



## Foynes Yacht Club NEWS 2010

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### Club News - Winter 2010 / 2011

#### **Irish Sailing Clubs Mid-Winter Challenge Regatta in Portugal.**

Dec 21st, 2010

Dates aren't set in concrete but the Portugal Regatta looks set to go ahead in late Feb or early March, with 5 teams representing 4 clubs from around the country currently set to take part.

The regatta will take place in Cascais run by a charter company which specialize in organising regattas. They have 6 one design 35ft racing yachts (Jeanneau Surprise). The aim is to have 6 people per boat, preferably each boat representing a different club to spice up the competition!

Get the latest update from here.

[» Latest Update](#)

Booking form available here.

[» Booking Form](#)

The event is being run by Vincent McCormack of Foynes Yacht Club.

[back to top ^](#)

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#### **Laying Up Supper 2010**

Nov 14th, 2010

At the annual Laying Up Supper at FYC this Saturday night patrons enjoyed another fantastic meal by Kelly's (Costcutters) and were entertained for the evening by Twice Shy. The festivities went on late into the night!

Picture below of Roisín McCormack presenting a cheque of €2,200 to Kevin Donnelly of the RNLI which was collected from the superb *Mudsplat* event earlier in the year. Congratulations to Roisin and Vincent for organising the event in support of such a worthy cause.

Some more pics of the evening available from the gallery.



[back to top ^](#)

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## Club News - October 2010

### A Terrific Days racing to finish the October Series

Oct 31st, 2010

Argo wins the Gold Fleet.  
Syrena wins the Silver Fleet.

October series overall result:

Gold Fleet: 1st Argo sailed by Darragh McCormack, Andrew Bracken and John Cremins. 2nd Three Chevrons sailed by Vincent McCormack, Luke McCormack and Meabh Lawlee. 3rd Sea Fox sailed by Conor Roche and Louise Barrett.

Silver Fleet: 1st Syrena sailed by Peadar Lawlee, Billy Hannon and Brendan Buckley. 2nd Zest sailed by Claire Lowes, Bev Lowes and Ciara McCormack.

Race 4 Gold Fleet 1st Three Chevrons. 2nd Argo. 3rd Sea Fox.

Race 4 Silver Fleet 1st Syrena. 2nd Zest.

Race 5 Gold Fleet 1st Argo. 2nd Three Chevrons. 3rd Sea Fox.

Race 5 Silver Fleet 1st Syrena. 2nd Zest.

A terrific days racing to finish the mermaid racing season. In light winds the duel between Argo and Three Chevrons was fought out to the last beat on the last race of the series with a few boat lengths separating the two boats throughout the day. Argo made a great recovery in the first race after hitting race marks twice and having to make penalty turns twice they were still in the lead on the last beat to the finish only to be pipped on the line by Three Chevrons. Argo sailed a flawless race second time out and deserved their first place. Sea Fox showed an excellent turn of speed and stayed in touch all through the racing. Syrena is the boat to watch for next year. She showed a clean pair of heels to Zest and beat Sea Fox on the water in the 2nd race.

Thanks to Mark McCormack for laying the course and standing by between the races. Well done to all involved.

Thanks also to Vincent McCormack for providing the race reports throughout the Mermaid October Series.

[back to top ^](#)

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## **Argo sets the pace and Syrena mixes with the Gold Fleet**

Oct 18th, 2010

### **Gold Fleet:**

1st Argo sailed by Daragh McCormack, Andrew Bracken and John Cremin, 2nd Three Chevrons sailed by Vincent McCormack, Luke McCormack and Meabh Lawlee. Sea Fox sailed by Conor Roche, Niall Farrell and Martin Smallwood did not finish.

### **Silver Fleet:**

1st Syrena sailed by Peadar Lawlee, Billy Hannan and Luke Murray. Zest sailed by Claire Lowes, Bev Lowes and Ailish Chawke did not finish.

ARGO sets the pace and SYRENA mixes with the gold fleet.

Argo sailed a great race in the light and fluky conditions that prevailed. She managed to maintain momentum in the lightest of breezes and opened a huge lead. Three Chevrons came within 50 meters of the first weather mark but then lost the wind and drifted back to within 200 meters of the start line. By that time Argo had managed to complete 3 legs and was now on her second beat.

Frustrating stuff indeed and it got the better of the rugby fans on Sea Fox who decided the Munster match would probably be more entertaining. They were followed shortly by Zest.

Next around the weather mark was Syrena with her new skipper Peadar at the helm. Almost 2 hours in at this stage and it was decided to shorten the race and finish on the second beat. Argo was first to cross the line in great style lapping Three Chevrons in the process. Syrena finished next ahead of Three Chevrons on the water. Impressive stuff indeed and surely an omen for the future. The skipper of Three Chevrons avoided the reporters after the race!

Three Chevrons has to beat Argo on the next day out to stay in with a chance for the Gold Fleet series.

Zest has to beat Syrena on the next day out to stay in with a chance of winning the Silver Fleet series.

A cruise to Kildysert is planned for Sunday the 7th of November to mark the end of the season. All members welcome.

(Mermaid race report by Vincent McCormack).

[back to top ^](#)

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## **It's a RIB apiece for Clifden & Lough Derg Sailing Clubs**

Oct 17h, 2010

The rain held off for a great day of competition for the ISA Yachtsman Euromarine RIB Challenge at Foynes Yacht Club this Sunday. The semi final took place in the morning where competitors representing 30 teams demonstrated their skills in rope throwing, tying knots, manoeuvring a boat around a course, a theory test and manoeuvring a trailer around a course (senior event only). After scores and times were calculated the top 4 teams through to the final were announced.

In the senior competition Lough Derg Y.C, Clifden B.S.C., Ballacragher Y.C. and Wexford Y.C qualified. In the junior event Wexford Y.C., National Y.C., Lough Derg Boys and Lough Derg Girls qualified.

The final event took place on the water and was particularly challenging due to a strong tide. Each team had to drive a motorboat to a designated area, perform a 3 point turn, continue to an area where they were required to hold a transit for 5 seconds and finally reverse the boat onto the pontoon and tie up the boat using an oxo knot. A draw took place for running order in the finals. Names were also drawn for RIB helm, RIB crew & shore assistant.

At the end of a gruelling day competing in the various activities, Clifden were announced winners of the senior event while the cailíní of Lough Derg held off their male counterparts to take home the RIB in the junior event. Congratulations to both teams. In particular well done to the *only all female team* competing in the final day. Hopefully this will encourage more women to try their hand in future competitions.

Well done to the junior and senior teams representing FYC who put in fantastic performances in their respective events.

Junior Team: Duvesa Brannach, Anna Lowes, Adam Russell. (Sub: Ciara McCormack).

Senior Team: Louis Clifford, Padraic Kelly, Donal McCormack. (Sub: Liam Madden).

[back to top ^](#)

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## It's early days in the October Series

Oct 11th, 2010

Special thanks to the super cool Dave Sexton who laid the race marks for the Mermaid race and stood by on the rib during racing. Dave also gave the hooter at the finish. Thanks Dave.

Another great race in the Gold Fleet. 1st Argo sailed by Darragh McCormack, Andrew Bracken and John Cremin, 2nd Three Chevrons sailed by Vincent McCormack, Luke McCormack and Roisin McCormack, 3rd Sea Fox sailed by Conor Roche, Louise Barrett and Martin Smallwood.

An emerging talent in the Silver Fleet, 1st Syrena sailed by Peadar Lawlee, Billy Hannon and Luke Murray, 2nd Zest sailed by Claire Lowes, Bev Lowes and Ailish Chawke.

Despite a bad start Argo was first to the weather mark having made excellent use of tide and wind shifts on the starboard side of the beat. Three Chevrons was hot on her heels but made a fatal tactical error on the second beat when she sailed the port side of the beat giving Argo a big lead. Argo made no mistakes and held the lead all the way from there. Sea Fox sailed a good race staying in touch all the way.

