



Chairman's Report to ISORA AGM. 12th November 2016

2016 was the best season for ISORA in many years with 54 boats taking part in the 12 race series. The series was decided on the last race which took place on the 10th September. The race was the **"LC Tyres James Eadie Race"** from Pwllheli to Dun Laoghaire.

What made this race special was that four boats, twice and current ISORA Champion **Liam Shanahan's "Ruth"** from the NYC, **Peter Dunlop's "Mojito"** from Pwllheli SC, **Chris Power-Smith's "Aurelia"** from the RStGYC and **Stephen Tudor's "Sgrech"** from Pwllheli SC, all stood to win the overall championship with a good performance in the race. Unfortunately "Ruth", despite travelling to Pwllheli, could not take part in the race and defend her title.

After a very tight fought race, Stephen Tudor's "Sgrech" won the race and took the **Avery Crest ISORA Offshore Championship for 2016**. "Sgrech" has won the title twice before. We have as yet to investigate if any boat has won the title three times?

The Silver Class was won by a **Mark Thompson and "Aquaplane"**. **Chris Power-Smith and "Aurelia"** won the Viking Marine Coastal Series. **Pwllheli Sailing Club** again won the **Team Series** with the team including **Andrew Halls's "Jackknife"**, Peter Dunlop's **Mojito**, **Mark Thompson's "Aquaplane"** and Stephen Tudor's "Sgrech".

Another incredible offshore achievement by one of "our own" was the performance of **Conor Fogarty and "Bam"**. Having completed the ARC he took part in the Carribean 600 and other events there before sailing it back to Europe to take part in the recent "Middle Sea Race". For all this offshore racing, "Bam" won Class 3 in RORC.

Two ISORA races joined with very successfully existing events being hosted by other clubs. Our **"Adrian Lee and Partners Lighthouse Race"** was run in conjunction with the **Royal St George Yacht Club Regatta**. While **Irish Hospital Supplies Coastal Race** was run in conjunction with **Greystones Regatta**. Both these association produced excellent racing and brilliant social activities after.

The high point of the offshore season this year was the Round Ireland Race hosted by Wicklow Sailing Club. Many ISORA boats took part in this great race. **Dave Cullen's "Euro Car Parks"** was the best performing ISORA boat.

2016 was also very innovative for ISORA. All boats taking part in ISORA were provided with the **Avery Crest Yellow Brick trackers**. Working with Yellow Brick, ISORA have now perfected the automatic unmanned finishing of races with the results and times appearing on the YB app immediately the boats cross the finish line.

The system was also used to start a race earlier in the season – the night race to the IOM. With no wind forecast in Dublin Bay, the start line was chosen to be between the Kish Light and North Kish cardinal. Start time was determined by the GPS timer on each boat and the trackers ensured that no boat was over the line at the start. The trackers were also used to ensure boats correctly rounded “virtual marks” (Co-ordinates not buoys) thereby allowing the Race Organiser to set better courses. These procedures will become standard for all races in 2017.

The offshore races included the usual ports of Dun Laoghaire, Holyhead, Pwllheli, and Douglas. During the season ISORA worked with the:

National Yacht Club,
Royal Alfred Yacht Club,
Royal Dee Yacht Club,
Royal Ocean Racing Club,
Pwllheli Sailing Club,
Holyhead Sailing Club,
Douglas Bay Yacht Club
Greystones Sailing Club.
Royal St George Yacht Club
Wicklow Sailing Club

I would like to thank all these clubs for the facilities they freely provide to ISORA, without them, we would have no offshore racing or social life.

As regard the race management I would like to particularly acknowledge the assistance of the NYC Commodore, **Larry Power** and Commodore of the RAYC, **Barry MacNeaney**, who continue to start all of the races from Dun Laoghaire and **Kathryn Meghan and Anita Begley** who finished the races in Dun Laoghaire. Our ISORA Vice Chairman, **Gerry Williams** and **Gwen Williams** finished the two races in Pwllheli. I particularly like to thank my daughter, **Grainne Ryan**, who controlled the trackers remotely after boats had finished. I would also like to thank all the other Starters and Finishers for their help and patience. It is hoped that in the 2017 season all boats racing will have trackers and the finish times will be recorded by the trackers. While technology is great, there is nothing nicer than getting a wave from the Finisher as you cross the line. We hope that as many finish lines as possible will be manned again next season.

Unfortunately this year we only got one chance to use the “**virtual**” marks” (GPS Coordinates) at the corner of the Traffic Separation Zone off Skerries in Race 4 from Holyhead to Dun Laoghaire . I hope next season that we can regularly use random virtual marks to ensure, where possible, that not only is there is an upwind leg but that there is also a dead downwind leg. The use of the Avery Crest YB trackers will be a huge benefit as it will record the track a boat took during the race and particularly when rounding Virtual Marks.

The high point scoring system together with the race weighting is continuing to prove very effective and it is intended to keep using this system for the Series next season.. I have to thank **Stephen Tudor** for the huge work he puts into producing the very detailed overall and class results after each race.

During the season some investigation was made into the possibility of using **ECHO** and **NHC progressive rating system**. The main purpose of this was to adopt and rating system that would expand the number of boats winning races and classes. While the initial investigation did not produce a workable system because of incompatibility issues of these

formulas with the High Points System and Race weighting systems adopted by ISORA. We intend to try again over the winter to have a system in place for 2017.

