



# Foynes Yacht Club NEWS 2011

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## Club News – Nov/Dec 2011

### Annual Table Quiz in aid of Royal National Lifeboat Institution

Dec 31st, 2011

Thanks to all who turned up for the annual RNLI quiz at FYC this Friday. It was a small, but highly intelligent (???), extremely competitive (!!!) and jovial crowd :- ) who participated on the night. Thanks to all those who came along, donated spot prizes and made the evening a success. In particular thanks, once again, to the quizmaster Jack Kelly for his witty repertoire.

As an organisation who depends on the RNLI for our own safety on the water we wish to support them in any way possible. The evening raised just over €480 for the RNLI which we're all aware is a hugely worthwhile cause.

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### Fund Raising in aid of Royal National Lifeboat Institution

Dec 22nd, 2011

FOYNES Yacht Club will hold the annual table quiz in aid of the Royal National Lifeboat Institution on Friday, December 30 at 8pm in the clubhouse. The entry fee is €10 per person, with tables of four. The jovial Jack Kelly will be the quizmaster for a night of seasonal frolics. Members are asked to donate a spot prize for the quiz, which will take place at the interval. It is anticipated that a four figure will be raised on the night. So, if you would like a fun night out please support this worthy cause.

The RNLI is the charity that saves lives at sea. They provide a 24-hour lifeboat search and rescue service around the coasts of the UK and Ireland. As members are aware the RNLI saves many lives at around the Irish coasts each year. The institution relies heavily on voluntary donations to keep the equipment and lifeboats updated to the highest possible safety standards. Your support would be gratefully appreciated.

Gerry Ryan, PRO

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### Ladies Night at FYC

Dec 9th, 2011

It was ladies night at FYC last Thursday evening as almost 50 ladies turned up to see a Christmas Flower Demonstration which was given by Patricia Burke Flowers from Newcastle West.

The Social Committee outdid themselves once again as visitors were greeted with mince pies and mulled wine in festive atmosphere. Patricia created a number of fabulous flower arrangements and just when she thought she was finished was courteous enough for an encore with a fifth arrangement. The evening concluded with a raffle for a number of spot prizes and a few lucky ladies went home with the grand prizes of the flower arrangements.

Congrats again to the Social Committee who raised a fantastic €800 on the night for the Brothers of Charity and many thanks to Patricia Burke who donated her time and skills for the night.

Photographs of the evening including the flower arrangements uploaded to the gallery.

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## **Busy Weekend at FYC Concludes with Laying Up Supper**

Nov 27th, 2011

This weekend the FYC season concluded it's annual events with the 2011 AGM on Friday evening followed by the Laying Up Supper Saturday night.

The 'Social Committee' led by Patricia McCormack brought a new edge to this year's Laying Up Supper. A festive atmosphere was set up by a beautifully decorated club, the centrepiece of which was a massive 12ft Christmas Tree. After a fantastic meal Santa dropped in to give out a few novelty prizes while the band waited patiently to get going. Different Sounds provided the musical entertainment and managed to keep the dancefloor full for the night! Well done to the Social Committee on organising a great evening! Photos uploaded to the gallery.

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## **Club News - October 2011**

### **Congrats to Dexterity and Marengo on great wins in the RWYC October Series.**

Oct 30th, 2011

The conclusion of the RWYC October Series took place on Saturday at Kilrush. Going into the final race it was all to play for in both White Sails and Class 1. OOD Randall Counihan started the race from Cappa Pier and sent both fleets on quite a long round the cans race taking in marks at both sides of the Shannon.

It was an eventful race under difficult F5 W conditions. In Class 1, Dexterity got off to a great start and lead their class over the next 3 hours all the way to the finish. Dexterity needed a 2nd place finish to win the series overall and although Battle put up a great fight to win race 4 on corrected time it wasn't enough to deprive Dexterity of the series.

In White Sails, Alpara went into the last race with a 3 pt lead, however they made a critical error in missing one of the race marks and were disqualified. Marengo took race 4 and the overall prize.

Prizes were presented at a dinner in the Haven on Saturday evening.

Full race results will be uploaded shortly.

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### **Cruiser Racing Switches to Kilrush for October**

Oct 16th, 2011

THE sailing season at Foynes Yacht Club has virtually ended, except for some of the boats, who are taking part in the October series of racing at the Royal Western Yacht Club in Kilrush. Those participating are Alpara, Battle, Marengo, Golden Kopper, Kerry Dream, Dexterity, Tangalooma and Dis-a-ray.

