



*News from Home and
Abroad*

*If Winter comes, can
Spring be far behind?*

Winter 2013 is the wettest on record in our battered and beleaguered Isle. Hope, however, springs eternal. Could it be that Sailing Season 2014 will match or better the Glorious Summer of 2013? It just might. Things can only get better – at least we don't have to heed typhoon season warnings like our friends in Hong Kong.

Our fellow Ruffian sailors in Royal Hong Kong Yacht Club have been in contact to share some news and to remind us to come and defend our trophy in 2015. The Hong Kong Ruffian Association has a very active Facebook page with regular race results and articles and some really great photos. They

very kindly remembered us at Christmas and sent over a commemorative RAHK Burgee to celebrate four decades of Ruffian sailing.



Mr Li Fook Hing, who sails on Victory 9, is Vice Patron of the Hong Kong Ruffian Association and celebrated his 90th birthday in December 2013. Mr Li says he feels 19 and he races most weekends, so Ruffian sailing is clearly prescription for a long and active life!

2014 Committee	
Past Captain	Ian Cutliffe 086-8319636 ian.cutliffe@boi.com
Captain	Caoive Collins 087-2395245 caoivecollins115@gmail.com
Hon. Secretary	John Baragwanath 087-2042866 johnbaragwanath30@hotmail.com
Vice-Captain	Chris Helme 086-8233443 chelme@peppergroup.ie
Measurer	Alan Kirwan 087-2555650
Hon. Treasurer	Lorcan Balfe 086 8708876 balfelo@yahoo.com
Prizes/ Merchandise	Michael Hinkson 086-2436008 michael@gandonlaw.ie
Record Keeper	Ann Kirwan 086-6068503 ann.kirwan@aerlingus.com
Regional Liaison	Henrik Heckmann 087-8207003 henrikheckmann@yahoo.co.uk
Committee Member	Alan Claffey 087-81880077 alan.claffey@vodafone.com

Larry Power of Paramour and Ann Kirwan of Bandit have kindly agreed to liaise with RAHK to plan the return visit of the Irish Ruffian sailors to Hong Kong in 2015.

<https://www.facebook.com/RuffianSailing>



We look forward to a number of visits from our fellow Ruffian sailors in Carrickfergus Sailing Club over the coming season – they will be keen to avenge defeat in last year’s North-South Challenge and equally keen to repeat Carageen’s stunning success in the National Championships. Trevor Kirkpatrick of Carageen is Commodore of CSC and we wish Trevor a very successful year at the helm of both the Club and Carageen. It is good to hear that re-building of the Clubhouse is progressing well.

www.carrickfergussc.org

Greystones Sailing Club is planning to hold a follow-up to its inaugural 2013 Regatta over the last weekend in August and we will issue updates on this. Clontarf Sailing Club has been in contact

to see if the Ruffian fleet would like to join their 23 foot bilge-keelers in a feeder “Battle of Clontarf Millenium Race” down to Greystones which we are keen to do – details to follow.

Members might also like to consider heading northside to the Sutton Dinghy Club/Howth Yacht Club’s 23rd “Cruise Around” to SDC and End of Summer B-B-Q which is planned for Sunday 31st August – drop anchor from 13:30 hrs with food (Steak, Burgers and Desserts) served from 14:00 hrs.



Committee for 2014

Contact details for the Committee are included in this Newsletter. I would like to thank the outgoing Committee for all their work on behalf of the Association throughout 2013. Special thanks go to Ian Cutcliffe, the past Class Captain for arranging the events to mark the 40th Anniversary of the Ruffian 23. Ian’s April

2013 Newsletter contained a wonderful reminiscence by Winkie Nixon of the maiden voyage of the Ruffian 23 in 1973. The Fun Race was a most enjoyable day in near-perfect conditions, topped off balloons and a spectacular home-made chocolate birthday cake (with a little help from Ian’s family!). Ian’s IT skills were put to good use to give www.ruffians.ie a new lease of life. The website is now easily navigable and contains useful information, updates and photos. Ian has kindly agreed to support the continued development and improvement of this important interface between the Association and its members. Thank you Ian!

The Committee would like to welcome Lorcan Balfe to the Committee. Lorcan has joined the Committee as Hon. Treasurer and sails on the very successful Cresendo.

