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The image shows two logos side-by-side. On the left is the ICRA logo, which consists of a blue square containing a white sailboat icon and the text 'ICRA' below it. To the right of the ICRA logo is the text 'ICRA' in large white letters, followed by 'IRISH CRUISER RACING ASSOCIATION' and 'Latest news and updates' in smaller white text. On the far right of this row is a red circle containing a white right-pointing arrow. On the left is the ISORA logo, which is a circular emblem with a yellow compass rose in the center. The text 'IRISH SEA' is at the top, 'OFFSHORE' at the bottom, 'RACING' on the left, and 'ASSOCIATION' on the right. To the right of the ISORA logo is the text 'ISORA' in large yellow letters, followed by 'Latest news and updates' in smaller yellow text. On the far right of this row is a blue circle containing a white right-pointing arrow.

This section contains three logos. The top logo is for CH Marine, featuring a blue circular icon with a stylized 'C' and 'M' shape, followed by the text 'CH Marine' in a bold blue font, and the website 'www.chmarine.com' in a smaller blue font. To the right is a blue circle with a white right-pointing chevron. The middle logo is for O'Sullivan's Marine, featuring an orange and white stylized sailboat icon, followed by the text 'O'Sullivan's' in white and 'Marine' in orange, with the tagline 'All your boating needs' in white below. To the right is a white circle with a blue right-pointing chevron. The bottom logo is for Viking Marine, featuring a stylized 'V' made of teal vertical bars, followed by the text 'VIKING MARINE' in white, all set against a background of dark blue ocean waves.

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with Lorna Siggins





# Ted is Tops in SB20 Nats "Festival" on Lough Ree

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21st September 2021

[Afloat.ie Team](#)



Lough Ree at its best for the "festival atmosphere" SB20 Nationals at Lough Ree YC

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On sea and lake alike, the wonderful weekend's summery weather may sometimes have produced frustrating wind conditions. But at most centres and through multiple events, the breeze obliged at various stages to bring superb sailing and a glimpse of what life used to be like as a matter of course. It was enough to encourage a genuine festival atmosphere, no more so than at the three-day Provident CRM/Dubarry [SB20](#) Nationals in Lough Ree with the notably hospitable Lough Ree YC. It has inspired this lyrical account of a great regatta by Eoin Leahy, Ted Laverty and Class President John Malone, while the photos are by Edel Kellegher and Joanne Leavy. More photos of this successful and colourful event will appear in [Sailing on Saturday with W M Nixon](#) on Afloat.ie on Saturday 25th September :

*Long after the boats have been finally stowed for the winter off-season, this edition of the SB20 National Championships is certain to keep the fleets' fires burning for what promises to be an even more exciting season ahead with Ireland hosting the SB20 World Championships in 2022. While the winds were variable throughout the weekend with plenty of breeze on the Sunday, both the hospitality shown by Lough Ree Yacht Club (LRYC) and the performance of the championship winners (Michael O'Connor,*

Davy Taylor and Ed Cooke on 'Ted') was anything but. Nineteen entries made up the fleet from Dublin, Cork, Lough Ree, Lough Derg and Carlingford. Mer

Perhaps it was a result of the pent-up anticipation post-lockdown, or something else, but from the off this event had an almost festival-like feel to it. Complete with mobile coffee trucks, a post sailing BBQ and a superb Gala dinner with sumptuous local produce and local music performances – it's hard to remember such an enjoyable and relaxed event off the water, even with the physical distancing restrictions in place. Ably planned and executed by the LRYC community, special mention goes to Kevin Fenton, John McGonigle and John Malone (SB20 Class President) for ensuring all competitors were so well catered for at all times.



Whether the wind was light or fresh, the racing was close and often colourful

Friday's racing kicked off in a tricky 8 to 10 knots of breeze, putting a premium on keeping on top of shifts and positioning in the fleet. International race officer Con Murphy and team put on a masterclass which demonstrated the style with which they'd cope with varying circumstances to give us nine races over three days, providing excellent courses and directing the team of mark layers to get the most from the conditions. After Day 1, Michael O'Connor and the crew 'Ted' finished with two first places and a 4th, to put them two points ahead of Philip Doran & Crew on 'LoFly' (Dorans Family) and Colin Galavan & Crew on 'Carpe Diem'. Mel Collins & Crew on 'Gold Digger' threatened the lead briefly with a bullet in race 2, but in reality, reigning Irish Sailing All Ireland Senior Sailing Champion Michael O'Connor sailed a near flawless opening day with his team to lay down a marker to the rest of the fleet.

Saturday morning sunshine greeted the competitors at LRYC. Day 2 saw even more trying lake conditions, with massive shifts and holes appearing all over the course in light breezes. In a fleet as competitive as the SB20's, one mistake was hard to recover from - with many crews going from 'hero to zero' in the space of just one leg. The results continued as they finished from the previous day, with the crew of 'Ted' posting an early win to extend its lead. Strong sailing from 'Carpe Diem' and 'LoFly' kept them on the podium, but they were being closely stalked by Ger Dempsey & Crew aboard 'Venuesworld.com' who posted a 2-7-1 to get themselves into contention and the crew of 'Gold Digger' one place back.





