

Greetings and welcome to this edition of the Cork Boat Club newsletter, a place to catch up on all things club related both big and small.

Welcome Back

From the ashes doth rise the phoenix and so too does the Cork Boat Club newsletter. It's been too long since our last instalment and oh boy do we have a lot of news for you. From bands of beginners coming down to take their first stroke, to veteran athletes competing at some of the highest levels of the sport, from the total resurrection of the club, to just a big group of fellas laying concrete, it's been quite a year.

But enough of the pleasantries, we have a healthy portion of bits to cover so let's just jump into it.

Club Dinner Dance

The first item on the agenda is the return of the club's annual dinner dance. A much beloved event that we have not had in three years is back at the Metropole Hotel on Friday the 18th of November. Here we will celebrate the recent successes of the club while we eat good food and dance through the night. Tickets for the event can be bought via Clubflow or from the Club Café.

Head of the Charles River

One of the flagship events on the global rowing calendar is the Head of the Charles, which takes place in Boston. This year, Cork Boat Club was represented by our Masters Womens 8+ as well as Brian Crean, Malachy McGlynn and Éamonn Joyce in the Men's Irish Masters crew. The crews went above and beyond in their training during the summer months, while most others were on holidays and have represented the club to the highest of standards.



2022 Recapped

On the competitive side we have seen many fine performances, winning is great but we try to educate our charges with the sporting ethos that if you come off the water and you simply could not give any more than the result looks after itself. In the unlikely event we do not win we will congratulate the winners in the knowledge that they might not beat us next time.

In the 2021/22 season, we attended, and won at the following events:

Skibbereen HOR

Masters Men's 8+ Composite win with Brian Crean stroking (Dad of Sam winner of MI 8 last season)

Masters Women's 4+

MI 8+

WC 1 4x+

WJ18 8+

MS 8+

Shandon HOR

Masters Men's 8+ Composite

WJ16 8+

MS 8+

Cork HOR

MS 8+

MI 8+

WJ16 8+

WJ18 4-

Masters Men's 8+ Composite

Masters Women's 8+

London Eights HOR

Fastest Overseas Crew

Drinagh Lake Regatta

WJ16 4+

WJ15 4x

Limerick Regatta

WC 8+

WJ18 4-

MJ14 4x

Skibbereen Regatta

MS 8+

MS 4-

WJ18 4x

WJ16 8+

WJ15 4x

Lee Regatta

WJ15 4x+

WJ16 4x+ (X2)

Trinity Regatta

MS 8+

Dublin Metropolitan Regatta

WC8+

WJ18 4-

WJ16 8+

London Metropolitan Regatta

MC 4-

Athlone Regatta

JW14 4x+



Winners “Fastest Overseas Crew” HERR





Women's Junior squad winners at many events this one from Limerick



Women's Junior squad again winners at several events, this one from Limerick



MS 8+ winners Skibbereen Regatta



MS 4- winners Skibbereen Regatta



MJ 14 4x+ Winners at Limerick

The club finished off the season with half of the racing taking place at the inaugural Rowing Ireland 1k classic, while the more seasoned athletes competed in the National Championships the following week.

Rowing Ireland 1k Classic:

The club held itself to its usual high regard at this new event. The event is there to give the younger rowers and masters rowers a focused weekend for their championships. This event was a resounding success all-round, where the club took a number of wins. These wins included:

WM4+

MM8+

WJ15 4x+

WJ15 1x

WJ14 1x

MJ14 1x

MM4+

Irish National Championships:

While the national championships returned to their full glory, with full spectators, the club also returned to a full roster for the event. The Friday of the event began with a tremendous win for the WJ16 4x+. This victory set the club up for a great weekend. Following on from the junior women's'

victory, our SM4- wrote their names into the history books of the club. The crew of Jonny Cuddy, Sean O'Sullivan, Tomas Power and Michael Cronin became the first full Cork Boat Club Crew to win a men's senior championship.



Men's Senior 4- winners



Women's J16 4x+ winners

International Representation

As a club, we have become used to seeing our athletes represent their country on the international stage. 2022 was no different.

Firstly, James Young, of the Junior Men's squad made his Irish debut at the Coupe de la Jeunesse in the JM4+ event. James and crew performed valiantly and finished in strong A-final positions on both days of the event.

At the U23 level, club member John Kearney stroked the BM4- to a bronze medal at the U23 World Championships this season, adding another medal to his rapidly growing collection.

At the senior level, Tara Hanlon has had a number of successes this season. Following on from the Olympics, Tara progressed further and took bronze in the World Cup 2, followed quickly by a silver at the European Championships. Tara won both of these medals as part of the W4-.

