



CRUISING CLUB

FROM LANCE PUNSALL



Competitive dance routine

And so we embark on another season even if it will be a while before we see boats back in the water. In the meantime let's catch up on developments since our last Cruise-in-Company, way back in October 2013!

AGM

The AGM, held on Saturday, 7 December, at the Hodson Bay Hotel, was attended by 27 members. Despite the attraction of a Heineken Cup rugby match involving Leinster, the meeting witnessed an interesting discussion about possible options for future CICs with several contributions from the floor including a considered input from Fionnuala Smyth.

2014 COMMITTEE

The following were elected to the 2014 committee:

- Chairman:** Paul Scannell
- Vice-Chairman:** Archie Reed
- Hon. Secretary:** Mary Healy
- Hon. Treasurer:** Charlie Murray
- Commodore:** Eric Herrieven
- Safety Officer:** Owen Kavanagh
- IWAI Council Representative:** Mike Moroney
- Shop:** Archie Reed
- Webmaster:** Paul Scannell

The outgoing committee were re-elected with the exception of



Marie Keane presents Endeavour Award to Archie Reed

Safety Officer which position is now filled by Owen Kavanagh (*JKath*). The position of IWN Scribe was not filled and this report was prepared at short notice by a volunteer whose by-line appears in anagram format. Although it was felt that there was no necessity for a full-time Child Protection Officer, Catherine Ryan agreed to fulfil the role should the need arise.

Data was presented which suggested that although numbers attending club events had declined in the preceding year, there was still a relatively healthy level of participation.

ANNUAL DINNER

The AGM was followed by the Annual Dinner in the Killinure Suite at the Hodson Bay Hotel. The evening commenced with a mulled wine reception accompanied by an audio visual review of the year's CICs. Entertainment in the form of some novel fun and games was served up between the dinner courses! This included a lucky card draw before the starter course followed by an anagram quiz based on boat and crew names between main and dessert courses with small prizes for the winners.

The presentation of the club's Endeavour Award was made after dinner and this year's very popular recipient was Archie Reed who has been a member of the Cruising Club since it was formed. Archie has served in more committee positions than any other member and has participated in more CIC's than any other member, including

seventeen from 2011 to 2013. Archie received his award from last year's winner, Maria Keane, to a standing ovation from his fellow members.

Committee members and Event Commodores were each presented with a personalised PhotoBook in recognition of their contribution during the year.

Post-dinner entertainment kicked off with a highly entertaining, action-packed 'Balloon Race', with pairs of members racing across the room balancing a balloon between their foreheads.

The evening concluded with a virtuoso performance from local DJ par excellence, John Nugent, who maintained the competitive spirit through several exhibition dance routines with groups of members put through their paces before a winner was declared in each category. A multi-directional changing coma completed a wonderful evening.

Special thanks are due to the staff of the Hodson Bay who once again served the Cruising Club well. And mark the date in your diary for this season's AGM and Annual Dinner: 29 November 2014

PLANNING FOR 2014

The inaugural meeting of the incoming committee took place at the Brosna Lodge Hotel on 11 Jan 2014. The primary focus of the meeting was the planning of the Events Calendar for the coming year which is reproduced hereunder:

March 14-17, St. Patrick's Weekend: CIC to Banagher

April 18-21, Easter Weekend: Hidden Secrets of Lough Derg

May 2-5, May Bank Holiday Weekend: CIC to Limerick, Riverfest 2014

May 30-June 2: June Bank Holiday Weekend: Athlone, Tarmonbarry, Richmond Harbour

June 13-23: Tarmonbarry, Carnadoe, Grange, Carrick-on-Shannon, Lough Key;

September 5-7: Rossmore, Woodford River

September 26-28: Scarriff & Killaloe

October 24-27, October Bank Holiday Weekend: Banagher

November 29: AGM and Annual Dinner, Hodson Bay Hotel

Commodore, Eric Herrieven, is in the process of appointing Event Commodores who will then get started on planning exciting, enjoyable and entertaining programmes for each Cruise-in-Company for the coming season.

WEBSITE

The club's website (www.cruising.iwai.ie) has been updated and the layout slightly modified. Pages are now longer and what it is hoped are some interesting sections have been appended to some pages. The Events Calendar includes all club events currently planned for the coming year. Individual event details will be posted as they arise and post-event PhotoGalleries will be uploaded as soon as they are available.

CONGRATULATIONS!

The Cruising Club is delighted to extend 'Congratulations' and a hearty 'Best Wishes' to Barbara Smyth (Silverline Cruisers, Banagher) on the occasion of her recent marriage to Andrew Horn, formerly of Suffolk but living in Banagher since 2009. The Smyth family have been good friends to the Cruising Club ever since the club was founded and Barbara has frequently been the main point of contact. Assistance was always provided with that ready smile and an efficiency to match. We wish them many years of health and happiness in their married lives together.

Photos: Paul Scannell



Balloon Race