

**Background bios for Irish Sailing Team**

**Media Briefing, Tuesday 20 October 2020**

The Irish Sailing team is made up of sailors from Dublin, Cork, and Carlow, three experienced Olympic sailors, 2 x 49er teams, and one pair of siblings.

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**49er skiff – Men’s double-hander**

Ryan Seaton & Seafra Guilfoyle

Robert Dickson & Sean Waddilove

**Laser Standard – single-hander**

Liam Glynn

Finn Lynch

Ewan McMahon

**Laser Radial – single-hander**

Annalise Murphy

Aoife Hopkins

Eve McMahon

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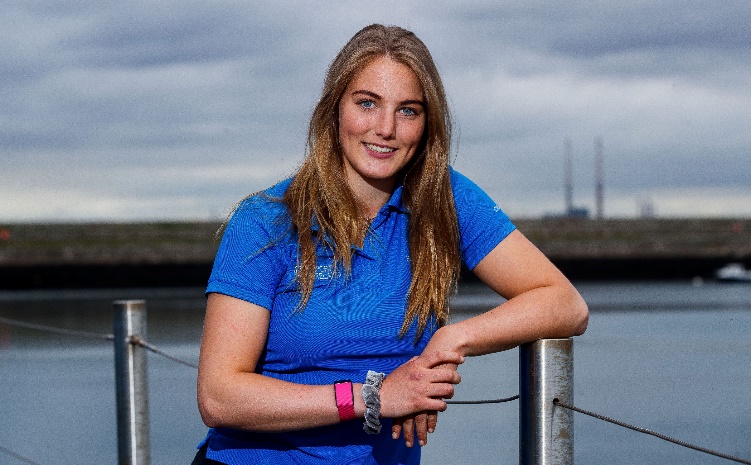
**ANNALISE MURPHY, Laser Radial**

Age 30. From Rathfarnham, Dublin.

Club: National Yacht Club

Full-time sailor

**Silver medallist at the 2016 Olympic Games, Rio (Laser Radial class). Competed in the Volvo Ocean Race 2017/2018. Represented Ireland at the London 2012 Olympics. Laser Radial European Champion in 2013.**



**AOIFE HOPKINS, Laser Radial**

**European Champion for U21 Laser Radial in 2017.**

DOB: 30 October 1991. From Howth, Dublin.

Club: Howth Yacht Club

Currently studying Maths at UCD

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| **When and where did you first try sailing?** | In Howth Yacht Club back when I was nine years old doing Start Sailing |
| **Who introduced you to sailing?** | My dad, he basically pushed me out in an oppie (Optimist) and away I went! |
| **Do you remember the first race you won?** | No actually, all a bit of a distant memory, maybe regatta fleet in the optimist? |
| **When did you first represent Ireland?** | Optimist Under 12 squad at the British Nationals in 2009 |
| **Who has been the biggest influence on your sailing career to date?** | My parents, who introduced me to the sport and have supported me every step of the way. |
| **Who is your sporting hero ?** | Probably Michael Phelps, he's an amazing athlete. |

**A person riding on the back of a boat

Description automatically generated****EVE McMAHON, Laser Radial**

**2019 Under 17 Gold Medallist at the Laser Radial Youth World Championships, and Volvo Youth Sailor of the Year 2019**

Age 16. From Howth, Dublin.

Club: Howth Yacht Club

5th Year Secondary School – Institute of Education

**ROBERT DICKSON, 49er** (sails with Sean Waddilove).

**Winner, U23 49er World Championships, September 2018, and 2018 Volvo Irish Sailor of the Year**

DOB: 6 March 1998, from Sutton, Co. Dublin.

Club: Howth Yacht Club

Currently studying: Sports Science and Health in DCU with a Sports Scholarship.

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| **When and where did you first try sailing?** | When I was 6 in Lough Ree Yacht Club |
| **Who introduced you to sailing?** | My Parents |
| **Do you remember the first race you won?** | Not the first race but I remember the first regatta I won. It was a small club regatta in Lough Ree in 2007 |
| **When did you first represent Ireland?** | When I was 11 at the UK Nationals in Largs |
| **Who has been the biggest influence on your sailing career to date?** | My Dad probably had the biggest impact since he used to travel around the country with me to all the oppy (Optimist) events and go out in the rib as a support boat |
| **Who is your sporting hero ?** |  |

**SEAN WADDILOVE, 49er** (sails with Robert Dickson)

**Winner, U23 49er World Championships, September 2018, and recently awarded 2018 Volvo Irish Sailor of the Year**

DOB: 19 June 1997. From Skerries, Dublin

Club: Skerries Sailing Club and Howth Yacht Club

Currently studying International Business and Languages and awarded sports scholarship at TU (Technology University)

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| **When and where did you first try sailing?** | When I was 8 years old at a Taste of Sailing Course at my home club, Skerries Sailing Club. |
| **Who introduced you to sailing?** | My Dad. |
| **Do you remember the first race you won?** | I can't remember exactly when but I would have thought it was club racing in Skerries. |
| **When did you first represent Ireland?** | I first represented Ireland on the U12 Squad at the UK Nationals in Largs 2009. |
| **Who has been the biggest influence on your sailing career to date?** | My parents. |
| **Who is your sporting hero ?** |  |



**RYAN SEATON, 49er** (sails with Seafra Guilfoyle)

**Represented Ireland, and medal race finalist at the Olympic Games in London 2012, and Rio 2016 (49er class)**

DOB: 3 December 1997. From Carrickfergus, Co. Antrim.