When it came to the World Championships, Tara competed in the W2-, while John competed in the M4-. Both athletes had a hugely successful championships, where they finished 8th in their respective events. Well done to all.

Home Renovations

Now, when any of us think back on our memories in the club we see images of hard-fought battles on the river, long tough sessions in the gym, and possibly even the occasional late-night beverage with a few pals. Rarely do look back on grass cutting, cement pouring, or God forbid bathroom pipe maintenance, yet for some those jobs are merely their daily contribution to the club. It's often difficult to gauge the amount of work that goes into keeping the club looking as handsome as it does but if it's been some time since you've paid the place a visit then you might not recognise it with the amount of work that's been put into it over the past year or so.

Firstly, as you walk around the side of the club and squint your eyes at just the right angle, you might be able to see that one of the sheds was completely uprooted and shifted over a few feet and a brand-new shed which is more than twice the size of the old one has taken its place. Honestly, the amount of John Duggan's blood, sweat and tears that went into getting this shed built would challenge even the hardest of training programs. With a core team consisting of John, Ray Connolly, James O'Leary and Donal Cronin, as well as a whole host of others who assisted with some of the heavy lifting along the way, this beautiful new shed was birthed into existence. With a length that can contain our 8s and a width that allows us to store most of our boats, this shed has completely freed up the club house for further renovations. Looking forward to seeing what John does with the place! But in all seriousness a massive thank you from all club members to John and the team.



Yet even with the mighty work that went into the shed building wasn't enough to sate the appetites of these work hungry lads. The next project for them was the building of a new floating pontoon slip on the Eastern side of the club. This has been spoken about for decades within the Club and finally it is here thanks to a small, dedicated Team and many thanks to the Sports Capital Grant Scheme. A pontoon clean up crew (see below) were essential in making preparations.



The final execution of this job however was done and dusted in little more than a week or so and has since been tried and tested by plenty of rowers. Yet there have been no swimmers so looking like a job well done. Thanks to Aidan Bugler for leading the Team in this exercise. Once seen at full tide the next steps are clear for the upcoming generations.



As for works in progress, James O’Leary has decided to tackle the area behind the club which was only a hop skip and a jump away from being classed as a woodland. Chopping trees, smashing blocks, unearthing 20-year-old venting ducts, James is slowly reclaiming this area of the club one shovel of dirt at a time.



And with what must be one of the best views of the river in the city (maybe we are biased).



Recruitment

Our former Captain (Sean O Sullivan) along with the Committee decided that we needed to start a recruitment campaign and with that in mind started to procure the equipment needed for that task.



We purchased two touring quads from Kingston RC called “Sooty” and “Sweep”

In addition, this group with Aidan Bugler’s assistance purchased a training scull for beginners. Sean, with the assistance of a Team ran “Camps” for beginners some of whom have already transitioned into mainstream training squads. Our President (Karen McCarthy) started running training camps

specifically for women who wished to try the sport, many for the first time. All of these efforts were tremendous benefits to the Club. This will need to be a core part of our collective effort for the coming season as we continue to grow.



Presidents Dinner

We finally held our much anticipated “Presidents Dinner” this was held in the time-honoured fashion in appreciation to our current President Karen McCarthy who requires no introduction. It was a huge

success and had the venue packed. Everyone had a great time, and it was a breath of fresh air for us all to be able to mingle socially. There were some brief speeches and of course we were addressed by our President all pre dinner speeches. The microphone moved into new hands and there were some most enjoyable after dinner speakers also.

Club Cafe

The Club Café has been running for quite some time now and is a great place to get a sense of the club, chat to old crewmates on a Sunday morning or else get a perfectly prepared chicken rolls to fuel a second session. The café is also a great place to volunteer some time if somebody wanted to help out around the club. Alan and our café committee work tirelessly to ensure that the café runs smoothly every weekend so if you fancy volunteering some of your precious time, or even just fancy meeting a friend for a coffee, why not come on down to the club café?

Special Thanks

Special thanks to the coaches and club people who kept the show on the road throughout the year. From coaching early mornings and towing boats, to preparing the chicken rolls and keeping the hand sanitiser topped up. While the focus is always on those competing, there's a whole army of people behind the scenes doing the work that keeps the club running so thank you all for the hard work and time you put into this place.

Karen McCarthy for being President and guiding us practically and safely through many choppy seas.

To Sean O'Sullivan and Donal Cronin who have done a remarkable job steering the gally ship for the last couple of years.

Allan and his Team running the café have been fantastic in facilitating some social engagement during what were difficult times.

Kieran White for forcing us all to "keep it real" (financially)

Katie McCarthy for keeping us up to date and on time. Bringing a level of professionalism to the role of secretary that has enhanced the clubs' activities.

Neil McCarthy, Andy Harrington and their Team in working within the restrictions and still providing the Club with some bar activity.

