

# Waterlines

## Annual Regatta 2023

5th - 11th August

Just a few short weeks to go before our Annual Regatta commences.

The Notice of Race/Programme is almost ready for publishing on the club [website](#) and will be available to access shortly.

**Please Note:** This year hard copies of the Notice of Race/Programme will be available at Registration from Friday 4th August.

**Entries** are to be completed online and will be accepted up to and including Friday 4th August at 1800. Where entries and relevant fees are received on or before Friday July 28th 2023 a reduction of €30 will apply to each Family Race Entry, subject to a maximum race entry fee per family of €260 (after discount).

**Berthing** and other fees for functions etc. will be listed and booked online. Please note that berthing spaces, afloat and ashore, will be allocated on the basis of entries received by Monday 24th July and will be displayed online by Wednesday 26th July. (This includes accommodation vessels).

**Trophies Reminder:** These are to be engraved and returned to Emer Nooney (mobile 085 164 8553) before Monday 24th of July 2023.

Any trophy returned not engraved will subsequently be engraved and the cost there of, added to the following year's subscription bill of the winner.

We look forward to seeing everybody at the club for another exciting Annual Regatta, both on and off the water.

See you there!

**Regatta Organising Committee**

## Adult Sailing Courses

We have one remaining Adult Sailing Course for 2023. These courses have been very well attended and we thank Orla, Tara and our instructors for all their hard work.

**Final Course:**

July: Mon 10 - Fri 14 (Dinghys)

6.15pm - 9pm

€160 (€110 for LRYC members)

## J24 Western Championships, LRYC

Light winds welcomed the 13 boat fleet to the first event of the 2023 season over the weekend 29th/30th April. After about a 2 hour delay the wind finally started to fill in allowing race officer Derek Bothwell to setup the first course of the day.

Race 1 saw Jelignite skippered by Finbarr Ryan use local knowledge to his advantage to pick up a wind shift coming out of the bay on the starboard side of the course allowing them to take an early lead which they kept to the finish. Current National champions Headcase (Cillian Dickson) took second and Hedgehog (Mark Usher) took 3rd.

Race 2 had to be restarted due to a 40 degree shift just after the start. After a short delay racing got underway in about 5-8 knots. This time IL Riccio (JP McCaldin) made best use of the conditions and held off Headcase to take the bullet with Hard on Port helmed by David Bailey finishing third. Race 3 saw IL Riccio and Hedgehog battle it out for honours with each swapping positions several times, however IL Riccio had the last say by picking up a lift on the finish line to take the honours with Hard on Port finishing in third again.

Sunday dawned with a bit more breeze and Headcase revelled in the conditions taking 2 firsts in races 4 and 5 with IL Riccio getting a second and third and Hard on Port a third and second. This left 3 boats with a chance of winning the event overall going into the last race. The Hard on Port team sailed an excellent race to win race 6 however it was not enough to win overall as Headcase finished second giving them enough points to win the Championship and with IL Riccio finishing in third place securing them the runners up spot.

Congratulations to Headcase for winning overall and SkipJack Skipped by James Hockley for winning the silver fleet. Roll on the Northerns at the end of May.



LRYCs Team Jelignite

## Whit Weekend

Whit Weekend had most fleets on the water for the June Bank Holiday weekend. We had 14 optimists - 5 in the Gold Fleet and 9 in the Silver Fleet. In Silver Emile Henessy finished 3rd overall, Michael Malone was 2nd and Judith Boyd was the winner. In Gold, Mae Byrne was 3rd, Hugo Breen finished 2nd and Orla Turner was the overall winner of Whit Weekend 2023. Thanks to Eoghan Duffy who ran the racing for the Juniors.

In the SOD class after a 9 race series and two discards Ian Croxon in 67 finished 3rd overall - joint points with Cathal Breen in 155 who claimed 2nd place on countback. David Dickson in 73 was the overall Winner of the LRYC Challenge Cup. Thanks to the Mayne Family who ran great racing for the SOD fleet.

