

**MEDIA  
PLANET**

June 2008

# BOATING

A SPECIAL INTEREST SUPPLEMENT DISTRIBUTED WITH THE SUNDAY TIMES

ACCBank Cork Week  
2008

A look at all of the action  
for this summer's biggest  
yachting event



INSIDE >> Offshore 2008 • Cruising Holidays • RIB Buyer's Guide • Yachtmaster Qualifications • Sailing Fashions



**ACCBank Cork Week**  
ROYAL CORK YACHT CLUB 12-18 JULY 2008

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## BOATING

a supplement from MediaPlanet

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**Print:** The Sunday Times

This page: photo courtesy of fotosail.com  
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# MEDIA PLANET

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MP Publishing House Ltd Reg. no. 439216 Registered in Ireland. Directors: Sigurd Midthun Gran (Norway), Richard Båge (Sweden)

the offshore scene is this country is really taking off. September will see Ireland's Olympic sailing team, consisting of four boats, compete in the pinnacle of their sport, with quiet confidence surrounding this young team with bright hopes for this Games and the future. This month will also see the first ever Laser SB3 World Championships taking place in Dun Laoghaire. With the entry quota already met, this one-design racing is bound to be one of the season's highlights.

Outside the world of sailing, however, there are countless other maritime activities taking place around the country to keep you, your family and your friends occupied during the unpredictable Irish summer. From cruising on our unspoilt inland waterways along the Shannon, to fishing, rowing, kayaking and windsurfing all over the country. If you are taking to the water this summer, ensure that you do so in a manner that is safe and pleasurable for others around you!  
 Safe boating!



John Downey

**It's the summertime again.** All over the country, on the coasts, lakes and inland waterways of Ireland, boats are being taken out of winter hibernation, and getting back in the water. For the more dedicated enthusiast, this is merely an improvement in weather in an otherwise year-round campaign. For the majority, however, this marks the beginning of a new season, and what a season this is shaping up to be...

In sailing, on the competitive front, the Rolex Commodore Cup is one of the highlights of the IRC circuit. After the 2006 disappointment, where the Irish teams came so close to clinching victory, another very professional effort sees an incredibly competitive line-up with some fantastic new racing machines. ACCBank Cork Week will be an event not to miss with a large international entry combined with a strong focus on the entertainment side this year.

In Offshore sailing, after Damian Foxall's phenomenal achievement in the Barcelona World Race earlier this year, interest in the BMW Round Ireland race is going to be massive. Furthermore, with the announcement of the Galway stopover in the Volvo Ocean race, combined with the inclusion of at least one Irish entry,

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## Racing to success .....

Attracting competitors from all over the world, ACCBank Cork Week is Ireland's largest international sailing regatta. Held every two years, the event regularly attracts entrants from all over Europe, America, Australia, and beyond.

The first Cork Week took place in 1978, and from the outset, it was a regatta with a difference. Unlike other events happening around Europe at the time, the organisers of the Cork event wanted to produce something different. Out went the professional crews-for-hire that had become a feature of many regattas, and in came amateur enthusiasts, all competing on a more level playing field, with a special competition for professionals to compete with other professionals during the week.

'Anyone whose financial well being is directly affected by race results, and whose presence on a boat significantly improved the performance of that boat' is not eligible to race. As a rule, that one simple guideline has helped to ensure that the now ACCBank Cork Week continues to go from

strength-to-strength. The last event in 2006 earned particular praise for its organisation and race management - indeed, some 10,000 visitors enjoyed the event last time. As the organisers point out, however, the secret of Cork Week's success cannot be attributed to any one rule or aspect of its organisation. Its success is found in the eclectic mix of classes, competitors, good courses, good company, our team of dedicated volunteers and the good humour of our 10,000 visitors.

Of course, Cork is renowned for its lively atmosphere, and ACCBank Cork Week is no exception. Four marquees will be providing excellent entertainment - live music from major Irish acts including Paddy Casey, Aslan, and Bagatelle, along with local performers. The Irish Bar will feature more traditional music from the likes of Roy Buckley, Liam Byrne (performing the songs of Christy Moore) and The Celts. Going on until 2am nightly, there is just as much craic on dry land as there is offshore!

The Gala Blacktie Event, a major

part of the festivities, will help to raise money for the Royal National Lifeboat Institute - a hugely important organisation for anyone involved in sailing, or any coastal activities. Renowned musician Phil Coulter will be performing during the popular champagne reception, with entertainment all night long. Other events will help to support charities such as the Children's Leukaemia Association.

ACCBank Cork Week features six courses, on which all racing takes place. The Harbour Race, sailing around Cork Harbour if, for many, the highlight of the event. The other races - the Windward/Leeward, One-Design, Olympic, Slalom and Trapezoid courses, are all sailed outside the harbour area.