Sail Measuring, Safety and Compliance Checks-changes in practice



Dublin Bay Racing resumes on Tuesday April 24th, so Alan Kirwan, the Class Measurer will be available on the evening of Wednesday, April 16th to measure new sails. Measuring will take place downstairs in the RStGYC either in the Junior Room or the Atrium beside it. Please contact Alan at alan.kirwan@kmj.ie to arrange a suitable time to have your sails measured. Now is the time to inspect your boat's safety gear. The Safety Checklist which is based on Rule 15 of the Class Rules can be accessed under the *Rules* tab on the website. Have you checked the date and condition of your flares, fire extinguisher, the spare gas canister for your fog horn, and the contents of your first aid kit? This year, in light of changes in DBSC practice, the Association

is no longer conducting safety inspections. Instead, Ruffians participating in DBSC and Irish Ruffian Association sailing events are required to complete a Declaration of Compliance with the Safety Statement of the Irish Ruffian Association, prior to participating in such events. The Declaration is attached to the Membership Subscription/Renewal Form which has been circulated to Members. Please ensure that you complete the second page, which is a Declaration of Compliance with the Safety Statement of the Irish Ruffian Association prior to participating in DBSC or Irish Ruffian Association racing events.



The Committee has also decided to review the procedure for conducting compliance checks. Inspections to ensure compliance with Class Rules will be conducted either immediately before or after racing. Boats

selected for a compliance check will be informed at the beginning of the season that they have been selected for a compliance check. They will be informed as to the items on the Committee's checklist, but will not know the date on which the inspection will take place. Compliance checks will be conducted by two members of the Committee. The Committee will issue a summary report for presentation at the AGM. The summary report will not name specific boats.

Subscriptions

Regrettably, the Committee has been obliged to take a stance this year on the issue of late or non-payment of subscriptions. Members are requested to note that it is not the responsibility of the Hon. Treasurer to pursue outstanding payments. The Sailing Instructions issued by Dublin Bay Sailing Club provide that "*a boat shall not be eligible to race unless she has been enrolled in her local class association.*" The Committee intends to write to DBSC by the end of May 2014 with a list of boats which are paid up

members of the Association at that date. Please arrange to pay your membership subscriptions prior to or at the commencement of the sailing season to avoid potential embarrassment and disappointment if your DBSC results are not recorded. Should the problem persist in 2014, the Committee may propose a motion at the AGM to approve the imposition of a higher subscription where subscriptions are not paid by a cut-off date. Hopefully this will not prove necessary.

DBSC- Online Payment

Dublin Bay Sailing Club has implemented a system for on-line payment of DBSC subscriptions this year. Members experiencing difficulty with making an on-line payment may find that typing a “zero” as a placeholder resolves the problem.

www.dbsc.org

Line Duties

The Line Duties assigned by DBSC to the Ruffian Fleet have been

circulated separately to members of the Association whose boats have been assigned Line Duties this year. It is most important that members make arrangements in good time to ensure that the Fleet is in a position to comply with its obligations to assist DBSC. Chris Helme, the Vice-Captain is liaising with boats in the Ruffian class which have been selected for Line Duties so please co-operate with Chris to ensure that this runs smoothly.

Mini-Series – Prize-giving and “words from the wise”

The “mini-series” formula has proved to be successful so the Committee intends to continue with these in 2014 using the same format as before- a presentation of prizes at the end of each “mini-series” with a social gathering in one of the clubs. This year, we will ask representatives from the three leading boats on the date of the “mini-gathering” to share the reasons for their success on the day with the rest of the fleet.



Coaching

The RIYC Spring Coaching Regatta 2014 is being held over the weekend of 26th-27th April under the auspices of RIYC/DBSC.

Featuring Skipper and Tactician Briefings, Practice Starts, Races and Debriefs this is a perfect way to refresh your racing skills under the tutelage of Des McWilliam, Kenny Rumball, Philip Watson and Prof O’Connell. This is a multi-class event which helps to keep the costs very competitive at €50 per boat for the weekend. Ruffians are welcome to participate in this event again this year. The Hon. Secretary has circulated the Notice of Race separately and Entries should be made through the RIYC website no later than Monday, April 21st.