



## Annual General Meeting 2021

January 26, 2021, Online at 19:30

# COMMODORE'S REPORT



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## 2020 Sailing Season At Galway City Sailing Club

Sailing by its nature and our club in particular, due to the class of boats we sail, was fortunate to be one of the first activities that could resume when Covid 19 lockdown restrictions were eased in late spring. As restrictions eased over the summer we adjusted our activities accordingly to offer as much sailing as possible in a safe and friendly environment. Indeed we went further than that and pushed to hold **our first ever national event** with **sailors from all corners of Ireland** participating in our **West Coast Topper Traveller**.

Other highlights of 2020 included our restructured **Junior Summer Sailing Programme**, our participation in and the organisation of the **Annual Cong Galway Sailing Race, Summer & Autumn Race Series, Junior Coaching Programme** and our **Annual Junior Regatta**. This year saw **much welcome infrastructure & capability improvements** with the building of a **new ramp onto the beach** and the use of our **tractor for easier Rib launch and retrieval**. Additionally plans are at an advanced stage to sign the license for our **new dinghy park which will be located closer to the beach**.

While not a typical sailing season, against the odds, 2020 was filled with sailing, events and improvements. I would like to thank our **members, parents, sailing instructors, volunteers** and **supporters** for making all this happen.

2020 was a **successful end to our first ten years of sailing in the city** and a great platform for our **10 year anniversary, 2021**.

To **celebrate our 10 Years Of Sailing In The City** we have updated our **Club Logo** and plan to run a programme of commemorative events over the 2021 season.

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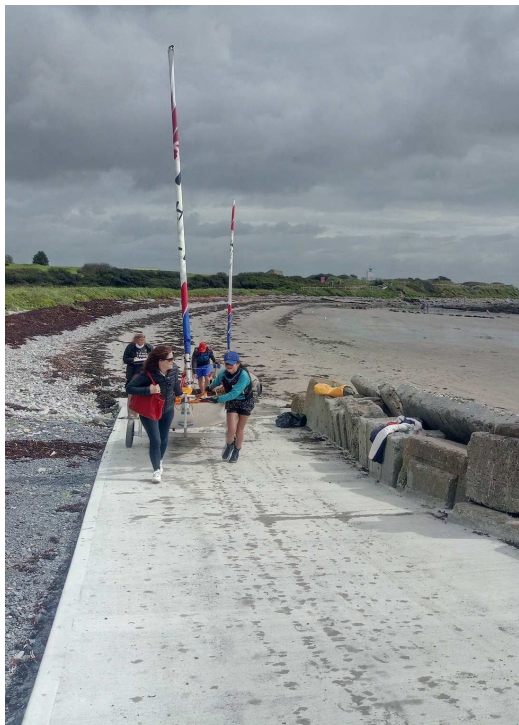
# 2020 Season Highlights

## Junior Coaching & Sailing



Junior sailing started in January with recent additions to the Topper Fleet enjoying their first outing. While events led to a cancelling of all sailing early in the year, once it was feasible to sail again our Juniors were back on the water for Coaching, General Sailing Sessions and active participation in our races series in all weathers.

## Infrastructure & Capacity Improvements



Our tractor was a real step forward in 2020, negating the use of personal vehicles and ensuring we can launch RIBs regardless of conditions on the slip and the tide height.

The new ramp onto the beach is a very welcome addition making it easier to access the beach and more importantly for tired sailors to retrieve their boats at the end of a sailing session.



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## Junior Sailing Courses - Thanks To Instructors & Assistants



Summer saw the return of our popular Junior Summer Courses which sold out again in 2020. Martin Roe, Sharon De Bhaldraithe and the junior committee reorganised the format of the courses to take account of Covid-19 safety requirements. This saw separate courses run during the morning and afternoon sessions. The format worked so well that it may form the basis of how we run these courses in the future. Our instructors were Conor Sheriff, Rian De Bairead & Rob Talbot ably assisted by Colm O' Fatharta, Alex Roe & Beibhinn De Bhaldraithe.

The feedback from participants and parents was excellent. Parents were impressed with how much their children could do after a

week of sailing and how their child's confidence on the water grew every day, and the kids, well, they just had great fun!



One of the weeks had a large contingent from Gaelscoil Dara. During this week we arranged for some instruction As Gaeilge from Irish speakers Colm & Beibhinn. Buíochas speisialta to Padraic de Bhaldraithe for supplying the Foclóir Seoltóireachta (Dictionary of Sailing).

One photo featuring Beibhinn (top of page), taken by Renmore sports photographer Don Souls during this week, was Irish Sailing Photo Of The Week.

You can see more of Don's photos here: [View Photos Here](#). Password: **2020GCSCcamp**

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## Annual Cong Galway Sailing Race 2020



Our support for the Cong Galway continued this year with our club participating on the organising committee from early in the year. The original June date was pushed out to late August due to Covid-19.

This year's race attracted a large field boosted by new sponsorship from Ashford Castle.

On the day, Saturday 22 August, Galway City Sailing Club had seven boats in the race out of a total of 40. We also supplied two support RIBs, one crewed by Linda & Nigel Collins and the second by John McCole & Brendan Conboy.



Halfway catering at Killbeg Pier was organised by Martin Roe and distributed on the day by Theresa Hendley eagerly assisted by her little assistants John & Holly.

This year's race was very challenging, resulting in 24 of the starting 40 completing the race.

All our entrants made the finishing line and for the second year in a row two of our participants finished in the top four. Rian De Bairéad placed third with Johnny Murphy hot on his heels in fourth.