Five LRYC SB20's took to the water over Whit Weekend. Three Windward/Leeward races were sailed each day. Strictly Business with Eoin Leahy on the helm showed the early pace (and luck) in very light and shifty conditions on Saturday with three firsts. Mark Rafter sailing twohanded with Stan Bradbury showed great pace on Saturday with two seconds and lots of good results over the weekend including a first in the final race. Bango had a slow start to the weekend but started Sunday with a first and then had three second places over the rest of the weekend. There was lots of leader changes throughout the weekend with the shifty and light conditions. The weekend also introduced a number of new sailors to the SB20 fleet with every boat having new crew at least one day. The overall results were tight with 1 point between 2nd and 3rd and four out of the five boats won a race. A huge thanks to Heidi Cullen & Liz McGrath for doing Race Officer for the weekend. We hope you'll be back! The overall results ended up with Strictly Business in 1st, Bango in 2nd and Sharkbait in 3rd. The SB20 LRYC Class are hoping to hold another weekend in July prior to the Annual Regatta.



Oppies first race underway!



Team Banjo



Team Sharkbait

Congratulations to the winners of the 225 Trophy Damien Delaney on Phlios, Fintan O'Reilly on Mary Fraiser II & Tara Mooney on Jacquerie. 1st, 2nd & 3rd. Damien shot out for the blocks from the get-go in light conditions taking the first race, with Jacquerie

## The Dun Laoghaire to Dingle Race 2023

### Highly Commendable Seamanship

A crew comprising of six hardy Lough Ree Yacht Club Sailors recently took part in the Dun Laoghaire to Dingle Race on Emmet Sheridan's yacht Blaoga.

Blaoga was having a great race down the Irish Sea in brisk Northerlies when a call came over the VHF that another yacht was in trouble after losing its rudder. The yacht called Wow, was taking on water and had alerted the Coastguard of their situation. At this point Blaoga was one of the closest boats but was 6 miles away. They sailed as fast as possible to get to the stricken vessel as Wow was close to a lee shore.

Unfortunately, on arrival at the vessel, Blaoga had difficulty dropping its spinnaker and crash gybed. In the process, they broke their spinnaker pole and damaged the mast track. Blaoga stood by and assisted as the Lifeboat arrived.

This was a selfless example of seamanship where the crew of Blaoga went to the aid of another vessel in difficulty. Unfortunately, Blaoga had to retire due to the damage they sustained in helping another competitor.

LRYC sailors onboard were Emmet Sheridan, John Malone, John McGonigle, Ben Graf, Niall Smyth and Martin MacNamara.

**Well done Team Blaoga.**

## House and Grounds Update

Firstly, thanks again to those who attended the recent Work-Ins, your time and effort was greatly appreciated. I understand the timing of Work-Ins may not suit everybody but they are so necessary in maintaining our fabulous club.

Attached is a site layout plan for the club. It is hoped this will help our members and visitors to navigate the club with a little more ease.

This is a very busy time in the club and we need the cooperation from members to ensure everything runs smoothly. One area that we are continuously trying to improve on is recycling. This year we have extra blue bins for recycling, located opposite the junior room. Please recycle where you can and if in doubt, please use the Skip or Green Bins.

**Thanks**

**Rory Martin** (House and Grounds)

## On the High Seas

David and Aoife Beattie are heading to Madeira for the ICC Rally (David is the current ICC Commodore) to commemorate the 1923/25 voyage of Conor O'Brien around the world in Saoirse. He will sail back to Ireland afterwards in 'Ilen' a similar timber ketch built in Baltimore which O'Brien later delivered to the Falkland Islands from which it was returned to Ireland in recent years to be fully restored in West Cork. Roger Hatfield will be making the return trip with them.

Paul French is sailing his Jeanneau 45 'Embla' from Gibraltar to Madeira to join in the ICC Rally and I'm one of his crew on this leg. We will be watching the Orca situation carefully! Tom Bradbury sailed with Paul from Valencia along the Spanish coast on the delivery trip to the south of Spain.

David Dickson went cruising to sea with Anna Leech and Ken Hudson in the Shipman 29 'Aeolus'. They reached Fenit before heading back to Lough Ree.

**John Banim**

## Whit Weekend (con't)

taking the second. Fintan appeared on Sunday & Monday in heavier conditions taking the next 3 races. Damien has now won the 225 Trophy 12 times. The Adult Sailing course took place the last weekend in May and some of the participants joined the fleet for the Whit weekend. A huge thank you to the Course Instructors Fintan O' Reilly, John McGonigle, Alan McNeice & Tara Mooney.

Our Laser fleet took to the water in the evenings over the Bank Holiday Weekend with 6 boats competing in the 4 race series. John McGonigle finished 3rd overall, with Aiden Breen 2nd and Martin MacNamara as overall winner.



