



RSC Newsletter

January 2013

Happy New Year to all our members and fingers crossed for an excellent year's sailing ahead. I am looking forward to the challenges presented as Commodore and look forward to working with all of you to build the club from strength to strength over the coming months and years.

Jacqui – Commodore

2013 Committee

The 2012 AGM saw some changes in the committee and for the first time in a long time, an election for places which was very welcome. Stepping aside were Jonathan Mason as Commodore, Brenda Mc Guinness, Pat Kennelly and Paul Thorne as committee members – many thanks to all four for their excellent contribution and support. New faces for this year include David Kelly, Alan Butterly, Enda Weldon and Austin (Jomo) Hughes.

Commodore: Jacqui Mc Crum

Vice Commodore: Patrick Boardman

Sailing Secretary: Alan Butterly

Secretary: Marguerite Carthy

P.R.O.: Phil Casey

Treasurer: Des Jones

Committee: Martin Redden

Kevin Whelan

Lorcan Hand

David Kelly

Alan Butterly

Enda Weldon

Austin (Jomo) Hughes

Tribute to Founding Members

We have just come through a very sad time in Rush Sailing Club. A time that has been life changing for many of our members and one that has closed off our links with the founding of the club in 1954.

On Sat. 22nd. Sept. founder member Tony Bollard died at the ripe old age of 91.

Although Tony had reached such an advanced age he could never have been regarded as old. Less than 10 yrs.

ago I raced with him in a Mermaid race in which no quarter was given despite the fact he was well in his eighties. He hopped from the long-liner in choppy conditions onto the deck of the Mermaid as if he were a young man in his twenties. Tony was a trustee of the club for the last thirty years taking on that role when he retired from active committee work and his many terms as Commodore and never lost his interest in the club and how it was progressing.

A brief nine weeks later and still reeling from the loss of Tony another life-long member Nellie Dunne died on 23rd. Nov. Like Tony, Nellie had given her all to RSC and early in the 2,000's had along with her friend Phyllis Bollard received a special award from the ISA for fifty years of voluntary work in support of sailing and water sports. During the almost sixty years since the foundation of the club there would not have been any event that Nellie was not involved in. She would have catered for every event and indeed on occasion would have double jobbed by assisting with race management. Contrary to the facilities available today, basic would not even begin to describe the conditions under which Nellie and her helpers would have worked. Known to hundreds of sailing folk throughout the country, very many of them attended her funeral, and we were very happy to be in a position to welcome so many of them to the club following the burial and to accommodate Nellie's family. There was however to be no respite from loss and grief. On 7th. Jan last less than 6 weeks after Nellie left us our last remaining founder member Moss Weldon lost his battle with failing health and Moss also died. Speak to any of the older members and they will tell you of the great times they had from the mid-fifties on sailing their herons at Regattas around Dublin Bay and all facilitated by Moss. In 1955 Moss, Tony, Peter Dunne and others built a fleet of Herons and promptly handed them over to be sailed by young fellows who were hanging around the fringes of the sailing activity taking place at Rogerstown. There was no faffing around then with levels and certificates it was straight into the fray. Moss would load up the fleet of boats on the back of his lorry and deliver them to whichever club was hosting an event. Tony would deliver the sailors by van or they would travel by train. The race would be sailed and then the whole operation would happen in reverse with boats and young people returned to base, sometimes in the early hours of the following day. All of this effort of course was on a voluntary basis and laid the foundations for what happens to this day. Moss who had a total recall right up until the end could remember in great detail races and

events that had happened decades ago. In June as all three of them attended the launching of the new Mermaids it was Moss who could talk about previous boat building efforts and launching ceremonies. So as we say goodbye to such stalwarts who served the club as Commodores, committee members and voluntary workers for so many years we are in the happy position of having many of their family members still participating in club activities and continuing the ethos. Anybody who managed to squeeze into the club on the day of Moss's funeral will have seen young David Kelly aged 12 working his heart out to get everyone fed and the clean-up started so I reckon this new generation will throw up just as many workers for the club, a fitting tribute to the three people who have left us in such quick succession this past three months. May they all rest in peace and may their spirits live on for a long time in RSC.

Written by Marguerite Carthy

RSC does its bit for the community



With so many austerity measures and general economic gloom it never ceases to be inspired by how generous our members and the people of Rush are:

RNLI – Gerry Benson & family raised €850 selling xmas cards & other goodies

Senior Citizens – Mary Bollard & Ger Whelan raised €1,760 to which the club added €240 making €2,000

Irish Cancer Society – The Annual Christmas Swim & Sail raised just short of €4,138 so far

Over November / December just short of 7,000 (€6,988) in total raised for three worthwhile causes – thank you so much. Many thanks to all who supported and those behind the scenes making each event happen.

