



Foynes Yacht Club NEWS 2012

Club News - December 2012

Large Turnout of Members at Annual General Meeting

Dec 11th, 2012

The 50th annual general meeting of Foynes Yacht Club was held recently at the Clubhouse. The attendance, as Commodore Tom Murray described was 'overwhelming' for this very special golden jubilee annual meeting of the Club. The Commodore Tom Murray was elected unopposed for another year at the helm, with James McCormack being elected as vice-commodore for the coming season.

Discussed by the Chris Egan under any other business was a sail around Ireland for the Irish Cancer Society. This is the first time that this particular sail will take place around Irish coastal water for this very worthy cause. It is envisaged that it will take place next year, weather permitting. So any member's who would like to sponsor or know of potential sponsors are asked to contact Chris on 086 8531311. A sub-committee dealing with this special event will be set-up shortly.

On Friday, December 28 at 8.30pm the annual quiz to aid the National Lifeboat Institution will take place at the Clubhouse. Last year €1,000 was raised for this great cause. The entry fee is €10 per person for a table of four. Members and friends are asked to bring a spot prize on the evening. So, if you would like a 'fun night' out please support this worthy cause.

The winter sailing programme for teenagers has been cancelled until after the Christmas. Members will be informed when the programme will resume in the New Year.

Gerry Ryan, PRO

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Club News - October 2012

Argo Lead the Mermaid October Series at the Half Way Point

Oct 14th, 2012

Day 2 of the Mermaid October Series continued this Sunday in bright sunny conditions but with no shortage of wind. Tom Murray on Kerrydream provided the committee boat and OOD James McCormack set a short course at the back of Foynes Island in 20 knots of NW breeze. In the first race a delighted Bev Lowes & crew of Conor Dillon and John Cremin took victory by a considerable margin ahead of Three Chevrons who sustained hull damage after a

collision on the course and had to retire from the next race. In race 4 Argo took first place which sees them lead the series overall while Sea Fox who are very welcome back to FYC after a sojourn in the east of the country took 2nd place. Paddy McSweeney and Anna Lowes provided support on the rib.

Mermaid racing continues next Sunday. First gun 1355.

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Level Points for the Leaders at the start of the Mermaid Series

Oct 7th, 2012

The Mermaid October Series got off to a great start this weekend in F4 E winds of about 12-15 knots. OOD James McCormack set a course at the west side of Foynes Island and in the fine conditions got in two races. There was very little separating the three boats in either race however Argo took line honours in the first race while Three Chevrons were winners in the second with Zest beaten into third place, but only just, in both races. Commodore Tom Murray commented with delight on the benefits of recent pilate lessons to prepare him for Mermaid racing as he crewed for Vincent McCormack.

Micheal & Kathleen Burke brought their new boat Draíocht home to Foynes this afternoon and seemed reluctant to end their delivery trip as they spent a few hours sailing with the cruisers in the estuary before finally arriving at the pontoons. Fair sailing to them both.

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Club News - September 2012

September Series Ends on a High

Sep 30th, 2012

The five week Sept Series ended on a high this Sunday with a short race in gusty conditions. Racing started at the club line with White Sails heading out to the Mount Trenchard race mark and then home. IRC headed upriver first towards Sturamus then back to Mount Trenchard and finish at the club line.

Alpara were already too far ahead in White Sails to be overtaken for the overall result but regardless they finished the series with another win and took home the John Maher Trophy for the first time. Marengo finished in 2nd place and Jessica Leigh in 3rd. In IRC a surprise was on the cards when Battle (who thought they were out of contention - somebody didn't do the math right last week!) won the final race by 5 seconds and ended on level on points with

Golden Kopper. Battle took home the Dan O'Sullivan Trophy since they won the final race. Dexterity came third, just 0.25 pts behind.

The sun came out just in time for Patrick and Donal to get the BBQ going to ensure everyone was fed before the start of the hurling.

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Battle and Alpara Take Line Honours

Sep 2nd, 2012

The last long race of the season took place last Sunday to the Clare coastal village of Cappa for members of Foynes Yacht Club. The Officer of the Day, Ger Reidy sent the fleet from Cooleen Point racing at 10am. A total of nine yacht's took this scenic race on the Shannon Estuary, where as you near Cappa, the monastic Scatterry Island, Loop Head and Carrigaholt can be seen. Crews were mixed on the different vessels, with teenagers from the sailing school and adults. Unfortunately, skippers had to contend with light south-westerly winds, which took the vessels that bit longer to reach their destination.

