



Dear Members,

A very happy new year to you.

As you will all be aware, 2020 is our **250th anniversary year** and the celebrations have already kicked off with a new years party last Saturday night, and will continue throughout the year. Our next event, **A History of LRYC** which takes place on the 15th February is surely an event not to be missed, this is a half day symposium featuring presentations from some notable historians.

We have a busy year ahead of us, besides our normal schedule of events, we also have the Celebratory **Clinkerfest** event taking place at Whit Weekend and the return of the previously held, **Double Ree Youth Regatta** which takes place on July 18th and 19th.

In relation to the Club's waste management, we will shortly be moving over to a source segregated collection system, this will be for disposal waste & recyclables only, there is no organic collection available to us yet. We will look at the feasibility of glass recycling during the year. We may well have to retain the use of a skip during larger events until we understand better our waste volumes generated.

Can we ask Members to ensure that they make the effort to recycle where they can but also where possible, bring their waste home for disposal/recycling.

I will be departing the Committee at the end of March and a new Committee will be formed, I would like to take the opportunity to thank you all for the huge support that I received during my tenure as Commodore.

Garrett Leech
commodore@lryc.ie

Work In Dates

February 8th, March 21st,
April 25th, May 23rd
and July 25th!

Many hands make light work!

Junior Sailing

Optimists

The Optimists have had a good winter so far.

We began the season with the Connaught Championships at the club in September. This was the best attended and most popular of the regional events in 2019 and the club is to be congratulated on its success. Congratulations also to the LRYC sailors who featured so prominently at the event, in particular in the regatta fleet with us keeping several trophies. It would be great for this success to be repeated at some of the regional events in 2020.

We have had some very good training sessions over the winter, thanks to Alex and Ben for passing on their knowledge! Also Sunday sailing has been reasonably well attended although this time of year can be difficult with weather and other commitments. We will be continuing in the new year so keep an eye on the Junior Sailing Whatsapp!

The **IODAI calendar** for next year has been published, these events cater for all abilities with the younger or less experienced sailors being coached so should be considered.



LRYC Mirrors 2019/2020

The LRYC Mirror fleet continue to lead the way with Mirror sailing in Ireland with 4 out of the last 5 years Champion Helms coming from LRYC, namely Jack Ryan, Caolan Croasdell, Ben Graf and Eoghan Duffy. Judging by the more recent Nationals this trend can continue. In a very tough 10 race event, every race was won by an LRYC Mirror, that's 5 different winners and the top 5 placings overall being LRYC - a wonderful achievement for the club and its sailors. Race Officer for the event, Ian Sargent was amazed at the skillset and confidence of the Mirror sailors fearlessly hoisting spinnakers at the windward mark in near 30knts of wind on the last day, when every point scored was vital!

Mirror sailing must be in the Clubs DNA...



Mirrors in action in the 1980's at the Club (Photos courtesy of Colm Croasdell).

A special mention must highlight LRYC sailor **Eoghan Duffy** who with his crew Cathal Langan (CYBC) won every Regional Event in 2019 along with the Nationals - a tremendous achievement. Next year will start to bring a bit of focus to **Sligo 2021** and SYC's hosting of the Mirror World Championships that year. With this in mind, every event and training opportunity in 2020 should be seized by



The **Baltimore Training Week** is also open for registration for any kids who don't mind the cold! Like the other events all abilities are catered for, the only prerequisite is to be able to sail a triangle. Early registration at €200 closes on the **12th of January** and late entry closes on the 19th of January. **Here's looking forward to a great 2020!**

Regional Optimist Events (except Crosbie cup)

16-21 February
Baltimore Week

BSC Baltimore Co. Cork

16-17 May
Munster's

KYC Kinsale Co. Cork

13-14 June
Connaught's
LDYC, Dromineer Co. Tipperary

13 -16 August
National's

RCYC, Crosshaven, Co. Cork

5-6 September
Ulster's

MYC, Malahide, Co. Dublin

DOG MITS!

Dog mits are now available at the club. We would ask all of members to remember to pick up after their dogs.