Any bite to the breeze was a reminder that Lough Ree is an inland sea

*LRYC hosted a class dinner on Saturday night with some great footage of the days racing playing on the big screen in the dining room followed by new crews to the fleet getting to know the season campaigners in the bar.*

*After being suitably refreshed at the superb Gala dinner on Saturday night, the crews emerged to more promising conditions on Day 3 with fresher winds and the promise of more stability. It proved to deliver some of the most exciting racing, even providing a taste of planing conditions for the first time in the event.*

*Ted started the day with a bullet followed by an uncharacteristic 8th but a 2nd in the last race sealed the deal for them. However, the chasing pack were sailing consistently from behind and the competition for the remaining podium places was intense. The crew of 'Carpe Diem' posted hard earned results of 4-7-4 on the day but were ultimately pipped for second place overall by 'Venueswold.com' who bloomed late in the event to post a 2-10-1 to lead 'Carpe Diem' by a single point and push them into 3rd place. 'Lofly' finished in 4th place, with Gold Digger in 5th. Local boat 'Strictly Business' with Eoin Leahy, Donnie Heragahty and Alex Leech won the Silver Fleet in 9th position overall.*



SB20 Prizes galore – and several with a local flavour

*With a strong and growing SB20 fleet in place in LRYC, tired travellers departed reluctantly from their warm glow on Sunday afternoon having experienced a truly special event. All the organisers can be proud of their achievements – and even slightly afraid that they might be invited to repeat it all over again for many years to come!*

*As the dust settles after a great three days of racing on Lough Ree, the fleet is preparing for the season-closing event in Lough Derg YC next month. The class is in good health heading into 2022 and the SB20 worlds in Dublin Bay.*

Results are [here](#)

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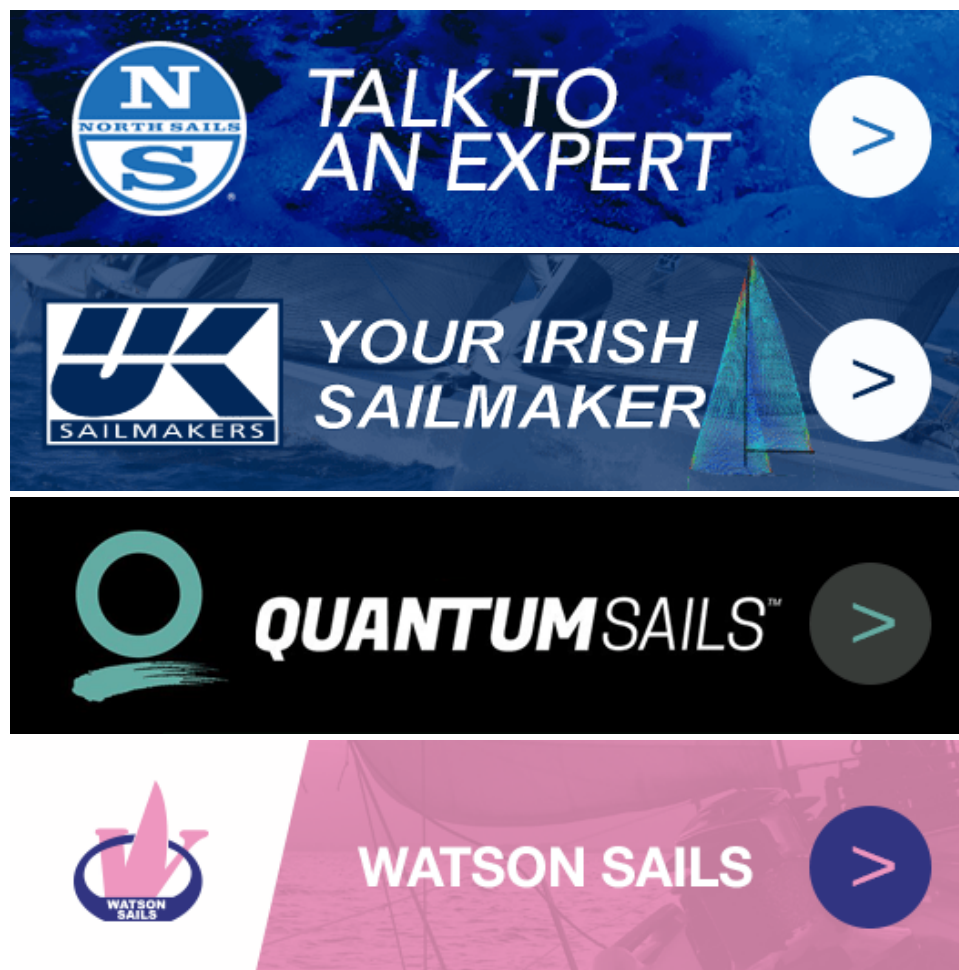


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