

# MSC RUFFIAN REPORT 2022

---



---

Authored by: Pat O'Malley & Colin McMullen  
Edited by: Maeve Curley

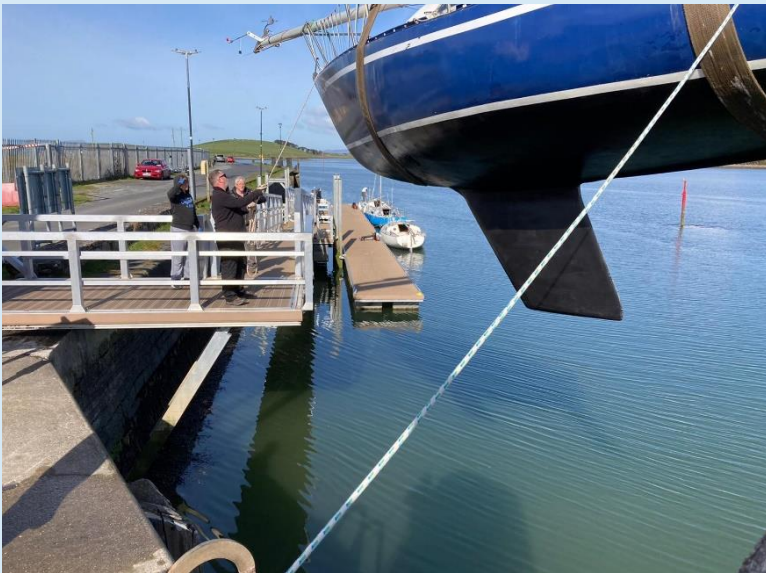
---

**Mayo Sailing Club has one of the largest fleets of Ruffians in Ireland. Sixteen Ruffians call Clew Bay home. 2022 was a busy and successful year for Mayos' Ruffian sailors at home and on the East coast. From club racing in Clew Bay Waters, to Dublin Bay and back to race around Clare Island and Inishlyre it was an exciting season.**

## **April 2022**

The MSC Ruffian 2022 sailing season kicked off at the quay in Westport. The first 6 Ruffians left their cradles to enter the Atlantic once again on 9th April 2022. A beautiful sunny morning with ideal conditions for launching the boats and for making the journey from Westport to Rosmoney where the Ruffian fleet is anchored at MSC.

A few photos captured the activity and the trip to Rosmoney. The rest of the Ruffians would gradually make their way to the water over the course of April and May. With a new Ruffian 'Champagne' being launched towards the end of June 2022 a welcome addition to our ever-expanding fleet.



**Ballyblue taking it's first 2022 dip in Clew Bay waters**



**Ruff leaving Westport Quay with Croagh Patrick being reflected in still waters.**

---

## May 2022

By mid-May the rest of the Ruffian family was back in the waters of Clew Bay and keen to start racing for the 2022 season.

We started the season on 5th May 2022 with a series of eight races run over four weeks, taking place each Thursday night. We race amongst the drumlins of Clew Bay. We ran two races each night using the Westport Channel markers and Dorinish marker for setting the various race courses according to the winds. Many thanks to our class captain Pat O'Malley for the work that went into planning club racing. It made for very enjoyable and exciting sailing.

May brought some gusty and challenging nights, +30knts on occasion but we still managed to run a good Spring series for the Ruffians. During May we also managed to get some new racing markers laid in the Bay and this enhanced the course options that we could set for the Ruffians to race.

Special mention must go to our Race Officer, Joe Corrigan, who performed a stellar service for the full racing season, starting the cruisers and Ruffians within minutes of each other and then taking finishing results for both. Joe also took some brilliant photos of boats starting and finishing over the course of the season and the boat owners were very grateful for Joe's contribution and dedication over the 2022 racing season.

We were looking forward to a very busy and some exiting Sailing in June as we were getting ready to hold the Round Clare Island Bank Holiday Weekend race with a good Ruffian participation planned and our first Team race event for 2022 against the Dubs on the weekend of 12th June 2022 held in Dun Laoghaire.



**Lonestar helmed by David Quinn won the Ruffian 2022 Spring Series with Airwave (Kyra Mullee) in second place and Red Cloud (Commodore Bobby Conlon) in third place.**





## June 2022

The Round Clare Island Bank Holiday Weekend is an annual MSC event where we travel to Clare Island and hold a round island race on the Sunday. Clare Island is the largest island in Clew Bay. This event has been hotly contended over the years and is still a fantastic race to take part in. The islanders welcome us every year and we all look forward to the next year for more fun and racing.

This year we had some great company on the way out and were treated to some fantastic displays by the visiting dolphins. They swam along the bows of the Ruffians and raced us to the island.

