

# Irish Sailing Annual Report 2019

**4.30pm, Saturday 21 March 2020**

**Irish Sailing , 3 Park Road, Dun Laoghaire**

# Who we are and what we do

**Irish Sailing is the national governing body for sailing, powerboating and windsurfing**

**Our aim is to develop, support and promote sailing in Ireland, through our core values of Inspiration, Representation and Participation**

**Home to High Performance:** the Olympic, Academy and Pathway teams

**Racing** – we train all Race Officials, thus ensuring that Ireland holds internationally respected races systems and qualifications

**Expertise:** ~12,500 calls and face-to-face enquiries each year

**Training and Coaching** – we encourage maximum participation through our 105 x Irish Sailing training centres which run internationally recognised courses, with tailored campaigns for new sailors, women and disabled sailors

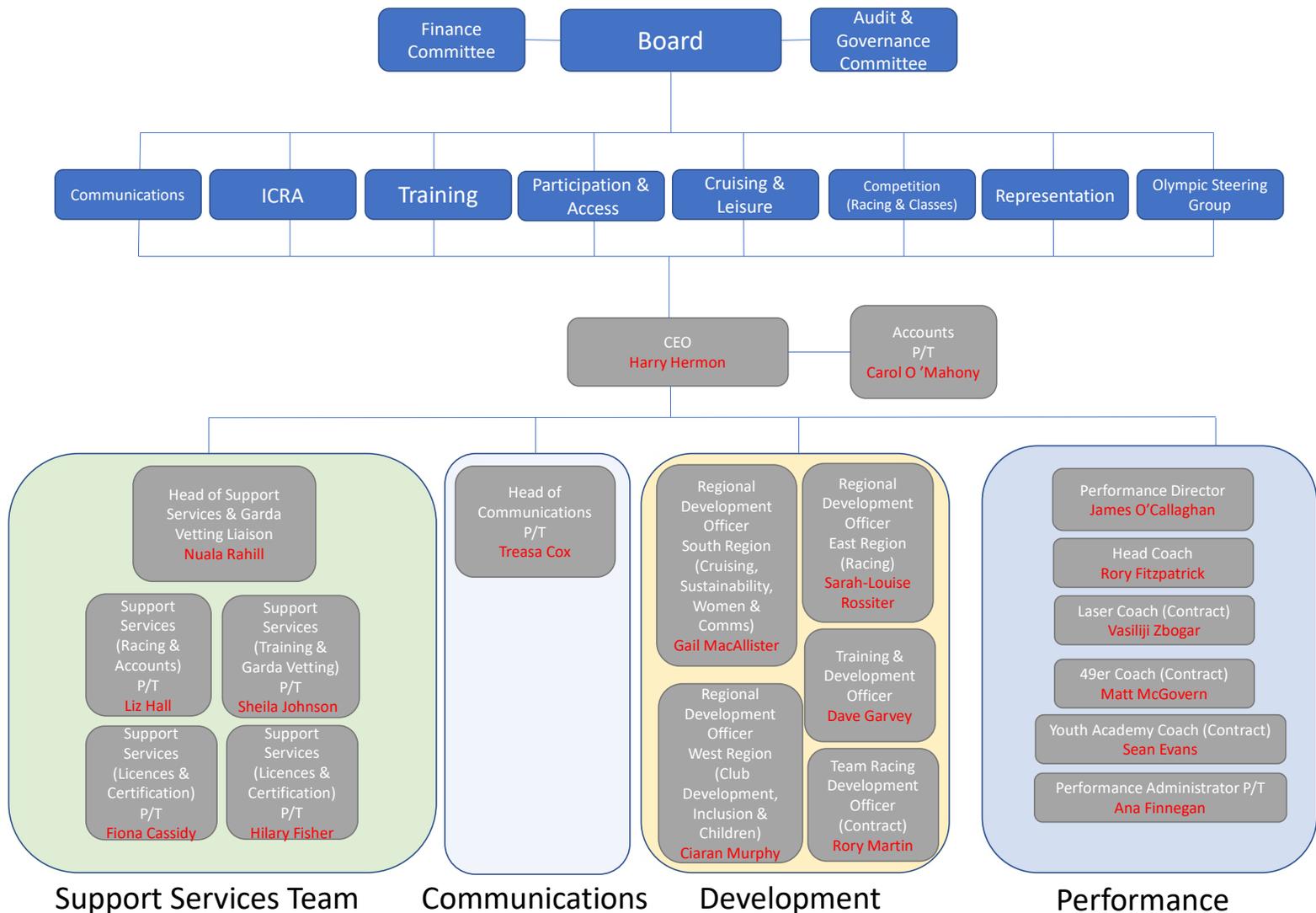
**Freedom on the water** – we lobby and represent our sports at national and international level



