

IRISH
SAILING



IRELAND

ACTIVE ON THE WATER

2022
ANNUAL REPORT





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PRESIDENT'S REPORT

2022 was a year of getting back to the new normal post-COVID, and my first year as President of Irish Sailing. I was elected in March, and laid out three priorities for my tenure:

1 Getting the Strategic Plan implemented

I want to stand over the plan and hit the Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) which are ambitious and include increasing our membership by 50% to 30,000 people, providing competitive, fun and accessible racing, achieving medal-winning performances, and promoting non-competitive and cruising activities.

2 Expand sailing in the community

Access initiatives include team racing for schools and universities and I have seen great success in my own club Kinsale Yacht Club working with local schools Bandon Grammar and Kinsale Community College; the Irish Cruiser Racing Association (ICRA) Under 25 programme for keelboats; the Women Take the Helm programme that includes the annual Women at the Helm regatta, and a survey to understand more about women and boat ownership that received over 700 responses.

3 Inclusion

As the first Paralympian to become Irish Sailing President, this is a personal passion and one of Irish Sailing's core values. Initiatives in 2022 included the return of the successful Watersports Inclusion Games, the expanding fleet of accessible boats and the new sailing platform to teach sailing to children with Autism Spectrum Disorder. Irish Sailing were proud to support the World Sailing "Back the Bid" campaign to see sailing return to the Paralympics and saddened by the negative decision last month. Closer to home, the LGBTQ+ sailing community is represented by our newest and youngest ever Irish Sailing Board member Tessa Kingston. Board membership balance fell recently to a 1/3 female representation, but we will be back at 40% by 2024 at the latest.

Irish Sailing Olympic Team

Our teams continue to do us proud on the international stage. Last year we saw record success for our youth sailors when Eve McMahon won a hat trick of gold medals: the ILCA6 Youth European Championships, the World Sailing Youth World Championships, and the ILCA6 Youth World Championships. She then won silver at the U21 ILCA Youth World Championships. Rocco Wright took two golds at the ILCA6 Youth World Championships and the ILCA6 Men's European Championship. 49er Olympic team Robert Dickson and Seán Waddilove secured silver at the Hempel World Cup Regatta,

and Finn Lynch's superb results were reflected in the World Sailing rankings where he was placed second in the world. This was the highest ever ranking for a male Irish Laser sailor. In addition, 29er duo Lucia Cullen and Alana Twomey became U17 World Champions, and Bobby Driscoll took silver in the Topper 5.3 and Colum Pollard won the Topper 4.2 World Championships.

A new CEO

At the end of 2022, Irish Sailing CEO Harry Hermon retired after two decades of service to sailing. His huge contribution was recognised at a party to mark his retirement where current and past commodores, Olympians and athletes, past Presidents, and a cross section of our community came to bid him farewell. His dedication was also recognised by the CEO of Sport Ireland, Dr Una May who spoke of his leadership during the turbulent years of COVID, and for her, his principle legacy of the Inclusion and Diversity programmes.

After an extensive recruitment process by the Board working closely with Sport Ireland, new CEO Tim Bourke was appointed in December. Tim comes to the organisation with extensive sailing and private sector experience.

75 years of the Champions' Cup

2022 saw the 75th Anniversary of the newly named Champions' Cup (formerly Irish Sailing All Ireland Championships or Helmsman's Cup). Hosted by Sutton Dinghy Club and the GP14 class, it was won by Olympian and 2021 winner Ger Owens with crew Melanie Morris.

Irish Sailing and Ukraine

Both on and off the water, our sports are united by the values of equality, inclusion, respect and fairness. As a result of Russia's invasion of Ukraine in February, Irish Sailing joined World Sailing in taking the decision to suspend the participation of Russian or Belarusian athletes and officials in our events and competitions. In addition we waived Irish Sailing direct membership to recently arriving Ukrainian sailors and helped connect them with local clubs and centres.

Anti-doping

Under the terms of Sport Ireland funding, Irish Sailing is required to report on our current status in respect to anti-doping. I am pleased to report that in 2022 Irish Sailing had no instances of a positive dope test, which means we remain a drug-free sport.

Irish Sailing Foundation

I would like to thank the Foundation, the philanthropic arm of the Irish Sailing Performance Team who continue to support the Team and contributed generously to the programme in 2022.

Sport Ireland

We are very grateful to our major partner Sport Ireland for their continued support across so many areas, not least their help and guidance in recruiting a new CEO, their attendance at our key events, their belief in our inclusion programme and performance programme.

Numbers on the rise

The sheer volume of work going on behind the scenes at Irish Sailing is reflected in some of the numbers here: in 2022, 731 sailing, powerboat and windsurfing instructors of all levels were trained or re-validated representing the highest number of instructors trained in a single year to date. In addition, we trained 447 people on our Safeguarding courses and processed 605 Garda vetting applications, an increase of 16%. We issued 975 ICCS (International Certificate of Competence), 193 Commercial Endorsements and 959 ECHO, IRC, Certificates of Identity and sail numbers. The staff at Irish Sailing are happy to answer your queries, and that's reflected in the 23% increase in calls they received last year.

I am delighted to note that Irish Sailing membership has increased to 23,587 with Direct Ordinary membership increasing by 40% to 1,070. This number does not include people being trained on our courses which has a knock-on effect on membership.

Thank you

The staff at Irish Sailing have been extremely supportive during my term. Without them, the organisation simply would not work. I want to thank them for their contribution during a particularly difficult period of change when the CEO announced his retirement. Through the rough and tumble, everyone has stayed the course and shown their dedication to the organisation and the wider sport, and I appreciate that very much.

I would like to thank the policy groups, working groups and board of Irish Sailing, all volunteers. It is so important to remember that they are people who give up their time and expertise for free.

It is a reflection of everyone's hard work that Irish Sailing was shortlisted for the Federation of Irish Sport's National Governing Body of the Year Award, and a nomination that we should all be very proud of.



John Twomey
President, Irish Sailing

IRISH SAILING IN NUMBERS



23,587

IRISH SAILING MEMBERSHIP

1,070*

=

↑ 40%

DIRECT ORDINARY MEMBERSHIP*

INCREASE IN DIRECT ORDINARY
MEMBERSHIP IN 2022



731

SAILING, POWERBOAT AND
WINDSURFING INSTRUCTORS
TRAINED OR RE-VALIDATED



447

PEOPLE TRAINED ON OUR
SAFEGUARDING COURSES



605

GARDA VETTING APPLICATIONS
PROCESSED



975

ICCS (INTERNATIONAL CERTIFICATE
OF COMPETENCE) ISSUED



193

COMMERCIAL ENDORSEMENTS



959

ECHO, IRC, CERTIFICATES OF
IDENTITY AND SAIL NUMBERS



8000

EVALUATIONS RECORDED



↑ 5%

GROWTH IN EVALUATIONS



↑ 6%

POWERBOAT APPLICATIONS



23%

INCREASE IN CALLS RECEIVED BY
IRISH SAILING STAFF

*This number does not include people being trained on our courses which has a knock-on effect on membership.

