

SIDelines

Sailing in Dublin Club Newsletter



WAIT, WHAT?
IS IT AUGUST ALREADY? SUMMER IS FLYING BY!

Lots happening in the club right now, we have loads to get through in this edition of SIDelines!

Club Socials - dates for the diaries:

Summer BBQ - Saturday 31 Aug - DMYC

AGM - Friday 27 Sept - National Yacht Club

40th Anniversary Event - rescheduled to Friday 27 Sept (after the club AGM) - National Yacht Club

More details and booking options to follow on the club communications channels...

We are also working on limited range of branded merchandise and details will be shared in the coming weeks... watch this space.

DBSC will wrap up it's 2024 racing season and have it's last races in September, so club racers, get booking your places quick on the SID website so you don't miss out! We also have some Team Racing and Cruiser Racer National Championships upcoming to look forward to, more details below and on your club emails.

Dinghy Sailing - if you are passionate about sailing, and fine tuning your skills even further - try out the club dinghies. We have an impressive fleet of boats that suit all sailing levels - club boats are sailed for pleasure and also competitively in a number of racing series, so there is something for everyone. All SID members are welcome to try out the dinghies, and booking is via the club website in the usual way. Members are also welcome to join the club sessions in their own dinghies. More info on club dinghy sailing below.

Social Media - members, do you know you can find us on social media channels? Search for Sailing in Dublin on your favourite social media outlet, and give us a follow!

We have also had some really great on the water activities in the club recently - fishing days, a visit to the Bray Air Show and sunset sails - read all about them below. And thank you to all the Captains and VC's who make these great days out happen!

Our cruising season will also be wrapping up soon. The club has enjoyed a very successful cruising season for 2024, big thank you to Sonja and all the cruising committee for putting it all together so well and keeping the show on the road. Henrik Heckmann has written about the cruising adventures on week 5 - a great read! Scroll down to find out what they all got up to!



RUFF DIAMOND

The DBSC 2024 summer racing series is well underway. Great to see Ruff Diamond participating throughout the season and lots of new faces from SID getting into the racing spirit. All sessions to end of the season in September are now online, so go ahead and sign up.

Remember, Tuesdays are for those new to sailing or looking to refresh, so if you are looking to ease into racing, this is the night for you. Thursdays / Saturdays are for those with more racing experience.

And don't forget... Ruff Diamond is also available for day and evening sails. She is a great boat to get a feel for boat handling and manoeuvring. Shout out to all Skippers and VCs to make the most of her, before she comes out of the water in winter.

Aoife Hall
~ Ruffian Officer

CLUB RACING

There's a fantastic opportunity for SID members to take part in some exciting racing at the end of August in the Cruiser Racer National Championships.

Running from Friday 30th August to Sunday, 1st September, this event will see some of the best boats in Ireland taking part in Dublin Bay.

It's an incredible opportunity for SID racers to take to the water in top-notch company. Mayfly will be taking part, and with its new sails, SID has a chance of doing well in the final results.

To take part simply fill in this survey. All levels of experience welcome:

<https://s.surveyplanet.com/0xz2y3bi>

Nick Miller
~ Keelboat Officer



DINGHY SAILING

Club dinghy sailing and the coal harbour is the place to be right now!

Our club dinghy sailing has taken a popularity turn! Not surprisingly as the club boasts an impressive fleet of dinghies, with something for all levels. Recently, the club purchased another Fireball to add to the fleet and members have been enjoying some good sailing time on her over the last number of weeks.

If you are looking to add to your sailing skills, improve tactics, fine tune spinnaker skills, to name but a few - dinghy sailing is a great place to do it. The club dinghy Captains are a very experienced bunch who have lots of great knowledge and skill they are keen to share! Members can start off on our Fusion dinghies - a stable and forgiving boat that is a great starting point for the new dinghy sailor.

Members can also participate in racing - DBSC dinghy racing takes place on Tuesday evenings, with a number of Saturdays also running from end of August until the season close in September. And don't forget that SID enters the DMYC Frostbite racing series that continues on Sunday afternoons all through winter.

Members who have their own dinghies are also welcome to join the club sessions - add your name as crew, and comment in the notes that you are sailing your own boat.

Dinghy sailing is superb for fine tuning sailing skills, so if you are passionate about your sailing, give it a go. The dinghy team are ready and waiting for you!



BUY / SELL / WANTED / FREecycle

FOR SALE

Spinlock Buoyancy Aid
Black, nearly new, lightly worn (keelboats), bought in 2023
Front zip pocket, size XL,
RRP €90 - selling for €45 or nearest reasonable offer
Contact Ally 0876728383

FISHING DAY AND THE BRAY AIR DISPLAY 2024



July and August is the best mackerel fishing time - who knew? Cearbhall suggested a fishing day on Tuesday 23 July - a number of us quickly signed up, adding that some of us (*remaining nameless*) do not have a clue about fishing! The day was sunny and we all arrived at the marina bright and fresh and ready to go... no time for coffee, we departed the berth on the dot of 11am (*Cearbhall is a stickler for timekeeping!*) and headed for the bay in anticipation. Our Captain brought fishing gear for those of us that didn't have any along with a Bose music speaker, as apparently fish are drawn to the sound of music - Riverdance was the first tune to play loud and proud - the fish seemed to love it, and brought with it our first catch of the day!

