



Kick off Newsletter

March
2005



IRISH MULTIHULL ASSOCIATION

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A Word From The Chair

Winter's wet and wild days are hopefully past as the more adventurous of us finalise the logistics of this year's foreign travel to hopefully warmer and more exotic sailing destinations. Carnac being the 1st up with 5 Irish boats. All the classes have their opportunity to sail in bigger fleets on less familiar waters, and the hosting clubs are more than delighted to welcome the travelling Irish, it is just a question of seizing the opportunity when it presents itself. The experience, tips and techniques learned not only benefit the travellers on their return but serve to advance all of the local fleets.

Most of us are back sailing again, in fact some of the hardier crews never stopped. This year the local circuit should be a good one, and as usual, the thing that has the most impact on it is individual participation. For our own sakes we should be encouraging those cat sailors with vegetation on their boats to get out there and go for a blast. We are a small fraternity (of finely honed athletes :)) so we need to ensure that we grow the group rather than let attrition take its natural toll.

Finally, this year's Nationals should be a new and exciting departure for us. Bangor week and the associated excitement will make a fine backdrop to the annual jousts in the various fleets. Sign up early to assist the organisers of the event and to save you a few pounds !!!

See you on the water,
regards, Simon

Welcome to all
the newcomers to
the class



Spitfire European Championships

Royal Cork Yacht Club

2nd to 5th August 2005

For more info see www.spitfireeuros.com

2005 Calendar

Date	Venue	Event	Class
28 th April -> 1 st May	Carnac (France)	Eurocat 2005	F18, D18, H16, Open
30 th April -> 1 st May	Ballyholme YC	Northern Championship	OPEN - IMA TT
4 th & 8 th May	Aras An Re	A-Cat French Nationals	A-Cat
27 th -> & 29 th May	Calshot, UK	Eurocat like event	Open
4 th & 5 th June	Howth YC	Donny McKay Memorial	Multihulls rated less than 1.04
5 th June	Cong, Galway	Cong -> Galway	Open
8 th -> 11 th June	Texel, Holland	Dutch Open & Round Texel	Open
11 th & 12 th June	Galway Bay S.C.	Western Championship	OPEN - IMA TT
18 th & 24 th June	Sanguinel	A-Class Worlds	A-Class
18 th & 19 th June	Lough Erne	Lough Erne Regatta	Open
9 th -> 16 th July	Rotterdam	F18 World Championship	F18
10 th -> 12 th July	Ballyholme Y.C. (Bangor Week)	National Championships	F18, Hurricane 5.9, Spitfire, Dart 18, Dart 16, Open
25 th & 29 th July	Greece	Hurricane 5.9 Europeans Championships	Hurricane 5.9
30 th & 31 st July	Killybegs	The Race	All Welcome
2 nd -> 5 th August	Royal Cork Yacht Club	Spitfire Europeans	Spitfire
13 th & 14 th August	RCYC	Southern Championships	OPEN - IMA TT
19 th -> 21 st August	UK	Spitfire UK National Championship	Spitfire
19 th -> 21 st August	UK	F18 UK National Championship	F18
3 rd & 4 th September	Blessington S.C.	Inland Championships	OPEN - IMA TT

TREASURERS BRIEFING

Jim Sheeran

Hi! - INCOME?

No, I don't have to remind you to pay your subs because they can be collected at the events this year. Don't you remember that at the last AGM it was agreed that the Subscriptions this year (2005) are collected at the traveller's events. A stealth Tax - PAYS (Pay As You Sail). The fees agreed are €5.00 per head per boat competing. So, come along to the events and pay the readies when you sail.

The organisers of each event as part of the entry fees should collect this. So Area reps please note that the Club hosting an event does not confuse this issue, please arrange that they collect it by adding it to their entry fee. These entry monies will be purloined by one of the executive committee of the IMA at the event, - all in a good cause. Yeah training!