IRISH SAILING FINANCE OVERVIEW

CLUBS & PARTICIPATION

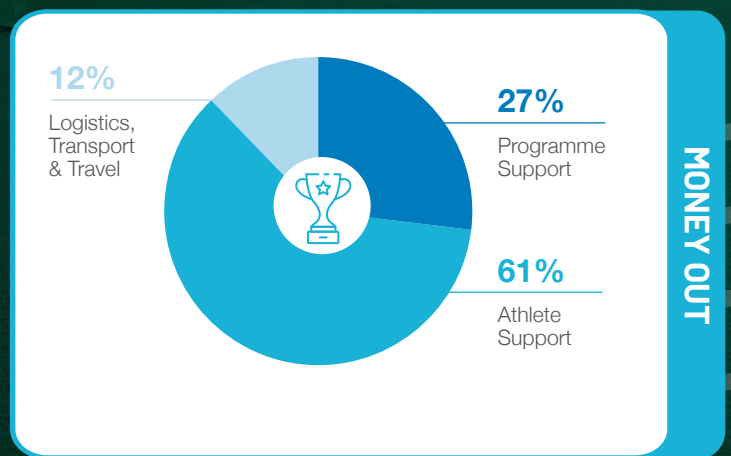
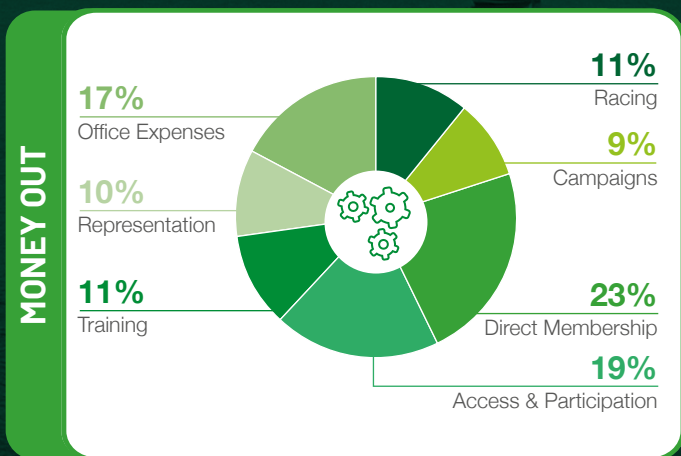
PERFORMANCE



TOTAL: €1,381,840

TOTAL: €1,225,842

**CARDED ATHLETES
+€210,500**



WHO WE ARE

IRISH SAILING BOARD 2022

John Twomey
President & Race Officials Policy
Group

Niall O'Neill
Secretary & Governance, National
Watersports Campus

Sue Concannon
Treasurer and Governance

Richard Colwell
Irish Cruiser Racing Association

David Cullen
Irish Cruiser Racing Association

Andrew Bradley
Communications Policy Group

James Lyons
Training Policy Group

Vera Quinlan
Cruising & Representation Policy
Group

Mal Nowlan
Race Officials Policy Group,
Governance

Katie Dwyer
Racing & Classes Policy Group

Tessa Kingston
Inclusion & Diversity

Bill O'Hara
Olympic Steering Group

There are two standing
committees overseeing Finance
and Governance:

Governance Committee

Paddy McGlade [Chair]

Mal Nowlan

Sue Concannon

John Twomey

Harry Hermon

Ian Mathews

Finance Committee

John Twomey

Harry Hermon

Sue Concannon

Niall O'Neill

Carol O'Mahony

POLICY GROUPS 2022

There are seven Policy Groups set up to advise and guide the Board and Staff on specific areas of strategic importance.

The Policy Groups are made up entirely of volunteers, and help to enforce the connection between Irish Sailing with members and stakeholders and ensure that the activities of Irish Sailing remain relevant to them. The Policy Groups are also an important development pool for potential Board members.

You can read the full terms of reference for Policy Groups on the [Irish Sailing website](#).

Communications

Andrew Bradley (Chair)

Justin Cullen

Valda Boardman

Treasa Cox

Irish Cruiser Racing Association (ICRA)

David Cullen (Chair)

Saoirse Reynolds

John Leech

Richard Colwell

Mark Mills

Ric Morris

Daragh Connolly

Brian Raftery

Denis Byrne

Peter Ryan

Liam Lynch

Race Officials

David Lovegrove (Chair)

Dara Totterdell

Gordon Davies

Mal Nowlan

Suzanne McGarry

Fergus O'Kelly

Cormac Bradley

Philip Scallan

Liam Maloney

Ciaran McSweeney

Cxema Pico

Sarah-Louise Rossiter

Training

James Lyons (Chair)

Rupert Musgrave

Eddie English

Jeff Cochrane

Tadg Murphy

Dave Ballesty

Dave Garvey

Racing Rules & Appeals

Gordon Davies (Chair)

Mike O'Connor

Cxema Pico

Chris Lindsay

Bill O'Hara

Ailbe Millerick

Emmet Dalton

Ed Alcock

Anthony O'Leary

Geoff O'Donoghue

Diane Kissane

David Lovegrove

Sarah-Louise Rossiter

Cruising & Representation

Vera Quinlan (Chair)

Alex Blackwell

Norman Kean

John Murphy

John Leahy

Gail MacAllister

Olympic Steering Group

John Menton (Chair)

Sara O'Connor

Morgan Buckley

Trevor Millar

Bill O'Hara

Colin Kavanagh

Marcus Spillane

Elaine Mettler

Harry Hermon

James O'Callaghan

Rory Fitzpatrick



IRISH SAILING GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE

The Irish Sailing Governance Committee was set up to support the Board in its responsibilities for the review of policies, management of risk and the governance of Irish Sailing, including the implementation of the Governance Code.

See [Terms of Reference on the Irish Sailing website](#).

The Committee is appointed by the Board following each AGM and reports directly to the Board. It is chaired by a non-Board member and has a least one other non-Board member, other members being the President, Hon Treasurer and Hon Secretary. Meetings are attended by the CEO.

During the calendar year 2022 the Committee met on two occasions, in March and November (by Zoom due to Covid and the geographical spread of the committee members). One member of the Committee attended a Sport Ireland conference on Governance.

Our focus has been on ensuring appropriate Policies and Procedures are in place, up to date and being implemented and we endeavour to assist the Irish

Sailing Board and Executive to enhance their systems and business procedures (as appropriate to the size of the organisation). During the year we reviewed the Board's effectiveness, risk management and risk metrics, considered the organisation's compliance with the Governance Code for sport and its preparedness for external audit by Sport Ireland, our Financial Auditors and other relevant authorities.

Our membership changed during the year with a new non-board member Ian Mathews joining.

The Committee is always available for support and advice to the Executive and the Board.

