

## COMMODORES' REPORT FOR THE YEAR 2022

### Overview:

In January, the country finally saw a severe reduction in COVID restrictions.

We held our AGM on 27JAN during which we selected Martin Roe as the club's inaugural Volunteer of the Year for 2021 for his performance as Jr sailing coordinator during that year.

### Junior Sailing:

The Juniors were on the water as early as January, with the SAT club sessions not starting until March. Our formal junior sailing courses started in JUN, and although popular, saw a slight INITIAL decrease in bookings due to the increase in foreign family holiday travel which was now allowed, post-COVID. Our Jr committee and Jr sailing coordinator, Paddy, did an outstanding job managing all of this, and ended up with a good profit.

The following is a summary of some of our Jrs accomplishments during the year:

On 27 March, the club hosted the Connacht Schools Team racing championship. We had two teams competing with a composite team made up of different schools and we had a team from The Jez who finished second.

On the week of July 25-29, Ava McCarthy, Cathal McGrath and Rubin O'Sullivan travelled to Lake Garda, Italy to compete in the 2022 International Topper championships and made a good account of themselves.

We held our third ever Junior regatta on 3 SEP which saw multiple podium finishes from our club.

On Sep 25th, Ava McCarthy and James Malone headed across the bay to take part in the GBSC regatta 420 class and took Second place.

The Juniors programme concluded with a laying-up supper which took place on Saturday, 10th of December in Capones!

Over the weekend of 19th to 21st August 2022, our club was represented by Alex and Martin Row in the Simply Telecom RS 400 & RS 200 National Championships hosted by Ballyholme YC. They did us proud by coming second in the RS 200 nationals, and winning the RS 200 inland championships and indeed the RS 200 Irish SERIES.

### Adult Training:

On our adult side of the club, headed up by Rian, we had a slow return to normal operations with sluggish demand from adults post-COVID for the same reasons as with the Juniors. We ran one adult beginner course in May with 10 participants. Colm O'Fatharta was the lead instructor. As with the junior courses, the adult course returned a healthy profit. Congratulations to Colm for qualifying as Senior instructor later in the year.

### Darkness into Light, 07 MAY:

Our club was approached directly by Ciaran Murphy of Irish Sailing to participate in a sail up to Black Rock in the early morning of 07 May along with the other local boating clubs. This was the first time our club participated in this event which was in support of PIETA (an organization established to provide free, accessible support to people affected by suicide and self-harm.) So a hand-full of club members set sail just before sunrise and cruised up to Salthill for a bit of breakfast which was served up on the water by Ciaran Oliver and crew.

### Gong to Galway, 26 JUN:

The annual Gong to Galway race is always a prominent event in the club's calendar. For the second year in a row, the racers did not have to face the daunting prospect of competing with Janick. This left Rob and Rian with a chance of going for two in a row in their 420, but they had to settle for 2nd place - which is no mean feat. The wind was too light for the race to go to the finish and it was stopped at the half way point. Out of the 30 entrants, our club had 7 finishing boats (crewed by 15 sailors) - I say 'finishers' because not all entries finished and had to be towed to the halfway point.

### Grants:

In early 2022 we received the good news that Johnnie's Sports Capital Grant application was successful and we were allocated €31,000 towards the purchase and installation of a storage building. You will not see this in Nancy's financial report which follows mine, because we have not yet accepted it. We have a motion pending in order to address this. We were also successful in securing our 'old reliable' Galway City Council SPORTS CLUB GRANT. The City awarded €140,000 to 59 sports clubs under this Scheme. The maximum amount for any club was €3,500, and our club was one of 22 clubs who received this maximum amount. You also wont see this on Nancy's 2022 report as it wasn't deposited until Jan of this year.

### Christmas Party:

On 10 December we had our first Christmas party in 3 years due to COVID restrictions. It was a real delight to once again be able to catch up in a warm spot! During the party, we rewarded the winners of the year's club race series - Namely:

Summer Series winners 2022

1st: Phil

2nd: Keith

3rd: Martin and Alex

Autumn Series winners 2022

1st: Alex and Rian

2nd: Ava McCarthy and James Malone

3rd: Andreas and Keith

During the party, we also announced and congratulated Sharon on her selection as the club's volunteer of the year for 2022.

### Committee:

I'd like to thank the committee for all the work they put in over the year:

Nancy for looking after our funds as treasurer, and membership secretary.

Paul as Club secretary and Meeting secretary

Sharon as PRO and Safeguarding Liason Officer

John Hendley for looking after the club's IT needs

John McCole for keeping an eye on us as Safety Officer

Fergal as Sailing Officer

Andreas as Safeguarding Children's Officer

Rian as Adult Training Coordinator and Senior Instructor

Keith as Dinghy Maintenance Officer

Dan as windsurfing officer and for keeping the RIBs and Tractor in excellent shape.

Damian and then Martin as Race Officer,

Paddy as Jr sailing coordinator and I.S. centre principle as well as

Johnny, Michael O'F, Nigel, Peter, Don, Chris and

Eugene (who is not on the committee)

for his carpentry craftsmanship on our new storage container.

Also thank you to all the volunteer Sailors and Parents on the JR committee.

The club also thanks GOSC, the Harbour Master and the Harbour Board for continued use of their facilities and their support in general;

and the Galway City Council and Galway Sports Partnership and Sports Ireland for funding;

and Irish Sailing for support and funding.

Last year's prizes were sponsored by Elaine's Optique, Paddy and John Hendley.

And finally, thank you for trusting me with chairing the executive committee of this outstanding sailing club for the last 2 years!

It's been a privilege!

Sincerely,  
Kevin