

Fairy Report 2022

9th September – The club menagerie race has been cancelled as a mark of respect to Her Majesty the Queen.

8th – Yuk yuk yuk – It was piddling down with rain, Brick on shore to assist with successfully recovering Psyche, was able to watch the start and saw Minx go out and Maimoune go in.....the rest of the race from Simon's perspective reads as follows:

A brisk wet north easterly greeted the six survivors. Psyche having decided to lift out, Lates and Overall sewn up with a race to spare - and Fay not relishing the damp conditions.

Tide in full flood suggested a tack inshore might be best. Finvara came up the line on Starboard was ducked by Lorelei but crossed by Maimoune, both on Port. Pixie went right from around the inner limit and Minx and Banshee both went out which did not prove to be a good plan. Finvara tacked onto Port at the outer limit, managed to stay high and crossed everybody, maintaining that lead to the finish of the single lap.

Pixie, Maimoune and Lorelei criss-crossed variously all the way to five, rounding in close line astern in that order, which was maintained on the reach to 4, the roly-poly run to W and the short fetch to the line. Minx and Banshee concluded the damp proceedings and all were ashore, just, before the end of nautical twilight. So endeth the penultimate lesson.

Thanks to Simon for the commentary above. We were, of course shocked and saddened to hear of the death of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II; which was announced after all the boats were off their moorings and getting ready to sail, and there was a subdued and sombre atmosphere on the shore as the flag was lowered to half-mast. Long live the King.

6th – There were some nasty winds overnight on Saturday night and Sunday night, but no damage to any of the boats. Eight boats gathered for a race on Tuesday night under darkening skies. Fiend lifted out safe and sound. SE wind – 5-10kts. As racing got underway, the heavens opened. It rained and rained and rained. Rain squashed the wind so it was a bit of a slow lap in the rain. I cannot comment on the race as I was called away for a family emergency. However Pixie secured a victory from Finvara and Lorelei.

3rd – The predicted poor weather did not materialise and several boat crews who had decided to stay away missed out on an OK day of sailing. There was a SE very variable breeze. IT was swinging violently and variable in strength from 5-15kts. Six boats answered the gun, the varying breeze catching out the whole fleet who were well matched in a line well short of the line. Course was E-3-2-home – 2 laps. From the off going between the lines Psyche had a marked speed difference on the rest and under Holly's guidance she sailed away from the others, she was 4 or 5 boat lengths clear by the time she rounded the East line. Spinnakers up and out to Jewel. Pixie, protected her second place on the run and had a close battle with Lorelei and Maimoune. Most boats tried a gybe at Jewel but by the time they were half-way to Hollywood East they had all switched to white sails. On the beat home, Lorelei tacked early and tried the left side, it didn't pay and it was about taking the lifts

and knocks when they came. It got very shifty close in to the shore and Fay and Lorelei had a minor incident at the west line when one of the big shifts meant that what seemed like an easy 'cross' turned into a potential collision. Fay took evasive action and Lorelei did her turns, just as she started the turns the wind dropped and the turns seemed to take an eternity. Out front, Psyche kept her nose clean sailing fast and sailing away from the others. On the second lap, it was more of the same, Pixie getting away from Maimoune and securing her second place. Lorelei did have a recovery and managed to get through Banshee in the only place change on the second lap. Psyche won it by a full 5 minutes and were already back on their moorings by the time the next boat finished.

2nd – Sheevra lifted out ahead of a stormy forecast and a large low pressure system sitting over the UK for the next week.

1st September – Sea breeze was dying as we went out to rig. Wind was 5-8kts from NE again. Course was 6-5-home. Double toot at the start and Pixie and Finvara went back. Sheevra broke from the pack and tried to get the lift of the shore, The rest of the fleet stayed out looking for fresher breeze. At Dunratho, Psyche was the clear leader from Fay. Maimoune was next followed by Fiend, Sheevra and Lorelei. Banshee and the late starting pair were at the back. Maimoune rolled over Fay on the fetch to Dalchoolin. On the run home Pixie gained a couple of places. The beat between the lines saw Maimoune secure 2nd place behind Psyche. Fay got no TOOT at the finish, that was when she learned that she was over at the start. Fiend were third with Sheevra just pipping Lorelei for 4th. Banshee were 6th and Pixie improved up to 7th.

30th- Eight boats joined the six Squibs at the start. Light breeze of 6-8 kts from NE. Course was 6-home. We were only able to get 1 lap in. Tide was dropping and those who went out were hoping to get a bit of an assistance. However those who went in, Psyche, Maimoune and Pixie made on the inside with a slight increase in breeze and a lift up the shore. Psyche had managed to improve her position following an incident on the start-line where she got her boom tangled in the rig of the leeward Finvara. Turns done and she started last. Sheevra, Finvara and Minx went out, and all lost out. By the time we reached Dunratho, Maimoune was leading from Sheevra with Pixie and the improving Psyche close behind. The run back saw Maimoune staying out and most others gybing at the mark and trying to gain boat speed by completing the leg in 2 gybes. Pixie were able to roll Sheevra, who then fell into the shadow of Psyche and was rolled by her. Maimoune lost out in the rounding of the West line, Sheevra lost another place with Finvara nipping into a gap. Psyche got through Maimoune to secure second behind Pixie who gained her first win for her new owners. Minx Lorelei and Fay all rounded the west line in very close order and had a great short battle between the lines.

27th- Saturday racing returned to the club and we joined the RS Elite National Championships and Squib championships on the water. They were racing round a course to the east of our race area. Eights Fairies were out in a fresh sea breeze coming straight up the lough. 10-15kts with a short chop was coming in from NE. Two boats were missing as their helms were involved in the other championships, Pixie and Fiend getting OOD points in their absence. Course was set by Terry Rowan; our Hon. Sailing Secretary, as 6-5-home and we had 2 laps. Psyche, Minx and Sheevra got away well, Sheevra went right looking for flatter water, Finvara went further right along with Lorelei. Banshee and Maimoune stayed out. Psyche then came back across the middle of the beat and that paid. She led as they rounded Dunratho. Minx were a very close second with Sheevra third. Behind them Banshee and Lorelei were having a good tussle with Fay and Maimoune. Sheevra gained on the leaders as breeze got broader and lighter on the run home. On the second beat, Psyche again got an advantage 'up the middle', Minx and Sheevra lost some ground going left and right respectively. Lorelei, who wanted to lift out for a clean, lifted themselves out on a rock well inshore of Dunratho,

and on a falling tide were quite lucky to get themselves back off. Banshee gained a place back on her while she was wobbling about on her lofty perch. Finvara also gained place on Fay relegating the red boat to the back. Sheevra gained some ground again on the run home but could not catch Minx, who in turn could not catch Psyche who held on for a nice win in the sunshine.



