

COLAISTE



IOGNAID

Coláiste Iognáid Rowing Club Newsletter January 2017 Edition No 5.

Welcome to our Newsletter to all current and former Rowers and friends of Coláiste Iognáid Rowing Club. All previous editions of the Newsletter can be seen on our website circ.ie. and this site includes much current and archive material going back to the formation of the 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.

Good News Former coach and rower Neasa Russell (formerly Folan) has just had a new arrival, a baby girl, Ailbhe, mother and baby are very well congratulations to all in the Russell and Folan Families.

Eamon Colclough, our former coach and mentor is going forward for election to the prestigious post of President of Rowing Ireland. The club has seconded his nomination by Tribesmen RC for this post and we wish him every success in the forthcoming election.



Club News

Finally, just before Christmas the last of the boats damaged in the unfortunate accident before the Championships in July, were returned to the club. Credit is due to Brendan Wall, son of the late Dermot Wall, for the quality of the repair work and all damaged boats have been fully repaired. The trailer has also been repaired and returned to the club.

As previously mentioned there is an urgent need for two new fours and to this end two Fillippi fours one coxed and one coxless have been ordered. Fillippi boats represent the best value for quality boats for our club at present. The overall cost will be €36,000 and the boats can be rigged as fours or quads. The coxless four/quad was actually delivered on February 25th and has just had its first row, the coxed boat is due for delivery in early May. The coxless boat had been made available by Fillippi for use in the World Championship last summer and was available for immediate delivery. This was its only use and is in perfect condition and was sold as new with a 10% discount. These new boats as the new eight purchased last summer, will not be used for normal training but exclusively for racing and pre-race training.

Crews are continuing to train as normal with very benign river conditions continuing to the end of January but February has not been so kind. Our firstyear numbers are holding up very well thanks to our dedicated coaches and the ongoing boost from the O'Donovan Brothers. **The club currently has 77 no registered rowers which is the highest number ever.**

Work recommenced in January on finishing the club parking area and grounds with kerbing and levelling of material to form the parking area and to tidy up the area in front of and to the side of the club near the Corrib Rowing and Yachting Club. Additional boat racking has been provided on the concrete slab which itself provided by BAM in partial payment for the parking provided to their staff on site. The absence of our late, great friend Liam Gavin is keenly felt by all involved. It had been hoped to complete the parking area by the end of February but weather is delaying final surfacing which is now anticipated by late March.

The additional boat racking is being used by ourselves for older boats and by Tribesmen Rowing Club for two eights in use by their social rowers. The club has negotiated a barter deal with Tribesmen in regards to an engine and launch for the use of our racking.

The annual Christmas backpack in Dunnes of Knocknacarra raised just shy of €2000 which goes to the annual club running costs and great credit is due to all the rowers, volunteers and organisers who gave their time particularly on Christmas Eve. General annual fundraising for the annual running cost of the club is going well mainly due to the very active parents committee. The annual running cost of the club excluding insurance and electricity both covered by the school exceeds €30,000 and this is raised by annual subscriptions raising €18,000 and €12,000 raised by fundraising such as the above.

The Boat Fund target is being increased to €100,000 from the original €60,000 to cater for the increased numbers and to ensure that that the club can provide appropriate standard equipment for our rowers. The principal cause of the increase is the more urgent need to renew all of our senior racing fleet as previously outlined, our original Fillippi fleet is now over twelve years old and our older Janousek are all over twenty years old, many over twentyfive, with the exception of one pair which is fourteen years old. The under sixteen crews and under eighteens are allowed to use the Fillippi boats however the younger crews are still racing in the older Janousek boats which are no longer really race worthy and are increasingly liable to breakdown. The cost of the eight purchased last year and the two fours will come to €65,000. No additional equipment such as oars are included. The club is also committed to renewing pairs/double sculls (two boats, a lightweight boat for girls and a heavyweight boat for boys, total cost €26,000) and the purchase of a tour boat (cost €9,000) which will provide both a training boat for beginners and allow parents to take part in social rowing.