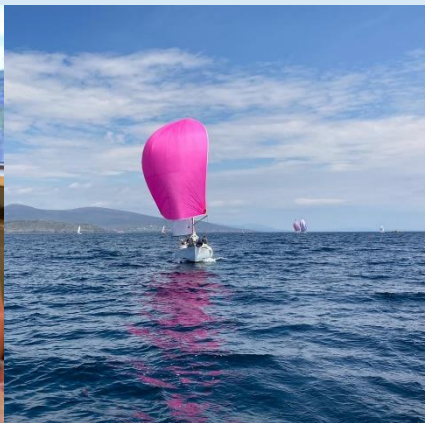
We had six Ruffians on the start line for the Sunday race (Ballyblue – Fintan Conlon, Red Cloud – Bobby Conlon, Wandering Angus – Rory Conlon, Airwave – Kyra Mullee, Lonestar – David Quinn and Ruff – Pat O’ Malley) and with a steady Easterly wind blowing we had fast jaunt around the island.

Spinnakers were hoisted before the lighthouse, and this made for a very interesting run down the back of the island. Some spectacular photos of brightly coloured spinnakers contrasting with the Islands sea cliffs in the background were captured. It was a very competitive race with positions altering and then a long beat back to the finish line.

Rory Conlon with Wandering Angus took first place in the Ruffian class for the Round Clare Island Bank Holiday Race.



Rory Conlon (Wandering Angus) pictured receiving his first prize for the Ruffians



Wandering Angus arriving under spinnaker at Clare Island Ha Wandering Angus arriving



Wandering Angus between two MSCs cruisers under the sea cliffs of Clare Island

---

Once the excitement of Clare Island was past, our attentions were fixed on Dun Laoghaire for the upcoming All Island Team Racing event on Sunday 12th June 2022.

We were determined to bring the cup home to Mayo this year following Dublin's victory in Clew Bay in 2021.

Our Team Racing Captain, Fergal Guilfoyle, started to put us through our paces for the upcoming All Island Team Racing event and all the effort paid off with a good win for the West. Winds were blowing strong, and all the races were held inside the harbour sea walls which made for some interesting racing while sharing the space with multiple users. Our thanks go to the Dun Laoghaire Ruffian boat owners who kindly let us race their boats and to the organizers for running the event.



## July 2022

The Ruffian Summer Series racing kicked off on 7th July 2022 and we had eight Ruffians competing most race nights throughout the series.

We hosted the Wicklow Sailing Club on Saturday 9th July, our second All Ireland Team Racing event.

There is a lot of planning and organizing that goes into hosting any event and it would not be possible to do this without people giving up their time and experience and volunteering to make these events successful – a warm thank you to all involved.

Special mention to our Race Officer, Colin McMullen who was assisted by a great team on the committee boat. And to our visiting On the Water Umpires, Eunice and Ailbe for all their work on the water keeping us in check! It was the first time in an Irish Sailing event to have all female umpires.



## Wicklow Sailing Club and Mayo Sailing Clubs Ruffian Crew photographed together



It was a sunny July day with a perfect westerly breeze of 12 to 14 knots on Clew Bay. Mayo took the first race. Wicklow got into their stride soon enough to take the next two races and a 2-1 lead into the lunch break. Race four saw the umpires call for a rare abandonment, due to some over-eager manoeuvres at the start; luckily, some quick thinking by the committee boat crew avoided potential damage to the boats.

Mayo won the re-started race, despite a gear failure. Wicklow then took the fifth race to set up a possible tie-break situation, but Mayo won the sixth and final race to win the hotly-contested tie 4-2. We were now focusing on our next and final Team Racing event for a third win and overall victory.



**Lonestar passing the light house after a successful day of team racing and our glorious trophy**



**Selection of Photos from Ruffian Summer / Autumn Series – July 2022**







## August 2022

Our Summer / Autumn series continued well throughout August 2022 with all race nights well attended with seven to eight Ruffians competing for the two races each Thursday night.

### Selection of Photos from August 2022 Ruffian races



### National Team Racing Event – West VS North

We hosted our third and final National Team Racing event on 20th August 2022 and welcomed the Carrigfergus team to Clew Bay. Clew Bay provided more than enough wind for the occasion and all in all very good team racing conditions.

The fresh winds necessitated setting a course in the shelter of picturesque Inishlyre Harbour. It was also necessary to put in a reef in the main just to manage that wind for some races.





Mayo took advantage of the Northerners' rustiness to post an impressive 6-0 scoreline to win the national title with a clean sweep.

The Mayo Ruffians were delighted to win the All-Ireland Ruffian Team Racing Championships and are already looking forward to the challenge of retaining the title in 2023.

In the remaining team racing matches, Carrickfergus redeemed themselves to beat Wickow 6-0 at home. Wicklow beat Team East from Dun Laoghaire 3-nil in a shortened match on a windy day at Wicklow. The finale was a hard fought match at Carrickfergus against Team East, which was tied 3-3 with the home team winning on countback.





