



ICOYC Cork Forum **By Richard Chapman**

Last September my wife Rene and I travelled to Cork, Ireland, to attend the 12th International Council Of Yacht Clubs 'World Commodores' Forum', hosted by the Royal Cork Yacht Club. The Forum also coincided with the launch of RCYC's Tricentenary celebrations being held throughout 2020 - an amazing accomplishment. I encourage Squadron Members to visit their website at www.royalcork.com to read the fascinating history of what is arguably the oldest yacht club in the world.

The Forum is held every second year, and the theme this year was 'Sustainability', the buzz word *du jour*. Sustainability covers many topics including the environment, it also encompasses the future of clubs, membership issues, fleet numbers... the list goes on. As you could imagine, there were many presentations but a standout for me was Dan Reading, World Sailing's Head of Sustainability, who spoke to this topic. He covered many items and suggested that clubs should consider small changes at first, such as removing plastic straws, providing drinking stations to refill drink bottles, using recyclable bags, and in the future look at using battery outboards for RIBS wherever possible.

The ICOYC's mission statement reads: 'The Council's mission is to foster closer relations at Flag Officer and General Management level between leading yacht clubs around the world in order to improve the quality of the yachting and other services they provide to their members. The Council shall also promote a proper awareness of the environment and responsibility towards it.'

Since its formation in 2003, the Squadron has always had representation on the ICOYC Committee. I certainly have found our Club's membership in the Council invaluable. Many yacht clubs around the world are dealing with similar concerns as us, and being able to contact our peers to discuss how they may deal with a particular issue has been very helpful. Squadron Members also benefit from our involvement: all ICOYC member clubs are only too happy to welcome visiting members to their respective clubs. I am sure you have read with interest in the Logbook about Squadron Members participating in ICOYC club cruises, visiting great locations and making many new friends.

I recommend you take a few moments to visit the ICOYC website at www.icoyc.org to familiarise yourself with the 40 plus member clubs, their locations, current news and future cruise information.