The trophies that were raced for were the Galleon Cup and the Sean Keating trophy. The yacht Battle were victorious on corrected time to win the Galleon Cup; second were John Conway on Golden Kopper and third, Team Foynes on Dexterity. For the White Sails division, who were racing for the Sean Keating trophy, James McCormack on Alpara took line honours with closely followed in second by Pat Finucane on Marengo and third, Chris Moroney on Jessica Leigh. At the presentation of prizes in the Galleon Inn, sailing captain, Liam Madden thanked all the participants who took part in the first race of the September series.

Racing continues every Sunday for the month with first gun at 2pm. Crews are asked to be at the marina at 1pm.

Gerry Ryan PRO

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Club News - August 2012

Mweeloon wins Jackson Cup

Aug 20th, 2012

The conditions were perfect for members of Foynes Yacht Club, who sailed to the Clare fishing village of Carrigaholt for the annual Jackson Cup from Coleen Point, which took place on Sunday. The Officer of the Day, Raymond O'Connor sent the fleet racing early at 9am down the Shannon Estuary. A force 2-3 light southerly breeze pertained

for most of the race with the weather good, and using the tide the length of the race was less than 3 hours. A 'beat' was the order for the seven craft who participated in the race.

For the very first time, Pdraig Kelly on Mweelon entered the vessel in the race, and took line honours beating Commodore Tom Murray on Kerry Dream on corrected time, while last year's winner, John-Paul Buckley finished third. The crew on board Mweelon were Pdraig and Annemarie Kelly, Dave and Amanda Bevan, Chris and Elaine Davis, Josefina Fernandez, Cormac Cullinan, John Cremin and Helen Hasenfuss. Well done to all!

At the presentation of the cup outside the Long Dock Public House, sailing secretary, Liam Madden thanked all the sailor's for entering the race, and said that it was great to see new craft entering this year.

On Sunday, September 2 the annual Cappa race will take place as part of the September series of racing, The race is for the Galleon Cup and the Sean Keating trophy.

Gerry Ryan, PRO.

Dexterity and Titan win The Knight of Glin Race

Aug 12th, 2012

Dexterity lead the fleet home in the Knight of Glin Race on Saturday in pleasant sailing conditions with around 17 knots ESE breeze gusting up to 25 knots. The RWYC race committee set a long reaching course starting at Glin Pier heading west towards Bolands and then back up the river taking in triangular course between Labasheeda, Mount Trenchard and Rinealon. In Class 1 Dexterity got off to a flying start and lead from the first mark. They extended their lead on the first downwind run to the leeward mark and were not to be caught for the next four hours of sailing. Similarly in White Sails, Titan took line honours and 1st place on corrected time. A special well done to David McIvinchy on Gadai Rua, who sailed the course single handedly and got a well deserved cheer from the committee boat on crossing the finishing line.

The Fitzgerald Family hosted a prizegiving ceremony in Glin Castle afterwards where prizes were presented by Catherine Fitzgerald and her husband Dominic West.

Class 1 IRC: 1st Dexterity, 2nd Golden Kopper, 3rd Battle

Class 1 ECHO: 1st Dexterity, 2nd Golden Kopper, 3rd Hero

White Sails: 1st Titan, 2nd Jabiru, 3rd Wyte Dolphin

Full results available from the Racing Results section.

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Three Chevrons wins the Munster Cup at the Mermaid Nationals

Aug 11th, 2012

Congratulations to Vincent, Roisín and Luke McCormack on Three Chevrons who won the Munster Cup and were 3rd in the Daphne at the Mermaid Nationals in Skerries this week. Three Chevrons came in 13th overall finishing the series with their best result, 4th in race 6. Well done to the other FYC boats competing in the 41 strong fleet. Overall results: Three Chevrons 13th, Argo 16th, Sea Fox 28th, Zest 35th. The overall winner was Johnathan O'Rourke on Tiller Girl with an impressive 4 wins out of 6 races.

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Big Deal Wins Overall in Class 3 IRC at Calves Week

Aug 10th, 2012

Congratulations to Derek and Conor Dillon on Big Deal who were the overall winners in Class 3 IRC in Calves Week 2012. The week had already started on a high when Big Deal won Class 2 in the Baltimore Regatta on Monday. They then moved onto Schull for 4 days of racing, 1 race per day, in Calves Week 2012 with a variety of triangular and olympic courses.

Days 1 and 2 had very light SSW winds in rolling seas in which it was difficult to keep consistent boat speed however Big Deal got off to a great start with a first in both races. Day 3 brought the best weather of the week with about 8-10 knots of breeze and a course around the Calves Islands where Big Deal finished 4th. The Fastnet Race, traditionally held on day 3 was changed to day 4 as the winds were more favourable. This suited the 50+ boats taking part as competitors were back on shore in time to see Katie Taylor win her gold medal in the boxing. The wind picked up on day 4 with about 18 knots easterly breeze gusting over 25 knots. Big Deal needed a 2nd place in race 4 to take the overall prize but in the end had just enough time on Seconds Count to complete the regatta with another win, much to the delight of the skipper & crew.

