



CLEAN REGATTAS PLATINUM REPORT



April 2022

The Irish Sailing Youth National Championships is an annual event.

The biggest youth event held in Ireland.

Different youth classes come together to compete, gain valuable experience on the water, hear from Irish Sailing coaches, and, along with their families, learn more about the Irish Sailing Performance Pathway.

Five classes taking part from all across the country.

Irish Sailing saw this as a perfect opportunity to promote environmental awareness and achievable actions for reducing the impact of activities on the environment.

The club shared this message with their members before the event ...

You will soon see some positive changes around the club as we dramatically improve our environmental impact. Inspired by the RYA's new initiative 'The Green Blue' we have signed up to the 'Final Straw Foundation' and will eliminate all single use plastic as well as provide a variety of recycling bins around the club.

We hope to move quickly through the Final Straw Accreditation scheme and we aim to reach the Platinum level for Sailors for the Sea Clean Regattas Certification at the IS Youth National Championships in April.

However, we need your help! If you are interested in joining the '**BYC Green Team**' please email Charlie.winton@hotmail.com or call me on 07817483008. Thank you!

Gail MacAllister
Sustainability Officer
Irish Sailing
gail.macallister@sailing.ie

Elimination of Single-Use Items

1. Eliminate Single-Use Water Bottles and Provide Water Refill Stations

- The event was a “No Single Use Plastic” event. Participants, volunteers and employees all used reusable bottles and the club hydration stations.
- Reusable bottles were given to participants



2. Eliminate Plastic Straws

- Ballyholme Yacht Club does not make straws generally available, though does have biodegradable straws available should a client require one due to disability requirements.

3. Serve Food with Plastic-Free Dinnerware

- All meals were served in reusable crockery.

4. Use or Provide Reusable Bags

- Cloth bags provided for every participant, volunteer and employee.
- Volunteer encouraged to bring their own bags too.
- Paper wrapped sandwiches



Paper wrapped lunches

5. Award Practical Items or Use a Perpetual or Upcycled Trophy

- Awards made by Willie in Clonmines Joinery from scraps of leftover stairs timbers. Their environmental policy <https://www.clonminesjoinery.ie/environment/>



Upcycled scrap wood awards

Community Involvement

6. Publicize Your Sustainable Efforts

- Environmental message on web page <https://www.sailing.ie/Racing/Irish-Sailing-Youth-National-Championships#1873>

Environmental

JOIN THE CLEAN COAST BEACH CLEAN COMPETITION

The Ballyholme Yacht Club Green Team is working hard to reduce their environmental impact. BYC is partnering with Clean Coasts to promote their 2 minute beach clean initiative and help protect our local waters.

To kick start the initiative they are holding a competition for the duration of the Irish Sailing Youth Nationals with a range of prizes available. [FIND OUT MORE HERE.](#)

This is a "Clean Regattas" event registered with Sailors for the Sea. We achieved the highest standard in 2021 and gained a Platinum Award, lets do it again. The event has a set of environmental standards to follow throughout the event, to help reduce our impact on the environment and keep our sea a cleaner place to sail.

NB: Rule 47 Environment will be active.

"47 TRASH DISPOSAL Competitors and support persons shall not intentionally put trash in the water. This rule applies at all times while afloat. The penalty for a breach of this rule may be less than disqualification."

We ask you ...

- No Single Use Plastics - bring your bottle and use the refill station
- Use reusable lunch bags please
- No plastic straws
- Avail of the composting and recycling bins

As a venue and event management team we will also do all we can to reduce our impact on the environment during the event, with ...

- Plastic-Free Dinnerware
- Encourage use of Reusable Bags
- Responsibly sourced trophies
- Publicising your sustainability efforts
- Providing educational awareness of the eco system within the harbour
- Inviting you to a 2 Minute Beach Clean Competition
- Personal environmental messaging
- Providing responsibly sourced meals
- Vegetarian availability
- A "Green Team" on site
- Choice of waste bins
- Food waste management
- Paperless event management
- Access to local bus, foot paths and bike paths
- Eco-Smart Race Management
- Blue Flag Marina standard toxins management
- Encouraging "green boating" practices

If you would like more ideas on how you can #makeadifference and help to keep our waters blue head over to www.sailing.ie/Our-Environment