Fintan O'Reilly, Damien Delaney and Tara Mooney



Whit Weekend prize-giving for all fleets on Monday afternoon in the sunshine, Photo Credit - James Turner

## Shannon One Designs

The season has kicked off well and on time for the great weather. The Inner Lakes Regatta eased us back into racing with some gentle breezes, passage races and a much welcomed sojourn to Coosan Point for lunch provided generously by our hosts Eimear and Sam.



Shannon One Designs getting ready to start during the Inner Lakes Regatta



Shannon One Designs after the start during Whit Weekend Regatta

Whit Weekend returned with a bang this year, thanks to great efforts of the Mayne family and co. The sun shone and the wind blew consistently for three days, providing some of the most enjoyable racing on the lake over the past few years. The Bowler's 125th anniversary celebrations brought such a crowd down to the jetty that we could wet our feet while sipping on a very generous serving of Pimms! Sadly the Long Distance Race has not garnered enough of a fleet this year to go ahead so we will have an unintended intermission for the next month up until the next regatta, 'Barges & Sods' on July 15/16th. With this coinciding at the height of the sailing course, I would encourage the fleet to seek out juniors and instructors from the course to fill their boats. The fleet ain't getting any younger! Wednesday night racing has commenced, with some fantastic conditions being enjoyed over the past few weeks. The fine weather forecast promises more of this and as the fleet grows so will the prospect of an apres-sail barbeque at the club.

## J24 Northern Championships, Mayo



LRYC boats Headcase and Jelignite



Headcase leading the fleet

**Mayo duo lead Headcase to glory at J24 Northern Championship.**

The J24 Northern Championship, hosted by Mayo Sailing Club, saw 14 teams from around the country compete in six races over the weekend of 27th and 28th May. The event was raced in moderate winds and sunshine against the picturesque surrounds of Clew Bay. The overall winner was Headcase of Lough Ree YC, with local sailors Louis Mulloy and Marcus Ryan onboard, who had four firsts and a second in the six races. The team was rounded out by Cillian Dickson, Ryan Glynn and Ronan Armstrong. Second place went to Janx Spirit, skippered by Tadhg Ó Loingsigh from Tralee Bay Sailing Club, who also finished second place to Headcase in the 2022 National Championships. Third place was claimed by Hedgehog, sailed by Mark Usher and his crew from Greystones Sailing Club, improving on their fourth place finish in the Western Championships at Lough Ree Yacht Club last month. Fourth place went to IL Rico sailed by JP McCaldin of Lough Erne YC and fifth place went to Jelignite, sailed by Finbarr Ryan of Lough Ree YC.

Speaking after the event, the crew of Headcase said that they were delighted to get some very competitive racing under their belts in their last Irish J24 event of 2023. Their plans for the rest of the Summer see them bringing Headcase on an Odyssey to the Aegean Sea, challenging for the European Championships on the way in Lake Balaton, Hungary, in August before taking on the World Championships in Thessaloniki, Greece, in early September.



## Jimmy Furey – Legendary boatbuilder and early eco-activist

By John Furey

*"One can revitalize a commercial industry, but a lost landscape is lost forever."* Jimmy Furey

On June 20 this year, it will have been three years since legendary Irish boatbuilder, Jimmy Furey, passed away at the age of 95. Arguably the finest such craftsman of his generation (Go check out David Shaw-Smith's superb Hands documentary on YouTube for proof), there was way more to Jimmy than his mastery of wood, wind and waves.

Like many Irishmen born between the two world wars, Jimmy remained single for the whole of his long life. All of which isn't to say his 35,000 or so days on the planet were devoid of passion.

Jimmy loved – and was loved by – his brothers, Paddy and Jack, and sisters, Mary and Kitty, plus their numerous children and grandchildren. Until his death, he was very much the glue that bound what remained of the Furey family together.

He adored the many dogs (nearly always Labrador Retrievers called Jet or Brownie) who shared his home, and the wild winged creatures and animals who made their own homes on his land. The only exception being cats who Jimmy despised with a vengeance because they killed the birds who flocked to his garden in all four seasons. The feistier of the Robins repaid the favour by regularly swooping through his front door and snacking on morsels of cheese from the cupped palm of one of his ginormous, calloused hands.

Having grown up in an era when storytellers 'rambled' from farm to farm sharing news and tales of the outside world with their neighbours, Jimmy also treasured steadfast friends and stimulating conversations.

Perhaps the thing Jimmy cherished most was nature and the paradisaical Mount Plunkett smallholding overlooking Lough Ree's Blackbrink Bay from which he very rarely ventured. So all-consuming was his love he eventually planted thousands of saplings in order to replenish the trees he had used in his other enduring passions – boat building and sailing.