So, as there are no formal 'membership' forms for the purposes of communication make sure you give your details - especially email address - and your crew(s), to the Area Rep. The entry list for results may be the best way to collect this data. Or register with one of the sailing groups AKA, catsireland@yahoogroups.com and southern_cats@yahoogroups.com/ etc.,

EXPENDITURE - TRAINING

At that same AGM, it was decided to spend some of our resources to support training and coaching the fleets in each corner of the country. Each of the Area Reps have been given guidelines for running such events, and you may know that some of these days are ready to rock 'n roll. Best of luck with that.

OPEN DAYS

Where there are any funds over from the training events, it may be possible to apply the surplus to hosting events designed to entice participants to play on our funny shape of boat. More on that at a later stage.

Some of the financial costs not dealt with here:-

New Kite, auld bag', new Jib, boom boom, boot boot, new trapeze harness, makeup for trolley dollies, new battens, Broad trailer, thread for tramp, smaller gut/ larger w/suit, Paddle (yer own can-u...), Pump for trolley tyres, loose spare tyre, epoxy patch for hull, beer, carbon dagger-boards, more beer, white rudders, split ends, tiller extention -(not hair), neither bent mast (nor ass'), wet dry suit, smellies nor gloves (especially kid g') and; TLC is only available at your local pharmacy. AKA club, pub, alcohol rub or burnt stub.



Eastern — Blessington

AJ Lawrence

Blessington Sailing club cat report 17th march 2005

We had a very busy frostbite with a good turn out plus a visiting boat from swords, Bidy. We had a good mixture of racing with everyone leading the fleet, the best and most interesting one was when the wind swung making the finishing line a reach kite ups and flying towards the line while trying not to have to bear off to much to get over the line. Dermot Mangan's (who we must thank again for doing rescue, running commentator and results) face as we were getting closer and closer was a scream he wasn't sure whether to trust Carl and I as we hurtled to the finish or drive off fast to avoid us!! Thanks Dermot!!

Easter Sunday we hope to start getting boats down to the club. The plan here is to do a clean up of the area. Moving boats that are not being used to let the regular sailors have closer access to the slip way. Sunday night we will head to the pub for a catch up and discuss plans for 2005. Ready for spring lamb starting sun 3rd April.

We hope to get some training days in I'm just waiting for people to get back to me.

Lots of events this year starting with Carnac on the 27th April, A-J and Carl are heading to this fingers crossed it'll be all good- with lots of learning.

A-J heading to Greece in July to compete in the Hurricane Europeans with Bidy.

This year the spitfire Europeans are being held in Cork so I expect ALL the spitfires from Blessington to be heading to that, as it's not everyday we get to sail with the best of the spitfires in home waters.

Blessington Inlands are a little later this year but I still hope to see you all there let's beat the 30 boat number!!! I would like to maybe introduce a race around the lake that weekend so any thoughts on this please let me know.

See you all soon

Happy sailing

A-J

Northern

Elaine Taylor

As in any class of sailing, there are highs and lows. At present the Dart 18s are taking a dip and the Hurricanes with spinnakers are staying steady. Sadly there are few new faces or beginners taking to the Multihull fleet. We have cats based in Donegal (the Griffin Bros), Enniskillen (PK and the Griffins) and Ballyholme. Our Larne/Carrickfergus cats have been sold on and are relatively inactive.



Dee McDowell (dressed as Christmas Tree!) and Elaine Taylor in the Christmas Fancy Dress Race at BYC (new Stealth in background).

ICEBREAKER RACING

At BYC we still have plenty of Darts in the park, but unfortunately they are not going afloat. This winter we have had only one Dart venturing afloat - Colin and Bronagh Conn who always enjoy their race, once they get the family organised and get afloat for some R & R on a Sunday afternoon. There are six Hurricanes of which five are out regularly. All have spinnakers in some form and the class is enjoying the craic that comes with them. Peter

McDowell has recently taken delivery of a new Stealth but it is proving a little too elusive and is undergoing minor repairs. The Cawoods Oil Icebreaker Series at Ballyholme has been as enjoyable as ever with a taste of every type of weather.

Before Christmas, Bidy and AJ joined us for a few weeks and added a bit of 'glamour' or was it 'gurgle' to the fleet. There are often 50+ boats out on a Sunday - kids in their Toppers, Lasers and double handers, the cats and now the 49ers. There is always an interest to see who catches who.