Organised by the Royal Cork Yacht Club - founded in 1720, making it the oldest yacht club in the world - ACCBank Cork Week is based in Crosshaven, home of the club itself. Members of the club compete regularly in other major competitions, such as the Americas Cup, the Whitbread and Volvo Round-the-World Yacht Race, and

the Admirals Cup.

Tipped for major success at ACCBank Cork Week, Panthera, the TP52 owned by Benny Kelly recently took the overall honours not only at the Heineken St. Maarten Regatta, but also the Stanford Antigua Race Week. Having won the Class Super Zero category at the 2006 Cork Week, Panthera's return is eagerly awaited to participate in the race here. Facing up against new TP rivals, Panthera will face tough competition from Eamon Conneally's Patches, and Stuart Robinson's Stay Calm. Winner of Class Zero and Boat of the Week in 2006, Colm Barrington is back in his new TP52, Flash Glove. The boat won the SORC Regatta, and came second in the Key West event, both in the US.

IRC class divisions for the ACCBank Cork Week will depend on the entries received. The lower limit for Class Zero is expected to be 1.130 - this may also be split into Zero and Super Zero. There will probably be up to 12 IRC classes, including the Gentleman's and Corporate classes - again,

these may be split further. The Gentleman's class is restricted to those who will race with white sails only - no carbon or Kevlar, nor downwind sails are permitted. The Corporate class is for boats owned by sailing schools, charter companies and clubs only. These entries may have a Group-3 sailor as a skipper.

Launching and hauling-out will take place for all competitors, SB3's and 1720's will take place at Haulbowline, where the crane will be in operation on Sunday 13th July from 10am-2pm, and Friday 18th July from 3-6pm. This must be booked in advance (email Sally O'Leary at [sallyo@gofree.indigo.ie](mailto:sallyo@gofree.indigo.ie)). Launching will also take place at the slipway at Ringaskiddy, with trailer storage available at the Port of Cork.

For more information about ACCBank Cork Week, and for entry information, visit

[www.accbankcorkweek.ie](http://www.accbankcorkweek.ie) or call the Royal Cork Yacht Club on **021 483 1179**.

Photo by Crosbie Lorimer

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## Getting started . . . Sailing for you and your kids

So you've had that itch to get your sailing career underway but never got around to it, possibly owing to the kids, wife, dog, herd, or a peppering of each? Too busy? Know too little about it and don't want the hassle that seems to be associated with starting off in a sport from square one. What about the traditional elitist perceptions - sure isn't all that sailing malarky the personification and the epitome of D4ism and how would I and my modest upbringing in Borris-in-Ossory fit in with that clique? The once well held perception that sailing is uber-elitist and ultra-riche, a closed shop for those unlucky enough not to hail from the upper echelons of a few exclusive 'burbs is one that went out with the days of butter vouchers and tea rationing. I'm pleased to say folks.

Sailing has become accessible to all, gone are the days of having to

spend a gazillion times the average industrial wage and pawn the granny's vintage Daniel O'Donnell collection just to get involved in the sport. With Introduction to Sailing Courses beginning at just €199, a price inclusive of all necessary gear, instruction and the quite importantly the provision of a boat, there simply has never been a better time to whet the appetite and get sailing.

Sailing has the ability to offer a sport that is completely gender neutral and doesn't discriminate upon age. Two years ago I taught a sixty-something Harley Davidson-riding priest, who declined our offer of a post sail bevy as he had the vigil mass to say, and he was running late! Generally though our client base is the 25-45 group, young professionals who work hard Monday to Friday and ultimately find that 'playing hard' on a boat on their well deserved time off

is one of merit. So now that I've managed to completely seduce you is it not time to throw your hat into the ring?

There are two modes of sailing that one can undertake at beginner level, namely the dinghy and the larger yacht. The former combines a challenge with exhilaration and the wow-factor with pushing your natural limits and boundaries. Getting immersed in the drink is part and parcel, it is a very hands-on way to get going. By contrast the latter yacht option sees the new recruit working as part of a team, and doesn't (usually!) involve falling out. There isn't as such a pecking order in terms of which mode is more beneficial, it's a matter of personal choice in essence. Irrespective of which the beginner chooses, the fundamentals of learning to sail are exactly the same, though how the basics are applied on a thirty foot yacht as

opposed to a ten foot dinghy, though not necessarily at variance with one another, can be vastly different.

In addition to making waves on the water sailing boasts a fantastic social scene too, as the events of the bi-annual 'Round Ireland' Race and Dun Laoghaire and Cork weeks will testify. Every two years over 600 boats descend upon Dun Laoghaire for Regatta week, and the après sail craic over four evenings sees the waterfront yacht clubs turned into a carnival with over 3,000 sailors of all levels intermingling.

### Why take it up...

Sailing provides a medium where everyone of all ages and backgrounds can partake in the enjoyment of bays and harbours dotting our coastline. Whether you decide become a hardcore racer or just want to sit back and cruise

around is a decision entirely of one's own preference. It is a tragic irony that as an island nation so few take to the sea. Dublin Bay in particular is a fantastic but underutilized resource, and in these days of hustle, bustle, blackberrys and iphones it's hard to kick back and relax, so why not jump on a boat! Our one rule here at The Irish National Sailing School & Club is that the only communication made whilst on our courses is between your instructor and other crew aboard - everything else is locked away safely in the Clubhouse.

