

LOUGH ERNE CLASSIC YACHT ASSOCIATION

Lough Erne Classic Regatta at Crom - August 2010 Sail, Steam & Motor

Planning for a classic yacht regatta to be held at Crom is well underway. Before the Great War, Crom was the home of yacht racing on Lough Erne and with the help of Lord Erne, the National Trust, Waterways Ireland and Fermanagh District Council it is hoped to revive the heyday of yachting once again on the waters of the Upper Lough.

Following on from the successful visit of the Steam Boat Association of Great Britain to Lough Erne Yacht Club in June, our classic regatta was given a boost with that Association's promise to support the event styled "Sail, Steam & Motor." Approaches have also been made to various vintage and classic car clubs who have also promised to support the event. As with most sailing regattas it is difficult to involve the public in sailing events. With vintage and classic car displays, steamboats running between the shore and the sailing ground and the yachts sailing past the Crom estate, it is envisaged that there will be enough to engage the public during this weekend event in August 2010.

We will shortly be contacting other yacht clubs in the country informing them of the event and requesting their support. Initial contact, and for further details, is to Fred Ternan.

Classic Yachts on Lough Erne Purchases, refits, restoration and rebuilding

Fairy Fleet Captain Clive Burgess has purchased another classic yacht. A Crouch One-design, built in 1899, she will be the oldest yacht sailing on Lough Erne once her owner has recommissioned her. Her dimensions: L.O.A. 20ft. Beam 6ft. 10 in. Draft 2ft. 6in. with a fin keel. She is gaff rigged. Another edition to the growing fleet of classic yachts on Lough Erne is *Caragh* a Lake Class One-design built to race on Belfast Lough for the Royal North of Ireland Yacht Club. Her dimensions: L.O.A. and L.W.L. 16ft., Beam 6ft., Sail area 154 sq. ft. She is Bermudan rigged with tanned red sails carrying the identification "L 14". Her builder was Kearney, in Dublin. A newspaper article published in the Belfast Telegraph in the late 1930s reveals that the Lakes, built in two batches in 1922 and 1928, regularly sailed with the Fairy Class, so it is fitting that she will once again sail against her old class rivals. The RNIYC has graciously allowed for her owner to fly their pennant whenever she sails on Lough Erne.

Doreen, Fairy Class yacht, has been thoroughly refitted and is back sailing with her sisters *Storm* (C. & J. Kelly) and *Maeve* (M. Whaley) this season with new owners Terry Archer (new member of LECYA) and P. Loudon-Brown.

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Progress on the building and restoration of the Fairies *Cygnnet* and *Petrel* is impressive. Both yachts are rapidly nearing the completion of the major structural building and repair phases. *Cygnnet's* small ribs, beam shelf and deck beams are to be made and fitted shortly. *Petrel's* new stem is fitted, the next task is to lift her off her old keelson in order for the new one to be fitted. It is hoped to have a joint re-commissioning ceremony for these historic yachts next year.



"Caragh" a Lake Class One-design built for the Royal North of Ireland Yacht Club in 1928 to the design of the Club's Commodore R. E. Workman and his son Jack. The original fleet numbered sixteen in total; five were destroyed during a bombing raid in the Second World War. It is believed that only four survive and that "Caragh" is the last example afloat



Clive Burgess with "June" a Crouch One-design built by Harry King of Woodbridge near Ipswich in 1899; she is the oldest yacht on Lough Erne

Steam Boat Association Visit to Lough Erne & Crom

Glorious weather accompanied the Steam Boat Association of Great Britain's visit to Lough Erne in June. On Monday 22nd eight steamboats of various sizes and ages visited Lough Erne Yacht Club, where both members of LECYA and LEYC provided a warm welcome. This was the SBA's third visit to Lough Erne. John Phillips, past Admiral of the Club, gave the welcome and a short but informative talk on the history of the LEYC while light refreshments were served by Elizabeth Louden-Brown before the group steamed for Devenish Island and back to the their overnight mooring at the Ardhoven Theatre in Enniskillen.

The visit was photographed by John McVitty from Fred Crampton's rib and reported in the Impartial Reporter the following Thursday.



Members of the SBA at Crom Castle, were presented with the pennant of the LEYC. Front row, P. Louden-Brown (LECYA), David Beale (SBA and organizer of the trip to Lough Erne), and Noel Johnson, (Manager, Crom Castle).

All of the SBA members were staying in the beautifully converted cottages on the Crom Estate and a few days later Lord Erne entertained the group in the Castle; afterwards Noel Johnston, Lord Erne's Manager, gave a guided tour of the West Wing of the Castle which everyone appreciated.

We look forward to welcoming the SBA back on Lough Erne waters next year at our classic regatta.



Steamboats approaching Devenish Island, the largest in the group is SY "Annabelle" (pictured right)



Fred Crampton lends a hand mooring SY "Vesuvius"



Mike Bell, Chairman of the SBA, presenting Conor Louden-Brown with the pennant of his Club

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