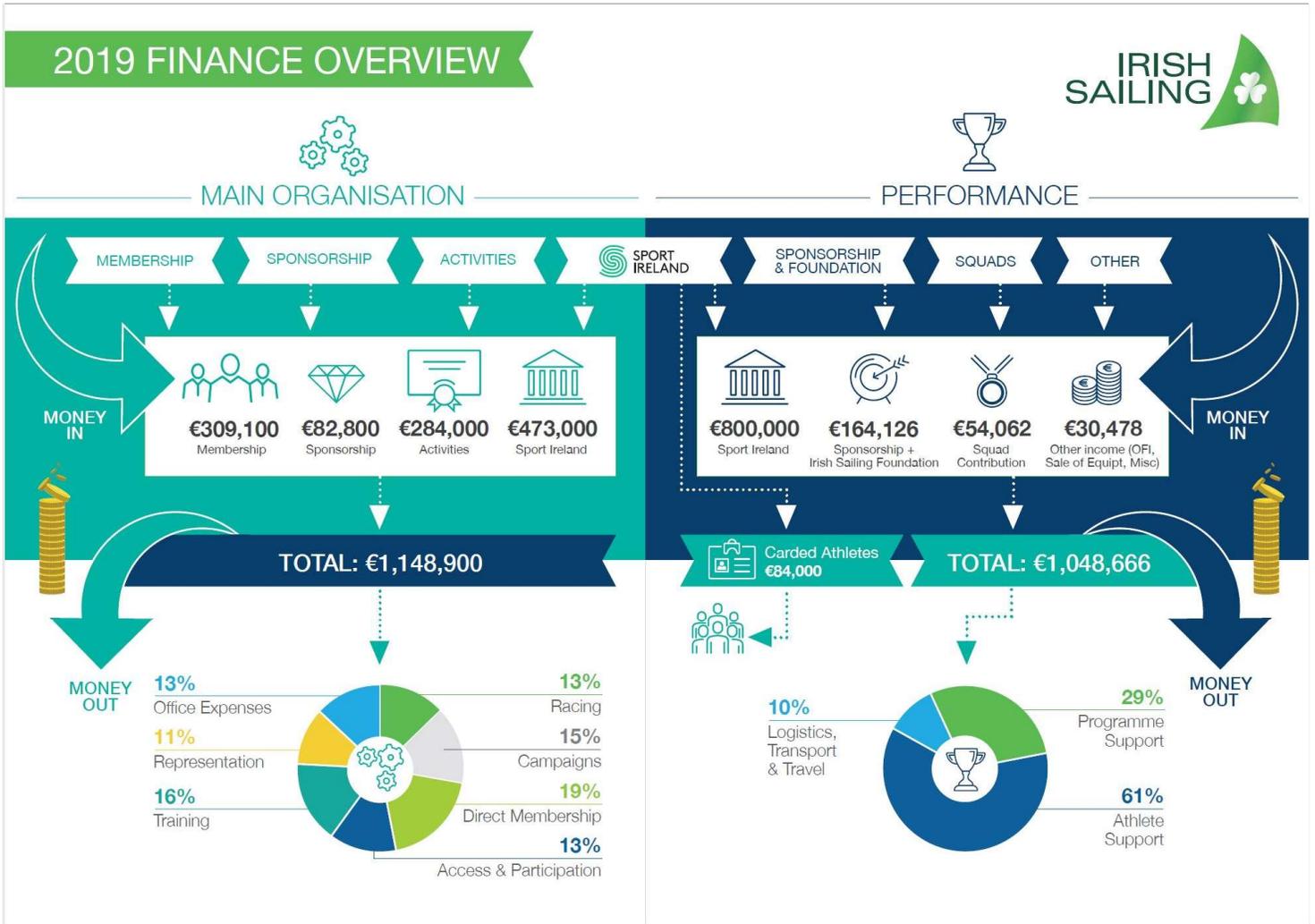
**Support at every level** – we support all levels and interests ; from racing to cruising, classes to clubs, kids to seniors, catamarans to keelboats, beginners to Olympians.