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Club News - July 2012

Foynes Boats Top The West Coast Sailing Championships

Jul 16th, 2012

THE West of Ireland Offshore Championships, which were hosted by Foynes Yacht Club last week on the Shannon Estuary was a great success for the for the club.

The last time the championships were hosted by the club 14 years ago, which is a long time to wait for such a prestigious championship. A total of 28 yachts raced in four different divisions: Class 1, 2 and 3 and in the ever popular and growing White Sails Division.

The championships are one of the top events on the west coast sailing calendar, and vessels from as far away as Sligo to Fenit travelled to compete in the golden jubilee of FYC. The weather during the week was mixed with the wind strengthening to force 4 on some of the days with a very wet day on the Thursday. A total of one race was scheduled for Wednesday, where two were raced on Thursday, Friday and Saturday.

Officer of the Day, Liam Dineen set challenging courses for the event, and mostly all the courses were set in Olympic Triangular fashion, where racing took place west of Foynes Island concentrating between the Clare shore at Labasheeba and Mount Trenchard on the Limerick side.

Vantage points were taken up on the coast road leading to Tarbert and Ballybunion, where the public could view the superb racing that was on offer.

In his opening speech at the presentation of prizes FYC Commodore Tom Murray said that he was delighted so many boats from the club's on the west coast and especially from Iniscealtra from Lough Derg took part in the event. He thanked the committee, member's of the club and an Slua Muiri in giving assistance to the event.

Foynes Yacht Club took several of the top prizes with Andrew Bracken sailing in Class 1 IRC on Joyrider received the Clifford Cup overall trophy and the winning class trophy the Ita McGibney Cup. His crew consisted of David Taylor, who won the IRC National Championship's in Scotland, he also had Stephen Ferris, Steve Atkinson, Killian Glynn, Evan Tobin, who is a National Topper Champion, Annemarie Glynn, Dominic O'Sullivan and Eddie Bracken.

In Class 1 Echo, another Foynes boat, Dexterity received the laurels in taking the overall prize. Team Foynes were delighted with this win, and after the presentation a member of the winning crew described the win as 'fantastic'. The crew were Alan McEneff, Liam Madden, Ger Hobbs, Kevin Hoare, Ruairí Buckley, Dave Mahoney, Paul Vessey and Jane Maher.

Ray McGibney, skipper of Dis-A-Ray took the honours in Class 2 IRC, which was a great achievement for them, especially because they were up against a strong fleet of participating boats.

A name synonymous with Foynes Yacht Club 'McCormack' did not let the side down, James McCormack, skipper of Alpara won the White Sails Division with his crew of Darragh, Cian, Jamie, Mary, Patricia McCormack, Anna Lowes, Chris McDaid and Mary Glynn.

Brian O'Sullivan on Reconnaissance from Tralee Bay Sailing Club won IRC and ECHO in Class 3 and Serendipity of Solent skippered by Robert Bourke from Inishcealtra Sailing Club won White Sails Division 1.

[>> Check out report & pictures on Afloat.ie](#)

Overall results:

Class 1 IRC, Joyrider. Class 1 Echo, Dexterity.

Class 2 IRC and Echo, Dis-A-Ray.

Class 3 IRC and Echo, Reconnaissance.

White Sails Division 1: Serendipity of Solent.

White Sails Division 2: Alpara.

Overall winners in IRC: Joyrider, Andy Bracken.

Overall winners in White Sails Division: Alpara, James McCormack.

Gerry Ryan, PRO.

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Foynes Yacht Club Prepares for WIORA's West Coast Sailing Championships

Jul 2nd, 2012

FOYNES Yacht Club, based on the shores of the Shannon Estuary in Cooleen Point will be hosting the West of Ireland Offshore Racing Association West Coast Championship's (WIORA), next week.

This is an important honour for the club in a year that it celebrates the golden jubilee anniversary of its founding in July 1962. The championships will take place from Wednesday, July 11 to Saturday, July 14 inclusive. Over 30 yacht's coming from club's in Sligo, Mayo, Westport; Galway, Clifden; Kerry, Fenit; Kilrush, Lough Derg, Innisceiltra and Dromineer and Mountshannon will race on the scenic Shannon Estuary for what promises to be a spectacular sailing tournament. Racing will be run in three different classes: Class 1, 2 and 3 in the IRC and Echo handicap system, and the ever popular White Sails division will compete under the Echo handicap system only. The last time that the club hosted the championships was in 1998.

Quality catering is assured, and top class entertainment will be provided in the clubhouse during the week. This, of course being a special year for Foynes Yacht Club, which culminates in quite a lot of preparation and organisation in hosting this prestigious championship on the west coast of Ireland.