25th – The green boards were out for the first time in ages. Wind was W going NW at about 6-8 kts. The lines were busy as lots of Squibs and Elites were on the water preparing for their coming championships. Course was 1-6-home, 1 lap. Many Fairies were too early for the start and three were over at the gun but all went back. Finvara, Psyche? and Pixie? I think were the returners identification was difficult. I was concentrating! There was lifts to be had up the shore on starboard so Sheevra, Banshee and Minx ploughed that furrow. Fiend Psyche and Lorelei tried out into the tide, but seemed to overstand the leg back to Pump Point. Minx went up the middle and rounded behind Sheevra who had made it in a one tack beat. The long run to Dunratho saw Sheevra escape the 'dirt' and extend their lead, the rest of the fleet were having a great close battle, mixed in with the Elite fleet. It made for quite a sight with 14 spinnakers bearing down on the leader. Rounding Dunratho in such a close bunch proved problematic for some, several turns required after minor bumps and mark hitting. Sheevra, again stayed clear and got away through the tidal gate. Fiend managed a tight rounding inside Minx and Psyche. Maimoune and Finvara got into a tangle allowing Lorelei and Pixie to get through. As Sheevra were approaching the lines, the boards came in (much to Brick's relief) and Sheevra held on for a win. Fiend managed to nip in front of Psyche and Pixie improving to 4th.

23rd – Evenings are starting to draw in, Pixie decided to lift out to replace a halyard and have a clean, but all 10 others answered the gun. It had been quiet all day, but a late NE'ly 6-10kts came up the lough and provided enough breeze to set a course. We were set 6-5 home, 1 lap. In a rising tide it was about trying to keep in out of tide but to stay in enough breeze out. Fiend, Finvara and Sheevra got away well, Lorelei and Psyche were in the 2nd row. Maimoune and Minx went in early after the

start and lost out in a hole between the lines. Fiend and Psyche gained on their first dart inshore, Sheevra then swapped the lead after she went in. Fay and Finvara were also in the hunt, but lost ground at the top of the beat. On the fetch between Dunratho and Dalchooilin, Sheevra stayed a little higher in the tide and managed to overhaul Psyche. Fiend were next, then after the tidal gate there was a bit of a gap to Fay. Sheevra managed to gain a few meters on the run to the West line and were mighty relieved to see the boards come in. The battle between the lines was won by Fiend who nipped in front of Psyche. Finvara lost ground after a minor 'ding' with Maimoune. Another 'dead- heat' for 6th place between Maimoune and Lorelei. Mousme had a decent 5th behind Fay, and was then recovered ashore, her injury ridden season now over.

20th – RNIYC Regatta – If you want to know the weather, look out the window! At 0900 the weather was horrible, heavy rain, 35kts of breeze, it was horrible. The forecast said the breeze was to go down all day, they were nearly right. By the time we were going afloat at 1130 the breeze had subsided. Committee boat had stationed itself off Royal Belfast Golf Club. Eight crews (at least) left the pier. A couple of boats did the 2-step and decided not to sail. Leaving 6 boats to start. By the time we were starting wind was SW 15-20kts bit of a sea running, lots of waves breaking over bows. Simon and Dawson had the best start of the year with a port end flyer, crossing the whole fleet on port by a country mile. By the time we reached the windward mark Maimoune was still in the lead with Sheevra hot on her heels and Psyche and Pixie in close contention. Banshee and Lorelei were super brave and put the coloured stuff up on the downwind leg, however it didn't make a huge difference. Pixie lost out when they overstood the line on the bat. Later on the second beat the wind had increased more, Maimoune lost out on the right side, Sheevra gained on the left. Psyche were also very close and made gains on the left side early on. Psyche were sailing free and fast and got away from Sheevra who were punching high. Psyche were leading and Maimoune rounded the second windward mark beside Sheevra, but lost weigh and hit the mark and had to do a 360. Psyche were able to cover Sheevra all the way up the last beat home for the win. Lorelei and Banshee battled hard throughout and were never far away from the action, however on the podium were Sheevra 2nd and Maimoune 3rd. Pixie were 4th. The beat home was in the biggest breeze of the day with big waves over the bow and tricky mooring conditions. All ashore feeling tired and salty for tea and sticky buns.

19th The club received a call from the Pilot boat who had escorted a drifting boat out of the shipping channel. It was Mousme, who had broken away from her mooring. Frank, Colin and Brick launched a rib into a big NE swell and set off for a wet ride to Carrickfergus. A boat from the Lagan Rescue team were on site about 30 seconds before us and with their bigger more powerful rib they agreed to assist with a tow. With Brick on board they towed Mousme (who appeared totally undamaged) back to the moorings. She is now safely tied on to an outer 'big boat' mooring. Many thanks as always to our rescue team, Frank and Colin in particular. It appeared to me that the bow fitting on the front of Mousme had 'chewed' through the rope strop from her mooring.

18th August- More bad news from the weather gods as they brought squally showers all day followed in the early evening by a period of calm then an absolute nightmare squall which lasted for 2 hours. Blowing from the NW boats on the moorings were pitching quite violently for a while, making it risky to try and board. No sailing.

16th August – Strong Northerlies came in overnight on Monday night into Tuesday morning. Wind grew stronger all day and by 1700, it was a steady onshore 20kts, with more in the gusts. Boats rocking on the moorings with masts going like metronomes. No-one ventured out.

13th – CSC Regatta – Gorgeous – That is the only word to describe a perfect day for sailing. The class was brilliantly represented with eight boats in attendance. We left the moorings about 11.30 and had an easy fetch across the Lough to Carrickfergus. Fred Campbell had been instrumental in encouraging the class to go over and to try and get ashore.



The Admiral flying his Ensign proudly pre-start going past the castle

The hosts at Carrickfergus Sailing Club were great, providing berthing and safety boats to bring us into the marina. Wind inshore was very soft and there was a bit of a chop further out. Average wind strength was 8-10kts. It was the busiest start line of the regatta with 8 Fairies joined by a large fleet of Flying 15's. Bias on the line saw the inside being favoured, however the outer end was in more breeze. Psyche got the best start and were able to tack and cross the fleet on port. Sheevra were next followed closely by Pixie. At the end of the beat, Psyche were in the lead from Sheevra. There was a small gap to the chasing pack which was led by Maimoune who had benefited by a hitch on the left side. The first part of the downwind leg was too fine for the coloured stuff, but the wind broadened as we went out and Minx and Banshee hoisted. The fetch back to the lines was also too fine, Psyche still leading from Sheevra, then Sheevra went from 2nd to 7th as she slid into a hole inshore and then got caught on port tack and couldn't get out into the breeze.



Maimoune leading the chasing pack

The second lap was a little longer and Psyche stayed well clear of the chasing pack. Fay were up in the hunt and had a real ding-dong battle with Pixie and Maimoune. Minx and Banshee were also duking it out all the way round. The final tight reach to the finish saw Psyche winning clear. The podium was occupied by Pixie 2nd and Fay 3rd. Sheevra recovered to 4th equal with Maimoune. Banshee were next with Minx coming in as the last finisher. The 'gorgeous boys' on Lorelei had retired part way round the second lap having got stuck in a tidal trap in a hole at the top of the beat. Six crews went ashore to enjoy the wonderful hospitality of our hosts.



Refreshments before the race on board winner Psyche

11th – Phew what a scorcher, Sheevra dropped back in. Nine Fairies on the line after a slight delay getting out at low water. Course was an ambitious 6-5-1-home x2 laps. Minx, Fiend and Psyche were on the line at the start, Sheevra were early and went around to get an inside slot in the second row. They tacked for the shire to get out of the tide. Most of the fleet stayed out, Fiend came in and had a great tussle with Sheevra all the way up the beat getting ahead at Dunratho. Psyche were third with Minx, Pixie and Lorelei all in close attendance. Sheevra got through Fiend on the run back. Psyche went high and gained ground. On the second beat, Fiend and Sheevra went in early again and it paid even more this time. By the time they reached Dunratho Fiend was 2 boat lengths ahead. On the fetch to Dalchoolin, Sheevra stayed high and it was rewarded when Fiend couldn't quite make the mark and collapsed onto port right in front of Sheevra. Turns were done, allowing Sheevra to escape through the tidal gate into a good lead. The chasing pack struggled in a disappearing breeze to get round No.5 and Lorelei capped off an eventful evening with her second mark collision to add to her 'running aground' bump, bump, bump. Fay and Maimoune managed to see the events in front of them and gained where others lost out. Eventually the Dalchoolin challenge became insurmountable to some and they were forced to retire. Sheevra held on for the win, Fiend held off the recovering Fay for 2nd.

