



Waterlines

Dear Members,

With the government's latest announcement, it is clear that we will have to wait until the 5th of April before we have a clear idea on the lifting of restrictions.

As things stand, we are expecting a gradual return to normal activities. With a bit of luck (and a drop of vaccine), the situation will have settled sufficiently in time for the start of the sailing season.

One thing that is clear is that we will have to be as vigilant as ever and maintain the systems that were put in place last year to protect everyone from the virus.

Despite the lockdown, a number of members within the 5km limit have managed to make it down to the club to advance the necessary winter maintenance work. They accomplished a huge amount of work, as you can see outlined below.

In the meantime, I hope everyone is taking advantage of the time at home to prepare their boats for the season ahead.

John McGonigle
Commodore

Loughree RNLI Boathouse Appeal

As most members probably know the RNLI have commenced building a new lifeboat station at Coosan Point to replace the existing temporary container units.

The fundraising committee have just been allowed to start our fundraising campaign to raise our contribution of €100,000 towards the capital cost of €1,200,000.

We have a station 'Go Fund Me' up and running and a number of our friends have also similar 'Go Fund Me' campaigns running on our behalf. In the interim we are doing a mailshot on a once off basis. Should members wish to help we have a bank account with AIB Athlone.

Account; Loughree RNLI Boathouse Appeal
IBAN; IE80 AIBK 932 264 580 90098.

Note - if one lodges direct to the bank the RNLI gets the full amount and no fees, unlike the 'go fund me' method.

All contributions very welcome.



Winter Webinars

A series of online talks have been organised to keep us all entertained until we can return to our boats.

We will keep you informed by **email, Facebook and WhatsApp** about upcoming talks!



Waste Management at the Club

We will have a waste collection service with AES this year, we would like to thank them for their sponsorship of this service. To start, there will be a general waste bin & recycling only, so we would ask that you continue to take certain wastes back home with you if at all possible, in particular glass waste is **NOT** to be placed in either the General waste bin (green) or the Recycling waste bin (blue). We hope that a Food waste bin (brown) will follow in due course when properly rolled out in the Coosan area.

We have a limited number of bins to start with, 3 green & 3 blue, so during peak season times such as Regatta & Junior Sailing Course, we will have to augment these bins with the use of a skip. In the event that the bins are full and awaiting collection, please refrain from overfilling bins or leaving waste on the ground beside the bin. In time the number/size of bins will increase with a view to dispensing of skip use completely.

Please see below graphics showing the correct use of the General & Recycling bins.

General waste

A general waste bin with incorrect materials cannot be accepted on collection day.



Recycling bin



Communications

There has been a proliferation of methods of communication in recent years. The challenge for us has been to find the best method of contacting all of our membership, while taking advantage of some of the newer, more flexible means.

Print: We will obviously continue to send out printed material throughout the year. We would however like to use more email where possible to save on paper and postal costs.

Waterlines for example, could be sent by email. If anyone would rather to continue to receive a printed copy of Waterlines, could they please contact secretary@lryc.ie to let us know.

Email: Many people do not use social media groups, so for important club and sailing related matters, we will inform the membership by email.

Website: Our website www.lryc.ie is a great source of information for anyone who would like to learn about our club. There is information on sail training for both children and adults. The events section is particularly useful as it would have any alterations to scheduled events noted.

Facebook: This is a great resource for posting photos and results from events, as well as some general information of interest.

WhatsApp: This is a fantastic resource but has the potential to be very annoying if not used appropriately. The different groups are:

- **Lough Ree Yacht Club Group**
this is the general group. It must only be used for important club and sailing information. Please only use this group like the VHF channel 16.
No chatter please.

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Merchandise Order

Following the Merchandise Order for 250th Anniversary gear last August, we had a number of inquiries for another order to be placed. If there is interest we will look to re-order again this Spring. It will be a pre-order as before. Ordering will be facilitated through our website.

Please contact [Erica](#) if you are interested!

Works Done & To Do

Over the winter our man from TUAS – Robert Fox has been busy in the boathouse working on our boats. Both Strangford 16's have been repaired and repainted inside and out. A new keelband has been fitted to one and leaks fixed. The Drascombe has also had its woodwork refurbished and now looks good.

Externally all the hedges have been cut back and tidied up. A bund wall has been fitted to the crane to collect any oil spills – keeps our Insurance company happy. The crane has been repainted and awaits a full service. It is hoped that Robert will get the horseboxes repainted before he leaves us in March.

Nial McHugh has replaced all the WC's in the horse boxes. The sticking doors have been re-modelled and no longer stick. Hopefully people will no longer be locked in. We have purchased sufficient timber to replace the rubbing strakes on the floating jetty. Nial is also in the process of replacing the broken slabs on the floating jetty. Along with this he will fit the missing wooden rubbing strakes and re-weld the loose floats.