Unfortunately, for all the competitors the first two Sunday's in the month racing was cancelled due to weather conditions. Racing took place yesterday with a 18 to 20 knots of south-south westerly breeze, however gusting up to 28 knots at times, which certainly proved challenging for all the competitors.

In Class 1 IRC, Dexterity from FYC took line honours and first place on corrected time, and in Class ! ECHO, Hero from RWYC sailed superbly to pip Dexterity on the line. In the White Sails division, James McCormack on Alpara from FYC were the winners on corrected time.

The Mermaid October series continues every Sunday with first gun at 2pm. After 5 races, Darragh McCormack is leading the series.

Peader McGrath is organising a Power Boat level 2 course on Saturday, November 5 and Sunday, November 6. This course is specifically geared towards members, who wish to learn more on power boating, and it is great value. Members are asked to contact Peader on 087 2600817 immediately to secure a place.

The lift-out day for all craft at Cooleen Point is scheduled to take place on Saturday, November 5, starting at 10am.

The annual general meeting of the club is pencilled in for Friday, November 25 at 8pm, and the laying-up supper will take place on Saturday, November 26 at 8pm. Music will be provided by Different Souls, and tickets are priced at €20, which can be obtained from any committee member.

Well, as all members may be aware the West of Ireland Offshore Racing Championship's will be held in Cooleen Point from Wednesday, July 11 to Saturday, July 14, 2012, and quite a lot of preparation is already underway. It is anticipated that an entry of 50 yachts will be racing in their respective classes. The championships are coinciding with the club's golden jubilee celebrations. Please check the club website for further information on WIORA.

[www.foynesyachtclub.com](http://www.foynesyachtclub.com)

Gerry Ryan, PRO, Foynes Yacht Club

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## Club News - September 2011

### September Series Overall Results

Sept 25th, 2011

The 2011 September Series concluded today with two races.

First gun for the cruiser fleet, under the direction of OOD Raymond O'Connor was off at 14.05 today. The fleet headed east around Foynes Island, with White Sails rounding Table Rock, and IRC heading towards Sturamus before finishing at the club line. With a strong tide against the fleet as they rounded Foynes Island, Golden Kopper and Alpara who stayed in along on the Clare shore for as long as possible after crossing the tide to Sturamus bouy, made the most ground. Hero ran into difficulty when dousing the spinnaker at Sturamus Island and fell a long way back from the rest of the fleet. On corrected time Battle took first place by less than a minute over Golden Kopper and Alpara had plenty of time over Marengo. On crossing the finishing line the boats continued around Foynes Island for the second race. Hero, having lost so much ground in race 1 were forced to retire. The remaining competitors learned lessons from the first race and again Battle and Alpara were winners on corrected time. In the overall results, Battle won IRC and Marengo won White Sails. Next week most of the cruiser fleet will head to Kilrush to take part in the October Series run by RWYC. First gun next Sunday is at 12pm.

The Mermaid fleet, many of whom were in Dublin racing for the past few weeks, ran a two race September Series. First gun was at 14.11pm. While Argo and Sea Fox ended on equal points it was Sea Fox who took the trophy as they were winners in the second race. The Mermaid October Series begins next Sunday at FYC.

The junior members are racing in an Autumn League on the Topaz'. Racing for Class 1 began last weekend with Conor Dillon taking first place. Class 2 started their series this weekend, and Mary McCormack put in a great performance to not only win the Class 2 race but she finished ahead of the class one fleet aswell. Racing for the Topaz will continue on Saturdays throughout October. First gun next Saturday is at 1pm.

Full results available from the racing results section.

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# The Late Knight Of Glin, Desmond Fitzgerald

Sept 19th, 2011

MEMBERS of Foynes Yacht Club were saddened to hear of the death of the Knight of Glin, Desmond FitzGerald recently.

The annual Glin Castle race between the two yacht clubs on the Shannon Estuary, the Royal Western in Kilrush and Foynes Yacht Club in Cooleen Point is one of the 'top' sailing events on the river Shannon. The Knight would start the race with a gun shot from Glin Castle much to the delight of the crows who nested on the trees. This race has been taking place for quite a number of years, and the Knight hosted a lavish reception in Glin Castle every summer after racing, where he and his wife, Olda would present the trophies to the winning yacht's in their respective classes.

In 2007 he was presented with a club tie by Foynes Yacht Club for his unblemished support over the years in hosting the Glin Castle race. This summer his daughter, Catherine presented the trophies to the winning skippers at a reception in Foynes Yacht Club. He was very approachable and a good conversationalist, who could chat about any subject. He was particularly interested in boats, and the painting's that are hanging on the walls of the Castle show sailing boats, schooners and ships, which were avidly painted by some of British and Irish artists of repute. He had many other interests in life, e.g. fine art, antiques and was always on hand to give advice to those who needed it.

