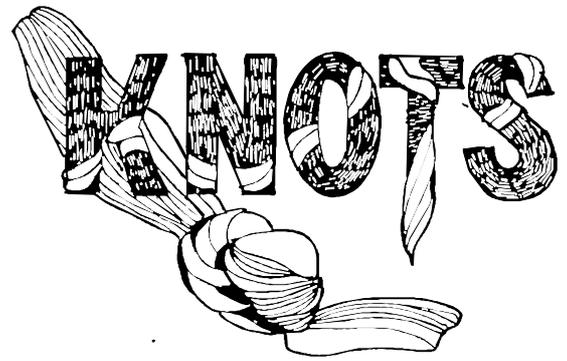




April 2001



KNOTS is the magazine of Sutton Dinghy Club. Contributions for it are always welcome - contact the office in the Clubhouse (Tel. 839 3135), or any Committee Member.

APRIL FOOLS! or are they?

The 1st of April has long been known as “April Fools Day” – and this year Sunday 1 April saw a hardy bunch of sailors turn out in six GP14s, two IDRAs and two Lasers from Sutton Dinghy Club. Were they fools? Hardly – they enjoyed keen competitive racing (and good fun for expert and novice alike) out in Dublin Bay. The 2001 Sutton Dinghy Club racing season has started!

Three short, sharp races were sailed that first day, and three the following Sunday; Easter Sunday was blown out, but normal service was resumed on 22nd April. The winner was..... in fact there won't be an official winner until the end of the April series on 29th April. So to find out how things stand, check the results board in the Clubhouse, turn up for the prize giving at about 1.00 p.m. on Sunday 29th April, or keep an eye on the web site (www.sdc.ie).

Club racing this year will take place on most Sunday mornings at 10.30, and (from Wednesday 2nd May) on Wednesday evenings at 19.30 while daylight permits (until 5th September). Ten boats isn't bad for the first day of the season, but we can do better. So dust off your wetsuit, put the boat in the water and join in!

Maybe the fools are the ones still ashore!

For further details of Club Sailing for 2001, see the web site or the 2001 Club Handbook which accompanies this issue of Knots.

BOAT PARKING – or lack of

In the last edition of “KNOTS” we encouraged everyone who intends to park their boat in the Club this year to get their application in, because of the limited space available. The situation now is that, as expected, more Club members applied for spaces than there are available, so the “early birds” have been allocated spaces, and the later ones placed on a “waiting list”. The task for the Club now is how best to manage affairs so that all those who want to go sailing can do so, without total chaos!

After much discussion, the House & Grounds Committee have decided that, as matter of principle, each sailor should be able to take their boat from its parking space onto the water, and back again, without having to move half-a-dozen other boats – this means keeping the aisles free at all times. So if we cannot put boats in the aisles, we have to put some on top of each other (racking); some sharing a single space (one there for the month of June, then taken away to allow another there for July); some parked outside (along the front of the Club, in the Car Park, on the beach, in a friend's front garden). All of these options are being looked at – the aim is to facilitate each sailor to get as much use out of their boat and the Club as possible, while not getting in the way of anyone else.

If you will be away for a while (holidays, etc.) please consider lending your space for that time to someone who has none!

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION FOR THE SAILING CALENDAR IN THE CLUB HANDBOOK

We forgot to note the dates of the Championship races in the handbook: write them in yourself!

- Sunday 6th May 10.30
- Sunday 12th August 10.30
- Sunday 17th June 10.30
- Sunday 16th September 10.30
- Wednesday 4th July 19.30
- Sunday 14th October 10.30 (and Commodore's Prize!)

Race Management – doing it properly!

A series of evening sessions in Race Management have taken place in the run-up to the 2001 Sailing Season, with a view to training in more people to run races – and to do it properly! Sailors expect enjoyable racing: this means clear and correct signals – and timing!



It's not as if Sutton Dinghy Club has not had a tradition of proper race management – even in terms of dressing for the occasion! The photograph above was taken in the early 1960s – Commodore Bill Tucker puts his packet of cigarettes away as he prepares for the starting signal, while Officer of the Day Charlie Sargent (father of our present Commodore Charles) checks his watch and the list of competitors. There was a standard to be upheld, and these gentlemen were there to ensure that it was!

Our 21st Century trainees are learning about setting out courses, visual signals (flags – using the correct ones to avoid confusing the sailors), sound signals (preferably at the same time as the flags); the importance of correct recording, and lots more. The training is being provided by Harry Gallagher, the ISA Director of Racing – Sutton Dinghy Club is fortunate to have such a prestigious person among our own members (which means we don't expect to pay exorbitant fees for his input!).

With the new Race Officer trainees, and the existing members who have already experience in this area, the Sailing Committee will be drawing up a roster for the rest of the season. With everyone taking their turn at running the Club Racing, Aidan Henry will hopefully be able to take some time off when he's not on duty – and get round to doing some of those jobs around the house – his house, not SDC! Of course, when he is running races, he will have to wear the proper uniform – we have standards to uphold!

STOLEN OUTBOARD ENGINES

Last month, some enterprising thieves managed to remove two Yamaha outboard engines (one 30 HP electric start, one 15 HP manual start) from the rescue boats in the Club boat park, and lower them over the sea wall at low tide, presumably then transferred to a car or van. Although covered by insurance, this is something we could do without! If you saw or know anything about these engines, contact the Gardai at Howth.

