



Mermaid Sailing Association Honorary Secretary's Report 2019

Our thanks to Skerries Sailing Club for hosting the AGM again this year their support is very much appreciated.

The Mermaid year 2019 began with the prize-giving event in The Royal Irish Yacht Club in Dun Laoghaire on the 2nd March. It has been some time since we have held the event in Dun Laoghaire, and it didn't disappoint!!

The first open event of the season was the Munster Championship in Foynes on the 1st and 2nd of June. 10 boats took part in the event, it took off to a slow start with very light winds but as the weather was not looking good for the Sunday all 4 races took place on the Saturday. For the 4th year running Darragh McCormack in 188 Innocence was the Munster champ. Frank Browne in 135 Cara II took second place and in third place Vincent McCormack in 119 Three Chevrons.

Over four days 11th to the 14th July, 16 Mermaids competed for both the 2019 Dublin Bay Mermaid Leinster Champion title as well as the Volvo class title. There were 10 races held over the four days with a varied weather to suit all. First overall was Vincent McCormack in 119 Three Chevrons, second was Roger Bannon in 102 Endeavour and third was Paul Smith in 134 Jill.

Skerries Regatta took place at the end of July and attracted 15 boats. 5 races were held, and it was won by Darragh McCormack in 188 Innocence, second place was Paddy Dillion in 131 Wild Wind and third place was Brian McNally in 186 Gentoo.

The Championships were held for the first time in the Royal Cork Yacht Club from the 1st to the 4th of August. We had 23 boats, 10 races and 1 crew's race over 4 days with difficult weather conditions. The races were excellently managed yet again by Scorie Walls and her team. Congratulations to Darragh McCormack and his crew in 188 Innocence for claiming the Championships for the second time. Second place went to Paddy Dillon in 131 Wild Wind and third place to Derek Joyce in 187 Zulioka. The overall Daphne went to 134 Jill, helmed by Paul Smith and the overall Designer went to 165 Sea Fox helmed by Oisín Finucane. The under 25's Michael Finucane trophy was also by Oisín Finucane in 165 Sea Fox. It was a great location both on the water and off and we certainly be keeping it on the list for future championship events.

Rush Regatta took place 31st August and 1st September and attracted a very disappointing 7 boats. 4 races were held, and it was won by David Butterly in 90 Deirdre, second place was Enda Weldon in 190 Mayhem and third place went to Darrach Dinneen in 121 Red Seal.



The Mermaid class is on the up with 3 new boats joining the fleet this year. In total for 2019 we have 28 paid Boat Owner Members (2 of which are Joint Boat Owners) and we have 29 paid Crew Members. The crew membership is significantly lower than last year so if you all could remember to pay for your crew or get them to pay please! It was also great to see some of the sailing veterans back in the fleet this year. Welcome back Roger, Paddy and Derek hopefully you are all back for the foreseeable future and we can try encourage a few more back in 2020!!

The MSA website dublinbaymermaids.com together with our Facebook page, Twitter account and email are now our principal means of communication with members. We once again had several reports on our activities published in Afloat.ie and our attractive and popular Mermaid clothing is seen at all our events. Thanks to my fellow MSA Committee members for their time and effort throughout the year, we wouldn't have such a successful fleet without their continued commitment.

As with all years we continue to re-build the Mermaid fleet and try to restore it to its former glory. We are slowly getting there but it would be great to get back to the days when we had over 20 boats taking part in the regattas and even up to 50 boats taking part in the Championships.

Here's to another great year in 2020!

Jennie Shiels
Hon. Secretary
Mermaid Sailing Association
November 2019