As for results in the Icebreaker - Stephen Polly and Barbara Henry in their Hurricane have not taken long to get up to speed and won the first half of the series from DT and Elaine, with Richard Swanston in third place. Swannie had borrowed George Crowe's Hurricane (formerly Johnny Mullan's #80) and as usual put the boat swiftly through her paces and gave everyone a run for their money. Dave Anderson, fondly known as 'English Dave' (as opposed to DT) has had a good start to the winter and managed to get afloat on a regular basis. Adrian and Mike Allen have been spending the winter moving house, but Adrian promises he is finished now and is back with a vengeance. The second half of the Icebreaker Series was short with the cats only getting out on five occasions and it was a battle between the Taylors and the Henry/Pollys once again.

NORTHERN CHAMPIONSHIPS

The Northern Championships have returned to Ballyholme after several years trying to promote cat sailing at other clubs around the province. We are not convinced that this has worked, eg Larne and Cushendall - so have decided to concentrate on our own fleet at BYC and will try to encourage as many as possible to get afloat in May. The Northerns are held over the Bank Holiday weekend, so if you aren't in a rush home on Sunday night, stay over and joining in the May Day BBQ at the Club on Monday 2 May. We are looking forward to seeing the A Class boats competing along with all our

regular visitors to Ballyholme. Please lift the phone/email/text to any of the BYC members if you need a bed or any help in booking accommodation.

CAT NATIONALS AT BANGOR WEEK

This year the organisers of Bangor Week have decided to include dinghies and cats into their programme of events. The Irish Multihull Association National Championships will be held from Sunday 10 July to Tuesday 12 July at BYC. As in the National Championships, there will be fleet racing and we are hoping for over 40 boats. With Bangor Week running concurrently, the cats will have their own separate race course and will be included in all the onshore socialising. The entry fee includes a free social pass for you and your crew and if you wish to stay on longer and join in the craic, or find a berth on a keelboat, then feel free! (BW05 runs from 11-15 July.) Several cats have already entered, including boats from Cork and Dublin along with our own fleet. The cost of entry is only £50 and this includes all social events over the three days. Please enter before the end of May, as the entry fee goes up to £65 after that. Entry forms are available on the bangorweek.com website. If you have any queries, please get in touch with me on sailtaylor@hotmail.com.

We look forward to seeing you all at the Northern Championships on 30 April/1 May and then back for Bangor Week in July when you will get a great Ballyholmer welcome!

Elaine Taylor, Hurricane 5.9 #483

Accommodation near to Ballyholme Yacht Club

Hotel	The Marine Court	20 Quay Street	028 9145 1100	http://www.marinecourthotel.net	0.8ml
	Bangor Bay Inn	10 Seacliff Road	028 9127 0696	bangorinn@aol.com	0.7ml
	The Royal Hotel	28 Quay Street	028 9127 1866	www.royalhotelbangor.com	0.8ml
B&B's run by BYC members	Hargreaves House	78 Seacliff Rd	028 9146 4071	Pauline	0.6ml
	Loughview	4 Breamar Park	028 9147 2479	Colin	0.3ml
	McAuthur House	88 Seacliff Rd	07771 987819	Frances	0.6ml
Other B&B's	Anchorage	36 Seacliff Rd	028 9146 1326	http://www.kingdomsofdown.com/anchorage	0.7ml
	Bayview	140 Seacliff Rd	028 9146 4545	http://www.kingdomsofdown.com/bayview	0.4ml
	No. 108	108 Seacliff Rd	028 9146 1077	www.bandb-bangor.co.uk	0.5ml
	Pierview	28 Seacliff Rd	028 9146 3381	http://www.kingdomsofdown.com/pierviewhouse	0.5ml
	Snug Harbour	144 Seacliff Rd	028 9145 4238	www.kingdomsofdown.com/snugharbour	0.4ml
	White O Morn	30 Seacliff Rd	028 9146 8400	Robarta.dunlop1@btopenworld.com	0.7ml
	Cairn Bay Lodge	278 Seacliff Rd	028 9146 7636	www.cairnbaylodge.com	0.2ml

