

CAPTAIN'S LOG

Fellow Ruffians,

Firstly, I would like to offer our sympathies to the family and friends of Joe McEvoy commodore of Carrickfergus Sailing Club, who died suddenly aged 49 in March. Joe had great ideas and aspirations for Carrickfergus S.C. and will be sadly missed by all.

At this stage the 2008 season is well underway and I am including an update from the various Ruffian fleets outside Dun Laoghaire in this newsletter. DBSC racing commenced on April 24th and we have had good turnouts on Thursdays with up to 17 boats out. Lets try to break the 20 mark soon! As always the turnout on Saturdays is lower with a maximum of 10 boats out so far. Congratulations to Ruff Nuff (Thurs & Sat) and Icicle (Tues), winners of the first DL Mini-Series (next Prize giving July 12th).

Our race training night with Prof. O'Connell on May 7th was a great success despite the light winds—a feature

of our season to date. We were fully subscribed with 7 boats taking part. We had an on the water session for 90 minutes, followed by a debrief with video footage which Prof. had shot while we were on the water. I think we all learnt a lot and we hope to have another session with Prof. before the end of the season. I would highly recommend Prof's session—see photo below.

Regrettably the North South team racing event will not take place this year. A number of Carrickfergus Ruffians are for sale and as a result the Carrickfergus turnout has not been great for racing and so there are insufficient numbers available to travel south for the event which was due to be held in Dun Laoghaire this season.

Instead we plan to hold a series of Ladies races on Sunday June 15th, and the winner will be awarded the Dun Laoghaire Ladies Series trophy which Wicklow SC kindly presented to us.

The Regattas are now well underway. We had perfect sailing conditions for the DMYC regatta on May 31st with sunshine and a warm 7-10kt breeze. We had a good turnout of 10 Ruffians and PRO Henry Leonard ran 2 very enjoyable races on a windward/leeward course. Ruff Nuff won, Ruff N' Ready was second, and Diane II was third.

We have a full calendar of events coming up with the Dun Laoghaire Ladies series on June 15th, the Interclub team racing on June 29th, as well as the 3 remaining Dun Laoghaire regattas, the Lambay race, the Skerries 75th anniversary regatta, the 35th anniversary celebration on July 13th, and the premier event of the season, the National Championships, hosted by the National Yacht Club, Dun Laoghaire, from July 25th to July 27th—hope to see you all on the water for these Ruffian events.

Ann Kirwan
Class Captain

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

CELEBRATING 35 YEARS—RUFFIAN SAIL THE WORLD WEEKEND JULY 12-13

As you know 2008 marks the 35th anniversary since Billy and Dickie Brown of Portaferry designed and built the first Ruffian 23. We plan to mark the 35th anniversary with a "Ruffians Sail the World" event over the weekend of July 12th and 13th. The aim is to get as many Ruffians as possible throughout the world to take to the water—in the form of a

race, a family sail, or a cruise in company (similar to the ISAF Sail the World weekend in Sept 2007). We are hoping that Ruffians from Dun Laoghaire, Wicklow, Skerries, Carrickfergus, Strangford, Baltimore, the Isle of Man and Hong Kong will take to the water that weekend. In Dun Laoghaire there will be a cruise in company to Dalkey Island.

Participating boats/fleets will advise us of the numbers of Ruffians that have taken to the water and we will post photos of the event from the various locations on our website which I am delighted to say is close to completion.



HONG KONG 2009

Fancy St Patrick's weekend sailing a Ruffian in Hong Kong? Details of the team racing event will be announced shortly in a separate communication.

RUFFIAN ROUND UP

QUOILE YACHT CLUB

JIM RODGERS, MJOLLNIR

3 Ruffians took part in the Quoile YC spring series on Strangford Lough held over 5 Sundays in April. A very windy series suited George Cromie sailing Crescendo. The Kelly brothers from Portaferry who recently acquired Wanderin' Aengus were a welcome addition to the class. They will be very competitive when they get some new sails and get used to the boat. Competition between the 3 Ruffians was very close with Crescendo coming out on top. Enthusiasm is high as we all look forward to a competitive season.