9th August – Harry flatters – No wind in the sailing area greeted us at 1730. We watched as some wind came up the lough and receded. Several crews went afloat, some came back almost immediately. Others rigged more in hope, than expectation then at about the time for the preparatory signal, the OOD raised the N flag and sounded 2 horns, cancelling sailing for the evening. Unfortunately, the next band of breeze that came up the lough did not recede and the boats still afloat had an enjoyable unofficial race to 6 and back, even getting a second lap in. Wind 0-10 kts WSW. Sheevra lifted out for a clean.

7th August – Frivver cup – The teams from RNIYC and SLYC assembled at the club for the 'Home' fixture for the Fairy Class in warm conditions on Sunday morning. Wind was WSW 8-12 kts. Using the club launch as a committee boat and ably assisted by Frank Haslett and Colin Taylor in two club ribs who were laying marks. Three boats were drawn for each team, the River Class drew, Banshee, Lorelei and Fiend, the Fairy class drew: Minx, Psyche and Sheevra. Wind dropped at the start of the first race and all boats were late. Banshee was first over the line followed by Fiend and Minx. At the top of the first beat, it was very even across the two teams, River Class holding 1,3,5 Fairies 2,4,6. On the second beat, Jamie Hume and Holly Campbell played a blinder and gained a few places, Sheevra at the back was slow on boat speed but was earnestly trying to hold up the 5th place boat from the Rivers which was Lorelei.



At the end of the race Fairy Class held 1.3,6 against 2,4,5 from the River class.

The second race had a much more competitive start with a bit of friendly shouting.



Thanks to Leah for some of the pics!

Sheevra were well away after Psyche took Lorelei past the end of the line. Sheevra later were able to sacrifice their position in order to demote Lorelei and promote Psyche who were carrying much better boat speed.



That pattern continued with Minx and Psyche picking their way up the order past Banshee and Fiend to hold positions 1 and 2. Sheevra, lost out in their close battle with Lorelei, but by then the result was sealed finishing 1,2,6 for the Fairies and 3,4,5 for the River class. Great fun on the water well organised by Peter Bates and Heather Livingston on the committee boat. Back ashore for an excellent lunch and the 'passing of the plate' thanks to the River class and its' members for their continued support of this fun day out.

6th August – CAYC Regatta (Whitehead) – After a gap of 10 or 12 years, two of the Fairies made it to the lovely Whitehead Bay. Sheevra and Banshee slipped their moorings at RNIYC at 1045, and in a favourable SSW breeze of 10 kts headed off for the outer end of Cloughan Jetty. We both arrived in

plenty of time at CAYC (90 minutes early), but the wind was perfect for getting us there, so we were able to have our picnic before the start.



Brian wondering if there is enough ice in his Gin and Tonic

There was a low turnout for the race with race 7 (our race) probably being the biggest fleet of the keel boats with 9 starters. Wind in close to the clubhouse was highly variable in direction and strength. Banshee took an early lead and extended with some decent spinnaker work. We were completing 3 laps and on the second lap Sheevra managed to gain a little bit back on the 'flukey' tight fetch across the line. On the third lap, Banshee dropped her spinnaker pole and had to drop kite and go back to retrieve it. This left Sheevra with a glimmer of hope as she gained again. Then on the last close fetch home, Sheevra managed (more by luck than judgement) to hold a higher course and missed the worst of the swinging wind shifts and got through Banshee for a very fortunate win.



Banshee backlit by the colourful Whitehead shoreline

The wind had freshened to 12-15 kts from SW by this stage and a long beat home beckoned. WE had hoped to get some shelter on the County Down side but the ugly short swell followed us over and we had a pretty wet bouncy beat all the way home. Thanks to Frank and Cham for organising a rib to be left out for us to get ashore.

4th August – After the postponement of the Inglis Cup in July, it was rescheduled to coincide with the last race in the mid-season points. It had been blowing hard all day and we had a NNW breeze pushing a few decent waves up the shore at the club. A wet ride in the launch put 9 crews on the boats and after a short delay from a few crews in the jabby sea, all the crews rigged and slipped their moorings. Course was W-E-3-2-home, 2 laps. Wind was coming in gusts from 8-20kts. Fairies at times right on their ears. Psyche Minx and Finvara made great, great starts with Pixie and Sheevra also in the front row. The first beat was the clincher, those who went right made the gains and Minx (who later confessed they wanted to go left but were pinned) gained the most and were well clear when they reached Jewel. Finvara were next with Banshee and Psyche. Lorelei, who were battling for mid-season honours were back in 7th. The first run home from Holywood east saw Minx extend her lead and Sheevra and Lorelei both getting past Pixie who had a broken spinnaker pole. On the second beat, Minx covered Finvara and stayed ahead. Lorelei gained a couple of places and Pixie recovered a couple of places by staying on the right side of the beat. The second run was more marginal for kites as the wind had increased. Finvara tried hard, gybing to try and get a gain, but to no avail as Jamie and Henry stayed clear ahead to put two trophies in the bag. Psyche were 3rd with Lorelei recovering well to get 4th.

2nd August – Well forecast stiff breeze arrived on Tuesday afternoon, and by the time sailors were assembling there was a lumpy swell and a covering of white horses galloping through the moorings.

A rescue boat was launched and boats on their moorings were checked for water. All riding the swell OK. No sailing tonight.

30th July – Crew's race – Nine crews were out competing on a day with more breeze than forecast and a few white horses appearing. Wind was NE going to East, 10-15kts. Two boats over at the start, three went back, Conor on Fiend was the un-necessary returners, Toby on Psyche and Eric Pixie correctly exonerated themselves. Brian on Sheevra and Michael on Finvara were the early leaders on the first beat. Leandre on Banshee and Jacquie on Fay were up at the front as well.



The rounding of the first windward mark was super close, with six boats within touching distance of each other arriving on opposing tacks. Michael on Finvara led from Jacquie on Fay and Brian on Sheevra. Course was 6-5-home, 2 laps. As we were rounding No5, the fleet were very close, Toby on Psyche tried to gybe inside Banshee and a clear shout from Fred was heard, "DON'T HIT THE MARK, DON'T HIT THE MARK, OHHHH YOU HIT THE MARK". On the run back from Dalchoolin in the stiff breeze it was a toss-up whether to fly a kite. Sheevra did and managed to get through Fay, although the gains were small. The cluster of boats was impressive as we approached the lines at the end of lap 1. Brian on Sheevra crossed the line in the lead from Michael on Finvara. The second beat was more of the same, close crossing through the whole fleet. Eric on Pixie was picking his way through the fleet after starting at the back of the pack and made further gains on the pack on the second beat.



