



## **Report**

# **Sea Scouting in Scouting Ireland**

**2004**



## SEA SCOUTING IN IRELAND

### INTRODUCTION

The last such general report on Sea Scouting was prepared in 1998. In the first year of our new association, it seems appropriate that a new up-to-date report on Sea Scouting in the new Scouting Ireland should be prepared. This report covers 1998 to 2004 inclusive.

Sea Scouting provides Scout training with and through water-borne activities. Sea Scout Troops should have a good programme of hiking and camping expeditions as well as boating. All Sea Scout Troops should -

1. Have good basic Scoutcraft and water activities training.
2. Have the opportunity to undertake simple expeditions afloat.
3. Own or have the use of appropriate craft.
4. Have leaders well trained in water activities and in general scoutcraft.

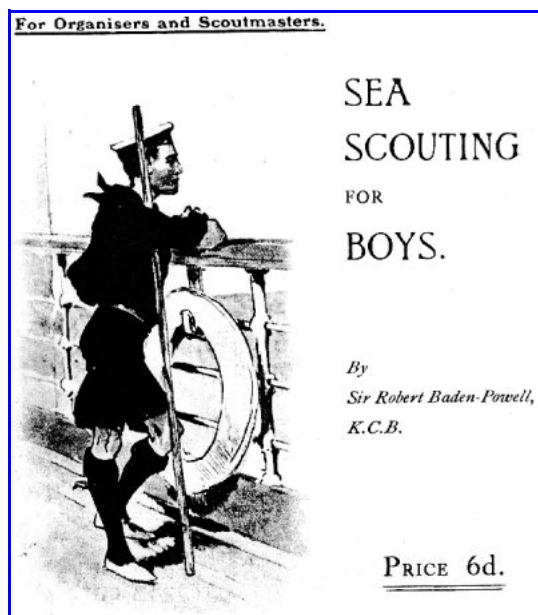
Sea Scouting is a fully integrated and balanced programme of land and sea activities, where the water content is essential, not optional, and where maritime tradition and atmosphere is maintained. In the Sea Scout Programme **water is as important a training and activity area as woodland and mountain**. Suitable craft and equipment must be available to a Sea Scout Troop.

There is a widespread notion that the term "water activities" is synonymous with "Sea Scouting". This is not so. In the context of Scouting, the term "water activities" has come to mean a wide variety of activities on or in the water, that are available to all Scouts who wish to use them as optional programme extras. The Scout Leader whose Troop would like some water activity may make arrangements to visit a Sea Scout Group, or go to a Scout or commercial Water Activity Centre for an activity session or perhaps for a training course. If a Troop wishes to participate regularly in a specific water activity, such as canoeing or dinghy sailing, it is advisable that one or more of the Scouters in the Group should become trained in that activity, or that a qualified "outsider" should be found, who would be willing to instruct in or to lead such an activity. A Troop that wishes to have more regular and structured water activity programme, fully integrated with the land programme, should consider becoming a Sea Scout Troop, or starting a Sea Scout Patrol.

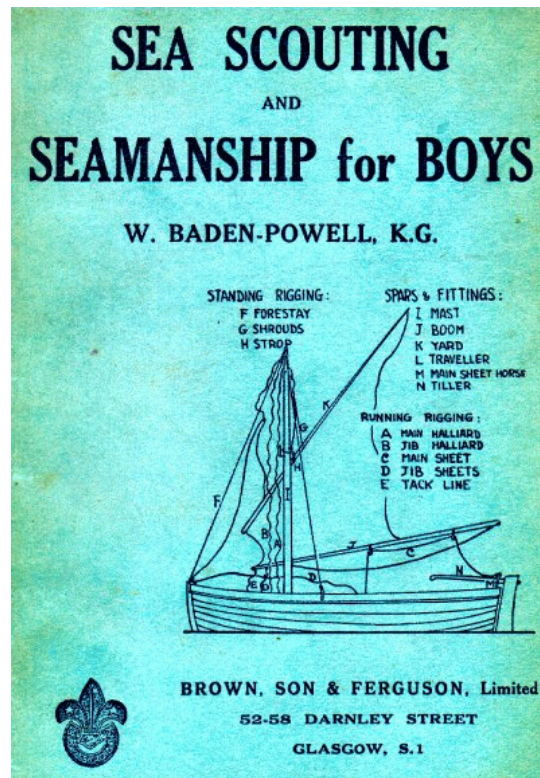
Sea Scout Leaders require the same Leadership Training as other Scouters (i.e. Woodbadge Training) but also additional training in the planning and execution of a balanced programme, and practical training and experience in boatwork, boathandling, and water safety. Sea Scout Leaders should be sufficiently expert to take charge of craft and activities afloat, and must possess an appropriate Scouting Ireland Charge Certificate, or qualification of a recognised outside body.

## HISTORY

After Baden-Powell's book "Scouting for Boys" appeared in 1908, Scout Groups started spontaneously throughout Great Britain and Ireland. Some Groups, including 1st Dublin Troop, Boy Scouts (founded in February 1908) included boating in their programmes from the beginning, and B-P soon recognised that this was an excellent variation of the Scout programme. Sea Scouting was officially recognised in 1910, and B-P wrote the first introductory pamphlet "Sea Scouting for Boys". Later B-P asked his brother Warrington, a well known yachtsman, to write a handbook for the new section, and "Sea Scouting and Seamanship for Boys" was published in 1912.



