



Coláiste Iognáid Rowing Club Newsletter October 2016

Edition No 4.

Welcome to our Newsletter to all current and former Rowers and friends of Coláiste Iognáid Rowing Club. Since launching Friends of Coláiste Iognáid Rowing Club we now have over 25 members and would like to increase to over thirty by year end. 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.

Sadly a number of former Jes rowers and friends of the club have passed away since July. Bobby Molloy was a former cox and mentor to the club and was very active in the early years of the club and always retained a great interest in the club and rowing in general. Sarah Patching rowed with great success in the early nineties and left us far too young. Liam Gavin, father of our coach and rower Aine Gavin, was the director and mainstay of all of our recent building activities, organiser of many events and supportive smiling friend to all in the club passed far too early after a short illness in late November.

Our sympathies are with all of their families. On a brighter note Fr Murt Corry SJ has returned this summer to the Jesuit Community in Galway as Rector and is also Chairman of the Board of Management of Coláiste Iognáid.

Club News

The new season began in late August, but throughout the holiday period the boat repair proceeded and by late October all boats, other than the Fillippi Eights and Fillippi four had been returned fully repaired, these remaining boats will be back by mid-December. It is intended to purchase two boats this season and given the condition of our older fleet of Janousek boats the original boat replacement program will need to be accelerated. This will require additional funding and we would welcome advice and assistance in this matter. The original Boat Fund of 60,000euro based on simply purchasing one eight, one four and one pair is inadequate to fulfil our replacement needs. We currently have confined our Fillippi boats to use by over fifteenes and above and the remaining crew boats were with the exception of a pair (2004) were purchased pre 2000. We estimate that we will have to increase the Boat Fund to at least 100,000 euro. There are a number of positives in that we are generating

income streams from usage of the club by other parties but we are in need of a significant injection of funding to meet our boat replacement needs.

A new set of sweep oars were purchased post the Olympics at reasonable cost and a barter arrangement with Tribesmen Rowing Club has resulted in a newish coaching launch and engine being acquired.



The club Annual Dinner was held in the Westwood Hotel on Friday 11th November and Fr Murt was our guest on the occasion. The new school principal Fr Shane Daly could not attend due to illness. It was a very pleasant evening with much glamour on show by the girls. All were home early as training began at 800am on Saturday

2016 Girls and Coaches

Laoise Ni Griofa and Daragh Coen deservedly shared the Club Person of the Year Award.

Laoise and Daragh receiving Club Person of the Year Trophy from Evan Molloy.

Rowing News

At our initial training camp organised by the indefatigable Ed Bell and aided by the coaches and existing rowers in the club over 70 beginners took part. This was certainly influenced by the tremendous success of the O'Donovan Brothers in Rio.

Daragh Coen is the club Captain for 2017 and we wish him all the very best.

At the Castleconnell Head of the River held on the 29th October the club had 15 beginner boys and 11 beginner girls rowing at their first rowing event with many of their parents in attendance. This is very positive and is a credit to the coaches and particularly to the more experienced rowers in the club who have given very substantial time in assisting with the training of beginners and providing experience within the boat to allow them to row safely on the river.

Whilst a number of the rowers from 2016 have discontinued rowing, a very strong group of last year's girls including the under sixteen crew have continued and the same applies to the boys. Both squads are training hard with clear ambitions at under eighteen level.

Coaches Aine Gavin, Luke Smyth and Dave Mannion



A number of the 2016 coaches are unavailable due to other commitments particularly Amy Phelan, Michael Sampier and a number of the girls coaches. Luke Smyth has returned and John Lawless will return full time after Christmas. Sandra Kelly, former cox, who has rejoined the club and Matthew Kelly are the main coaches with former girl coaches Naomi Colclough, Aine Gavin, Sarah Sheridan and Nicole Cooke assisting.

Redmond O'Brien has continued and most welcome additions are former rowers Noel Hume and Rory Griffin.

The Club entered many crews for Castleconnell Head of the River which is essentially the same course as the St Michaels Head but rowed downstream to Castleconnell from O'Brien's Bridge. Conditions were excellent on the day and many crews had good outings. The total number of rowers was sixty five. Encouraging results in the Junior Eighteen Boys and Girls eights which were both won by Jes and the Under 15 Boys Eight also won.

All were new combinations and a number of senior rowers were missing due to holidays. Daragh Coen, the club Captain and Brian Maye qualified for participation in the Bulls and Bears invitational eights race which their crew won with Daragh and Brian at stroke and seven. As mentioned earlier the first years had a great day rowing the full course in the Oct crewed by beginners and coxed by coaches Alex Burke and Luke Sheridan.



Phillip Buckley and Seamus O'Donoghue



An under 13 boys four man team of our beginners took part in the recent schools Get Going Get Rowing Ergometer event in Dublin and won out against all comers.

The next event is the Rowfit Ergometer Championships on the 26th November in UL in Limerick.

Beginner Boys Oct at Castleconnell

Trip to Germany 1966 by Kevin Murphy

In 1966 a party of twenty five oarsmen from Colaiste Iognaid Rowing Club travelled to the then West Germany. The trip was organised by the late Fr Liam Grimley SJ and he was accompanied by the late Fr Bob McGauran SJ, Fr Domo Hendricks SJ and Dr Brendan Healy the head coach. The club travelled overland via the UK after competing in Metro Regatta in Blessington to Koln ie Cologne and competed in a series of regattas in Frankfurt, Bonn and Essen. The crews performed exceptionally well against many German Schools and won the

MJ18 4+ event in Bonn and Essen were only narrowly beaten in the MJ18 8+ event. The party were made very welcome and were hosted at a reception in Bonn by the Mayor of the City.

Details of the trip and a diary like account of the events were recently discovered in papers kept by the late former President of the Irish Amateur Rowing Union, Mr Wally Stevens of Neptune R.C. An article by Dave Tuohy now Fr David Tuohy SJ one of the oarsmen who travelled and appeared in the Connacht Sentinel on the August 1966. All of this information is now up on our website circ.ie .

As this is the fiftieth anniversary of the trip a fiftieth year gathering is proposed and details of same can be had from Kevin Murphy email address johnkevinmurphy@hotmail.com or Evan Molloy at evanmmolloy@hotmail.com,



Using the bottom step as row 1. From left to right.

Row 1 Enda Folan, Rev. Fr. Domo Hendrick SJ, Rev.Fr. Bob Mc Goran SJ, Lord Mayor of Bonn, Lord Mayor's Secretary, Row 2 Eamon Lawless, Kevin O Rourke, Ger O Máille, Alan Howard, PJ Coughlan, Kevin Murphy. Row 3 Joe Keaney, Peter Murphy, (Declan Black ?) , Declan Ashe, Mattie Keane, Pat Mc Carthy, Murt Curry, Ian Quinn, David Tuohy. Back Row Jimmy Dolan, Mike Kyne, Pat Holland.

Participants of the trip not identifiable in the photo were Chris O Dea, Donal Bracken
The article from the Connacht Sentinel Tuesday ,August 9, 1966 referred to a "**party of 26 members of St. Ignatius College, Galway, Rowing Club**".

Any assistance in filling the gaps of those who travelled would be most welcome.

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.

