

2013 AGM SKERRIES SAILING CLUB – JUNIOR SECTION

Meeting held at Skerries Sailing Club

Saturday 1st March 2014

PRESENT:

28 Members attended

APOLOGIES:

Maxine Watson
Aidan Staunton
John Culleton
Claire Arnold

The AGM was preceded with a Members' Forum where members had the opportunity to review successes of the past year and propose suggestions for areas of improvement over the coming season. A record of the Forum is attached to these minutes.

The Junior Convenor opened the AGM by welcoming members.

MINUTES OF 2012 AGM

The Minutes of the 2012 AGM were read and accepted with no amendments. Proposed by Rachel McGloughlin and seconded by David McGloughlin

JUNIOR CONVENOR'S ADDRESS

The Junior Convenor began by welcoming attendees to the Junior Section AGM. She outlined the aim of the Junior Committee is to instil skills into the juniors that will stay with them and that they will use in all aspects of their life. It was highlighted that sailing is a sport for life.

Following feedback from members last year, in 2013 the Committee successfully focused on "fun" as much as possible.

Having thanked the Committee for their work during the year, the Junior Convenor outlined some of the key achievements of the year;

- Assisted the Senior Committee with fund raisers to help purchase a new rib which was delivered in July.
- With the help of a Fingal County Council grant, purchased a Topper Dinghy to introduce our older junior sailors to single handed sailing. Having secured a 2nd grant in December 2013 the Junior Section intends to purchase a 2nd Topper for our teenagers to use and continue sailing.
- Purchased a 2nd small engine to increase rescue cover for beginners and maintained ribs and rib trailers to ensure sufficient rescue for our sailors.
- Contributed towards the maintenance of the SSC jeep and the alarm system in the club

- Invested in the Omega and Laser 2 to keep them in sailing condition, upgraded equipment on the club Oppies and maintained the club mirror to introduce some of our sailors to double handed sailing.

Sailing Activity during 2013

Last year we had 105 junior members sailing between the various classes and courses.

Spring training commenced in March with 31 sailors for 5 weeks.

In 2013 a Sundry Class was started to encourage Lasers, Mirrors and Toppers to sail. This proved successful as Oppie sailors could see a progression when they outgrew that class and also the older sailors could continue to sail as part of the Junior Section.

ISA courses had in excess of 64 sailors of all levels taking part and with the glorious summer weather the ISA course ran for a record 7 weeks.

Some of our senior juniors have successfully completed their instructors courses and are now qualified as ISA dinghy instructors. It is great to know that the system is in place to ensure our young sailors will stay with us to seniors.

We finished up the season with Autumn training which was successful and we welcomed some of our new sailors from our ISA courses.

2014 Season

The Junior Convenor then outlined some of the activities planned for 2014.

These included;

- fitness and nutrition talks for all our classes of sailors.
- VHF courses and First Aid courses for our more senior sailors in preparation for their instructors exams.
- We are liaising with the cruising class and are planning one day trips for our juniors who will involve some theory sessions on sea charts and weather to plan a day trip in the cruisers.
- We have already planned more fun days out such as the BBQ to Barnageera Beach and the islands like last year – provisional and weather dependent.
- Senior Juniors i.e. Lasers and Mirrors still have the opportunity to sail with the Seniors on Wednesdays and Sunday but also can sail Thursdays, Saturdays and Sundays with the Junior section as well.

The calendar for the coming season is almost complete with dates set for the annual picnic and Junior Regatta. Taste of Sailing will start in May, and we have a large Optimist event –Ulster Oppies on 15/16 June, ISA course in July and will finish up the season with Autumn training.

Olive went on to thank parents who are rib owners, Sean Davis, Cliff Waddilove, Sylvia Alcock, Camilla & Mick O'Connor for their ongoing support and use of ribs for training and racing. Without this assistance, in some cases, sailing would not have been possible.

She also thanked the sailors, for coming to the club and going out sailing. The older juniors and parents who have coached the sailors and performed all the jobs that are needed to run events.

Finally, Olive paid tribute to members stepping down from the committee for their commitment to the junior section;

Pascal Fischer, Sailing Secretary

John Culleton who has been responsible for Spring & Autumn training for the past few years

Brendan Morgan who has looked after the Taste of Sailing for the past number of years

Olive announced that she would be stepping down as Junior Convenor but will stay on the Committee to look after training, she thanked everyone for their support. She wished Garret Walsh the best of luck in taking on the Junior Convenor role.