Paddy McGlade (Chair)

On behalf of the Governance Committee

Board and Policy Group Meeting Attendance 2022 [all meetings held virtually]

Group	Members	Gender Balance (Female)	Meetings Held	Attendance Rate
Irish Sailing Board of Directors	12	33%	6	85%
Finance Committee	4	25%	8	87%
Governance Committee	5	20%	2	100%
Communications Policy Group	4	50%	6	100%
Race Officials Policy Group	12	25%	3	97%
Racing & Classes Policy Group	7	57%	3	100%
Training Policy Group	7	0%	3	80%
Olympic Steering Group	8	25%	5	87%
Cruising & Representation Policy Group	4	25%	5	90%



Photograph: Marco Cavalleri

STRATEGIC FOCUS AREAS & KPIS

In 2022 we continued to develop a summary of the Key Performance Indicators detailed in the 2020-2025 Strategic Plan.

1

30% of population participating in water sport activities

Irish Sailing will contribute to “30% of population participating in water sport activities”. These water sports will include any sporting activity taking place in outdoor water. We continue to work with Sport Ireland and other agencies on compiling data to report on this KPI in future Annual Reports.

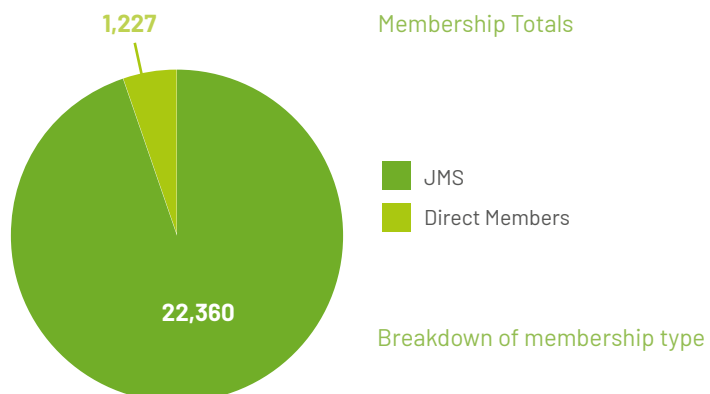
2

Membership Increase by 50% to 30,000

Increase the estimated 20,000 membership by 50% to 30,000 by 2025.

In 2022 our membership grew to 23,587.

This data is acquired from the Joint Membership Scheme where membership data from all category 1 clubs is shared with Irish Sailing and direct members through the Irish Sailing online shop. (This year we are not including the training centre participants from the Irish Sailing Passport system on Checklick).



3

Achieve Government Commitment to deliver the marine leisure sections of Harnessing our Ocean Wealth and the National Marine Planning Framework

A key milestone in 2022 was the publication and enactment of the National Marine Planning Framework (NMPF), which brings together all marine-based human activities for the first time, outlining the Government's vision, objectives and marine planning policies for each marine activity. The NMPF details how these marine activities will interact with each other in an ocean space that is under increasing spatial pressure, ensuring the sustainable use of our marine resources to 2040. Irish Sailing is represented on the advisory group supporting the development of the NMPF which was approved by Cabinet and launched by the Taoiseach in July 2021. Irish Sailing continues to represent the interests of its members as the advisory group now turns its focus to supporting implementation of the plan.

Irish Sailing is working with Sport Ireland in developing a national Database of Sport and Recreational Amenities. Work is underway to collect authoritative data on public recreational amenities which when complete will be published online. Apart from the Clubs and activity centres, Irish Sailing is working to include public slipways, and other access points around our coast and inland waterways providing relevant information for going afloat.

4

Plans for non-competitive and cruising activities established and promoted

In February, the Cruising Conference was held online with 100 registered attendees. The four speaker sessions are uploaded on the Irish Sailing Youtube channel and have had 1,705 views. The conference raised €764 for the RNLI.

The Cruising and Representation Policy Group's survey of cruising sailors received 186 responses; 85% were boat owners. They are seeking support with fishing pots and coastal infrastructure, licensing and regulations. The Policy Group have commenced communications with the fishing industry to create an understanding of each other's needs. Updates to the coastal engineers' visitor mooring management plans and coastal infrastructural plans can be found here:

www.sailing.ie/Cruising/Visitor-Moorings.

The Irish Sailing Awards held in March moved to a smaller lunchtime format for 150 invited guests. Olympic silver medallist Annalise Murphy was awarded the President's Award to mark the end of her Olympic sailing career; Carlow sailor and Olympian Finn Lynch won the prestigious Sailor of the Year, and Eve McMahon won Youth Sailor Award for the third year running.

In May 2022 Irish Sailing lead the first Sailing Darkness into Light, which supports fundraising for Pieta House. The event saw nine clubs around the country take part with 108 boats raising well over €10,000.

STRATEGIC FOCUS AREAS & KPIS (CONT.)

5

100% safety record for Irish Sailing activities

Irish Sailing and those engaged in our sports are broadly acknowledged as having a safe, responsible approach to the risks involved in our sports.

This safety culture begins in our training programmes and continues through the procedures and practices implemented in our Clubs, Training Centres and Events.

Irish Sailing continue to work with our Clubs, Training Centres, Club Officers, Instructors, Coaches, Volunteers and Participants to ensure this safety culture continues with any new or changing risks being identified and addressed.

6

Establish and promote programmes to provide competitive, fun and accessible racing

Irish Sailing provided and supported the following programmes:

Team Racing Roadshow Clinics						
	Teams	Competitors	Male	Female		
	12	24	12	12		

Champions Cup					
	Boats	Teams	Competitors	Male	Female
	8	16	32	21	11

Junior Champions Cup					
	Boats	Teams	Competitors	Male	Female
	16	16	32	22	10

Youth National Championships						
	29er	420	ILCA 6	Optimist	ILCA 4	Topper
Boats	8	12	43	49	28	51
Competitors	16	24	43	49	28	49

Inclusion Games			
	Participants	Male	Female
	274	153	121

Women at the Helm				
	Keelboats/sportboats	Participants	Male	Female
	59	284	133	151

Irish Sailing Coaching Grants					
	Fireballs	Waterwag	GP14	420	SB20
Teams	16	13	21	21	15
Competitors	32	26	26	42	45



STRATEGIC FOCUS AREAS & KPIS (CONT.)

7

50% of our membership competing regularly in domestic and international competitions

This data is not available to us at present.

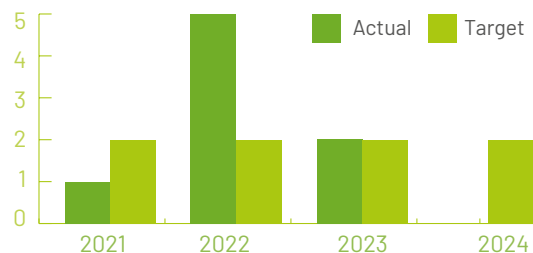
8

Ireland to host 2 World/ European events per year and 1 Olympic qualifier for 2024 games

Irish Sailing continues to improve standards of race management and develop Ireland's reputation for hosting international events.