Conor on Fiend, Paul on Lorelei and Dawson on Maimoune were locked in a close battle at the back of the fleet, but were still in touch with the leaders in a very close race. The wind had swung to the right and the second run was a bit tighter and made the flying of kites more marginal. Banshee hoisted and did gain on Sheevra and Fay, although in the drop and subsequent rounding of the West line, she had problems and lost several places. Michael 'The Mailman' Kennedy delivered a great win from Eric on Pixie who just squeezed in front of Brian on Sheevra at the East line. As the leader finished all nine boats were between the lines, super close racing on a Saturday afternoon.

30th July – After some paint removal and inspection by a couple of shipwrights, Snipe was reloaded onto her road trailer this morning. She has been taken to a shipwright in Ardglass for initial works of deck & keel bolt removal and initial rib replacement.

28th July – Gorgeous evening, nice light breeze, good course, wonderful sunset, Carlsberg don't do evening sailing.....

Wind was a light NE 6-8 knots. Nine Fairies out having fun. A few of the fleet rock hopping up the shore and a few trying to stay in fresher breeze outside. Minx shot away with family Hume on board for the second night and were never seen again. They covered the fleet well and extended their lead as they went around for a great victory. Course was 6-home x2 laps. The chasing pack had really close racing. Maimoune showing the perils of making minor errors in such a close fleet as she went from 2nd at the first windward mark to last by the end. By Simon's own admission he had a few 'brain fades' (I cleaned that quote up to protect the innocent) on the way round. At least 2 boats did some turns having 'fessed up' to making some errors. Finvara making an error of judgement between "port tack" and "starboard tack". Then Maimoune almost taking out Fay on the last beat. At the front of the fleet Psyche and Lorelei tried but failed to catch F1. In the middle of the fleet Finvara, Fiend, Sheevra and Fay were swapping places and at the end Maimoune and Banshee were really close. Great evening racing.

26th July – The wind and rain cleared and left a sunny warm evening. It also left a residual swell giving us bumpy conditions. Course was 6-5-home-5-4-home. Sheevra were first to tack for the shore, but those outside on the outer limit were closer to windward and had an advantage. Psyche and Lorelei both came in as well. Banshee stayed out with Finvara and Maimoune and they gained. Minx led at Dunratho, where there was a bit of a kerfuffle with boats trying to shoot the mark, not quite making the mark and having very late tacks trying squeeze in. Psyche and Maimoune both lost out. It was still a beat to 5, and Sheevra gained some ground staying inshore. The run home saw Minx extend her lead, Finvara had gained ground but Banshee were also in the hunt. Left shift saw the course changed and most of the fleet stayed inshore, Sheevra, Fiend and Psyche tried going out and all lost out hitting the worst of the swell on the nose. Minx were faultless to the finish, and Banshee stayed in 2nd with Finvara holding on to 3rd. At the back there was a close finish between Sheevra, Pixie and Psyche with Fay just behind.

23rd July – 'The Fairy Worlds' – Inglis Cup – Members of the class assembled at the club with the weather exactly as forecast. Southerly wind with large gusts and heavy rain showers. Several sailors went afloat to change batteries and pump out. The word from the moorings was, heavy gusts, and while it might have been sailable, it would not have been enjoyable. So common sense prevailed and we decided not to race. Proposal is to sail for the Inglis Cup on Thursday 4th August.

21st July –Tonight we had a challenging race in lumpy conditions. Wind was 10-12kts from the North. Course was 5-4-home, 2 laps. An X-flag was raised at the start and no-one went back, more later, Lorelei, Pixie and Psyche showed well off the line. Fiend and Sheevra went out most of the fleet stayed inshore. This paid for Sheevra who were in contention at Dalchoolin. Lorelei were leading from Pixie, then Sheevra and Psyche. On the downwind leg from Killymard, Fiend came into contention getting ahead of Sheevra with Psyche also gaining. Banshee lost out following a gybe. On the second beat, Finvara improved a few places and Minx appeared in contention improving from the back of the fleet. Lorelei had further improved her lead, Pixie dropped back a bit and Fiend had improved up to second. The last run home was dead downwind and a few accidental gybes caught people out, Pixie and Banshee both having problems. Lorelei held on for a clear win from Psyche (Holly's last sail before the veil), and Fiend.



Holly's last sail, before the veil – Good luck for Saturday!

Pixie did not finish, but that was OK as they were the guilty party at the start and would have scored an OCS.

Now bit of history....The story of **Hero**, a Priestess who lived on an island and **Leander**, a young man from the opposite side of the strait. Leander fell in love with Hero and would swim every night across the Hellespont to spend time with her. This is why many swimming clubs are named after Leander.

Tonight, after racing, we re-enacted this Greek myth from the side of Banshee, the first to swim was William who slid into the water while the boat was on the moorings in a horrible lumpy unpredictable swell. Our 'hero' was Leandre, who raised the alarm and drew the attention of the launch. William who was properly equipped in an automatic life jacket was pulled on board the launch and Sam Lyness joined Leandre to help her pack up the boat.....then Hero became Leander as poor Leandre herself leaned on the boom crutch which gave way and she went for a swim as well. The alarm was raised again and again with life jacket deployed, Leandre was safely brought aboard a launch. Both swimmers were fine and able to enjoy a warming sailing supper ashore.

19th July – A warm balmy day gave way to a glassy evening. All eleven Fairies were crewed up and sails hoisted on light wind settings and moorings dropped ready for a drifter. As far as I can work out, this was the first time in at least 12 years that we had all of our sailable boats out together.

Two course changes before the first gun gave an indication of the changeable conditions. Then as the first gun fired a breeze grew from the NW, then it turned into a strong breeze and by the time the 'F' flag came down we were in 20kts and a heavy chop. Several crews, you know who you are!!! were under dressed expecting light and balmy, but by the time we had sailed for 5 minutes after the start, I did not need a bell on my bike.....my knickers were ringing! Course was 2-3-home, 2 laps. Although I did not hear it, there were two toots at the start and Lorelei went back. Minx, Banshee and Maimoune were in the first group, Psyche and Pixie came next and Sheevra were in the hunt as well. Before the first beat was complete, several boats had retired and picked up their moorings. Conditions were really testing. By the time we rounded Hollywood East, Minx were clear leaders, Finvara were next with Maimoune and Psyche next. Minx and Finvara were brave enough to fly the coloured stuff back to the East Line. By now, Sheevra, Mousme, Fay and Fiend had called it a day. The other 7 ploughed on. Banshee doing well and crawling through Finvara from her lee. At the top of the beat on the second lap, Maimoune had got through Finvara and Banshee to take second. Psyche had dropped back and were locked in a close battle with Pixie. Lorelei had climbed back through the fleet from her OCS. Minx held on for a win from Maimoune and Finvara who had a very close finish. Picking up the moorings was the final challenge and we were ably assisted by our rescue crew who were on hand to provide assistance. Can't sat when I ever enjoyed a shower more.

****Brick now back from sailing round the NW corner of Ireland*****

16 July -Expecting a warm sunny day with a sea breeze but in fact a high overcast, intermittent light rain and an offshore breeze from the Hollywood direction bringing intermittent rain is what greeted the fleet. Fiend had earlier hauled out for a wee scrub and some rigging repairs but all 10 remaining Fairies answered the call.