Olive closed by saying that we are looking forward to the start of the season and the challenges that lie ahead. She confirmed a commitment to continue to upgrade facilities, teach sailing in a relaxed and fun environment and encourage fun and fair sailing for all while increasing the number of juniors starting a sport they can stay at for the rest of their lives.

TREASURER'S ADDRESS

Garrett Walsh presented a set of accounts for 2013 to the meeting. Copies were circulated to all attendees for their review and comment

He gave report on the main items of expenditure and income for the year outlining key changes from the previous year. Opening his report he indicated that while income was down on the prior period expenditure had dropped by a similar amount so we finished the year broadly in the same position as it started.

Notable items highlighted in the accounts include;

1. Purchase of a Topper to enhance the range of hire boats available to sailors
2. VHF Radios purchased for the Junior Section – a new system is in place to ensure their safe return after use
3. Each event is now run with its own P+L which means costs (and fuel in particular) are accounted for and recorded on an event by event basis rather than being broken out as a separate item on the accounts. Tighter control, however, had been exercised over fuel use during 2013 resulting in the overall expenditure on fuel declining

Treasurer noted that the lack of a major Regional sailing event in 2013 had impacted the income side as it is generally possible to return a small profit to the Club from such events. It was mentioned that SSC would be hosting the Oppie "Ulsters" later in 2014 and that there were opportunities available for commercial sponsorship. Sponsorship greatly enhances the Club's ability to run such high intensity events at a profit. SSC relies on volunteers a lot more than other clubs who may have paid assistance at large events. Based on competitor feedback, SSC is also regarded as one of the more welcoming clubs

George O'Connor (Enterprise Car Rental) was thanked for his sponsorship of Taste of Sailing which allowed the Club purchase junior Life Jackets

With no objections to the accounts they were accepted by the meeting, proposed by Paul Rogers and seconded by Gavin Callender

SAILING SECRETARY'S ADDRESS

Spring Training:

Last year started with a very well attended Spring Training. The weather conditions were pretty poor and the sea often wild but our junior sailors and their instructors continued to go on the water each weekend. The unpleasant weather meant that the sailors were put to the test each day which gave them many new skills and confidence grew.

ISA:

The SSC junior section was examined by the ISA. This meant all our facilities and paperwork and procedures were inspected. Maxine and Olive have put in a huge amount of work into everything related with the ISA and the inspection was a huge success.

2013 was probably the biggest year for junior ISA courses in Skerries Sailing Club so far. Maxine, together with Aoife and her coaches, put a record amount of junior sailors through their paces. The weather was good which prompted some sailors to do additional courses.

Junior Regatta:

Again the Junior Regatta was a big success and very well supported by many senior sailors, parents and many others to make this event possible.

Picnics / Social:

The Junior Committee tried to offer a balance of club racing and fun sailing at the same time. The idea was to offer non-competitive sailing alongside any racing that took place. This has proven not to be possible. The main reason for this is a lack of resources. To facilitate this, more active help from parents and club members is needed both on and off the water. Despite that, we managed to offer a reasonable balance between fun sailing and racing.

We had two hugely successful picnic outings with the seniors to Barnagheera and to the Islands during the summer. Both dates were very well attended and the weather was just perfect. Also some fun days were being held.

Club Racing:

We planned to hold 5 racing series. Due to constraints of time and resources not all races could be held. A lot of the senior sailors were racing away from Skerries. This gave many local sailor the chance to progress into our silver and gold fleets.

Autumn Training:

Again, our Autumn Training series was well attended and rounded off a busy sailing season.

Instructors:

We are in a very lucky position to have a pool of very dedicated and experienced instructors and would like to thank them for their tireless efforts.

Committee:

A lot of work was done on committee level. It takes a lot of background work to get training, racing & fun events off the ground. A special word of thanks should go to both Olive and Maxine who both have put in a huge effort throughout the year.