In 2022 Ireland hosted four World and one European events (505 Worlds, GP14 Worlds, Fireball Worlds, SB20 Worlds, J24 Europeans). All these events are supported by Irish Sailing.

Due to the shortened qualifying window for Paris 2024, hosting an Olympic Qualifier in 2022 was not possible.



Events - actual and targets

2021: Laser 4.7 Worlds

2022: 505 Worlds | GP14 Worlds | Fireball Worlds | SB20 Worlds | J24 Europeans

2023: Mirror Worlds | Topper Worlds

9

80% of clubs delivering coaching programmes

Following the disruption to the launch of the Club Coach programme over the past couple of years 2022 saw its resumption with a number of courses delivered around the country with very positive engagement from IODAI (International Optimist Dinghy Association of Ireland) and the 420 Class Association.

2023 will see a further roll out along with the development of a progression pathway allowing coaches to continue developing their skills.



STRATEGIC FOCUS AREAS & KPIS (CONT.)

10

Produce regular medal winning performances for pathway classes at international events. Produce 2 medal winning performances per year



The Team had the KPI of 2 medals for the year, and won 10.

- Robert Dickson and Seán Waddilove won silver at the Hempel Allianz World Cup Regatta in the Netherlands.
- Eve McMahon wins gold at the ILCA6 European Youth Championships in Greece.
- Eve McMahon wins gold at the World Sailing Youth World Sailing Championships in the Netherlands.
- Rocco Wright wins gold in the men's fleet at the same event.
- Eve McMahon wins gold at the ILCA6 Youth World Championships in Texas, marking her hat-trick of gold medals.
- Eve McMahon wins silver at the U21 ILCA Youth World Championships in Vilamoura, Portugal
- Rocco Wright wins gold at the ILCA6 Men's and U21 title at the European Championships in France.
- Finn Lynch was ranked second in the world in the World Sailing rankings. This was the highest ever ranking for a male Irish Laser sailor.
- 29er duo Lucia Cullen and Alana Twomey became U17 World Champions.
- Colum Pollard won the Topper 4.2 World Championships with Bobby Driscoll taking silver in the Topper 5.3.

ENABLERS TO DELIVER OUR KEY OBJECTIVES

1. LEAD AND ENHANCE ORGANISATIONAL CAPABILITY

Ensure we have the most appropriate structure and resources in place to maintain the highest standards of support, accountability and good governance. Our team of staff and volunteers are our most important resource – we must support them and enable them to deliver the highest standards of service to clubs and members.

Enhance cooperation and trust between the executive and the board

- A member of staff is assigned to each policy group, and each policy group is chaired or attended by a board member
- Staff submit regular reports to the CEO which are presented at board meetings
- Every board meeting is followed by a staff meeting to discuss outcomes
- Annual board effectiveness reviews in place

Identify market size and audience of those interested in being active on the water

- Collaboration with Sport Ireland on research into watersports activity and potential audiences

Invest in the delivery of a fit for purpose membership management solution

- Data & Participation Officer was engaged to look at supporting membership and activity, data, collection, and the corresponding enhancement of membership services
- In consultation with clubs, a race results software is being developed, nearing completion and will be piloted in 2023.





1. LEAD AND ENHANCE ORGANISATIONAL CAPABILITY (CONT.)

Examine internal governance and structure

- Irish Sailing constitution annually reviewed
 - Two external reviews (one commissioned by Sport Ireland and the other by Irish Sailing) of the Tokyo Games provided a strong basis for development of the performance pathway in 2022.
-

Strengthen relationships with our volunteers

- Irish Sailing Board and Policy Groups, committees and working groups are all volunteer-led. In total in excess of 150 volunteers directly contribute to the running of the organisation.
-

Review Human Resources organisational structure

- During 2022 Irish Sailing conducted an organisational review. The recommendations of this review will be looked at in 2023.
-

Support and enhance capacity of our clubs

- Try Sailing website refreshed with updated club information
- Irish Sailing distributed grant aid to some Clubs in support of specific participation programmes (e.g. women in sport, inclusion games, autism project).

ENABLERS TO DELIVER OUR KEY OBJECTIVES

2. FINANCIAL STABILITY

Be financially stable by carefully managing our income and expenditure, increasing our turnover and diversifying our funding streams.

Financial stability

- Irish Sailing's prudent financial management together with increased activity across all areas, means the organisation is in a strong financial position
- Core Irish Sailing turnover increased by 19% in 2022 reflecting additional Sport Ireland Grants designated for specific purposes and continuing increases in membership and commercial activity
- For the High Performance team, income was up as a result of additional impact funding from Sport Ireland, and an increase in sponsorship and carding for athletes
- The steady growth in demand and interest in sailing first seen in 2021 has continued through 2022
- Irish Sailing manages income and expenditure by adhering to budgets with the oversight of the finance committee and board. More details can be found in the Governance and Financial Reports.

Identify new funding opportunities

- Proactive research and awareness by staff around alternative funding streams
- New sources of government support sourced for clubs and Irish Sailing including COVID-19 recovery grants and assistance with increased energy costs
- Ongoing work with Local Sports Partnerships (LSPs) in funding local club programmes and liaising between LSPs and Clubs





2. FINANCIAL STABILITY (CONT.)

Identify new funding opportunities [cont.]

- New sponsorship partners identified in 2022 for the Irish Sailing Cruising Conference and Irish Sailing Women at the Helm Regatta
 - Irish Sailing merchandise and Irish Sailing publications for sale in the online shop.
-

Target specific funding

- Specific funding allocated and prioritised for strategic investment projects such as the sail management system
 - Focus on building reserves post-COVID-19 in order to allow us to divert funding to longer term strategic goals
 - €175,000 COVID-19 recovery grant secured for Irish Sailing in 2022.
 - The Performance Programme received a Sport Ireland Targeted Equipment Scheme grant of €51,400 at the end of 2022. Funding was provided by the Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport & Media under the Sports Capital Programme.
-

Support member clubs to identify potential funding streams

- A significant proportion of the Regional Development Officers (RDOs) work is to source local funding, liaise with clubs, and provide assistance completing grant applications (including Sport Ireland COVID-19 Club Resilience grants, Sports Capital Grants, Local Enterprise LEADER Funding, Local Sports Partnership funding)
 - Irish Sailing provided several funding opportunities directly with clubs including the ICRA U25 Programme, coaching grants, and the Irish Sailing Women Take the Helm programme of leadership, mentorship and training.
-

Increase our commercial attractiveness

- New sponsorship partners were sourced for the Irish Sailing Cruising Conference and Irish Sailing Women at the Helm Regatta.
-

Leverage the work of the Irish Sailing Foundation

- Ongoing collaboration between Irish Sailing and Irish Sailing Foundation to increase potential funding streams.
-

ENABLERS TO DELIVER OUR KEY OBJECTIVES

3. COMMUNICATIONS

Communicate in an engaging and compelling way for national appeal and increase our overall profile. Promoting our sports, our organisation and managing our communications to our stakeholders and the external environment are key to growth.