We had a lucrative fishing day, with a respectable 15 mackerel caught! Thanks to Cearbhall and James Healy who were the fish whisperers of the day.

We brought our trawler (*aka Mayfly*) back to HQ where Cearbhall cooked and served us up a feast with the freshly caught mackerel, delicious potatoes and a squeeze of fresh lemon - devine! The Mayfly repair guy from Bryte Sails even got a plate to enjoy. Thanks Captain!

A great day out! More fishing tales soon...



Over the August bank holiday weekend the **2024 BRAY AIR DISPLAY** took place. Linda Ffrench organised a sail down to Bray Head to watch the show with crew bringing some lunch to enjoy on board. Luckily Ray Sheerin signed up - anyone who knows Ray will know what I mean! Ray cooked us the most amazing pie, accompanied by homemade coleslaw - but the feast didn't end there - we also had raspberry brownies, salads, cheese, crackers, fruit and zero-alcohol prosecco! Thank you to Ray and everyone for bringing the lovely food - Michelin star calibre!

The Air Display itself was equally impressive. Starting at 3pm, we had two hours of great sky entertainment. Royal Jordanian Falcons, Spitfires, low flying jets, parachuters, loop the loops, formation displays, defiance of gravity - it was all there! We were joined by many other sailing and power boats anchored not wanting to miss the great spectacle - guesstimate of 100!

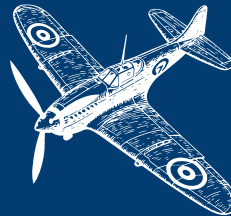
Thanks to Cpt Linda, VC Patrick and all the crew for a great day out!

Until next year...

Souvenir programme available for those who missed it:

<https://brayairdisplay.com/wp-content/uploads/2024/07/Bray-Air-Display-2024.pdf>

<https://brayairdisplay.com/>



SID CRUISE WEEK 5

Cruise Week 5 - France

On board - Nick, Claire, Henrik, Patricia, Jess and Enda

Written by Henrik Heckmann



Five Go (Semi-) Wild in Brittany!

(Lyrics to the tune of Gilbert & Sullivan's "A Policeman's Lot Is Not a Happy One" from The Pirates of Penzance)

When the pilots' strike casts chaos over Europe-

Over Europe,

And the travel plans are all in disarray-

Disarray,

Cancel rental cars, hotels, get duolingo -

Duolingo,

As one's school French causes nothing but dismay-

But dismay.



In the end, we refrained from singing "Never going to get to France" and there was great relief among the crew when we realised that Aer Lingus would bring us to Nantes after all, sacre bleu...

As a town and starting point, Lorient isn't exactly pretty, but the marina is centrally located, people are friendly, and we'll happily recommend a stroll to "Le Yachtman" restaurant where we found ourselves well-fed and greatly impressed by both the skill and commentary of the inimitable Maître d'.

Le jour prochain...

To the water then, with Silver Wind loaded with provisions and the crew trying to find their feet on our trusty little cruiser - ahem, "little", when compared to other craft we gazed upon during departure, with anything from Vendee Globe monohulls to 50-foot exploration boats crowding the pontoons... the French surely like their nautical craft.

Leaving Lorient, SW soon reached open water, and a jolie brise allowed for the hoisting and unfurling of sails, albeit with some unexpected difficulties that were soon explained after entering the marina of nearby Isle de Groix...

The main halyard resists hoisting causing sweat beads-

Causing sweat beads,

And a mast climb comes with much of a surprise-

A surprise,

Absent sheaves explain the unexpected hardship

'Spected hardship,

And the topping lift promoted to new heights-

To new heights.



With aerial acrobatics soon finished, Les Cinqs managed to find a charming restaurant on the isle that was busy with sailors and day-trippers alike.

Isle de Groix is a picturesque spot with a nice hinterland beyond the port town, and yet it manages to accommodate all and sundry even if some are intent on dancing on the tables of the harbour bar after their regatta (but not us, je vous assure).

Vivement Dimanche

Consider booking ahead for Isle de Groix/Port Tudy as the place doesn't have tons of space but can offer a lot at the same time as we found out, with the harbour basin unexpectedly doubling up as a race track on Sunday morning:

"Matelotage" is what the French call the art of propelling a craft (literally any vessel, from the smallest dinghy to a heavy keelboat) with a long, single sculling oar, and the marina was soon turned into a slalom parcours for a serious championship - an impressive art to behold, with competing boats propelled speedily around the course... should we get an oar for RD maybe? ;)

A brisk windward sail saw SW head back to the mainland coast before picking up a visitor's mooring in the confines of Port Manec'h - it worked without too much delay, maybe helped by the fact that Euro 2024 was on and that we aimed to find a Bar Tabac with a TV screen in time, which also worked.

Port Manec'h is small, charming, yet not overly touristy and crucially lies at the mouth of two rivers, L'Aven and the Belon, which made the team yearn for more time rather than focus on the nautical discipline required to end up in Brest for the next agreed boat handover...

