



TRICENTENARY

• 1720 - 2020 •



WHERE IT ALL BEGAN

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## MESSAGE FROM THE ADMIRAL AND VICE ADMIRAL

The year 2020 will celebrate a unique and special moment in the history of yachting, the 300th anniversary of the year in which 25 individuals formed the Water Club of Cork (now known as the Royal Cork Yacht Club). In 1720, there was one Yacht Club with 25 members, today there are thousands across the globe whose combined membership runs into the millions - all with one thing in common, a love of yachting.

The Admiral, Flag Officers and Members of the Royal Cork Yacht Club invite you to join in the celebration of this milestone event – together with event partners, sponsors and suppliers, their guests and employees, yacht clubs of the world and their members, the sailing community, event competitors, local community, families and friends to come to Cork in 2020.

Cork 300 is the umbrella title for a series of events which will be held throughout 2020. Its primary focus will be on the renewing of old friendships and the creation of new ones, thereby ensuring that all of our partners continue to play a leading role in yachting and activities both ashore and afloat for the the next 300 years.

Central to these celebrations will be the Great Gathering in July and the Championship Weeks / “At Home” in August all backed up by a host of harbour-wide on and off the water events.

We have no doubt that many old and new experiences will be shared and new ones created, there will be plenty of fun to be had both afloat and ashore and together, we will proudly salute those 25 members who started it all back in 1720 on Haulbowline Island, Cork Harbour - *Where It All Began*.

We look forward to seeing you in 2020



**Pat Farnan**  
Admiral



**Colin Morehead**  
Vice Admiral & Chair Cork300

# WHERE IT ALL BEGAN

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# THE BEGINNING - 1720

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Members of The Water Club of Cork (The Royal Cork Yacht Club) are active both ashore and afloat in and around Cork Harbour, Ireland.

King George I sits on the throne of England and London has a population of 600,000.

Britain's American Colonies have a population of 475,000, Boston is the largest city with 12,000, followed by Philadelphia with 10,000 and New York with 7,000.

The Cities of San Francisco and Sydney, Australia remain to be founded.

Louis XV is on the throne in France, Philip V in Spain, Frederick IV in Denmark-Norway, Charles VI is the Holy Roman Emperor and Peter The Great is Tsar of Russia.

The South Sea Bubble bursts in London, Gulliver's Travels is published.

The pirate Calico Jack (of Jolly Roger flag fame) is hanged in Port Royal, Jamaica, however, his accomplice Anne Bonny from Cork is spared.

The Duke of Savoy trades Sicily for Sardinia with Austria, and the first Piano is made in Italy.

The Royal Navy abolishes keel hauling.

Much remains to be invented and discovered.

*The Beginning - 1720...*

*The pirate Calico Jack is hanged in Port Royal, Jamaica, The Duke of Savoy trades Sicily for Sardinia with Austria, and the first Piano is made in Italy.*



*Peter Monamy's 1738 painting of the yachts of the Water Club at sea off Cork Harbour.*

## THE EARLY YEARS

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The rules of the Water Club of Cork show the equal measure of importance given to Club activities both on and off the water.

Membership is limited to 25 members and admission is by ballot.

Visitors to the Club are strictly controlled, such as the rule forbidding strangers from entering the club unless they have spent the previous night "at the captain's house". The Admiral, however, is permitted to "invite whom he pleases".

Dress code is monitored and prominence is given to etiquette during club entertainment, suggesting that members place considerable emphasis on the art of drinking and dining.

Rules about the quantity of wine to be consumed, the number of meat dishes and the rota of entertainment amongst the members all suggest that the club room at the castle on



*Cork Harbour, 1738, by William van der Hagen.*

Haulbowline Island in Cork Harbour saw much merriment in the 18th century.

Afloat the sailing orders of the club give a good indication of the style of yachting carried on by members.

The organisation of the club is very much along the lines of the Navy with an admiral and captains.

The rules show a clearly defined structure of sailing, with the Admiral commanding the fleet and the other members following in order of rank.

Communication is by flags and gunfire which enables quite complicated manoeuvres to be completed.

Speed is also important when the signal to "chace" is given and one yacht had to pursue the other. This was the start of racing in Cork Harbour.

The prodigious amount of gunpowder used by the fleet is mainly funded by fines which can be levied for such indiscretions as tardiness in arriving at the appointed rendezvous or for failing to attend such meetings.

## THE ROYAL PATRONAGE - 1830

King William IV (The Sailor King) grants a royal patronage to the club which has as a result, become known as the Royal Cork Yacht Club.

Regattas are held annually and usually take place over two to five days in July and August. There is always an important social side to these regattas with a Grand Ball, a Banquet and a host of other events leading up to the regatta.

