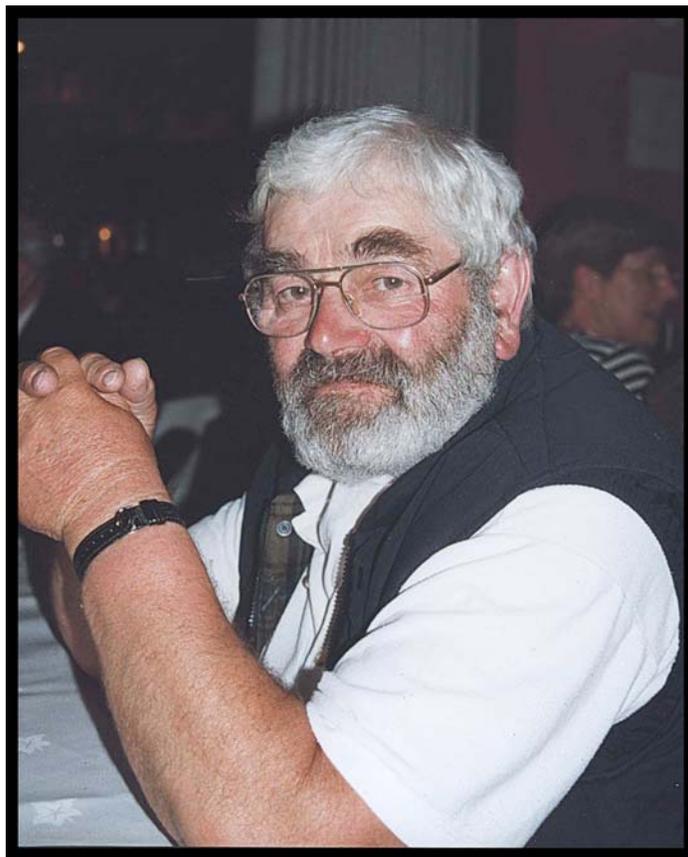


# RUSH SAILING CLUB NEWS LETTER

*May 2008*

## PETER DUNNE - IN MEMORIUM



Most of you will be aware of the passing of Peter Dunne, who died on Tuesday 22nd May, indeed many of you will have been at his funeral on Friday the 25th. He was a founder member of the club when it was formed in 1954.

Having only known Peter in recent years, I will not attempt to match the excellent eulogy Marguerite Carthy gave at his funeral. Marguerite knew Peter far better than I, indeed like many members, she knew Peter all of her life. Many more recent members of the club may just know Peter as the elderly guy with the beard, who appeared at club events on his red electric chariot, usually surrounded by a cheerful crowd, bending closer to catch his words. Peter played such an important role in the history of the club, that it is fitting that all members should have some sense of what the club has lost with his passing.

Throughout his life, Peter's love of sailing and the sea were by all accounts a constant theme. Peter was a carpenter by trade, but a shipwright by vocation. He was a

consummate craftsman with a passion for sailing boats. He was particularly associated with the Dublin Bay Mermaids, which are such an important class in our club to this day.



**Peter & Nellie setting out for Skerries in Dierdre for the Mermaid championships, 2006**

In 1954 the sailing club was founded, with Peter elected as Hon. Sec. In the same year, Peter built his first Mermaid, *Deirdre*, in his mother's back yard. Over the years, Peter built many boats, but more often than not, his shed contained a Mermaid, for a total rebuild, crash repairs or just redecking. Boat and shed were such a snug fit that there was barely room for Peter and the dog, who was never far from his feet. With the doors open on a sunny day, there were few more congenial spots to be, watching Peter work and talking boats.

Peter was an accomplished sailor, who knew the sea and knew boats, but he will also be remembered for his kindness and generosity. He communicated his love of sailing to many. Generations of children and young people travelled with Peter and Nellie to events around the country, where their camper became a home from home. Their daughter Patricia seems to have been raised from infancy in the bow of a Mermaid, where, she says 'I always felt safe with Daddy'.

In these days when far too much emphasis in sport is on winning, many a child could benefit from Peter's philosophical approach to competition. He loved to compete in races for the sheer joy of sailing, and was quite happy to come in the middle or back end of the fleet. Winning is a fine pleasure if it comes and excellence is its own reward, but for Peter the sailing was always the thing, the sheer joy of feeling a boat come alive as the sails fill and it heels to the wind.

Peter will be sadly missed by the many who knew him. Our condolences to his devoted wife Nellie, daughter Patricia and all of his family.



**Three veterans, Moss Weldon, Peter Dunne and Tony Bollard take to the water for the 2005 Regatta**

# SAILING SEASON UNDERWAY!

## MERMAIDS

Mermaid racing began on April 27th, with Anthony Carthy winning the first race and Paddy Dillon the second. Six new suits of sails were bought for this season, so people must be keen!



**Above: Owen Butterly dropping the Spinnaker on Ance weldon's *Eleanor***



**Right: André Berg getting *Swallow* on to the trailer**

## CRUISERS

The cruiser class has a new class captain, George Forde, who organised a very successful lift in on the 5th April.

Several boats went for the cruise in company / race to Carlingford with Skerries Cruisers. With thirty odd knots of wind behind us, that was interesting, especially when we all arrived at the entrance to the Lough with the tide still in full ebb. What were impressive following seas to start with became seriously lumpy!