Note:

Rather than reading the significant list of achievements of Skerries Juniors Nationwide and Abroad in 2013 the meeting decided it would be better to post the result on the Club Notice Board and publish on the Junior Blog. A copy is attached to these minutes.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

It was announced that the following members would be standing down following service on the Committee;

Brendan Morgan

John Culleton
Pascal Fischer

All three were thanked for their work over the past years and a presentation was made as a token of appreciation (John being absent will be presented at a later date)

New Committee members were elected as follows

Debbie McInerney (to position of Secretary) Proposed by Olive Parker, Seconded by Maxine Watson

Brian Thornton Proposed by Pascal Fischer, Seconded by Gavin Callender

All other committee members will remain on for another term.

Olive Parker announced that she would be stepping down as Junior Convenor with Garrett Walsh taking on this role in addition to the Treasurer role.

Full Committee is as follows;

Garrett Walsh	Junior Convenor/Treasurer
Olive Parker	Vice Junior Convenor/Optimist Class Captain/Training Co-ordinator
Debbie McInerney	Secretary
Aidan Staunton	Topper Class Captain
Paul Rogers	Results
Gavin Callender	Taste of Sailing/Assist Results
Maxine Watson	ISA Liaison
George O'Connor	Laser Class Captain
Claire Arnold	Child Liaison Officer
Brian Thornton	Post meeting note Brian will assume role of Sailing Secretary
Aidan Boylan	

AOB

Dates for Spring Training advised with the five week series getting under way Sunday 16th March. Forms will be issued immediately by e-mail with details of the proposed registration night.

Parents advised to consider whether Saturday would be a better day for Spring Training as there are many competing activities happening on Sundays and it may be possible to run sailing on Saturdays if there was sufficient interest.

Tribute was paid to Olive Parker from the meeting for the extraordinary level of work and commitment shown by her over the past three years of her tenure as Junior Convenor.

The AGM closed at 20:55

ATTACHMENTS TO MINUTES

Financial Accounts 2013

National and International Results for SSC Sailors 2013

Record of the Members' Forum

FINANCIAL ACCOUNTS 2013

Skerries Sailing Club Junior Section Accounts 2013

	Year 2013		Year 2012	
	Income	Expenditure	Income	Expenditure
Surplus Forward Jan 1st 2013	6,336.66		9,307.02	
New boats (Charter Topper)		- 1,000.00		
Training (Includes €453 from 2012)	5,464.00	- 4,236.00	6,277.00	5,509.84
ISA Course (116 paid in 2014)	12,927.00	- 9,122.03	9,956.15	5,417.53
National Events (Includes Topper Event 2012 €655)	2,516.00	- 1,110.00	7,897.70	1,971.62
VHF Radios New (X5)		- 800.00		
Junior Regatta	1,241.00	- 1,230.00	185.00	412.03
Taste of Sailing	1,160.00	- 44.13	428.04	
Boat Equipment & Repairs	10.00	- 404.00		2,253.17
Rib Fuel (now included in events/training/regatta)				2,465.31
Bank Charges		- 119.00		184.81
Seniors Club Contributions				1,960.00
Concrete Yard/ Oppy Racking				4,702.94
New RIB Engines X 2		- 3,800.00		6,395.00
Parents Night				
Year end Prize-Giving (includes €400.43 from 2012)		- 1,182.63		692.00
SSC Jeep Repair Contribution		- 1,000.00		
Insurance Claim			4,250.00	
Team X Contribution (includes €181 for 2012)	586.00			
Sponsorship (re Taste of Sailing) less 20 new Life jackets	500.00	- 679.75		
Misc	47.55	- 106.78		
Small diff		- 1.25		
Balance Forward		5,952.64		6,336.66
<i>Transaction Totals</i>	30,788.21	- 24,835.57	38,300.91	31,964.25

Notes:

Total spend on Fuel in 2013 spread over Spring, Autumn training, Regatta, Events, ISA = 1,385.75

NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL RESULTS FOR SSC SAILORS 2013

(April)

Mirror Westerns in LRYC:

Cian Hickey won the title, Kerrianne Boylan finished 8th and Eoin Hickey & Sadhbh Culleton finished in 15th place.

Lake Garda. 3 SSC oppie sailors travelled to Lake Garda to take part in the biggest one design class regatta in the world over Easter. Megan Parker, Alix Buckley and Ben Walsh joined a group of 3 other Irish sailors to compete in the event. Over 1200 oppies took part. Great results from all and Megan finished 47th overall, taking home the 4th female helm prize of the regatta and both Alix and Ben finished at the top of the Silver Fleet.