1910



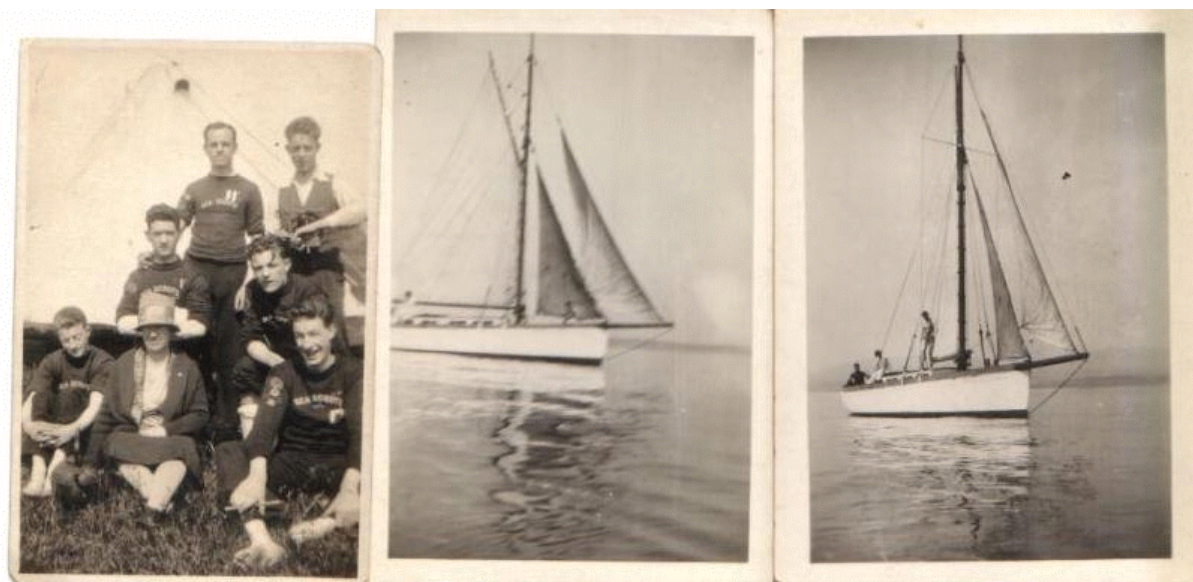
1912

The first Sea Scout Troops in Ireland were registered in 1912, in Bray and in Ringsend (1st Dublin Troop mentioned above). Other Troops developed in Dublin in the succeeding years. In 1914 the first inter-Troop rowing race for the Wood-Latimer Cup was held. This event was the start of the Annual Sea Scout Regatta, the 90th Anniversary of which was celebrated this year. In 1915 the Dublin Sea Scout Troops were grouped together in the Port of Dublin Sea Scout Local Association, and they were allocated "Port of Dublin" numbers, a custom that still continues. The annual Seamanship Competition for the Fry Cup started in 1918 and also continues to the present time.





2nd Port of Dublin Sea Scouts, Clontarf, with Wood-Latimer Cup, 1914



6th Port of Dublin Sea Scouts, Kingstown (Dun Laoghaire), 1926



4th Port of Dublin Sea Scouts, C.B.S.I., Dollymount, about 1936

The Catholic Boy Scouts of Ireland were founded in 1927, and started a Sea Scout Section a year later, basing the organisation and programme on the Boy Scouts of America model. This was a Senior Section, over 14 years of age, and was originally intended for existing Scouts holding the First Class Badge. This condition was unrealistic and was eventually dropped. By the late 30s CBSI had about 10 Ships (Units) in the Dublin area, and Ships in Cork, Galway, Waterford and Wexford, a total of 14. The Port of Galway Ship, under its famous Skipper, Capt. Wooley, seceded from the CBSI after a couple of years and continued as an independent organisation into the 1970s.

During the 30s, the Port of Dublin Local Association had five Troops in Dublin. There was also a Troop in Bray and a Patrol in 1st Cork Troop.

The late 1940s were disastrous for Sea Scouting in Ireland. By 1948 only two BSI Troops remained - the 1st Port of Dublin (Ringsend) and the 4th Port of Dublin (Dodder), and by 1950, only 2 CBSI Ships remained – 1st Port of Dublin (Ringsend) and 4th Port of Dublin (Dollymount). Within a few years these CBSI units closed.

Then the picture in BSI (later SAI) changed, very slowly at first - from two troops in 1948, to four in 1958, twelve in 1968, thirty-eight in 1978. The first of these Troops outside Dublin was 1st Wexford (New Ross). The very rapid growth between 1968 and 1978 was a mixed blessing, and a number of troops did not survive for very long, mainly due to problems of back-up support and of maintaining adequate supply of Leaders. CBSI had an active Sea Scout Troop in Wicklow for some years in the 70s, the age range and programme being similar to that in SAI. This Troop had a number of contacts and activities with SAI Sea Scouts from Dunlaoghaire and New Ross.



In the mid 1970s the former lightship, “Albatross”, was acquired as a Sea Training Centre. This was a great boost to training and was an activity centre where troops with little equipment could send Scouts for boating experience. Unfortunately, after about 12 years excellent work, it became too expensive to maintain the vessel to a reasonable standard and she was withdrawn from service and later sold. In 1976, the Irish Sea Scout Standard Boat, the “BP 18” was designed by Kevin McClaverty, and has proved to be an excellent general purpose craft for Sea Scouts. Here we wish to record, with deep regret, that Kevin died on 6th December 2002.

In the 1980s CBSI introduced an optional Water Activity programme that could be used within any Scout Troop by a patrol or by interested individuals, but decided not to establish a Sea Scout Section or to operate Sea Scout Troops. CBSI later developed a Water Activities Centre at Killaloe on Lough Derg on the Shannon.