Prizes for race winners are in cash and in 1835 over £357 sterling is given out in prizes.

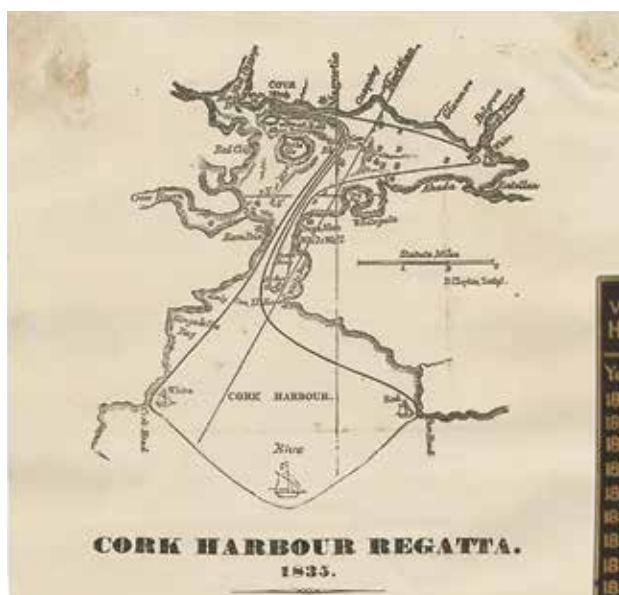
In 1835 Vice Admiral, John Smith Barry racing his yacht Columbine, wins the Royal Yacht Squadrons King's Cup in Cowes beating fellow competitors The Corsair, The Fanny and The Albatross with the Cup heading to Fota House, John Smith Barrys home in Cork Harbour.



Yacht Columbine.



John Smith Barry in his club uniform.



In 1835 Vice Admiral John Smith Barry racing his yacht Columbine wins the Royal Yacht Squadrons King's Cup in Cowes.

WINNERS OF CUPS PRESENTED BY H.M.KING GEORGE IV & KING WILLIAM IV					
Year	RYS	Yacht	Rig	Tons	Owner.
1827	"	Miranda.	Cut	147	James Moxe Esq.
1828	"	Lulworth.	Cut	127	Joseph Weld Esq.
1829	"	Louisa.	Cut	162	Earl of Belfast
1830	"	Alarm.	Cut	193	Joseph Weld Esq.
1831	"	Alarm.	Cut	193	Joseph Weld Esq.
1832	"	Alarm.	Cut	193	Joseph Weld Esq.
1833	"	Albatross.	Cut	74	J.L. Gower Esq.
1834	"	Harriet.	Cut	65	G.W. Heneage Esq.
1835	"	Columbine.	Cut	90	J.Smith Barry Esq.
1836	"	Breeze.	Cut	55	James Lyon Esq.
1837	"	Amulet.	Cut	51	John McKim Esq.



# KINGSTOWN TO QUEENSTOWN, CORK OCEAN RACE – 1860

First Ocean race in the United Kingdom is sailed from Kingstown (Dún Laoghaire), Dublin to Queenstown (Cobh), Cork on 14th July 1860.

16 entrants with a winners prize of £15 sterling which was won by the Royal Cork member Cooper Penrose Esq. on his schooner Kingfisher.

# THE GREAT OCEAN RACE - 1870



Royal Cork Yacht Club starts first East - West Transatlantic race from Daunt Rock, off Cork Harbour, to Sandy Hook Lightship, New York.

Cambria owned by James Lloyd Asbury and Dauntless owned by James Gordon Bennett Jnr. are the entrants.

1 hour and 43 minutes separated the two boats at the finish with Cambria first across the line with a winning time of 23 days, 5 hours and 17 minutes.

They were hardy yachtsmen.

# THE CORK HARBOUR ONE DESIGN -1895

*William Fife was commissioned to design a one design boat that could be crewed by four people, would be particular to the local requirements*

In the late 19th Century some of the greatest yachts then afloat including 'Valerie', 'White Heather', 'Britannia', 'Kaisarine' and 'Shamrock', visited and raced in Cork Harbour.



In 1895 A Royal Cork syndicate was formed and William Fife was commissioned to design a one design boat that could be crewed by four people, would be particular to the local requirements and conditions and built for under £100 sterling. He came up with a yacht that cost just £79 and 10 shillings.

The first six were built by the Carrigaloe Gridiron Works Company and were launched in June of 1896 with 12 in total being built.

Also built at this time alongside the Cork Harbour One designs was a 36ft Fife linear rater, now called Pen Duick, for Royal Cork member Adolphus Fowler, and she is now sailing in France.



*Fife linear rater Pen Duick.*

# THE UNITED STATES NAVY CORK 1917/18



USS Melville tending destroyers and submarine chasers at Queenstown, 1918.

