



## Sailors for the Sea Clean Regattas

### Platinum Report

### ILCA 6 Youth European Championships & Open European Trophy 2024 Ballyholme Yacht Club

27<sup>th</sup> July- 3<sup>rd</sup> August 2024

Ballyholme Yacht Club has an excellent Environmental Management track record. We have the Final Straw Foundation Silver Award and received the Platinum Award from Sailors for the Sea Clean Regatta Award for the Irish Sailing Youth National Championships in 2022. The ILCA 6 Youth European Championships were the largest sailing event to be held in Northern Ireland with 368 competitors plus around 70 coach boats and so we knew this was going to be a challenge. We once again worked hard to fulfil the requirements of a Clean Regatta and hope that we have accomplished enough to achieve the Platinum Award.

Charlie Winton

Sustainability Officer

Ballyholme Yacht Club



*Keeping our seas clean for our local dolphins who join in the fun*

### **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 were all encouraged to use reusable bottles and the club hydration stations.
- Extra drinking water pipes were provided in the temporary Campervan park.
- Everyone was asked to bring their own coffee cups.



*Sailor filling reusable water bottle, reusable coffee cup and installing the campsite water tap*

### 2. Eliminate Plastic Straws

- Ballyholme Yacht Club does not make straws generally available, though it 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 compostable or reusable crockery with compostable cutlery.



*Compostable dinnerware and reusable mugs made by a BYC member*



### 4. Use or Provide Reusable Bags

- No plastic bags were handed out or used at the event.
- Volunteers were encouraged to bring their own sandwich boxes and lunch bags.
- Paper wrapped sandwiches and reusable cool bags were used to take lunches to committee boats and RIBs.

- Cloth tote bags hand-printed by a BYC Youth Member were given to all who joined in the Beach Clean.

*Boat crew sandwiches packed in paper, reusable cool bags and printed tote bags*



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

- Spot prizes were practical sailing items.
- Awards were made from sustainable materials.



## Community Involvement

### 6. Publicize Your Sustainable Efforts

- Environmental messages were posted on both BYC Event webpage and on the ILCA event page: <https://ballyholme.com/the-ilca-6-youth-european-championships-27-july-3-august-2024/> <https://2024-ilca6youth.eurilca-europeans.org/sustainability/>
- Prior to the event and during the event there were sustainability posts on Facebook, Instagram and Telegram.



**2024 ILCA 6 YOUTH EUROPEANS Every little helps!**

BYC have implemented lots of small sustainable actions around the club such as:

- Reusable cable ties
- Battery recycling box (made by our own IRO)
- Biodegradable trolley tags
- Hand made wooden tally board by a member's son Jake Moran



**2024 ILCA 6 YOUTH EUROPEANS Sailors for the Sea Clean Regattas**

4 Types of bins at BYC

Help reduce landfill and Save our Seas - Use the correct bins!

**HOW DEGRADING!**  
SEE HOW LONG SOME COMMON BITS OF LITTER TAKE TO DEGRADE IN THE WATERS

THE GREEN BLUE ORG.UK RYA

**2024 ILCA 6 YOUTH EUROPEANS Sailors for the Sea Clean Regattas**

No Single Use Plastic at this event  
Please bring your own water bottle and coffee cup!




Reusable mugs made by a BYC member



**Wildlife Wednesday**  
All ages welcome!

12.00 VR Experience Under the Seas  
12.30 Ulster Wildlife Talk - Local Sealife and Oysters at Bangor Marina  
13.45 Rockpool Ramble and Rockpool Bingo Competition  
14.30 Beach Clean Competition  
15.30 Sandcastle Competition with Farrans

Great Prizes sponsored by CharterBoat and SailCoach  
More info to follow...

Social media posts

## 7. Involve Local Organisations

- Supplies sourced locally for catering, boat repair, management.
- Volunteers from local community.
- Link with the RYA NI Green Blue programme
- Signed up to The Final Straw Foundation
- A campaign with The Woodland Trust to plant saplings to offset carbon emissions.



*Tree Planting with the Woodland Trust at Cave Hill Belfast*

## 8. Post Educational and Reusable Signage

- We displayed posters from the RYA Green Blue on green boating as well as posters on local sea life provided by Ulster Wildlife



## 9. Serve Local Food or Source Seafood Sustainably

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

## Responsible Waste Management

### 10. Organize a Green Team

- Charlie Winton of Ballyholme Yacht Club was the Green Team lead.
- A Youth Green Team was set up with BYC instructors.



*BYC Youth Green Team: Conn Finnegan, Jess Winton and Josh Ready*

### 11. Ensure Proper Waste Bin Placement and Signage

- A wide variety of waste disposal options and locations were made available for participants.
- Bins were regularly emptied during each day and any rubbish left around collected by volunteers.