Funding from four sources: Membership; Government (Sport Ireland); Sponsorship & philanthropy (including Irish Sailing Foundation); Services (certs & licences etc).

# Irish Sailing 2019



# Finance overview for 2019





# President's Report 2019

Jack Roy

## Governance

- The Irish Sailing Board of Directors is chaired by Jack Roy. Board members are: John Twomey, Paddy McGlade, Fiona Bolger, Sarah Byrne, Nikki Curran, Colin Kavanagh, David O'Brien, Rory Carberry, Richard Colwell, James Lyons, Simon McGibney (retired), Pat Donnelly (retired), Brian Craig (retired). Harry Hermon (CEO) in attendance
- Board meetings were well attended, with 77% of our board attending 71% of meetings or more.

## Events

Once again we **hosted a number of large events both on and off the water** – from the Volvo Irish Sailing Awards, Race Officials Conference, Cruising Conference and Club Symposium, to the Irish Sailing All Ireland Senior and Junior Sailing Championships; the Youth National Championships which is Ireland's largest youth regatta, the now annual and award-winning Watersports Inclusion Games and the very successful inaugural Irish Sailing Pathfinder Women at the Helm regatta.

## Cruising

- **Cruising Conference** – hosted in National Yacht Club in February and attended by 100 people plus speakers and exhibitors and sponsored by Union Chandlery and supported by Cruising Association of Ireland and Kilrush Marina. The feedback has been very encouraging, and the event got a feedback score – 4.625 out of 5, with 81.25% saying they will attend again next year and 18.75% may attend.
- **Sustainability**: Irish Sailing Sustainability program provides a full range of advice and suggestions for boat owners and clubs / centers to reduce their impact on the environment. Volvo Ocean Race veteran and environmental campaigner Damian Foxall continues to be the Irish Sailing Sustainability Ambassador.
- **Visitor Moorings** – Maintenance Status is under continual supervision, with updates published.
- **Safetrx**: Irish Sailing remain licence holders for Safetrx which continues to grow in usage across Ireland with continued development to help all boating rescues at sea.
- **Diesel** – Irish Sailing have been working with Policy Group representative Norman Kean to provide members with up to date information on the green / white diesel requirements and supply. Work continues.
- **Port Search** – The data of ports round Ireland has been re collated and works are underway to republish this in 2020.



# President's Report 2019

Jack Roy

## Clubs & Participation

The aim of the Clubs and Participation group is to connect with clubs around the country and to establish what they want from Irish Sailing as their governing body.

- The third successful year of the **Watersport Inclusion Games** were held in Kinsale with 145 volunteers and 250 people with various abilities on the physical, sensory, intellectual and learning difficulty spectrums and representing all ages, demographics and socio-economic backgrounds who got to try sailing, canoeing, kayaking, fast boat rides, water skiing, stand up paddle boarding and surfing
- The 2020 Games shall be held in Lough Derg YC on 20/21 June and this year we are introducing 4 regional competitions to compliment the programme in County Clare, Wicklow, Donegal and Cork
- The second year of the **Club Symposium** was held in Athlone with 40 attendees representing 26 Clubs and Centres from all over the country and focused on sharing ideas and experiences around managing membership. Hosted by Irish Sailing, the day was designed and delivered by Club representatives for the Clubs and Training Centres. It was another great success and this year the “stop-start-continue” session fed into the strategic policy review process.

## Diversity & Inclusion

- Irish Sailing Safeguarding Courses have increased to over 30 courses, with 6 higher level courses run nationwide. New requirements under the Children First Act are implemented as required and ongoing support to clubs and centres occurs on a continuous basis.
- Irish Sailing are now offering an Inclusion Audit for free to affiliated organisations where a qualified assessor gives a full appraisal of the club or centre's capacity to facilitate people with disabilities. From access, facilities and programmes, the audit provides a user-friendly description online for people to view before attending the facility.
- Two new developments for 2020 are facilitating the voice of the child within our organisations and developing our approach to diversity within the LGBTQI+ community and sailing in Ireland. Both programmes will see policies, guidance and active initiatives being piloted throughout the year.



