



**CAPTAIN'S LOG**  
Fellow Ruffians,

Another season ends, a special one as we celebrate our 35th anniversary. Looking back over my year as Class Captain, I must say I have thoroughly enjoyed it.

Apologies if this report is too focused on Dun Laoghaire, page 2 features a seasonal update from Wicklow, Carrickfergus and Skerries.

We kicked off the season with a training session organised by Prof. O'Connell. Although winds were light all 7 boats who participated found the on the water session followed by the video debrief extremely beneficial. I would strongly recommend we ask Prof. to do another training session next season.

Next we had the annual trip to Howth for the Lambay race which was won by Shillelagh and by all accounts the Friday evening festivities featured Shillelagh also! Kish/Lambay rules apply so details of the weekend are sketchy.

The four Dun Laoghaire waterfront regattas were next with Ruffians well represented in each with 8-12 boats competing. The DMYC regatta was won by Ruff Nuff helmed by Derek Mitchell, the NYC regatta was won by

Paramour helmed by Roberto Sastre, the RIYC regatta was won by Diane II helmed by Alan Claffey, and the RStGYC regatta was won by Ruff N' Ready helmed by Ann Kirwan.

Caroline Clarke was the winner of the inaugural Dun Laoghaire Ladies series and was awarded the Dun Laoghaire Ladies Series cup kindly presented to us by Wicklow Sailing Club.

The Interclub team racing on June 29th was an exciting and highly competitive event held in perfect conditions of sunshine and wind. The combined team of visitors from Wicklow and Skerries battled it out with the RStGYC, NYC and DMYC with the NYC retaining the trophy. Well done to NYC skippers Colm Murray, John Caldwell and Dave Russell.

The next event of the year was my favourite one, the Ruffians Sail the World weekend. Dun Laoghaire Ruffians had a cruise in company to Dalkey Sound on Sunday July 13th, and were joined in the 35th anniversary sail by fellow Ruffians in Carrickfergus, Strangford Lough, Skerries, Wicklow and Baltimore, and in spirit by Ruffians in Hong Kong, Uruguay, the

Isle of Man and Schull. It was a real family celebration in Dun Laoghaire with the age of the Ruffian sailors taking to the water over the weekend ranging from 3 to 86. In all about 35 Ruffians celebrated the 35th anniversary.

Thanks to Paul Murphy for a very informative rules talk in the NYC on July 17th.

Next was the premier event in the Ruffian calendar, the National Championships. We had the best numbers for the past few years with 21 boats competing. Thanks to our sponsor Helly Hanson, to race officer Liam Dineen, to all the volunteers, to the staff of the NYC and to the competitors, all of whom helped to make this a really successful event. Congratulations to winner Derek Mitchell (Ruff Nuff) and his crew Carol, Robert, Jim, Philip and Shane, and also to runner up Robbie Keys (Siamsa), and to Silver Fleet winner Roberto Sastre (Paramour). Derek went on to represent the Ruffians in the All Ireland Sailing Championships which were held in J80s in Howth in early October. Gaining representation to this high profile event is great for the fleet, and is only possible because of our Championship numbers.

The annual Ladies Race was held on Aug 20th and was won by Caroline Clarke on Diane II. Well done to Bruce Carswell (Diane II) who won the Captain's prize which was held on Sunday Aug 31st, on one of the few truly lovely days in the otherwise forgettable summer of 2008 (weather-wise that is).

Our annual prize-giving dinner was held in the National on Sat Nov 8th and was attended by NYC Commodore Peter Ryan and his wife Anne-Marie, DBSC Hon. Sec. Donal O'Sullivan, and a crowd of 81 Ruffians from 10 boats. Regrettably Pauline Keogh and Dickie Brown were unable to join us. An enjoyable night was had and we all joined together in wishing Sean Murray well in his retirement from racing (see below).

In addition to the DBSC prizes, special prizes were awarded to Sean - celebrating 30 years of Ruffian sailing, and to Larry Power - contribution to the class in 2008. Photos of the night will be available on the website soon.

Finally I would like to thank the 2008 committee and all of you fellow Ruffians for another great season. It's a super class and it was an honour and a pleasure to serve as your Class Captain this year. Let's hope 2009 is an even better year for the Ruffian Class. I'm sure the first event, the team racing in Hong Kong, will ensure a great start to the season.

Ann Kirwan, Class Captain

**SEAN MURRAY—CELEBRATING 30 YEARS SAILING ICICLE**

At the annual Ruffian prize-giving dinner, held in the NYC on Saturday

Nov 8th 2008, Sean Murray was presented with a half model of Icicle to honour his 30 years of Ruffian racing and cruising. Since 1978 Sean raced Icicle 3 times a week in Dublin Bay, competed in numerous regattas and other events, and also cruised extensively taking Icicle to Tobermory in Scotland, the Clyde, the Hebrides, the Menai Straights, the Welsh coast, the Isle of Man, Strangford, Carlingford, and Baltimore. A very competitive sailor, Sean has won many trophies over the years, including the George Arthur Newsome cup for best DBSC one-design which he won sailing his mermaid Pandora, as well as many other cups and prizes in his 30 years sailing Icicle.