To his wife, Olda; daughters, Nesta, Catherine and Honor sincerest sympathy is extended to them from all at Foynes Yacht Club.

The September series of racing continues this Sunday, with first gun at 2pm. Two races are scheduled this Sunday which will be the last Sunday in the series.

*Gerry Ryan, PRO, Foynes Yacht Club.*

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## Club News - August 2011

### Glin Castle & Cappa Race Results

Aug 28th, 2011

This weekend the Glin Castle and Foynes to Cappa races took place on Saturday and Sunday.

A total of 10 boats ( 5 from FYC and 5 from RWYC) gathered for the Glin Castle Race on Saturday morning. The race, which was run by the Royal Western Yacht Club, started between the gates of Glin Castle and the committee boat, Celtic Mist. First gun was at 11.30am and the fleet followed an interesting and challenging course towards Aughinish in blustery F5 WNW conditions. In Class 1 IRC, Hero retired before the start and Dexterity had to retire after running into difficulty on a beat from Mount Trenchard to Rinealon, so Battle was the only boat to complete the course which was set up to include beating, reaching and a number of spinnaker runs. In ECHO, Alpara led the White Sails fleet on a similar but shorter course as far as Cahircon before finishing in Foynes. The reception took place in the FYC clubhouse. Crews enjoyed a BBQ before the trophies were presented by Catherine Fitzgerald, daughter of the Knight of Glin.

Some sailors had a late night which made for a hasty start to the Foynes to Cappa race at 9am the following morning.

However conditions made it worthwhile as it was a pleasant trip down the estuary in WNW F3. Battle and Hero were neck in neck coming to the finish line at Cappa Pier but it was Hero who took line honours, however beaten on corrected time by Battle who took home the Galleon Cup for the second year running. In ECHO, Alpara again led the way to the finish but on corrected time Valella notched up their second win of the weekend, much to the delight of the Glynn family. A curry lunch was served in the Galleon pub before the prizegiving.

Well done to all involved in making the weekend a great success. Full results are available from the racing results page.

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## Glin Castle & Cappa Races This Weekend

Aug 25th, 2011

Next weekend marks one of the busiest weekends of our Sailing Calendar & on the Shannon Estuary with the annual Glin Castle Race on Saturday 27th & the Race to Cappa Pier off Kilrush for The Galleon Cup on Sunday 28th.

We are calling on all FYC boats owners & crew to make a special effort to participate over the weekend as a sizable fleet from RCYC is coming up the Estuary to join us for these 2 very prestigious races.

We really need your support to build up the momentum & interest in the Estuary for WIORA 2012 to be hosted by FYC ( July 2012) + the fact the FYC boats are the holders of all the Glin Castle Race trophies & we want to keep it that way !

Details on the Glin Castle Race are detailed below in copy e-mail from Arian O'Connell of Royal Western Yacht Club (who organise this race).

Please note - the Glin Castle Race will start just off Glin Pier at 11.00 hrs - Briefing will be given over Channel 72 circa 10.30hrs so all will need to be heading towards Glin about 0900hrs to make it in time. There will be IRC, ECHO & White Sails Divisions for all those interested in racing on the day. Given that its LW at Tarbert just after 1100hrs - the racing fleet will probably initially head West towards Tarbert for a short leg before heading back East towards the usual Sailing area for FYC members when a number of FYC Club Marks + Navigation Marks behind Foynes Island will be used to set an interesting & demanding course with the Race likely to last at least 3 hours. Finish line close to FYC will be chosen by the Race Officers. After Racing - a reception for all participating crew will be held at Foynes Yacht Club when prizgiving will be held circa 1700hrs.

On Sunday, as is usual on the day following the Glin Castle Race - the annual Foynes to Cappa race for The Galleon Cup takes place & due to HW at FYC - Sunday will have a start time circa 0900hrs - to be confirmed later but will be no later than 0930hrs. The RWYC boats that sailed in the Glin Castle Race on Saturday & who will overnight at FYC Pontoon will also partake in the race to Cappa. Prizgiving for all classes will be in The Galleon Pub in Cappa early Sunday afternoon.