# President's Report 2019

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## Training

- 2019 continued to see strong activity levels in Irish Sailing training schemes in Clubs and Training Centres throughout the country
- 3 new Training Centres were established
- There was a small 5% growth in the number of Passport online evaluations recorded the most significant of which was seen in the Powerboat Training Scheme where the numbers being certified online have now passed the number of paper certificates previously issued for the first time
- Feedback from our Training Centres has identified that although Passport has been reasonably well implemented by the centres it is not widely used or understood by the participants. Encouraging greater use by participants, in particular the log function, will be a key goal for 2020
- Numbers attending Irish Sailing instructor training courses remain strong with 63 courses delivered training 435 instructors across the Sailing, Powerboating and Windsurfing schemes
- The first of the new Club Coach training courses were delivered in this year with the programme and certification process now finalised. 2020 will see a wider role out of the programme
- As part of the Go Windsurfing Scheme a new Foiling module has been developed with the first instructor training course taking place in The Oysterhaven Centre in November
- A revised process of Training Centre inspections was implemented this year. A self declaration covering key documentation requirements allows for a greater amount of time to be spent on the water observing and giving feedback on the quality of delivery. Feedback on the revised process has been very positive.
- There has been continued growth in the number of ICC (+12%) and Commercial Endorsements (+30%) issued. The processes used for the issuing these certificates also received positive feedback from the Dept of Transport, Tourism and Sport following an audit at the beginning of the year



# President's Report 2019

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## Race Officials

- The Race Officials Programme continues to be a success with 284 course attendees in 2019 over a range of courses. These courses were run at various clubs around the country, including Royal Cork Yacht Club, Greystones Sailing Club, Kinsale Yacht Club, Ballyholme Yacht Club, Royal St. George Yacht Club, Monkstown Bay Sailing Club, Glandore Harbour Yacht Club, Lough Ree Yacht Club and Carrickfergus Sailing Club.
- These talks and courses were delivered by Chris Watts, Mike O'Connor, Gordon Davies, Bill O'Hara, Mal Nowlan, Ed Totterdell, Barry Mac Neaney, David O'Brien, Ciarán Mc Sweeney, Vincent Delany, Chris Lindsay and Cxema Pico.
- Courses delivered were Regional and National Judge, Rules talks, Local, Regional and National Mark Layer, Local Race Officer and Local Umpire.
- The Race Official Regulations were updated and are available online
- Race official applications are now online along with official reference forms to support applications
- Our fully qualified officials now number: 26 judges, 15 umpires, 103 race officers, 20 mark layers, 6 approved IRC measurers. A total of 335 have either qualified or have, by attending one of our courses, started the progression towards becoming a race official for Irish Sailing
- EUROSAF Race Officials Exchange Programme – 3 x Irish officials travelled to Europe to attend events, with 3 x European officials coming to Ireland to officiate at the Irish Sailing Youth Nationals in Royal Cork Yacht Club, Volvo Dun Laoghaire Regatta and the All Ireland Seniors in the National Yacht Club. This is a growing opportunity for officials to gain experience at International events and for clubs to get International experience at their larger events, a scheme I would strongly encourage everyone to avail of in the future.

## Competition & Classes

- 12 x Coaching grants were delivered for the Wayfarer, E-boat, Waterwags, 420's, Mirrors, IDRA 14, GP14, Ruffian, Topper, 2.4 metre, Fireball, laser standard, laser radial and laser 4.7 classes
- Approved Coaches now number 12 with many more developing their skills to become approved Irish Sailing Coaches
- We now have 43 Affiliated Classes: Mirror, RS Feva, Topaz, 420, Optimist, Topper, 29er, Waszp, GP14, IDRA14, RS200, Laser 4.7, Laser Full rig, Laser Radial, Mermaid, RS400, 1720, 2.4m, Beneteau First 31.7, Drascombe, E-Boat, Fireball, Flying 15, Howth 17, ICRA, International Dragon, J109, J24, J80, Moth, Multihull, National 18, Puppeteer 22, RS Elite, Ruffian 23, SB20, Shipman, Sigma 33, SOD, Squib, The WaterWags, Wayfarer Class and J70.