In 1985 SAI published a new series of handbooks covering the nautical requirements of the Sea Scout programme (Sea Training Handbooks, Parts 1 & 2), and also a Sea Scout Leaders Handbook.

## **Radical Review of Sea Scouting**

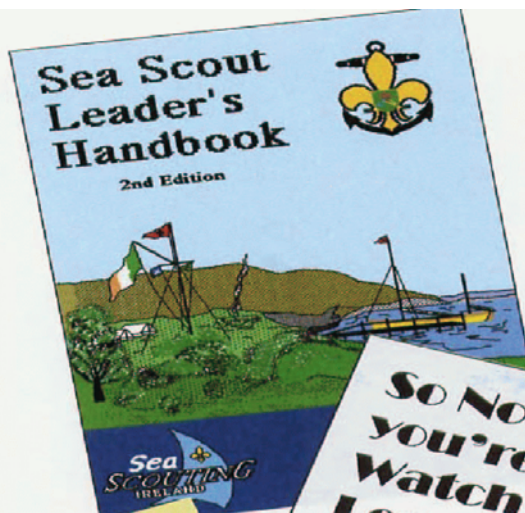
During the 1990s, SAI instituted a series of revisions of Sectional Programmes, and the turn of Sea Scouting came in 1998. From 1998 to 2002 a very detailed examination of Sea Scouting was undertaken, under the Chairmanship of Tommy Myler, National Commissioner for Sea Scouting. This included a country-wide survey of all Sea Scout Troops, with questionnaires for each Scout and Leader on training schemes and programmes, uniform, activities and competitions. A committee was established to examine the Sea Scout Programme in detail, using the Renewed Approach to Programme (RAP) method recommended by World Scouting. This was a lengthy process involving 9 stages, with masses of paperwork. The new programme was designed, and a new advancement Badge Scheme was devised to implement it. The new Sea Scout Programme was launched in 2002, and includes a completely revised Progress Scheme, balanced between ashore and afloat, with a wide choice of activities.



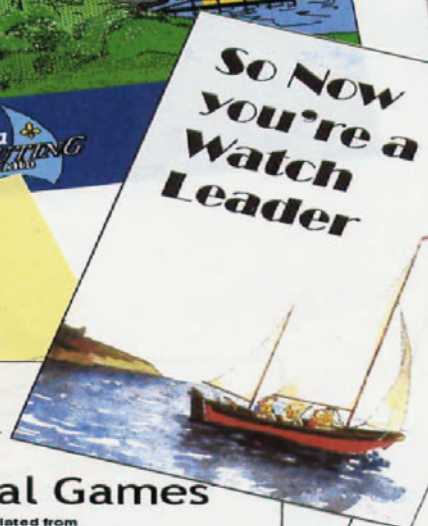
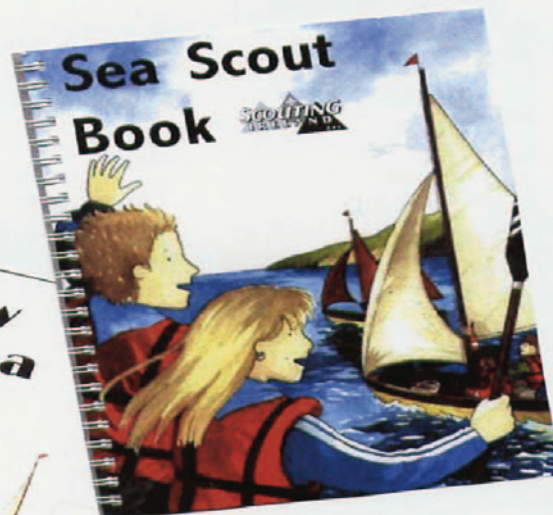
The new programme was backed up with new or revised resource material.

1. "The Sea Scout Book" - a new handbook for youth members, covering the basic requirements for the new programme, both land and sea.
2. "Sea Scout Leaders Handbook" (2nd Edition) covers organisation of a Troop, programme planning and details of the Progress Scheme requirements.
3. "Sea Training Manual" (2nd Edition) is an updated technical manual in 7 sections, covering Boatswain's Work, Boat Handling, Navigation and Pilotage, Collision Rules and Distress Signals, Meteorology, Communications and Inland Waterways.
4. "Nautical Games" is an English translation of a book published in Dutch in 2001 by the Sea Scout Department of Scouting Nederland, who very kindly allowed free use of their material.

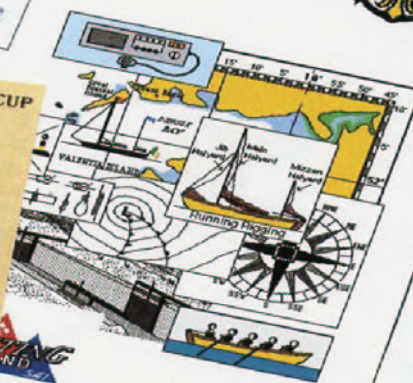




Sea Scouting Publications  
Scouting Ireland



Sea Training  
Manual  
2nd Edition





## Present Position – Sea Scouting SI in 2004 census

The present strength of Sea Scouting is 28 Troops (23 Groups), 736 Scouts. Three other Troops listed below made no census return this year. Groups are listed by Provinces in clockwise order around the coast, showing 2004 census figures. Dublin Troops are noted by "Port of Dublin" numbers.

