



Mermaid Sailing Association

Honorary Secretary's Report 2017

The Mermaid year 2017 began with a most enjoyable prize-giving event hosted by Skerries Sailing Club on 18th February.

Following the proposal at the 2016 AGM regarding increased rudder depth, the Committee made a ruling in May allowing a club to permit a longer rudder to be used in that club's races. The committee is not aware of any club making a decision to allow a longer rudder. The committee is proposing a change to the rudder specification at the 2017 AGM. If this is adopted then the May 2017 ruling will be rescinded.

The 2017 sailing season repeated the pattern of recent years with similar levels of support for some open events, and disappointing turnouts in club racing.

The first open event of the season was the Munsters in Foynes. Six boats travelled for the event, joining five Foynes boats. In heavy weather there was one capsized, one broken mast and one crew overboard. Darragh McCormack was the winner in Innocence with Frank Browne in Cara II in second place.

The Leinster Championships were held in conjunction with the Volvo Dun Laoghaire Regatta. Fifteen boats took part in ten races over four days from 6th to 9th July. Paul Smith in Jill was the overall winner from Brian McNally in Gentoo.

Skerries regatta attracted 18 boats, the winner being Darragh McCormack in Innocence.

The Championships were held in Skerries with ten races over six days, excellently managed by Liam Dineen supported by Helen Ryan and Micheline Shiels. 26 boats entered. Sam Shiels in Azezy retained the championship in a closely contested event, with Paul Smith and Pat Mangan's Jill winning the Daphne, and the Designer's Tankard going to Paul Browne in Fugitive.

The final open event of the season was as normal in Rush, which enjoyed excellent sailing conditions. Mark Boylan in Thisisit won decisively, winning all three races in a fleet of sixteen.

In 2017 there are 24 Boat Owner Members, 8 Joint Owner Members and 31 Crew Members.

The MSA website dublinbaymermaids.com together with our Facebook page and email are now our principal means of communication with members. We once again had a number of reports on our activities published in Afloat.ie. Our attractive and popular Mermaid clothing is seen at all our events. Our thanks are due to the Captain, Róisín McCormack for achieving all this on a very modest budget.

The continuing challenge is to build on this exposure and re-kindle interest in regular Mermaid sailing in our clubs.

Paul Smith
Hon. Secretary
November 2017