As manager of the busiest sail training facility on the island of Ireland let me tell you that we have people just like yourself through our doors every week of the year. The question is...now that you know how easy it is to get involved, what are you waiting for?

Photo by Crosbie Lorimer



- Introduction to Sailing Courses
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# Aboard Abroad

What is your dream summer holiday? This is a question that I'm sure many people must ask themselves quite regularly. For some, it is spent at the beach, sunning oneself, while quietly relaxing, mind perhaps lost in the world of a book. For others, it is all about the activities and adventures that one encounters. But what about when there is a group, whether that be family or friends, with different opinions of the dream holiday?

Perhaps a cruising holiday may be for you. It can be everything and anything you want it to be. For the adventurer, experienced skipper or not, there is a world to be discovered on every step of the journey. With so many destinations, often unspoilt alcoves to be discovered, there is an endless amount of activity.

At the same time, those in the group looking for a relaxing getaway, can enjoy relaxing on the warm wind-swept decks of a luxury yacht on the gentle sea. One can wake up, and cruise to a new location, stopping for lunch along the way in a beautifully unmolested natural bay, before continuing on to find where the party is at that night!

With such a wide range of companies offering an unlimited amount of destinations, from Polynesia to Belize and from Sweden to Martinique, one will struggle to find boredom too easily!

And there are many options for doing this, depending on one's level of experience and how much responsibility one wishes to take upon themselves.

Bareboat Charters are for those with ample experience among the crew, and as the name suggests, literally entails simply chartering a boat for a fixed period of time. Experienced sailors may prefer this as they are free to choose their own route and stay as long as they like in a particular location. Start and end dates are usually fixed, as are pick-up and return locations, although some charter companies do arrange for one-way charters, so make sure to shop around! Going bareboat will usually require a Yachtmasters qualification, so ask your charter company whether this is necessary or not.

For those with less experience, or who may not have ample competent crew onboard, there is the option to

have a skippered charter. This simply involves hiring a professional, either through the company or freelance, who will not make formal decisions, but will show you how to handle the boat, leaving you to enjoy the holiday in a more relaxed mode! It is also often worthwhile to get a skipper, if one is unfamiliar with the coastline or local anchorages, as well as local hotspots for other activities, shopping and visiting interesting sites.

If you are looking for a truly luxurious holiday with no work involved, perhaps consider taking a crewed charter, which involves having both a skipper and a hostess and in some cases, a deckhand, who offer a discreet service, with top quality on-board catering, all, of course, at a premium price. Such charters usually involve a customised itinerary, so ensure that you ask around to find a bespoke holiday that suits your needs if the budget allows.

Other charter companies offer other unique packages, such as Top Yacht, ([www.top-yacht.com](http://www.top-yacht.com)) who cater for specific needs with their range of Gulet Yachts (a traditionally-styled Turkish motor-sailer). These are fully crewed boats that offer large deck areas, and usually come equipped with watersports equipment to keep the whole group occupied.

Sunsail holidays, who on top of chartering, offer holidays in their resorts, such as the Club Javelin in Turkey, which cater for families. Available through [www.sunway.ie](http://www.sunway.ie) in Ireland, such holidays offer a wide range of activities, and can be an ideal platform for getting kids started in sailing, with recognised tuition courses available for all ages.

So if you are thinking of an alternative getaway this summer, for a group with diverging opinions on what makes a great holiday, look at the options available when it comes to chartering a boat. Charters are available that cater to all sorts of groups, from families with young children, to groups of adults, to students who wish to clear their hangovers with a relaxing day on the water!

## Ownership made easy

*"I would love to Sail, but there's no way I could ever afford it..."*

There are few immune to the romance evoked by sailing; the proud skipper standing, hand on wheel, eyes scanning the horizon like Captain Jack Sparrow at the helm of The Black Pearl. While it's fair to say that such images don't translate exactly to sailing in the 21st century, sailing still has a powerful capacity to capture the imagination. However, the reality for many is that sailing seems inaccessible, requiring arcane skills, couched in incomprehensible lingo and requiring, for the most part, a bottomless bank account.

While not providing three-pointed hats, one company new to Ireland and aiming to take some of the cost, effort and complexity out of sailing is SailTime. The fundamental idea is simple; rather than bear the financial (and physical) burden of owning a yacht, you "join" a boat as a SailTime member. A monthly fee gives you access to the boat for 1/8th of the time and you let SailTime take care of everything else. I caught up with Managing Director of SailTime Ireland, Brian O'Regan to find out more.

"It's like joining a gym. Most people don't want the expense and effort required to own and maintain their own gym equipment, so you pay a monthly subscription, use the equipment, and leave everything else to the management. SailTime provides something similar for sailboats."