North East Province		County
2 Louth (Blackrock)	17	Louth
16 Port (Skerries) 2Dub - Colt Troop	23	Fingal North
- Rockabill Troop	31	Fingal North
14 Port (Donabate) 63Dub	27	Fingal South-East
9 Port (Malahide) 15Dub -Tuesday Troop	38	Fingal South-East
-Wednesday Troop	61	Fingal South-East
-Friday Troop	40	Fingal South-East
7 Port (Howth) 28Dub	16	Fingal South-East
Dublin Metropolitan Province		County
5 Port (Dollymount) 12Dub - Wednesday Troop	54	Eblana Thoir Thuaidh
- Thursday Troop	13	Eblana Thoir Thuaidh
1 Port (Ringsend) 5Dub	9	Dodder
4 Port (Dodder) 21Dub	8	Dodder
15 Port (Ballyfermot) 78Dub	6	Dublinia
8 Port (Dunlaoghaire)39Dub -Manannáin	44	Dunlaoghaire
-Fodhla	44	Dunlaoghair
12 Port (Sandycove) 26Dub	–	Dunlaughair
3 Port (Dalkey) 41Dub	34	Rathdown Cois Farraige
South-East Province		County
1 Wicklow (Greystones)	23	Wicklow
5 Wicklow (Bray)	38	Wicklow
1 Wexford (New Ross)	19	Wexford
2 Wexford (Port of Wexford)	17	Wexford
6 Wexford (Rosslare)	18	Wexford
9 Wicklow (Arklow)	47	Wexford
1 Waterford (Port of Waterford)	23	Waterford
2 Waterford (Dunmore East)	19	Waterford
Southern Province		County
4 Cork (Cobh)	25	Cois Laoi
1 Cork (Crosshaven)	–	Cork South
10 Cork (Monkstown)	14	Cork South
12 Cork (Carrigaline)	–	Cork South
2 Kerry (Tralee)	18	Kerry
Western Province		County
3rd Sligo (Rosses Point)	14	Sligo

## Sea Scout Areas

Some years ago Sea Scout Area Committees were set up to coordinate boating skills and seamanship training and other boating activities, Charge Certificate training and assessments, boat inspections, competitions etc. Each Area Chairperson is a member of the National Team. Four Areas were established - East Coast, Tuskar, Fastnet and Atlantic. Atlantic Area (NW) is not functioning at present. With the new Provincial administration of SI, the Sea Scout areas have been adjusted to coincide exactly with the Provinces, and the Area committees will become Provincial Sea Scout and Water Activity advisory committees. East Coast Area covers both Northeast and Dublin Provinces and will divide into two to serve these Provinces.

## Sea Scout National Team (to Dec 2003)

National Commissioner:	Tommy Myler (to Sept 2003) Brian O'Daly (Sept – Dec 2003)
Asst National Commissioner:	Brian Gaule (to Dec 2003)
Secretary:	Brian O'Daly (to Sept 2003), Kevin Rowan (Sept – Dec 2003)
Treasurer:	John McKeivitt
Members:	Niall McCooey, Stephen Taylor, Tom McMullan, Jimmy Myler, Eoghan Lavelle, Cian Ó Grádaigh,

## Sea Scout and Water Activities Team (from Jan 2004)

Chairperson:	Brian O'Daly
Dep. Chairperson:	Brian Gaule
Secretary:	Kevin Rowan
Treasurer:	John McKeivitt
Members:	Stephen Taylor (Chairperson, East Coast) Jimmy Myler (Chairperson, Tuskar) Tom McMullan (Chairperson, Fastnet) Eoghan Lavelle (Training and Safety) Stephen Coffey (Killaloe Water Activities Centre) Cian Ó Grádaigh (Special Projects)

## Recent Work and activities

### Government Regulation

An important part of the work of the Team is to keep up to date with the various Government regulations that may have a bearing on our waterborne activities. To this end, Marine Notices, Statutory Instruments and other material from the Department of Communications, Marine and Natural Resources are regularly inspected to ensure that information essential to our activities is circulated to leaders. The Team keeps a list of all such documents issued, and a copy of those that are relevant. The Team has also submitted material to the Department in relation to Sea Scout training and the boating Charge Certificate Scheme, and also in reply to

consultation documents about Lifejackets/Buoyancy Aids, and the proposed new Passenger Boat Manning Regulations. These recent draft regulations appear to apply to many Sea Scout craft and may have important implications for our Charge Certificate Scheme.

### **Charge Certificates**

Following from the above, the Charge Certificate Scheme is being re-examined to see if it should be brought further in line with the ISA qualifications. Equivalent standards are already recognised, and the possession of an appropriate ISA level certificate has been accepted for many years in Scouting as evidence of practical ability for a Charge Certificate. However, Scouting has been reluctant to abolish the extra theory requirements for Scout Charge Certificates, feeling that those which are useful in the Scouting context should be retained, such as boat maintenance and repair, ability to control a crew of 2, 3 or 4 rather than just one other person in a small dinghy, experience in handling the type of craft in use in Scouting, and local knowledge. (See Information leaflet No.6). Rowing Charge Certificates are not affected, because no other organisation has a training scheme for the types of craft that we use.

### **SOLAS Regs. Chap V**

In 2002, changes applying to small craft were made in the SOLAS (Safety of Life at Sea Convention) Regulations. The main element of these changes relates to the importance of Passage Planning, and leaving information with an “agent” ashore. Scout Boating Rules already included these, but the changes of the international regulations now make them mandatory rather than just good practice. (See Information leaflet No.7)

### **Information Documents**

The team has prepared a number of leaflets giving information on various aspects of Sea Scouting and Water Activities that we feel could be of interest to others in the Association. A list of these documents is given here –

- 1 – Water Activities
- 2 – Introduction to Sea Scouting
- 3 – Personal Floatation Devices
- 4 – Scouting Ireland Sea Training
- 5 – Boating Limits (Classification of Waters)
- 6 – Boating Charge Certificates
- 7 – Passage/Voyage Planning
- 8 – Sail Training in Scouting
- 9 – “Introduction to Sea Scouting” Course
- 10- Canoeing Grades

Other such Information documents are planned for the future. The contents of the documents are kept under regular review, and they are amended as required.