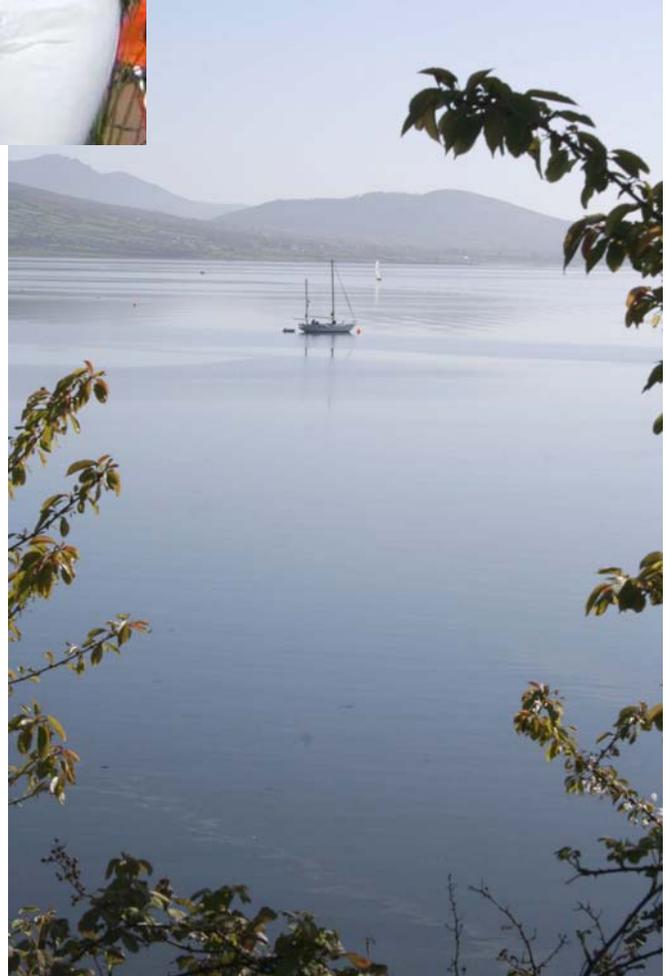
**Connor Kelly enjoying the roller coaster ride into Carlingford Lough, aboard *Taboo*** (Photo K. Kelly)

***Taboo* approaches Haulbowline Lighthouse with the wind against the tide**  
(Photo K. Kelly)





The race was won by Declan Higgins (receiving his 'Replica Cup' left) in *Tully Too*. Second was Anthony Horrigan & crew on *Eejit*, and third was Alan Jackson (giving Declan a hug left) & crew on *Premier Crú*.



**Peace and tranquillity on the lough, when the sun burned through the mist on Sunday morning**  
(Photo K. Kelly)

## THE BLESSING OF THE BOATS

The sun shone for the blessing of the boats, which brought lots of people out and made it a grand occasion. The flags flew, the band marched, the children played, and Fr. Ciaran got more than he bargained for!. He blessed the boats in the yard, and then claimed that seeing seeing as he had yet to master the art of walking on water, he would wave his aspergill in the general direction of the river and that would suffice for the rest. Not in Rush sailing club it wouldn't! He was politely inserted into a life jacket and whisked down the river in the rescue boat, where he gave each vessel its due with remarkably good grace. We should be safe this year!



**Above: St Maur's Pipe Band make their entrance**

**Left: Fr. Ciaran Coughlan leads the prayers**



**Left: Fr. Ciaran presents the first prize for the best dressed Junior Boat to Gemma Coleman. How do you become a pirate? You just AAARRRRRH!**



**Right: Commodore Kevin Whelan makes sure the job is properly done!**



**Left: Paul 'Packer' Thorne, Zara & Daniel kept Fr Ciaran company on his rounds.**

**Below: Sharon Dillon introduced Katie, the latest member of the Dillon Crew, to *Wild Wind***





**Left: David Kelly Jnr. Is congratulated by the Commodore on winning one of the colouring competition prizes**

## JUNIOR SAILING

Junior sailing starts on Tuesday 13th May. There are twenty five sailors enrolled for this season, and they are about to kick off with an adventure trip to Carlingford on Saturday 17th May.

## NEW GATE CODE

**FROM SAT. 17TH MAY, THE NEW GATE CODE WILL BE 5404**

## ACTIVITIES / FUND RAISING

The annual Fin Swim was a great success as usual, organised by Dick Flynn and the Diving Section. This raised over a thousand Euro for the RNLI.

The Navigation Workshops organised by Wally Carpenter and Jock Jordan were a great success and raised € 690 for the RNLI.

The Raffle at Easter raised € 250 in aid of Baby Jack.

## COMING EVENTS

### LEINSTER 420s

The Irish 420 Class Leinster Championships will take place at the club on the 24th and 35th May.

This should be a good spectator event, well worth a look for anybody with even a passing interest in dinghy sailing. The event will also require a lot of voluntary effort, so can anybody who can help out on the day make themselves known to the Sailing Sec. Paddy Dillon, or to any of the committee.

### MERMAID NATIONALS

The Mermaid National Championships will be hosted by us once more, from the 31st July to the 3rd August

## FAIRWAY IN THE RIVER

Along with the outer channel marks, there are now marker buoys marking the fairway for boats using the river. For the safety of all concerned, it is most important that this fairway, which has been agreed between the boat owners, the Lambay Estate and the operators of the Shamrock Ferry, should be kept free of obstruction at all times. If in doubt as to the location of the fairway, please refer to the chartlet included here, which is also available on the Club notice board.

Fair sailing for the season!

Jonathan Mason PRO