Improve overall communications

- The Annual Report updated to reflect the 2020-2025 Strategic Plan and KPIs
- Irish Sailing shortlisted for National Governing Body of the Year Award, Federation of Irish Sports Awards
- Annual Satisfaction Surveys for Clubs and Training Centres reinstated.

Increase digital profile

The aim of Irish Sailing's social media strategy is to grow substantially and represent the diverse age group and channels used by members and potential members

- Social media audiences continue to grow, with a total of 26,323 followers (16% growth), with particularly solid growth on Tik Tok
- eNewsletter goes out weekly to over 10,300 active subscribers
- Irish Sailing published 208 news articles
- The Irish Sailing website had 924,854 views
- Irish Sailing Youtube channel continues to grow steadily with all new content uploaded for members and clubs to use:

www.youtube.com/c/IrishSailing/videos



FOLLOWERS
26,323



ENEWSLETTER
10,300



NEWS ARTICLES
208



WEBSITE VIEWS
924,854





3. COMMUNICATIONS (CONT.)

Promote our clubs, our organisation and our programmes

- Creation of sailing promo videos to support our sports and available for clubs
- Women Race Officials films to encourage women to train up
- Irish Sailing Passport/Checklick films to promote site before season starts
- Films promoting the Autism Spectrum Disorder App and fleet of inclusive boats
- 2022 Watersports Inclusion Games video to encourage participants, volunteers and clubs to get involved
- History and promotional videos for the 75th Anniversary of the Champion's Cup, formerly Irish Sailing All Ireland's or Helmsman's Cup
- The Commodores' Quarterly email newsletter is sent throughout the year to Commodores for their learning and committees
- Comms workshops held for organisers of World, Euro and major Irish events

Collaborate with other water-based sports

- Ongoing work with ICRA, Olympic Federation of Ireland, Federation of Irish Sports, World Sailing and other watersports national governing bodies
- Collaborating with Sport Ireland on their key campaigns
- Collaborating with World Sailing on "Back the Bid" campaign to reintroduce sailing at the Paralympics
- Collaborating with Olympic Federation and other national governing bodies on communications for Paris 2024. This group will now become an official part of the OFI communications programme.



Annalise Murphy, Olympic silver medallist, was honoured at the Irish Sailing Awards with the presentation of the President's Award to mark the end of her stellar Olympic sailing career.

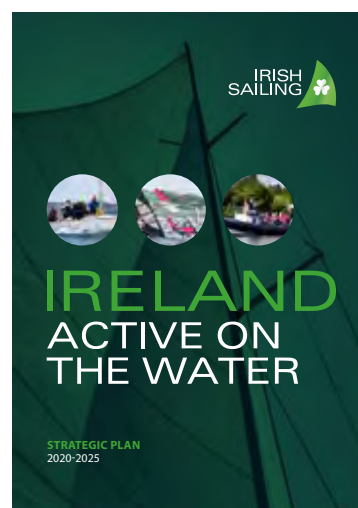
3. COMMUNICATIONS (CONT.)

Advocacy and Lobbying

- As a member of the European Boating Association, Irish Sailing collaborate with 26 European maritime organisations on a wide variety of common issues to future proof our maritime activities.
- Meetings were held with the Dept of Transport on the issue of the Small Craft Register, Licensed Vessels, and VHF
- Representation was made to Galway County Council regarding the concerns of new rulings regarding watersports.

Showcase Our Sailing Heroes

- Dublin Airport Welcome Home event held for gold medal winners Eve McMahon, Rocco Wright and the Irish Sailing Academy
- Irish Sailing Academy Roadshow in Sutton, Malahide and Howth for over 200 junior sailors
- Performance Quarterly goes to key supporters and stakeholders
- 2021 Irish Sailing Awards hosted 157 guests
- New Darkness into Light event to support Pieta House, with 108 boats and 9 clubs participating.





ENABLERS TO DELIVER OUR KEY OBJECTIVES

4. TRAINING

Provide opportunities for quality learning at a high level which facilitates the development of skills, allows participants upskill and raises standards which develop our organisation.