# President's Report 2019

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## Team Racing

- With the support of BIM Flag Funding and Sailfleet funds, Irish Sailing took delivery of a fleet of six Fireflies complete with road trailer and equipment to deliver team racing roadshows to clubs and training centres throughout the country. In total, 37 Clubs and training centres have expressed an interest with several clinics delivered to date by our experienced coaches at RStGYC, RIYC, Blackrock, Malahide Sea Scouts and Sutton Park School
- Irish Sailing are recruiting coaches for the roadshow and are particularly interested in coaches in the Munster & Connacht regions. Irish Sailing will also be offering free Team Racing Clinics to existing instructors who want to start coaching team racing at their club. Bursaries may be available to existing active instructors who want to become a Club Race Coach and are available this Summer.
- Irish Sailing in association with the Irish Team Racing Association are providing evening information seminars for clubs interested in running a team racing event. Seminars will cover Setup, Umpiring, Equipment, Scoring & Results

## Cruiser Racing & Irish Cruiser Racing Association (ICRA)

Irish Sailing grant aids ICRA to drive the development of Cruiser Racing

- Implemented a clear ICRA National Championship general rules and regulations
- Delivered a first class Nationals - with 93 boats and 650+ sailors taking to the water. Overall rating of the event is 7.6 out of 10, the highest rating for four years. While 55% of competitors stated that the event was better than they expected. The core rating of the racing satisfaction scores overall was 8 out of 10.
- Building "Yacht Racing for All" is our core mission and we are especially proud of the drive to encourage participation among the Under 25 age groups in 2019. ICRA subsidised the entry costs to the Nationals for eight under 25 teams to take part. We also provided subsidised entry for several under 25 teams at the J24 national championships, and the Women at the Helm event.
- We have developed a new under 25 programme for 2020-2024 to help clubs to build and progress under 25 teams across the country, with a total budget of €50,000. Applications for funding are well ahead of expected numbers, with 8 existing clubs applying and 7-8 new clubs applying to set up new under 25 teams.
- Implemented a trial adjustment to ECHO handicapping, designed to make ECHO work harder for boats from clubs across Ireland and at a standalone event. This appears to have been very successful, delivering a totally different set of results than IRC.
- Launched the new "Boat of the Year" formula based on competing in a range of tiered events across the country. This was well received, and is being updated and the latest results sent to all members, and published on the ICRA website. It achieves its goal of promoting entry by as many boats in as many events as possible.



# President's Report 2019

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## High Performance

- We are working toward the 2020 Olympics in Tokyo. The main goal in 2019 was Olympic qualification which was achieved in the Laser Radial but was missed in 49er and Laser. Both the 49er and Laser squads now await where qualifiers will take place as the planned event in Genoa has obviously now been cancelled due to the Covid-19 crises, so we await developments.
- The opening of the new Irish Sailing Performance HQ in Dun Laoghaire on the site of the Commissioners of Irish Lights is a game changer for Irish performance sailing, and was delivered entirely through the support of the Irish Sailing Foundation which continues to grow on an annual basis.
- The Performance HQ has since been shortlisted for the Green Awards
- Two months were spent in Japan last summer in preparation for 2020 Olympics. The period included three competitions and training.
- Annalise Murphy switched from sailing a 49erFX with Katie Tingle to go back to the Laser Radial and will contest the 2020 nomination trials
- Strong Academy performances including a silver medal by Eve McMahon at the U17 World Radial Championships and a top 5 by Tom Higgins at Radial Worlds
- Former Olympic medal race finalist Matt McGovern was recruited as 49er coach working with U23 World medallists Robert Dickson and Sean Waddilove, and Ryan Seaton and Seafra Guilfoyle
- Financially, we secured the same level of funding from Sport Ireland and crucially extra support from the Irish Sailing Foundation around logistics and accommodation for the Olympic qualifiers
- We continue to receive support from key sponsors GUL, Optimum Nutrition, Teng Tools. We are still working hard to secure title sponsorship for the team
- We are required under the terms of our Sport Ireland grant to report on our current status in respect of anti-doping. In 2019 we had no instances of positive dope testing, which means we remain a drug free sport.