It's not just for experienced sailors either. Sailtime can arrange for lessons with a professional instructor to get you up to speed, to a stage where you are comfortable skippering the boat.

With over 50 locations in the US and 10 in the UK, the Sailtime concept is growing quickly. According to O'Regan, "Yes, we're opening in Dun Laoghaire and we plan to have several boats in Dublin but we would love to hear from people from all around the coast; in Cork, Kinsale, Bangor or anywhere there is a marina. If the interest is there we'll provide the service."

So what about the cost? "Obviously the size of boat has an impact on the cost. Our first boat is a 31-foot Beneteau Oceanis and members pay €649 a month which includes everything; marina fees, insurance, cleaning, even fuel".

Prospective skippers should access the website at [www.sailtime.ie](http://www.sailtime.ie) email [boregan@sailtime.com](mailto:boregan@sailtime.com) or phone 01-5242324

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# Looking the Port.....

**P**icture a sailor. What do you see? A burly, bearded, leather-faced seaman, clad in yellow oilskins, Aran sweaters and a weathered sowester? Or perhaps a well-groomed Navy Captain in a very formal uniform?

Well the reality is that these stereotypes are far from what is considered to be the typical attire, as most sailors these days sport combinations of matching, highly specific technical garments that are as much comfortable and functional as they are stylish. With recent advancements in clothing technology and an increasing awareness of the need for stylish clothing on and off the water, yachtsmen these days are dressed head to toe in some of the coolest clothing available anywhere.

In a sport with a very even split in gender, guys and girls are now very well catered for both in terms of fashion and function when it comes to sailing gear. This is a stark contrast to the reality 10 years ago, with a very limited choice in sailing gear, in particular for girls. While in the past, one would typically purchase oilskins and wetsuits in the same go as that of an anchor in a general chandlery, these days, one can walk into a store off Grafton Street and pick up some seriously stylish jackets and shoes in the season's colours.

However, quite significantly, the technology in the clothing has converged with that of other sports, making the latest sailing jackets cross-functional, and flexible enough to use for a variety of sports and activities. "Jackets such as these should be seen as an investment in your lifestyle" says Amy Hamilton, who along with her sister Jilly has recently

celebrated the second birthday of their shop Onboard, which caters specifically to, as the name suggests, this market. Such jackets are part of a lifestyle choice and can be used for everything from sailing and hill-walking to skiing and other snowsports.

While they may be seen as quite expensive, Amy stresses that this is an investment that is very worthwhile. "With the climate we have in Ireland, we are often limited in how much time we can spend doing water sports" says Amy, "but with the gear that is available these days, you can surf and sail all year round". Ireland is one of the best places in the world to sail, and the West Coast is a Mecca for most surfers in the country, so "why, then" asks Amy, "should we limit ourselves to the water for only a few short months?"

Alternative water sports have really taken off in Ireland recently as well, with an increasing number of people making the most of Ireland's coasts and inland waterways, on wakeboards, kite-surf boards and an ever-increasing selection of boats. Improvements in clothing both allow and encourage such activities, as adrenaline-inducing activities become increasingly accessible.

With such an attitude and access to the latest gear for a wide range of sports, we are now free to enjoy the water in Ireland all year 'round, whether it be on a board or a boat. Getting the right gear is thus as much as lifestyle choice as it is a shrewd financial investment, and one should take great care in finding the appropriate garments for not only their sport, but also their lifestyle!



Laird Hamilton from Hawaii, considered to be the greatest big wave surfer of all time, visiting the Onboard store



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## ..... AMY'S HOT PICKS



**Helly Hansen Floral Thermal:** This super-stylish thermal top from Helly Hansen is ideal as a base layer for both sailing and skiing.

**Oxbow "Bocha" Rash Vest:** No surfer should ever be caught on the water without a stylish rash vest, such as this one from Oxbow.



**Protest "Ted" Guys Board Shorts:** Board-shorts with flowers on them are apparently cool, I must tell my Mum!

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Along the way, through miles of unspoilt green countryside, you can visit ancient and historic ruins from the mediaeval days of the past. Experience and enjoy the music, song and companionship along the many riverside towns and villages throughout the Shannon.

For the avid golfer there is an excellent selection of golf courses to choose from along the Shannon, from Portumna to Glasson, Hudson Bay and Nenagh among others. The fishing enthusiast can find Pike, Trout, Salmon, Bream, Roach, Rudd, Tench, Perch and Eels throughout the Shannon system.

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## RIB Buyer's Guide

**W**ant to have fun on the water this summer? Don't know exactly what you are looking for? Frank Coughlan of Joker Boats gives us a brief insight into the safe, fun and accessible world of RIBs (Rigid Inflatable Boats).

As our population expands and waterside developments increase in number, more people are making the most of our vast coast line and inland waterways.

