

DBOGA Area Report for 2021

Storm Covid continued to cause havoc with our sailing plans. The late relaxation of the “Covid Rules” curtailed distance cruising for many of us. Nevertheless Sean Walsh’s *Tir na N’Og*, Mark Sweetnam’s *Don Carlos*, Paul Keogh’s *Moonshine* and Adrian Spence’s *El Paradiso* were able to explore, individually, Ireland’s south and west coasts, Carlingford Lough and the Outer Hebrides, Orkney & Shetland. Closer inshore we hosted our Liffey Regatta at the end of August and our Howth Regatta the following weekend. The sudden passing of DBOGA stalwart Derek Woods while racing in the Liffey Regatta inevitably cast a dark shadow over this well attended event. Five trailer sailors joined the fleet for the first time and one won the Asgard Trophy, *Lauren*, crewed by Dave Neilly and Adrian Spence. Joe Pennington’s *Master Frank* won the Pier Head Cup at Howth the following weekend having sailed from Ramsay in the Isle of Man to take part. Tom Fitzpatrick’s *Saoirse* won the Bermudan Race and Denis Aylmer’s *Mona* took first place in the Leinster Plate Race.

Onshore, our regular Zoom talks during the Spring and Autumn were very well supported by our members and helped generate an 8000 euro donation to the Howth RNLI Fund-raising Team. Zoom continues to be the medium of choice for our Committee Meetings which, combined with our Whats App groups and Zoom talks, helps to overcome the “tyranny of distance” given our geographically dispersed membership over the island of Ireland and helps to bind our membership together into a proactive seafaring fellowship. We hope to muster in different places around Ireland during the winter such as Cork, Kinsale or Kenmare.

DBOGA held its “hybrid” AGM during November at Poolbeg Yacht & Boat Club and also over Zoom. Johnny Wedick, President for the last three years, stepped down, per our Constitution, but fortunately has agreed to remain on the management committee so his energy and good counsel continue. Adrian Spence was unanimously elected as President and two new members were appointed to the management committee: Ed Maggs (Kerry) and John Ferguson (Down). Our committee now has representatives from the following

counties: Dublin, Wicklow, Wexford, Cork, Kerry, Donegal and Down.

During 2021 DBOGA concluded discussions with the National Museum of Ireland to provide, quarterly, a cleaning and inspection team for two of Ireland's most iconic boats: *Asgard* and the Bantry Boat. The gaff ketch *Asgard* played an important role in the struggle for Irish independence in 1914. Her restoration took five years beginning in 2007 and she is now on permanent display at Collins Barracks, Dublin. Also on display is the Bantry Boat, a 222 year old admiral's barge that originally belonged to the French frigate *La Résolue*, a flagship commanded by Rear Admiral Neilly as part of the fleet bringing the French army to invade Ireland at Bantry Bay in December 1796. More will be explained about this DBOGA initiative, led by Johnny Wedick, in the next Gaffers Log.

DBOGA continues to receive ongoing excellent support from the Dublin Port Company, the Poolbeg Yacht & Boat Club and Howth Fishing Harbour for which we are most grateful. Their help in terms of both sponsorship and the provision of facilities go a long way towards making our regattas and social events successful.

Unfortunately 2021 witnessed one committee member and one very active DBOGA supporter "Crossing The Bar". With the passing of Derek Woods such was his popularity that, in October, nine boats and eighty five mourners sailed into Dublin Bay to lay wreaths and flowers in his memory. In August, Katie O'Connor, long time supporter of DBOGA through her work with Poolbeg Yacht & Boat Club, sadly, lost her battle with cancer. Rest in Peace Katie & Derek.

In terms of our membership numbers DBOGA began the year with 87 members, 9 of whom have decided not to renew their memberships for 2022. Six new members have been recruited during the year so our current fellowship consists of 84 souls slightly down on the previous year. However five of our six new members have their own boats so the DBOGA fleet has increased year on year with the addition of *Adigio*, *Brian Boru*, *Ylfa*, *Pilgrim* and *Peig Swordfish*.

The new management committee of DBOGA has hit the ground running in 2022. Dave Neilly is heading up our OGA 60 Planning Group, Michael Weed is continuing to focus on our trailer sailor fleet, Mark Sweetnam continues to handle our IT Media & Communications, Johnny Wedick heads up the Asgard & Bantry Boat Group and Jimmy Murphy continues as Treasurer. Dates have been provisionally agreed for our Liffey Regatta (3rd, 4th & 5th June) and our Howth Regatta (2nd, 3rd & 4th September). Work is underway to plan a Regatta or a Sail in Company in the South West of Ireland. Our usual series of Zoom talks will recommence on January 27th and will run monthly to April all in aid of Howth RNLI.

Darryl Hughes

DBOGA Hon Sec