# President's Report 2019

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## Communications – Highlights

- **Event media coverage**
  - **Volvo Irish Sailing Awards** saw highest ever attendees with 515 registrants (21% increase on 2018), more VIP presenters, and total audience reach of 4,227,402 with Advertising Value Equivalency (AVE) of €61,527
  - **Irish Sailing Youth National Championships:** good RTE radio interviews and regional press coverage attributed to audience of 3,506,760 and AVE of €98,817
  - **Irish Sailing All Ireland Championships** tracked increased traffic on social media with an audience of 18,491 people (12% increase on last year). The Juniors saw even better results (which reflects social media audiences) with 17,140 OTS (opportunities to see) and a 30% increase
  - **Irish Sailing Pathfinder Women at the Helm** had excellent national coverage with reach of 2,770,629 and AVE of €256,406
  - **Watersports Inclusion Games** in August reached 3,085,020 people with AVE of €70,469
- **Satisfaction Scores** for events remain high for our hosted events - 4.4 out of 5 average feedback score (6 events measured)
- **Irish Sailing Performance HQ** opened in March. Lots of interest with total audience reach of 5,185,425 with AVE of €96,558. Shortlisted for Green Awards
- **Irish Sailing Team** media highlights (tracked)
  - Finn Lynch comes 4<sup>th</sup> overall at the Princess Sofia regatta in April. Total reach of 4,452,087 with AVE of €62,968
  - In July the Olympic Qualification in Enoshima reached audiences of 14,153,978 and AVE of €133,707
- **Social Media:** we talk to 9,000 people every day via FB and Instagram and have seen a slow but steady increase of 2,618 followers across our channels YTD with 18,982 total followers, a 14% unpaid growth
- **Newsletter growth** of over 5,000 subscribers this year (from 0 in May 2018). Total now over 10,000 subscribers and growing fast
- **New Content** – 22 new pieces of video –available to view on our YouTube Channel
- **Sponsorship:** Pathfinder Management Consultancy on board for Women at the Helm for 3 years, 2019-2021
- **Commodores Quarterly** –to Club Commodores outlining Irish Sailing news and information
- **Performance Quarterly** – to key stakeholders
- **Communications Policy Group** – new group with Valda Boardman, Andrew Bradley and Justin Cullen



# President's Report 2019

Jack Roy

## Final thanks

- This is my last Presidents report, having served my three year term and completed now seven years on the Board. I would like to use this opportunity to say what a privilege it has been to hold the position of President of our governing body. Being President of Irish Sailing has given me the opportunity to move around the country and it has been a real pleasure to visit centres of sailing and meet the people who are so passionate about the sport we all care about so much. To see first hand the spirit of volunteerism that is so essential to the success of our sport and to see the all important 'FUN' that sailing gives to so many. Yes, extremely difficult times at the moment with a lot of uncertainty, but I know we will be back on the water as soon as possible enjoying our great sport. In the meantime I wish you and your families all the best and stay safe.
- Our CEO Harry Harmon and the all the **Irish Sailing staff** put in a huge amount of work behind the scenes to allow our sports to run smoothly
- The **Board of Irish Sailing** are all volunteers and give generously of their time and expertise with the sole aim of developing and maintaining best standards and practices
- Those who give their time on the various **Policy Groups** that support the work of the Board, these volunteers provide vital expertise and help to the board in framing our policies.
- The **Irish Sailing Foundation** is a vital supporter of our sport. In 2019 we opened the Irish Sailing Performance HQ which was entirely funded through the foundation, and is a milestone for our senior athletes as a place they can call home. The Foundation brought in €159,000 of funding last year in total which is a fantastic achievement
- The **countless volunteers** around the country without whom, quite simply, our sports could not function
- The **members of Irish Sailing** who by being part of our Association, taking part in what we do and the initiatives we run allowing our sports to develop and thrive.