A stbd hand course set, first round W-3-4-Home. Fay showed us all how to do it hitting the line at speed bang on time with Lorelei Minx, Finvara and Psyche creaming along at the outer end in the next rank followed by the others from the inner end with Mousme a bit adrift re-securing an errant shroud shackle. Spinnakers up and out, a spot of mackerel fishing with the kite but no damage on Sheevra gave them some catching-up to do. Minx with just two up of the younger generation pressing Psyche and Lorelei who in turn were breathing down Fay. Some carried spinnakers on the reach to 4 but the action all happened on the beat back to the lines with many shifts, wildly differing strategies and an ebbing tide. Psyche now in the lead at the West, Sheevra had recovered to 7th and Finvara, with her own earlier spinnaker problem had dropped to 8th. Course for the second round amended to 2-3-home, Spinnakers marginal benefit outbound as Minx held onto third, Pixie started to climb through the fleet and Maimoune lost contact at the back. The beat in was even more of a judgement call as the tide increased and the wind fluctuated - Lorelei got it right, crossing Psyche and holding on for the win. Minx held onto third, Pixie climbed to fourth. Maimoune got back in touch by dint of staying out and then making one long stbd tack for the E line but did not quite disrupt the gaggle of Mousme, Finvara Sheevra and Banshee on port who all finished in that order over less than a minute with Fay bringing a grand day out to a close.

14th July – Maimoune struggling to get a crew were saved by Minx who loaned a crew for the evening with 10 mins to go to the start. She left her mooring by -5, just, to join the other 9 boats - Fiend being unable to muster a crew.

RO set 6WE and all started on starboard heading out save Fay at the inner limit and Maimoune - perforce from the outer - ducking and weaving on Port - heading in. F15 tacked back out but F2 kept going and picked up a lift along the shore which lead to crossing the fleet on starboard and eventually rounding the windward mark in the lead. Psyche, right on her heels, got through on the spinnaker run to the West line with Finvara in hot pursuit and Mousme and Pixie leading the somewhat spread out chasing pack, Minx having made a bad call somewhere bringing up the rear with Banshee and Fay

As the leaders went through the East line heading back to 6 the wind started to die and the in/out choice became less clear. F2 had re-crossed Psyche but then lost out again to her and Finvara on a shift as the incoming tide strengthened, Behind : Lorelei and Mousme had bridged the gap from the rear fleet and Minx had worked her way back into the mix but sadly Sheevra had to retire with an errant jib halliard up the mast. (Later recovered with the wobbly pole). Maimoune's spinnaker spring shackle had disintegrated on the drop so, unable to hoist, was doomed on the second run. First Lorelei and then Mousme got up to third and fourth respectively but although Pixie was by now leading the rear echelon the gap had got bigger on the beat so she had to settle for 6th.

No further position changes as far as I am aware because it was, just, a single fetch from W to the inner limit of the East Line.

12th July -Once again the class let down by other members of the Club, the rostered race officer did not turn up for his duty and failed to arrange the required substitution. Launch 1 has been repaired and was launched later in the evening as the tide rose and recovered the crews after racing, Launch 2 was earlier available to ferry out after a successful 'jump start'.

The Fiends are still on holiday, Banshee could not muster a crew and Sheevra and Mousme curiously decided conditions unappealing. A pleasant breeze settled in as we rigged and once again the class is indebted to Frank for manning the horns - and quickly reverting to the Standby system when Auto-hoot developed a fault (later advised after racing as "fixed"). Some discussion over the radio and a course E-3-2-(with the beat to...)-Home was determined and the sequence commenced a few minutes behind schedule. Lorelei was squeezed out by the inner limit, a second hoot declared an individual recall, Psyche - who was not - thought she was over and went back, Finvara - who clearly was - didn't and didn't - heading off in free air on a close fetch towards the East line. Meanwhile Maimoune led the chasing pack with Minx Pixie and Psyche in hot pursuit and Fay and Lorelei still in touch. Some Jockeying on the reach to the gybe mark at 3 but no change at the front. A close beam reach to 2 where Maimoune decided not to risk the Spinnaker and although Minx closed the gap she couldn't get through. Lorelei gained a bit, Fay and Psyche lost ground to Pixie. At the windward mark all boats went 'in' initially to get out of the flooding tidal stream and then 'everyman for himself' as who decided to tack where searching for that elusive edge with, as far as I could see, nobody 'covering' anybody! Despite that as the leaders converged on the West line they were still very close, Maimoune had slightly extended her lead over Minx, who had gone all the way in, but did not quite catch Finvara who crossed on Port and tacked on top. Minx attempted to make the finish line in one but failed as the wind backed, which also forced Finvara to attempt 'shoot' the Outer limit - in which she was successful but no hoot (OCS), Juist prior to the shift Maimoune had extricated herself from the slam-dunk and tacked back for the line to get the win from Minx with Lorelei in third leading the rest home

10 July - Ballyhome regatta. - Actual and Forecast light airs but Banshee and Maimoune crewed up and ready to go from 1100, at least the tide not-unfavourable.

Alas BOTH launches unserviceable with no reliable forecast of when either might be next available for possible post-race tow home.

Neither the very real prospect of spending the night off Grey Point as the wind died during an attempted return to Cultra nor a rule-breaking diversion into Bangor Marina (not permitted under sail alone) appealed so we repaired to the club for a coffee. Hoping for at least one Launch for Tuesday and still All to Play For, 11 boats still potential winners of the Regatta Series.

7th July -A gentle offshore easterly greeted the 11 boats on their moorings. Backing and increasing to a fresh breeze from Portpatrick under a thick fog bank as 10 came to the start area but no sign of a course or a Race Officer. Sheevra only 2 up in the gusty new breeze decided it was getting a bit too spicy and returned to her mooring. The noble Frank Haslett set 6-5-1-home and manned the lights + hooter as the now 9 Fairies started including Pixie going well under Sam and Eric on her first outing for several years and Maimoune, plumb OCS at the outer limit. Finvara off the line well and kept going out on a one tack strategy, which paid off to round the first mark in the lead, MInx and a recovering Maimoune went inshore, which didn't - the rest of the fleet hedged bets up the middle with lots of criss-crossing and a continuous stream of boats around the windward mark with Pixie showing encouraging form in the leading group. Uneventful reach to 5 then "Spinnakers Up" to 1, which looked very pretty from where I sat - very much at the back but not, it transpired, quite out of touch. Pixie and Banshee went inshore from the leeward mark, where they found a relative hole. Lorelei from 7th and Maimoune from the back tacked onto starboard on the mark, out which paid off in spades, both gaining 5 places : Lorelei up to second behind Finvara but ahead of Psyche and Fay and some very tactical short tacking by F2 in the last few metres to the inner limit of the finish line giving a TOOT-TOOT-TOOT-TOOT finish as rapidly as Frank could press the button for 5th-8th places for Maimoune, Mousme, Minx and Pixie with Banshee coasting in some short while later."

*****Thanks to Simon from Maimoune and David from Lorelei and Heather from Sheevra for sending the reports and copies of the results so I can complete the season blog. Next few entries are mostly Simon's words with additions from David and Heather*****

7th July – Brick is off on his holidays, so no updates for the next 10 days or so. Hopefully someone will fill me in on what I miss while I am sailing in NW Ireland.

5th July –Early in the day, Pixie was dropped in after some seam work, and although still leaking she was taking up and the gap between pumps was widening. Eric and Sam bailed for several hours and decided to leave her in. Mousme, after her repair also dropped in and made it all 11 in the water together. That is the first time in several years that all 11 have been in.