Club: Carrickfergus Sailng Club and Ballyholme Yacht Club

Full-time sailor.

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| **When and where did you first try sailing?** | Age 5 but I think I was actually on a boat after few months of being born! Sailing on family boats around Ireland & Scotland. |
| **Who introduced you to sailing?** | My Dad. |
| **Do you remember the first race you won?** | Optimist Northerns. |
| **When did you first represent Ireland?** | 1999 Mirror Worlds in South Africa. |
| **Who has been the biggest influence on your sailing career to date?** | My Dad. |
| **Where is the best sailing venue in Ireland / the world ?** | Belfast Lough/ Lake Garda, Italy |
| **Who is your sporting hero ?** |  |

**SEAFRA GUILFOYLE, 49er** (sails with Ryan Seaton)

**Silver medallist at the 2014 Youth World Championships in Laser Radial**

DOB: 3 July 1996. From Cork.

Club: Royal Cork Yacht Club

Full-time sailor (deferred his Sports Scholarship from UCC)

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| **When and where did you first try sailing?** | When I was 7, in the Royal Cork Yacht Club |
| **Who introduced you to sailing?** | My mum and dad |
| **Do you remember the first race you won?** | Tuesday night league racing in Optimists |
| **When did you first represent Ireland?** | In 2007, the under 12 squad for the British National Championships |
| **Who has been the biggest influence on your sailing career to date?** | My parents |
| **Who is your sporting hero ?** | Rory McIlroy, Cristiano Ronaldo |

**FINN LYNCH, Laser Standard**

**Ireland’s youngest helm ever to compete at the Olympic Games (Rio 2016). U19 World Champion in the Laser in 2014; and silver medallist in the 2012 Youth World Championships (Laser Radial).**

DOB: 23 April 1996. From Carlow.

Club: National Yacht Club

Full-time sailor.

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| **When and where did you first try sailing?** | Blessington sailing club when I was 8. My Dad got into the water waist deep holding on to my boat from a rope! |
| **Who introduced you to sailing?** | My Dad and my two older brothers. |
| **Do you remember the first race you won?** | Bennekerry field day egg and spoon race! But I cheated... |
| **When did you first represent Ireland?** | Topper British Nationals 2007 |
| **Who has been the biggest influence on your sailing career to date?** | Jozo Jakelic |
| **Who is your sporting hero ?** | Paul O Connell |



**LIAM GLYNN, Laser Standard**

**Bronze medallist at U21 World Championships in Laser. Topper World Champion in 2013.**

DOB: 17 April 1998. From Bangor, Co. Down.

Club: Ballyholme YC

Currently studying Maths and Physics in UCD with Ad Astra Sports Scholarship.

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| **When and where did you first try sailing?** | Around the age of 7 at Ballyholme Yacht Club. |
| **Who introduced you to sailing?** | Nobody really, we just live nearby to the sailing club and decided to try it as a family |
| **Do you remember the first race you won?** | ISA Youth National 2012 in Topper class |
| **When did you first represent Ireland?** | At the Topper World in 2011 in Dun Laoghaire |
| **Who has been the biggest influence on your sailing career to date?** | At a younger age my brother and other older sailors from my club had a big influence. I always had someone to train with who was above my level and this helped me to get better. |
| **Who is your sporting hero ?** | Mohammed Ali |



**EWAN McMAHON, Laser Standard**

**Silver medallist at the Laser Radial Youth World Championships, 2016**

DOB: 28 June 1999. From Howth, Dublin.

Club: Howth Yacht Club

Currently studying Engineering at UCD and Ad Astra Sports Scholarship

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| **When and where did you first try sailing?** | I first experienced a taste for sailing at my local sailing club (HYC) in an introductory sailing course during my primary school summer break when i was about 7/8 years old. |
| **Who introduced you to sailing?** | My Dad was the primary person who introduced me to sailing. He enjoyed sailing from when he first started himself as a teenager and thought I might like to try it, especially as we lived near the water. |
| **Do you remember the first race you won?** | The first race I remember winning was at the Optimist Crosbie Cup. It was an exciting moment crossing the line in 1st place, especially as it came as a surprise to my parents and because it was one of my first regattas. |
| **When did you first represent Ireland?** | I first represented Ireland in the Optimist class as part of the Irish U12 team . The team travelled to Wales to compete at the UK Nationals where many other international teams were also racing. |
| **Who has been the biggest influence on your sailing career to date?** | My family have definitely been the biggest influence on my sailing career to date. Success or failure, they are always there to support me no matter what. On top of that, I have two younger siblings (Eve & Jamie) who are also keen sailors, so it makes for a fun family atmosphere when we get to go racing together . |
| **Who is your sporting hero ?** | I don't necessarily have one particular sporting hero; I more look up to all the great professional athletes in my sport and in other sports, taking inspiration from how they train and conduct themselves to compete/succeed at the highest levels. |