

## ROYAL NORTH OF IRELAND YACHT CLUB

### SUPPORTED SOCIAL SAILING - COVID 19

#### ISSUE 3

The Club is delighted to see members getting on the water in their own boats over the last two weeks. We have seen sailors in RS400s, Lasers and Toppers, additionally members are enjoying paddle boards, kayaks and windsurfing. All are following the current Government COVID-19 guidance especially social distancing, the use of hand sanitiser, carefully rinsing down their boats etc. This has all been undertaken in the understanding that no on the water support was provided by the Club.

We now wish to extend the opportunities for members to sail their own boats a couple of times per week, knowing that some support will be available on the water, if required. This is based on current RYA(NI) Guidelines and in conjunction with a series of Club COVID-19 protocols. We can only implement this with the support of our safety boat and tractor driving volunteers. Our safety boat volunteers have agreed to crew Emergency Tow Boats (ETBs), to provide emergency tow support, at agreed times. This will be emergency towing and other essential services only. This support facility is being provided initially for members sailing their own boats.

**Members should be aware that all water-based activity is at their own risk whether a tow-boat is present or not.**

This facility will commence on Wednesday 17 June 2020 and initially, the two supported time periods will be-

|            |                   |
|------------|-------------------|
| Wednesdays | 5.00 pm to 7.30pm |
| Saturdays  | 1.00pm to 5.00pm  |

Any members intending to sail at these times should notify the Club by emailing the Manager ([manager@rniyc.org](mailto:manager@rniyc.org)) by 3.00pm the day before, giving a mobile phone number which they consent to be added to a WhatsApp group. The manager will administer a WhatsApp group (RNIYC Sailing COVID19) to enable sailors to be advised, at short notice if necessary, that supported sailing may/may not be taking place due, for example, to sudden weather changes or unforeseen unavailability of support boat crew, or if the number of participants needs to be restricted. Members will be expected to respect advice given by the WhatsApp administrator and the decisions made by support boat crew regarding the safety of sailing in any session and any individual safety guidance they give on or off the water.

- All activity should be undertaken in keeping with current Government COVID-19 guidance- social distancing, hand / equipment washing etc. and RYA(NI) Guidance. etc

- You must email [manager@rniyc.org](mailto:manager@rniyc.org) by 3 pm the day before the session you intend to sail, you MUST provide your mobile phone number which you consent to be added to the WhatsApp group.
- Keep aware of messages on the WhatsApp group in the 24hr. before any session.
- Respect the decisions and guidance of the support RIB crew.
- Members remain free to use their own boats and sail at their own risk outside these times; see Leisure sailing:  
<https://www.rniyc.org/assets/uploads/RNIYC-Leisure-sailing-final-doc.pdf>

We hope to get back to normal sailing as soon as possible but in the meantime, we hope that this facility helps you enjoy your social sailing.

**Support may be withdrawn at any time and is likely to be withdrawn if Government COVID-19 changes require or if members misuse this facility**