### **Leader Training**

Before the new Association was formed, SAI Leader Training included variations of Levels 2 and 4 for Sea Scout Leaders. After discussions with the Training Team, the



new Leader Training Scheme includes a special Module for Sea Scout Leaders, and the possession of a Charge Certificate can still be credited.

### **Sea Training**

The SAI Sea Training Team (now replaced by "Scouting Ireland Sea Training") has been recognised by the Irish Sailing Association since 1976 as a shorebased course provider for coastal and offshore navigation courses. In recent years Killaloe Water Activities Centre and Dun Laoghaire Sea Scout Centre have become Irish Sailing Association recognised training centres, and Malahide Sea Scouts are in process of obtaining recognition. More information on Irish Sailing Association matters will be found in the Appendix.

In 2002 a decision was made that new Sailing or Powerboating Instructors must be qualified ISA Instructors. At present in Scouting Ireland there are about 10 such ISA Instructors. Powerboat courses are planned for early in 2005 in Killaloe, in the Southeast and in Dublin.

We are responsible for providing our own Rowing Instructors, and the first course in Scouting Ireland for rowing Instructors was held in June 2004 in Dun Laoghaire. Further courses are planned for next year in the Southeastern and the Southern Provinces. There are 15 Rowing Instructors at present.

A consultation document on rowing craft has been sent to the Maritime Safety Directorate, with comments about recognised qualifications, drawing attention to the Scout Charge Certificate requirements. It was felt that a proactive role in this matter was required before the Department felt it necessary to impose other, perhaps unsuitable conditions. Depending on the response to our submission, we plan to invite a safety inspector to visit a rowing activity and to comment on general safety, standards, level of training and competency assessments.

### **Coastal and Offshore Training**

For some years Scouts have been taking part in coastal and offshore cruises, often in the Irish Sail Training brigantine "Asgard II". The Irish Institute of Master Mariners presented a trophy ten years ago for a seamanship competition for Sea Scouts. As well as the trophy, the first prize is a week on "Asgard".

Coastal and offshore experience has also been gained in British Scout owned boats, notably "Ocean Scout" from Scouts Offshore, and "Discovery" from the London Dockland (Scout) Project, as well as "Lord Rank" from Ocean Youth Trust Northern Ireland.

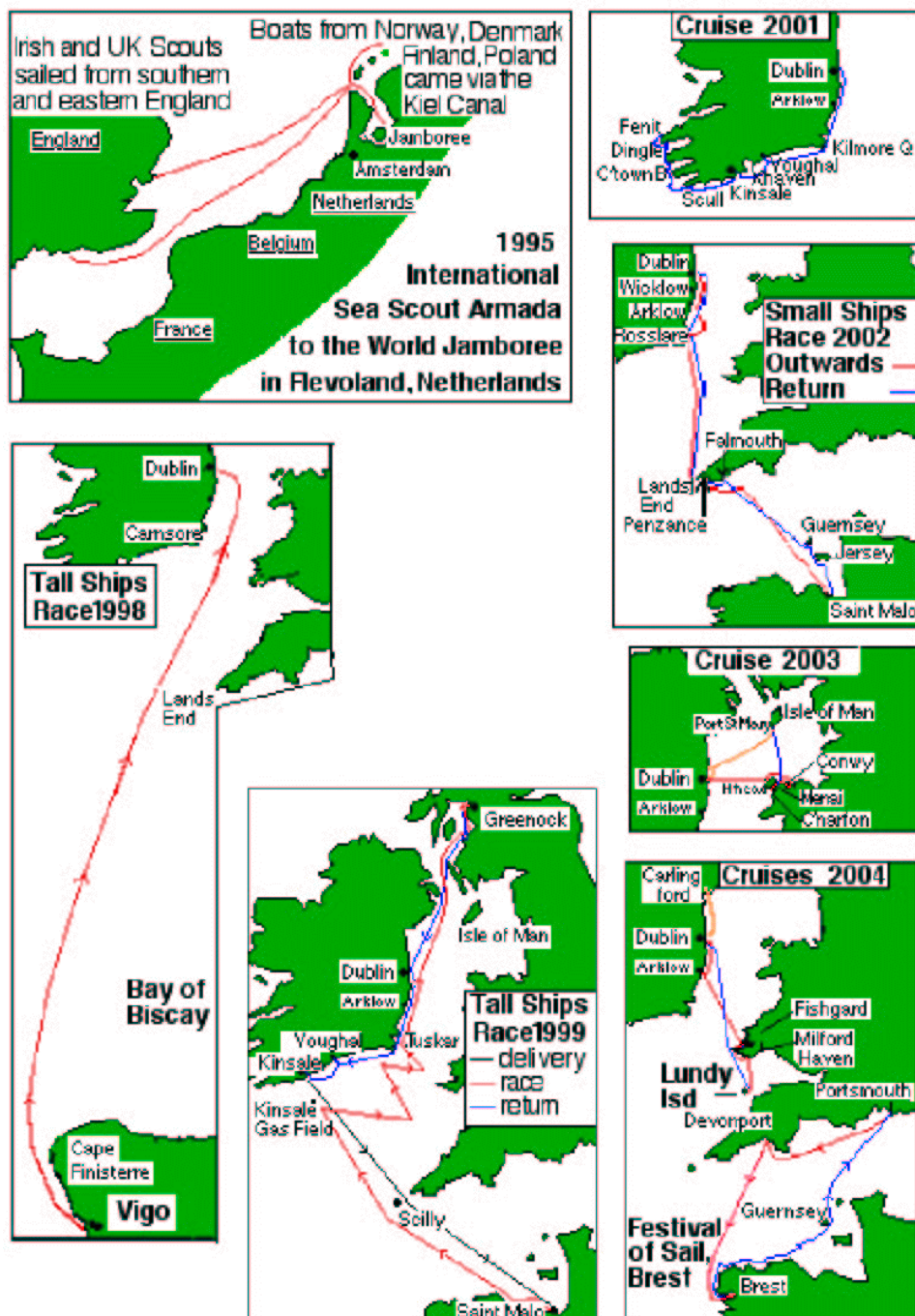
Regular coastal and offshore training cruises are also held on four privately owned, Dublin based sailing vessels which are occasionally available for Sea Scout training. At present in Sea Scouting there are 7 qualified Skippers – 5 Offshore and 2 Coastal. We are hoping to be able to get ISA recognition for Day Skipper and Competent Crew training.