The Silver Fleet saw Syrena sail an excellent race. Her skipper is new to sailing and in spite of this he held a substantial lead all the way through the race and was hot on the heels of the Gold Fleet for a lot of the race. Well done Peadar. Zest sailed a good tactical race but her boat speed was not up to her normal standard. We're expecting competitive racing between these two boats before the series is over.

In a closely fought contest in the cruiser IRC race Battle managed to hold off Hello on the downwind leg to Carraig Fada and lead the way from start to finish, just about though! Dexterity and Golden Kopper made a lot of ground on the beat back and despite almost two hours of racing Hello, Dexterity and Golden Kopper all rounded Sturamus buoy together, after which Dexterity pulled away from the others to take second on the line. Hello dropped their spinnaker early before the final mark allowing GK to overtake them and get 3rd on the line. On corrected time the order was 1st Battle, 2nd Hello, 3rd Golden Kopper, 4th Dexterity.

White Sails sailed to Loghill Buoy and home. A rare event occurred as it was all even on corrected time between Marengo and Alpara, 1.375 pts each.

Racing next week is on Saturday. First gun next week is at 1pm. Skippers are asked to be launched by 12.15pm.

(Mermaid race report by Vincent McCormack).

[back to top ^](#)

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## **The October Series gets off to an interesting start**

Oct 4th, 2010

Yesterday's gold fleet provided very interesting racing to begin the October Series in Foynes. The lead changed a number of times. Darragh McCormack and crew of Andy Bracken & Mike Quinlan sailing Argo lead on the first beat after an excellent start. A confused tussle on the first reach between Three Chevrons helmed by Vincent McCormack & crewed by Luke McCormack and Meabh Lawlee allowed Conor Roche, Martin Smallwood and Louise Barrett in Sea Fox to slip into a substantial lead at the gybe mark. Conor's luck did not hold however and he tore his spinnaker on the next reach. A luffing match with Argo followed but Argo had the edge again by the leeward mark. Argo and Sea Fox stood on for too long on their first tack on the next beat and the order was Argo, Three Chevrons and Sea Fox at the 2nd weather mark. A quick gybe by Three Chevrons gave the a slight edge at the leeward mark and it was Three Chevrons 1st, Argo 2nd and Sea Fox 3rd from there to the end.

Only one boat made it too the start for the Silver Fleet. Zest crewed by Claire Lowes, Ailish Chawke and Bev Lowes sailed the course in great style and took first place. Syrena sailed by Peadar Lawless, Luke Murray and Billy Hannan launched but unfortunately did not make the start.

A special thanks to Liam Sexton who laid the marks for the mermaid fleet yesterday and stood by in the rib during racing.

In the cruiser fleet after 2 hours of racing Dexterity took line honours however on corrected time the order was Battle 1st, Hello 2nd, Golden Kopper 3rd & Dexterity 4th.

(Mermaid race report by Vincent McCormack).

[back to top ^](#)

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## **Frostbite Series begins for the Mermaid Fleet**

Oct 1st, 2010

This Sunday sees the start of the October "Frostbite" Series for the Mermaid Fleet. The series will begin without Mark McCormack in Hycilla as he's confined to the shores due to a horse riding injury! New owners of Syrena, Meabh & Peadar Lawlee will be sailing in their first Mermaid Series and fair sailing to them. We hope to see the rest of the Mermaids out on the water in the last event before the winter siesta.

The cruisers will continue 'casual' Sunday racing for the month of October. As usual the clubhouse bar will be open after sailing each Sunday.

[back to top ^](#)

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## Club News - September 2010

### Clean sweep at FYC for 'Battle'

Sept 27th, 2010

To complete a great year of sailing at Foynes, Battle won all three races on Saturday & Sunday to win the September Series and the Foynes Superleague event. Conditions were very light over the weekend, F1-2 NE. Race 4 started & finished in front of the clubhouse however due to the flooding tide & light winds OOD Vincent McCormack had to move racing out to the back of Foynes Island to set up the remaining races. These two latest wins mean that Battle has had a clean sweep of all cruiser racing trophies in FYC this year. This is a fantastic achievement against some tough opposition so congratulations to all onboard.

White Sails in the September Series went to Patrick Finucane and his young crew on Marengo.

To mark the end of the cruiser racing season, a small but appreciative crowd (as described by one member) enjoyed a BBQ post racing & live music in the clubhouse by *The Stella's*.

Racing results & photographs available via the relevant links on the menu bar.

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### September series of racing is 'Hotting Up' for all divisions.

Sept 12th, 2010

THE September series of racing continued at Foynes Yacht Club last Sunday, where a record entry of craft 'took to the water' in their respective classes. In class 1 Battle stands as the leader so far, closely followed by Hello and Golden Kopper. In the white sails division Marengo is heading the group, who is beating stiff competition from the other yachts, and in the Mermaid division, Sea Fox and Argo are also battling for line honours.

The weather conditions were a force 4 to 5 westerly wind, with quite a large swell pertaining for most of the race. The Officer of the Day, Ray McGibney sent class 1 down to the Loughill buoy and back up the Clare shore to round the Sturamus mark and finish at the clubline. In a keenly contested race in class 1, McCormack and JP Buckley on Battle, fought off Liam Madden on Hello, who was closely followed by John and Edward Conway on Golden Kopper. The white sails division raced down to the Loughill mark and back to the club finish line, and this is being led by Pat Finucane on Marengo, who has two wins so far. In second place is Dave Bevan on Mariposa. In a very exciting race between Mermaid class captain, Conor Roche on Sea Fox and Darragh McCormack on Argo, who were literally 'neck and neck' for all of the race, but in the end the tactical skills of Conor took the better of Darragh at the finish line. So far, the series has been well supported by all members, who are also vieing for the laurels in their divisions. Racing next Sunday starts at 1pm.

An ISA approved Yachtmaster Shorebased Navigation Course, which is taking place for the last 17 years will be taking place in the Oak Wood Arms Hotel, Shannon commencing on Monday, November 8. The course director, is Brendan Travers, West Coast Cruising School, who is very well versed in the nautical and practical, and the finer points of sailing. Early booking is essential for this course, because numbers are limited. Brendan can be contacted on 087 2351976 or by email on [bptravers@eircom.net](mailto:bptravers@eircom.net)

Gerry Ryan, PRO, Foynes Yacht Club.

[back to top ^](#)

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## September Series - Race 1 - Results & Photographs

Sept 6th, 2010

Battle and Marengo win their respective classes in the first race of the September Series. Race results and photographs are available from the relevant sections of the website (thanks to Ted Kelly). Race report to follow.

[back to top ^](#)

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## Club News - August 2010

### Tricky conditions pertained for annual Cappa Race

Aug 31st, 2010

ON Saturday last with the weather favourable, members of Foynes Yacht Club raced in the annual Cappa fixture, which has been on the sailing calendar for a considerable time. Unfortunately, the Glin Castle race was cancelled beyond Foynes Yacht Club control, but instead the Cappa race was held on Saturday instead of Sunday.

Two classes raced, Class 1 and 2. Class 1 were racing for the Cappa Cup, while Class 2 competed for the Sean Keating Trophy. Eleven yachts 'took to the water', where Officer of the Day, Ray McGibney sent both fleets 'off' for an 11am start. A force 4 to 5 north-westerly wind made sailing quite tricky for the fleet. With the tide 'flushing' down the estuary and choppy seas made the race somewhat interesting, where the boats had to tack to reach the Clare coastal village of Cappa. With a hard fought race and more or less neck and neck, in class 1 winners of the recent Carrigaholt cup, Battle, emerged victorious beating off John and Edward Conway in Golden Kopper, who came in second. Third was Andrew Bracken on Joyrider. In class 2 the Sean Keating Trophy was won by James McCormack on Alphara; second was Pat Finucane on Marengo and third Jazmin 2. A crews race back up the estuary to Cooleen Point took place, where a Bar-B-Que was held in the clubhouse afterwards, where the culinary delights of the chef's kept the hungry sailors wanting more.