John Mackey for remaining ready (funds permitting) to take on the planned piping project.

James O'Leary for managing the house and gardens (despite the fact that we keep putting cement trucks over the grass!)

Donal Cronin for helping to guide us through the Health and Safety requirements of the last couple of years and towing of boats.

Aidan Bugler for leading the Pontoon project to conclusion. This represents a huge step in our ability to launch and retrieve boats.

Barry O'Flynn and Team in steering the "Quiz Night".

To John Duggan and his Team Mentioned earlier for leading not just the new boat house but taking on the racking and other works as they come up.

The Teams of both Umpires and Drivers that came to support Skibbereen Regatta, Cork Regatta and the National CHampionships (too many to mention).

The phalanx of people that supported the Ed Sheeran (Ned Sheehan) car park fund raiser, again too many to mention.

To Stephen Murphy and Siobhan Rice who lead the Child Welfare roles within the club and without which we would quickly cease to operate.

To Paul Farrelly and Joe Casey for reminding us that rowing didn't start just as we picked up an oar and that there are good learnings from the history of the club, we only have to listen, I hope we do lads.

Joe Kearney who steps in at a moment's notice to resolve some "Clubflow" issue and many other things

To John McCarthy and Kieran O'Sullivan both recent past Chairmen for providing support and facilitating continuity to the incoming Officers.

Another group that deserves our appreciation are the Coaches who do unstinting work guiding their charges as they achieve their potential in our sport.

To Pat Keane for his continuous support of the much beloved Christmas raffle, an event that never fails to impress the audience year after year.

To Eamonn O'Flynn, John Mackey, Anne Walsh and Paddy Mehigan for working tirelessly to organise the annual golf classic, which is a vital fundraiser for the club.

We are fortunate enough to have a great bunch of Master's women, Coached by Pat Peilow. Pat himself is looking to pull a group of Master's Men together which would be a huge addition to the Club.

The Senior Men's group is Coached by Aidan Bugler, Malachy McGlynn and David Walsh. This group have taken on International events this season and acquitted themselves very well, winning the fastest overseas crew at London Head of the River. They plan to attend London Metropolitan Regatta in early June at Dorney Lake.

The junior squads now have a wide range of future athletes, some of which are still learning the ropes while others are teetering on cusp of international rowing, none of which would be possible without the tireless efforts of the junior coaches. Currently the junior squads have a whole host of coaches bringing them up. The junior men's squads are being looked after by Donal Cronin, Jamie Byrne, David O'Regan, Simon Kearney, David Madden and Tanya Clifford, while the women's squad are being taken care of by Terrence McGrath, Mick Slocum, Stephen Murphy, and Hannah

Dupuis. Massive thanks to these coaches and all that they do for their young athletes. The work you're doing is shaping the future of our club.

The numbers at the moments are sitting at around 30 ladies and 15 boys. Slowly but surely these squad numbers are being replenished and with it the life's blood of the club. Knee high goblins running around the gym, dropping boats and hoovering up the chicken rolls, the club would be no more than an empty building with a few boats inside it without them so it's fantastic to see these squads thriving once more. Looking forward to seeing what the future has in store for them.

Uplifting Story

The Senior Men's group were sending two eights to the London Eights Head. Ray Connolly stepped up as usual to take on the towing duties. Approaching Rosslare and within 10kms of the Ferry the alternator failed leaving the towing crew stopped on the side of the road as darkness fell. Along came Niall O'Callaghan who is from Limerick but working and living in Wexford. He asked if he could help in any way to get the young men racing in London? Ultimately, we continued to London using Niall's jeep which he freely offered, no strings attached, to ensure we made our racing commitment.

Ray had the Clubs jeep collected and repaired (we collected it on the return journey) and the trailer proceeded to London albeit a day later with Niall's jeep and arrived on time to join the squad for dinner with a large helping of relief. Of course, it is worth mentioning that Pat Duggan who is Head Coach at Kings College hosted us lavishly and assisted hugely with logistics for the event. Thanks also to Club stalwart Brian Young for helping with strategy for the event.

However, that single random act of kindness restored our faith in the human condition. It made winning the overseas pennant sweeter.

Club History

And finally, we turn our attention to a snippet of the club's history. Put together by our very own historian, Paul Farrelly:

Herr Hitler

And Dancing

Throughout the 1930s Cork Boat Club held its Annual Dance in the Arcadia Ballroom on the Lower Road. Cork Boat Club did not have a dance hall of its own until 1939.