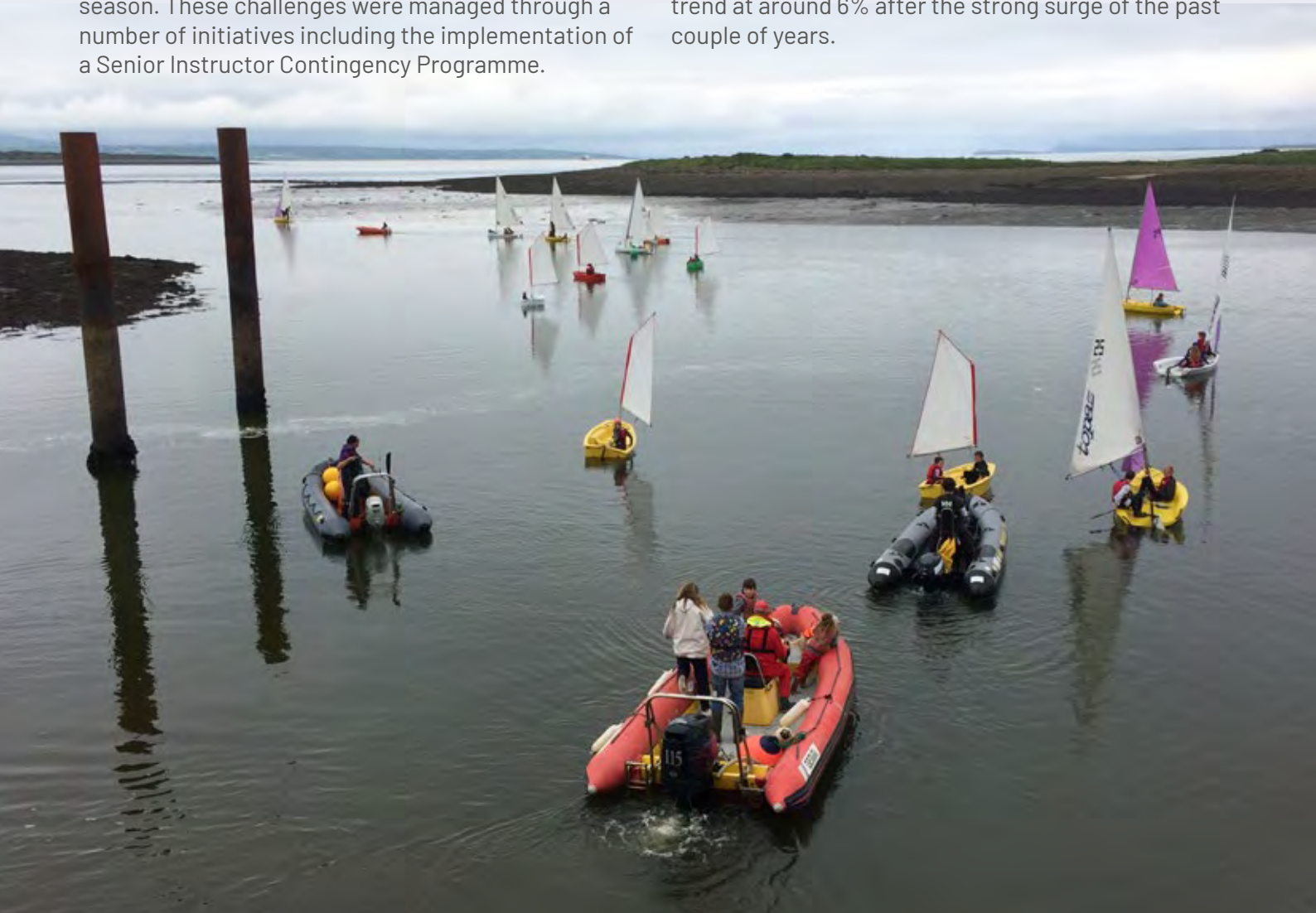
Participation

Despite the gradual return to normality, the 2022 season was not without challenges. Although there was a return to more normal holiday travel patterns and demand for our activities remained strong, there was more moderate growth than the previous year.

With a significant proportion of our instructor cohort coming from the 17 – 23 year old age group the return of international travel along with high demand in the hospitality and retail sectors saw some challenges in instructor availability, particularly in the peak of the season. These challenges were managed through a number of initiatives including the implementation of a Senior Instructor Contingency Programme.

The number of participants recorded through the Irish Sailing Passport on Checklick grew by 5% on 2021 figures with almost 8,000 evaluations recorded. The numbers participating in the entry levels of the Small Boat Sailing Scheme were slightly down but this was offset by an increase in those taking part in the advanced modules which is a positive indicator of retention from the past couple of years.

Growth in the level of powerboat training activity has now moderated to be more in line with the general trend at around 6% after the strong surge of the past couple of years.





Training Programmes

A review of the Training Centre Recognition Requirements which identify the criteria under which training programmes are delivered took place early in 2022, and carried out by a working group established under the Training Policy Group. The review consisted of a targeted online survey directed to the Training Centre Principals along with individual canvassing carried out by working group members.

The key finding of the review was that the current criteria as identified for the relevant training schemes remained fit for purpose and did not require any significant modifications. The review also identified that there were significant levels of training and coaching activities taking place which were not for certification and as such, not covered under the relevant scheme requirements. The review recommended that under the Recognition Requirements, Training Centres identify all such training and coaching activities in their organisation and ensure a risk assessment is carried out and operating procedures are documented. This will be implemented for the 2023 season.

The focus for 2023 will be to ensure that while participation levels in Irish Sailing schemes continue to grow, we also continue to monitor and apply the standards of training that participants have come to expect.

Volunteer Training

Volunteers are the backbone of training in the club environment and it is vital they are supported in the many roles they carry out. For 2022 volunteer training was delivered in a number of different ways including Spring training briefings, online Junior Organiser workshops, Senior Instructor briefings and an Autumn season review.

For Safeguarding training, 2022 saw the return of in-person courses which were delivered in addition to the facilitated online courses introduced in 2021. Over the course of the year 35 courses were delivered with 447 people attending.

Instructor / Coach education

2022 was an exceptionally busy year for instructor training with over 120 courses and a total of 731 Sailing, Powerboat and Windsurfing instructors of all levels trained or re-validated. This represents the highest number of instructors trained in a single year to date.

Credit must go to the organising clubs and training centres along with the panel of Irish Sailing instructor Trainers for facilitating this level of activity.

The Irish Sailing Club Coach training programme resumed this year with a number of courses run around the country. Particularly positive for the development of the programme was the engagement of the International Optimist Dinghy Association of Ireland (IODAI) and the 420 Class Association who both facilitated courses for class coaches. 2023 will see the continued rollout of this programme with the expansion of the Coach Developer panel to increase the availability of courses.

Despite the numbers of instructors trained, it remains possible there will still be availability issues particularly for certain category of instructors at peak times in the 2023 season. Irish Sailing will continue to work with our Clubs, Training Centre and Instructors to try and ensure that the balance between demand and availability of instructors is managed.



ENABLERS TO DELIVER OUR KEY OBJECTIVES

5. ACCESS

Improve all opportunities to access the inland and coastal waterways.

Improve access to clubs

With a clean bill of health, 2022 was a very busy year for all our clubs who ran a wide range of inclusive programmes and initiatives across the country. Thanks to the increased financial support provided by the Sport Ireland Dormant Account Fund for inclusion, Irish Sailing were able to implement more projects targeted specifically at minority groups and help them to start sailing by gaining access through these Club programmes.

The first project saw the piloting of the Sailing for All ASD (Autism Spectrum Disorder) project which is an online platform to allow participants with autism to learn how to sail from the comfort of their own home or classroom using a series of interactive teaching videos. The pilot programme had 72 children use the first phase of the platform and attend inclusive sailing courses during the summer in clubs in Kilrush, Dun Laoghaire and Connemara. The next iteration of the platform will be rolled out nationwide and offered to clubs who wish to facilitate children with autism in their club courses. Funding will also be used to provide training and resourcing of special needs assistant instructors.

Other programmes included the Safehaven Leadership Sailing programme which funded over 30 children from Direct Provision Centres to attend sailing courses during the summer in five counties including Sligo, Cork, Limerick, Dublin and Louth. While this programme is difficult to sustain there were a few cases where the families joined the club under an accessible / sponsored initiative.

Irish Sailing worked very closely with the social enterprise of Sailing into Wellness on an adult volunteer programme which identified key leaders in specialised groups from Cork, Wicklow, Dublin, Limerick and Galway and trained them up in sailing, powerboating and leadership skills so they would become volunteer leaders and exemplars for other groups.

The 4th Watersports Inclusion Games was held in Lough Derg Yacht Club and had over 200 participants and volunteers who bravely attended two days of watersports activities despite the inclement weather. Unfortunately, some of the sports like small boat sailing, rowing, water-skiing and dragon boating were unable to run over the weekend but powerboating, cruising sailing, yachts and canoeing more than made up for it and we look forward to a bigger and better Games in Wexford Harbour Boat and Tennis Club on 24th/25th June in 2023.

The first Winter Watersports Inclusive Series took place in Dun Laoghaire Marina from end of September to end of November. The full fleet of inclusive sailing and powerboats were made available to people with disabilities every weekend and some disability groups mid-week and saw 56 participants benefit from the programme. An inclusive mentorship programme ran to train and assimilate the team of volunteers so they could go back to their clubs and run their own inclusive activities in 2023.