Photos from the West VS North Team Racing Event



We added more trophies to our collection... The Triple Crown





---

## September 2022

Our Ruffian Summer / Autumn series concluded with Races 17 and 18 held on Thursday 1st September 2022.

All eighteen races were hotly contended and eventually the overall winner was Champagne (Libby Lambe / Duncan Sclare), second place Ruff (Pat O' Malley) and third place going to Lonestar (David Quinn). Prizes were presented by Commodore Bobby Conlon at our Laying Up Supper held 19th November 2022.

We are all looking forward to the 2023 Racing season where we plan to run three separate series spread out through the season and we hope that some new Ruffians will join in and add to the competition. We will be welcoming Raffles Skippers Neil Duke & Eoghan Tuite and Dicey Den Skipper John Gillivan to the Ruffian crew.



From left to right : Commodore Bobby Conlon, Libby Lambe & Duncan Sclare and Commodore Bobby & Pat O'Malley

## Team Racing & other races held in September

The MSC Ruffians planned some weekend races for September 2022 including a Lady Helm race which was raced around Inishlyre Island and proved to be an exciting day's sailing for all involved.

On 11th September we held a Club Team Racing Sunday and had four Ruffians on the water (Champagne, Sting, Lonestar and Red Cloud) and ran two races in the waters East of Inishlyre.



---

On Sunday 25th September we held the Ruffian Lady Helm race and used Inishlyre Island and laid race marks to set a course for the Lady Helms.

The Lady Helms were as follows:

Red Cloud helmed by Kyra Mullee  
Sting helmed by Lisa Mullee

Ballyblue helmed by Jenny Gordon  
Ruff helmed by Maeve Curley

Conditions were challenging and the winner was Kyra Mullee with the Red Cloud crew, well done Kyra. The Mullee's Airewave was the first Ruffian in MSC. The winner Kyra is a skipper who is in her element in heavy winds. In second and third place were the talented Lisa Mullee (Kyra's daughter) and Jenny Gordon. In fourth place was the enthusiastic Maeve Curley.



Selection of Photos from the Lady Helm Race Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> September 2022

## October 2022

Our final Ruffian racing event was held on Sunday 2nd October 2022, and we had five Ruffians competing in this event.

This was a Ruffian Fleet race event, white sails only and was run in the Inishlyre Island Harbour waters.

It was blowing a light WSW breeze and the races were run on a windward / leeward course set up by our race officer Joe Corrigan.





Selection of Photos from Club Team Racing 11<sup>th</sup> September 2022



Selection of Photos from Ruffian Fleet Racing Event 2nd October 2022

---

## Conclusion

Lift Out for the MSC Ruffians was carried out on Sunday 16th October 2022 and brought a brilliant 2022 Ruffian sailing season to a successful end.

MSCs Ruffian sailors have their sights set on retaining their 'All-Ireland Ruffian Team Racing Championship Title'. At Thursday Club Racing we will be keeping sailing competitive and our skills sharp.

We are looking forward to celebrating the 50th Anniversary of the Ruffian, with racing and celebrations in Portaferry. There is also the Ruffian Championships in Dun Laoghaire at the end of July which will be exciting.

On the west coast we will have our Clare Island June Bank Holiday Race with many of our Ruffians racing around the island. This year we will have WIORA at the Aran Islands. The West Of Ireland Offshore Sailing Championships. This will take place in the waters off Inishmore the largest of the Aran Islands in Co. Galway. We hope to have a couple of Ruffians from MSC racing in WIORA.

In September we have the All Ireland Team Racing Weekend at Mayo Sailing Club. It will be a busy two days jam packed with racing in Mayo and we are excited to be welcoming Ruffian sailors from across the country to the beautiful Clew Bay.

**It will be a busy season and Mayo Sailing Clubs Ruffians are looking forward to sailing in 2023.**





---

## Mayo Sailing Clubs Ruffians

1. Airwave – Skipper Kyra Mullee
2. Bally Blue – Skipper Fintan Conlon
3. Champagne – Skipper Libby Lambe/Duncan Sclare
4. Dicey Den – Skipper John Gillivan
5. Lonestar – Skipper David Quinn
6. Orange Peel – Skipper Vincent Doby
7. Raffles – Skipper Neil Duke/Eoghan Tuite
8. Red Cloud – Skipper Bobby Conlon
9. Ruff – Skipper Pat O'Malley
10. Saoirse – Skipper John Wallace/Cuala McGann
11. Sally Goose – Skipper Hughie Quigley
12. The Sting – Skipper Fergal Guilfoyle
13. Wandering Aengus – Skipper Rory Conlon
14. Scorpio
15. Blue Moon
16. Muffin