The executive committee have agreed to fit a 5 CCTV camera system and the contractor intends to have them in operation in April. The location of the cameras are; 2 looking at the gate, 1 looking at the bins/skip, 1 looking at the boat park and 1 looking at the foreshore from the clubhouse. The system can cater for up to 16 cameras and be added to at any time.

We have 6 new waste bins – 3 for domestic (general) waste and 3 for recycling (these are slightly larger than your home bin). The remaining old bins are for GLASS only. It is intended that skips will only now be used for the junior course and regatta.



This may look like part of our Covid 19 plan for social distancing, but never fear. These are in fact the replaced toilets from the horseboxes.

SPORTS CAPITAL GRANT

We eventually got paid €12,500.00 for our electrical upgrade work on the floating jetty.

We will lodge another application in the current scheme.

• Bar Group

This was set up to inform members of when the bar is open and to enable people to reserve a table. This was established last summer in order to help to manage the bar during the Covid crisis. The group is managed by our barman, Sean Foley.

• We have several different groups for different fleets and activities

It has proved to be particularly valuable for organising training and events. It allows participants in a specific fleet to make enquiries or post information without overloading the entire membership with information that does not relate to them. If anyone wants to join a specific group, contact the respective class captain and ask them to add you.

Laser Sailing

One of the first fleets that are likely to return to sailing will be the Lasers. Before the current lockdown, a coaching program was planned in the club. James Delany had agreed to run the coaching and to share his valuable experience. James has competed at a very high level here in Ireland. He has also trained and competed internationally.

Many youth sailors were expected to express an interest. What was surprising was the number of sailors of the 'Master' age profile. Is clearly is a fleet that spans a wide age group. As soon as we are able to return to sailing, we will restart laser coaching. For anyone who is interested in taking part, please contact Emmet Duffy, the class captain, at treasurer@lryc.ie. He can add you to the LRYC Laser WhatsApp group for updates.



Berthing Etiquette

We are very fortunate at Lough Ree Yacht Club to be able to offer berthing to our members for the summer months. This is primarily for people who are living aboard and partaking in club activities.

Except for Regatta berthing is loosely arranged with notification and agreement of the Bosun prior to arrival. This system has served us well and allowed for a very harmonious atmosphere at the club during the summer months.

Generally once a request is made for mooring in a particular area the request will be granted assuming space is available. We don't operate a system of pre-booking or holding places although there can be reasons from time to time where a space that may appear available is not, this must be respected. The finger jetties as they are single berths are the exception to this and may be allocated to members who have a specific requirement for them. Please do not tie up even temporarily on a finger jetty without contacting the Bosun. The areas where berthing may be requested are:

South Jetty	Inside floating Jetty (stern on)
South jetty Barge mooring	Outer finger jetty (Stern on)
Outside floating jetty	Finger Jetties

Fees should be paid in advance for seasonal mooring and on arrival for weekend visitors. Season stickers will be given to boats when the fee is paid and a temporary pass to visitors which should be returned prior to departure.

Once you have your area members will arrange themselves as they wish with agreement of their neighbours. Inside the floating jetty we encourage a system of largest boat in the corner. Certain good practices help maintain the easy going feel of the club and we would encourage members using the facilities to adopt and assist others with these.

These practices include:

Assistance with arriving departing boats. Any boat arriving may need assistance mooring, particularly with stern on mooring. Often several boats will need to be moved to get the newcomer to a correct mooring.

Departing boats. The responsibility for neighbouring boats affected by the departure lies with the boat leaving. If assistance is not arranged ashore the departing boat must tie up and attend to boats affected by the departure before leaving the club.

Moving other people's boats. Boats may be re-arranged to aid mooring in an area however boats may not be moved to a different area without permission of the boat owner and/or Bosun.

On the inside of the floating jetty a set down area is to be kept clear immediately south of the rafted cruisers. This is to allow arriving boats set down and arrange mooring with the other boat owners in the area. It is important this area is kept clear, particularly at busy times.

Please remember that your boat is your responsibility. We do our best to look out for each other but are not a marina. We do not expect boats to be left unattended so please remember to arrange a fellow member to check on your boat if you cannot for any reason. We need to be thoughtful of our neighbours in other boats and avoid clutter on the jetties. Leads and hoses should be kept tidy and equipment and rubbish kept on the boats.

If we all work together we can maintain the easy going atmosphere that we all enjoy so much. We are a club of volunteers not a marina so it is vital we all do our part. I know we are all grateful for the hard work done over the winter maintaining the jetties and facilities and we are certainly looking forward to getting back on the water and meeting friends we haven't seen in so long.