Principal race officer, Liam Dineen is looking forward coming to Foynes once again to take the helm. Incidentally, Liam was race officer for the highly successful National Mermaid Championships, which the club hosted in the summer of 2010. All yacht's that enter the championship's will be given a free berth or mooring for the duration of the event, and yacht lifting and mast stepping facilities will also be provided.

Club News - June 2012

Carrigaholt Race on this Saturday

Jun 18th, 2012

On Sunday next Foynes Yacht Club will be hosting the annual Carrigaholt race, where all classes will participate in racing. Classes 1, 2, White Sails and the Mermaid fleet will be competing for the Carrigaholt trophy. It is anticipated that racing will start at 10am from the club line.

It is nearly time now for the West of Ireland Championship's that the club is hosting in early July. Preparation is going according to plan and an entry of 40 yacht's have signed up for the event. Of course, as members are aware this is one of the biggest sailing events in the West coast calendar this year.

Last Saturday the second leg of the Estuary Bell, where the Officer of the Day, Conor Roche chose east of Foynes Island for racing. The conditions for racing were a west-northwest wind force 5. Leading from the first leg, which took place on Saturday, June 9 and Sunday, June 10 in Kilrush Dis-A-Ray in Class 1 in IRC. Class 1 were sent off on longer beats and had to deal with very testing conditions with flying spinnakers. In race 1 Dexterity ran into difficulty on the last leg and had an alarming Chinese gybe in front of the committee boat just short of the finish line, which cost them line honours. Unfortunately, they had to retire because of this. Dis-A-Ray and Hero battled it out for both races and only seconds separated them at the finish. In race 1 Dis-A-Ray took the laurels more than half a minute ahead of Hero, while in race two Hero finished ahead of Dis-A-Ray in the water. However, on corrected time, Hero, with the much higher handicap were placed behind Dis-A-Ray each time. John Conway on Golden Kopper put in a great performance to take a place in race 2 on corrected time. In the White Sails division courses set had more reaching than beating.

Skippers made the decision to reef the mains and sail with a smaller headsail. The wind abated from 30 knots to 25 for race 2. In race 1 Pat Finucane on Marengo and Brian O'Donnell on Whyte Dolphin were neck and neck for most of the race, O'Donnell on Whyte Dolphin pulled away on the final leg to decorate the mahogany.

Results:

Race 1 IRC 1st DisARay, (Ray McGibney); 2nd Hero (Adrian O'Connell); 3rd Golden Kopper (John Conway), and 4th Dexterity (Foynes Team).

Race 2 IRC: 1st Dis-A-Ray, 2nd Golden Kopper, 3rd Hero.

White Sails: 1st Whyte Dolphin (Brian O'Donnell); 2nd Marengo (Patrick Finucane), 3rd Battle (Elaine O'Mahoney).

Race 2: Battle was first across the line but was beaten on corrected time.

1st Whyte Dolphin, 2nd Battle, 3rd Marengo.

Thanks to Ger Reidy on the use of his vessel for the committee boat.

Gerry Ryan, PRO.

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Former National Champion Sam Shiels Receives the Munster Mermaid Trophy

June 1st, 2012

Last weekend the weather did not dampen the spirits of the participants who took part in Munster Mermaid Championship's at Foynes Yacht Club to coincide with the Foynes Irish Coffee Festival.

Thirteen craft travelled from the east coast from club's as Skerries, Rush and the National Yacht Club, where they enjoyed some good racing on the Shannon Estuary. On Saturday two races took place east of Foynes Island in wet conditions, where a force 3 north-easterly breeze pertained for both races. Officer of the Day, Alan McEneff ensured that the 20 boats participating raced the Olympic triangular course for the event.

Race one was very keenly contested with national winner, Sam Shiels sailing Azezy from Skerries ensuring some good racing skills in beating Vincent McCormack in Three Chevrons. Race two it was much the same picture with Shiels taking line honours and Jill with Paul Smith and Pat Mangan. On Sunday the rain eased somewhat to give a force 3 breeze with a slight wind shift during racing, and a strong tide to contend with. The winner of this race was Frankie Browne sailing Cara II, but Sam Shiels received the Munster Mermaid Cup on Sunday. Overall, the home boats did well, with Vincent McCormack on Three Chevrons finishing second on race one, and Darragh McCormack came middle of the fleet overall in 9th position on Argo. Vincent McCormack on Three Chevron's won the Best Foynes boat, while James McCormack won the Silver fleet trophy, which was specially commissioned for the golden jubilee year.

