



# Monkstown Bay Sailing Club



## Goldie Cronin 'Alta to Starboard To Finish' Trophy Event for Cruisers

MBSC paid tribute on Saturday, Sept. 26, to a stalwart of their club, with the biggest turn-out of Cruisers for the season. Sixteen boats took part in a special event, while at the same time over 30 dinghies competed in the club's September League, underlining the strength of the club and the importance of Monkstown Bay as a sporting, recreational area.

The village waterfront was a hive of activity and it was particularly good to see so many families involved, one of the great benefits of sailing, which is a sport for all.



The event honoured 'Goldie' Cronin, who served for many years as Race Officer for the Vagabond dinghy fleet, which was a mainstay of the club. Following from the Vagabonds, the Cruiser Class developed in the club, many of the current boat owners being former dinghy sailors, who "outgrew" the 12ft. dinghies.

'Goldie', now in her 80s, also acted as Race Officer for the Cruisers when that fleet was formed in Monkstown. One of her particular rules was that the class should finish all races, leaving the Alta race mark to Starboard, as they turned to head for the club line off the Sand Quay at the end of racing. This 'rule' provided an opportunity for spectators to see the fleet and created a lot of interest in the village.

Keeping their plans secret from 'Goldie', the Cruiser class had a special trophy designed, a replica of the old Alta race mark. This trophy is to be awarded each year to a boat and class members for special achievements.

At the inaugural event on Saturday, where 'Goldie' was again Race Officer, with Alan Fleury assisting, the trophy was awarded to husband-and-wife team Niamh and Peter Welland.

Niamh is a former Cruiser Class Captain and, with her husband, strongly committed to cruising, on which voyaging they have been involved in the past few years. In pursuit of their plans for longer-distance cruising, they have bought a 33ft. Tradewind sloop named 'Breakaway', from Carrickfergus in Northern Ireland, formerly owned by Bob and Christine Harpur (at Carrickfergus), who had spent five years sailing around the world on it. On Saturday the Wellands' flew the flags of each nation that the boat had visited, many of them hand-made by Mrs. Harpur.



'Goldie' was totally surprised by the tribute to her. Club Commodore, Finian O'Driscoll and Cruiser Class Captain, Brian Kelleher, paid tribute to 'Goldie' for her many years of service to the club and presented her with a specially-framed photograph of herself and her late husband, Jim, who had been a doyen of the dinghy class, taken while they sailed a Vagabond at Alta in the 1970s.



Finian O'Driscoll (MBSC Commodore) presenting photograph to Goldie, with Brian Kelleher (Cruiser Class Captain) and Tom MacSweeney in the background.



Finian O'Driscoll (MBSC Commodore), Brian Kelleher (Cruiser Class Captain), Goldie Cronin, and Niamn & Peter Welland who were presented with the new trophy.

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Goldie is an example of the best kind of person which clubs need. We are very grateful for her long-service to Monkstown and her commitment to sailing,” the Commodore said.

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