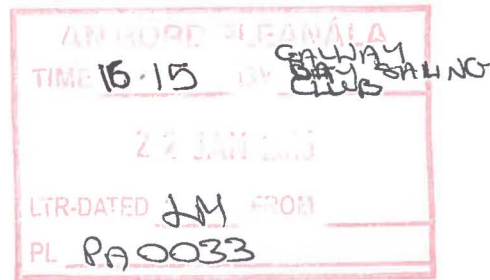




GALWAY BAY SAILING CLUB



Galway Bay Sailing Club supports the Port of Galway Development.

My name is David Vinnell and I represent the Galway Bay Sailing Club. I have recently retired as Commodore of Galway Bay Sailing Club after serving a total of six years in that role.

I am also an Irish Sailing Association accredited race office and manage and supervise sailing regattas up to the national level. I have been involved in most of the non-traditional boat regattas held on the bay over the last fifteen years, including the two Volvo events.

Galway Bay Sailing Club has had a long and productive association with the Port of Galway. And we are pleased to be able to support the Harbour extension plans because of the opportunities this will give to the Club, the Port and Galway to enhance the sport of sailing on the bay. GBSC holds many regattas through the year most of which are hosted from our club and Rinville, however we are restricted in what we can offer some of the larger boat sailors both cruising and racing. These sailors are looking for a marina berth for their boats. This has resulted in the close co-operation with the Port when hosting these events. With the port we have hosted the SB20 sports boats for a number of years which resulted in a bid being made for the World Championships in 2017 after we hosted the National Championships.

The construction of the wheel chair accessible pontoon by the Port of Galway has also been a very welcome addition which has enabled our Sailability group to give access to the water and boats to many new wheelchair sailors. This has been achieved with the support of the port and the Speeders sports club. With the port expansion these activities could be increased.

This year we will be having the premier West Coast cruiser racing championships in the port when for a week in July the club and the port will be home to up to forty boats ranging in size from twenty to forty five with crews of up to twelve sailors on each boat. This will be a great spectacle of the bay for all to see off Salthill.

However with all the will of the club and the port there are still many restrictions that cannot be overcome in holding these events in a working commercial port area. These commercial activities for good reason take precedence over our sporting activities.

So any of our well planned regattas can still be disrupted by the commercial traffic.

With the new port development after the initial stages the inner harbour can be given over to leisure marine activities and instead of having the marina access restricted to four hours a day this could become nearly twenty four hour access. With this we would be much better placed to bring many more world class events to the city and the bay. The cruising sailors would no longer pass us by leisure marine in the city would flourish.

GBSC is looking forward to the completion of the new commercial port and the opportunities that it gives to the sport of sailing.

Dave Vinnell Ex-Commodore GBSC