Lundi le Fantastique:

With more time, we could have explored the L'Aven river, seeking out the famous artist's colony of the Impressionists upriver, and had we overnighted in the Belon, we could have explored a renowned crustacean kingdom ... - but wait:

The Belon is home to nature's finest bivalves-

Finest bivalves,

Hence the Captain hatched the most audacious plans-

'Dacious plans,

Brunch with oysters after rowing 'cross the current-

'Cross the current,

And then swiftly on while posting Instagrams-

Instagrams.



Another windward sail (would there be any other ones?) had us reach Concarneau, and after intense negotiations (what's "ten eighty-five LOA" in French when the marina lady tells you excitedly that they're nearly booked out...?) we came ashore, watched France beat Belgium 1:0, and found a restaurant for more culinary delights - oysters twice in one day? Surement!

Vive la France

Mardi Gras:

A fat Tuesday was enabled by cakes accompanying coffees in the old town of Concarneau which is fascinating in its own right: think Mini-Dubrovnik, a walled-in enclave surrounded by water, dramatically paying tribute to French naval exploits of old...

But we must go down to the sea again as the schedule proved demanding, and the next destination beckoned:

Benodet looked pretty from across the water, but we were happy alongside our river berth in neighbouring Sainte Marine after - you guessed it - another day spent sailing close-hauled...

The reward came in the form of a crêpe dinner, with blankets provided by the restaurant once the sun went down - yep, it's not the Cote d'Azur up there, but pretty nonetheless.

Mercredi Merveilleux:

To Audierne then, our last stop before the notorious Raz de Sein:

We can't really blame the town for greeting us with rain, and we'll give it full credit for having a market on until late with live music as well as food stalls... we huddled over fish and chips before discovering a cosy pub with stacks of vinyls beside a working turntable: remarkably, Lou Reed's Transformer sounded as good as it did in the 70ies...

Jedi Jeudi

After a reconnaissance trip up the Odet river, highlights included the surprise find of a working label maker on board (those halyard clutches never knew what hit them), and the mixed blessings of seeing an overambitious cook try and prepare a Spanish omelette in a force 3-4 (I have it on my list to bring a fitting pan lid next year ;)

The Raz de Sein, what's all the fuss about? We approached the headland that sticks out into the Atlantic and creates a tidal race in a narrow channel between terra firma and some outlying islands: like anyone else, we didn't fancy a 30-mile detour around the narrows, so timing came into play to ensure that conditions were of the recommended Goldilocks sort, i.e. "just right".

Here, the captain applied Zen-like focus on tidal streams and placement: "Be in Spot X at exactly Y and lay a course of no more or less than Z..." It proved an engaging exercise with an impressive swell in what is a busy waterway for both commercial and leisure craft. Relief after the notorious Raz came as the sun started shining while a dolphin family showed up to merrily greet us - we had made it around the point.

Whitherto now? With a sigh, Douarnenez was left aside, and Camaret-sur-Mer became our penultimate destination.

Is it a pretty place? In parts, yes, with a sandy beach, wooden shipwrecks, artist galleries... and yet it manages to also have a working part of town where catch gets landed and processed and where you can frequent a Huitrerie (ahem, like an "Oysteria") in the middle of an industrial estate - not often can you enjoy your seafood while a man across the road is sanding down his underwater hull in a haz-mat suit.

Camaret's strategic positions as a launch pad for voyages of all sorts became evident when yachts crowded the marina all rigged with serious intentions, interspersed with a good mix of 31.7s that the French seem to have a liking for sailing single-handedly (rather well, of course).



MERCI!!!

Vendredi, almost there:

We now made for the sheltered Rade de Brest, an expansive bay fed by three rivers that would allow one - as the pilot temptingly put it - to spend a whole week there without getting bored.

We opted for a lunchtime stop in Anse de Fret (our mooring pick-ups were getting better!) before exploring the lower reaches of the Aulne river, an truly enchanting waterway that demands more attention, had it not been for the necessary beat back to our handover spot.

As we arrived in the vast Marina du Moulin Blanc, elation set in, with 168 nM logged overall, a restaurant found, a big screen showing France's next victory, and our relief crew arriving to add to the atmosphere...

When the crew is in a mood for gallivanting-

Gallivanting,

And Pierce joins the crowd while bringing his guitar-

His guitar,

Singing contests shake the hull of our fair Jeanneau-

Our fair Jeanneau,

And to sleep we just say bravely "au revoir"-

Au revoir.

(A SID Captain's lot is not an easy one-

Easy one...)



The team: Nick, our captain, Jessica, our VC, and Enda, Patricia, and Henrik as crew - we would like to thank SID for making this mission possible, and we can only recommend that y'all start booking soon for next year; it was all tres agreable!

Finalement:

* Expect to sound like Joey from Friends when trying to apply your French for real...

* Dear SID, can we cruise in the opposite direction next year due to the prevailing winds?

* Rowing a dinghy is hard, and only Jessica found a good solution (info upon request ;)

* There is no such thing as too many oysters in one day 😊

Merci, Henrik