This has increased the demand for small, easy to operate boats. There are many makes and models of all shapes and sizes to choose from in this sector of the marine marketplace. In recent times RIBs have become increasingly popular, feeding the increasing demand for safe fast and affordable boats. Ribs have been around for over 30 years and have always been associated with rescue and coast guard bodies, and are very versatile and relatively simple to operate. The RNLI, for example, use a range of different size ribs for their rescue missions of varying proximity to the coast.

The technology has come a long way and you can now get any configuration and size up to 14 metres with a combination of Inboard and Outboard engines depending on how the craft is to be used. Most people opt for boats of between 5 and 6 metres. Overall ribs are less

costly to maintain and operate than other fully rigid boats; they are also incredibly safe at sea because of their inflatable tubes. Most ribs have 4 to 5 chambers in their tubes and all Joker Boats come with 6 separate chambers, which greatly decreases the risk of damage to the tube thus making for a safer craft at sea.

So what should one look for in a rib? Depending on your intentions for use, there are a large number of considerations. However, one must always assess such a purchase on aspects such as safety, comfort, ease of use (including launch, recovery and transportation) and maintenance, speed, additional features (such as navigation equipment), as well as additional costs. As with any engine, there are differences in fuel efficiency, and with rising oil prices this is increasingly becoming a concern for many people. It is also important to take personal safety very seriously with boats capable of such speeds. The person responsible for the boat must ensure that all parties on the boat are wearing some form of personal flotation device, a legal requirement of everybody on the water. Furthermore, it is advisable to take a powerboat course before purchasing your first RIB.

## Whatever the weather

No matter whether you are about to participate in a yacht race, are taking a fishing trip, or even travelling on a ferry, there is one factor that is crucial in determining whether or not the trip can take place: the weather.

Whilst the science of meteorology ensures that weather forecasting is now more accurate than it ever has been, access to comprehensive meteorological data has, for the most part, been difficult to access, especially when on the move.

Private forecasting company Nowcasting International recently launched a new solution, in the form of Askmoby.com. Based in Ennis, Co. Clare, the company has been offering meteorological solutions to the marine industry since 1998.

"Nowcasting International operates in the largest weather forecast markets," says CEO Mark White. "The North Sea, West Africa, the Gulf of Mexico, the Caribbean, and Brazil are all areas where we provide professional forecasting services."

Askmoby.com represents a major foray into the general market, providing similar data to its industry services, in an instantly-accessible format for the general public to plan activities safely, throughout Europe.

In addition to providing information about weather conditions for sailing, users can also access constantly-updated details for other activities, such as surfing, golf, fishing and walking, amongst others. Whilst the information can be accessed on any computer, the main difference is that Askmoby.com has been designed to be accessed primarily by mobile devices.

Mobile users will see a simple interface screen, inviting them to choose a country, city or town, an activity and a time; the result is a forecast detailing the expected conditions, temperature, and wind speed. A basic (easy to download) map is also available, showing what conditions are like for areas around the selected location.

Accessing the website from a computer, additional information is available in the form of specific forecasts for Ireland's airports, main ferry ports, and most uniquely for any weather service, popular sporting venues.

Weather conditions can make or break an event. For the leisure sailing enthusiast, such a service can help to decide whether it is worth going out onto the water – it can also ensure that such activities are carried out safely.

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Photo by Crosbie Lorimer

## GETTING COVER

For those who drive, having car insurance is an obligation. Insurance is also vital if one owns a business, is travelling, owns property or a business, or needs to safeguard against any risk. The increasing number of people who own, or are interested in owning boats, may not be aware that specific boat insurance is also important.

Whilst not compulsory like motor insurance, having insurance against the risks of any on-shore activities should definitely be considered by anyone who owns a boat or any such craft, regardless of their experience. Indeed, most marinas now require owners to have, at the very least, some form of third-party cover, to provide protection against problems such as theft, damage or fire.

Not a compulsory form of insurance, obtaining marine cover may not be a priority for some boat-owners. However, it should not be forgotten that accidents on the water can happen just as easily as on the road. The costs of marine insurance may be enough to put a lot of boat owners off. Insurance need not be expensive, though. Just as one would shop around for motor or house insurance, the marine insurance market in Ireland is big enough to allow plenty of choice for customers looking to obtain sufficient cover for their craft.

Just as there are variations in the cost of cover for motorists, so there are for boat owners. With a wide range of possible problems affecting boat ownership, however, choosing the right policy can be difficult. There are also additional factors

to consider. Any boat will invariably have passengers, all bringing their own levels of risk that will require insurance in case of problems. For those lucky enough to own a large boat requiring some level of crew, those people also require insurance in case of accident or injury.

“Ireland’s waterways are now crowded,” says Brian Kelly of insurer Allianz. “With increase boat ownership, accidents can happen at any time – speedboats going under bridges and getting damaged, for example. Other problems can include storm damage, crashes, fire, theft, vandalism, personal injury or damage to other property. In addition to having cover for these eventualities, boat owners should also consider cover for ‘bad luck’ factors, such as accidents or injuries.”