(May)

OPPIES:

Fantastic results from optimist trials. Megan Parker finished 3rd & Alix Buckley 5th and both represented Ireland in the Oppie Worlds in Lake Garda last July.

Peter Fagan, finished 6th and Gemma McDowell finished 17th and traveled to Turkey for the Oppie Europeans in June. Ben Walsh, finished 14th and Ros Morgan, finished 16th and both travelled with the International Development team to the French Nationals in July last summer.

Emma Parker finished in 33rd and was then part of the U12 Team who travelled to the Uk Nationals in Largs in July and Aaron Rogers finished in 37th place.

420'S:

Congrats to Bill Staunton and his helm for winning the 420 Leinster Championships in Malahide and Sean Waddilove and his helm who finished in 2nd place. Both sailors have also been chosen for the 420 academy and travelled around Europe for the Worlds, Europeans and various events last summer. Sean Waddilove also represented Ireland in the ISAF Championships in Cyprus last July.

MIRROR'S:

Mirror Eastern Results in RNIYC: well done to Kerri Ann Boylan and George O'Connor who were placed 3rd overall, Megan Boylan and her crew finished in 8th overall & Eoin Hickey and Sadhbh Culleton finished 12th overall and Bronze fleet winners.

Fantastic results for all, well done!!!

Oppie Ulsters:

Well done to our optimist sailors who travelled to Royal North of Ireland YC. Results:

2nd Megan Parker, 4th Alix Buckley, 7th Loughlen Rickard, 9th Ben Walsh, 11th Gemma McDowell, 12th Ros Morgan, 15th Peter Fagan & Junior Fleet 10th Emma Parker. Well done everyone with a fleet of 35 senior sailors & 42 juniors.

(August)

International Sailors from around the Globe:

International Development Team: Ros Morgan and Ben Walsh are now back from France. Ros Morgan finished 10th in the Silver fleet (95th overall), Ben finished 17th in the Silver fleet (102nd overall).

Two other SSC sailors travelled to the event: Peter Fagan finished in 11th overall and Loughlen Rickard finished in 25th overall. Well done all.

Oppie Worlds: Megan Parker and Alix Buckley flew the flag for Ireland and SSC in their trip to Lake Garda for the Oppie Worlds. Megan finished 96th and Alix finished 156th overall out of a fleet of 259. 420 World Championships.

Well done to Sean Waddilove for a 56th place overall result and to Bill Staunton for finishing 85th overall in the event in Valentia, Spain.

Mirrors

Two weeks in Lough Derg Skerries Sailors did us proud. The first week away sailing was the Mirror Nationals and result for the SSC team were as follows:

2nd Cian Hickey & Crew, 21st Kerriane Boylan & Ros Morgan; 35th Eoin Hickey & Sadhbh Culleton; 36th Megan Boylan & Ellen Ennis; 39th George O'Connor & Aaron Rogers.

Worlds:

16th Overall Cian Hickey & Crew; 28th Kerriane Boylan & Ros Morgan; 47th Megan Boylan & Ellen Ennis; 53rd George O'Connor & Aaron Rogers and 55th overall and 1st in Bronze Fleet Eoin Hickey & Sadhbh Culleton. Well done all!

(September)

Well done to all our oppie sailors who travelled to Howth Yacht Club.

Senior Fleet: Peter Fagan 4th, Gemma McDowell 5th, Alix Buckley 6th, Loughlen Rickard 9th, Ros Morgan 12th.

Junior Fleet: Emma Parker 6th with 2 race wins! Tough competition all round. Well done everyone!

(October)

RESULT FOR TRAVELLING SAILORS in date order:

ISA Junior All Ireland Championships:

Well done to Megan Boylan and Megan Parker both who qualified and were invited to represent the mirror & optimist class respectively. Congrats to Megan Parker and her crew Ben Walsh coming home with gold medals and ISA Junior Female Champion.

