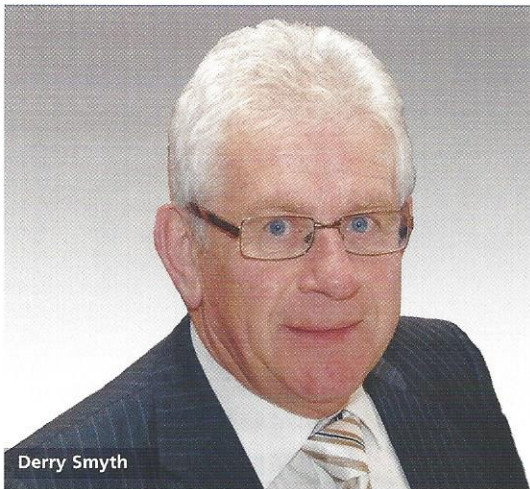
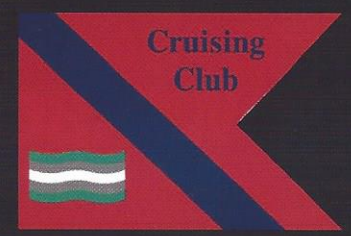




CRUISING CLUB

FROM LANCE PUNSALL



Derry Smyth

sympathies to Fionnuala, Dermot and Sharon and the extended Smyth family. Derry may be gone from this life but he is not and will not be forgotten. A special Cruising Club CIC in his memory will take place in early

September. More of that anon. And so, another season beckons. But first let's re-cap on the finish of the 2014 season which ended on such a sad note for the Cruising Club with the news of the passing of founder-member and former secretary Derry Smyth.

DERRY SMYTH

Derry joined the club on the occasion of the meeting held in Killaloe on April 2007 at which he was elected as secretary of the fledgling club. Derry held this position until he was elected to the ranks of the IWAI Executive as Hon. Secretary in 2010. Derry remained as IWAI Hon. Sec for three years and at the IWAI AGM in 2013 he was elected as Vice-President, a position that he held for a year. In the early years of the club he was a regular participant on Cruising Club CIC's, together with Fionnuala, on-board their beloved steel cruiser *Shee Finnaha*. However, during his time on the IWAI Executive he found it difficult to participate in club events. Since last April, he and Fionnuala started to enjoy the pleasure of cruising in company again and they participated in the Club's CIC to Tarmonbarry last June. And later in the season *Shee Finnaha* took them north to Carrick-on-Shannon and Lough Key. Derry was enjoying being on the water again and was looking forward to being more involved with the club during this coming season. Sadly, that is not to be. We extend our sincere

AGM AND ANNUAL DINNER

This was a difficult occasion for the branch given that it was planned to take place a mere six days after Derry's funeral mass. After consulting with those scheduled to attend it was decided to go ahead with the event albeit that the format would be modified. The AGM was opened with a special prayer in memory of Derry. This was followed by a minute's silence.

The incoming committee was duly elected:

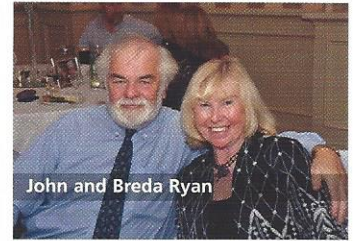
- Chairman:** Paul Scannell
- Vice-Chairman:** Eric Herrievan
- Secretary:** Mary Healy
- Treasurer:** Bryan O'Donnell
- Commodore:** Archie Reed
- IWAI Council Representative:** Mike Moroney
- IWN Reporter:** Paul Scannell
- Shop:** Archie Reed
- Webmaster:** Paul Scannell

A decision was made not to appoint a full-time Safety officer but rather to appoint one in advance for each branch event as necessary. The meeting also agreed that the incoming committee investigate the possibility of reducing the total number of Cruises-in-Company. And, as previously mentioned, it was decided to organise a CIC in memory of Derry. Louis Rice agreed to act as Event Commodore.

The AGM was followed by the Annual Dinner which was attended by 27 members and Guest-of-Honour Carmel Meegan, IWAI President, who was accompanied by her husband Tommy. After dinner a short video tribute to Derry was presented on-screen. Louis Rice, Derry's good friend over many years, spoke briefly and with heartfelt emotion of his friendship with Derry. This was followed by a tribute from Carmel Meegan who acknowledged Derry's contribution to the IWAI, at branch and national level. She also spoke of the support that he provided to her upon her accession to the IWAI Executive.

Presentations were made to the various Event Commodores and Branch Officers in recognition of their contribution during the past year. And a presentation was also made to Carmel Meegan.

Congratulations were conveyed to John & Breda Ryan who were celebrating 49 years of marital bliss and to Bryan O'Donnell in recognition of his 80th birthday. And it emerged that the



John and Breda Ryan

O'Donnell's were also celebrating 55 years of marriage.

And the two trophies (Best Runner-Up and Best Runner-Up Beef Dish) won by the Cruising Club at the Coors Light Barbecue competition at Riverfest 2014 were presented to Mary Healy and Tony Barry respectively.

Eric Herrievan was presented with the IWAICC Endeavour Award in recognition of his contribution to the club over several years.

The rest of the evening saw members engaged in chat and reminiscing over times past. It was always going to be an evening over which Derry's passing would cast a shadow but in the end it passed off in a dignified manner.

GET WELL WISHES

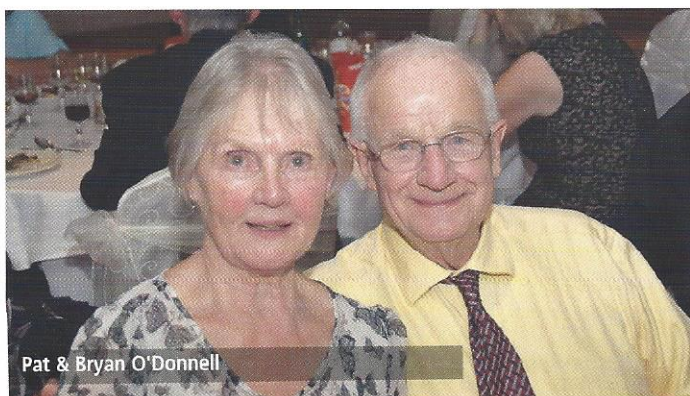
We are pleased to report that Joe Kavanagh is making great strides with his treatment and that he is delighted with the good wishes that he has been receiving from club members over the past few months.

And we take this opportunity to offer good wishes to Mike Moroney who will shortly be undergoing surgery. We look forward to him making a speedy recovery and to seeing Explorer and her crew on the water for the coming season.

2015 EVENTS

The new committee met in Banagher on 14 Jan and, taking cognisance of suggestions made at the AGM, came up with a programme of events for 2015, details of which are in the Events Calendar enclosed with this issue of IWN.

Photos: Paul Scannell



Pat & Bryan O'Donnell