Although obtaining adequate insurance is important, cost also comes into the equation. As boat insurance is not obligatory, the scope for getting good-value deals is possibly more of a factor when looking for cover, than it would be for other forms of insurance.

“The internet has also helped keep costs down,” says Rod Daniel of CraftInsure.ie. “Premium factors include total value, cruising area required, age of the boat, maximum speed and where kept. A marina berth should reduce premiums by at least ten percent compared with a swinging mooring. Expect to pay more for your yacht insurance if you race, especially if this is not limited to local club racing. The owner’s past experience is also an important factor.”

There are also possible restrictions on where the boat can actually sail to, depending on the level of cover agreed. Some insurers will offer policies that just cover sea areas within Ireland and the UK (or even specific areas within those zones), or further afield to the Mediterranean, for example, but not further.

Although boat insurance may have considerably different considerations than other related forms of insurance, it still pays to shop around. As boat ownership increases, the number of policies on the market is also expanding, leading to better competition and more value for the customer.

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## Malahide Marina

Malahide Marina has a growing reputation as one of the foremost locations of its kind in the country. Irish yachtspeople and sailors alike, some of whom will be familiar with the more established marinas of continental Europe, will no doubt be impressed by the exciting facilities available so close to our capital city. The picturesque and well equipped marina is fast becoming a boating destination of renown. The marina is situated in a protected inlet (the only natural inlet of its type on the east coast) within easy reach of Dublin City.

Bernard Gallagher, Managing Director of BJ Marines and former Chairman of the Irish Marine Institute, is a strong advocate of the excellent maritime facilities to be found here. His own company moved from the Dublin Docklands to its present location in the marina two years ago, and they haven't looked back. Bernard believes it is a rare gem for Irish yachting enthusiasts, a growth market which would previously have looked abroad for facilities of this type.

The surrounding area of Malahide

is itself a charming location which boasts some of the most popular restaurants and pubs in the city. In fact, the area has acquired a reputation as one of the gourmet capitals of the east coast. This is a lovely urban enclave which offers all the benefits of a major city, while retaining the allure of a small maritime village.

The marina has expanded in the recent past and now caters for over 350 berths. Both short term and long term stays are on and this has made it a very popular berthing point for those wanting to explore the waters around the east coast. The facilities on offer here are state of the art with showers/toilets including disabled; 24 hour security; car-parking, swipe card access, CCTV, laundry and ice.

Gallagher's company are testament to the exciting maritime development occurring here. BJ marines cater for all types of power boats and yachts, including Sea Ray, Beneteau and Cranchi. Their new indoor showrooms have 20 boats on display all year round, with up to 30 more to see in the boatyard. The company are excited by new developments in

design which mean that it is no longer necessary to be a guru in order to handle one of the boats. Currently on offer is a 43 ft hard-top which is steered by use of a joy stick rather than the trickier traditional means, something that would definitely be worth keeping in mind if you are trying out your sea legs for the first time. If this is the case it is also worth bearing in mind that a full range of boating and navigational courses are available at the marina.

The Lombard On the Water Boat Show, which took place in the marina last month, was the largest boat show in the country with some 170 boats. The weekend drew experienced and novice boaters alike, to enjoy the sight of the latest craft and handling innovations. The success of this event was a sure mark of the exceptional growth in aquatic activities throughout the country. Something many of us have been slow to take to given our island status! The location of the show in Malahide, highlighted the marina increasing importance as a one-stop-shop for Irish boating enthusiasts.

Photo by Crosbie Lorimer

## Sailing's golden girl

Ciara Peelo, from Malahide in Dublin, has recently qualified as the only Irish female sailor to compete at the Beijing Olympics.

**Sailing full time can be a miserable existence, given that you are wet and cold for a lot of the time, so why do it?**

**CP:** I was brought up in a family that was very competitive in sailing, and I guess my passion just grew from there. Combining this with a rock-solid belief in my own ability, I feel the need to compete all of the time. It's how I like to live my life.

**So what is your typical day?**

**CP:** I guess my life has two typical days, days at home and days on the road. Days in Ireland have lots of things going on that might be going on in anyone's life but abroad there is one focus and one focus only, sailing. Mental, physical and of course sailing itself are all part of a daily routine, with 1-3 sessions daily, lasting up to five hours each. While training in the boat is the most important of the three, without the other two, it would all fall apart.

**What is your greatest ambition in life?**

**CP:** It has to be an Olympic Gold Medal. It's what I wake up every day hoping to achieve. It's not the medal itself that matters of course, but the personal achievement of winning at such a level that really counts.

**What advice would you give to other female athletes?**

**CP:** Never, ever, ever give up. Being an athlete is by no means an easy life and I think it is even more difficult for girls, who often get little credit for their achievements. Follow your dreams and don't let anything get in your way.

**Who is your sporting idol?**

**CP:** Sonia O'Sullivan is a great icon for Irish women in sport. She has proven time and time again that she can compete at the highest international level with limited resources. I would love to continue with such a legacy, and bring back a gold medal for Ireland.