A great sunny day gave way to a miserable drizzly flat-calm evening. Water running down the main and dribbling down the back of your neck. Yum Yum. Seven Fairies hoisted sails and drifted about close to the start line. There was a problem with the starting system and horns were not working. AP was flown and the sequence was restarted. Combination of strong tide and no wind pushed several boats over the line and they struggled to get back. Minx and Fay were the only boats who appeared to start correctly. We were going from W-E-2-1, wind was highly variable and eventually settled as 5kts from West. Fay got away from the fleet by the East line, and stretched that lead in several patches of breeze on the way to Hollywood East. The huge tide running saw everyone struggle to round the marks with Minx and Psyche both getting hit by Ferry wakes just at the wrong moment in the light breeze, but with no need for turns. Minx needed an extra tack, that allowed Lorelei into second place. Sheevra overhauled Minx on the fetch to Pump Point. Finvara, meantime had given up and picked up her mooring. Psyche was 5th and Banshee 6th on the water. Fay stretched on ahead and worked the vectors out getting across to Pump Point., rounded it, and went on to win well. Lorelei stayed 2nd and Minx and Sheevra had a good battle between the lines with Minx winning through. We were disappointed and confused to see the results recorded the way they were and a few requests for redress have been submitted.

2nd July – Ladies' race – GP Irish Nationals were on at RNIYC and the club was busy. 6 Fairies on the line. Unfortunately, a member of the Squib class did not bother to show up to do his duty or to

organise a replacement and so we had to sort our own course on the water. Thanks to Ian Hastings and Peter Bates on shore who fired the horns.



Testing conditions for Maimoune.

There was a stiff breeze from the West of 15-20 knots and everyone was under a bit of pressure. Course was 1-2-home – 1 lap. Holly on Psyche and Heather on Sheevra were on the line at the start with Jacqui on Lorelei and Annie on Minx (who had three generations of Humes on board) in the second row.



Holly, Jacqui and Annie all went inshore Heather went out. That was the wrong call, and the others crossed in front. Meanwhile Zoe on Banshee and Sara on Maimoune started a little bit later and also went out. As the leaders approached Pump point, the wind got to its height and a combination of waves and wind made it hard going. Sara on Maimoune retired and returned to the moorings. By

now, Holly had established a lead with Annie trying to chase her down. The fetch out to Hollywood East was uneventful, however the gybe at Hollywood East was rather exciting, as was the roly-poly run home. No coloured cloth was raised, Holly held on for a great win and Annie (as far as I know) became perhaps the youngest ever Lady to compete for the trophy. No damage in the fleet on a testing day.



Winner winner – Holly with her crew on Psyche

30th June – The Fairies were confused as they slipped their moorings for the first time in a week. Weather had calmed (Thank heavens) and 8 boats were on the line. Course was 6-5-home, 1 lap. Wind was only 8kts however there were patches everywhere with more and some with less. Maimoune lost out at the start being pushed out of the inner end by Banshee. Minx, Sheevra, Lorelei and Finvara were on the line at the start. Psyche got trapped on the second row and tacked in for the shore, that paid for both her and Maimoune. Sheevra were struggling for boat speed and lost out. As the fleet approached Dunratho, there was a huge shift, it was progressive, but helped some and severely hindered others. Lorelei gained 100 meters in about 100 meters. Maimoune improved about 3 places in the shift and Banshee lost a similar amount. The reach to Dalchoolin should have been white sail, but the big shift made it a broad spinnaker run. That saw Maimoune lose a place on the hoist and another place on the drop. That left the fleet with a fetch home, however, that fetch was very variable and although no more places changed it was very tight on the way back home. Lorelei winning from Minx. Banshee lost out most and finished at the back.

28th June – End of Early season points – The low pressure system that dominated our weather at the weekend moved away to Scandinavia, unfortunately only to herald the arrival of another one. So we

were battered again with strong gusty winds (35kts) from the south and Biblical rain falling. So no sailing again. Psyche win the early season points.

26th June – Launched a rib and went out to check the boats as the storm had eased on Sunday morning. Almost nothing to report. No boat showing any signs of excessive water inside, several boats automatic pumps started up when we boarded and switched off before we left. All bow fittings were intact and holding. Sheevra had her cuddy cover turned inside out and Banshee's tiller rope had slipped. Both of these minor issues were rectified and we returned to shore. As ever thanks to Frank for launching and Heather for jumping from the rib. All good, well done everyone, good prep. work and moorings.

25th June – Should have been the Bangor Town Regatta weekend. Although 4 Fairies were entered, we saw the forecast well in advance and realised that we would not have been able to sail with a heavy southerly gale forecast. So in order to give the organisers a chance to amend their plans; we withdrew with a few days to go. That turned out to be the correct decision, as the forecast gale arrived and bared it's teeth. We watched from the clubhouse as the wind grew through the afternoon. Simon went out to bale Maimoune and confirmed that it was as windy as it looked out on the moorings. A few of the Fairies went down to RUYC to meet some old friends and the scene in Bangor was even worse than the scene at Cultra. The whole of Bangor bay was a maelstrom of white horses, several large ships taking shelter and no racing at all on Saturday for the BTR competitors. The day finished with a report of an RNLI rescue on the County Antrim coast of some rowers in an offshore rowing race. The coastguard reported Gale force 8 at the rescue site. Later observations of the boats on their moorings showed the Fairies riding it out well, thankfully the SE direction minimised the swell.

23rd June – Gorgeous evening, sunny and warm, decent 10kt breeze from West. Course was 1-2-home, 2 laps. Pretty fair line saw boats spread along the length. Fiend tried a pin end port flyer, got snagged by Minx and then followed the outer end starters who all tacked onto port to go out, Minx and Sheevra stayed in with Fay, and after the first tack they looked in the prime position. Then the wind clocked right and everyone out right made great gains. Fiend, Finvara and Psyche were first round. Banshee lost out going too far right and Fay in her first race of the year was caught out behind Sheevra on the wrong side of the big shift. Downwind leg bag to the East line saw Minx make some gains and a clever rounding by Finvara saw her nip in front of Psyche. The big shift then clocked right again, this time Finvara and Fiend lost out and Psyche gained. Not quite enough to take the lead, but in very close attendance to Finvara. The run home on the opposite gybe saw some close blanketing and shuffling through the fleet. Psyche got through for a win. Putting her well in the lead with 2 races left in the early series and the forecast for the weekend not looking too hot.....

21st June – The longest day –Bit of work in the yard as Mousme had her bow repaired, Fay slid into the water in the early afternoon and Pixie had a dunk, unfortunately having been out of the water since 2018, she will need a bit of caulking and attention before dropping in again.

A warm humid day delivered a sea breeze in the late afternoon which was fading rapidly when we went afloat. Eight boats competing in a failing breeze. Breeze was SE 4-6 knots. Course was E-2-1-home, 1 lap. It was very light. Competitive start line as Maimoune pushed Finvara who pushed Psyche and TOOT-TOOT and the X-flag went up. Brave crews on Finvara and Sheevra stayed on and were relieved to see the X flag drop when Psyche cleared the line. Fetch between the lines saw Finvara in the lead with Sheevra 2nd. On the run out to Holywood East; Finvara, Maimoune, Fiend and Sheevra kept creeping higher to protect their breeze, this allowed Lorelei to get straight through the middle and into the lead. Psyche and Minx were scrapping at the back. On the fetch to Pump

Point the gaps opened up then closed up close to the mark as the wind filled in from the rear. On the beat home, out was the way to go for tidal assistance and Maimoune and Finvara played it best gaining a place each on the way back to the lines. Finvara got through Lorelei for a win and Maimoune got through Sheevra to get third.