SKERRIES SAILING CLUB

ROBBIE KEYS, SIAMSA

Siamsa competed in the Skerries to Carlingford race in early May setting off early in the morning in 17kts of breeze. The wind quickly built to 34kts and Siamsa recorded 11kts through the water in a huge sea with the kite up and the crew hanging on by their finger nails. The wind eventually went down to 20kts and with 4kts of tide the entrance to Carlingford resembled the inside of a washing machine. Having won the race last year, Siamsa finished in 4th place with a 50 foot boat taking the honours in a fleet of approx. 14 boats.

Club racing has been on Olympic courses which provides close racing, especially against the E-boats.

SAFETY

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

SAIL MEASURING

Alan Kirwan has already measured a number of sails—please contact Alan to arrange a time for measuring your new sail.

WICKLOW SAILING CLUB

HENRIK HECKMANN, RUFFAGE

After our lift in on May 3rd the Wicklow Ruffians found themselves between a rock and a hard place on more than one occasion—either becalmed or being blasted by North-Easterlies. We've had great racing including a 4 hour race to the South India and Nth Arklow Buoys where John Harte's Scamp was able to secure a first place against the entire (mixed) Wicklow fleet. Eagerly awaited on the racing scene are Skua and Tramp which will bring the Ruffian fleet to 5. Come and have a look at the start of the Round Ireland Race in Wicklow on June 21st.

HONG KONG RUFFIAN ASSOC.

ERWIN VAN DEN BERGE

A couple of weeks ago we had the Spring regatta here in Hong Kong. Unlike what you expect this does not herald the start of the sailing season but rather the end. The good thing about Hong Kong is that with a bit of luck you can actually sail 365 days a year.

There were 81 boats participating in the regatta which consisted of 1 race on Sat and 2 on Sun. In the Ruffian class Bandelero helmed by Barry Hynes (yes an Irish young lad) took first place, with Victory 9 2nd and Shannuleke 3rd.

We are all looking forward to the team racing next March and we are told that we need to get lots of practice before we have a chance of giving you guys a run for your money. You can imagine the stories we hear in the bar. From all of us in Hong Kong, we wish you all good sailing, fun, and fair winds.

2008 SUBSCRIPTIONS

2008 subs were due in January. Full membership €150 per boat, county/regional €20.

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

CARRICKFERGUS S. C.

ALAN HARPUR, CLASS CAPT

Once again another sailing season is underway in Carrickfergus. The start of the season was particularly sad as I'm sure you are all aware, due to the unexpected and sudden death of our good friend and Commodore Joe McEvoy. Joe was a credit to Carrickfergus SC and will be sadly missed by all.

To date in the summer series we have had a relatively poor turnout with a max. of 6 boats competing on a Tues and Thurs. Unfortunately we have quite a few boats up for sale but fingers crossed we can keep them in Carrickfergus and sooner rather than later see them competing back out on the water.

It's great that this year commemorates the 35th anniversary since the building of the first Ruffian and we in Carrickfergus intend to join with yourselves and other Ruffian sailors worldwide to celebrate this event on the water. Although not much bigger than some dinghies the Ruffian has proven itself over these last 35 years to be a successful, seaworthy and very exciting boat to sail and race. Let's hope we have many more years of fun and excitement sailing Ruffians. Can I take this opportunity to wish the Irish Ruffian Association and all its members a safe and successful season's sailing.



Bandelero with Irishman Barry Hynes at the helm winning the Hong Kong Spring Regatta

2008 Ruffian Calendar

Training with Prof.	Wed May 7
DMYC Regatta	May 31
Lambay Race	June 7
NYC Regatta	June 14
DL Ladies Series	June 15
RIYC Regatta	June 28
Inter Club Team Racing	June 29
RStGYC Regatta	July 5
35th Anniversary	July 13
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, is coordinating the Ruffian line duty roster this season. The first boat listed on a Thurs or Sat needs to provide 2 people, the second boat needs to provide one. Each boat needs to provide a car. See table at bottom centre of page for line duty requirements and meeting times.

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 14	Alias / The Sting
Sat Aug 16	Shillelagh / Golden Girl

Olympics Ruffian dates to be confirmed

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