Committee Boat Update

We owe a large thanks to Denis Bergin and Alan Algeo for their trogon work in getting our committee boat moving again. Denis has rebuilt the cockpit sole and the hatches and freed the steering mechanism, while Alan has stripped the engine, sourced a new cylinder head, alternator and various other bits and rebuilt the lot. It now runs at circa 6 knots and sounds great! Seamus also did a great job in re-glazing all the windows

These are the main items they have done **BUT** there are many other smaller bits! Both Denis and Alan need more people to become involved as the boat is now hauled out and in the boat house ready for the next stage of renovation

We need sanders, cleaners, painters and people to overhaul the interior, install a new heads and check the rigging. We are running to tight timelines as the boat needs to be re-floated before the water levels drop by late March. As the boat is now in a dry, well lit shed it can be worked on in evenings if you are looking for a winter project. Promises are no good as they have an over subscription of them.

Please contact

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

Single Use Plastic

Last year, we moved away from 'single use plastic', starting with the use of plastic water bottles. We hope to maintain and grown on this in 2020. 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.

We would like to remind our members that there are a number of 'Water Points' around the club where bottles may be filled. Its treated town water and is safe and free!

Junior Sailing (Cont.)

each sailor and this kicks off in January with LRYC hosting the first of the 2020 training weekends.

The Mirror fleet is also growing nationally with new faces every year. There is a shortage of boats though and if you have a Mirror resting in your garage/garden, then wouldn't it be nice to see it back among the fleet and on water again!

We wish all our sailors a Happy New Year and successful 2020 season.

420's

The pathway out of Optimists is complicated by the wide choice of boats available. For some sailors the choice of a Laser is obvious. For too many, the Optimist ends up being the last boat they sail. The onus falls on sailing clubs to chose a class which offers a good balance between sailor development, club racing and a healthy regional circuit.

Lough Ree Yacht Club has long committed to the Mirror class. The wisdom of this choice has been borne out by our very active fleet of highly impressive sailors and their haul of prizes in recent years.

Building on this success, the 420 was introduced to the club two years ago after an absence of many years. They're a natural progression for our Mirror sailors, who adapt to them with relative ease.

The 420 is the Irish Sailing double handed development sailing class, otherwise known as a 'pathway' boat. Of greater importance, because not everyone ends up going to the Olympics, it's a superb boat that has endured for 60 years as the premier double handed development class in the world. Classes come and go, but only brilliantly designed boats can have that kind of staying power.

It has a main, jib and symmetrical spinnaker. The crew is on a trapeze once the boat is powered up.

Anyone who has seen them in action in a good breeze is treated to a masterful high speed display of sailors and boat. They plane upwind! Most importantly, they're huge fun to sail.



The 420 season started early with a week of intensive training in February at the **Fastnet Marine and Outdoor Education Centre in Schull**. Lough Ree was well represented by Patrick Whyte, Ben Graf, Alexander Farrell, Alex Leech, Lughaidh Croasdell and Luke Johnston.

The week concluded with the Munster Championships and a win for **Patrick Whyte** and his helm Morgan Lyttle, with 2nd place going to Ben Graf and Alexander Farrell.

Lough Ree continued to score well

in the regional events with 2nd place for Patrick Whyte and 3rd for Ben Graf and Alexander Farrell in the Leinster Championships. Alex Leech and Lughaidh Croasdell won the Silver Fleet.

The **National Championships** finished with Patrick Whyte in 2nd place and the bronze going to Ben Graf and Alexander Farrell. A new combination of Eoghan Duffy and Luke Johnston won the Silver Fleet.

Three boats qualified to represent Ireland for the **420 European Championship in Vilagarcia, Northern Spain**. Half of those sailors (Whyte, Graf and Farrell) were from Lough Ree. It was an incredible experience, sailing against some of the best young double handed sailors in the world.

At the Northern Championship, Alex Leech and Luke Johnston finished in 4th place. Sam McMullen and Daniel Smyth made their first appearance at a regional event with an impressive performance.

The racing season concluded with the Connacht Championships in Galway Bay SC. Ben Graf and Alexander Farrell won the event, with Eoghan Duffy and Luke Johnston in 2nd place.

The racing may have stopped but the training continues in earnest.



Robert Dickson has taken time out of his busy Olympic qualifying campaign for a number of training weekends at the club.

Otherwise the sailors practice their drills together, occasionally with the help of Patrick Whyte, whenever he can take a break from his Leaving Cert studies.



Next year promises to be a very active year for the 420s with the **World Championship** in Crozon to celebrate the 60th anniversary of the class. Hopefully some of our sailors will be there.

Abandoned Boats!

There are a significant number of abandoned boats in the club, and to the best of our knowledge some may be owned by people who are no longer members of the club.

We are trying to **identify the owners** and have them removed.