Extract from event page

7. Involve Local Organisations

- Supplies sources locally for catering, boat repair, management.
- Volunteers from local community.
- Link with the RYA NI Green Blue programme <https://thegreenblue.org.uk/> an environment programme with the Royal Yachting Association and British Marine. They advise clubs, sailors and event organisers on how to reduce their environmental impact.
- Signed up to THE Final Straw Foundation <https://finalstrawfoundation.org/> - a registered charity set up to work with local communities and business to highlight the impact of plastic pollution and try to minimize the amount of plastic entering our local seas and oceans. They collaborate with other organisations.
- Sourced funding for commercially labeled recycling bins from local council.
- A campaign with The Woodland Trust to plant 700 saplings was an overwhelming success.

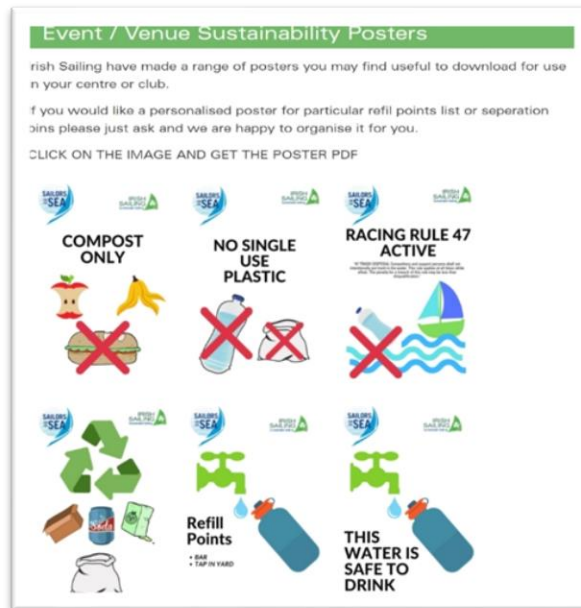


8. Post Educational and Reusable Signage

- We displayed Bird Watch Ireland and Irish Whale and Dolphin Group posters and leaflets around the club to create awareness of the birdlife and sealife in and around our coastline.
- Set of updated signs are available online and used by this event and available for others too.



Bird Watch Ireland and Irish Whale and Dolphin Group Posters



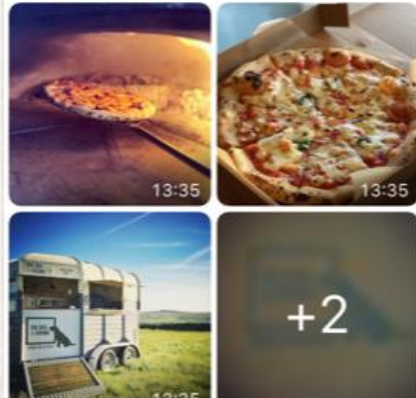
Downloadable posters on sailing.ie

9. **Serve Local Food or Source Seafood Sustainably**

- Meats are sourced from responsible suppliers and all goods purchased from local suppliers where possible.

Hi Lyn , here's some images of the box and pizzas also the menu. A lot of my ingredients are Italian but I use a local butcher for the steak and chicken. The honey is from Northern Ireland and I add chilli to it and the wild garlic butter is wild garlic i forage , mixed with olive oil and added to butter (delicious 😊) Hope this helps

13:35



A few of the local suppliers were Down Wholesale, Ballyholme Butchers and Central Bakery

Responsible Waste Management

10. Organize a Green Team

- Charlie Winton of Ballyholme Yacht Club was the Green Team lead with Gail MacAllister of Irish Sailing support and a large team of volunteers at the club ...
 - Ellie Mackey - set up bin signs
 - - gave a talk to the bar staff on how to use the bins correctly and introduced them to the 'bin-ovation' app.
 - - helped collect the rubbish from rescue crews and put in to correct bins
 - - oversaw the beach clean competition
 - Michelle Farmer is studying sustainability at university and gave us lots of advice and helped on one of the event days
 - Louise Hubbard gave a lot of advice on the wider issue of sustainability and via her work with Business in the community NI has put me in touch with other organisations for help and funding (ongoing)
 - Kaitlyn helped with collecting rubbish from rescue crews and with the beach clean and general rubbish collecting.