Next Sunday the September series of racing will commence for all classes, and it is envisaged that all boats will be racing in their respective classes. All crew and skippers are asked to be at the club at 12noon, where a briefing will take place before racing. For race start times please see the *Schedule of Events* from the homepage.

Gerry Ryan, PRO, Foynes Yacht Club.

[back to top ^](#)

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### Glin Castle and Cappa Race on this Weekend

Aug 22nd, 2010

**THIS coming weekend** an action-packed programme of events will take place at Foynes Yacht Club.

On Saturday, the Glin Castle race will take place, and on Sunday the Cappa race is also pencilled in the the sailing schedule (weather permitting).

The Glin Castle race is an annual event between the hosts, the Royal Western Yacht Club in Kilrush, and Foynes Yacht Club, and this is one of the highlights on the Shannon Estuary's sailing calendar, where it has been raced for quite a considerable amount of years between the two clubs. The Knight of Glin, Desmond FitzGerald and his family are 'very much in favour' of this event being raced for the foreseeable future. This race will start at Glin Pier with first gun at 11am. The boats will race east to different 'marks' laid on the estuary, and back up to Glin Pier, which will be the finish line. After the race a prizegiving ceremony will be hosted by the Knight and his family in Glin Castle, this will take place at 5pm approximately.

On Sunday, the Cappa race is scheduled to take place with first gun at 11am from Cooleen Point. Again, this is an annual event for the Cappa Cup, prizegiving will take place after racing in the Galleon Inn, Cappa.

**Club racing continues** every Wednesday evening with first gun at 7pm sharp. Skippers and crew are asked to be at the marina at 6pm. Please note that buoyancy aids have to be worn by all members.

New club polo shirts (all sizes) are available from the bar in the clubhouse.

The club notes with regret the passing of Pat Lawless. Pat was a round the world sailor, where he 'took off' from Limerick Docks in 1996. To his family and relatives sincerest sympathy is extended.

Gerry Ryan, PRO, Foynes Yacht Club.

[back to top ^](#)

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## Battle Emerges Winner in Annual Carrigaholt Race

Aug 16th, 2010

ON Saturday last the annual Carrigaholt race took place from Foynes Yacht Club. A fleet of nine yachts sailed from Foynes to the Clare coastal town of Carrigaholt. With the conditions excellent, a northerly light breeze for the race, and the tide with them all the way down the Shannon Estuary, the boats reached their destination in less than 4 hours, using the ebbing tide to nautical effect.

Joyrider with Andrew Bracken as skipper led from start to finish, but with corrected time Battle received the Jackson Cup from cruiser class captain, Alan McEneff to an enthusiastic crowd at the Long Dock Bar. Third was Team Foynes on Dexterity. The winning team were John-Paul Buckley, Donal McCormack, Elaine O'Mahoney, Brendan Buckley, Cora Windle, Una McCormack and Ciara McCormack.

Tony Becks from Australia accompanied the fleet down the estuary, where he is continuing his journey around the world. His destination from the estuary is Portugal and travelling with Tony on his journey is Luke Murray, son of Commodore Tom Murray, where Luke will disembark and take a flight back to Ireland. Fair sailing to both on the voyage!

Gerry Ryan, PRO, Foynes Yacht Club

[back to top ^](#)

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## The Annual Mermaid Championships hailed a 'tremendous success'

Aug 16th, 2010

The annual Mermaid Championships that the club hosted recently was hailed by everybody that attended 'a tremendous success'. The amount of organisation and preparation by the Commodore, committee and members certainly augurs well for the future of the club.

The Munster trophy was won by Three Chevrons, skippered by Vincent McCormack with Roisin and Mark McCormack as crew. Second was Hycilla, skippered by Mark McCormack and third Argo, skippered by Darragh McCormack.

Quite an interesting racing calendar is pencilled in for the remainder of August: Every Wednesday club racing continues with first gun at 7.15pm. The annual Glin Castle race will take place on Saturday, August 28 with the start at Glin Pier, first gun at 11.00. After the race the prizegiving ceremony will take place in Glin Castle approximately 5pm. On Sunday, August 28 the Cappa Race will be held for the Galleon Cup. This is a very attractive fixture every year. First gun is 11.00. Prizegiving will take place after the race in the Galleon Inn.

Gerry Ryan, PRO, Foynes Yacht Club

[back to top ^](#)

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## **FYC Cruiser Sailing Programme for August**

Aug 10th, 2010

With the club coming off last weeks high it's now time to get our regular Cruiser Racing & Boating going again.

The following therefore is the Programme & Dates for your Diary for August

Regular Cruiser Racing & Sailing on Wednesday's in August 11th, 18th & 25th - Please Note 1st Gun now brought forward to 7.15pm

Saturday next 14th - Cruiser Race to Carrigaholt for the Jackson Cup - 1st Gun 1000 hrs ( High Water at Foynes 0951 hrs) - All welcome in Classes 1 & 2 & White Sails + any who just want to Cruise down to Carrigaholt in company.

Hopefully we can get ashore in Carrigaholt for a Meal, Refreshments + Prizegiving in The Long Dock  
.....Forecast is Summer is back for the Weekend with a light Westerly breeze - believe it or believe it not !

Saturday 28th August - Glin Castle Race - Start at Glin Pier circa 1100 hrs - Further details to follow - with the usual Reception & Prizegiving in Glin Castle afterwards from 5pm to 6.30pm. For reasons you all probably know this may well be the last occasion the Prizeging & Reception for The Glin Castle Race will be held at the Castle so your every effort to encourage Boat & Crew participation in this years race would be much appreciated. Again Racing for Cruiser Classes 1, 2 & White Sails.

The following day, Sunday 29th August - our Cappa Race to Cappa Pier (near Kilrush) for The Galleon Cup - 1st Gun at FYC probably at 1100hrs to be confirmed later - Prizegiving in The Galleon Inn in Cappa

Advance Notice also of our Cruiser & Mermaid Racing for our September League & Cups - on Sundays 5th, 12th, 19th & 26th September.....and a West Coast Superleague Series at FYC is also scheduled for the weekend of Saturday & Sunday 25th & 26th September.

If you require further details on anything above please contact me.

Alan McEneff  
Cruiser Class Captain  
Mobile 086 2568280

## Dempsey wins Nationals with a Race in Hand

August 6th, 2010

Jim Dempsey from Skerries with crew Scott Flanagan and Cian O'Regan won Mermaid week in Paul Winters' No. 183 **Wannago** (. Dempsey was 2th in Thursday's Race 5, sailed in shifty 7-10 knot westerly breeze at Foynes on the lower Shannon. This was enough to secure him an unassailable first place and he didn't even have to the final Race 6 on Friday. Four times winner Jim Carthy in 123 Vee wa 2nd overall and Paddy Dillon in 131 Wild Wind was 3rd on equal points with Carthy.

The new champion has previously won Mermaid Week in 1987 and again in 2000, sailing his own boat No. 36 **Elizabeth**. Paul Winter's boat, No. 183 **Wannago** has won Mermaid Week once before, in Fenit in 2002, helmed by her builder and former owner Sam Shields.

p>>The winner of the *Daphne* (Silver fleet, 12 boats) was Geraldine O'Neill in 73 **Lively Lady** crewed by her husband Mick Hanney (President of Mermaid Sailing Association) and Ailbhe Smith. O'Neill, like Dempsey didn't have to sail on the last day to secure the trophy.

The *Designer* (Bronze fleet, 23 boats), unlike the others was down to the bitter end with Mark McCormack (54 **Hycilla**) and Paddy Archer (18 **Clare**) being the main contenders. But retirements of 54 and 18 due to gear failure in squalls allowed Mark Boylan of Skerries (177 **This is It**) sailing a boat built by his grandfather Joe to achieve overall victory.