Southern

Yvonne Sheehan

Winter 2004

The Cork fleet has seen lots of changes over the winter season. Racing continued until two weeks before Christmas and the climax was the Christmas party at Fusion restaurant Crosshaven, followed by more drinks in Mary Taps in Kinsale, till late. Black Tie was the order of the night with master of ceremonies Jim Sheeran, presenting lots of prizes for 2004 mistakes and superb performances. Kevin Boyd and Aoife Grant on the Spitfire took the overall Winter Trophy, after a superb battle over eight weeks and the fight came down to the last day racing, with Jimmy Nyhan and Jamie Donnegan hot on their heels. Adam McCarthy and Mark Donnegan took the much coveted free willie trophy, presented for, (putting it politely) learning curve issues. The black masterpiece is rumoured to be part of the dagger board from the 60ft triamamran Gitania, which capsized on a transatlantic race - we're all aiming to have it stand in our own sitting rooms next winter.

Is the Cork fleet growing & who are the new guys?

Oh Yes, bigger and stronger every year. Towards the end of the summer season, rumors spread like wildfire a new Hobie was on the way. "A Hobie Pacific" arrived in the club, another friend Roy Dennehy to add to our gang - to those who haven't seen a Hobie Brochure it's almost identical to a Tiger in size and shape, but has no dagger-boards and brightly striped multi-coloured sails, which makes it stand out in the fleet. It's a fun boat and that was evident day 1, when we saw five small people under 8 arrive in the car for moral support. (start them early)

The winter series brought some changes, Adrian Bendon, spent a Sunday crewing on Yvonne's Tiger 1001 and 4 weeks later became its proud new owner. Adrian has a competitive teenage son, James who has done plenty National and International racing in the mirror class, but now feels the need for more speed and power. The boat has moved from the RCYC to Glandore for a winter break, but promises to be back in action for Club sailing at the RCYC, when the season re-opens.

Brendan Fafiani, also joins the Cork Multihull fleet, for the 2005 season. Brendan spent a weekend mid winter helming Rob Doyle's A-Class and has never looked back. His new boat arrived on a double trailer from Holland with a 2nd A-Class for Yvonne. The A-class fleet in cork now stands at three and who knows what might happen by the end of the season - rumour has it Rob Gill's bags are packed and he's heading home to Cork, we just happen to have a spare mast and sails to tempt him with.....

Why a new single-handed class, did we not have enough options all ready?

To date, Ireland only had a double-handed multihull option, which is an amazing fleet, but growth in the class also brings change ----

What is an International A-Class catamaran? The A class was born in 1967 as a simple straight forward catamaran development class, with big flees in Europe, Australia and North America. The A class is sailed single handed and are about the same weight as a Laser making it easy handle in the dinghy park and on the water. They are easy to rig and sail, theses lightweight speedsters top out at about 22 knots.

With the three A-class cats in the RCYC which area a Flyer and Auscat MKV designs and more boats on the way it opens a new door to those who want to sail single handed and not be left behind against the spinnaker two up cats of the H5.9's, F18's and Spitfires.

How Big is the Cork fleet ?

The Cork Fleet now stands at 6 Tigers, 3 spitfires, 3 A-Class, 2 Hobie 16, 1 Hobie Pacific, 1 Newcat (a youth multihull) all active.

What's happening on the International front?

Watch this space, we're still in the planning process for 2005. Carnac the first International event of the season, the Cork fleet has three boats taking to the road, two formula 18 teams Jim Sheeran, Jeff Condel and Colm Daly, Yvonne Sheehan, along with the spitfire team of Neil Mangan and Jenny Wallace. The rest of the season is still being planned. There's lots of excitement in the Spitfire fleet, as the European Championships are to be hosted at the RCYC early August. This will attract the top of the fleet to Cork. Jimmy Nyhan and Maritta Bulwalda are also planning a return to the warm waters to the Aruba International Regatta in November.