# 2019 Operational KPIs Achieved

Harry Hermon CEO

## Governance

- Policies and Procedures reviewed against the Governance Code
- Audit and Gov Committee Established
- Operational resource allocated to Governance
- Strategic Plan Steering Group appointed and review initiated

## Clubs & Participation

- **Try Sailing:** 4,990 participants from stats received (5,300 in 2018)
- **Women on the Water:**
  - 40k per annum for two years of funding from Sport Irl (€18k in 2018)
  - 200 Sailors in 59 Boats in the Inaugural Women at the Helm Regatta
  - 8 Local Sports Partnerships now funding WOW Programmes for clubs
- **Sailfleet Programme:** Team Racing Development Programme established with the support of Flag funding and Sailfleet
- **Seafest** – Fully engaged with the event programme in Cork, 200 people engaged with Irish Sailing Activities
- **Cluster Meetings:** 9 meetings hosted in the Spring, reduced to 6 in the Autumn and combined with Training Briefings following feedback from those attending
- **Inclusion**
  - Inclusion Games in Kinsale – 250 Participants, 150 Volunteers
  - Windsurfing & Water skiing added to the programme.
  - 40 Clubs and Centres now inclusive
  - Online recognition tool identified and to be piloted in 2020

## Representation

- **National & International Committees:**
  - Eurosaf – Annual conference
  - World Sailing – Annual Conference and mid year meeting
  - European Boating Assoc – Spring and Autumn meetings
  - Marine Safety Working Group – 3 meetings
  - Irish Marine Search and Rescue Committee – meeting attended
  - Marine Spatial Plan Advisory Group – Input into the plan ongoing
  - Irish Lights users committee – meeting attended
  - Federation of Irish Sport – Board meetings
  - Sport Dispute Solutions Ireland – Board meetings

## Cruising

- **Cruising Symposium:** hosted by Irish Sailing and organised with CAI/ICC – (80 attended)
- **Visitor Moorings:** Maintenance Status updated

## Sustainability

- **Environmental Guidelines** for Clubs & Centres published in collaboration with World Sailing
- **Women at the Helm Regatta** received the Platinum Clean Regattas Award by Sailors for the Sea



# 2019 Operational KPIs Achieved

Harry Hermon CEO

## Training & Coaching

- **Powerboat Training Scheme:** 2 x Powerboat Instructor update workshops delivered and Coastal Navigation for Small Boat course packs developed
- **Small boat Sailing Scheme:** Increased number of Senior and Advanced Instructors trained
- **Windsurfing:** Foiling module developed
- **Instructor Trainers :** 3 x additional Instructor Trainers trained and trainer conference held
- **Meetings: Sport Ireland Advanced Sport Framework,** instructor trainers meetings, and Coaching Ireland audit completed
- **Instructor Training:** 63 x instructor courses completed with 435 x Instructors trained
- **Irish Sailing Passport:** 6,290 x total evaluations, an increase of 4.9% on 2018
- **JO, CP & SI Briefings:** 6 x Regional JO and Centre Principal briefings, and 3 x Senior Instructor briefings held
- **Garda Vetting :** 540 x applications processed
- **Training Centres:** 3 x new centres accredited, 70 x inspections completed
- **ICC's/Commercial Endorsements:** 802 ICCs (International Certificate of Competency), and 151 Commercial Endorsements issued
- **Club Coaching Programme:** 2 x club Coach courses completed with 12 x coaches trained
- **Coaching Resource Pack:** Safety Resource Pack for coaching drafted and published
- **Inspection of Centres:** Review of Inspection process completed and implemented, with focus now more on activity than inspection of paperwork.

## Competition

- **International Events:** Support and Jury appointment for Flying Fifteen Worlds (funding support from Sport Ireland)
- **Eurosaf:** Race officials exchange programme saw 4 x exchanges completed and hosting of Eurosaf Exchange meeting in January 2020
- **Events:** Junior & Senior All Ireland Championships, Youth Nationals, and Women at the Helm events run successfully.
- **Race Management:** 13 x courses completed to date with 260 attendees:
  - 2 x Local Race Officer
  - 2 x Judges Course (RJ/NJ)
  - 3 x Mark Layer
  - 6 x Rules talks
  - 3x Mark Layers
- **Class Coaching:** 12 x Class Coaching Programmes supported
- **Event Management Safety Training:** course established