though for the poor parents who are dragging boats and sailors to each new piece of coastline for the next event.



Cruisers

Another year has arrived and I look forward to meeting all of you on the water for what promises to be a different, and hopefully, enjoyable sailing season.

The Cruiser Secretary, Maurice Collins, and I have made some **fundamental changes** to the programme in an effort to encourage more sailors out on to the lake. The changes consist of:

- 3 social/picnic sails (non-racing) to be held during the season.
- An individual trophy will be awarded for each weekend sailed.
- Cruiser events to be held at same times as other classes' club events to promote the social aspect of the sport.
- The racing rules to be relaxed for the Beam Island Bowl (Wednesday evenings) to encourage more boats to compete.

To finish off - it is time for us to get the racing marks out on the lake and get our boats ready to go sailing!

Pat McMahon
Cruiser Class Captain

Online Payments/Banking

Our Hon. Treasurer has kindly requested that members are more careful when making online payments.

The following descriptions are not helpful; **"365 Sailing fee"** or **"Sailing fee"**. The club accounts welcome the payment however such descriptions can make it difficult to allowcate payments.

Please use your **account no;** (EGA001) or your **Name;** and if possible details of what the payment is for eg. - **SUB** (Subscription) - **MOOR** (Mooring) - **ENT** (Entry) - **RGT** (Regatta).

The same is also true when it comes to making payments via Paypal.

Berthing

The club is currently reviewing our policy on berthing and will issue a revised policy which will be available on our website shortly

Members are reminded that permission is required **BEFORE** one arrives in order to allow for good management of the available space. The berthing season is from **1st April to 30th September** afloat and the rest of the year on the hard.

House and Grounds

Your help is very valuable in maintaining the club and grounds ensuring the club is a pleasant and safe place for all.

In addition to the club work-in's scheduled for April 27th, May 25th, July 27th and October (TBC) where many hands make light work, we also have regular maintenance tasks throughout the season.

If you are willing to help out in any way - such as gardening, DIY, general tidy up, painting etc your club needs you.

To help keep the environment clean and safe please dispose of your rubbish in the correct bins. If you see a bin overflowing please empty it in the skip or contact us for help to do so.

If possible carry all your rubbish all the way to the skip, if you don't another member will have to do it later.

We are in the process of providing bags to help you clean up after your dog - your dog must be under supervision at all times and there is never an excuse for not cleaning up.

If you see anything in the club in need of attention or repair please contact Denis Bergin (House and Grounds) or any member of the Executive, don't assume we know about it!

Shannon One Designs

I would like to welcome you all to another year of fun and racing on our beloved rivers and lakes in the Shannon One Design class.

We start the year with a great trip to Cong for Lough Corrib Regatta which takes place on the May Bank Holiday weekend (4th-6th). It is always a great weekend for those who make the trip. Mark and Nicky provide fabulous racing and entertainment for the weekend (I believe Mark has moved all the rocks outside of navigation for this year, although that is generally subject to change!!).

After that we shall return to the club for the perfectly run and organised Inner Lakes Regatta on May 18th and 19th. So your boats can be tested going round and through objects they probably shouldn't! We will have the usual BYO BBQ as well as entertainment in the clubhouse on the Saturday evening.

Wednesday night sailing should commence after the long weekend and will run throughout the summer months. We look forward to seeing as many boats as possible on the water throughout the season.

Fair winds and happy sailing.

Sam Hatfield

Shannon One Design Class Captain



Shannon One Designs racing during the 2018 Lough Corrib Regatta



Shannon One Designs departing Coosan Point during Inner Lakes Regatta 2017

Sod 67 - has had its yearly spring clean. Many thanks to Philip Watson for donating and fitting a new set of buoyancy bags, and Sam Hatfield for this year's deks olje and paint job. The boat is available to rent for the season or for individual weekends.

If you are interested please get in touch quickly as it will be snapped up for the larger events early.

Contact the Club Secretary or Sam Hatfield (CC).



SB20 Class at LRYC

The SB20, previously known as the Laser SB3, is a 3-4 person keelboat with main, jib and asymmetric spinnaker.

The SB3 is campaigned on a national circuit with a regional event once a month during the summer and is actively raced in Dun Laoghaire. There are also pockets of boats racing in Northern Ireland, Cork and Lough Derg. LRYC has been involved in the class since we hosted a number of regional events around 2006 to 2012 and we hosted the All Ireland Sailing Championships last September in SB20's.

A few members are hoping to develop a class of SB20's in LRYC for

some informal club racing and to compete in the June Bank Holiday Weekend and the Annual Regatta. We have 3 boats confirmed for this season with the possibility of a 4th boat coming out of retirement. We are also in contact with the 5 or 6 boats on Lough Derg and hope to host them during the season and also join them for some of their events. In an interesting departure from Windward/Leeward racing, we are also looking at having a class start in the annual Gortmore Bell Race from Mountshannon to Terryglass and back in September.

For more information contact Donie Herraghty on 087 8113242 or dherraghty@gmail.com.

We intend to run a **Demo Day** in the club in June! Further information to follow but we would like to encourage existing cruiser sailors as well as sailors moving up from mirrors and other dinghy classes.

All are very welcome to come along and have a go!



LOUGH REE YACHT CLUB

Established 1770

Any contributions to Waterlines would be warmly welcomed.

Contact waterlines@lryc.ie