The European Week of Sport (EWOS) in September had a new focus on supporting our LGBTQ+ community and saw five clubs from around the country run skills-based courses encouraging members to learn how to sail and join a club, with one group in Cork starting up their own small club. The actual number of clubs who ran the Try Sailing programme for other minority groups dropped on the 2021 figures with a number of clubs mentioning volunteer burnout and unsuitable weather windows at the end of September. The benefit of engaging with this type of initiative shall be reviewed with the clubs in Spring 2023 and may trial a different type of programme.



Attract more participants

- The Women in Sailing Take the Helm programme funded by Sport Ireland Women in Sport:
 - » 191 women sailed in 59 boats at the Sia Partners Irish Sailing Women at the Helm regatta hosted by National Yacht Club in Dun Laoghaire. Feedback showed that 70% would like to participate in a Women at the Helm event again, 55% felt their leadership skills had benefited with 54% moving into a new role for the event
 - » The Irish Sailing Take the Helm Programme saw women of all ages across the nation extend their sailing activities and experience with offshore sailing, racing, navigation, training and racing opportunities. The programme included mentorship with Pamela Lee, Women at the Helm networking and Take the Helm funded training through clubs and classes. Promotional stories and images shared examples of goal setting, achievements and actions to inspire women to step up and Take the Helm
 - » A survey to understand more about women and boat ownership was completed with results to be published in 2023.

Access to the water

- Try sailing website updated with latest club information and programmes on offer
- Cruising - Visitors Moorings are monitored through open communications between Irish Sailing and the area engineers servicing the moorings from Cork to Donegal.

Boats and Equipment

- The Inclusive Sailfleet was used across a number of different projects to ensure that the appropriate boat was made available to ensure specific needs were catered for during the programme. The wheelchair accessible powerboat "Johnny-T" spent much of the summer in Kilrush Marina facilitating children with mobility challenges while participating on the Sailing for All autism project. It was also in Lough Derg for the Inclusion Games, Galway for powerboat training for adults who were wheelchair users, and finished the season in Dun Laoghaire as the main safety and training boat for the Winter Inclusive Series
- The two Hawks ran a similar calendar, but were also used for some clubs to facilitate their first Try Sailing sessions for people with disabilities, by Sailing into Wellness for a number of inclusive sailing projects, and to train a group of women up to Keelboat Instructor as part of the Women on the Water Programme
- The fleet is available to all clubs to charter, but priority is given to ensuring accessible programmes for people with disabilities can be facilitated.



BAVARIA 33 cruiser

IE100246

Irish Sailing Women Take the Helm

Photograph: David Branigan/Oceansport



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Photograph: Sailing Energy

ENABLERS TO DELIVER OUR KEY OBJECTIVES

6. PERFORMANCE

Record breaking youths

There was record success in 2022 for the Irish Sailing Performance Pathway youth sailors. Eve McMahon won a hat trick of gold medals in the summer: the ILCA 6 Youth European Championships in Greece, the World Sailing Youth World Championships in the Netherlands, and the ILCA6 Youth World Championships in Texas. She then capped off the remarkable medal haul winning silver at the U21 ILCA Youth World Championships in Vilamoura, Portugal.

In the boys, Rocco Wright took two golds at the ILCA6 Youth World Championships in Texas in July, and the ILCA6 Men's European Championship in Hyères in November.

McMahon's achievements did not go unnoticed on the sporting national stage and she was nominated for the high profile RTE Young Sports Person of the Year Award.

In addition to the single handers the 29er duo Lucia Cullen and Alana Twomey became the U17 World Champions in Spain this summer. With our 49erFX squad now active it is hoped the 29er class will provide a good feeder into the Olympic discipline.

Colum Pollard won the Topper 4.2 World Championships with Bobby Driscoll taking silver in the Topper 5.3.

No.2 in the World

Finn Lynch's superb results in the past twelve months were reflected in World Sailing rankings where he was placed second in the world. This is the highest ever ranking for a male Irish Laser sailor. The ranking was due to his silver medal at the ILCA7 World Championships in Barcelona in 2021, his 4th place at the Princess Sofia Regatta in Palma in April 2022, and his 6th place at the 2022 ILCA 7 Men's World Championship in Mexico in May.

Teammate Ewan McMahon was able to commit full time to his sailing in 2022 but injury denied him the opportunity to perform at his best during the ILCA Worlds. At the Europeans despite a bad first day he sailed a great championship.

49er Teams

49er Olympic team Robert Dickson and Seán Waddilove secured silver at the 2022 Hempel World Cup Regatta in the Netherlands in May.

Campaigning alongside the Tokyo Olympians are Séafra Guilfoyle and Johnny Durcan. It was their first full season together and while they showed glimpses of what they are capable of it will not be until 2023/2024 until we see the full extent of this talented duo's potential.



World-class coaching

One of observations of the Tokyo Olympic report commissioned by the Board of Irish Sailing was the importance of developing and maintaining a world-class coaching system. We were delighted in March therefore to appoint Sean Evans as Development Coach, and Milan Vujasinovic as ILCA6 Academy Coach.

New chair for the Olympic Steering Group

In April, the Irish Sailing Olympic Steering Group which oversees the Performance Programme appointed John Menton as new Chair, taking over from Patrick Coveney. John competed in the Sydney 2000 Olympic Games as a discus thrower. A former partner in Arthur Cox, he now is a tech investor.

29er and 49er/49erFX pipeline

Another of the recommendations from the Tokyo Olympic report was the importance of a pipeline of development for the 49er (male team) and 49erFX (female team). To do this, we need to go back a step to the smaller and lighter 29er, which is sailed by both girls and boys, and is an obvious pool for young sailors aspiring to the 49er and 49erFX, and at the same time, widen the pool of potential 49er/FX sailors. To this end, 29er (and 49er/FX) training sessions are back in place, and we saw a strong mix of boys and girls compete in the 29er class at the 2022 Irish Sailing Youth Nationals, with the mixed team of Ben O'Shaughnessy and Eimer McMorrow Moriarty of Cork coming first.

In 2023 this element of the pathway will be resourced further.

ILCA 4 and Topper Winter Squads Ongoing training throughout the year is a key component of the Performance Pathway Programme.

So that the team is ready for international competitions early in summer 2023, Liam Glynn has organised new ILCA 4 and Topper Winter Squads. There has been huge interest in these squads and it is sure to make the 2023 Youth Nationals a very competitive event in these disciplines.



Irish Sailing Youth National Championships

The Youth Nationals are Ireland's biggest youth regatta for 213 young sailors under 18 from clubs all over Ireland. Hosted by Bangor club Ballyholme YC in April 2022, the event showcases the six classes identified as the best to facilitate progression through the Irish Sailing Performance Pathway.

The 2023 edition takes place in Howth Yacht club and we are anticipating record numbers.

Inspiring the next generation

Three events this summer connected the Irish Sailing Team with the broader sailing community.

Firstly, we invited local junior sailors to meet the Irish Sailing Team in Dun Laoghaire and watch them train during a specially organised medal race series with almost 200 kids out on the water.