For more information on Ciara's campaign and to show your support for one of Ireland's best medal hopes in Beijing, please visit [www.ciarapeelo.ie](http://www.ciarapeelo.ie)



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# OFFSHORE 2008

“This will be like climbing Everest,” says Rick Deppe, describing the mammoth task ahead of him as one of the crewmembers participating in the 2008-2009 Volvo Ocean Race.

One of the most challenging races in the world, the Volvo Ocean Race takes competitors on an arduous route around the world. ‘Challenging’ is putting it mildly. The course is usually a minimum of 28,000 miles, taking in some of the most testing ocean areas along the way.

The 2008-2009 race will leave the relatively calm Mediterranean waters at Alicante in Spain, after a race around

the port itself, on 11th October. From there, the action starts immediately, racing 6,500 nautical miles south through the Atlantic to Cape Town, and an encounter with the treacherous waters around the Cape of Good Hope - a contradiction in terms if there ever was one. From there, the race continues to India, Singapore and China, before taking in the entire Pacific Ocean until the next stop, probably in Rio de Janeiro in Brazil. Boston is the next port of call, before an Atlantic crossing brings the teams to Galway.

By the time the teams arrive in Ireland, they will have survived eight months

at sea, in the most testing conditions imaginable. Visitors will be able to see the yachts up close, as well as enjoy a whole range of festivities, including concerts, parades, visits from the Jeanie Johnston and Tenacious and gourmet food markets.

After a week in Galway, the crews will then sail north, around Scotland, to Gothenburg and Stockholm, before the final finish in St. Petersburg in Russia.

Probably the major event on the racing calendar, this will be a rare opportunity to see such yachts in Ireland.

Held bi-annually, the race was instigated in 1980, and has attracted plenty of interest and competition since.

“Many of our regular sailors and past winners are back again,” says Dennis Noonan of Wicklow Sailing Club. “Cavatina is returning to Wicklow and George Radley will be racing with us again in VSOP. This year Michael Boyd has entered in the two-handed class. Adrian Lee has a great new boat – a Cookson 50 and our intrepid French sailors Bernard and Laurent Gouy in Inis Mór are back for their fourth Round Ireland with a new Ker 39. Aodhan Fitzgerald from Galway will return again, along with local Arklow man James Tyrrell in Aquelina.

“With a wonderful mixed fleet of yachts, from 32-feet to 100-feet, it looks as if we are in for another very exciting race. Once again our naval services are sending the LE Eithne to act as our start and committee boat. Wicklow’s Round Ireland race is one of the great offshore races in the sailing calendar. The race gets underway on Saturday the 21st June, so make sure to come down to Wicklow Harbour and join in the festivities and support this great race.”

The race record is held by renowned Irish skipper Colm Barrington, who sailed Jeep Cherokee to win the 1998 event in a time of 76 hours, 23 minutes and 57 seconds - breaking the previous best by eight hours. The 2006 winner was Eric Lisson in the aforementioned Cavatina.

Starting from Wicklow, the race heads south to take in Tusker Rock off the coast of Wexford, across to Fastnet in Cork, before heading north up the Atlantic, passing by Slyne Head, across to Donegal through Arranmore and Inistrahull, around the northern coast past Mew Island, before approaching the finish at Wicklow through Rockabill.

Visit [www.volvoceanrace.org](http://www.volvoceanrace.org) and [www.wicklowsailingclub.com](http://www.wicklowsailingclub.com) for more information.

Photo by Crosbie Lorimer

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*This will be like  
climbing Everest*

One sailor who may well be competing in the race is the phenomenally successful Kerry native, Damien Foxall. Having braved three months at sea in the Barcelona World Race, Foxall was welcomed back to Ireland by President Mary McAleese. Having circumnavigated the globe on a number of occasions, Foxall has already competed in the Volvo Ocean Race twice before, as well as other events, including the Québec-St-Malo Transat and the Oryx Quest. Undoubtedly one of Ireland’s most successful sailors, his next moves are being anticipated by many in the sailing fraternity – after he has spent time with his wife and baby son at home in Brittany first.

With crews from the UK, the US, Russia, France, the Isle of Man, in addition to Irish entries, preparations for the BMW Round Ireland Yacht Race 2008 are in full swing. The second-longest race in the Royal Ocean Racing Club calendar, it is organised by Wicklow Sailing Club.



## Learning the Ropes

A life on the high seas is an ambition of a lot of people but the realisation of it can be daunting. The West Cork Sailing & Powerboat Centre in Adrigole, on the shores of Bantry Bay, offer a tailor made programme which can take students from complete beginner to ISA or RYA Commercial Yachtmaster in their 6 month intensive training. The trainees use a variety of different boats including powerboats, dinghies, keelboats, yachts, and a 72 foot ocean going mega yacht to hone their skills and provide them with the necessary experience to take their yachtmaster exam.