In the event of being unsuccessful in identifying these boats owners, it is intended to either scrap or sell/donate them on **Sunday 1st March**.

If you know the possible owner of one of these boats, please ask them to identify the boat and gear and remove from the club **a.s.a.p.**

Merchandise Order!

Keep an eye on our website in the coming weeks for details of **Commemorative Merchandise** which will be available to purchase in celebration of our **250th Anniversary**.

House and Grounds

We all want our club to look its best for our 250th celebrations throughout this year. **We need your help** as part of preparing our club. We have a long list of jobs that need to be addressed as our club has expanded over recent years.

The list of jobs is published on our web site at: <https://www.lryc.ie/to-do-list-winter-19-20/>.

We appeal to members to pick a job and take it on for your club. We will also run a number of **work ins** in the spring where all help is really appreciated. Throughout the year we really need your help in keeping the club grounds clean and tidy. If you see something that needs to be picked up or a bin in need of emptying please help rather than waiting for another member to do it. Together we make the club a safe and pleasant environment for all.

We have some **concrete works** planned to extend the base for the club Marquee. To facilitate this we will need co-operation from boat owners to **move some sailing cruisers and other boats** during this work for the safe operation of heavy machinery.

Shannon One Designs

2019 was a busy season for SOD sailing in LRYC which started all the way back in early May on Lough Corrib, with numbers up in almost all events it was great to see some new and returning boats to the fleet. There were **31 Ree SODs** on the water this year up from 25 in 2018, 8 weekends had 10 or more boats which showed a much-improved consistency in attendances across the board. The health of the class is massively driven by the enthusiasm and work put in by all of our event organizers throughout the season. Huge thanks must be extended to the **McCormack, Hatfield, Mayne, Algeo, Hunter, Croxon, Murtagh, Browne and Mannion families** and their small armies of helpers for running an excellent set of varied and always fun regattas over the year. Another for a special mention was our class captain **Sam Hatfield** starting the season working on 67, attending every event and all Wednesday evening racing and generally working tirelessly in the background without any fanfare.

Vincent's work on the north shore last winter was a great success with those spots now arguably better for pulling up boats in comparison to the south slip. A **class meeting** was held at Whit this year where various issues were discussed. One request from the class was for more covered summer/winter storage at the club. The class set up a committee to propose a plan to the executive committee, with a proposal presented including space for 10 sods on trailers side by side and while details aren't yet finalized it has been broadly accepted to be added to the plan of works that will take place over the next few years.

This year is the big one, the full sod calendar for Ree events in 2020 is available on the club website <https://www.lryc.ie/events/>. There are a couple of boats not seen in a long time in touch with Dougal with others happily not in need of work showing interest - it will be a great excuse to dust off the cobwebs and get boats back on the water where they belong. Crew will be at a premium (even more than usual) so it will be a perfect opportunity to introduce friends from other clubs and walks of life to sailing at LRYC. **Clinkerfest** taking place over the **June bank holiday** will be one of the highlights next summer. This will be the largest event the club has ever run with SODs, Water Wags, IDRA14s, International 12s, Mermaids, Rankins, Merlins and Myths entering with the possibility of 100+ boats. Entries will be opening in the new year and early entries will close one month before the weekend itself, as you can imagine this will be a serious organizational undertaking so if attending please do enter early.

Members interested in renting the 67 for a weekend particularly the marquee events should inquire about booking it quickly as it is already earmarked for a few - its a great resource for the club that shouldn't go unappreciated and was sailed competitively this year by 5 different crews.

Outside of a SOD centric view, the club will be running a couple of large events in particular **Double Ree** in July encompassing Mirrors, 420s, 29ers and RS Fevas. A large amount of our rescue cover at the bigger SOD weekends and annual regatta are members from other classes, it would be great if as many of us as possible reached out to volunteer for that weekend either on or off shore.

Wishing all great things between now and the start of next season.



Shannon One Designs racing during Lough Corrib Regatta and Home-coming Regatta

Keelboats & Cruisers

The AGM of the Cruiser Class was held, with a good attendance, in the Boat House of Sean's Bar, on **Friday 8th of November** last year.

Despite rumors to the contrary, there was no coup d'état, with Pat McMahon and Maurice Collins hanging on to the appointments of Class Captain and Secretary, respectively. A proposal by Philip Watson that the name of the class should be changed to the **Keelboat Class**, as this more commonly and accurately describes the boats that sail in the class - it was unanimously approved.