In 1995, 39 Sea Scouts and Leaders from Malahide, Arklow, Waterford and Crosshaven chartered 3 sailing vessels and joined 24 other Sea Scout vessels from Norway, Denmark, Finland, Poland, UK, Belgium and Italy (transported by

container), to form a “**Sea Scout Armada**”, sailing to visit the World Jamboree in Netherlands. About 400 Sea Scouts from 8 countries were involved.

There has been organised Sea Scout participation in the Tall Ships Races in 1998 and 1999 and in the Small Ships Races in 2002 and 2004.

In 2003, as part of a sponsored cruise to raise funds for the Irish Transplant Association, about 40 Sea Scouts from Malahide, Dun Laoghaire, Bray, Greystones and Arklow participated in a coastal cruise, acting as crew in escorting vessels to the boat which was undertaking the sponsorship, each Scout staying 2-3 days on board. In 2004 a chartered vessel crewed by Malahide Sea Scouts sailed from South of England to Brittany to take part in the Festival of the Sea at Brest, and a Venture Sea Scout Unit had a Summer Cruise to South Wales and the Bristol Channel, visiting Lundy Island.



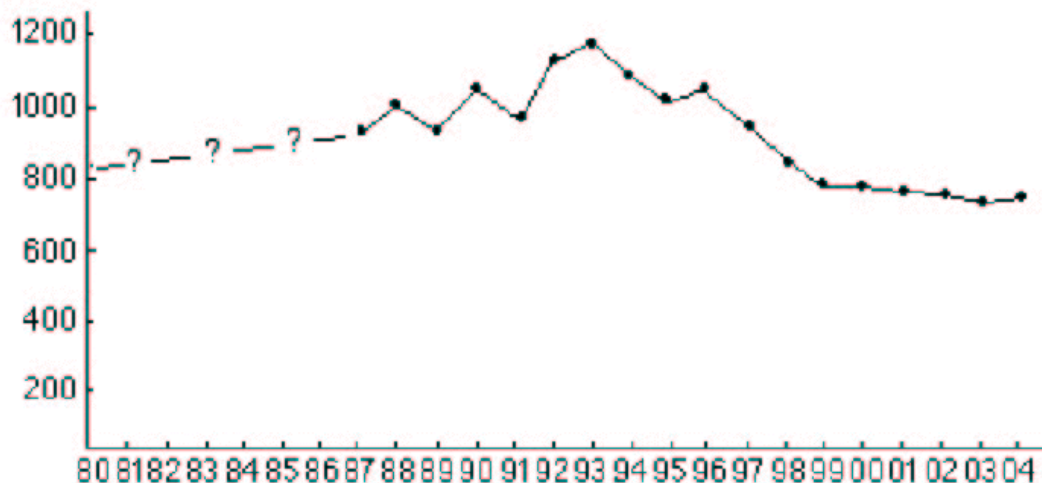
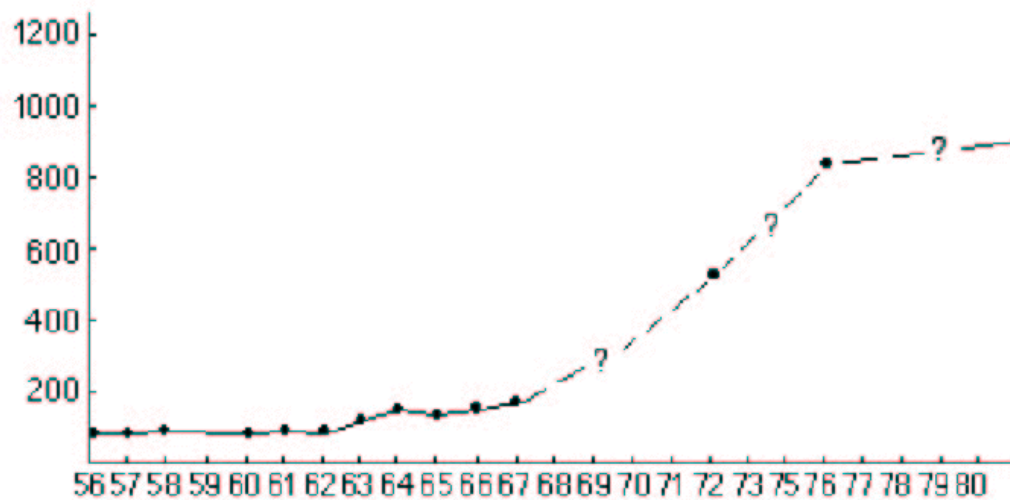
## **APPENDIX**

The following pages contain further background information and documentation relating to matters dealt with by the Team in the past year or so, or for consideration in the coming year.