***Alan McEniff***  
***Cruiser Class Captain***

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## Battle Win Jackson Cup For 4th Consecutive Year

Aug 15th, 2011

THE Foynes Yacht Club annual Carrigaholt race was held last Saturday in tricky weather conditions. A total of four yachts took part with a 9am start. Conditions were a moderate westerly wind in a force 5 breeze. It was a beat all the way down the estuary, to the Clare coastal fishing port. Team Foynes on Dexterity got off to a superb start down to Tarbert, but Battle made ground after using the tide at the Kerry shore. In the end Dexterity took line honours, but on corrected Battle became victorious. Alpara and Kerrydream got caught in the turning tide shortly after the

monastic Island of Scatterry, and Kerrydream decided to turn back for home, while Alpara continued to the finish. In the Long Dock public house, Carrigaholt the prizegiving took place and the Jackson cup was presented to the winning boat, Battle, where some sea food and Guinness were consumed by the thirsty crews.

A cruise to Paradise Island is organised for this Saturday, August 20. It is scheduled to leave Cooleen Point at 12 noon. Please note that some sailing fixtures have been re-fixed, members are asked to check the club website for further updates.

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

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## Jackson Cup Race This Saturday

Aug 10th, 2011

On Saturday next, August 13 our Cruiser Class Race to Carrigaholt for the Jackson Cup. First gun will be at 0900 hrs (High Water at Foynes 0654 hrs). All welcome in Classes 1, 2 and White Sails + any who just wishes to Cruise down to Carrigaholt in company. Hopefully we can get ashore in Carrigaholt for a meal, refreshments and prizegiving in The Long Dock. The long range weather forecast is summer is "back" for the weekend with a light westerly breeze - believe it or believe it not!

Regular Cruiser Racing and Sailing on Wednesday's in August 10, 17, 24 and 31. Please note First Gun for Wednesdays now brought forward to 7.15pm.

### Further Dates for your Diary:

Cruise in Company dates for August and September will be confirmed shortly with Tarbert, Canon Island and Paradise Island the likely "destinations". Saturday, August 27: Glin Castle Race for all Classes - Start at Glin Pier circa 1100 hrs - Further details to follow including venue for prizegiving and fleet reception. The following day, Sunday, August 28 our annual Cappa Race to Cappa Pier (near Kilrush) for The Galleon Cup. First Gun at FYC probably at 1000hrs to be confirmed later and prizegiving venue to be confirmed. Advance Notice also of our Cruiser and Mermaid Racing for our September League and Cups - on Sunday's 4th, 11th, 18th and 25th of September. We also plan to have an October Series of racing for all classes - details to follow.

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

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## Three Chevrons Secures Munster Cup

Aug 8th, 2011

CONGRATULATIONS to Vincent McCormack sailing Three Chevrons on winning the Munster Cup in the National Mermaid Championship's, which were held in Fenit, Co. Kerry last week. This is a great achievement for Vincent, beating off the Munster boats, who were stiff contenders.

This coming weekend racing will switch to Cooleen Point, where the annual race to Carrigaholt for the Jackson Cup will take place. It is hoped all craft from the club will be on the water for this particular event. The race is scheduled to start at 8am. This time may change please keep an eye to the club website for further updates.

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

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## Club News - July 2011

### **Battle Secures Victory In ECHO In West Coast Championships**

July 18th, 2011

Next year Foynes Yacht Club will be celebrating it's golden jubilee, and with the West of Ireland Offshore Racing Championship's due to take place at Cooleen Point it will be one of the 'hallmarks' on the club sailing calender.

A number of events are planned for next year in what promises to be a memorable year for the club. Many congratulations to Battle and crew in winning ECHO Class 3 in the West of Ireland Offshore Racing Championship's, which were held in Clifden, Co. Galway last week in glorious weather conditions. Foynes Yacht Club was well represented at the championship with an entry of three vessels: Golden Kopper, Dexterity and Battle.

WIORA is a membership based association for the promotion and development of cruiser racing and cruising on the west coast of Ireland. The association provides and promotes a programme of inshore, offshore racing for cruisers, and works closely with the various clubs along the western seaboard. Racing was of the highest standard with leading contenders vying for the laurels in the three classes. In Class IRC and ECHO 11 boats competed and in Class 2 IRC and ECHO a total of 9 boats took to the water. In Battles' Class 3 IRC and ECHO 6 boats started at the line. It was a very hard fought campaign on Battles' part with Donal McCormack and John-Paul Buckley keenly sailing a superb championship. It certainly augurs well for next season where you have quite a lot of boats coming to Foynes.

A cruise to Carrigaholt is scheduled to take place on Friday, July 28 for an overnight stay and then onto the Kerry, seaside resort of Fenit on Saturday, July 29. A number of fixtures were postponed and they will be re-scheduled shortly.