Cork for 2005?

A new wider slipway is on the agenda and it's not a rumour, completion date April 2005, so anyone travelling to the Southernns in August has a lot to look forward to.

Eastern—Swords

Biddy

Hi all.

The season is upon us again. Everybody is probably getting their boats ready for the sailing ahead.

We have had the arrival of two hurricanes in Swords. One of which was an old swords boat (*GOB SMACKED*) that we would all remember passing us by. It has come back from sunny Scotland under a new owner John Power. Happy sailing on her John.

Our Club racing starts back the weekend after Easter Sunday. Can't Wait!!!!

I am heading off to Carnac with a new crew god Bless her and AJ and Karl from Blesso plus three cats from Cork as well . Looking to be a promising event.

Stephen Duffy and Eddie Hatton are sorting out the last few details for the Donny Mackay Memorial and all cats less than 1.04 are welcome. It will be broken into two fleets. Hurricane 5.9 fleet and fast cat fleet. There will be 3 races held on the Saturday for both fleets and on the Sunday for the long distance race both fleets will race as one. It sounds like it going to be a cracking event, don't miss out.

Then myself, AJ, Simon and Ann, the Taylor's and the McMinn s are off to sunny Greece for our Hurricane Europeans. Any one looking for any info on the Europeans just drop one of us an email and we will fill you in on the info.

Looking forward to seeing you all on the water.

Sail fast!!!

Biddy, East Coast REP

Western

Johnny Murphy

Hello All,

We have had a very busy winter on the Western front, having sailed all the way through the storms of the winter in Galway, losing out on only two Sundays racing due to weather. One of the days was lost due lack of wind.

The fleet in Galway continues to grow; we now have a whopping 13 Dart16 catamarans in the club! which is fantastic, with an average of eight of these racing on a Sunday. Three of the Dart16s are raced with an all female crew!

Mox has led the way once again in Galway, with the arrival of the first single-handed catamaran in Galway - A Shadow now christened "Fallen Angel". As is the trend in Cork, it is likely a number of other single handers will be purchased...only at the right price! Meanwhile sea trials of the Shadow continue, with everyone vying for a chance to take it out...for a sail.

GBSC has been undergoing major changes in the last couple of years with a lot of effort going into improving boat parking and launching facilities.

A new slipway will be completed shortly by the Department of Marine, which is 10m wide and nearly 60m in length, which will allow us to launch rescue boats and catamarans in the lowest of tides.

The dinghy park areas are being upgraded to allow more space for catamarans, with water being made available to wash those crispy new sails and keep them in top order.



On the sailing front, the annual "Dart16 Day" is being run on Sun 20th March, the winners of which will be awarded the coveted "McSwiggans Trophy". Dart16 day is a fun regatta which all club members and juniors are invited to compete in.

Once all entries have been received the entries are divided up into balanced teams. A number of races are run and the teams are then split into Gold and Silver fleets, from which the eventual winners emerge. Participants will race a minimum of 4 races.

Local clubs in Galway are also invited to participate, including Spidal who are considering starting a catamaran fleet.

A Dart 16 coaching weekend is scheduled for the Sat 16th - Sun 17th April at GBSC.

The coaching weekend is specifically aimed at the Dart16 fleet and will accommodate sailors of all abilities. Brian Phipps from Windsport UK, a catamaran coach with vast experience will deliver the course. Dart16s from all clubs are welcome to participate. Please see <http://www.gbsc.ie/dinghy/dart16coaching.html> for further information.

GBSC wish to acknowledge and thank the IMA for their financial assistance in the running of the Dart 16 coaching weekend. GBSC applied to the IMA for assistance and were awarded 500 euro to run the event, 250 euro of which has been paid in advance of the weekend and the remainder which will be paid to GBSC upon submission of an event report. The IMA is to be commended for this initiative.

The annual Cong-Galway race will take place as usual on the June Bank holiday (Sun 6th June, with the IMA Western Championships being hosted by GBSC on the 11th and 12th of June. We look forward to seeing you all there.

Regards

Johnny Murphy (Western Rep)