Kaitlyn (from the Green Team) collected the lunch and sorted it as the Race Officials came off the water.

11. Ensure Proper Waste Bin Placement and Signage

- A wide variety of waste disposal options and locations are made available for participants.

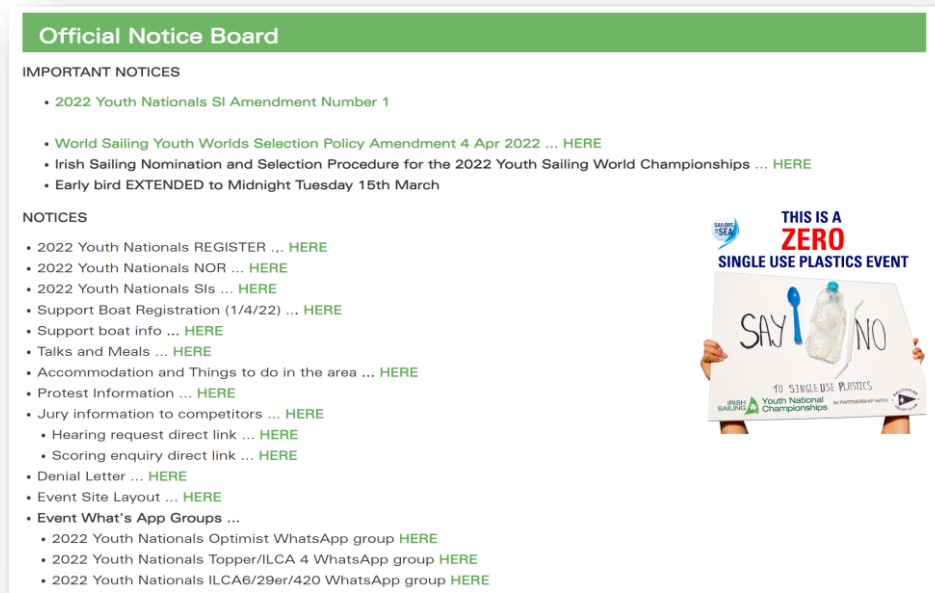


12. Divert Food Waste from the Landfill

- The kitchen Ballyholme Yacht Club has food waste bin.
- All organic waste collected is composted in an environmentally friendly manner.
- Club uses the council compost green bin which is collected weekly and composted professionally by the local council.

13. Use Paperless Event Management

- All documents were made available on the website, including parental consent, jury documents, SIs, denial letter and more on the 'Official Notice Board'
<https://www.sailing.ie/Racing/Irish-Sailing-Youth-National-Championships>

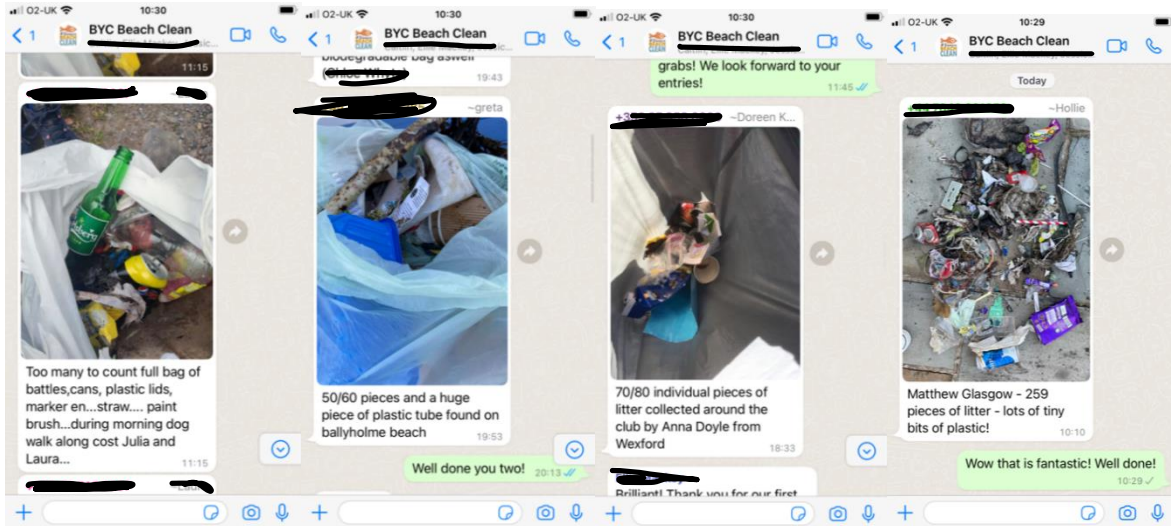


Extract from the event web page

Environmental Stewardship

14. Host a Beach or Marina Cleanup

- Ran a #2minutebeachclean competition in collaboration with An Taisce Beach Clean.