The junior sailing school are holding courses for the month of July from Monday to Friday starting at 10am and finishing at 5pm. The course which is fully accredited by the Irish Sailing Association is aimed at training individuals in the rudiments of sailing, and gives a broader insight into all aspects of sailing. Further information on these courses is on the club website on [www.foynesyachtclub.com](http://www.foynesyachtclub.com)

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

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### **Foynes Yachts Will Set Sail For Galway**

July 4th, 2011

THE West Coast Championships 2011 will be taking place in Clifden, Co. Galway hosted by Clifden Boat Club on Wednesday, July 13 to Saturday, July 16 inclusive. This particular event is one of the 'high points' on the west coast sailing calendar, where a record number of entries have already put pen to paper. Foynes Yacht Club is well represented by an entry of four vessels: Dis-a-ray, Golden Kopper, Dexterity and Battle. All these yachts have won many trophies in the past, and hopefully they will do well in Clifden. WIORA is a membership based association for the promotion and development of cruiser racing and cruising on the west coast of Ireland. The association provides and promotes a programme of inshore, offshore racing for cruisers, and works closely with the various clubs along the western seaboard.

The cruise in company organised for Saturday last, July 2 to Paradise Island was postponed and will be re-fixed to a later date.

Well done, to our representatives who participated in the Sovereigns Cup which was staged recently in Cork.

A cruise to Carrigaholt is scheduled to take place on Friday, July 28 for an overnight stay and then onto the Kerry, seaside resort of Fenit on Saturday, July 29.

The junior sailing school are holding courses for the month of July from Monday to Friday starting at 10am and finishing at 5pm. The course which is fully accredited by the Irish Sailing Association is aimed at training individuals in the rudiments of sailing, and gives a broader insight into all aspects of sailing. Further information on these courses is on the club website on [www.foynesyachtclub.com](http://www.foynesyachtclub.com)

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

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## Club News - June 2011

### ICRA taking place in Cork this week

June 13th, 2011

**THIS week the Irish Cruiser Racing Association championships are being hosted by the Royal Cork Yacht Club.**

Three cruisers will be representing Foynes Yacht Club - Dexterity, Big Deal and Dis-a-ray, where hopefully they will be bringing back some silverware to Cooleen Point. A total of 70 yachts will be competing in their respective classes in this very challenging competition. The race officers for the event are Peter Crowley, Michael Leonard and Douglas Deane

Last weekend the Munster Mermaid championship's took place at Cooleen Point, where a total of nine boats competed for the Munster Mermaid trophy, where racing took place east of Foynes Island in an Olympic Triangular course.

On Saturday, two races were down on the itinerary, but unfortunately, Officer-of-the-Day, Alan McEneff hoisted the postponement flag on the committee boat, Mweeloon, due to a no wind situation. After waiting patiently, a slight breeze made way for a race to begin. On the first two laps of the first race a force 1-2 westerly wind stayed with the fleet, but after an hour the wind abated again. Only two boats finished the race, Deirdre and Thumbelina from Rush Sailing Club.

On Sunday, the day was a lot different than Saturday, a force 3 to 4 strong westerly wind and mist ensured that all the crews had to contend with the conditions that prevailed. In the first race on Sunday it was a closely fought battle between Deirdre and Thumbelina from Rush Sailing Club, and Three Chevrons from FYC, with Vincent McCormack on Three Chevrons racing so well, it was unfortunate that he broke a jib halyard and had to retire. In the end it was the boat, Deirdre who came out on top. In the second race it was a different story with the leading contenders, some fine adjusting and some technical modifications to Three Chevrons, gave it that little extra speed to beat Deirdre and to win race three.

The overall results are Gold Fleet, 1st Deirdre, 2nd Thumbelina and 3rd Three Chevrons. In the Silver Fleet, Michael Burke on Sea Goon won this particular category beating off stiff competition from Syreena and Kilmoon respectively.

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

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## **Spectacular boating took place**

June 6th, 2011

On Sunday last Foynes Yacht Club hosted a 'Fun on the Water' day in conjunction with the Foynes Irish Coffee Festival, where some spectacular boating took place along with quite a lot of fringe events.

An egg and spoon race, a greasy pole competition were just a sample of the fun and frolics that took place. The sun came out from under the clouds to give the afternoon a pleasant atmosphere; with a force 2 to 3 westerly breeze all the spectators enjoyed the events.

The band 'Mad for Road' entertained the capacity crowds in the yacht club, where young and old were dancing to the music. Shannon Estuary Ribs were giving sight-seeing trips around on the estuary, where the public could see from the river the Limerick and Clare coastline.