As well as its own Annual Dance, the Club hosted the regatta dance, also in the Arcadia, where "flannels and evening dress are optional." A report from the 1930 event recorded that a man was seen coming from the direction of the ladies cloakroom. He was arrested when it was reported that several handbags had been stolen. The recently established ESB began to supply electricity to Cork

city in October 1930 based on the Ardnacrusha generator. Prior to that, independent and company operators supplied electricity to local areas and to the electric trams that serviced Blackrock. Electricity reached households in Blackrock in 1931.

The Examiner carried a report of a forbidden love match which is believed to have been the cause of the suicide of Gekl Haubal, a 23year old niece of Herr Adolf Hitler. On a visit to Vienna she is reported to have become infatuated with a Jewish singer. On being forbidden to meet the young man she is reported to have become deeply depressed and to have shot herself while staying at her uncle's house in Munich.

Along with the two Arcadia dances, in 1932 the Club also held a Fancy Dress Masked Ball in the Imperial Hotel. The annual dance in those years was the club's main fundraiser. The links between rugby and rowing were emphasised in the advertising and "Miss Molly O'Shea and her famous band" played until 2 AM, and the dancers were resplendent in colourful costumes.

Amongst the many reports regarding Adolf Hitler carried in each daily newspaper in 1935, is one from the Examiner regarding his new godchild:

Munich, Friday. The unique name of Adolphine has won an honorary sponsorship from Adolf Hitler for the daughter of a serving-maid of Rollshofen, North Bavaria. Hitler, who usually only adopts boys, has apparently been pleased with an idea of a female namesake, and will stand godfather to the new baby, which is the sixth daughter and tenth child of Frau Frieda Edelhausen. It is estimated that the Furher must be godfather to more than 200 children throughout Germany.

Cork City Regatta Committee, without consulting the rowing clubs, cancelled the 1935 regatta (and the regatta dance). The regatta came back with a bang in 1936 when Corrib RC won the Leander. The regatta prize giving took place at the very successful dance in the Arcadia when, legend has it, the beautiful Leander Trophy was towed on its wheels along the Lower Road.

1937 A Year of Change

The club's expertise in dance organisation was shared with rugby. A notice in the Echo said: All arrangements are now complete for the big Rugby Dance at Arcadia, on Saturday next under the auspices of the Cork Boat Club. A large crowd is expected to be present as there will be a big influx of rugby enthusiasts from Limerick in connection with the Munster Senior Rugby final.

The Definition of Amateur changed. – Evening Herald

'Interesting news comes from London to the effect that the Stewards of Henley Royal regatta have, following several meetings with the Committee of the Amateur Rowing Association (Great Britain), decided to modify their rule defining amateur status. Resolutions were adopted whereby all provisions which exclude mechanics, artisans and others engaged in manual labour were eliminated from the rule. The new rule will come into operation on January 1, 1938. The change has its particular interest for clubs in Ireland, and in future Irish crews will probably make more frequent appearances at the world's premier regatta.'

Ireland got a new Constitution in December. In the context of the Constitutional debate the following editorial comment appeared in the Irish Times:-

Some day, please Heaven! The nation will be so organised that work will be available for every man, so that he may marry and assume the burdens of a home, and for every woman until she embarks upon her proper profession – which is marriage. In that more prosperous nation there will be no question of the woman who ‘will not allow marriage to interfere with her career’.

A piece in the Echo extolling the upcoming whist drive to be held in the Club is in a corner of a page containing an article on General Goering.

General Goering is much more the iron-willed man than Hitler. He springs from a different class and has much a more self-opinionated outlook. Shrewd observers have remarked that he may be more significant for Europe than Hitler.

In 1938 the Cork Boat Club Tennis Section organised an additional Arcadia dance in October. The Cork Examiner reported on *Kristalnacht* which occurred in November of that year.

1939 was a momentous year. The clubhouse was redeveloped to include a dancehall and Hitler invaded Poland. On September 1st the UK, France and allies declared war. It caused great upset to many.

The Munster Express carried a report from Tramore:

The declaration of war on Sunday cast a gloom over Tramore. It was unfortunate that it should synchronise with the opening day of the Carnival. All the preparations for a gaily illuminated Tramore have gone for naught, and all those who gave their time, energy and ability, deserve sympathy. The German fanatic, as he has been described, together with many opprobrious names, by many Tramoreites, is indeed the worlds greatest killjoy. The blackout in Tramore has given everyone a foretaste of the horrors of war.

A dance to celebrate the opening of the new Cork Boat Club clubhouse was held on 27 December. Full to capacity, the crowd danced to the strains of Billy Campbells’ Band from 9 PM to 3 AM. The organising committee led by Max Hogan declared themselves well satisfied with the turnout.



Spot the difference

In closing we hope that you will call to see us, share a coffee or tea and have a chat. Catch up with old friends and make new ones. Take a gander at the recent developments and have a look around we would love to see you.

Warm Regards

Cork Boat Club