Occupying just 460.53 acres, the tiny sliver of heaven that is Mount Plunkett is apparently Ireland's 12,968th largest townland. The area is named for the "Big House" landowner George Plunkett built there in 1806, and whose crumbling remains still gaze out across this stretch of the Shannon today.

Although January 1839's Night of the Big Wind (Oíche na Gaoithe Móire) destroyed most contemporary records, it seems likely Plunkett, a keen sailor, gifted Jimmy's grandfather the family smallholding when he hired him to repair his dinghies. A lifetime and more later, Jimmy who had previously made his living as a fisherman and farmer, began repairing and building sailing craft himself. The rest, as they say, is history.

At least it was until the early 1990s day when it was announced developers had applied to the council for planning permission to build an upmarket resort on the shores of Lough Ree. The fact that developers then felt honour-bound to apply for pre-construction planning permission rather than rely on post-construction bureaucratic indolence shows how far standards have fallen since Jimmy's time.

While far from being a Luddite, Jimmy was no great lover of change – even less so when the changes being proposed were recognisably for the worst. Soon, he was amongst the most vocal members of a lobbying group called The Lough Ree Conservation Society (LRCS).

Firing off a salvo of convincingly argued objection letters, Jimmy made it plain LRCS was going to be a major pain in Roscommon County council's posterior until the upstart outsiders were sent packing. Eventually, local planning officers saw sense and did just that. Three decades on, Mount Plunkett is officially cited as being "a scenic location in a landscape area... categorized as 'very high value' in Roscommon County Development Plan 2022-2028."

When Jimmy died during lockdown three years ago, it fell to me as his nephew and co-inheritor of his house and land to try and sort out his affairs for probate purposes. My first and most pressing responsibility involved salvaging what few papers and photos remained in his cottage. I have spent many absorbing – if bittersweet – hours since then getting lost amongst the twists and turns of my family's history.

The most fascinating of the many remarkable documents I unearthed was a treasure trove of handwritten copies of Jimmy's objections to that doomed development (excerpts of which are reproduced on these pages). While almost entirely self-taught, Jimmy was a voracious reader. As a result, his counterpoints are every bit as elegantly constructed and beautifully balanced as the boats and models with which he will be forever associated.

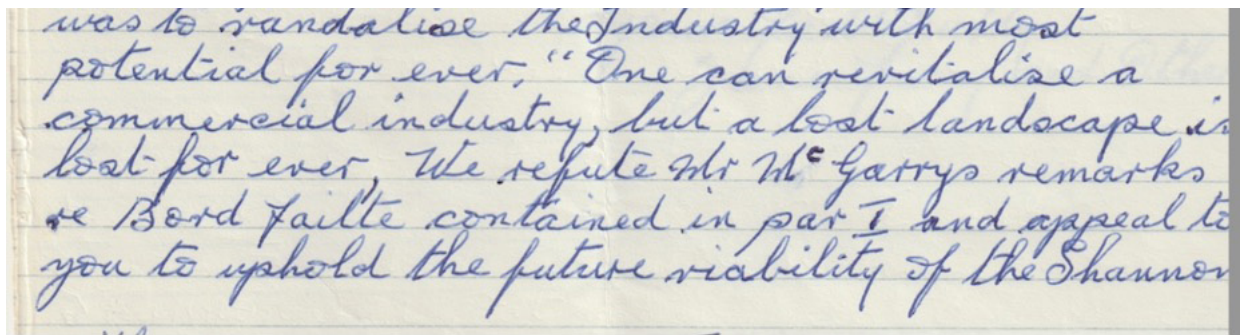
When local community members objecting to the development were accused of 'unduly emotive and obviously exaggerated expressions' by the developer (exact date unknown), Jimmy fired back: "Our views are legitimate, and they concern us both as a local concern and a national one."

The coup de grace came in a letter dated 12 October, 1992: 'Should the Council remain silent on these matters then soon, very soon, the lakeshore will be but a private garden for a minority. Time will pass a verdict on those who should and could have helped maintain Ireland for succeeding generations', Jimmy argued.