This weekend the Munster Mermaids will be taking place in Foynes. It is anticipated that two races will take place on Saturday with a 12.30pm start and one on Sunday at 12.30pm. Twelve Mermaid's will be competing for the Munster Mermaid trophy.

Six visiting boats will descend on Cooleen Point, where the rest of the boats will be made up of club members. The Officer-of-the-day will be Alan McEneff, ably assisted by Liam Madden.

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

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## **Club News - May 2011**

## Foynes Yacht Club participates in Irish Coffee Festival

May 30th, 2011

ON this coming Sunday, June 5 Foynes Yacht Club will be hosting a 'Fun on the Water Day' starting at 2.00pm in conjunction with the Foynes Irish Coffee Festival, and which is back at it's 'home' after a lapse of six years, and present weather indications are for very warm weather to prevail for the weekend.

The Irish Coffee Festival will be on this June bank holiday weekend in Foynes Village, where Foynes Yacht Club are delighted to help out in this prestigious and international festival.

To kick off proceedings, a parade will take place through Foynes starting at 7pm. Foynes Yacht Club have entered a float in the festival parade.

Acclaimed film actress, Maureen O'Hara, is a name synonymous with the festival, her late husband, Captain Charles Blair, flew seaplanes into Foynes in the 40's and 50's from around the world.

Foynes Yacht Club have put together a programme of events which is sure to keep everybody happy for the afternoon.

'Fun on the Water' activities will include a kayak relay race, greasy pole walk and opportunities to get out on the water in a cruiser or a Mermaid boat for a short sail in the vicinity of the clubhouse. Participants are asked to bring a change of clothes if he or she is thinking of kayaking or greasy pole activities, because you will get wet and greasy!

The Club safety policy states that any person, who is sailing or on the marina must wear a lifejacket, therefore the club will be providing lifejackets to competitors.

Shannon Estuary RIB tours will be offering trips on a powerboat on the waters of the Shannon Estuary, which the public can board from the marina, and a 'Fun on the Land' competition will include a slow bicycle race, egg throwing, wheelbarrow race, sack race and, an egg and spoon race.

The band, 'Mad for Road' will be providing entertainment for the afternoon, which will be starting at 3pm. Also a shop will be located within the compound of the yacht club, and a Bar-B-Que will also be provided on the club lawn for those who wish to avail of the culinary delights.

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

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## Commodore's Day last Sunday a magnificent success

May 30th, 2011

Commodore's Day last Sunday was a magnificent success, with the weather somewhat improved, member's were able to enjoy sailing on the water.

A bumper amount of sailing vessels went sailing in a force 3 to 4 westerly breeze, the Classes 1, 2 and White Sails raced down to the Mount Trenchard mark and back up to the finish line, where spinnakers were flown up the estuary to the club finish line.

The laurels were given to Dexterity, who won the Griffin Cup on the day; second was Battle. The Paddy Reidy cup, which was sailed in the White Sales division with the largest turnout of 10 boats racing was won by Commodore Tom Murray on Kerry Dream; second was Ingrid and third Alpara.

The Mermaids raced down to a mark laid on the estuary and up to a mark laid in the harbour area. This was a gruelling race for Argo, Three Chevrons, Sea Fox and Syreena, and with the tide flowing and the wind to contend with it was tactical sailing right through the race.

Intrepid sailor, Vincent McCormack with his crew of Roisin McCormack and Christopher Lane sailing Three Chevrons came out winners in the end to receive the Michael Synnott Memorial trophy.

Commodore Murray, commended the excellent food that was served by John and Tadhg on cooking up the burgers at the Bar-b-Que, and also paid particular tribute to the those who helped in anyway with the organising.

In the May series of racing for the Mermaids, Conor Roche on Sea Fox captured the Farrier trophy to end the series.

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

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## Commodore's Day this Coming Sunday

May 22nd, 2011

**ON this coming Sunday, May 29 Commodore's Day will be celebrated at Foynes Yacht Club.** This day is very special in the annals of the Cooleen Point based club, because it has been celebrated for the last 49 years.

Commodore Tom Murray has a host of events planned for the day, racing will take place in the harbour area starting at 2pm. This is for all classes, Class 1, 2, White Sails and Mermaids. The junior members of the club will be sailing the Topaz dinghies, which should provide an added spectacle to the day.

It is hoped to have a live commentary of the racing from the clubhouse, to let the onlookers know what is happening on the water. After racing the annual blessing of the boats will be performed by Canon O'Keefe and Fr. Noonan, this will take place on the marina approximately at 4pm.