- **Sea Scout Membership figures**
- **Irish Sailing Association**
- **Inland waterways**
- **European Seminars**
- **Index of Information Documents produced by the Sea Scout and Water Activities Team**



## SEA SCOUT MEMBERSHIP FIGURES 1956 - 2004



The above graphs show the development of the SAI Sea Scout Section from 1956. Unfortunately not all of the figures are available at present. We hope to visit Mount Mellary in the near future to look at the records of the CBSI Sea Scout Section. Hopefully it will then be possible to present a complete overview of the history of Sea Scouting in Ireland as part of a comprehensive development plan for the future.

The points to note in the above graphs are –

1. The steep growth from 1967 to 1976 inclusive - this was too steep to maintain.
2. Although figures are not complete, there appears to have been a steady, but much slower rise from 1976 to 1993.
3. The steep fall from 1993 to 1999 inclusive (with a slight “blip” in 1996).
4. The very gradual fall 1999 to 2003 and the very slight rise 2003-2004. The fall in numbers from 1993 is probably due to the same factors, which caused the fall in numbers, experienced by Scouting and other organisations during that time

### **TROOPS CLOSED BEFORE 1948**

Clontarf - (2 Port). Reopened 1949 as Dollymount (5 Port)

Dalkey - (3 Port). Reopened 1954

Dalkey - (5 Port)

Dunlaoghaire - (6 Port). Reopened 1963.

### **TROOPS CLOSED 1968 - 1978**

Hibernian Marine School - (2 Port)

Dingle - (1 Kerry)

Westport - (1 Mayo)

Belturbet - (1 Cavan)

### **TROOPS CLOSED 1978 - 1988**

Carlingford - (4 Louth) - later reopened

Dundalk - (8 Louth)

Donore - (10 Port)

Blackrock - (13 Port)

Dunlaoghaire - (6 Port) - closed again

Gorey - (3 Wexford) – later reopened as a “land” Troop

Limerick - (8 Limerick)

Sligo - (8 Sligo)

Gaoth Dobhair - (8 Donegal)

Gort a'Choirce - (9 Donegal)

### **TROOPS CLOSED 1988 TO 1998**

Carlingford - (4 Louth) - closed again

Loughshinny - (17 Port) - later reopened

Kilbarrack - (2 Port)

Limerick (5 Limerick) – later reopened

Seville Place - (11 Port)

Tarbert (5 Kerry)

Blessington - (7 Wicklow)

Blackrock - (7 Cork)

Bishopstown - (25 Cork)

Bantry - (8 Cork)

Castletownbere - (17 Cork)

Galway - (2 Galway)

Mullaghmore - (15 Sligo)

Donegal - (10 Donegal)

Killybegs - (7 Donegal)

Letterkenny - (14 Donegal) – later re-opened

Athlone - (Venture Unit)

Mullingar - (7 Westmeath)

### **TROOPS CLOSED 1998 TO 2004**

Crosshaven - (1 Cork) ?

Carrigaline – (12 Cork) ?

Sandycove – (12 Port) ?

Loughshinny – (17 Port) – closed again

Letterkenny - (14 Donegal) – closed again

Limerick – (5 Limerick) – closed again

Wicklow – (4 Wicklow) Kinsale – (7 Cork)

## Irish Sailing Association

The SAI Sea Training Team (which is now known as “Scouting Ireland Sea Training”) had been approved by the Irish Sailing Association (formerly Irish Yachting Association) since 1976 to run recognised shorebased theory courses for the Yachtmaster scheme. These courses in navigation, pilotage, meteorology, etc have been run every winter since then with few exceptions, and have been well supported by Leaders, Venture Scouts, parents and local yachtsmen. Our most famous pupil was President Patrick Hillary.

Unfortunately, some years ago there was great difficulty in winning recognition of our Charge Certificates from the ISA because we were not involved in racing, or teaching racing techniques. More recently the ISA changed its attitude, recognising that many organisations, like Scouting, use sailing as one of their activities and do not necessarily wish to engage in high-powered racing. The ISA then revised its Small Boat Sailing Scheme and National Powerboat Training Schemes. The CSI Water Activity Centre in Killaloe and the SAI Sea Scout Section then went ahead to get instructors trained to ISA Standards, and applied for recognition from the ISA.

The situation now is that the Killaloe Water Activity Centre and the Dun Laoghaire Sea Scout Centre are Recognised Teaching Establishments (RTEs), and Malahide Sea Scout Centre is awaiting inspection for recognition.

In the last such report about Sea Scouting it was mentioned that “Further discussion with ISA on Inland waterway training could also be useful”. This has taken place. The ISA have recently completely revised their Inland Waterway scheme, in conjunction with the Inland Waterways Association of Ireland, and the new scheme is very satisfactory from a Scouting perspective. Arrangements are now being made for some of our Instructors to be assessed for the Inland Waterway Scheme also.

The Sea Scout and Water Activity Team is well represented at the ISA Sail and Power Instructors’ conferences, and at the Yachtmaster training conferences.



