

Hallmark Continues Winning Ways

Clifden's yacht racing 'Team Hallmark', led by Jackie Ward, kicked off the season's racing in the 'Purcell Marine Spring Series', a month of Sundays racing in Galway Bay. There were six races in this series and the end result was an impressive six wins for Hallmark.

After the Volvo yachts had drawn the crowds and held their races in Galway Bay, there was then the Galway Bay Sailing Club's annual regatta, GB'09. A further six races were held in this regatta, and a further six wins for Hallmark were achieved.

The following week saw the 'ICRA National Championships' held on the West Coast, in Tralee Bay, for the first time. This brought an extra 30 or so yachts, comprising of the best of the East and South coast's to race against the best of the West.

This event also coincided with the 'WIORA West Coast Championships' and both events were hosted by Tralee Bay Sailing Club.

Six races were held at the Nationals but this time it wasn't quite so straightforward. The hot favorite and defending title holder, 'Alliance' from Howth Yacht Club, and another of Hallmark's favorite competitors, 'Battle' from Foynes Yacht Club, were but two of the accomplished Class 3 IRC Fleet.

Of these top three it was a fight to the very last race to decide who would be this year's title holder, but to cap off a great run of wins, Hallmark once again prevailed, gaining the prestigious title of 2009 'Class 3 IRC National Champions'.