When the blessing of the boats is over, member's are asked to retire to the clubhouse for a Bar-b-Que and a traditional Irish music session, which will commence at 5pm.

**The Foynes Irish Coffee Festival** is back this year. The club is hosting a 'Fun Day', on Sunday, June 5 at 2pm. More details on this will follow next week.

**The Waterways Ireland Inter-Counties Sailing Championships** will be taking place on the Grand Canal Dock on Sunday, June 26. A fleet of one-design keel boats will be provided, and a series of sprint sailing races of 15-20 minutes leading to the final.

A team from the club, which is spear-headed by Donal McCormack, includes Elaine O'Mahoney and John-Paul Buckley, Donal has a vacant place on the team, so any member who would like to participate are asked to contact the secretary, Elaine on 086 1231864. As far as Foynes Yacht Club are aware only one team representing the Shannon Estuary will be competing.

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## **Fenit Race for Gold Leaf Trophy**

May 15th, 2011

**THIS weekend members of Foynes Yacht Club will be racing to the Co. Kerry seaside port of Fenit for the annual Gold Leaf trophy.**

The holder of this trophy in the club is Brian O'Donnell, where he won it last year on his yacht, Whyte Dolphin. Weather permitting it is expected that 10 yachts from the club will be competing for line honours. Members of Tralee Bay Sailing Club are due to sail to Cooleen Point on Friday to participate in the race. First gun will be a 9am start.

On Sunday a cruise up the estuary is organised, where hopefully a spot of fishing will take place.

The first leg of the Estuary Bell race was cancelled last weekend due to the very strong winds, which were gusting 4 to 6. The organisers, Cruiser Class Captain, Alan McEneff and Sailing Secretary, Liam Madden made the right decision in calling of the race for the safety of all competitors involved. It will be pencilled in the sailing calendar during the summer.

It is anticipated that a 'full house' sign will be the order of the day for Commodore's Day, on Sunday, May 29. Commodore Tom Murray, who has been at the 'helm' for the last few years in the club is expecting a 'bumper' show of members, in what can only be described as the ultimate date in the calendar at Foynes Yacht Club. Commodore's Day is open to all classes of craft, and racing will have a 2pm start. The blessing of the boats will take place at the marina after racing, and this task will be performed by Canon O'Keeffe and Fr. Noonan.

Club Polo Shirts are available for sale from the bar in the clubhouse. It is imperative that all members wear life jackets all times during the sailing season. Safety notices are pinned up on the club noticeboard for all members, you are earnestly requested to read this document.

*Gerry Ryan, PRO, Foynes Yacht Club.*

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## **Foynes Flotilla set sail for Riverfest**

May 2nd, 2011

**A north-easterly force 3 wind accompanied the flotilla of yachts that set out from Foynes Yacht Club, who sailed to Limerick city on Saturday afternoon to participate in the Riverfest celebrations.**

Daniel Butler co-ordinator took members of the Northside We're Ok youth group from Moyross, who experienced another view of Limerick from the river. John Prendergast and his wife, Maureen, were guests of the club on this cruise.

The yachts that journeyed were Mweeloon, Whyte Dolphin, Alpara, Inizi, Mariposa, Lady Shanannah, Hello, Kiltteery, Kerry Dream, Battle, Dexterity, Coral Dos and Blue Ribbon. Unfortunately, Marengo had to turn back at Aughinish because of engine trouble, the skipper, Pat Finucane and crew changed boats and were transported on on Ger Reidy's, Kiltteery.

The sun shone all the way for the sight-seeing journey up this magnificent stretch of water. The Islands on the Shannon Estuary, Cannon and Horseshoe are one of the first sights that can be seen on this stretch of the river. Aughinish Alumina and the famous Beeves Rock lighthouse, no more in use gives an added picturesque setting to this journey.

Further on the right-hand side the entrance into the Deel Boat Club in Askeaton can be seen. On the the same shore the pre-Norman Beagh Castle is standing overlooking the Shannon. Ringmoylan, and Pallaskenry can be seen down a mile from the castle, and opposite Rineanna with the famous Shannon Airport, who hosted several US President's who stopped off to visit this country.

As we continued our journey up river the landmark, Carrigagonnell Castle is visible, also the giant chimneys of the Cement factory in Mungret and the giant-sized structure of Thomond Park.

Nearer to the city Riverpoint and the Clarion Hotel, two of the tallest buildings in Limerick, rise up to the blue sky and sunshine of May.

When the flotilla approached the Clarion Hotel, they berthed for an hour to give the public a chance to see these water vessels in their bunting and memorabilia.

