



Coláiste Iognáid Rowing Club Newsletter April 2016 Edition No 2

Welcome to our Newsletter to all current, former Rowers and friends of Coláiste Iognáid Rowing Club. Since our first edition we have recruited twelve paid up members for Friends of Colaiste Iognaid Rowing Club of all eras and from all over the globe. We would like to double that number with this edition.

The first Newsletter January edition can be viewed on our Website circ.ie, which also includes much information on the club activities including archive photographs going back to the beginning of rowing in Colaiste Iognaid Rowing Club.

The Newsletter is being sent to all former rowers for whom we have a current address and we appeal for any updates in this regard. Any information can be sent to our e-mail address rowingiognaid@gmail.com including any suggestions as to items to be included in the Newsletter itself.

Sadly a number of former Jes oarsmen have passed away since January, Colm O'Carra, Ivor Kenny and more recently David Taylor all of whom rowed in the early years of the club, our sympathies are extended to their families.

Club News

The new Filippi Eight which was ordered in January is due for delivery at the end of May and is on schedule. The boat will have an average weight range of 67.5 Kg to 80kg and was specified as such to suit both our senior girls at the lower end of the range and our senior boys crews at the upper end of the range. The club has entered into a medium term interest free loan funding arrangement with the Board of Management of Colaiste Iognaid to partially defray the cost of the new boat, other boats will follow in 2017.



Jeep and Trailer loaded and ready to travel to Limerick Regatta and Schools Regatta, both events were held at O'Brien's Bridge upstream of Limerick on the Shannon. The Jeep was generously donated by a parent of rowers, Mr Aidan Goulding of the printing equipment company Cantec.ie and the club now owns the Jeep, *volunteer drivers are wanted!*

The Contractors BAM completed the concrete slab in the area to the left of the clubhouse ie between the clubhouse and the railway embankment on the Corrib Club side. This will allow for a future extension to provide additional storage space particularly for fours and possibly four boats. This was completed just after Easter. Our own volunteer construction crew led by Liam Gavin are currently relocating our petrol store.

The club had a visit from a French school which caters for rowing. A party of 34 no student/rowers accompanied by three teacher coaches made the trip. The school known as College Henri IV is based in Meulan, just west of Paris and last year a group of 27 no Jes rowers travelled to the school and were hosted by the French students and

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their families. The reciprocal visit by the French occurred in the week before Easter and was most enjoyable for all. The whole event was organised by a group of parents within the club.

A large flotilla of rowing crews, mixed Irish and French had three rowing days on the Corrib with multilingual coaching. Great support was provided by Tribesmen Rowing Club and Grainne Mhaoil Rowing Club in making boats available.



The French Irish Armada at Menlo castle

Rowing News

The club had its first competitive outing at Skibbereen Regatta on Saturday the 9th April at the National Rowing Centre "NRC" in Iniscarra, Co. Cork. The planned two day Regatta was held over one day and thus had a very busy schedule with racing starting at 8.00am and finishing at 8.00pm. The Jes entry consisted of girls only. The Skibbereen Regatta is part of the Grand League Regatta system which effectively groups all entries regardless of entry grade into two divisions. Division One consists of Senior, Intermediate Club 1 and Junior 18A grades and Division Two consists of Club 2, Novice, J18B and J16 grades. Crews initially race heats based on an open draw of the combined entry in the particular event and the times achieved dictate the finals line up with the fastest boats going to the A finals etc. Our Girls U-16 eight won their heat with a time fast enough to qualify for the A Final in the Division Two. Their final time was over 30 seconds faster than the only other under 16 eight in this event and they won the trophy for the fastest under 16 eight. There were many other good performances with our crews making finals.

Limerick Regatta and Schools Regatta

Limerick Regatta was held on the 23rd April on the Shannon at O Briens Bridge, the club entered only the men's events. The junior 18 eight were just beaten in a tight race with St Michaels and the overall boy's squad performed well across a range of events on this their first outing. The following day at the Schools Regatta held on the same course the club had a full entry with the first years getting their first regatta outing. The club won four schools championships all girls events, under 16 and under 15 eights, under 15 and under 14 coxed quads.



Winning Girls at Schools Regatta



Mark Ryder U16 Sculls at Schools Regatta

Over 70 schools participated with St Josephs "Bish" winning the overall title largely based on wins in the under 18, 16 and 15 boys eights. Our crews at boy's level are developing well but at present are on the younger end of the 16 to 18 year range.



Under 14 Boys Quad at Schools Regatta 1



Under 18 Boys Coxed Four

Rowing in Germany by Daragh McCarthy.

I rowed with Frankfurter RG Germania from 2013 to 2014. It is one of Germany's top clubs and they rowed in Metro and Cork Regattas in 1959 winning the Leander Trophy. I rowed on the River Main which is a busy tourist and industrial river. Early mornings were rewarded with calm water.

Rowing is very strong in Germany and is predominantly funded by its recreational members who make up 70% of the rowing population. Composite rowing is very popular in Germany, with many clubs working together to build boats for international representation. Two of my crew mates went on to pick up international honours (P. Nonnast JM8+ Gold & L. Duhnkrack U23M8+ Gold).

My favourite memories are the 'Red Bull XRow', an endurance event in coxed eights, racing from Zug to Lucerne a distance of 20km rowing and including 10km running with over one hundred entries; and the 'German Sprint Championships', a 350 m race in eights which takes place in October.

After the racing, there is plenty of music and celebrations late into night! *Sounds familiar*



Daragh stroking pair with Dominik Thierback in Germany



U-18 Girls Eight Galway Head 1989 with Fr Murt Corry

Thirty short years by Siobhan O'Brien.

In September 1986, Fr. Murt Curry introduced women's rowing to the Jes. The 2015/16 season is the 30th for the girls in the club. After minor initial misgivings by the boys, all of the club rowers worked together for the overall benefit of the club. I remember that twice a week all the rowers were to be seen doing warm up laps around the school pitch, followed by circuits in the hall. Training together built a very strong sense of community, a very strong sense of club. Travelling to rowing events we act as a group with all crews across the age groups working together to pack, load, unload and assemble boats and support each other at these events unlike other sports where only one team normally participates in a specific event. Thirty short years ago, there were fewer boys in the club than there are now and no girls... Now our club has more than doubled it's membership and the excited, vibrant, hum of life is more than evident. Long may it last.

Reminder: The club has set up a former members' club known as "Friends of Colaiste Iognáid Rowing Club" which all former Jes rowers and friends of the club are eligible to join for an annual fee of €100, which will be used to fund future boat purchases. The membership will include the following:

- Quarterly Newsletters similar to the attached issued in January, April, July and October.
- A copy of the published book on the club history "Eighty Years Rowing"
- A standing invitation to all club events, including free entry to the Club Annual BBQ in July each year.
- Many opportunities to link up with former rowers and, health and weather permitting, renew acquaintance with rowing on the River Corrib. For the less ambitious, or possibly wiser, of you a trip in a launch accompanying a crew can be arranged.
- A simple form to apply to join can be downloaded from the club website at CIRC.ie to join this exclusive club. The Newsletter can be posted or sent by email to you in the future.

Further Rowing Information is available on the club website circ.ie