19th June – More pictures added below.

18th June – Should have been Hollywood YC regatta. Unfortunately they cancelled their regatta with concerns about the decreasing depth of the Hollywood Bank. We scheduled some points racing instead with thanks to Peter Bates, Sam Lyness and Denis Gladstone all volunteering to step in as OOD. Unfortunately the increasing gusty wind put paid to those great plans and we did not go afloat. Although Fay has now appeared in the yard and Denis is getting ready to get her mast up. Banshee was also re-launched with her bow fitting repaired. Pixie is also fully painted and rigged and receiving a few finishing touches from her new owners, Sam Lyness and Eric Hayes.

18th June – Error in the previously published 17th June report as discovered by Fred Campbell, there are 5 races left in the early series due to the cancellation of HYC regatta. What he didn't spot was the fact that the dates were wrong. All fixed now.

16th ~~17th~~ June – It was an evening of change – As we went out to the moorings, there were huge gusts blowing through, several crews were considering a two-step for 10 minutes, then it eased and mainsails were hoisted. Wind started out SW 10-15 kts, wind finished, N,S,W,E back to N then back to S, 0-2kts. The first big shift came at our start gun, 90 degree right shift. Lead Squib had a spinnaker up on her first leg and less than 5 mins later we were beating on the same course. Maimoune had a cracker of a start, only to find herself in exactly the wrong place when the shift arrived. From first to last in the short leg between the lines. Course was E-W-3-4-home. 1 lap. Fiend led at the W line and went deep, Sheevra stayed up to protect her breeze from Lorelei and Psyche. Minx and Maimoune went deep. Half-way to Jewel, we had another huge shift, spinnakers up on most boats, however no-one caught Fiend on that leg. Spinnakers gybed on the run to Killymard, and we had a new leader as Sheevra rolled Fiend after she dropped her pole in the tide and took a minute or two to recover. Minx had improved to third, and briefly took the lead from Sheevra on the beat back home. On this 'beat' it turned into a bit of lottery with huge shifts, involuntary tacks and boats swapping places. Minx and Psyche looked good for a while on the left side then found a big hole. Sheevra crossed in front of the recovering Fiend to re-take the lead, but then dropped behind Lorelei. After the frustration a breeze filled in from SW and Fiend were the worthy winners. Lorelei 2nd and Sheevra 3rd. Four more races in the Early series.

16th ~~17th~~ June – Lorelei briefly recovered onto slipway and with clever use of ladder and 'Big wobbly pole' they were able to reclaim their main halyard from the top of the mast.

14th June – Cloudy but warm day, southerly breeze. 8-10 kts. Six Fairies on the line. Course was 5-4-home-4-3-home. Maimoune had the best start on the way out to Killymard, but she was overhauled by other boats flying spinnakers. Minx and Psyche squeezed out ahead. Maimoune and Sheevra had a minor coming together as they rounded Killymard. Sheevra did her turns and dropped to last. Letting Fiend and Lorelei through. On the beat back Minx stayed ahead of Psyche and Sheevra caught and got past Maimoune. On the second lap there was not as many incidents or 'overtaking' with boats holding station through most of the fleet. Fiend, Maimoune and Sheevra had a close battle for the last few places, Psyche did catch Minx but couldn't get past only a few seconds separating them at the finish.



13th June – Banshee lifted out and was able to remove her broken bow fitting.

11th June – RUYC regatta – For more than 24 hours the remains of tropical storm Alex had brought a deep low pressure system into the north Atlantic. We were suffering in strong and gusty SW winds. All the boats on the moorings rode it well with no damage visible from the shore. No-one was able to get to RUYC, and unfortunately racing was cancelled for the entire event.

9th June – Bear Grylls doesn't do Fairy sailing, but if he did, he might not have survived this evening. It was a challenging evening. Wind was Westerly 15-25kts, with a short choppy sea. Six Fairies left the moorings, 5 made the start and only 4 finished the course. Course was 1-6-home-1-2-home. Sheevra lost her main sheet inside the 5 minute gun, having fitted a new main sheet block, Sheevra rejected it and its back to the drawing board. Banshee was the other casualty, she was moving through the fleet after a slow start only for her bow-sprit fitting to fail, causing her forestay to collapse. Thankfully no damage to her crew or her mast. There was our first recall of the season, with Maimoune returning after being over. At the windward mark, Lorelei had forged a strong early lead. The dead run to Dunratho saw 'scandalized' mainsails and death rolls. Every gybe was an event. Maimoune having one gybe and big slew in the moorings, however Psyche's gybe rounding of Dunratho was my particular favourite coming back on the wind completely flat, lee rail under, it would not surprise me that her coming was close to the water too. The beat back was salty and very wet, Lorelei stayed ahead although Psyche did gain some ground. Great sailing by a couple of guest helms, with Sam Lyness steering Maimoune and Greg Bell on the stick on Fiend. Off to the shower to wash away the salt crust.



7th June – Lovely day sunny and warm, gave way to a similar evening. All eight Fairies in the water were taking part. Wind was SE and variable in strength. Our first proper breeze saw the boats getting ‘their ears wet’ for the first time this season. Course was W-2-3-home. 2 laps. Pretty even start across the fleet, Psyche, Fiend and Finvara getting the edge. On the run out to Hollywood East Sheevra managed to winkle into a lead. Maimoune lost out at Hollywood East dropping her kite in the tide. On the beat back to the lines, Sheevra held onto the lead and after a good hoist she managed to increase her lead from Psyche, Minx and Finvara who were blanketing each other. Sometime on the way round the second lap, Banshee also dropped her kite and unfortunately left her halyard up! After rounding Jewel for the second time the wind started to ease and the lottery tickets were handed out. Minx were left and fell into a big hole, Sheevra stopped up the middle, Psyche and Finvara both held the lead at one point, then as we neared the lines, Finvara got the lead from Sheevra with Psyche in third. Fiend and Minx were also in close attendance at the end. In the yard, Pixie has had a nice coat of Red gloss paint and is primed below the waterline.



4th June – Queen Elizabeth’s Platinum Jubilee weekend – Lots of members and guests on the lawn with the clubhouse dressed overall made a magnificent backdrop for Saturday sailing. The Fairies, who were already 50 years old when her majesty was crowned had a great turnout with seven boats answering the gun. The wind was NE 8-12 kts. A small swell was rolling up the lough. Maimoune nailed the start and crossed the fleet on port. Up the shore was the way to go for flat water and Maimoune and Psyche were leading at Dunratho. Sheevra who went out lost out and were last at the first mark. Course was 6-5-home x2 laps. Lorelei lost out on the run home with no spinnaker and

Mousme made a mistake from 3rd place as she dropped her kite in the water for a bit of accidental trawling. Banshee, Finvara and Sheevra had a great tussle on the run all three boats locked in close quarters. Sheevra eventually got through to slide up to third. Psyche with some good spinnaker work was now clear ahead.

The second lap saw Finvara cement her 4th place ahead of Banshee, Mousme and Lorelei had a coming together at Dunratho on the 2nd lap and unfortunately some damage was done to Mousme's bow by the Lorelei counter with a 6 inch punched hole in Mousme's port bow well above the waterline. Lorelei retired and returned to the moorings. Mousme sailed on and completed the course. Psyche sailed on in the lead and won clear ahead of Maimoune 2nd and Sheevra 3rd.



