

SAILING REPORT 2023

What a season we had at EDYC. The weather wasn't always kind. However, as a club we are extremely proud of what we have achieved over the past season. It was action packed. We spent a lot of time in the winter, working on the calendar, assigning duties and trying to be as fair as possible with allocations. Without our volunteers on and off water this wouldn't be possible.

EVENTS AND RACING.

The Icicles Series started the year with 6 weeks of racing in January and February. Sailors ranging from experienced to beginners and 11 boats took part, with hot soup to warm up after wintry days on the water. Our club racing began in April. This is very popular with 10 classes from Cruiser 1 to Dinghy 2, with The Impala fleet getting their own start for the first time.

On the 27th and 28th May we hosted the first Impala/Sonata Open Event, the scheduled five race weekend event seen a very light day one with windward leeward courses and a much heavier breeze for the round the cans course on day two, thank you to the race team and well done to Impala Imp & Sonata Mouse for the overall top spots.

The first of the regattas kicked off with Newtownards SC Regatta in June. All of our East Down sailors sailed well, NHC1 Magdaleyne, Lion & Self Expression secured the top three places, NHC2RS saw our Commodore finishing joint first overall, Alcyone was the top Impala competing in the lough regattas, Orby II also sailed all of the agreed Leisure 17 regatta series and the large dinghy saw our dinghy sailors dominate the class.

CRUISING.

Again, several cruising/fun events, starting with the Leisure 17 cruise in May, with a trip up to Conly Island for lunch, 5 L17's & 2 Drascombes set off with Bumblebee leading the way with the spinnaker up, a great fun day was had by everyone.

The International Wayfarer Rally June was a resounding success. The welcome from EDYC and the beauty of Strangford Lough in the Mediterranean weather was amazing, eighty sailors and forty boats from eight countries signed up for the rally and we had over 30 boats on the water each day. From the 9th to the 18th of June they sailed to Benberg beach in the Irish sea and visited many locations within Strangford Lough.

We managed to hold a few Divas/Ladies events this year, a cruise in June, and a Divas cruise which coincided with the Commodore Cruise in September, and paddle boarding in September. Great to see so many ladies getting involved, and we would encourage more to participate.

TRAINING.

There were lots of training events throughout the year, this included L17 & Small Cruiser maintenance Mooring training, RS Feva Open Training with RYA Coaches, a

new member event & a Life jacket clinic, Race Officer Training, Tractor training, VHF radio (SRC) courses were held in February to April, with 26 members attending, RYA Squad Training at EDYC, Powerboat L2 training held in March and October, Race Coaching for competent youth, and finally the RYA were active around the club with squad training and RS Feva training.

YOUTH.

It is worth mentioning the tremendous success of EDYC Youth this year and we could write a separate report on this topic, given the breadth, scope and scale of Youth activity.

We had 58 people involved in dinghy sailing and powerboating on 6 Fridays, and need to thank at least 12 additional instructors, assistants, and those who helped with catering and use of their own boats. Dinghy race coaching sessions were held on Saturday mornings in June and September.

15 youth attended youth week in early July, supported by 3 instructors and a host of assistants. Others took opportunities to crew (or helm) boats with other members, or club boats.

It was great to see our youth team expanding and taking on challenges like the Strangford Lough Youth Series events, and some Club Regattas.

We managed to run the Feva Northern's 2-day Regatta, and the final leg of the Youth Series on the same weekend in August, and thanks are due to a large team of volunteers who stepped up for this just one week after our own Regatta date.

Sam and Rose Kelly have been selected to RYA squad and are competing on a national level. Rose and Ronan Hodge took part in the Topper Worlds in Cork and together with Kate Jennings raced at Feva Nationals in Wales. Abbie Stocking was 2nd female in Laser 4.7 at RYA Youth Championship at BYC and that Daniel Long and Jakub Ozarek were 3rd at Feva Northern's at EDYC. A shout out to Daniel Long and Orin van Rein making their first step into racing this year at QYC, KYC and SLYC. They are all fierce sailors and did very well in often really challenging conditions and have continued to take part in Feva training at BYC and SSC autumn Cooler Series.

THE SEASON AHEAD

The Calendar preparation for 2024 season is under way and also will be a busy year. EDYC works on a volunteer basis. Without our volunteers events/racing/socials would not be possible. A huge thank you to the Sailing Committee and volunteers in 2023. We would strongly encourage our members to get involved. Safety is our priority. Every little helps to run successful, safe and fun events at EDYC.

Thanks again everyone.

John Patterson.
Rear Commodore Sailing. EDYC 2023