



END OF YEAR MESSAGE 2024 FROM THE CLUB CHAIRPERSON

As the end of 2024 approaches, we can look forward to another fantastic year of sailing for 2025. Each year brings something different, new sailing grounds, whimsical stories, and the odd mishap in hindsight can be funny as time passes, albeit maybe not at the time. Renewal of membership starts in April, so hopefully between now and then you have decided to make SID your permanent home for sailing and getting out on the water, not to mention learning new skills, both sailing and social, as in how to manage grumpy sailors.

A big thank you to the committee old and new for all the work and time spent on the club activities over the past year and to those ordinary members who give of their time in keeping the wheels of sailing moving, not that we use wheels much.

We remember Maeve Dolan who sadly passed away this year (a recent past member), and all those members from past years that are now deceased.

Enjoy your Christmas and have a great 2025. Now is the time to start planning your year ahead.

Keep an even keel over the next week.

Dermot Avery
~ Sailing in Dublin Club Chairperson



KEELBOATS

The Irish Winter weather has lived up to expectations with light winds and then also stormy conditions leading to cancellations both of day sailing and racing. Silverwind and Mayfly have been out and about on quite a few day sails since the last newsletter. Mayfly sailed in the Turkey Shoot; racing was well subscribed and some added training sessions worked well. Two races were cancelled due to windy weather, races 4 and 6, The overall winner was a fellow Beneteau 31.7 so all to play for in the Spring Chicken series.

Mayfly has been entered into the [ISORAs](#) and also into the 2025 [Volvo Dun Laoghaire Regatta](#) (July 10th to 13th). Expressions of interest for the Spring Chicken, the Volvo and the ISORAs will be sent out in early 2025.

A big call out to the maintenance crew for keeping us safely on the water – volunteers still welcome I believe.

Patricia Heckmann
~ Keelboat Secretary

DINGHIES

In October, SID was in the position to hold on to a written-off Fireball. The starboard-tacked Fireball was rammed by a port-tacked boat during a race. As you can see in the first picture, both the deck and the hull were badly damaged. A quotation from a professional boat builder estimated the repair at over two grand, which was more than the value of the boat.

So now we had a boat that was too damaged to be repaired professionally. What do you do with it? We could not bear the thought of taking it to a garbage dump. Pat McGoldrick and Tobias asked around what the steps were to get it fixed. After some internet research, it turned out that the Fireball deck has three layers: inner sheet, foam, and outer sheet. It seemed particularly tricky to seal that deck to the hull.

Pat started by ripping out all the damaged fiberglass, which resulted in a 30 cm hole. The next challenge was: How do you fill that hole with fiberglass? A couple of suggestions arose: Blow up a large balloon under the hole to support the inner fiberglass layer. That was a ridiculous idea. Where do you get a balloon that size, and how do you pump it up? Soak sheets of fiberglass in resin, let it harden, and stick them over the hole. That is better, but it does make a mess. The best solution was to make small holes in the deck, put string through them, and use the string to hold a board in place under the hole so you can lay new fiberglass. That worked, and in picture #2, you can see the inner layer in place.

The next step was adding foam. After a couple of attempts, Pat and Tobias managed to get the foam right. They lashed four sheets of fiberglass over it. The next day, that had set. It just needed some finishing touches, see picture #3.

Finally, we applied the gelcoat. If you ever have to do it, don't do it on a chilly, drizzly day. We thought we'd be clever and cover the gelcoat with cling film (it does not need air to dry, after all). The next day we learned that this is not a good idea: The cling film was a disaster. It got stuck to the gelcoat and roughened the finish. We needed some serious sanding and more gelcoat to get it into shape.

But the end result is fantastic! Please admire picture #4. The boat sails well! All that at a cost of less than 200 euros.

Paul ter Horst
~ Dinghy Secretary



CRUISING

Planning for the 2025 cruising season will start in the new year (Skippers keep any eye out for planning emails soon to come) There's still lots of beautiful anchorages, inlets and great marinas in south Brittany that you won't have had a chance to visit in previous years, plus the lovely Isles of Scilly and our own southwest coast. Hoping all skippers will keep at least a week free to take the SID cruise boat and crew adventuring on parts of the 2025 cruising season. Short cruise trips are also in demand, so there'll be some long weekend trips put into the calendar from March onwards.

Sonja Masterson
~ Cruising Officer

CLUB SOCIAL EVENTS IN 2024

We had a number of social events in 2024 - starting off the sailing season with a Ruff Diamond lift in / unveiling event in April - this event was well attended with about 30 of our members, not bad considering the stormy weather that day. All had a chance to have a look at our Ruffian keelboat who took up residence on the marina for the day so everyone could admire the glow up she had over the winter period! Still looking great, she is now over in the coal harbour for the winter months, keeping an eye over the SID clubhouse.

Next up we had the annual summer BBQ in August. The DMYC was the venue for this one. Members were treated to a meat feast with double patty burgers and ice cream, and of course the relaxing vibe and good prices at the DMYC bar!

Onwards to Sept, and it was time to celebrate 40 years of SID. And that we did with a evening of nostalgia and a delicious dinner courtesy of the National Yacht Club. Guests were given branded cupcakes and keyrings to take home with them as a memento of the evening, although the cupcakes didn't last long! Thank you once again to both of the evening's speakers - Stuart and Dermot, and to Stuart for his visual presentation that brought the room on a trip down SID's memory lane!

Finally into December, we had the SID Christmas Party in Doheny and Nesbitts - glasses of bubbly, finger food, a raffle and The Pogues Fairytale of New York on repeat kept club members entertained for the evening! Well done to the winners of the best dressed competition - Linda Ffrench and Patricia Heckmann - two stunning Mrs Claus's! As for the rest of the evening... well... what happens on Doheny and Nesbitts stays in Doheny and Nesbitts...

A week later, we enjoyed Linda's Mulled Wine & Mince Pie event on Silver Wind - a well enjoyed tradition every year in SID in aid of the RNLI, and this year was no exception - plenty of mulled wine, and delicious food for all to enjoy and a fantastic sum of €325 raised - well done Linda, looking forward to next year already!



TRAINING

First Aid Course - Jan 2025

We have 2 groups of 8 members each to do the First Aid course on 12th and 19th Jan 2025.

I will be calling for another date later Feb-Mar. Any course offers from training centres will be sent via email or on WhatsApp training group.

Natalia Niewidok
~ Training Officer

CLUB MERCHANDISE

More on the club clothing range into 2025.

McWilliam SID branded bags are currently available to all our members.

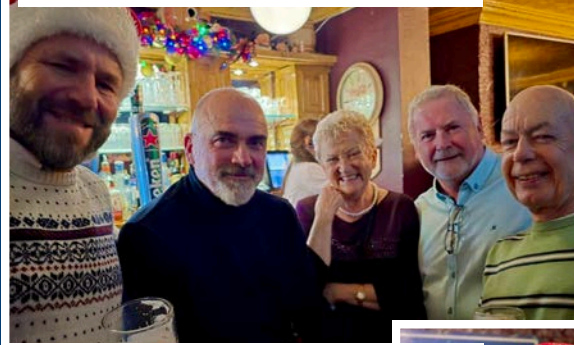
Small €80 / Medium €85 / Large €90

Navy stripe and handles. Club logo embroidered on one side. Owners name can be embroidered for small extra cost.

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PHOTO GALLERY





**WISHING ALL OUR MEMBERS
A VERY HAPPY CHRISTMAS
AND NEW YEAR!**



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