

CAPTAIN'S LOG

Fellow Ruffians,

Firstly I would like to say a big thanks to Paul Irvine for all his work on our behalf throughout the 2007 season. I would also like to thank outgoing committee members Paul Cassidy, Ciaran Ramsay and Ronan Lee for their work on line duty, record keeping and safety last year. I would like to welcome new committee members Stephen Gill, Michael Hinkson and Henrik Heckmann and say a special thanks to John Daly for agreeing to continue to act as Hon. Treasurer until we can find a suitable replacement – let us know if you have any suggestions. A full list of the 2008 committee is detailed below – please contact us if you have any questions, suggestions, or comments – your views are always welcome.

It's that time of year again when the days are getting longer and it's time to get down to sanding and stripping and getting the boat ready for the 2008 season.

2008 marks the 35th anniversary since Billy and Dickie Brown of Portaferry designed and built the first Ruffian 23. Billy and Dickie built 166 Ruffians, a number of which were exported to Hong Kong where there is still a racing fleet. Ruffians also actively race in the UK, Carrickfergus, Strangford Lough, Wicklow, Dun Laoghaire, Skerries, Baltimore, and Tralee. We plan to mark the 35th anniversary with a family event – more later.

My aim for the season is to have as many Ruffians sailing as possible, whether in competitive racing, cruising, or simply going out for a sail.

With the objective of increasing competitiveness within the fleet, I am delighted to announce that Olympic sailor and racing coach Maurice (Prof.) O'Connell will conduct a race training session with us in Dun Laoghaire on the evening of Wednesday May 7th. The session will

take place in Scotsman's bay and Prof. will video us and give us a debrief afterwards. More details to follow in advance of the event but be sure to keep May 7th free as it promises to be a great session and will be geared towards all levels of experience.

I would like to give a special thanks to Larry Power who has very kindly agreed to act as PRO for our 2 team racing events and the 2 DBSC Olympic races during the coming season.

Further details of the events and plans for 2008 follow. I am looking forward to seeing you all on the water in April/May and to having a competitive and fun filled season in 2008.

Ann Kirwan, Class Captain



2007 Championships

2008 Committee

| | |
|----------------------|---|
| Class Captain | Ann Kirwan, 086-6065803 ann.kirwan@aerlingus.com |
| Vice Captain | Stephen Gill 086-8383472 stephen.gill@ulsterbank.com |
| Hon. Secretary | Alan Claffey 087-8180077 alan.claffey@vodafone.com |
| Hon. Treasurer | John Daly 087-2839186 jtdaly24@gmail.com |
| Measurer | Alan Kirwan 087-2555650 alan.kirwan@kmj.ie |
| Safety Officer | Michael Hinkson 086-2436008 michael_hinkson@hinkson.ie |
| Events Officer | Pauline Keogh 2894426/087-6782361 ljkeogh@clubi.ie |
| Prizes / Merchandise | Richard Godley 086-2465803 richgod@indigo.ie |
| Record Keeper | Brendan McCormack 086-2662940 mccormackbenno@eircom.net |
| Regional Liaison | Henrik Heckmann 087-8207003 henrikheckmann@yahoo.co.uk |
| General | Paul Irvine 4593857/086-8261121 irvine@ireland.com |

EVENTS FOR 2008 SEASON - RUFFIAN CHAMPIONSHIPS JULY 25-27 NYC

We plan to have a social get together on Saturday May 10th in the NYC (after the 2nd DBSC Saturday race of the season). It will be an opportunity to catch up after the long winter, and to welcome any new members and new crew to the class. If anybody is short of crew that day we might persuade Wicklow, Skerries, and even Carrickfergus Ruffian sailors to join us for Dublin Bay

racing and a pint and a burger afterwards.

A highlight of the Ruffian calendar is always the cruise in company to Howth for the Friday night get together followed by the Lambay race on Saturday June 7 (the DBSC race on that Saturday is starred to encourage as many as possible to travel to this event which is always great fun).

The South will host the North/South team racing (date to be confirmed), and the interclub team racing will take place in June (date to be confirmed).

Our premier event, the Ruffian National Championships, takes place over 3 days from Friday July 25 to Sunday July 27. We hope to welcome visitors from Wicklow, Skerries, and further afield again this year. So start signing up your

crew and make sure your holidays don't clash with this important weekend on our racing calendar.



Kermit in 2007 Championships

OTHER EVENTS FOR 2008

The Wicklow Ruffian sailors have very kindly presented the Dun Laoghaire Ruffian fleet with a trophy for the Dun Laoghaire Ladies Series. Wicklow run a ladies race before their regular Sunday race and according to our Wicklow representative on the committee, Henrik Heckmann, the result is a vast improvement in the standard of racing, with some lady helms taking over from owners/skippers for the regular Sunday race. A big thank you to Wicklow for donating the trophy which we look forward to awarding in 2008. Details later.

We plan to re-introduce the mini series which proved very popular during Alan Kirwan's year as class captain. The first of the DL mini-series will take place between Tues Apr 29 and Sat May 24 with prize-giving after sailing on Sat May 24.

Skerries SC's 75th Anniversary regatta takes place on Sunday July 20th with a feeder race from Howth on Saturday July 19th.