In August, a crowd of enthusiastic supporters and fans came to Dublin Airport to welcome home gold medal winners Eve McMahon and Rocco Wright, and this was followed by an Irish Sailing Academy roadshow where the team visited in three Dublin clubs in a day. Over 200 junior sailors from Malahide YC, Sutton Dinghy Club and Howth YC met the Academy Team (Eve McMahon, Rocco Wright, Oisin Hughes, Fiachra Geraghty McDonnell, Sophie Kilmartin, and Luke Turvey).

Aoife Hopkins retires from Olympic campaigning

Irish Sailing Team member and former U21 European champion Aoife Hopkins formally announced her retirement from Olympic campaigning in October. The Howth Yacht Club sailor won the U21 ILCA6 European Championships in 2017 and achieved a personal best with 17th place overall at the 2021 ILC 6 World Championships in Oman. During the event she secured another World Championship race win, a feat first achieved at the Worlds in Denmark, 2018.

Thank you to our supporters

Much thanks is due to all our supporters; the parents and families of our athletes, the staff and board of Irish Sailing, the clubs and sailing community, as well as the huge support we receive from Sport Ireland, the Irish Sailing Foundation and Dun Laoghaire Rathdown County Council.



Photograph: David Branigan/Oceansport

ENABLERS TO DELIVER OUR KEY OBJECTIVES

7. RACING

Competition Programmes / Events

- Irish Sailing events run in 2022:
 - » Irish Sailing Junior Champions' Cup
Fastnet Outdoor Education Centre, September (32 sailors)
 - » Irish Sailing Women at the Helm event
National Yacht Club, August (over 200 sailors, 60 boats)
 - » Irish Sailing Champions' Cup 75th Anniversary
Sutton Dinghy Club, October (32 sailors)
 - » Irish Sailing Youth National Championships
Ballyholme Yacht Club, April (191 boats, 211 sailors)
- Irish Sailing Team Racing
 - » Delivered two Team Racing roadshows with Irish Sailing fireflies for 24 junior sailors
 - » Delivered Team Racing clinic to Kinsale OEC and Fastnet Marine & Outdoor Education for 16 staff
 - » Stationed fireflies in Royal Cork Yacht Club as a Centre of Excellence in the south region which has seen 82 sailors on training courses so far
 - » Irish Schools Team Racing Association (ISTRA) Nationals had 14 teams with 84 competitors and Elmo Championships saw 29 teams with 174 competitors.

Coaching Grants

In 2022 there were 5 classes that availed of the Class Coaching grant scheme: Fireball, International 420, Water Wags, GP14 and SB20 fleets.

Race Management

- The annual review of the Race Official Recognition document was carried out
- The biennial Race Officials and Support Teams Conference ran in Howth Yacht Club with 103 attendees

- Overall, 355 attendees on the 19 talks and courses in 2022
- We facilitated the EUROSAF exchange of 5 of our own officials and accommodated 11 from Europe at various events
- 26 new race official applications
- We also carried out the long-awaited race officials reappointment process facilitating the reappointment of 106 officials from 254 people on our database, with 156 applications processed
- We had our first year of race official exchanges with the South Atlantic Yacht Racing Association exchange programme with 2 of our officials travelling to Georgia
- We facilitated no less than 5 World Championship events: SB20 Worlds, Fireball Worlds, J24 Europeans, GP14 Worlds, International 505 Worlds
- We restarted our Race Official Policy Group newsletter
- We welcomed new members to the group Olive Parker and Cormac Bradley.

Racing sub-committees and working groups

Irish Sailing would like to thank the 67 volunteers on the eight racing sub-committees and working groups who generously give of their time to help guide and advise on a variety of different issues. These groups include: Ratings & Handicapping Steering Group, Racing Rules and Appeals Board, Results Managers Group, Safety Leaders Group and Team Racing Working Group.

Racing and Classes Policy Group

The Racing and Classes Policy Group was re-established with a mission to develop, support and promote Irish Sailing and its affiliated classes through engagement, collaboration and participation of all racing activity levels in Ireland and aid the growth of fleet racing within both clubs and regionally across Ireland.



Photograph: David Branigan/Oceansport

ENABLERS TO DELIVER OUR KEY OBJECTIVES

8. CRUISER RACING & IRISH CRUISER RACING ASSOCIATION (ICRA)

Irish Sailing grant aids ICRA to drive the development of Cruiser Racing.

- Supported and encouraged Yacht Racing throughout 2022
- Held a well-attended annual conference for cruiser racers at the start of the year, with special guest Tom Kneen, owner of UK yacht Sunrise which had numerous successes during 2021. The conference also gave updates on all of the ICRA activity that had taken place what was planned for 2022 plus promoting all the cruiser racing events planned for the year ahead
- Held a highly successful National Championships as part of Cork Week in July. The event exceeded the pre-event expectations in terms of entry numbers, with over 75 boats entered the championships. Racing across all divisions was felt to be highly competitive, with National Champions decided in 5 cruiser classes. The Overall winner was John Maybury's Joker II
- Continued to support and develop the highly successful under 25 programme, with funding and advice supplied. In total helping seven clubs in 2022 to continue to develop their existing squads
- Continued to develop the adjustment to ECHO handicapping, specifically designed to allow ECHO to work at a standalone national event, with ICRA committee member Liam Lynch leading a new handicap sub-committee team to further develop handicaps usage across Ireland. This revised ECHO handicap system was utilised in most major events in 2022 and proved highly successful
- Further developed and maintained the central Cruiser Racing General Rules and Championship Regs, that can be used by any event and club to provide clear guidelines for racing
- Liaised with RORC over IRC development, and lobbied on behalf of Irish boat owners
- Continued to progress its work on familiarising owners with IRC rules and obligations whilst promoting scrutineering at some major events.



ENABLERS TO DELIVER OUR KEY OBJECTIVES

9. SUSTAINABILITY

Representation & Collaboration

- Irish Sailing is on the Blue Flag jury and provides representation for marinas and coastal boaters
- Ten marinas achieved Blue Flag status in 2022 and three of those are Irish Sailing training centres and club locations: Kinsale Yacht Club Marina, Royal Cork Yacht Club Marina and Kilrush Marina
- Irish Sailing supports the “Check Clean Dry” policy promoted by the National Biodiversity Data Centre to ensure we keep our waterways clean and avoid cross contamination of invasive species.

Clean Regatta Awards

- Clean Regattas is an initiative by Sailors of the Sea and is the world’s leading sustainability certification for watersports events
- Nine events in Ireland were successful in gaining Clean Regattas certification
- Two Irish Sailing events achieved Platinum, the highest environmental standard available
- Tips on how to make a boat, venue or event more sustainable are available on www.sailing.ie/environment.

Bottles

- Irish Sailing now has an environmentally sustainable drinks bottle and thermos available for members and non-members to purchase in our online shop.



OUR MISSION

To provide an environment in which our activities are developed, supported and promoted at all levels - from recreation to competition to success on the international stage.

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