



ROYAL NORTH OF IRELAND
YACHT CLUB

A CLUB LOOKING TO THE FUTURE

Sailing Development at RNIYC

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Introduction

Sailing at RNIYC

Royal North of Ireland Yacht Club sits on the southern shore of Belfast Lough. It is a club renowned for its bustling on the water activities and its ability to nurture the skills of its sailors, enabling them to progress within the sport.

Currently, the 2022 sailing season is shaping up to run relatively normally for the first time since 2019 and should hopefully see us all back on the water at our full compliment.

The past few years have, due to various circumstances, led to some areas of club activity reducing significantly while other areas have remained strong.

This plan is focussed mainly on areas we have identified that require active support; however, this does not mean that the stronger areas will be neglected. The club will work hard to reinvigorate all areas of sailing, utilising all resources the club has available to it.

We have listened to all the feedback provided by members through the strategic review questionnaire and our class captains. the common theme is a shared passion from members to create more opportunities for anyone to get out on the water, participate in club activities and have fun. This objective has driven all the actions that follow in this document.

Building on our strong sailing foundation within the club...

The Fairy and Squib classes continue to thrive with impressive fleets on the water last season. The Cruiser class is growing quickly and will present many opportunities both in terms of racing and cruising in the coming years. The RS400 fleet is like no other at the club. It has developed in a very organic way into an NI-wide fleet, moving its off-peak and seasonal events from club to club. Whilst the fleet do not regularly compete in traditional club racing, they consistently attract sailors from all over Ireland to their local and national events at RNIYC and represent the club proudly.

The key area for development is in the smaller dinghy classes and to increase the number of new sailors to the club, children and adults. 2022 will prioritise sail training through our cadet system and also build on the success of our adult courses held last summer by holding a greater number of courses, opening them up to non-members and hopefully increase the number of places available on each course.

There are already two national events in the sailing calendar for the club in 2022 and this will provide opportunities for anyone who would like to learn how these events are delivered to get involved alongside more experienced members.

The Rescue Team and our powerboat training operate to very high standards and run excellent training programmes for anyone wishing to learn these skills. If our aim to get more new sailors onto the water is to be achieved, these teams will need to grow to support the activity to avoid too much demand made of individual members.





**THE PURPOSE OF
THIS PLAN IS TO
HIGHLIGHT WHAT
RNIYC HAS TO OFFER
NEW AND EXISTING
MEMBERS ON THE
WATER AND TO
ENCOURAGE
EVERYONE TO GET
INVOLVED.**

CADETS

STRUCTURE

There will be a clear structure going forward throughout the sailing season. The emphasis will be on honing skills and progressing abilities.

Tuesdays & Thursdays - Club Racing

Wednesdays - Levels 1&2 instruction in Visions and instructor led free sailing for others

RACE TRAINING

A "start racing" intense training programme will take place prior to Opening Day on Sunday afternoons.

Cadets who are interested will be encouraged to race on Tuesday and Thursday evenings. Where an experienced volunteer will be on hand to hone their skills.

Organise "Start Racing Regattas" around the lough during the season on Sundays. Each club brings a training boat to assist their sailors on the race course and during the race.

FUN

Throughout the season there will be a full calendar of in-club events, both social and sailing.

Including BBQs, Cinema nights, Quizzes, Junior Regatta, talks etc

Cadets will be encouraged to feel part of their club.

OFF SEASON

For racers, there will be a frostie series.

There will also be off season talks, cinema nights, first aid courses

ADULT SAILING COURSES



THROUGHOUT THE SUMMER

The summer adult courses proved very successful .

They were run initially as a trial, but became an instant hit with members.

Our aim is to provide more courses throughout the summer for a range of levels.



OPEN TO ALL

We aim to open the adult courses up to non-members - much like the cadet sailing courses.



KEEL BOATS

There may be the opportunity to learn to sail in keel boats in the future, we will keep you informed of any keelboat led courses.

CLUB RACING



ENCOURAGE PARTICIPATION

Numbers of boats at club racing have fallen in recent years for myriad reasons. Classes should look to increase their membership by enabling new sailors opportunities within their fleets and nurturing existing, less experienced sailors.

The Sailing Committee will be focussed on encouraging their fleets to achieve this aim

Cadets will be encouraged to take part in club racing in dinghies and fleets will be encouraged to hold "junior" races.

Club Boats

THE CLUB OWNS A NUMBER OF SAILING DINGHIES.

TRAINING BOATS

- RS VISIONS
- PICOS
- TOPPERS
- RS TERA

RACE TRAINING BOATS

- RS FEVAS

OUR AIM IS TO GET THESE BOATS OUT ON THE WATER AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE. WE ARE LOOKING AT WAYS TO ENCOURAGE THEIR USE AND ESTABLISH A SOLID MAINTENANCE PROGRAMME.





The Cruising Class

The Cruiser Class has grown steadily over recent years. The camaraderie in the yard over the winter, the appeal of cruising round the coastal waters of Ireland and Scotland and further afield and more recently, the ability to get away when other opportunities to travel had dried up, combine to make this the fastest growing fleet in the club.

