

- Dear Members,
- As we reflect on the events and achievements of Galway City Sailing Club in 2024, 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:**

- In July, we renewed our commitment to hosting the Irish Sailing 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.
- 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.

- **Event Highlights and Collaborations:**

- We ran the Connacht and Ulster Schools Team Racing Championship on April 20<sup>th</sup>. Unfortunately due to a lack of wind we only managed to run one round. St Endas came out on top on points difference and went on to participate in the nationals in Bantry
- We ran spring, summer and autumn leagues over Wednesday evenings and Saturday afternoons. Indan Zupancic was deservedly declared the overall club champion followed by Keith O' Hara and Sheila Golden.
- We ran an open team racing league in conjunction with UG Sailing club in autumn 2024, with 5 teams participating from Connacht
- The annual junior regatta took place on the 7<sup>th</sup> of September and proved to be the usual hotly contested affair. The main fleet was won by Sean Lemmonier and Killian Mathieu from GBSC followed by Sam Rigely and Jack Ganley also from

GBSC. The novice fleet was won by Samuel Clarke from GCSC with Ríona Ní Aodha and Saoirse Ní Chunáin from Spiddal in second.

- The pursuit race around Rabbit Island, Hare Island, and the Leverets took place in October. Despite challenging conditions it proved to be a very enjoyable event. The vigorous work out due to the breezy conditions meant everyone had worked up a good appetite for the BBQ after the race. The eventual race winner was Cathal Clarke, continuing his winning streak, followed by Kevin Finn in second and David O'Leary and crew in third.
- Members of our club have also competed with success in national events in the 420 notably Ava Mc Carthy who along with her crew Roisin Mitchell Ward became the Irish Female Champions for 2024.

- 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. Several of our club members played a key role in assisting the Strident production crew as they filmed the event for the *Scéalta na Lochanna* documentary, which later aired on RTÉ. They provided invaluable logistical support and actively participated in interviews, particularly in the Irish language, helping to showcase the rich cultural and historical significance of the event. It is worth noting that club member Cathal Clarke with crew Debbie Guinnane, emerged as winners of the event.

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

- We continued with Coach and Official Development in the club, with a program to subsidize people to attend the Race Official training program hosted by GBSC in March. This was relatively well subscribed and it was great to enhance the level of expertise in the club in this area.
- 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**

- We received €3,000 from the Galway Sports Club fund

- €46,200 from the Sports Capital Grant

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- 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. 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,