ALL Ireland Schools Event: Great turnout for Skerries sailors some for their first away event. Competitors were: Loreto Balbriggan: Nicole Fischer (5th Topper), Ashling Leneghan (18th Oppie); St Patricks NS: Conor Waddilove (11th Oppie), Faye McGloughlin (26th Oppie) Heather McGloughlin (28th Oppie), Rebecca Fischer (29th oppie); Ardgillan Secondary School: Aaron Rogers (7th 4.7 fleet); Loreto on Green: Peig Staunton (12th Radial)

Optimist Connachts:

1st Senior Alix Buckley

Topper Traveller in SSC:

Ros Morgan best placed local boat (13th overall), Nell Staunton (14th Overall), Ros Donnelly & Emma Parker 3rd U12.

Topper ISA Squad: Congrats to Nell Staunton & Ros Morgan who will represent Skerries on the ISA topper Squad

Optimist ISA Squad: Congrats to Gemma McDowell, Peter Fagan and Loughlen Rickard who will represent Skerries on the ISA Optimist Squad.

MEMBERS' FORUM SKERRIES SAILING CLUB – JUNIOR SECTION

Meeting held at Skerries Sailing Club

Saturday 1st March 2014

Prior to the Junior Section AGM a members' forum was held. The objective of the Forum was to give members the opportunity to review successes of the past year and propose suggestions for areas of improvement over the coming season.

Olive Parker opened the Forum with a recap of a similar Forum held in **2013** and how the Committee addressed the action points arising from that meeting. Principal areas covered were;

FOCUS ON RACING

Concern that the Junior Section was too racing orientated and if it could cater for less competitive sailors and introduce a more "Fun" element. The steps taken to address this during the 2013 season included Fun Sailing days where sailors could try out different boats and sailing to BBQ's on various local beaches.

RESULTS

A new system of counting results was introduced in 2013 to address the concern that sailors could by default progress rapidly from Bronze to Gold and find themselves eligible to sail in conditions that their level of experience would not warrant.

PROGRESSION FROM OPTIMIST

A concerted and successful effort was made in 2013 to introduce a "Sundry Fleet" to demonstrate a path way for sailors progressing out of Oppies. Toppers , Lasers and Mirrors are now regularly sailed by ex-Oppie sailors.

The activation of ideas from last year's Forum was met with a general positive response from the floor and in particular from some parents of non-competitive, younger sailors who welcomed the shift in focus to introduce "fun" to the sailing calendar.

2014 FORUM

Principal matters raised for consideration for the coming season were as follows;

CLUB RACING

It was wondered if the standard of Club Racing could be raised. There were two aspects to this i) the number of Gold Fleet Competitors and ii) Race Management.

It was felt that more competitors could be attracted by a better standard of Race Management specifically;

Was it possible to use the Senior Committee boat as it had a mast and associated equipment such as marks and flags which our higher level sailors would expect at National and International events?

It was felt that the setting and laying of courses could be improved with possibly an extended course for the Gold Fleet.

Where there were insufficient numbers to constitute an Optimist class, perhaps a handicap system could be introduced for a mixed fleet. The *PY Handicap* (Portsmouth-Yardstick) system was proposed as a possible solution.

Punctuality of getting racing under way was also raised as a concern – particularly in the evenings with winds dropping and failing light reducing the time available to race. It was suggested that the traditional “Rigged and Ready” time be replaced with a “First Gun” time to ensure all competitors are on the water on time.

COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

In order to encourage more parents to join the Committee it may be an advantage to outline job/role descriptions which people could apply for depending on the time they have available or their aptitude.

It was also suggested that for parents who were limited in time but would like to assist in a more formal way that they could join project specific sub-groups without joining the Committee. These sub-groups could be limited either in terms of the task performed or the objective end date.

COMMITTEE RESPONSE

In response to the issues raised by members the committee made the following commitments

There has been a reluctance in the past on the part of the Senior Section to release the Club Committee boat to the Junior section. This would be broached again with the Senior Committee in the coming months.

The point was stressed that all activity in the Junior Section is highly dependent on parent participation. Where issues such as, for example course setting, were a concern it is vital that parents with the skills/abilities to address issues came forward to assist.

Another option which will be explored is the provision of training for parents in specific technical areas such as Race Officer but again this will require sufficient numbers to make it worthwhile.

The Senior Section run racing by using members on rotation to carry out functions such a mark laying and safety cover. The Junior Section will consider rotating senior-juniors to assist in running racing which would relieve pressure on manpower thus allowing a more efficient set up and running of racing.

Committee will be working on role descriptions and areas of responsibilities for the group.

The Forum concluded