United States joins World War 1 on April 1917 with the first US Destroyers arriving in Cork on the 4th May 1917.

Submarines followed in January of 1918 along with the US Naval Air Service setting up a Flying Boat air base in Aghada in the eastern part of Cork Harbour.

In September of the same year Submarine Chasers, 110 foot wooden launches powered by gasoline engines, also arrived, whose officers were mainly peacetime yachtsmen of the US Naval Reserve. These officers found a home away from home in the Royal Cork Yacht Club.

## THE FIRST FASTNET – 1925

Two boats in the race stood out among the fleet of seven – Jolie Brise, a 56-foot pilot cutter, and Gull from Cork, a 30 year old yacht owned and sailed by Royal Cork member H.P.F. Donegan, a Cork Solicitor.

Jolie Brise won the race in 6 days, 14hrs, 45mins, followed 20 hours later by Gull from Cork.



H.P.F. Donegan's 'Gull'.

It was also during this first race that the owner of Jolie Brise, George Martin, announced the formation of the Ocean Racing Club now known as the Royal Ocean Racing Club.

# THE 250TH CELEBRATIONS – 1969/70

These started early and kicked off in 1969 with a Transatlantic Race from Newport Rhode Island and was followed by a Cruise in Company along the South West Coast of Ireland.

Participants also included Ted Turner on American Eagle.

Overall winner was Royal Cork member Jim Kilroy from Los Angeles on Kialoa II for whom the race was very much a homecoming as his father had been born and raised in Cork. The Kilroy connection continues with the club a generation on.



Jim Kilroy's 'Kialoa II'.

## THE ROYAL CORK YACHT CLUB TODAY



The Royal Cork Yacht Club now based in Crosshaven a short distance from "where it all began" on Haulbowline Island in Cork Harbour.

The Admiral is still in charge, the "chace" has turned into a race, membership is no longer limited to 25 and the Admiral has removed the requirement for visitors to have resided overnight at a Captain's home.





# THE GREAT GATHERING - JULY 2020

There will be a series of Feeder Cruises and Feeder Races, to help bring boats to Cork Harbour in July 2020.

For yachts arriving early there will be the option of visiting Seafest, Ireland's National Maritime Festival .

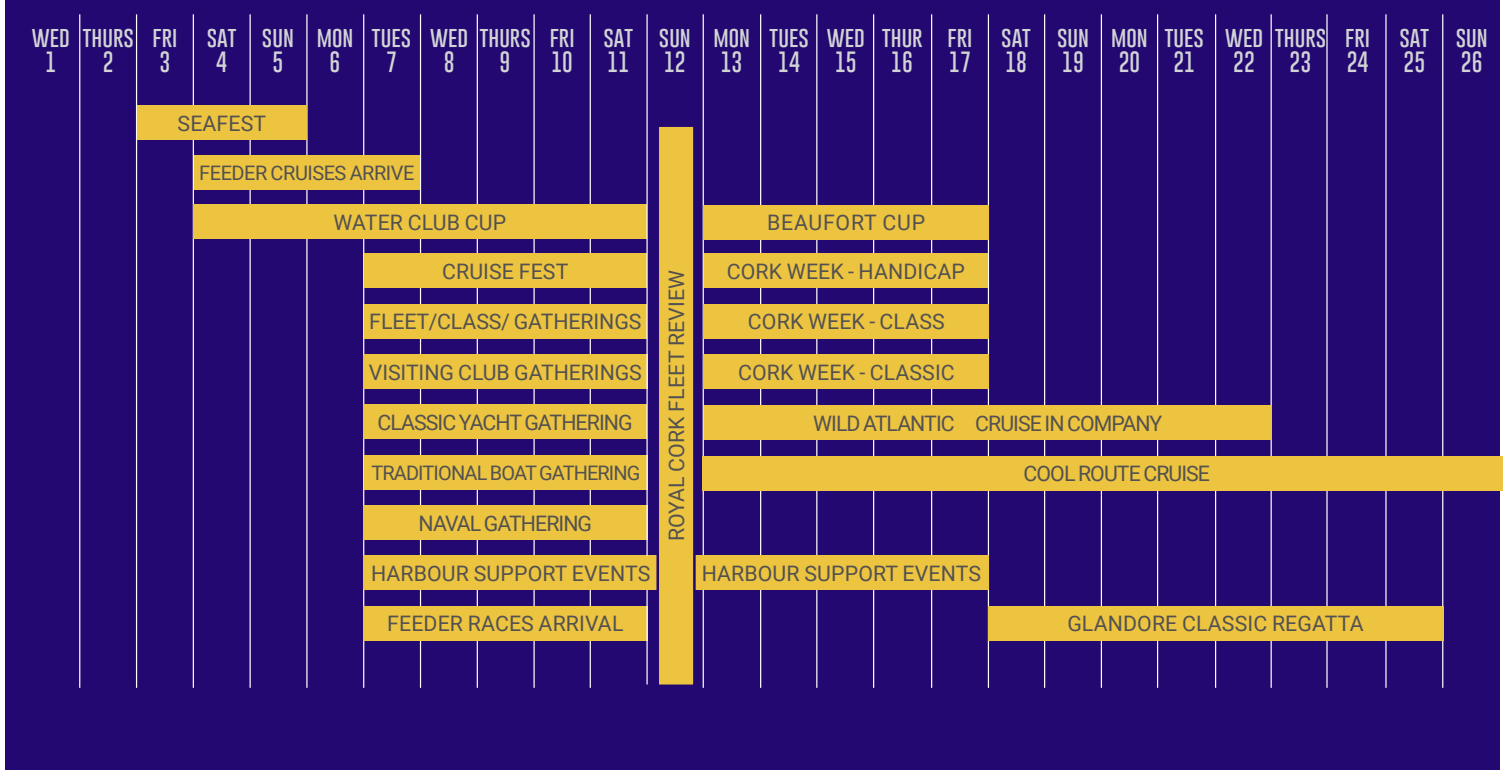
This will be followed by a week of Harbour based activities focused around a Cruise Fest, along with Fleet, Class, Visiting Club, Classic and Traditional Gatherings.