After the inspections it was into Limerick Docks for an overnight stay, and then on to Dolan's Bar and Restaurant for a much sought-after meal.

On Sunday afternoon the junior members of the club, Sarah Moran, Luke Murray, Ailish Chawke, Claire Lowes, Ciara McCormack, Rebecca Moran, Mary McCormack and Anna Lowes gave a display of sailing kayaks and Topaz boats at Howley's Quay to an array of spectators, who came to see the other craft on the water, Jet-Ski's and Clifford's rib who gave the public a trip up and down the Shannon. Members of the yacht club also gave out flyers promoting Foynes Yacht Club Sailing School.

When the sailing adventures were over it was time to head back down river to Cooleen Point, where a Bar-b-Que followed in the Clubhouse for the sailors and their families. Overall, the reaction from everybody was excellent!

Club racing continues every Wednesday evening with first gun at 7pm. On Saturday, May 14 and Sunday, May 15 the Estuary Bell will be raced in Foynes. Two races on Saturday and one of Sunday are pencilled in.

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

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# Schedule of Events as FYC Flotilla "Invades" Limerick City this Weekend

Apr 26th, 2011

Next weekend ( May Bank Holiday) - a flotilla of Foynes Yacht Club boats "invades" Limerick City for Riverfest 2011 - "The Buoys are Back in Town". Our now Annual "Cruise in Company" up the Shannon Estuary to Limerick is planned for next weekend & below is the Schedule of our "activities".

## Saturday 30th April

1400hrs - Flotilla Departs Foynes YC Pontoon for Limerick

1700hrs - Flotilla arrives & rafts up at Steamboat Quay ( near The Clarion Hotel) - visitors & friends who did not sail up to Limerick are very welcome to visit us & come on board for a cuppa !

1800hrs - Limerick Docks Gates open & Flotilla proceeds into Limerick Docks to tie up for overnight stay - HW Limerick Docks 1816hrs

1900hrs - Proceed to Dolans Pub & Restaurant on Dock Road for Meal ( Superb 2 course meal at €15) - bookings required ASAP please - see below

2100hrs - Proceed to viewing area adjacent to Shannon Bridge for Riverfest Spectacular Fireworks display

2200hrs till late - Who Knows !

## Sunday 1st May

Given HW at Limerick Docks on Sunday is 0622hrs & 1848hrs it is not feasible to leave Limerick Docks until circa 1700hrs - so the day is your own - maybe to view The Great Limerick Run through the Streets of Limerick - our own Bryan O'Donnell is taking part and would welcome any support to cheer him on the circuit !

In the afternoon - a "Sports on the Water" promotion takes place off Howleys Quay - 3pm to 7pm - our own Junior Sailors will be demonstrating & promoting FYC's Junior Sailing School in Topaz dinghies - also Jet Ski & Powerboat racing + kayaking & rowing displays.

1630hrs - Flotilla prepares to depart Limerick Docks & rafts up again at Steamboat Quay to support our Junior Sailors above

1800hrs - Flotilla departs Limerick for Foynes YC Pontoon

2030hrs - Flotilla arrives at FYC for BBQ when our new BBQ facilities will be "unveiled" & tested for the 1st time ! - please bring your own Grub & Bites to put on the grill

Further details of Limerick Riverfest 2011 available by clicking on the link here at [www.riverfest.ie](http://www.riverfest.ie)

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## Foynes Flotilla will set sail to Riverfest

Apr 18th, 2011

FOYNES Yacht Club members will be sailing to Limerick City on Saturday April 30th to participate in the 2011 Riverfest, which the people of the city celebrate every year.

The flotilla consisting of 15 vessels will leave Foynes at 2pm on the Saturday and arrive at Steamboat Quay approximately at 5.30pm, where they will berth for an hour before sailing into Limerick Docks for an overnight stay. When the boats are secure the hungry crews will sample the night-life and cuisine of Dolan's Traditional Irish Pub and Restaurant for the fun-filled evening.

"This tradition of members sailing to Limerick from Foynes has been to the forefront of the club for many years, and we

would like to build it up and keep it going on an annual basis, and show how Foynes Yacht Club can part-take in the cultural weekend of music and craic". Commodore Tom Murray.

*Gerry Ryan, PRO, Foynes Yacht Club. Phone 087 2264661*

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## **Lift in gets underway at last**

Apr 16th, 2011

It's been a busy few weeks around the yard at FYC and at last the lift in got underway on Saturday afternoon last. The traditional Wednesday evening sailing will commence this Wednesday evening in preparation for the May series which begins in two weeks time. Photo's of the lift in are available from the Foynes Yacht Club Facebook page.

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