We have promised in previous years that we would identify the DBSC gold and silver fleets prior to the start of the season so that people would know what they were competing for, rather than be surprised at the prize-giving in November. Note that this is for the DBSC gold/silver fleets only and that the regular rules apply for determining gold/silver fleets in the Championships, i.e., top 10 or top half after 2 races comprise the gold fleet. Based on 2007 DBSC results, 2008 gold and silver fleets for Ruffian prizes for DBSC are:

HONG KONG

I have been in contact with our fellow Ruffians in Hong Kong, where there are 8/9 boats racing and in good condition. In fact some owners have just recently overhauled their boats. The photo shows "Bandolero" winning the Tomes cup recently. This is a pursuit race and the Ruffian was first among 52 boats.

The Hong Kong Ruffian sailors are interested in welcoming an Irish contingent to race against them so with this in mind Larry Power has kindly agreed to head up a sub-committee to investigate the possibility of a Ruffian trip to Hong Kong after the 2008 sailing season has drawn to a close.



Bandolero winning the Tomes Cup pursuit race in Hong Kong in 2007

2008 SUBSCRIPTIONS

A reminder that your 2008 membership subscriptions are now due. The 2008 full subscription is €150 per boat (up to 8 crew including owners/helms), with €10 payable per additional crew member, and €20 per boat for country/regional membership. Note that in order to race in DBSC boats must be fully paid up members of the Ruffian Association. Please complete and return the enclosed membership renewal/application form.

SAFETY

Michael Hinkson, our Safety Officer, will be conducting safety checks once the season starts. For details of the Ruffian safety requirements please email Michael, Alan C or Ann and we will gladly forward you the checklist.

Line Duty Requirements and Times (meet at RIYC)

| | |
|----------------------|--|
| Tues 1735 | 2 cars plus 2 competent people |
| Thurs 1715, Sat 1300 | 2 cars plus 3 competent people (1 for Mac Lir) |
| Sat Olympic 1300 | PRO plus 2 helpers for Tarifda |

DBSC Gold Fleet

| <u>THURS GOLD</u> | <u>SAT GOLD</u> |
|-------------------|-----------------|
| Ruff Nuff | Ruff N Ready |
| Ruff N Ready | Alias |
| Shillelagh | Ruff Nuff |
| Diane II | Diane II |
| Icicle | Icicle |
| Carmen | Shillelagh |
| Paramour | Ruff Diamond |
| Shannagh | Kermit |
| Nuits St George | |
| Alias | |
| Ruff Diamond | |

DBSC Silver Fleet

| <u>THURS SILVER</u> | <u>SAT SILVER</u> |
|---------------------|-------------------|
| Kermit | Ruf in it |
| Golden Girl | Paramour |
| The Sting | Shannagh |
| Riff Raff | Golden Girl |
| Champagne | Riff Raff |
| Papillon | Blue Moon |
| Ruff Rider | Ruff Rider |
| Blue Moon | Badger |
| Ruf in it | Rila |
| Badger | |
| Rila | |

SAIL MEASURING

Alan Kirwan will advise us of a date for sail measuring closer to the start of the season. In the meantime please advise Alan of any new sails which you have ordered for 2008.

2008 Ruffian Calendar

| | |
|--|------------------------|
| DBSC 1st Tues/Thurs | Apr 29/May 1 |
| DBSC 1st Sat | May 3 |
| Training with Prof. | Wed May 7 |
| Ruffian Social | Sat May 10 |
| North/South | Sun TBC |
| DMYC Regatta | May 31 |
| Lambay Race | June 7 |
| NYC Regatta | June 14 |
| RIYC Regatta | June 28 |
| Inter Club Team Racing | Sun TBC |
| RStGYC Regatta | July 5 |
| Skerries 75th Anniversary Regatta. Feeder race from Howth on Sat | Sat & Sun July 19 & 20 |
| Championships | July 25-27 |
| Ladies Race | Wed Aug 20 |
| Last DBSC Tues/Thurs | Aug 26/28 |
| Captain's Prize | Sun Aug 31 |
| Last DBSC Sat | Sept 27 |
| Prize-giving Dinner | Sat Nov 8 |
| AGM | Tues Nov 11 |

DBSC LINE DUTY

Stephen Gill, our vice-captain, will be coordinating the Ruffian line duty roster this season. See table at bottom centre of page for line duty requirements and meeting times.

DBSC will impose a sanction of the loss of 1 race for the class if required personnel fail to show up on time. The following is our line duty roster:

Hut & MacLir

| Date | 2 people + 1 car / 1 + car |
|-------------|----------------------------|
| Tues May 13 | Riff Raff / Nuits St G |
| Sat May 17 | Ruff Nuff / Blue Moon |
| Thurs Jun 5 | Diane II / Rila |
| Tues Jun 24 | Carmen / Shannagh |
| Thurs Aug | Alias / The Sting |
| Sat Aug 16 | Shillelagh / Golden Girl |

Olympics

| Date | 1 person / 1 person |
|-------------|---------------------|
| Sat 3 May | Kermit / Badger |
| Sat 12 Jul | Glens on Duty |
| Sat 23 Aug | Ruff Rider / Icicle |
| Sat 13 Sept | Glens on Duty |



Schannuleke of Hong Kong