At the presentation of prizes on Sunday, Alan McEneff stressed that the next major event will be the West Coast Cruiser Championships in July, and asked that all the Mermaid sailors would assist in the championships. Mermaid Class Captain, Darragh McCormack said: 'It was the most spectacular, and skilful racing for the Munster championship's to date, which is getting new entries as it progresses every year.

This coming weekend the first leg of the Estuary Bell will take place hosted by the Royal Western Yacht Club in Kilrush. Two races are scheduled to take place on Saturday and one on Sunday. We wish the Foynes flotilla the very best in Kilrush this weekend. Notice of race etc., is on the club website.

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Family Day at FYC as part of the Foynes Irish Coffee Festival

June 1st, 2012

The annual Foynes Irish Coffee Festival is taking place this weekend in Foynes. There's lots going on so check out the festival website for details.

FYC are taking part in the parade this evening but of course the theme of the float is top secret until tonight! On Saturday and Sunday the Munster Mermaid Championships take place with a large visiting fleet. I'd like to think they're here for the racing but suspect Comic Book Heroes who are playing in the clubhouse on Saturday night might have something to do with it!!!!

On Sunday FYC will host a family day with lots of activities for kids including egg and spoon racing, sack racing, slippery pole challenge and an opportunity for kids to get out on a topper with our newly qualified dinghy instructors Ciara McCormack and Brendan Buckley. DJB will be playing on the outdoor stage from 4-6pm.

Club News - May 2012

Commodore's Day was a Nostalgic Day

May 21st, 2012

On Sunday last Foynes Yacht Club celebrated Commodore's Day, which was a very nostalgic event, because a special hand sewn tapestry with the club logo, and with the words foynes yacht club and the year when the club started 1962-2012 were specially embroidered by Teresa Kirwan, who received a lot of praise from all who attended on the day.

A course for racing was set by Officer of the Day, Alan McEneff in the harbour area for all classes, and all boats were decked out with bunting to add colour to the proceedings.

Unfortunately, the race had to be abandoned due to the lack of wind. Never the less, it was a very nostalgic day, because past Commodore's received gold medals to commemorate their achievement's in the club over the last 50 years. The former Commodore's who were presented with specially commissioned medals were Bobby Mulrooney, David Floyd, Jim Collier, Charlie McGibney, Paddy McNamara, Pat Moran, John Conway, Frank Dennison, Pat Finucane, and present Commodore Tom Murray.

Commodore Tom Murray in his opening remarks spoke about the vision and philosophy that the former Commodore's who came before him achieved in getting sailor's and member's to join this great club. He said Foynes Yacht Club could not go on except for the member's volunteering in taking on different tasks during the year to ensure the club stood up to the test of time. 'Training for the juveniles has been to the forefront of the club for a number of years, and this is going from strength to strength, the youths are the backbone to every club, and it is great to see so many of them here today', added the Commodore. In his closing remarks Commodore Murray spoke about the West of Ireland Offshore

Championships, which he hoped to have 50 boats for this occasion to coincide with our golden jubilee. The championships are scheduled to take place in July.

The annual blessing of the boats was performed by Fr. Noonan, P.P., Foynes, and after this ceremony a Bar-B-Que was held on the club lawn, where chefs Donal McCormack, John-Paul Buckley, Paddy McSweeney, Bev Lowes and Alan McEneff cooked to the delights of the hungry member's and friends. Well done to the social committee in preparing the salads to accompany the burgers.

Gerry Ryan, PRO.

Commodore's Day to be a Special One

May 13th, 2012

This Sunday is a very special day in the calendar of Foynes Yacht Club, because we will be celebrating Commodore's Day, of course as members are aware it is our golden jubilee year as well.

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 a host of events planned for the day to entertain the large numbers of spectators expected to descend down to the Cooleen Point for an afternoon of 'fun and frolics', and some sailing of course.

A number of fringe events will be taking place on the water, with all classes racing to compete for their respective trophies. Class 1, 2 and White Sails will be competing for the Paddy Reidy Memorial Trophy; the Michael Synnott Memorial Trophy will be the prize for the Mermaid fleet.

To start off proceedings a briefing is organised for all craft at 2pm. Racing will then commence at 2.15pm, the courses will be decided on the day. The junior members of the club will be racing the Topaz dinghies, which should provide an added spectacle to the afternoon.

After the racing the annual blessing of the boats will take place on the marina by Cannon O'Keeffe and Fr. Noonan, approximately at 4pm. When this is complete a Bar-B-Que will take place in the clubhouse lawn, and live music will be provided for all to enjoy.

A presentation of specially commissioned medals will be presented by Commodore Tom Murray to former Commodore's of the club to mark the golden jubilee of Foynes Yacht Club. Let's hope the weather will be favourable on Sunday for all to enjoy.