Overall results:

- 1st 183 **Wannago** Owner Paul Winters, Helm Jim Dempsey, Crew Cian O'Regan and Scott Flanagan of Skerries - 8 points
- 2nd 123 **Vee** Owner & Helm, Jim Carthy, Crew Paula & Muriel Carthy of Rush - 13 points
- 3rd 131 **Wild Wind** Owner & Helm, Paddy Dillon, Crew Johnny Dillon & Rory Grimes of Rush- 13 points
- 4th 188 **Innocence** Owner & Helm, Anthony Carthy, Crew Marguerite Carthy and Eoin Butterly of Rush - 24 points
- 5th 187 **Zuleika** Owner & Helm, Derek Joyce, Crew Cillian Joyce and Darragh Hassey of Wexford - 29 points
- 6th 135 **Cara II** Owner & Helm, Frankie Browne, Crew Marina & Frankie Browne Jnr of Skerries - 30 points

Daphne - 73 **Lively Lady** Owner & Helm Geraldine O'Neill, Crew Mick Hanney, Ailbe Smith of National Yacht Club

Designer - 177 **This is It** Owner Joe Boylan, Helm Mark Boylan, Crew Niall Collins & Graham Daly of Skerries

## Club News - July 2010

Foynes Yacht Club to Host the Mermaid National Championships

July 20th, 2010

THE National Mermaid Championship's, which will commence on Saturday, July 31, and which will be taking place for a full week at Cooleen Point are nearly upon us at Foynes Yacht Club.

Quite an amount of preparation and organisation is taking place to ensure that it will be one of the most successful championships to date.

Entries are expected to exceed 40 boats that will compete in the championships. These boats are a classic 1932 design from all corners of Ireland, which will be racing daily for seven days on the majestic Shannon Estuary waters to the picturesque and historic port village of Foynes.

The competition brings with it a festival atmosphere, as over 150 sailors with their families and friends settle in for a week packed, competitive and social activities by day and night.

An action-packed programme of events will take place during the championships 'off the water', and this will commence on Saturday, July 31 with Karaoke; on Sunday, August 1 music will be provided by 'Motive'.

On Monday, August 2 a 'Family Fun Day' in Cooleen Point will take place, and this will feature a fundraising family fun, and games in aid of the Royal National Lifeboat Institution.

Besides such activities as a Bouncy Castle, Bar-B-Que, Karaoke and many more events, and the first ever sponsored Mud Splat Obstacle Course race, which will make very entertaining viewing.

And an added spectacle on Monday an air display from the Coastguard Helicopter based in Shannon, Co. Clare will take place.

A quiz night will take place on Tuesday, August 3, and on Wednesday, August 4, a Traditional music session will take place; on Thursday, August 5 a Comedy night is organised.

The Royal National Lifeboat Institution has saved more than 139,000 lives since its foundation in 1824. Through the years, there have been countless stories of courage against a background of technological developments and social change.

The charity was founded as the national institution for the preservation of life from shipwreck after an appeal was made by Sir William Hillary. Hillary lived in Douglas on the Isle of Man, and had witnessed the wrecking of dozens of ships from his home.

The name was changed to the Royal National Lifeboat Institution in 1854, and cork lifejackets were first issued to crew members in the same year.

In 1891, the first RNLI street collection was held in Manchester, and the 20th century saw the RNLI continue to save lives through two world wars.

The lifeboats moved from sail and oar power to petrol and diesel, and the first women joined their crews.

Recent years have seen major developments with the introduction of RNLI lifeguards in 2001, and the first lifeboat station on an inland water in the same year.

There are 43 RNLI lifeboat stations in Ireland, where the nearest to Foynes is in Kilrush. The money raised from Mermaid week for the RNLI will be put to good use by RNLI personnel, where it will fund new equipment including lifeboats, seafaring wear, lifejackets and much more.

Foynes Yacht Club, Commodore Tom Murray is making a special appeal to all Mermaid sailors, club members and friends to come to the club and support this very worthy cause. 'The RNLI relies on the support of all the sailing and yacht clubs in the country for donations to keep this very important sea rescue operation running', he said.

Crew and assistance for crash boats will be wanted for the championships, so any member, who is interested in sailing or would like to help in the running of the championships are asked to please contact Commodore Tom Murray on 087 2563515; Mermaid Class Captain, Conor Roche on 086 8030343 or Cruiser Class Captain, Alan McEneff on 086 2568280 immediately.

The club website [www.foynesyachtclub.com](http://www.foynesyachtclub.com) will be updated at regular intervals during the championships, so please keep 'an eye' on the website.

[back to top ^](#)

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## Great Weather for the Club Regatta

July 11th, 2010

THE Club regatta on Sunday last was a very successful one. A total of ten boats took to the water, where a force 2-3 westerly breeze and little rain did not spoil the day.

Commodore Tom Murray decided to send all craft to the Mount Trenchard and back up to the club finish line. When the race started the tide started to 'come in', which made the sailing exciting, especially when all the skippers had to use their tactical and nautical skills.

The cruisers, competed for the Airways trophy. The yacht Battle was first past the post with John-Paul Buckley as skipper, who ensured victory with his crew. Dave Bevan and his crew on Mariposa, ensured that he came in second.

Quite an interesting battle took place in the Mermaid section with Argo and Syrena fight it out to secure the laurels. But in the end Darragh McCormack on Argo received the Mermaid trophy. Second was Syrena and third Kilmoon.

The trophies were presented by Commodore Murray after racing in the clubhouse.

Visitor, Tony Becks from Australia, led the musicians, who entertained the large number of members and friends in the clubhouse. The culinary delights were prepared for the hungry sailors and members of the public by club secretary, Elaine O'Mahoney and Una McCormack.

With the National Mermaid Championships coming up in the next two weeks, last minute preparations are underway in Cooleen Point. Any member or members who wish to assist in the championships are asked to contact Commodore Tom Murray on 087 2563515 or Mermaid Class Captain, Conor Roche on 086 8030343 immediately. Please keep an eye on the club website: [www.foynesyachtclub.com](http://www.foynesyachtclub.com) for updates on the championships.

Racing on Wednesday last was sailed in a south-westerly light breeze force 2-3.

The cruisers raced down as far as Loughill and back up with a club line finish. James McCormack on Alpara, who was ably assisted by young and not so young sailors made sure that he came in first place. McCormack & Buckley on Battle and with a mixed crew came second, and Liam Madden coming in on Hello for third spot.

The Mermaids raced around marks laid in the harbour area. Geoff McDonnell showing his superb nautical and tide reading ensured that Kilmoon was over the line first beating a stiff challenge from Ben Lowes on Zest, who came second. While, Darragh McCormack on Argo coming fourth, with Sea Goon with Michael Burke as skipper fourth.

In Topaz fleet racing Mary and Anna came first; second was John and Seamus and third Gareth.

Best of luck to Dexterity and Big Deal, who are racing in Ford Cork Week.

Club racing continues every Wednesday evening with first gun at 7.15pm.

Gerry Ryan, PRO, Foynes Yacht Club.

## **Dis-A-Ray Declared Overall Winner at WIORA**

July 4th, 2010

WIORA 2010 was hosted by Royal Western Yacht Club over 4 days from Wednesday 30th June with 7 Races planned for the Series. As racing was cancelled on Friday 2nd due to Gale Force winds, Race Officer Alan Crosbie from Cork & his team did excellent work in getting 6 races completed for each of the 4 classes. Strong winds prevailed for all races so reduced sail area & lively conditions afloat made for exciting sailing. On the last day Saturday, Race Starts & Management for the last 2 races on Saturday was conducted from the Navel warship LE Aoife making a visit to Kilrush for a Sea Festival weekend hosted by the local chamber of commerce.

The 6 entrants from Foynes Yacht Club had their most successful West Coast Championships for years with Disaray sailing in Class 2 owned by Ray McGibney from Tarbert declared the overall Champion when all the results had been tallied.

