



FOYNES YACHT CLUB

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FOYNES YACHT CLUB AGM 2011 – Commodores Report - Nov 25th 2011

I would describe 2011 as a good steady season, blighted by poor weather but one during which our levels of participation in club activities stayed stable and active. This is a good summary to report in a year of uncertain economic climate and it is clear that active members see the value in being part of a club such as ours.

Once again, useful and extensive work was done on our main pontoons in the off-season months; all pontoons were dry docked, their framework repaired, their alignment corrected and, more worryingly at the end of the programme, a cracked pile was filled with steel reinforced concrete and had its integrity restored. The committee, in the coming years, will have to turn its attention towards planning the inevitable replacement of these pontoons on a phased basis.

After a successful lift-in, attention was focussed on preparing for our May Fest Cruise to Limerick City. Once again there was a good turnout of boats. A special angle this year was provided by our young sailors who provided a spectacle of Topaz sailing between the bridges in front of a busy Sunday afternoon crowd. An impromptu BBQ on our return capped off a good trip.

Patricia and Elaine were asked to set up the new Social Committee in March and they have been doing a power of valuable work since. I would like to pay special tribute to this group of members. Their energy and enthusiasm is infectious and they are doing vital work in keeping a good sociable atmosphere about the place. The Commodores day went very well and of course the Irish Coffee Festival parade float and the Sunday Family Fun-day that followed marked a special milestone as we established ourselves firmly as an active part of the village community. The social committee are already drafting plans for our Jubilee year but before that, we can

expect a top class Laying-Up Supper tomorrow night for those of us lucky to secure tickets because I'm advised that a record crowd is expected this year.

Our "Introduction to Sailing" programme did not get the same number of new members as in the previous year. However, what they lacked in numbers they made up for with enthusiasm and all have secured regular berths in the racing fleet. Under Alan's leadership, we will continue with this vital activity next year but we would encourage all members to canvass their non-sailing friends to try out the sport. I can assure you that they will not get a higher quality or better value introduction to sailing anywhere else.

The sailing captains are to be congratulated for an active year with all our usual events held despite a good deal of bad weather. Club racing continued throughout the year for cruisers and Mermaids and the season was rounded off by a strong participation by FYC in the October series in Kilrush. Further afield, the club ensign was flown with honour at Kinsale, Crosshaven, Cliften WIORA and the Fenit Mermaid Nationals and for the first time a racing crew from FYC represented Co Limerick in the inaugural All Ireland Sailing Championship held in the Grand Canal Basin in June.

The committee continued to support the training of our Under 16's in sailing skills and this year, with the purchase of a small Rigiflex and outboard engine, Peadar McGrath was able to extend this training to include Motorboat skills. It was a clear mark of the success of this effort that seven Level 2 ISA Youth Certificates were awarded and that two teams qualified for the finals of the Euromarine competition; one of these teams ran an extremely close second place in the overall placing. We look forward to developing this initiative further in the coming years. The young sailors finished up the season with an Autumn Racing League, successfully organised by Brendan Buckley. There was stiff competition in both Gold and Silver fleets and a great atmosphere at the awards night in the club later on in November. I am delighted to see a nomination for Brendan to join the committee in 2012 and to act as Youth Officer.

So after a good year all round, our sights are now set on our 50th Anniversary. I would ask members to make a resolution for 2012 to especially support all club activities throughout the special year. There will be high profile events like the WIORA and the June Weekend Munster Mermaids but that is not to take from the significance of the traditional events in our annual calendar. In essence, the Jubilee year should be one during which our participation levels at

our long established events are at an all-time high. It should be a year in which we build a momentum to keep us moving ahead for another 50 years. It's up to each and every member to make this happen. So, make sure we have your mobile and email, keep a close eye on the website and take a full part in the celebration. That way, we can all make it a year to remember.

I would like to sincerely thank the committee for their hard work and enthusiasm over the past year. The group continues to work hard in the interests of the club. Special congratulations to Bev and Patricia on having survived their first year on the committee and for their own special contributions to the work in hand.

I congratulate the Hon. Treasurer Patrick for his continued excellence in the management of the club finances and, among many things, his efficient organisation of the bar and clubhouse. Also, a special note of appreciation to Hon. Secretary Elaine for her skill and diligence applied to the secretarial and most importantly the communications side of club business.

To end, I wish all members the very best for the coming season and hope to see you all at the Laying-Up Supper or at the RNLI Quiz on December 30th.

Tom Murray (Nov 25th 2011.)