On Saturday, May 26 and Sunday, May 27 the first of the Estuary Bell will take place between the Royal Western, Kilrush and Foynes YC. Three races are pencilled in on the agenda for the weekend, and the first race on the Saturday will be at 12 noon, it is envisaged to run two races on Saturday and one on Sunday. The IRC and Echo handicap system will come into operation for Class 1 and 2, White Sails divisions.

Gerry Ryan, PRO.

Cruise to Limerick Hailed: 'A Great Success For All'

May 7th, 2012

ON Saturday last the annual cruise to Limerick city took place with a flotilla of yachts leaving Foynes Yacht Club at 2pm as part of the Riverfest celebrations. This is the fourth year that this particular cruise was organised, and of course as member's know, it is a very special year in the annals of Foynes Yacht Club-our golden jubilee.

On the day the weather was superb, but unfortunately, the wind was north-easterly so we had to use engine power on the journey. After rafting up at Steamboat Quay for an hour, where they boat's were viewed by the general public, we then went into Limerick Docks for berthing for the evening. Shannon Development hosted a reception in the Clarion Hotel at 5.30pm to distinguished guests including the Deputy Mayor of Limerick, Cllr. Diarmid Scully; Kieran Lehane, city manager; Chief Executive of Shannon Development, Dr. Vincent Cunnane; and CEO of Shannon Foynes Port Company, Pat Keating. During the speeches, it was stressed by all of the speakers, that the River Shannon should be utilised more for public leisure. A plan is at present being put together to enable this to come to fruition in the near future. Commodore Tom Murray, thanked the organisers of Riverfest, which he said was a fantastic success for Limerick city, and he hoped it will continue to bring in tourists and much needed revenue to the city.

After the reception member's of the yacht club went to Dolan's Restaurant for dinner, and after fireworks celebrations took place on the river Shannon, where large crowds of spectators took up vantage points to see the display. On Sunday the flotilla left Limerick Docks for the return journey to Cooleen Point, where a Bar-B-Que was held to round of the proceedings of the weekend.

The next major event in Foynes Yacht Club will be Commodore's Day, on Sunday, May 20 with racing for all classes, starting at 2pm. The annual blessing of all craft will take place after racing on the marina. All member's are asked to come to support this very special day of the year.

Gerry Ryan, PRO.

Cruise to Limerick on Saturday for Riverfest Celebrations

May 1st, 2012

THIS weekend the annual cruise to Limerick from Foynes Yacht Club will take place, and this is to coincide with the May Bank Holiday Riverfest 2012 in Limerick City. The plan is for our annual FYC flotilla of boats to cruise, motor or sail up to Limerick Docks on Saturday next May 5 departing by 1400hrs from FYC (LW is 12.01) - rafting up just above The Clarion Hotel, Steamboat Quay circa 1700hrs - proceeding into Limerick Docks at 1830hrs, and over-nighting in Limerick Docks.

Once again and similar to last year a Cruiser Fleet Dinner for sailors, family and friends is planned for Dolan's Pub Restaurant at 8pm - numbers limited to 40, so book early please with Gerry Ryan (087 2264661) by next Wednesday, May 2 - €15 for a superb 2 course meal. Then on Sunday, May 6 - unless you are up at 1st light the Limerick Dock Gates will not open again until about 5pm, so enjoy all the days activity around the streets of Limerick and also on the Water outside Clohessy's and then at 5pm Cruise back to FYC for a Sunday evening BBQ at the club from 8pm.

Great to see all the FYC Cruiser Fleet finally launched last month - just a pity our enthusiasm to "hit the water" early this year was not matched by some fair sailing weather.

Further details of the sailing programme and up to date news is on club website.

Club News - April 2012

Mermaid Fleet in Action for Inaugural Golden Jubilee Trophy on Sunday next

Apr 24th, 2012

THIS Sunday the Mermaid fleet of Foynes Yacht Club will be in action on the waters of the Shannon Estuary for the 'Inaugural' golden jubilee race. Mermaid class captain, Darragh McCormack is hoping to have a full complement of Mermaid's (10 in all) for this mammoth race. The course for the race is not planned, but details will be on the club website during the week. A 'special trophy' will be on the mahogany for the winner.

On Sunday last the first cruise of the season took place down the estuary to Loughill, with a north-west wind force 3-4, it was certainly a cruise to get all skipper's and sailor's in the groove for the coming season. A total 10 craft sailed on this venture. The cruise started at 2pm and finished at Cooleen Point at 4pm, where a Bar-B-Que in the clubhouse was organised for the hungry 'Pirates'.

Culluan Sailing Club will host its annual Spring Regatta on Sunday, April 29. This is a mixed fleet open event, and entry from travelling boat's are always welcome. Three races are pencilled in to take place with a briefing at 12.30pm. The first race will be at 1pm with an approximate finish for all races at 5pm. A special junior race is organised on this event. The entry fee per boat is €15.