Overall Class Results & Finishing positions for all 6 Foynes Boats who competed as follows

Class 1 IRC - 4th Place - Dexterity - Team Foynes  
Class 1 ECHO - 2nd Place - Dexterity - Team Foynes

Class 2 IRC - 1st Place - Disaray - Ray McGibney  
Class 2 IRC - 5th Place - Golden Kopper - John & Edward Conway from Glin  
Class 2 ECHO - 4th Place - Disaray - Ray McGibney  
Class 2 ECHO - 6th Place - Golden Kopper - John & Edward Conway

Class 3 IRC - 2nd Place - Battle - McCormack & Buckley  
Class 3 ECHO - 1st Place - Battle - McCormack & Buckley

White Sails

3rd Place - Jasmine II - John Finnegan  
5th Place - Tangalooma - Des Carswell

As well as Disaray picking up the WIORA Cup silverware, Dexterity also won the X 332 Raymarine Cup for being the best placed X yachts boat at the Championships.

Racing continues for all Cruiser Classes plus Mermaids & Topaz fleets every Wednesday evening - 1st Gun 1925 hrs

[back to top ^](#)

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## **Club Notes**

July 3rd, 2010

Mermaid racing took place last Wednesday evening, where marks were laid in the harbour area. Geoff McDonnell, the seafaring expert came in first with Kilmoon, followed by Mermaid class captain, Conor Roche on Sea Fox, and third was the intrepid sailor, Michael Burke on Seagoon.

Padraic Kelly, sailing 'Mweeloon' set off for France last Saturday morning from the pontoons with his crew of his wife, Annemarie, Brian O'Donnell and John Considine. We wish Padraic and company fair sailing! Sailing continues every Wednesday for all classes with first gun at 19.25hrs.

## Club News - June 2010

### Foynes YC Boats Travel to Kilrush

June 28th, 2010

THE West of Ireland Offshore Racing Championship's are taking place this week in Kilrush, where six boats from Foynes Yacht Club are competing in the event: Dexterity, Golden Kopper, Battle, Dis-a-ray, Jasmine II and Tangalooma. This is one of the top events of the year in the 'west' sailing calendar, and boats from the west coast will converge on the Clare coastal town of Kilrush, where racing will be top class. Let's hope that the weather will be favourable, and hopefully one of the Foynes boats will be bringing back some silverware to Cooleen Point.

Club racing continued last week and in Class 1, Officer of the Day, Ray McGibney set the course with a Clubline start out to no. 2 pylon and on up to the Clare shore to Inishmurray to port, and finish at pylon no. 2. McCormack and Buckley have certainly been working hard to ensure Battle is in 'tip-top' condition for WIORA, they kept on the pressure for the race and ensured victory; second was Golden Kopper and third Dexterity. In Class 2 the course was a club line start start to no. 2 pylon, and up to the Caheron mark and back down to finish at no. 2 pylon. Former Commodore Pat Finucane on Marengo received the laurels; second was Jasmine II; 3rd Gadai Rua and 4th Mariposa. The course the Mermaid's raced was down to no. 1 pylon, and up to a mark laid in the harbour area this was repeated twice to finish at the clubline. But was the very keen and enthusiastic sailor, Mark McCormack on Hycilla, who won with crew of Luke Murray and Sean Finucane. In second place was his brother, Darragh on Argo with Donal Moroney and Mike Arthur on board. Mermaid class captain, Conor Roche on Sea Fox with Niall Farrell and Peadar Lawlee, narrowly beat very stiff competition from Geoff McDonnell on Kilmoon to secure third place.

The Mermaid's are practise racing every Sunday to get in the groove for the National Championship's, which the club is hosting in August. It is anticipated that 30-40 Mermaid's will be taking part in this event. Member's are reminded that sponsorship/ads for the Mermaid programme are due this week. The person to contact is club secretary, Elaine O'Mahoney and her mobile number is (086) 1231864 or any committee member.

In the clubhouse after racing on Wednesday evening a lecture to a packed audience was given by Tony Becks from Australia, a round the world visiting sailor, who is sailing his 45ft Ketch, Ragin Cajun. After the very informative lecture Commodore Tom Murray presented Tony with a club burgee in honour of his lecture and his achievement to date.

The Club regatta will take place on Sunday, July 11 with first gun at 2.30pm. This is open to Class 1, 2, White Sails, Mermaids and Topaz. Let's hope a full turnout of members will make it a memorable day.

**Gerry Ryan, PRO, Foynes Yacht Club**

June 22nd, 2010

**THE West of Ireland Offshore Racing Championship's** will be taking place in Kilrush from Wednesday, June 30 to Saturday, July 3, this year's championships are hosted by the Royal Western Yacht Club. A total of six yacht's from Foynes Yacht Club will be participating in their respective classes, and it is anticipated that an entry of 40 yacht's will participate in different classes.

The West Coast Championships have being lucky to secure partnership from Kilrush Credit Union, Shannon Development, Kilrush Creek Marina, and various local business's in the town. Yacht's will be travelling from Dublin, Sligo, Mayo, Kerry, Foynes Yacht Club and Galway to take part in this prestigious event. Alan Crosbie will be Officer of the Day for the championships, who brings with him a wealth of nautical experience for this very taxing job.

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**The Munster Mermaid Championship's** were held at Foynes YC last weekend, and were joined by visiting Mermaids from the National YC and Rush Sailing Club. The Officer of the Day, Alan McEneff and his race team succeeded in getting in three scheduled races in very tricky and variable wind conditions.

Generally winds were light and race one was shortened to finish at the leeward mark after only one lap of the Olympic course. In first place Syrena helmed by James McCormack and ably assisted by crew John-Paul Buckley and Mary McCormack. Just when thoughts were being considered to abandon chances of a second race on Saturday a steady force 3 evening breeze from the north developed and the competitors took full advantage of sailing all 9 legs for race 2, which saw visiting boat, Lively Lady from NYC take the gun with helm Geraldine O'Neill and crew Mick Hanney plus FYC junior member, Luke Murray. In second place another visiting boat, Clare from Rush with local boat, Three Chevrons sailed by Vincent McCormack in 3rd place. Race 3 on Sunday was looking doubtful, due to the forecast of light winds again, but local conditions resulted in the fleet starting in the steady force 3 from the east. The race was shortened at the windmark mark on completion of the 6th leg of the race due to extremely light winds plus the imminent turn of the tide, which would make further progress impossible. First place went to Lively Lady followed by Clare in second place with local boat Hycilla in third with Mark McCormack at the helm.

**Overall winners:** 1st Lively Lady; 2nd Clare; 3rd Syrena.

In the silver fleet category Zest came first helmed by Claire Lowes with crew Ailish Chawke and Bev Lowes who graciously accepted the Manfred Uhlemann Memorial Dolphin trophy presented to the club by former Mermaid captain, Geoff McDonnell in memory fellow sailor Manfred Uhlemann.

Watson Sails presented a new jib to the club for these championships, which was very gratefully acknowledged by Commodore Tom Murray.

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**Club racing** continued last Wednesday evening, where sea conditions were described as superb with a south-westerly force 2-3 sea breeze.

Officer of the Day, Ray McGibney sent the Class 1 cruisers down against an incoming tide to Mount Trenchard and then proceeded to go down river to the Loughill buoy before hoisting spinnakers to sail to the finish club line. It was neck and neck all the way up the river with only 36 seconds separated the first three boats.

New club member, Jackie Kearney helmed Golden Kopper to the winning stage, where skipper, John Conway was very pleased with his new crew member. Well done Jackie. Incidentally, Jackie was engaged recently. Second was Battle, and third Dexterity.

In Class 2 the boats rounded the Mount Trenchard mark. Again, a new club member, Siobhan Corbett helmed the winning boat, Marengo, where a smiling Pat Finucane was pleased with the outcome, beating off stiff competition from Jazmin II and Christy Moriarty on Aventus.

A total of seven Mermaids raced east of Foynes Island where Donal McCormack on Three Chevrons came first; second was Darragh McCormack on Argo, where he tested out his new spinnaker and third was Syrena.