Photographer Don accompanied Linda & Nigel for the first leg. You can view Don's photos here: [Cong Galway Photos 2020](#)



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## West Coast Topper Traveller at Galway City Sailing Club



On September 5th we hosted our first ever national event. Participants from all corners of Ireland took part, enjoying lively sailing and a warm welcome on the day. Organisation of the event was exceptional and a credit to our junior committee and our network of members, supporters and volunteers. Secure boat parking was provided the evening before, visitor parking and viewing areas were clearly marked for our visitors. Light refreshments were available beside the beach plus travelling visitors could avail of the nearby Harbour Hotel.

A big well done to all our Junior sailors who took part. Special mention to Alex Roe, who came 2nd in the Youth 5.3 and 3rd overall & Reuben Florisson who came 3rd in the Junior 5.3.

The event was sponsored by Tiger Property, Optique Opticians and Shopstreet.ie. Thanks to Elite Trophies for providing the trophies.

While I cannot name all the people who helped make the event such a success (stewards, RIB crews, time keepers, beach crew etc) I would like to thank them all sincerely. That said, special mention must go to the following members. Paddy Mc Carthy for arranging boat and car parking. Kevin Finn for liaising with the Harbour Hotel. Martin Roe for his excellent guidance and dedication at every turn. Johnny Murphy for his skill and guidance especially regarding the results process. Lastly on behalf of the whole club I must thank Sharon de Bhaldraithe who led the event with such grace and enthusiasm and without whom the event would not have taken place.

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## Annual Galway City Sailing Club Junior Regatta

Our Annual Junior Regatta was held on Sunday 27 September with sailors from our own club and Galway Bay Sailing Club taking part. The event was held in great spirit and confidence and it was no mean feat to organise the regatta so soon after our Topper Traveller event. Again credit is due Sharon, Martin, Paddy, Johnny, the parents committee and the parents of our junior sailors who put so much into making the club a success.

Congratulations to Alex Roe who came in first place and Ava McCarthy who placed third. In the Regatta Fleet 1st place went to Robyn Mele and Holly O'Driscoll, 2nd place to Matthew Irwin and Caoimhe Kerin and in 3rd place was Stephanie Cormican all from Galway City Sailing Club.

Congratulations to Justin Mitchell Ward and Alastair O'Sullivan from Galway Bay Sailing Club who came in second place. View full [Junior Regatta Results Here](#).



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## Summer & Autumn Race Series

Our races series over the summer & autumn were hotly contested with participants for all sections of the club. The Club ran more races in 2020 than in any other year. Due to covid restrictions we were unable to hold our annual end of season Christmas party where we traditionally present the sailing season prizes. We will do this at our earliest convenience when restrictions are lifted and we can all meet up again to start sailing. Prize giving for 2020 will be held at our dinghy park.

Top prize for the series is a weekend in Cáit's Cottage on Inis Meáin courtesy of club members Micéal & the O Fatharta family. Micéal recently renovated this 200 year old family cottage in the heart of Inis Méain. Go raibh maith agat a Mhichíl. You can [see Cáit's Cottage here](#).

## Covid-19 And Galway City Sailing Club

The club was pleased to be able to make club facilities available for exercise opportunities as appropriate during the various covid 19 lockdown stages. Irish Sailing & their prompt guidance was a valuable resource during this period.

In recognition of our clubs contribution to sailing during these difficult times, maintaining sailing, running race series, developing our infrastructure, making club facilities available during times of restriction, hosting & running regattas etc., Irish Sailing strongly supported our Resilience Fund application. This resulted in a successful application, a success which is down to the great spirit, can-do attitude and collegial family atmosphere at our club.

## Sailing Session Support

In addition to our sailors out on the water a great deal goes into making sailing sessions possible. I would like to thank all those who drove the tractor, gave up their Saturday afternoons and Wednesday evenings to run races, helm & crew safety boats. All this work is very much appreciated by all our members.



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## Committee

I thank all our committee members for their work at the club this year.

Our prudent approach to club finances has stood us in good stead again this year and for this sage stewardship I thank Nancy Roe, treasurer and club founder. As Nancy's annual report will attest we are in an excellent position to develop our imminent new dinghy park as per our requirements.

Our success in funding applications continued this year with Kevin Finn and Johnny Murphy again securing much welcomed funding for the club.

I want to thank Brendan Breen and Paddy McCarthy who took on the maintenance duties again for 2020, thanks for keeping us on the water.

Our junior committee excelled again this year with many of its members also active on the Club Committee. On behalf of the club I thank them, the parents, Martin, Sharon and Paddy for not only their personal commitment to the club but for what they put into coaching, boats, etc.

I want to also mention Damien Lord our newest committee member and thank him for taking on the mantle of Assistant Racing Officer.

Thanks to Andreas Bauman for taking on, and his dedication to, the twin roles of Children/ Youths Officer and Safety Officer.

Thanks to Fergal & Rian, Sailing & Assistant Sailing Officers for making plain sailing of our RIB safety rota & sailing sessions this year.

Plus thanks to Fergus Mannion, Padraic De Bhaldraithe & Paul Cormican for their much appreciated & valuable contributions and for helping to make things happen.

## Season End

While we were not able to hold our annual social get-together in the Harbour Hotel this year, as mentioned earlier, we will hold a prize giving when we can launch our 2021 season.

## Special Thanks - Galway Ocean Sports Center & Harbour Board

For their valued support on behalf of Galway City Sailing Club I thank Pierce Purcell at Galway Ocean Sports Centre and Capt. Brian Sheridan and the Harbour Board.

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## Conclusion

It has been a great privilege for me to be Commodore of our club and I thank the committee and club members for the honour. What will stay with me is what we achieve as a group of volunteers every week at the club and how willing, helpful and generous everyone at the club is with their time, knowledge and advice. For that I sincerely thank you all.

As we move on from season 2020 I wish our incoming commodore and committee every success for 2021, our 10th anniversary year.

Thank you.

John Hendley

Commodore 2020