The P750 Class Association of Ireland will be holding a Powerboat Race in conjunction with Riverfest on Sunday, May 6. The race will be starting at 3pm and finishing at 6.30pm.

The P750 craft will be racing between Shannon and Sarsfield Bridge. These craft will be travelling at approximately 40kt's, and it is requested that during this time no craft will encroach on the course and other river users are aware of this event.

Gerry Ryan, PRO.

Saturday next is 'Lift-In' Day

Apr 9th, 2012

THIS coming Saturday, April 14 'lift-in' is scheduled to take place for all craft at Foynes Yacht Club.

Officially, this will be the start of the much anticipated sailing season in Cooleen Point, and of course, as members know this year being our golden jubilee, we will be hosting the West of Ireland Offshore Racing Championship's from Wednesday, July 11 to Saturday, July 14 this summer.

This is a very prestigious event, where three classes will be organised IRC, Echo and White Sails, and Liam Dineen has been appointed Officer-of-the-Day for the championship's, and already over 40 boats have put pen to paper to race. While the standard around the 'can's' windward-leeward courses will be laid for the IRC and Echo fleets, more varied courses for the White Sails will be set, taking the fleet to all parts of the majestic Shannon Estuary. A special section has been added to the club website to cover all aspects of the event and feedback on the preparations will be welcomed from all.

As I write, 42 craft have put pen to paper for WIORA, and it is envisaged that 50 craft will be taking to the water's of the Shannon Estuary. So, any skipper's who did not sign-up yet, could they do so please. The application form and notice of race is on the WIORA website and on the club's website www.foynesyachtclub.com.

Peader McGrath, who is rib manager for WIORA week has asked for rib drivers and assistants for this week. Any member's who would have time to assist are asked to contact Peader on 087 2600817.

Well, to kick-off the season a cruise for all craft on the estuary is organised for Saturday, April 21, this will take place in the afternoon (a time will be posted on the website shortly), where a Bar-B-Que will take at the clubhouse after the cruise, hopefully the weather will be kind to us on that day.

Congratulations to Brendan Buckley and Ciara McCormack on qualifying as dinghy instructors. They plan to develop the junior racing during the season. These two individuals have a wealth of experience in the rudiments of sailing. It augurs for the junior member's of the club, where the sailing school is going from strength to strength. The sailing school will officially start proceedings on Monday, June 11 until the end of July (it will cease training during WIORA week. Owen McGrath will be doing the senior instructor course at the end of June, so it should be possible to run certificate courses, when he is qualified to the higher level.

Peader McGrath will be running the ISA emergency course beginning in early June more details on this will posted on the club website and on Facebook.

All member's are asked to pay their fees, which are due for the season. Please contact Pat Finucane, treasurer on 086 3879654.

The new club polo shirts, hoodies and jackets with the new 50th anniversary logo are available in the club. These are available in an assortment of colours and sizes.

Would all Class Captain's send me as much information regarding all aspects of sailing during the season. The purpose of this information is for the Club PR, mobile 087 2264661 or email gerryryanryan@yahoo.com.

Gerry Ryan, PRO

Press Release: Foynes Flotilla to Invade Treaty City

Mar 29th, 2012

Foynes Yacht Club, who are celebrating their golden jubilee this year will be sailing to Limerick City on Saturday, May 5 to participate in the 2012 Riverfest, which the people of the city celebrate every year.

The flotilla consisting of 20 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 of music and song. The cost of dinner is €15. Please book early to avoid disappointment 087 2264661.

On Sunday, May 6 the flotilla will leave Limerick Docks for Cooleen Point, where a Bar-B-Que will be held on the club lawn.

Commodore of Foynes Yacht Club, Tom Murray stated: "This year being our golden jubilee, it is a great tradition of member's and friend's to be cruising from Foynes to Limerick, which 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 be part-take in the cultural weekend of music and craic in this treaty city".

Gerry Ryan PRO

Club News – February 2012

Practical Sailing Course to Begin Shortly at FYC

Mar 20th, 2012

A PRACTICAL sailing course will begin at Foynes Yacht Club on Wednesday, April 18 at 7pm for a total of seven Wednesday's. Members of the public can learn the rudiments of sailing and the no's and do's on a yacht at this course.

The course it is to entice and bring new member's to the club for it's golden jubilee. Unfortunately, one stipulation is in place, you must be over 18 years to avail of the course. The cost of this course will entitle new member's to join the Wednesday evening sailing. The cost is €50 per person. This course also includes a cruise to Limerick on the May Bank holiday for Riverfest. After this course a mentoring programme for those who join the club is available, and the cost can be off-set against crew membership of €110. Further information is available on 086 2568280.