**WICKLOW UPDATE BY HENRIK HECKMANN**

With Ballyblue out of the water and still for sale the Wicklow Ruffians nevertheless engaged in very competitive racing which produced surprises at every turn. Scamp, Bilbo and Ruffage all seemed to have unassailable leads at one stage or another during the season, especially when it came to claiming the much-coveted Denis Noonan Trophy for best Wicklow Ruffian. The beautiful half model might have been won by any of the 3 boats with the decider going to the very last race of the season, the Commodore's Cup. For the 4th time in 5 years Scamp helmed by John Harte won the Denis Noonan Trophy for best Wicklow Ruffian.

Overall Ruffian numbers during the season peaked at five with Skua and Tramp joining the fun and getting close to the regulars under a progressive ECHO handicapping system. The non-racing highlight of the season might well have been a water-based "Team Building Event" in August for both hospital pharmacists and technicians of the Mater Hospital. Four Ruffians were made available for an introduction to sailing and 24 complete novices enjoyed the day immensely, even though conditions were testing enough. The Ruffians were afterwards deemed to be "both safe and fun" and enticed some of the staff to come back the next day to crew in a round-the-cans club race. All in Wicklow are looking forward to 2009 when the club will yet again host the ever-popular South-East Regatta, where, it is hoped, we can claim the event's Best Ruffian Trophy back from a boat of a certain little harbour to the north of us...

**DBSC & RUFFIAN DL MINI-SERIES PRIZE WINNERS**

I'm pleased to say we have had good numbers with an average of 17 boats on Thursdays and an average of 10 on Tuesdays and Saturdays. Congratulations to all participants and to the following prize winners:

<b>DBSC</b>		1st	2nd	3rd
Gold	Tues	Diane II	Icicle	Alias
	Thurs	Ruff Nuff	Ruff N' Ready	Shillelagh
	Sat	Ruff Nuff	Diane II	Ruff N' Ready
Silver	Thurs	Kermit	Riff Raff	The Sting
	Sat	Paramour	Shannagh	-

<b>DL Mini Series</b>	Series 1	Series 2	Series 3	Series 4
Tues	Icicle	Diane II	Alias	Carmen
Thurs	Ruff Nuff	Ruff N' Ready	Carmen	Alias
Sat	Ruff Nuff	Diane II	Ruff N' Ready	Icicle

**WEBSITE - WWW.RUFFIANS.IE**

I am delighted to report that our website www.ruffians.ie has been up and running since mid-season. We still have a bit more work to do on expanding some of the content and keeping up to date results on the site. However initial feedback has been very positive so thanks to Caroline Clarke who did a great job of designing and developing the site.

**CARRICKFERGUS UPDATE BY ALAN HARPUR**



John Harte's Scamp, winner of the Denis Noonan Trophy for best Wicklow Ruffian (above) with Henrik & Trish Heckmann's Ruffage (below)



**SKERRIES UPDATE**



Siamsa celebrated the Ruffian 35th anniversary by winning the round Rockabill race on July 12th.

The following weekend Robbie Keys and his crew competed in the Skerries 75th anniversary regatta. Skerries Cruiser Class Captain, Alan Jackson, re-launched the Rockabill cup for this event which saw 45 boats competing in windy conditions. The Howth boats did well taking the top places in this event and Siamsa was the 2nd Skerries boat on handicap.

Next up were the Nationals. As you all know, Robbie and his crew finished well-deserved runners up.

Siamsa made record time back to Skerries with a favourable wind and tide making the journey in just 2 hours 45 minutes.

The season ended with the Rush regatta which featured a race from Skerries to Rush for the Commodore's Cup, followed by the Rush Regatta which was a race around Lambay. Siamsa took line honours and was beaten into 2nd place by just 23 seconds.

Unfortunately the end of another sailing season here in Carrickfergus and the majority of Ruffian sailors have hung up their oilies for another year. Thankfully we have had a successful and safe year's racing although it did seem to pass in a flash, probably due to the lack of summer weather. Sadly Ruffian numbers have been much lower than usual, but the racing has continued to be exciting and competitive. Once again after many challenging races, Carrageen (pictured below) has proven to be the boat to beat but Bloodhound ensured any victory had to be earned. With a few Ruffians up for sale and others having been set aside for faster sportier models, our aim over the winter is to get these boats back in the water for next year. Can I take this opportunity to wish everyone a Happy Christmas and a prosperous New Year in preparation for next year's racing.

Get antifouling,  
Alan



Alec Kirkpatrick's Carrageen



Alan Kirwan's Nuits St George heading to Dalkey Sound, celebrating 35 years of Ruffian sailing