As part of the experience students help to sail a Challenge 72 steel racing yacht to the Canaries and back which gives them the pre-requisite miles and the experience of long distance sailing.

Once qualified, trainees are eligible to skipper yachts up to 24 meters anywhere in the world and

can earn considerable sums in the yacht delivery and yacht hospitality industries. Other career paths include cruising instructor keelboat instructor and flotilla skipper for the holiday companies in the Mediterranean, Caribbean or Asia.

The course has had to date a 100% success rate for all students, whom are aged from young school leavers to early retirees. Some come with dinghy or cruising experience and some with no more than a 'give it a go' attitude. This summer 2 of the trainees will be working as instructors at the West Cork Sailing Centre and plan to head to the Caribbean for the winter

So if you have had enough of staring at the computer screen on the 9-5 or fed up with your boss giving you a hard time over your sales targets why not find out about changing your life and doing something completely different discovering worlds you only dreamed of.

# Dubarry

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Dubarry is a name synonymous with deck shoes – colloquially known here in Ireland as “Dubes”. Dubarry also provides technical performance footwear to the worlds leading sailors at events such as the Americas Cup, Volvo Round the World Race, Vendee Globe and the many local and national regattas worldwide.

Marketing Director, Michael Walsh points out that “the unique outsole design for non-slip performance and the high quality leathers are exactly the same from the most basic deck shoe through to the top of the range technical GORE-TEX® lined sailing boot. We never compromise on the quality of our components and that’s why we have such a loyal international following for products that perform to the users expectations. We are a quality brand at the premium end of the market and the people who buy our products expect them to perform in the harshest of environments.”

A number of new styles have recently been added to the collection. The three-eye tie Compass offers a new feel and look to the traditional deck shoe. Using only the very best leathers, Dubarry has a special treatment applied at the leather

tanning stage to create its DryFast - DrySoft™ characteristics. With performance always a key criteria, the outsole features Dubarry’s unique interconnecting channels that disperse water from the point of impact to ensure a NonSlip - NonMarking™ grip at all times. The lightweight flexible EVA (Ethyl Vinyl Acetate) midsole gives excellent underfoot comfort and shock absorbency. The heel area also features extra cushioning with an EVA heel cup, while the embossed leather insock, padded top collar and tongue all contribute to the comfortable feel of these high technology shoes. To ensure longevity, Dubarry has featured both rust proof eyelets and laces with an impressive 30kg breaking strain. Compass has a moisture wicking lining with built-in antimicrobial protection against bacteria and fungi. In simple terms, whether wet or dry, cold or hot, this shoe will keep feet fresh and comfortable while looking stylish onshore. It is available in leather and nubuck in a range of colours including navy, walnut, oakwood, mahogany, cherrywood, mocha and navy/ mocha in European sizes 40-48. See [www.dubarry.com](http://www.dubarry.com) for further details including the exciting NEW clothing and luggage collection.

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## Learn to sail in Spain with Duquesa Yachting!



photo by Gilles Martin Raget

So you want to learn to sail, but the Irish climate is restrictive. Despite having 3000 miles of coastline on this island nation, Irish people don't make the most of the resources in our country. So how about learning to sail abroad, getting you up to speed with the necessary tuition, so that you are fully qualified to sail in Ireland and charter a boat anywhere else in the E.U.?

Duquesa Yachting, based in the picturesque port of Puerta de la Duquesa on the beauti-

ful Costa del Sol, offer you the opportunity to visit three countries on two continents (Spain, Morocco and Portugal) whilst learning to sail in some of the most elegant waters in Europe. With over 300 days of sunshine, this is the only training centre outside of Ireland that is officially recognised by both the Irish Sailing Association and the Royal Yachting Association. With a team of highly-experienced professional but friendly instructors, Duquesa Yachting ensures that learning to sail will

be a fun-filled and rewarding experience.

Gaining an International Certificate of Competence (ICC - the equivalent of a European driving licence) is quick and easy, with a five day course, which represents incredibly good value at only €750. Covering over 100 miles at sea during this time, including a four hour stint at night, on Duquesa Yachting's fleet of Dufour 40s, this is an ideal way to learn the ropes in a safe, comfortable environment. While there is no regulation

in Ireland and the UK for the charter of boats, this is a mandatory requirement for anybody wishing to charter a boat on the continent. More importantly, it is anticipated that this will also become mandatory in Ireland in the coming years.

What is most appealing for most people about the Duquesa Yachting experience is that this is much more than just a training course. Outside of the sailing, one can enjoy a round of golf on the 1997 Ryder Cup course at Valderrama, while

those who do not wish to "rough it up" can choose to stay in a luxury apartment rather than onboard the boat!

As an ideal way to pick up a sport which lasts a lifetime in a relaxed environment, and in such a short space of time, this is the perfect opportunity for people of all ages to get a head-start in a world of endless adventure.

For more information and booking details, please visit [www.duyasail.com](http://www.duyasail.com).



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