



2017 – Sailing Captains Report

Club Racing

New racing marks were purchased and deployed at the start of the season for the very outer and very inner circles and the feedback has been very positive in terms of visibility. Over the winter the sailing committee will consider, finance permitting, whether to replace the remaining marks.

The 2017 season saw participation levels stay steady with small increases in Rivers and Glens offset by small drops in Sonata and Cruisers. The May Saturday series was well supported and there have been some useful suggestions as to how the format might be improved further for 2018.

	2016	Midweek	Saturday
Rivers		5.5	3.3
Glens		6.1	3.2
Sport Boats		2.5	1.2
Sonatas		4.3	0.1
Cruisers		3.4	1.1
Flying Fifteen		1.5	0.5

Tuesday night dinghy racing was once again very well attended and a special mention to volunteers like Jack Kennedy who really made it happen this year.

Sunday Sailing

Sunday sailing continued to be very popular in 2017 with over 50 sailors regularly making it out onto the water. Over 90 individual junior sailors took part at least twice in the Sunday sailing programme. The club needs to ensure that these people and their parents are encouraged to join the club long term rather than on a temporary basis.

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Events

In August the club were delighted to host the Sonata National Championships and a great event was had although the weather proved a challenge with very variable wind conditions. Principal Race Officer, PJ Gault and his team, did a great job and thanks also to Peter Burrowes for lending his motor boat as a Committee Vessel. The availability of the Palfinger crane once again proved instrumental in the ability of the club to host the event.

The **Frostie Series** almost matched the 2015 and 2016 number of entries at 34 boats with a good number of travelling visitors. Very variable wind conditions made this challenging for race officer, PJ Gault, but a good time and excellent racing was had by all.

Looking forward to 2018 we look forward to hosting the SB20 Ulsters in May and the Flying Fifteen British National Championships in June.

I will be working with the racing classes over the winter to discuss the viability of operating all weekday racing on one day as well as looking at the options for post racing food – something that ran at a loss in 2017.

Brian Corry

Sailing Captain