

- Dear Members,
- As we reflect on the events and achievements of Galway City Sailing Club in 2023, it's with pleasure that I present the Commodore's Summary of the Year, showcasing our collective dedication, and accomplishments throughout the seasons.
- **Infrastructure and Fleet Enhancements:**

- June saw the arrival and installation of our new clubhouse and changing rooms, thanks to everyone for seeing this project through to completion right down to plumbing the water and sewage and assembling the barbeque. These buildings will be a great asset to the club in the years to come and should enable us to expand our activities.
- In July, we finally took delivery of our fleet of Fireflies, enhancing our team racing training and racing capabilities and providing exciting opportunities for sailors of all levels.

- **Training and Development Programs:**

- Throughout the year, we provided extensive training opportunities for our members. We ran Irish Sailing accredited summer courses for kids and teenagers for all levels of sailing and ranging in age from 8 to 18.
- Sunday coaching sessions for under 18s took place in the spring and autumn, with an average participation rate of around 18. Additionally, our juniors benefitted from an Easter coaching week to kick off the sailing season.
- We organized Schools Team Racing coaching programs in both Autumn and Spring, utilizing the new Irish Sailing Firefly fleet, with 14 participants on the course and a waitlist.
- An open team racing clinic on Sunday, October 15th, 2023, saw a full complement of 12 participants, providing valuable learning opportunities for sailors of all ages.

- **Event Highlights and Collaborations:**

- Aisling Keller, the ILCA training officer for Ireland, ran a coaching weekend hosted by our club on June 5th and 6th, which was a great success with both junior and senior participants from our club and neighboring clubs enjoying the benefit of professional training in the laser class.

- We coordinated a Schools team racing event on May 7th, 2023, in conjunction with Galway Bay Sailing Club and UG Sailing club, with 5 teams and 30 competitors from all over Connacht.
- Hosting the RS Western Championships on April 1st and 2nd, 2023, with 19 boats and 38 competitors from all over Ireland showcased our club's ability to host prestigious events.
- We also ran an open team racing league in conjunction with UG Sailing club in autumn 2023, with 7 teams participating from Connacht and teams coming from GBSC and Limerick University among others.
- The inaugural pursuit race around Rabbit Island, Hare Island, and the Leverets in autumn 2023, followed by a BBQ, attracted approximately 25 competitors and a strong contingent from Clifden Boat Club, despite being postponed from summer due to inclement weather. Ironically the weather for the event turned out to be more high summer than late autumn.
- Members of our club have also competed with success in national events in the Laser, 420 and RS classes.

- As ever the iconic Cong Galway race was well supported by our club both in terms of organization and participation, and once again was a huge success

• **4. Coach Development and Adult Training:**

- We continued with Coach Development in the club, qualifying new instructors and instructors from the junior ranks and not so junior ranks, ensuring the sustainability and growth of our training programs.
- Our adult training program, seeking to teach adults to sail, ran from late spring to early autumn and throughout the summer, providing valuable opportunities for skill development and camaraderie.

• **5. Grants**

- MARCH: €2286 from the 'Community Support Fund'. This supports operating costs such as insurance, rents,... We applied to cover our insurance.

OCT: €3500 from the 'Galway City Council Sports Club Grant'. This also supports operating costs, but with an emphasis on coach development

- On behalf of the club, I extend my deepest gratitude to all members, volunteers, and supporters who contributed to the success and vibrancy of Galway City Sailing Club. The club would be nothing without the selfless contribution from our volunteers, who take care of everything from rib and dinghy maintenance to running our sailing sessions. This ethos was exemplified by our volunteer of the year Keith O'Hara.
- Together, we've navigated the year with skill, resilience, and a shared passion for the sport of sailing. Here's to another year of great sailing and memorable moments on the water.
- Fair winds and smooth sailing,