## **Munster Mermaid Championships this Coming Weekend**

14th June, 2010

THIS coming weekend at Foynes Yacht Club the Munster Mermaid Championships will take place. This is a competition to get all of the Mermaid fleet at FYC on the water in preparation for the national championships that the club is hosting in August. A total of 14 craft are expected to converge on Cooleen Point for the weekend, where all preparations and facilities are organised for the visiting boats.

It is proposed that two races will be raced on Saturday and one on Sunday. The Officer of the Day for the championships is Alan McEneff. All races will take place east of Foynes Island and the entrance fee per boat will €35.

A Steak Bar-B-Que and music will be provided on Saturday night at the club for a modest €12.50 all in package.

[back to top ^](#)

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## **Sailing Notes Weekending June 9th**

10th June, 2010

The June League for all classes continued last Wednesday 9th at FYC & again numbers sailing at Foynes continues to augour well with the Mermaid Fleet numbers expanding by the week when Jeff McDonnell (Kilmoon) & Conor Roche (Sea Fox) launched their respective Mermaids - Sea Fox has been fiited with a New deck plus New Buoyancy Tanks fore & aft - looks really impressive & "light" - no more excuses so Conor. Darragh McCormack too "relauched" Argo following a broken mast last month. The Mermaid Class are busy tuning up for the Mermaid Munster Championships to be hosted by the club on Saturday & Sunday 19th - 20th June. 7 Mermaids were on the water for Race 2 of their June League - Donal McCormack acted as Race & Rescue officer and was kept "busy" throughout the evening. Only 2 Mermaids completed the course within time limit - 1st Argo ( Helm - Darragh McCormack) 2nd Syreena (Helm - Liam Cremin).

8 Cruisers started at the club start line for their 2nd Race of the June League - in the lee of Foynes Island a light NorthWesterly made for slow progress within the harbour even with an outgoing tide, the opposite to the week before. Once outside the harbour as the fleet headed for Cahercon Mark against the tide the full effects of a 23 knot NW wind took its toll as many craft were over canvassed - Dexterity with Full Main & a No 1 had to reef under instructions from helm Ruairi Buckley. Golden Kopper & Crew under John Conway took advantage & was 1st to round Cahercon Mark & again at Aughinish Cardinal beyond. After the fleet rounded Aughinish Mark it was Spinakers all the way home with the assistance of the outgoing tide. Golden Kopper took line honours at the finish line at Pylon no. 2 & also went on to win overall on corrected time. Gadai Rua with Dave McAvinchy at the helm ably assisted by 2 Trainee crew, Mike Arthur & Cora Windle from the recent Adult Sailing Course continued to push ahead close to the fleet in the early stages on the race but prior to rounding Cahercon mark a tack across the tide from the Clare Coast towards Foynes Island proved costly but they still finished the race just within the time limit of 2.5 hours set by Race Officer Ray McGibney. June League results are based on a Progressive ECHO Handicap system with some unothodox tweeks taking into account the percentage of Trainee crew on board, continues to baffle most except the Fleet Captain Alan, when he announced the final placings for Race 2 on corrected time - 1st Golden Kopper, 2nd Dexterity, 3rd, Wyte Dolphin 4th, Jasmine 2 5th, Gadai Rua

[back to top ^](#)

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## **Upsurge of New Members at Foynes Yacht Club**

June 7th, 2010

CRUISER fleet racing at Foynes Yacht Club continues every Wednesday, the current upsurge of numbers on the water around Foynes continued unabated when the June league commenced with all classes sailing the same course. A progressive Echo handicap system will be in place for the June league series, which will not only be based on race results but will also factor in on the percentage of trainee crew on board plus also whether a trainee crew Helms the boat.

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Race Officer Ray McGibney set a very challenging course with a Time limit of 2.5 hours - Start club line, Cahercon Mark, 8 Metre Mark (off Aughinish), Finish pylon no 4.

Nine yachts started in a moderate southerly force 3 breeze on a rising tide. Wind soon dropped to force 1 half-way to Aughinish Jetty but all boats made it to the 8 metre mark due to the rising tide. At the halfway point off Aughinish boats then had to stem the incoming tide by beating over and back close to Foynes Island and out of the Main Navigation Channel. Those that made to pylon no. 2 at the entrance to Foynes Harbor were able to make over the finish line with the last carry of the rising tide. Only three competing boats succeeded in completing the course within the time limit and finished in in this order - Dexterity helmed by Ger Hobbs; Golden Kopper helmed by Edward Conway, and Battle helmed by trainee crew, Peadar Lawlee. After the calculation of final corrected times by fleet captain Alan McEneff using this innovative if somewhat complicated handicap adjustment factors, only 26 seconds separated 1st and 2nd after nearly 2 hours racing - Battle who had trainee Peadar at the helm of was declared the winner, 2nd was Dexterity, 3rd Golden Kopper.

Race 2 of the June League Series continues this Wednesday when handicaps for all boats will be adjusted further based the progressive handicap system in place - Briefing is at 19hrs - Race start 1930hrs.

The Mermaid fleet course was around the harbour area, where Zest, skippered by Bev Lowes was first past the post; second was Una Sea, skippered by Liam Cremins, and third Seagoon, skippered by Michael Bourke.

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Congratulations to Christy Moriarty on launching Aventis, where it went under a considerable amount of repairs during the winter months. He gave it it's first sail down to Kilrush on Saturday, which was a magnificent day and reached his destination in three hours and arrived back in Foynes on Monday. Fair sailing Christy!  
Gerry Ryan, PRO, Foynes Yacht Club

[back to top ^](#)

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## Something Different for Everyone on Wednesday Evening Sailing

June 2nd, 2010

Now that our May Series is over - all the Wednesdays in June gives us the opportunity to try something a little different - so from Wednesday, June 2 and also 9, 16, 23 and 30, we are running a June Series with a difference. Usual briefing at 7pm where the course and crew allocations will be agreed.

For the June Series however - Boat Handicaps will be based on ECHO:

1. Progressive ECHO Handicap System after each race.
2. Allowance of up to 5% Reduction on boat handicap rating if boat helmed by non regular helms person - to qualify name to be provided to Fleet Captain at briefing prior to Race start.
3. Allowance of up to 10% Reduction on boat handicap rating if boat helmed by one of recent Trainees - again to qualify name to be given to FC at briefing.
4. Allowance of up to 10% Reduction on boat handicap rating is boat is crewed by at least 50% from Trainee Panel (Minimum 2 Trainees on board to qualify).

For example - a boat with a total of 4 crew - inclusive of 2 Trainees with boat helmed by a Trainee will have a 20% reduction on their ECHO Handicap. In addition a Special Non Spinnaker Rating will also apply to all those who wish to compete and sail the course in White Sails - Non Spinnaker and/or White sails Declaration to be made prior to commencement of racing in the June Series.

Don't get too worried about the above Rules though - I will try and explain better at briefing on Wednesday - but be assured I'll make it up as I go along and the Fleet Captain's decision on "moving" handicaps is final !

To our New Recruits and Trainees - Now that Module 1 ( our 2 Intro to sailing Dry nights) and Module 2 ( 6 sailing evenings on the water) are completed - we do hope that you have enjoyed the experience of Sailing with us at FYC and we would invite you now as trainee crew or should I say competent crew (in some cases anyway!) to take up full membership at Foynes Yacht Club.

This can easily be done by paying the balance of any membership class on the enclosed application form - for example if you have paid the Special Introductory €50 before our on the water sessions in Module 2 - then a balance required to become a full Crew Member will be €60.

As a Full crew Member - the onus is on me to provide you with as much sailing as you can handle for the rest of the season until at least the end of September next. Apart from Wednesday evening sailing there will be a number of passage races at weekends during June and July - for example to Fenit, Carrigaholt, Cappa Pier (near Kilrush) plus weather permitting a number of Cruise in Company days etc.