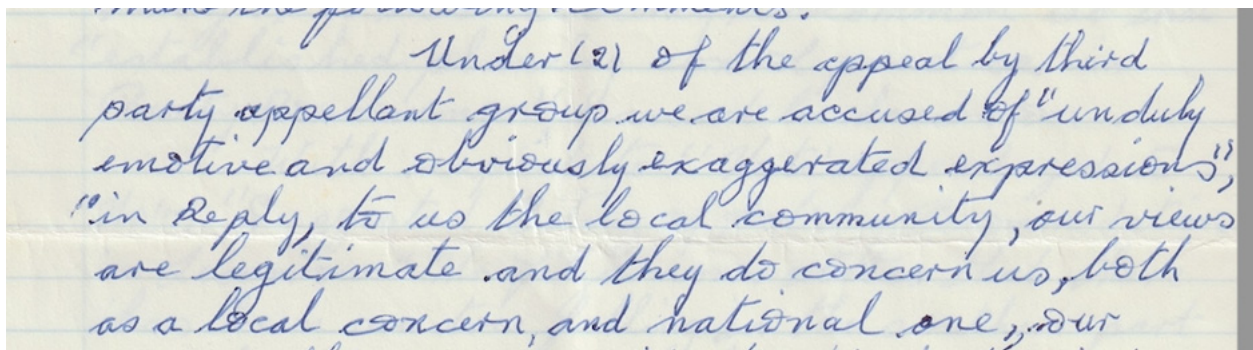
This being 30 years ago, there would have been no home computers or scanners with which to save these letters for future reference. With little or no access to a photocopier, Jimmy would have had to painstakingly transcribe every word of every letter for a second time. A vexing task for a craftsman who spent every dawn to dusk bending and shaping larch wood planking to his will. Even more so given that, regardless of how busy he was in

his boatshed, no one who ever came to Jimmy's door ever went away without being treated to a cup of tea and a chat.

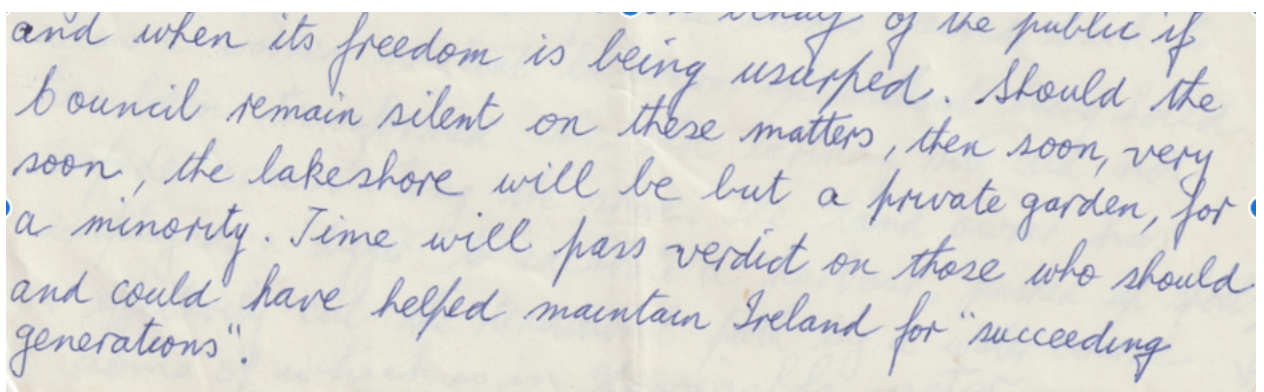
It is often said of Jimmy by friends who knew him far longer and better than I did, that he was a genius. A man who, if only given the opportunity, could have mastered whatever challenge he was asked – or took it upon himself – to face. Anyone a little part of whose soul belongs to Lough Ree should be forever grateful that long ago spring of 1992 saw Jimmy set about safeguarding the tiny corner of Roscommon he called home.

**QUOTE 1 - REVITALIZE**

was to vandalise the Industry with most potential for ever. "One can revitalise a commercial industry, but a lost landscape is lost for ever. We refute Mr M<sup>c</sup> Garrys remarks re Bord Fáilte contained in par I and appeal to you to uphold the future viability of the Shannon

**QUOTE 2 - UNDULY SENSITIVE**

Under (2) of the appeal by third party appellant group we are accused of "unduly emotive and obviously exaggerated expressions", "in reply, to us the local community, our views are legitimate and they do concern us, both as a local concern, and national one, our

**QUOTE 3 - COUNCIL**

and when its freedom is being usurped. Should the Council remain silent on these matters, then soon, very soon, the lakeshore will be but a private garden, for a minority. Time will pass verdict on those who should and could have helped maintain Ireland for "succeeding generations".