2nd June - Some heavy cloud made for a dark but very light evening. Six Fairies started, course was E-4-3-WE. Wind was SE 4-6 kts, and coming off the shore was very flicky. Lots of shipping moving in and out of the port made for a confused sea. At the gun Psyche had the best start, with Finvara in close attendance. Maimoune and Sheevra were further in and had to give water to Fiend and Finvara. After rounding the East line, Psyche got away, a good hoist from Sheevra saw her get away from the pack. Maimoune and Fiend were locked in a great tussle which lasted most of the race. Finvara went shallower and got clean air. Banshee did not hoist and went to the back. Psyche were 10 lengths clear at No4, Sheevra tried to carry the kite across, but lost ground to the improving Finvara. The grey and green boats continued their hand to hand combat after rounding 4. On the beat back, Sheevra went left and lost a place to Finvara, Psyche covered both sides but then decided right was best and stayed in front for a win. F11 second, Sheevra 3rd. Fiend got through Maimoune

and Banshee improved on the beat to finish closer than the end of the run. Well done to the Banshee crew who marked the Queen's Jubilee with some Union Flag bunting and some patriotic Bowler Hats.

2nd June – Banshee restored to the water with a new forestay and shrouds fitted. She joined the wandering Mousme, who last year had her mooring half way to Bangor, this year he seems to be halfway to Holywood. Both in and dry. Minx is loaded on a trolley and should drop in on 3rd June.

+++++JUNE+++++

31st May – After a miserable day full of showers, a dead calm settled over the moorings at 1800hrs. Lorelei and Sheevra had looked at the forecast and decided against sailing, as drifting in no-wind and heavy rain didn't sound like fun. We were wrong. The four boats that started had a grand race. Wind filled in from the NW at 6-8kts easing as the evening wore on. Course was 2-3 home. 1 lap. Maimoune got forced out at the start and went around and started last, Simon decided not to follow the others up the shore and headed out on port looking for more wind. It paid big time and he led at Holywood East. Finvara gained on the reach across and on the run home. Psyche tried a few gybes on the way back, but was not able to gain. The last action was Finvara getting very close to Maimoune as they dropped spinnakers at the East line, but Maimoune held on for a win, and it never did rain, although Fiend was almost out of wind when she finished at the back.

29th – Lorelei slipped into the water, a couple of seams weeping, but pretty dry. Banshee recovered in order to replace her inner forestay.

28th – Saturday racing, Fiend, Banshee and Sheevra taking the gun for the first Saturday race of the year. Banshee, unfortunately, did not get off her mooring, her inner forestay parted company and she will need a mast-down recovery to replace it. For the racing, all I know at the moment is that Sheevra had a 1st. I am sure some others will fill in the detail later.

28th – Maimoune, Psyche and Finvara all in the water. Maimoune leaking a bit, but pump was able to keep up as she takes up.

26th May – Blowing hoolies all day, crews decided to pull the plug on sailing about 1730, as we watched the strong Westerly bashing through the moorings. Boats pitching quite violently, but thankfully after a late inspection by our ever helpful rescue team we were assured that all the boats were fine and dry.

25th – Mast up on Maimoune in breezy conditions.

24th May – Fairy opening day – Banshee and Sheevra took the gun on our opening day. Decent Westerly breeze 8-12 knots gave us a course of 1-6-home – 2 laps. Sheevra gained an early lead with a good start on Mark Titterington's return to the helm after an absence of several years. F4 was still leading at the end of the first lap. As the breeze started to drop and the tide turned Banshee started to gain ground on the 2nd run to Dunratho. As Sheevra rounded Dunratho for the second time, the breeze switched off completely and Banshee gained quickly in new breeze from behind. She then managed to stay in that new breeze and overtook and beat Sheevra on the fetch home. The first 1 and a half laps took 45 mins the last leg took more than 1 hour.

24th May – Fiend dropped into the water, and for the first time in many, many, years she was dry. Woo hoo. Masts went up on Finvara, Psyche and Minx, who flew her Ensign at half mast as a mark of respect to her long-time owner Gordon Rebbeck.

24th – The whole club and the Fairy Class in particular was shocked to hear of the sudden death of Gordon Rebbeck who passed away peacefully at home. As recently as Saturday, he and Judith had been in the yard chatting to other members with Gordon passing on his sage advice and complementing us on the condition of the boats. His wit, camaraderie and constant presence will be missed by us all.

22nd May – Fiend lifted on to a trolley ready for launching, Psyche, Minx and Maimoune look like they will be close as well.

21st May – Banshee and Sheevra launched. Both went in on a rising tide and after 30 or 40 minutes on board, both boats were staying dry with no need for additional bailing.

20th – Fairy cocktail party. Up at the Livingston's house, approximately 40 Fairies attended and helped to raise some money for class funds (£430 raised). This money raised will bolster the class fund which will be spent over the coming months to support the restoration of Coomara.

13th May – First mast goes up – Banshee has her paintwork finished and put up her stick today. Sheevra also made some moves today with application of anti-foul and gloss. First 3 moorings were dropped in today as well.

5th May – Some warm sunshine saw plenty of people in the yard, rubbing down, applying paint and getting the boats together.

=====MAY=====

24th April – Great excitement as a 'new' Fairy arrived in the yard. Snipe returned to the shores of Belfast Lough for the first time since 1907. When she left Hilditch's yard in Carrickfergus on the train for Enniskillen. She has been a Lough Erne Fairy all of her life, but under the stewardship of Ed Cody and his team of 'Snipers' they hope to restore her to sailable condition and compete against the other RNIYC boats.

19th April – Banshee are the early leaders in the pre-season preparation race. They are first to apply paint.

18th April – All the covers are off. Several boats are rubbed down, preparations well underway.



5th April – To quote David Carlisle, our Class Captain’s email to the class – ***“I am delighted to announce that Coomara - F14 has been purchased by Eric Heyes and Sam Lyness, two long standing competitive sailors from our own club. They are following many other members of the Fairy Class by joining our ranks from the Squib class. The Squib that Sam and Eric had campaigned for the past few years has been sold and they are enthusiastic about taking on the restoration project that is Coomara.”***

The class committee with some excellent assistance and advice from Ronnie Brown have been working with Sam and Eric to try and get the boat back to the club to make it easier for her to be worked on. We are hopeful that we have a way forward for that to happen before the summer.

I am sure that all of you will join me in wishing the new team the very best of luck, fair winds and a generous sprinkling of 'Fairy Dust' to allow them to get her back in the water for the first time since the mid 1980's when 'Hurricane Charlie' sank her and caused her such significant damage. Fantastic piece of news for the class and hopefully for Eric and Sam as well.

3rd April – F2 : Maimoune joined the party with Simon and Dawson drawing back the covers. Still getting some frost in the evenings, although, as Charles Dickens said: “It’s like summer in the light and winter in the shade”.

=====APRIL=====

27th March – F10 – The Fiends were first off the mark with the covers coming off

26th March – Great gathering of the Fairy Class for our annual dinner and prizegiving. Great crowd there for the dinner and the craic. Eight different boats taking home the various trophies.

=====March=====

Fairy Report for 2022 – most recent posts are at the top of the article.