



# ICC News

Newsletter of the Irish Cruising Club

Autumn 2022



# Cruising Club of America Centennial

by David Beattie



In April, Aoife and I received a most gracious invitation to attend the centenary celebrations of the CCA in Newport RI in mid-September from their commodore, Chris Otorowski. The celebrations were over a period of six days, comprising meetings, lectures, lunches with speakers, discussion meetings, and dinners.

The event was 'full on' as only the North Americans can do. We enjoyed talks from many speakers including Sir Robin Knox-Johnston. There was also Pam Rorke-Levy who restored the classic and ground-breaking S & S yawl *Dorada*. Pam went on to repeat *Dorada's* original offshore races including the Newport-Bermuda and the Fastnet, completing each in a shorter time than the original outing!

We watched a specially commissioned 45 minute film of the history of the CCA. We debated the merits of different drogues and other heavy weather equipment. On another afternoon the subjects were different types of PLBs and many other topics, mainly hinged around safety at sea. The film will be available online in due course and is well worth seeing. We were privileged to be entertained in the CCA Commodore's Newport home. We met two of our own members there: Brian Smullen

The event was rounded off by a splendid gala dinner at Fort Adams in Newport Harbour. The scene was stunning – like something out of the Great Gatsby. There were many speeches. There is a long tradition of generous gifts being received by ICC from the CCA – think of our whiskey barrel, bell, and chronometer as examples. So, I commissioned a sculptor to create an impression of a Galway Hooker from 5,600 year old bog oak and presented it at the dinner to Commodore Otorowski. The inscription reads *"Presented by the Irish Cruising Club to the Cruising Club of America to mark their centenary – Newport RI September 2022"*. It now sits in their trophy cabinet in a prominent position. I announced that we would be holding our centennial in 2029 and that the CCA was cordially invited to attend.