2021 saw members get together and organise the Glenarm event, where some boats raced and some boats cruised leisurely to Glenarm and returned the following day. This looks set to become an annual event. The cruising class are keen to organise further cruise-in-companys and plans are afoot for the return of the class annual dinner.



Rescue

at RNIYC

The Rescue team at RNIYC is a great group to be a part of! Not only do we have three fully operational RIBs which are in continuous use to provide rescue cover for the Club all season round, we are a RYA powerboat training centre.

You will receive excellent training from our highly experienced RYA instructors and regular opportunities to gain confidence on the water. RNIYC hold sailing events throughout the year; if you volunteer to be part of the team during these events you will also gain first hand experience of course laying and multi-craft safety management.



EVENTS

Our club has a rich history of hosting successful events of all sizes. Local, regional, national and international events have all taken place at RNIYC and help to make it a prestigious destination where fleets know they will be made to feel welcome and experience some of the best racing that NI has to offer.

Looking forward, we aim to bid for and host more events at RNIYC. Volunteers with a wide skill set are needed to make these events successful, please look out for opportunities to work alongside more experienced volunteers - your club needs you!

RNIYC HEAVILY RELIES ON IT'S MEMBERS TO VOLUNTEER TO HELP THE CLUB RUN SMOOTHLY

VOLUNTEERING

We plan to run an evening for volunteers, prior to the start of next season, explaining what roles are available at the club. There may be a separate evening specifically for volunteers for cadets as this is quite volunteer heavy.



Officer of the Day

This involves setting courses for the racing fleets on Tuesday, Thursday and Saturdays; raising flags and liaising with the rescue boats on the water.



Cadets

We have roles available in registration; rigging; launching; road patrols; social; on the water activities; coaching; winter talks on your experiences; etc



Rescue

We are always looking for rescue crew at the club. Safety is vital on the water. You can complete your relevant RYA Powerboat levels through the club



Events

There are regular sailing events at the club throughout the season. Each event is run by volunteers. Do you have something to offer?



Onshore Learning

Throughout the year there will be opportunities to hear from both members and guest speakers about their experiences on the water. Whether that is one of our Champions recounting how their sailing career started off at the club; an exciting cruise in company adventure; the hard work and perseverance that goes into an Olympic campaign; off shore ocean crossings; what to expect at your first event; or rules; there will be something for everyone.

We will also run a number of courses for our members, including, but not limited to, first aid, VHF, navigation and general theory classes.

Aspirations for sailing development at the club

Below we have highlighted a number of areas to strengthen in order to develop sailing at RNIYC. We hope you can see from this document that we want to encourage everyone to get involved in supporting sailing in whatever way they can. Our aspirations for the club are wide ranging but with your help, we can make it happen.



Volunteer Event

- To take place pre-season
- Showcasing volunteering opportunities within the club
- All skill sets welcome - sailing experience is not necessary, a number of opportunities are shore based, administrative, creative etc

Cadets

- The Cadet Officer is the lead contact point for cadet sailing at the club.
- Cadet Parent Forum, will meet monthly to discuss the cadet calendar, both on the water and socially and help identify any training requirements needed.
- Onshore learning including first aid & rules etc
- Prize Giving dinner and regatta at the end of the season

Cadet Wednesday evenings

- Draw up volunteer rota with help from office; encourage parents to populate the rota for a couple of sessions each;
- Allocate instructor(s)
- Ensure instructors plan for both on the water and shore based sessions weather permitting;
- Ensure children are aware that it is instructor led and move toward more structured sailing.

Cadet Racing

- Pre-season training with race instructor on Sundays for cadets of appropriate ability
- The club will ultimately encourage double handed racing fleets in the long term
- Potential to run a small number of "Start Racing Regattas" throughout the season on Sundays with other clubs.
- Frostie Series

Club Racing

- A rolling agenda point, driven by the Fleet Captains within the sailing committee;
- Each fleet must focus on increasing participation and nurturing existing less experienced members of their fleets;
- Cadets will begin to take part in club racing and should be made to feel part of the club.

Aspirations for sailing development at the club - continued



Adult Sailing courses	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Offer more courses through the season for varying levels;• Open to non-members
Onshore Learning	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• A good opportunity for club wide interest.• Varying topics - practical, course based, experience driven, general interest etc• Both for cadets and older members
Cruising Class	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Communication - Class members register• Encourage short distance Cruise in Companys (CIC) to encourage new/less experienced members of the class and build their confidence• Build on existing good relationships with other NI clubs to galvanise interest in potential larger scale Cruise in Company's
Club Boats	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Look at ways to encourage use• Develop a sound reporting system and maintenance programme• Run rigging workshops
Yard	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• SUPs/Kayaks etc should have a space for storage rather than the spar shed• Ensure that there is appropriate space for all the dinghies on the ground, with tie downs - racks are good for winter storage, but not ideal during the season.
Events	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Potentially look to hold the prestigious Robin Holme Trophy on the Sunday of Regatta. Each class appoints a representative.• Encourage more events at the club in the fleets that we have but also look to host events for the RYA etc