On the social side, on the 29th April this year the National Yacht Club saw a gathering of NYC members who raced in ISORA in the 1980's. The dinner was attended by over 40 members and guests, representing the Skippers and crew of 6 boats.

Represented there were:

- “Lightening” – Liam Shanahan Snr
- “Emircedes” – Michael Horgan Snr & Peter Ryan
- “Humphrey Go Kart “- Vincent Farrell
- “Eliminator” - Peter Cullen.
- “Boomerang” – Paul Kirwan
- “Avanti “ - (Brendan Briscoe)

The night was organised by Anita begley who raced on “Avanti”, owned by the late Brendan Briscoe. Anita also raced on “Emircedes” and “Eliminator”. The dinner was a great social event with amusing anecdotes of taking part in ISORA races being recounted in the many casual after dinner speeches.

This season we have again obtained very generous sponsorship from **Avery Crest, Viking Marine, Adrian Lee & Partners, Irish Hospital Supplies, LC Tyres, Hendrick Ryan + Associates and Tudor Chartered Surveyors**. This sponsorship allowed ISORA to run the **Avery Crest YB Trackers** and promote offshore racing by taking out articles on yachting magazines, providing the Crew Bus, post race receptions etc. It would not be possible to continue the promotion of offshore racing in the Irish Sea without their assistance. New sponsors are always welcome. We hope that the huge increase in the exposure of ISORA in **Afloat, Irish Times, Yachts & Yachting, Shuttlebutt** etc is of benefit to our sponsors and will attract new sponsors.

This year ISORA increased its credibility in the yacht racing world by becoming affiliated with the **ISA – Irish Sailing Association, RYA – Royal Yachting Association and the RYA C/W the Welsh RYA**. These affiliations will protect ISORA and will help it grow by better exposure.

The ISORA website continues to grow in content and is managed solely by **Stephen Tudor**. It is the main information source for ISORA. Our Newsletters are circulated to over 1000 people. I would also like to thank our **Web Master, Mark Southee**, who has looked after the technical aspects of the site for no cost for many years. Mark is resigning from that position this year. I would also particularly like to thank **Vicky Cox** who looks after the **ISORA Facebook** page. This is proving to be a huge success and a great way to communicate within ISORA. We still have not managed to grasp the **Twitter** bug?

As you know the ISORA website contains a significant amount of **memorabilia** from past years. I am constantly looking for old photographs etc that can be scanned and added to our **archive**. Any such items should be scanned and sent to me and I will ensure that it is properly catalogued and posted in the archives.

Next year, the main offshore events in these waters will be the **RORC Lyver Race, the D2D Race and the Fastnet Race**. The proposed Race Schedule is designed to give maximum offshore experience for any boat wishing to take part in these races. Next season we also propose to work with more existing events to produce a mutual beneficial result of better racing and social scene. We are proposing a race to start in Howth as part of their Lambay race and finish in Dublin Port where the Liffey Festival will be in full swing. We also hope to join the Greystones Regatta again.

ISORA working again with the **Royal Dee Yacht Club** who will be hosting the **Irish Sea Offshore Championship**. This series will consist of the RORC Lyver Race and the four coastal races as part of the **Volvo Dun Laoghaire Regatta**. The Lyver Race is on the weekend before the VDLR and is also a feeder race to the regatta. The inaugural championship took place in 2015 to mark the 200th anniversary of the RDYC. 25 boats took part. It is hoped a greater number of participants will take part. All races in this series will be tracked using the YB trackers. The event will be based in the **National Yacht Club**.

Recently we prepared a survey and issued the survey to all existing, past and future offshore racers. A good response was received. The purpose of the survey was to assess the views of all interested parties on the future of ISORA and on how to design the race and social program. The survey results have been published and again, ideas from that survey have been incorporated in the proposed race schedule. Constructive feedback is always welcome and encouraged.

The highlight of the year is the annual ISORA prize giving dinner in the NYC tonight. Our special guests tonight will be the Commodore of the National Yacht Club, **Mr. Larry Power**, the Commodore of the Royal Dee Yacht Club, **Mr. Derek Matthews**, the Commodore of RORC, **Mr. Michael Boyd**, and the Commodore of the Royal Alfred Yacht Club, **Mr. Barry MacNeaney**. These special guests represent the very best of offshore racing in Irish and UK Waters and I am honoured that they are attending our annual dinner. Also attending the dinner tonight are two **past Chairmen of ISORA**, **Andrew Hall and Michael Horgan Snr**.

I would like to thank the **National Yacht Club** for their continued support and assistance for ISORA.

I would like to thank our Vice Chairman, **Gerry Williams**, Hon Treasurer – **Vincent Farrell**, IT - **Vicky Cox** and the general committee consisting of **Liam Shanahan, Peter Dunlop, Peter Hall, Chris Power-Smith, Andrew Hall, Paul Sutton and Kuba Syzmanski** for all their assistance, advice and dedication during the last year.

Last but not least I would particularly like to thank our Hon Secretary – **Stephen Tudor**. The amount of work that Stephen continually puts into making ISORA run efficiently is incredible. The assistance and advice that he gives to me is invaluable. ISORA would not run without him and I thank him, and Carys, for this dedication. I also have to congratulate Stephen. He was awarded the “**Afloat Sailor of the Month for September**” after he won the ISORA Championship. Let’s hope he winds the “Afloat Sailor of the Year”!!

Peter Ryan
Chairman ISORA

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