At the same time there will be an Invitational Inter Yacht Club event which will be competed in the Royal Cork's own 1720 one design sports boats, for the Water Club Cup, and also a Naval Gathering.

There will be a wide range of social events both at the Royal Cork Yacht Club and around Cork Harbour and participants can be assured of a fun packed week.

There will be a Royal Cork Fleet Review for all yachts on Sunday 12th July, between Haulbowline Island and Cobh, two locations of the club's former premises, in the presence of the Admiral of the Royal Cork Yacht Club and other dignitaries. There will be a few surprises on the day and everyone is strongly encouraged to participate in what we believe will be a spectacle fitting to celebrate Where It All Began.

## THE GREAT GATHERING JULY 2020





# WIDE RANGE OF ON WATER AND ONSHORE EVENTS



“Cork Week” will see fleets splitting along Racing and Cruising lines.

This will include The Beaufort Cup for Inter Services teams and a wide range of Handicap, Fleet, Classic and One Design Racing.

These events will feature a race around the Fastnet Rock (and a possibility of a race to the Skelligs and back) as well as a series of mixed format inshore races.

Classics and Traditional Craft will be able to continue on to the Glandore Classic Regatta.

A Wild Atlantic Cruise in Company will take the Cruising Fleet along the Cork and Kerry coast with a Cool Route Cruise taking boats further on, with the option of going all the way as far as Northern Norway.

Key dates for those looking at early travel accommodation bookings are shown on the calendar of events on page 7.

# WHERE IT ALL BEGAN



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# CORK 300

## THE CHAMPIONSHIPS WEEKS - AUGUST



There will be back-to-back championship weeks in August with dates to be confirmed.

**Week 1** will host a number of Dinghy class championships led by the Clubs three person National 18 Class, a fleet with legendary stamina both on and off the water.

**Week 2** will then host the Laser class National Championships including all rigs and all ages.

**Finally Week 3** will host the Optimist National Championships.

Throughout these three weeks the Championships' village will accommodate a wide range of on site social activities and entertainment for all participants.



## THE AT HOME - AUGUST 2020

The Three Championships weeks will then be followed by the Clubs "At Home" with the date to be confirmed once the three championships weeks dates are agreed.

This will be an open three day event for Cruiser Racers and Dinghies with a particular focus on the Classes that regularly sail in and around Cork Harbour.



Photo © Robert Bateman Photography



## HOST OF HARBOUR EVENTS



## REQUEST FOR MORE INFORMATION

We are keen to talk to you about the range of opportunities to get involved in Cork300, whether you are a sponsor, partner, supplier, yacht club, local business, media channel - we have created a programme of events to suit all needs. Please contact us to register your interest and discuss the opportunities further.

## CONTACT DETAILS

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An aerial photograph of a coastal town and harbor, likely in Cork, Ireland. The harbor is filled with numerous sailboats and is surrounded by lush green fields and forests. The town is built on a peninsula, with buildings and roads visible. The sky is clear and blue. A dark blue banner is overlaid on the top portion of the image, containing text and a logo.

1720-2020

# CORK 300

WHERE IT ALL BEGAN  
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WHERE IT ALL CONTINUES