[back to top ^](#)

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## Some Additional Dates for your Diary

June 2nd, 2010

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1. Tralee Bay Sailing Club host a big Regatta under the WIORA programme on the weekend of June 12 and 13 - a number of Foynes boats will be competing.
2. Our Mermaid Fleet have their Munster Championships at FYC on the weekend of June 19 and 20. Foynes Mermaids will be joined by a number of other Mermaids from around the country - if you would like to assist in the running of this event and/or would like to learn the basics of Race Management please contact me as soon as possible.
3. Mermaid National Championships at Foynes Yacht Club for 1 week from Saturday, July 31 to Friday, August 6th - this will be our biggest event of the year - competitive sailing by day - fun and games by night!
4. WIORA West Championships for Cruisers from Wednesday, June 30 June to Saturday, July 3 (7 races over 4 days) will be hosted by Royal Western Yacht Club out of Kilrush Marina - a large number of FYC boats will be competing in all classes including the White Sails Division - again please contact me ASAP if you are interested in crewing in this event - even on some of the days.

Also for Trainees - Please note that Peadar McGrath continues his Adult Sailing Course and Tuition on Tuesday evenings from 7pm using our club Topaz Fleet - cost €10 per session.

We have never had such a busy start to the season - with the pinnacle thusfar being the fantastic turnout for our recent Commodore's Day - Let's keep the momentum going.

*Alan McEneff, Cruiser Class Captain. Mobile 086 2568280*

[back to top ^](#)

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## Club News - May 2010

### May Series a Great Success

30th May, 2010

THE May series of racing finished last week at Foynes Yacht Club, and a large turnout of craft took to the water for this competition.

In Class 1 the trophy that the winning yacht received was the Magobar trophy. The Officer of the Day, Ray McGibney set the course up to the Aughinish cardinal mark and back to a clubline finish. McCormack and Buckley took the laurels; second was Team Foynes on Dexterity and third was John and Edward Conway on Golden Kopper.

In the White Sails category the course that was laid was down west and around Foynes Island and up to the Cahercon buoy and back down the estuary to finish at the club line. Jazmin II collected the Throughbred Perpetual Trophy.

The Mermaids raced an Olympic course east of Foynes Island, and the trophy that was raced was the Farrier Trophy. Vincent McCormack on Three Chevrons collected the overall prize for the series; second was Mark McCormack on Syreena and third Darragh McCormack on Argo.

The second leg of the Estuary Bell was raced in Kilrush last weekend and Battle took the laurels in very keenly contested races between the two yacht clubs Foynes and the Royal Western, Kilrush. On Saturday two races were contested in a windward/leeward course, where a force 4 breeze was the order of the day. In the first race Battle took line honours, and second was Mustang Sally. On Sunday the race course was around Scatterry Island, again the wind was slack in a force 2-3, Battle won this one with Mustang Sally coming second and third Dexterity.

Congratulations to McCormack and Buckley in bringing the silverware back to Cooleen Point. The presentation of prizes took place in the Galleon Inn on Sunday afternoon.

Racing continues every Wednesday evening with first gun at 7pm. All crew are asked to be at the marina at 6.30pm for a briefing.

Each club member received an information pack regarding the National Mermaid Championships, this is a very important event that will take place in the club in August. Your co-operation is vital in securing sponsorship for the championships. Please read it carefully and try to get some level of advertising.

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## **Champagne Sailing on Commodore's Day**

24th May, 2010

COMMODORES Day last Sunday at Foynes Yacht Club could only be described as 'Champagne Sailing', with the weather superb, the light north-easterly breeze ensured that good sailing was to the forefront for all classes.

Large numbers of member's, friend's and spectator's made sure that Commodore's Day is one of the major highlights of the sailing season in the Cooleen Point based yacht club, where they descended on an action-packed and adventurous afternoon. The boats were a great spectacle for the public on the hill looking down on the yacht club, where all the boats were 'decked out' in Pirate memorabilia.

It was an ideal day for a Bar-B-Que, where beef burgers and sausages were the culinary delights of the day, cooked to your liking from Chef's Paddy McSweeney, Alan McEneff, Donal McCormack, John-Paul Buckley and Tom Murray. The children were entertained with a bouncy castle, where they sampled the delights of chicken nuggets and chips.

'It was fantastic to see young and old on the water today, and it was great to see such a large turnout of people from Foynes and the surrounding area descending on the yacht club', Commodore Tom Murray said.

Racing started from an estuary start line, where Alan McEneff was Officer of the Day. In Class 1 the yachts were racing for the Paddy Reidy Memorial Trophy, and the course was down the estuary and around Foynes Island. First past the post was Battle; 2nd Joyrider and 3rd Hello. In Class 2, this year was the first time on the Commodore's discretion that he picked the winner, and the 'Spirit of Yachting best Boat' was Marengo, who secured the laurels. It was a pleasure to see such an array of Mermaids racing, which were magnificently refurbished during the winter month's and being fine-tuned for the Mermaid National Championships which will be hosted by the club in August. The trophy that they were racing for was the Michael Synnott Memorial Trophy, and in the clubhouse his son, John presented the trophy. Vincent McCormack on Three Chevrons came first in this category, while Syreena was second and third Argo. Two young members of the club, Mary McCormack and Anna Lowes, who sailed in the Topaz fleet were awarded the top prize for dressing up in Pirate costume. Well done girls for making a great effort.

Club racing continues every Wednesday evening for all classes and racing will begin at 7pm.

This coming weekend racing will switch down the estuary to our neighbours the Royal Western Yacht Club, Kilrush, where the second leg of the Estuary Bell will take place. Two races will be raced on Saturday, and one on Sunday. It is neck and neck in the scoring pattern between the two yacht clubs so far. So lads, bring back some silverware!

[back to top ^](#)

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## **Commodores Day to be a Major Success**

16th May, 2010

THIS coming Sunday, May 23, Commodore's Day will take place at Foynes Yacht Club, and traditionally this is our biggest annual social occasion when members entertain their family and friends with a fun day at the club. Commodore Tom Murray has arranged a full programme of events to entertain the large numbers expected to descend down to Foynes for an afternoon of fun and frolics and some sailing of course.

Children will be entertained with a bouncy castle and face painting, which is sure to attract a large turnout of children. A number of fringe events will be taking place on the water, with all classes racing to compete for their respective trophies. Racing will be confined to the harbour area in full view of the spectators. After racing a parade of sail will take place which will bring the fleet around Foynes Island when boats will be "dressed" with flags and coloured bunting with many crew plus their friends on board in fancy dress with pirates, buccaneers, seafarers and medieval dress the order of the day.

The Commodore will present The Founders Members Trophy to the best presented boat in the parade. On completion of the Parade of Sail the annual blessing of all Club Boats will take place on the Pontoon and in the Dinghy Park when the day will then finish up with the Commodores Day Bar-B-Que in full swing.

Cruiser Class 1 and 2, and White Sails will have a 'White Sails Race' for the Paddy Reidy Memorial Cup and the Mermaid will race for the Michael Synnott Memorial Trophy. The junior members will be well represented with the Topaz fleet of dinghies on the water throughout the afternoon. The programme of Events will commence at 2.30pm and the annual blessing of the boats will be performed by Canon O'Keeffe at 4pm followed by the Bar-B-Que on the clubhouse lawn.

Racing continued last Wednesday, May 11 with Race 2 of the May League Series. Cruisers raced in a Force 3 North Westerly wind from the Club start line to the 8 Metre mark off Aughinish - sailed 2 windward leeward loops using Aughinish Cardinal and Inishmurray Marks before finishing back at Club Line. 5 minutes separated all boats on the water after 90 minutes races. On corrected time the results for Cruiser

Class 1 and 2 were: 1st Battle; 2nd Golden Kopper and 3rd Jazmin II, 4th Dexterity and 5th Mariposa. The Mermaids sailed their usual triangular course laid behind Foynes Island and the results were: 1st Three Chevrons, 2nd Argo and 3rd Syreena.