Member's who wish to avail of a berth on the marina are asked to contact any of the committee immediately, because places are limited.

All member's are asked to pay their fees, which are due for the season. Please contact Pat Finucane, treasurer on 086 3879654.

The new club polo shirts, hoodies and jackets with the new 50th anniversary logo are available in the club. These are available in an assortment of colours and sizes.

Former championship winner of the Mermaid's, Roger Bannon will give a lecture on 'How to Sail a Mermaid', and also on the intricacies of the boat. This lecture will take place in Dublin on Monday, March 30.

Cullaun Sailing Club will be holding an Open Night on Wednesday, March 28 at 8pm in Donnellan's Pub, Kilkishen, Co. Clare. The night will feature an introduction to club activities followed by a talk and slideshow on 'The Northwest Passage Expedition'. Hear the stories of a group of Irish sailing friends as they attempt to traverse the Northern Sea route from the Pacific Ocean to the Atlantic Ocean. A small admission charge of €3 for adults and children are free.

Member's are reminded to keep an eye to the club website during the season for up-dates www.foynesyachtclub.com or on the club facebook page.

Gerry Ryan, PRO.

Concelebrated Mass to Officially Launch the Golden Jubilee of FYC

Feb 20th, 2012

LAST Friday evening the first 'kick-start' to the celebrations for the 50th anniversary of the founding of Foynes Yacht Club was held.

A mass was concelebrated for deceased members, and present members by Cannon O'Keeffe and Fr. Noonan of Foynes Parish. A magnificent turnout of members both old and young made this occasion a special one. The commodore, Tom Murray before the mass gave an introductory talk on the significance of the yacht club, and what the members down through the years have made it what it is today. He also spoke about the special significance that the club is held with members and the public alike. In his homily, Cannon O'Keeffe said the mass was a great way to celebrate a truly remarkable club. He particularly thanked the committee in welcoming him and Fr. Noonan for what was a very proud day in the history of the club. The mass was sung by St. Seanan's choir, where magificent harmonies could be heard in the ecclestical singing during the mass. The choir was accompanied by Bryan Meehan on keyboard.

After the mass a photographic exhibition detailing the club in black and white and colour photographs from 1962 and to the present outlined some fine craft on the Shannon estuary. Refreshments were served by members of the social committee, Patricia McCormack, Emer Kirwan, Patricia Lowes, Niamh Finucane and Cora Windle.

On Saturday last a workday was organised where a great turnout of members did various tasks to ensure the clubhouse and the environs would be looking trim and prestein for the new sailing season.

The full calendar of events is up on the club website for the season, where extra activities are added for our golden jubilee year.

Gerry Ryan, PRO.

Remembrance Mass to Honour Deceased Members

Feb 10th, 2012

It's appropriate that we begin our 50th anniversary celebrations by remembering those who contributed to Foynes Yacht Club in the past and have sadly passed on. A Remembrance Mass to honour deceased members will be celebrated in the clubhouse on **Friday, 17th February at 8pm**. This is a very special occasion, not just for current members, but in particular for the families of those being remembered, many of whom will return to FYC for this occasion after a long absence from the club. The candlelit mass will be celebrated by Canon O'Keeffe and Fr Noonan and will be joined by St. Senan's Choir. Light refreshments will be served afterwards.

Club News – January 2012

Foynes Yacht Club Prepares for a Hectic Season

Jan 15th, 2012

PREPARATIONS are getting under way at Foynes Yacht Club for the golden jubilee of the club this year. On Sunday, January 22 a traditional Irish music session will take with the group, Creeves Wrenboy's taking to the stage at 5pm for what promises to be a spectacular event of music and song.

In February and March a series of lectures will take place on nautical activities, and these will take place on Wednesday evenings; the adult and junior sailing courses are beginning in March, and the annual boat flotilla to Limerick for the Riverfest celebrations on the May Bank Holiday weekend will take place.

The lift-in day for all craft is scheduled for Saturday, April 14 at 10am. In April a gala going Afloat will take place. Further details on this event will be posted on the club website shortly.

A mass for deceased members of the club will be said in February, the date is not confirmed yet, but members are asked to keep an eye to the club website.

The main focus is on the West of Ireland Offshore Racing Championship's, which will take place in July, and a target on 50 boats for the event is planned. Already an entry of 42 craft have put pen to paper, and it is hoped that 50 vessels will take part. Other events planned are Glin Castle race, the Estuary Bell race, Carrigaholt race, the Cappa race, the the Club regatta, which coincides with the Foynes Irish Coffee festival, and other fringe events. Members are asked to keep 'an eye' on the club website for details on the golden jubilee celebrations www.foynesyachtclub.com

Gerry Ryan, PRO.