We are now the Keelboat Class!

It was a bad year for the keelboat masts, with three having been broken during sailing and we are sorry to hear that another was damaged during its haul out recently. On the bright side, Ray Groarke and Maurice Collins's new masts are promised to be delivered in January and all New Year's leave for Santa's elves has been cancelled until they finish Denis Bergin's. **Happy New Year** to all, as we look forward to the celebrations of our **Club's 250th birthday**.

Wanted!

As part of LRYC's 250th (semiquincentennial) celebrations in 2020, it is proposed to publish an **album of pictures and photographs**.

Can you help by contributing any sailing or yacht club illustrations for consideration - boats, events, people, places; in short **anything or anyone to do with LRYC?**

Of course, not everything may be included, but the album will be as representative as possible.

Please supply a caption with anything you submit with at least the name of any boat involved, the name of its owner, the names of anyone else involved, the event and the date, even approximate. Also, if known, the name of the photographer.

It is understood that by submitting an illustration we have your consent to its publication.

We would ask for submissions by **17th March 2020**.

Photos can be sent by email to Richard Foy richardfoy53@gmail.com. Ideally, they should be in JPG format.

Original photos will also be accepted by Richard at **63 Bloomfield Drive Athlone Co. Westmeath N37 EV96**. They will be copied/ scanned and returned.

Online Payments/Banking

Our Hon. Treasurer has kindly requested that members are more careful when making IBAN/EFT.

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) . .

SB20 Class

LRYC SB20 Sailors have had a busy Winter so far!

Firstly, Happy New Year to all and congratulations to **Emmet Sheridan** on his participation in the **Sydney Hobart Race** with the Howth Yacht Club team on the Beneteau First 40 Breakthrough. The team had a very good race in this bluewater offshore classic.

The LRYC SB20 fleet had a very busy 2019 season and we look forward to a great **250th anniversary year** on Lough Ree. We now have **5 boats** based at the club and we are hoping that a few more boats may join us from other parts of the country and we are also hoping to get a few more members involved. If anyone would like information on getting into the class be sure to contact **Donie** on 087 8113242 or **John Malone** 086 3877936. There are also a number of boats getting tickled up over the winter in various sheds around the midlands with lots of jobs being ticked off the list.



John Malone has recently been appointed as the **Class President for Ireland** and we are all looking forward to the **SB20 Nationals** coming to LRYC in September.

The plan for 2020 is to run an SB20 racing weekend once a month at the club. Racing will likely be Saturday afternoon and Sunday morning with windward leeward racing. A number of club boats will also be attending the monthly regional events around the country and we will also compete in the cruiser club racing where possible.

The **Regional events calendar** looks very interesting with it kicking off on 16-17th May in the Royal Irish Yacht Club in Dun Laoghaire, then the Northerns on 20-21st June in Strangford Lough, the Southern Champs in Crosshaven in July, the Nationals at LRYC in September and finishing off the season on Lough Derg in October. For the adventurous, the World Championships are being held in Caiscais, Portugal.

LRYC at the Sydney Hobart

For the past few years on St Stephen's morning, with the help of YouTube, we've been able to follow the start of one of the world's most celebrated off shore races, **The Sydney Hobart Race**. With a strong coffee in hand and feet up, surrounded by Christmas decorations, most of us follow this most iconic of races on the laptop and can only dream of being there.

One LRYC member didn't have to dream. **Emmet Sheridan** formed part of the crew on **HYC Breakthrough**. The Beneteau First 40 was chartered by an all Howth Yacht Club crew (Emmet's other club) skippered by Darren Wright.

The start of the Sydney Hobart as a spectacle is almost without equal, with the possible exception of the Shannon One Design Long Distance Race, below the lock, after leaving Sean's. The Sydney opera house and the harbour bridge provide the backdrop, while a fleet of over 100 boats line up on three start lines for a simultaneous start. Among them are famous maxis such as Wild Oats and Comanche.

The course runs down the coasts of **New South Wales and Victoria**, which tragically have been in the news recently for all the wrong reasons. They then cross the notorious **Bass Strait** before finishing in the **capital of Tasmania, Hobart**. Emmet was well taken care of by his shore crew, as the entire family made the trip. Here they are at the finish in Hobart (photo).

Congratulations on achieving a fantastic bucket list experience.



LOUGH REE YACHT CLUB

Established 1770

Any contributions to Waterlines would be warmly welcomed.

Contact waterlines@lryc.ie