[back to top ^](#)

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## **Press Release: Foynes Yacht Club to host the Mermaid National Championships 2010**

16th May, 2010

; At Limerick Riverfest recently, our Commodore Tom Murray announced in a Press Release that Foynes Yacht Club has been chosen to host the National Mermaid Championships from Saturday, July 31 to Friday, August 6.

- This Annual National Championship was last hosted by the club in 2004. Foynes Yacht Club expect entries of about 40 boats of a classic 1950's design from all corners of Ireland, which will be racing daily for seven days on the Shannon Estuary waters close to the picturesque and historic port village.
- The competition brings with it a festival atmosphere, as over a hundred sailors with their families and friends settle in for a week packed with competitive and social activities by day and night.
- A special feature of this year's competition will be the Family Fun Day, which will be held on the Bank Holiday, Monday, August 2, and will seek to raise much needed funds for the Royal National Lifeboat Institution.
- Among other events, a sponsored Mud Splat Obstacle course race will make entertaining viewing and a display from the Coastguard Helicopter is expected.
- Foynes Yacht Club is pleased to announce that Shannon-Foynes Port Company will act as Anchor Sponsor for the event and the club will shortly be canvassing for further business sponsorship and support to defray costs of running this prestigious National Championship event which will bring about 500 visitors to the Foynes area for the 1st week of August next.

[back to top ^](#)

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## **Superb Conditions for Estuary Bell**

May 12th, 2010

LAST weekend at Foynes Yacht Club the first leg of the Estuary Bell took place, between the two yacht club's on the Shannon Estuary-Foynes and the Royal Western Kilrush. In what can be described as excellent sailing weather, where a north-easterly breeze in a force 4 to 5 ensured that tactical skills were to the forefront of all the sailors.

Two races were held on Saturday, east of Foynes Island, where Officer of the Day, Vincent McCormack laid a windward-leeward course for the competitors. In race one it was a very tight finish between the three boats, Dexterity, Mustang Sally and Battle. With corrected time in Echo and IRC Dexterity came first; second was Battle and third was Mustang Sally. In race two Mustang Sally was first past the post with Dexterity coming second and Battle third. On Sunday, one race took place around the cans and back up to the clubline finish. Battle came first; second was Mustang Sally and third was Dexterity. So the laurels are certainly to play for when the second leg goes to Kilrush later in the month.

The Wednesday series of racing started last week and it is hoped that more boats participate in the racing. In class 1, Dexterity won; second was Battle and third was Jasmine II.

The Mermaids raced east of Foynes Island in an Olympic triangular course and the results here were Vincent McCormack in Three Chevrons first. Second was Darragh McCormack on Argo and third was Michael Bourke on Seagoon.

A few new members have joined the club, where hopefully they will continue to participate in racing.

The adult sailing courses began on Tuesday evening at 18.30. Peadar McGrath is the person to contact re: courses and he can be contacted on 087 2600817.

[back to top ^](#)

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## **Sail to Limerick a Fantastic Success**

May 3rd, 2010

ON Saturday last a flotilla of yachts from Foynes Yacht Club sailed up to Limerick as part of the Riverfest celebrations. It is hoped to make this voyage an annual event, which kicks off the sailing calendar for the season at FYC. A total of ten yachts and two Mermaids took to the water, which conditions were described as favourable, a few showers and a force 2 to 3 north-easterly breeze.

Commodore Tom Murray said: 'The voyage was a great success for the club and said it would be great to see more boats sail to Limerick next year. It is great to be involved in one of the most spectacular Riverfests that Limerick has ever seen, and hopefully it will be here for many more years'.

;On berthing at Steamboat Quay for an hour, group's of spectators came down to see the yachts with their colourful bunting and to ask members about how to join the yacht club.

When the yachts left Steamboat Quay they berthed in Limerick Docks for an overnight stay and the next morning left the docks for Foynes, where a pleasant sail was enjoyed by all.

[back to top ^](#)

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## **Events taking place this month**

May 3rd, 2010

- This Wednesday evening the May series of racing will start at 7pm. 4 races are envisaged for all the Wednesday's in May and this incorporates all classes.
- On Saturday, May 8 and Sunday, May 9 the first leg of the Estuary Bell will be the trophy to win with the Foynes Yacht Club hosting the first leg. The Royal Western Yacht Club in Kilrush will be the other condenter going for the laurels. Three races will be raced over the two days and this open to all classes.
- One of the most important and prestigious sailing events in Foynes Yacht Club will take place on Sunday, May 23-Commodore's Day, again this is open for all classes, where one race will take place in respective classes. Commodore Tom Murray is looking for a full turnout of all members and friends,

where a number of fringe events are organised for the day. On Saturday, May 29 and Sunday, May 30 racing will switch to Kiltrush, where the Royal Western Yacht Club will host the second leg of the Estuary Bell competition. Three races are down for schedule to take place.

All skippers are reminded to tell their crew's to wear life jackets on the marina and when sailing.

[back to top ^](#)

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## Club News - Pre Season 2010

### Sailing Courses Begin at Foynes Yacht Club

Apr 19th, 2010

NOW that most of the Foynes Yacht Club sailing fleet launched from the compound last Saturday - we are now ready to invite you to take part in Module 2 of our Introduction to Sailing Course which is a "Try it and See" Series of "On the Water" Sailing and Motor Craft training over the next 6 to 8 weeks with a guaranteed minimum of 6 training sessions on the water with instruction from FYC members starting next Wednesday, April 21st commencing at 7pm.

Details of Module 2 were explained at our last "dry" sailing session on March 31st - "Special Offer" cost of €50 for Module 2 - with the added bonus of this subscription being offset on joining any membership category when these on the water sessions are completed. Great that some of you have already joined up as members of FYC so no cost to you - just turn up on Wednesday at 7pm.

As we have no formal racing until Wednesday, May 5th - the next 2 Wednesdays of April 21 and 28 are ideal to learn and put into practice what we covered in the 2 On Land Sessions - that is "Learn the Ropes" - we hope you have revisited the notes you received, but the only way for them to make sense is out there On the Water when we will deal with and go through the "Points of Sailing" etc and you "Having a Go".

Come Wednesday we do ask you to also bring the following with you:

1. Suitable warm clothes for Sailing - you can never have too many layers on - but you can have too little.
2. Any type of water proof clothing - tops and bottoms.
3. Suitable non-slip shoes or tacky's a must
4. Don't forget headgear - cap or wooly hat
5. If possible, beg or borrow a life jacket or buoyancy aid - we do have some but maybe not as much 20 in number.
6. No harm to bring a change of clothes + a towel just in case ! Hot showers in FYC after Sailing etc.

Can you please e-mail back or text Alan at 086 2568280 if you intend to participate in Module 2 as I wish to split and draft up the numbers of trainee crew between the number of boats I have available for these 'Sessions On The Water'.

[back to top ^](#)

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### Free Adult Introduction to Sailing & Powerboating Skills

Mar 16th, 2010

A Free Adult Introduction to Sailing & Power Boating Skills Course will be hosted by Foynes Yacht Club in their clubhouse in Foynes for 2 evenings on Wednesday 24th March & Wednesday 31st March - 8pm to 10pm.

This "Dry" Course will cover all aspects of the Basic Skills & Knowledge required for Sailing & Power Boating which will deal with the following topics - Safety on the Water, Basic Sailing Terminology - Boat Parts, Points of Sailing, How to Sail, Rules on the Water, General Boat Handling.

This classroom style 2 night course will be followed up by "On The Water" activity for participants in April & May when the Foynes Fleet of Sailing Cruisers, Dinghies, Kayaks & Power Boats launch & take to the water for a busy 2010 schedule with the highlight being the Mermaid Class National Championships hosted by FYC for a week long event of competitive sailing activity & social occasion commencing 30th July to 6th August next, when Mermaid Class Sailors from every part of Ireland will compete on the waters off Foynes.

To Book your Place on the Free Introduction to Sailing & Boating Skills Course please send message or text to Mobile No (086)2658280 before Wednesday 24th March.

[back to top ^](#)

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