

PRESS REPORT - The 2022 Moneley Oyster Pearl Regatta

Sat 13-Aug-22

A Humdinger !

Report by **Pat McCormick** and **Gerry Byrne**

DINGHIES: The Moneley Oyster Pearl Regatta was run last Saturday, reflecting the past hugely successful event which attracted over a hundred boats from around the British Isles and Ireland. The hope is that this weekend's event will serve as an advertisement for future years, and restore this event to its status as one of Ireland's major sailing events. The event included dinghy and Flying Fifteen racing for the Dinghy Oyster Pearl Trophy and cruiser racing for the Cruiser Oyster Pearl Trophy. Three organizations were involved in the organization – the Moneley owned Carlingford Marina, Carlingford Sailing Club, and Carlingford Lough Yacht Club, Killowen.

The Moneley Oyster Pearl regatta return to Carlingford Lough revived this long standing event after a hiatus for the lockdown. In glorious sunshine racing was held for the dinghy fleet on a course stretching from Carlingford Marina to the mouth of Carlingford harbour. The dinghy racing combined the single and double handed boats, with the results for each race being decided by the average lap time for each boat.

The wind was light and variable in the morning but as the sun shone down and heated the land a steady sea breeze filled in allowing the race officer to set a course for the competitors who had waited patiently floating around for an hour. The light airs meant that tactics and skilled sail handling really came to the fore as each competitor worked to get the maximum from their boat. The leads changed frequently during the races and the final positions came down to the wire with seconds separating winners in each race.

The first race was dominated by the Flying 15s with first place going to Diarmuid and Aine Gorman, second to Jim Garvey and Johnny Duffy and third to Stephen Callan and Marcos Simpson. The single handers fought back in the second race with the honours going to Fiachra McCormick in first, second to Diarmuid and Aine, and Donal McCormick taking third. This left it all to play for in the third and final race with the breeze dying and little shifts in direction making tactical positioning critical. After an exciting start and multiple changes of lead the win eventually went to Fiachra McCormick, just ahead of his brother Dónal with Jim and Johnny in third.

The prize for the double handers went to Diarmuid and Áine Gorman in Ffree Ranger and the single hander prize went to Fiachra McCormick. The overall Moneley Oyster Pearl Dinghy trophy came down to a count back as both Diarmuid and Áine, and Fiachra had the same overall score on eight points however Fiachra's two wins gave the decision in his favour and makes him the Moneley Oyster Pearl Dinghy Champion for 2022.

Prize giving was held on the sun-soaked deck of the marina with a great evening sponsored by Carlingford Marina and the Moneley family.

CRUISERS: Glorious sunshine and a steady sea breeze, provided perfect conditions for the 2022 Moneley Oyster Pearl Regatta on Saturday. A large fleet of twelve cruisers competed over four races for the coveted "Pearl Trophy". Race Officer, Brian McConville set out a triangular port course in mid Carlingford Lough which allowed for competitive racing.

With line honours in all four races, **Humdinger**, skippered by John Conlon (Arklow SC) and his able crew, showed the rest of the fleet a clean pair of heels with **Supersonic** and **J'zus Outhaul** taking second and third respectively in the Echo908 class. Brian Dempsey (Arklow SC) won the CPH class in his flying J 92, **J'zus Outhaul**.

An enjoyable presentation ceremony took place at Carlingford Marina, courtesy of the Moneley family who generously sponsored the event. It was agreed that the success of this year's event would help to re-establish the Oyster Pearl as the premier cruiser regatta on Carlingford Lough.

Next Saturday, the fleet compete in the Warrenpoint Regatta for the Whistledown Trophy. As an open event, all cruisers in Carlingford Lough are invited to take part. Details and entry forms are available on CLYC website – www.clyc.info

Results

Money Cruiser Oyster Pearl Trophy **Humdinger** John Conlon Arklow SC

2nd **Supersonic** Thomas Kearney CSC

3rd **J'zus Outhaul** Brian Dempsey Arklow SC

CPH Class

J' zus Outhaul Brian Dempsey Arklow SC



The Flying Fifteens had a close start in Race 1.



The dinghies starting Race 1 in very light wind.



It was great to see **Humdinger**, the Oyster Pearl Trophy winner, back in Carlingford Lough after some years, with skipper John Conlon (from Arklow SC).



J'zus Outhaul wasn't far behind, with skipper Brian Dempsey and crew (also from Arklow SC) who won the CPH handicap prize.



Fiachra McCormick (CSC), winner overall and winner of the Youth Fleet, receiving the Dinghy Oyster Pearl Trophy from Mrs Pamela O'Connor Moneley.



Winners of the Adult Fleet, Diarmuid and Áine Gorman (Commodore of **Carlingford Sailing Club**) receiving their trophy from Mrs Pamela O'Connor Moneley.



Brian Dempsey (Arklow Sailing Club) receives the CPH handicap prize on behalf of **J'zus Outhaul** from Mrs Pamela O'Connor Moneley.



Skipper John Conlon and the crew of **Humdinger** with the coveted Moneley Oyster Pearl Trophy. (Photo: Mark Slater).

Some more photos:



The cruiser fleet, racing towards the Woodhouse.



A brisk sea breeze eventually picked up and enabled some exciting sailing.



Sisu (CLYC) heading upwind.



Mrs Pamela O'Connor Moneley (representing the event sponsor **Carlingford Marina**) and Brian McConville (Sailing Secretary of **Carlingford Lough Yacht Club**, Killowen) presented the prizes.



The Moneley Oyster Pearl Dinghy Trophy.



The Moneley Oyster Pearl Cruiser Trophy.