The beach clean became a great fun outing for everyone and the support of An Taisce Clean Coasts made the job easier, added to the fun and created a sense of being part of something bigger

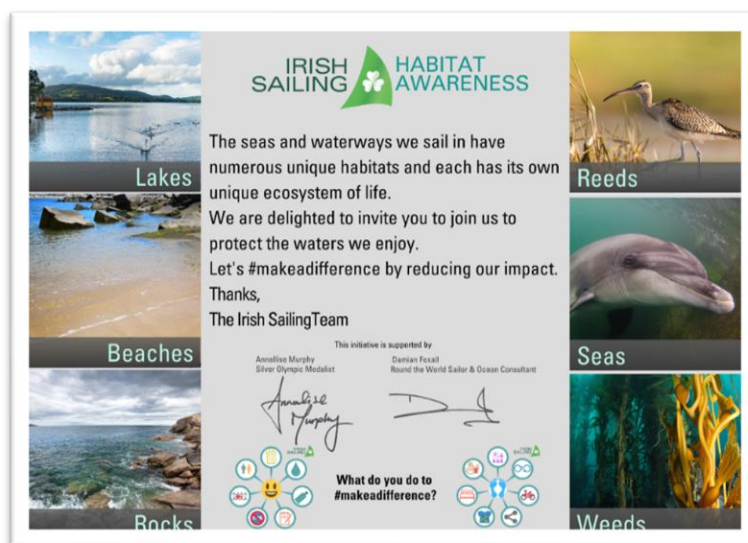


15. Promote Alternative transportation

- Bus and public transport information online and carpooling encouraged.
- The club are proud of the local cycling routes around Ballyholme
<https://www.komoot.com/guide/850924/cycling-around-ballyholme>

16. Increase Awareness of Wildlife and Habitat Protection

- Designed a Habitat Awareness poster to create an awareness of the different habitats on our coastline.
- Sea Life and Biodiversity Awareness talk given by local Marine Biologist, Gala Podgornik from Ulster Wildlife, with excellent attendance from all ages. The participants, local community and club members were invited.



Habitat Awareness A2 Poster

17. Offer Vegetarian or Vegan Alternatives

- Vegetarian option was made available on each night's menu

Green Boating

18. Use Eco-Smart Race Management Techniques

- What's App groups created to provide consistent communication of results, etc. to participants
- No paper Sailing Instructions
- What's App for all comms
- No sponsor bow stickers
- Viewing platform awareness
- Media boat active on the water time kept to minimum required
- Committee boat anchored, engine off, use of holding tank
- Using racingrulesofsailing.org for all protest hearing information, submissions, and reports
- Facilitate a lunch rib, reduces waste on the water
- Retirees sent to mothership and brought in groups rather than individually
- Online briefings to reduce sound pollution with speaker systems

19. Prevent Toxins from Entering the Water

- Bad bio socs available and spill kits at refuelling station and an emergency action plan.



20. Encourage Green Boating Practices

- All participants were reminded of the Environmental standards of the event and Rule 47 active
- Power off when at anchor or on mooring, control of number of support boats, awareness of unnecessary speed.

PLUS

- New bean to cup coffee machine introduced to eliminate pods
- Crisp packet collection
- Created a Sustainability Club Whatsapp for future collaboration.
- Bike racks fitted for the event

LEGACY

- More members now cycle to the club
- Additional recycle bins added since to ensure easy recycling and sorting of waste.
- Reusable outdoor glasses were purchased with the Ards and North Down Council Tourism Grant.
- Currently processing an application to join a local sustainability Tourism Network Group "AND Sustainable Giants".
- The local beach clean is now to become a regular club activity.
- Club now has a policy of sustainable prizes e.g. a local potter for a youth event.

