



FOYNES YACHT CLUB

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FYC AGM 2010 – Commodores Report - Nov 26th 2010

I am happy to report that 2010 was another successful year for Foynes Yacht Club.

Even before the season started, a winter evening programme was organised. The RNLI quiz, the skippers evening and the session on Boat Electrics all went well. The Introduction to Sailing sessions were a particular success, attracting a very welcome new batch of members to the club. These training sessions were later followed up with ‘On-the water’ sailing evenings giving all newcomers hands-on exposure to the FYC Sailing experience. We were all pleased to see this new gang remain active throughout the season and I am sure the same formula will be followed next year in an effort to attract crew members in particular into to club.

We continued to identify and implement improvement projects. The new slipway pontoon is of huge benefit to dinghy and small craft sailors; the office refurbishment and hallway tiling has cleaned up the entrance and of course with the new beer cooling system we are now known as a reliable place to get a decent pint.

A special word of thanks to Elaine for the marvellous job in improving and maintaining our website with fresh and interesting material. It is now our main forum of communication and is very well reviewed by members and non-members alike. I believe we are also on Facebook but I will leave further comment on this to our more cyber friendly members.

The cruise to Limerick to support the City May Fest on the holiday weekend turned out to be a great family event and something I am sure we will include in our cruising calendar every year.

Of course the highlight of the 2010 season was always going to be the Mermaid Nationals and to be sure it did not disappoint. 34 Boats, great racing and even better fun, food and music made for a memorable week for all. The key to its success was the hard preparatory work done by the committee and their helpers in the months leading up to the event and then the general

spirit of cooperation and volunteerism that prevailed throughout the week. My sincere thanks and congratulations to all involved particularly those who took time off from work to support the effort. A unique aspect of the FYC Nationals was the giving over of one afternoon to fundraising for the RNLI from the running of the 'MudSplat'. Along with the winter quiz, FYC raised €2,200 and it was great to see the Mudsplat event organiser Roisin McCormack present the cheque to the RNLI at the recent Laying-Up Supper.

The sailing school is going from strength to strength with demand for courses remaining high. The ISA/Euromarine Rib Challenge National Final was successfully run at our club in October. It was great to see a junior team from our own school competing in the event and I know that Peadar has ideas to promote this aspect of junior training further in the coming years. The committee will certainly support this in any way it can.

On behalf of all members, I want to thank the 5 Year Plan Committee. This was strategically for the club a very important initiative and the general consensus is that its objectives have been largely achieved. As we draw a line under this plan in 2010 I am pleased to note that the processes that delivered the plan will be kept alive; you, the members, will again be canvassed for your opinions and ideas; the feedback will be collated, summarised and published for all and will serve as a directional guide for future committees. This time, our website will be used to collect feedback in a more efficient way. And so once again, a sincere 'thank you' and 'well done' to Jim Collier and his committee for their valuable contribution.

It has then, in many respects, been a very successful season and we have every reason to look forward with enthusiasm and optimism to the season ahead. Our overriding objective should be to increase further the level of participation of members in a wide and growing range of club activities. Cruiser racing had a healthy participation rate both here at Foynes and beyond with a particularly strong showing at the WIORA in RWYC and many of our new members have secured regular crew positions on board. As we approach the club's 50th anniversary year in 2012, the news that we will be hosting the WIORA of that year is a very welcome development after many years supporting the event when hosted by other clubs. There will of course be much discussion and planning to ensure that the event befits a club such as ours celebrating its *Golden Jubilee*. I would at the outset encourage the club to 'think big!'. We should set our targets and objectives high and ensure that WIORA Foynes 2010 is remembered for years to come.

I would like to sincerely thank the flag officers and committee for their hard work and enthusiasm over the past year. It has been a privilege to serve alongside this committed and multi-talented group. I would also like to thank those members who gave of their time to help out on a voluntary basis throughout the year.

I would like to especially thank Patrick for his excellent financial stewardship of the club and for his efficient management of the bar among many other things.

I wish all members a happy and a peaceful Christmas.

Tom Murray (Nov 26th 2010.)