At present the club is ineligible to avail of grants under the Department of Transport, Tourism, and Sport sponsored Sports Capital Program, as the club membership is confined to school pupils of Colaiste Iognaid. The grants are only available to clubs with open membership. The formation of an Alumni Rowing Club with open membership based in the existing club, possibly using the Friends of Colaiste Iognaid Rowing Club as a starting point, could provide the means of accessing these grants in the future. This in turn would secure another stream of funding for the club into the future.

There is a feature at the end of the Newsletter highlighting the **“Jes Rowunion Day” on the 2nd July 2017** inviting all former rowers to renew acquaintance with the club and their contemporaries.

Rowing News

Rowing has benefited considerably from the benign conditions through the winter until the last few weeks when winter has finally arrived in terms of wind and rain. Our first and second years are doing very well particularly the second year crews. The senior girls group has reduced somewhat as the training intensified but are quite competitive. The boys are divided into under sixteen and under eighteen. The under sixteen are developing but need considerable work and the under eighteen are training well but have had a number suffer injuries and illness which has limited their participation.

The club has participated in the National trials at Lough Rynn and in the Indoor Rowing Championships in Limerick and at Dublin City University. A number of the seniors are in the overall mix for ongoing selection as part of the under eighteen national squads. A first year boys did exceptionally well as part of the Get Going Get Rowing initiative and came second in the National crew event at the Indoor Rowing Championship. The club had entered the postponed St Michaels Head rescheduled for 18th March 2017.



Mattie Kelly, Dave Mannion, Luke Smyth are the main men's coaches for the senior and under sixteen boys. Luke Smyth, Noel Hume, Sandra Kelly, Redmond O'Brien with Naomi Colclough and Aine Gavin coaching the girls. Dave Mannion is overall head coach and we welcome the return of John Lawless to the club from his sojourn in France. Kai Mc Glacken, Alex Burke, Luke Sheridan, David Young, Eoghan Walls and Rory Griffin are the main first and second year coaches.

First Year Boys at Indoor Championship UL Limerick

We are constantly seeking additional coaches and volunteers to assist and would welcome all who can assist.

"Jes Rowunion Day" 2nd July 2017

Keep the day Free !!!!!

All former Jes Rowers and families are invited to take part in a Jes Rowunion Day to be held at the Club on Sunday the 2nd July 2017. All former rowers will be able to renew acquaintance with rowing on the river or by going up in the launches, or at the very least simply getting photographs sitting in a boat.

This will be a daylong event with catering available all day.

This is the day of the Henley Finals and these will be shown on a big screen in the club

Every participant gets memorial tee shirt of the event.

It is hoped to create an enjoyable occasion and opportunity to meet and renew acquaintance with friends and contemporaries from their rowing career and with the club itself.

Eights will be available for all rowers past and present and it intended to use the occasion to have a blessing ceremony for our two new fours and our tourboat.

Liam Gavin, An Appreciation

Liam Gavin got involved in our club when his daughter Aine took up rowing in 2006. Liam embraced all aspects of the club even though he had no previous experience of rowing.

His infectious good humour, innate kindness, decency and almost permanent grin meant he could always communicate easily with both young and old and he was a friend to all within the club. He carried out repairs in the clubhouse, drove the bus, towed boats and looked after the logistics at regattas incl the championships, with great efficiency and good humour.



In the construction of the new gymnasium, dressings rooms, showers etc over a two year period Liam's dedication, organisational skills allied to his ability to coax willing volunteers Frank Phelan, Tommy Rushe, JJ Cahalan, Tadg Kenny and Noel Sheridan and many more, ensured that the "Saturday Morning crew" delivered this very substantial work.

All of this was done with great good humour, no little mischief and enjoyment for all involved. The late Macdara Glynn, his accomplice, was very much a kindred spirit in these activities.

At the time of his untimely passing in November, Liam was involved in the completion of the external areas of the club in the provision of carparking and resurfacing the overall area and was looking forward to future works within the club.

He is missed by all of us who were fortunate to know him.

Our sincere sympathies are with his loving family Eileen, Aine and Tomas.

Reminder: The club has set up a former members' club known as "**Friends of Colaiste Iognaid 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. See circ.ie.