NEW ADDITION TO RESCUE FLEET

If you thought you were seeing double recently, it may not be your eyesight – the Club recently took delivery of a second Yam RIB with a 30 HP engine, a “sister ship” for the one we have had for the past two years. With the renovation of the Sea Rider by the installation of a centre console, SDC now has a modern and reliable fleet of rescue boats (or “Patrol Boats” as they are now called). After the recent theft of engines, we will have to ensure these boats are well protected!

MORE POWERBOAT DRIVERS

The second Level 2 Powerboat course was held in March, with seven more eager trainees (including two from Clontarf Yacht & Boat Club) spending a weekend learning how much they didn't know! Those of you who find yourself in the water after a capsize should feel pleased that these people spend so long practising with dummy casualties – they are supposed to rescue you, not run you down!

We're not only improving our rescue fleet, we're widening the pool of trained crews! The next Powerboat Course takes place on 28th & 29th April.

IRISH SAILING ASSOCIATION A.G.M.

The ISA AGM took place at Tralee Sailing Club on 31st March 2001. Despite the foot and mouth restrictions, the occasion was reasonably well attended.

Paddy Maguire (ISA President) opened the meeting and gave his report which culminated in presenting Honorary Membership of the Association to Richard Burrows, in recognition of his overall contribution to Irish Sailing in past years. This was followed by a report on progress during the year and targets for next year from each of the four directorships - Promotions, Training, Boating and Racing.

John Kidney (ISA Treasurer) then presented the Annual Accounts, and commented that additional staff coupled with the implementation of the ISA Strategic Plan, had driven costs up. The general feeling was that the improved service to Clubs, Recognised Teaching Establishments and Members, along with the achievement of the goals detailed in the Strategic Plan, more than justified these extra costs.

There followed the election of President and Directors which will remain unchanged for the coming year.

A special resolution was passed concerning the increase of the threshold figures for ISA subs, and the conversion to euros to commence in the year 2002. It emerged, that whilst the increase appeared significantly large on paper, it is directly proportional to the size of club and subscription income. There has been no increase since 1993, and under the proposed resolution no increase was detailed for juniors, and indeed many of the smaller and medium sized clubs would not be receiving an increase in subs at all. The general feeling was that an increase was indeed warranted, but that the ISA should adopt a policy of 'little and often' in future.

CELEBRATING FIFTY YEARS OF EXISTENCE

I'm sure that some of you thought that this was a reference to the Commodore reaching the big five-oh last month, but it isn't – it refers to our Clubhouse, which was officially opened in June 1951, although the Club had been founded in 1940. So June 2001 provides an opportunity to celebrate the half-century during which generations of sailors have passed through the Club doorway at our present site. A time to look at what has been achieved, and at how we plan for the next fifty – unlike the Commodore, the Club seems to be increasing its activity levels and enthusiasm with the passing years! Birthday celebrations are being planned – watch this space!

Notice Board

EUROVISION SUPPER - Saturday 12th May in Clubhouse

There was a tradition in recent years of holding the Club "Launching Supper" on the night of the Eurovision Song Contest - because Sutton Sailors were notoriously slow at getting their boats out, and May arrived before they hit the water. Now that our season has begun on 1st April, we can hardly call this year's Supper a Launching one - except for some (and we know who you are!).

So keep the evening of 12th May free, and contact either Aidan Henry at home (832 6869) or Hugh Gill at the Club (839 3135) to book your seats. Ireland may or may not win (and gambling on the results will be actively encouraged), but you will be sure of a fun night which you might regret when you drag yourself out to the starting line on Sunday morning!

WETSUITS & CAGS SALE

The Club are selling off the wetsuits and cags used for the Sailing School courses to make way for new stock - now's your chance to buy a good second-hand one without going too far - contact Hugh Gill at the Club - 839 3135

OPTIMIST WANTED

No wooden models please.
Winner preferred.
**Contact Luke Scott on
8322686 or 086 2552012**

www.sdc.ie
*Don't forget the Club website address - and
send in your ideas or contributions to
info@sdc.ie*

BRAINS OF THE BAY? NOT!

Oscar Nolan, Nick Spalding, Vanya Sargent, Leah Ward, Aidan Henry, and the Commodore represented SDC at the National Yacht Club "Brains of the Bay" Quiz night on 4th April. They didn't win the less said about it the better!

THE DUBLIN BAY PROJECT - CORPORATION PIPELINE

As most of you know, the level of activity in Sutton Creek has increased enormously over the past weeks - and not just because our sailing season has started. Barges, rigs, tugs and workboats have converged on our sailing grounds as part of the massive undertaking by Dublin Corporation to lay 9 kilometres of sewage pipeline from Ringsend to Sutton. All of the work now in progress is preparing the trench for the actual pipeline itself - which will be laid over a two-week period, probably in early July.

This work, which is so necessary for improving the water quality in Dublin Bay, will be seriously disruptive to our sailing and training activities, and it is essential for safety reasons (and to avoid delaying the work) that all sailors keep clear of the working vessels. In order to provide as much information as possible, and to answer any questions you may have, Dublin Corporation and the pipeline contractors will attend an

INFORMATION EVENING in the CLUBHOUSE on THURSDAY 3RD MAY at 8.30 p.m.