Laser Sailing



Steady streams of boats are to be seen out on Sunday's continuing the 'Chill Laser series'. It is very encouraging to see a number of new junior members braving the elements in their pico's and 4.7's. Well done to class captain Colman Grimes for rallying the troops and providing an excellent blog on each week's races for the website and facebook pages.

New mermaids launch



July was a historic month at Rush Sailing Club, Enda and Anthony Weldon and Paddy Archer completed the build of their new Mermaids. Having worked on them for 2 years the day had finally come for their inaugural launch. There was a great turn out from family, friends and club members for the arrival of the boats and the sun even made an appearance.

Needless to say when the boats splashed into the water they were well balanced and looked great. After a brief sail around the estuary the skippers were happy with their work. Time will tell how the boats will rank in the mermaid league.

Thumbalina marks Mermaids 80th Birthday



Thumbalina marked the 80th Anniversary of the DBSC Mermaids, with the epic task of sailing 500 miles, from Foynes in Limerick to Skerries, with new crew taking the helm at different clubs along the way.

Congratulations to Patrick Boardman and the many other club members who organised this event and crewed different stages of the sail. To read more about it, visit the afloat web site www.afloat.ie

Juniors Update

The juniors had a packed year in 2012, with over 50 juniors participating in sailing courses. Our usual instructors, Aine, Paul and Kevin were joined by our own homegrown newly qualified instructors – Brian Carthy, Ciaran Hand, Cameron Mc Crum, Clara Hynes and Sean Paul White – congratulations to all.

Congratulations to Ciaran Hand and Cameron Mc Crum who made the scary passage from Spain to Dublin as part of the Tall Ships Festival and to Erica Ruigrok for her achievements in the Topper and Laser classes this year.

Thanks to Gerry Byrne who took time to run an engine maintenance session to show a number of the juniors the complexities of the outboard engines on our rescue boats. Here's to a successful 'junior' 2013 !

Emilija Atlantic Crossing

Congratulations to RSC sailors Noel & Brenda Ruigrok, Martin Redden, Clare Carthy, Jenny & Jimmy Kelly for completing the ARC Atlantic crossing and good to see Emilija safely back in Irish waters.

Sail Spree



In June of this year we had our first Sail Spree which welcomed around sixty visitors to the club, for a taste of water sports (offering Dinghy Sailing, Kayaking, Power-boating and kite surfing). We hope to run

this event again this year so keep an eye on the web site for more details to follow soon.

Raft Race Glory for RSC



After a gap of 6 years the raft race returned to the charity calendar. The decision for RSC to enter the race was decided upon at the last minute but it took Kevin Whelan no time to get on Google and for himself and Errol Mc Guinness to come up with a design. Within a very short period a raft was ready for its secret trials in Rogerstown. It's with no surprise the crew pulled it out of the bag to take first place. Well done all. Let's hold onto this record in 2013.

Boat Shed upgraded and new rib

As you will have noticed, the boat shed has undergone a complete transformation. This has made getting access to the rescue boats and equipment easier for Jomo and his team. With the extra space we purchased a new rib

which has been a great asset to the club and a welcome addition to the fleet.

Bargain hunting

Hats off to eagle eyed Darren Flynn who spotted a number of new Oppy's in a warehouse of a leading retailer – he put in an offer for them and at a very nominal cost, the club became the owner of two brand new fibreglass Oppy's. These are very welcome additions to our pico/feva club fleet and will support new junior members as they try the sport out. Well done Darren !

Your views and thoughts

Next year 2014 will be our 60th anniversary as a club.



With that in mind and in terms of everyone having their opportunity to have a say in the club, the Commodore will host a 'think tank' on **Friday evening 1st March**. This will allow you as members have your say, put suggestions forward in terms of what

you think we should be doing as a club, how we could improve the facilities, how we should celebrate our anniversary etc. All ideas will be very welcome – no problems only solutions allowed. Please put the date in the diary and get your thinking hats on !

Dates for the diary:

- 1st March Members 'think tank'
- 10th March Fin Swim in aid of RNLI
- 23rd March Mass for RSC deceased members
- 24th March Daffodil Day walk
- 13th April Cruiser Lift in
- 20th April Members night – all welcome

Other dates to be agreed are the Blessing of the Boats and Junior Meeting – watch the website www.rushsc.ie, noticeboard and texts for details.



P.R.O Message

2012 was a great year for the club with plenty to offer for all our members. Based upon our first committee meeting I know 2013 is going to be great and we have our 60th birthday to look forward to next year. If there is anything I can assist with over the coming year, feel free to contact me at the club email address

Regards P.R.O. Phil Casey (RushSClub@gmail.com)