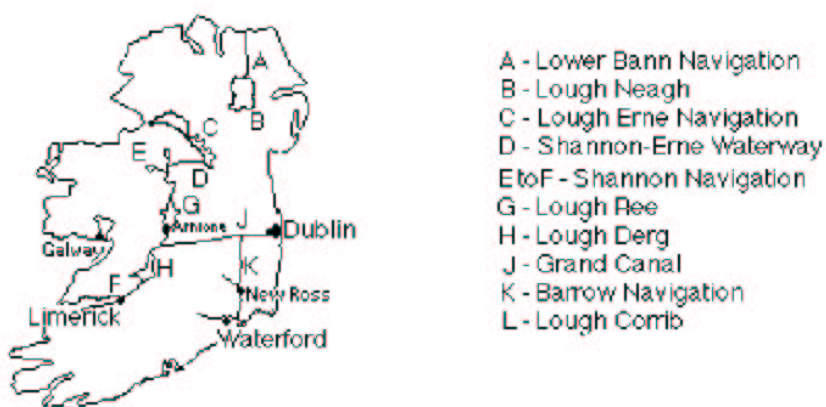


## Inland Waterways

At present all our Sea Scout Groups are situated around the coast and only 1 of these Groups uses inland waterways for routine boating and training – 15th Port, Ballyfermot uses the Grand Canal and River Shannon. Canals, rivers and lakes suitable for Sea Scouting exist all over Ireland and many Troops use these regularly for Summer camps and journeys but the waterside towns and villages have no Sea Scout presence.

Former inland Sea Scout Groups were Belturbet (R. Erne), Mullingar (Lough Ennell), Athlone (Lough Ree) and Blessington (Reservoir). Part of our strategy for growth must be to encourage the return of Sea Scouting to our inland waterways and lakes.

Without indulging in pipe-dreams for the future (eg. restoration of the Royal Canal, the Ulster Canal and the Lagan Navigation) there are many possibilities to consider in the main complex of interconnecting waterways, Shannon Navigation, Erne Waterway, Grand Canal and Barrow Navigation as well as Loughs Corrib and Mask and the midland lakes. Future planning could take into account the possibility of a Sea Scout troop with a watch in each of two or three waterside towns or villages on the same river. Depending on availability of finance, it may be possible to obtain a training craft which would move up and down river serving different troops or watches. The River Barrow, for example, would be very suitable for such a project.



There is already an active and recognised Water Activities Centre at Killaloe, on Lough Derg. The new campsite at Castle Saunderson should be ready by 2007, and will be another excellent place for Sea Scouting and water activities, with its navigable connection to Upper Lough Erne. This means that there will be a continuous navigable route between the two Scout centres, with the Campsite at Portlick roughly halfway between the two. This would make a very good “water trek” route, especially for Venture Scout Expeditions. A small group is looking into this on behalf of the Sea Scout and Water Activities Team, with the intention of producing a guide for such an expedition.

## European Sea Scouting

Irish Sea Scouting has been very active in the European context for many years, and was very much involved in the development of the triennial European Seminar for Sea Scout Leaders. Ireland has had a strong representation at every Seminar.

The 1st EUROPEAN SEA SCOUT LEADERS SEMINAR was held Greece, in Thessaloniki, in September 1985. This was a great success and it was decided to repeat the event in 3 years. By common consent and demand the series has continued since then. These seminars have benefited Sea Scouting throughout Europe by exchange of ideas on training, programmes and standards, water safety and different approaches to common problems. They are mainly intended for Leaders with national responsibilities for Sea Scouting.

Seminar 1 - 1985 - Thessaloniki, Greece.

42 participants from 22 associations in 13 countries.

Seminar 2 - 1988 - Harderhaven, Netherlands.

58 participants from 24 associations in 17 countries.

Seminar 3 - 1992 - Vässarö, Sweden.

33 participants from 20 associations in 14 countries.

Eurosea 4 - 1994 - London, United Kingdom.

51 participants from 23 associations in 16 countries.

The organisers of this seminar introduced the name "Eurosea".

Eurosea 5 - 1997 - near Oslo, Norway.

48 participants from 13 associations in 12 countries

Eurosea 6 - 2000 - Perkoz, near Olstyn, Poland.

47 participants from 22 associations in 21 countries

Eurosea 7 - 2003 – Sao Jacinto, Portugal.

50 participants from 19 associations in 18 countries

Eurosea 8 – 2006 – will be held in Finland.

## Odysseus Group

This Group was set up by the European Region to advise on Sea Scouting and to investigate the position of Sea Scouting in the various associations of the European Region. The Group drew up a report on European Sea Scouting in 2000. Work has started on an update to this document, which should be published before the next Eurosea Seminar in 2006.

## **Dissemination of information**

The Sea Scout and Water Activities Team has prepared a number of Information Documents to help those looking for information about Water Activities. These documents are kept up to date, and amended as necessary. They may be downloaded from the Sea Scout page on the internet - [www.scouts.ie/seascouts](http://www.scouts.ie/seascouts)  
The following is a list of documents so far available.

## **Index of Information Documents**

SSWA Information Docs – Index (Nov 04)

### **INFORMATION**

- 001 – Water Activities
- 002 – Introduction to Sea Scouting
- 003 – Personal Floatation Devices
- 004 – Scouting Ireland Sea Training
- 005 – Boating Limits (Classification of Waters)
- 006 – Boating Charge Certificates
- 007 – Passage/Voyage Planning
- 008 – Sail Training in Scouting
- 009 – “Introduction to Sea Scouting” Course
- 010 – Canoeing Grades and Training

Sea Scout and Water Activities Team