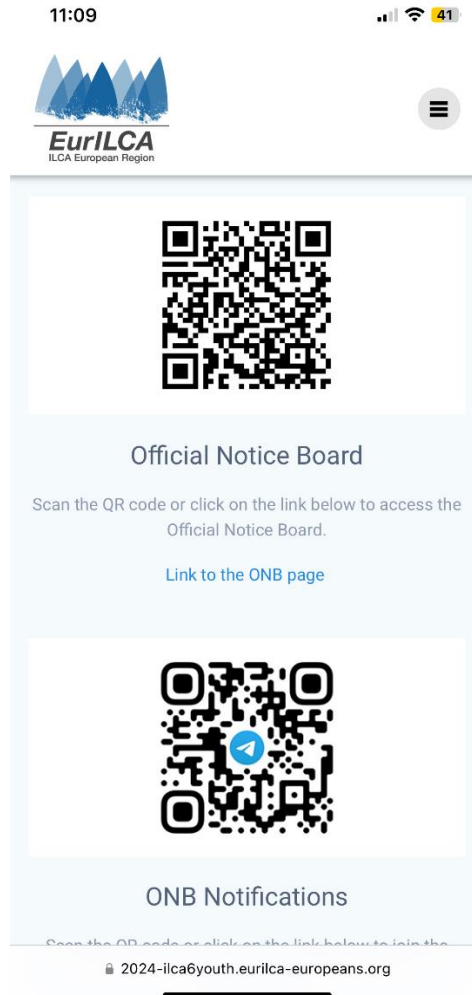
*Outdoor seagull proof bins and indoor bins*

### 12. Divert Food Waste from the Landfill

- The kitchen at Ballyholme Yacht Club has food waste bin.
- All organic waste collected is composted in an environmentally friendly manner by the council.

### 13. Use Paperless Event Management

- All documents were made available on the website 'Official Notice Board'.
- Telegram was used to convey all messages to competitors and volunteers.
- QR codes were created to allow people to find the webpages easily.



## Environmental Stewardship

### 14. Host a Beach or Marina Cleanup

- We organised a very successful beach clean competition in collaboration with Ulster Wildlife.



*The children who took part in the beach clean*

### 15. Promote Alternative transportation

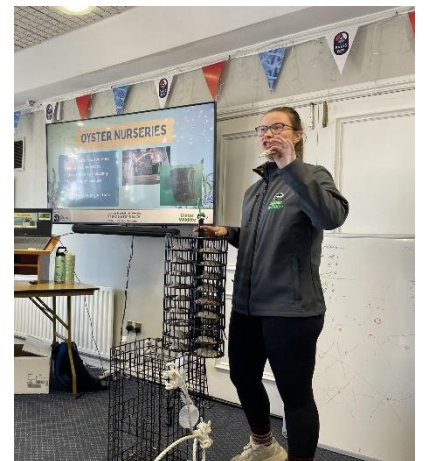
- Bus and public transport information was provided on the event website.
- BYC members lent competitors bicycles
- Bicycle racks were provided.



*Bike rack in front of BYC Clubhouse*

### 16. Increase Awareness of Wildlife and Habitat Protection

- A variety of sea life awareness talks and talks on protecting the seas, including an update on the Oyster Project in Bangor Marina were given by Ulster Wildlife, Sea Search and Marine Task Force. Everyone involved in the event, local community and club members were invited.
- A Rockpool Ramble was organised to teach the young about what is found in our seas.





## 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

- Telegram groups were created to provide consistent communication of results etc to participants.
- No paper Sailing Instructions.
- Telegram for all comms.
- No sponsor bow stickers.
- Media boat active on the water time kept to minimum required.
- Committee boat anchored, engine off, use of holding tank.
- Used online programme for all protest hearing information, submissions, and reports.
- Coach boats were used for lunch RIBs, reducing waste on the water.
- Online briefings to reduce sound pollution with speaker systems.

### 19. Prevent Toxins from Entering the Water

- Spill kits were available at the refuelling station and an emergency action plan was in place.
- Signs at the water hoses instructed no use of chemicals.



### 20. Encourage Green Boating Practices

- All participants were reminded of the Environmental standards of the event and Rule 47 active.
- The 'no towing' rule was active.
- To reduce fuel usage our rescue crews were briefed and rescue cover was "zoned", with each boat being assigned an area around a mark on the course, rather than following the fleet around. Plus safety boats were anchored outside the course, using anchor lines attached to a floating buoy or similar. If needed, the anchor could be dropped quickly and retrieved later.
- Coach boats were warned of unnecessary speed and those who exceeded the speed limit were reprimanded.

**Plus – Every little helps!**

- A BYC member made biodegradable trolley and boat tags.
- Flags were attached with reusable cable ties.
- BYC member made battery containers for easy and clear recycling.
- BYC has a bean to cup coffee machine introduced to eliminate pods.
- A BYC member's son made a beautiful wooden tally board for the event and the club invested in highly durable tally bands for the club to use in the future.
- Competitors brought their own Mast Sleeves to the event. There was also the option of buying them at registration at £5 a colour so that they would be reused by the sailor.
- Our major sponsor Farrans pledged to donate 50 saplings to plant in the local area after the event.



*Wooden tags, battery recycling and wooden tally board*



*Members of the BYC Green Team: Jo Rennie, Charlie Winton and Jess Winton*

**Thank you from BYC!**