



Sutton Dinghy Club

# May 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.

## S.D.C. CELEBRATES FIFTY YEARS SINCE THE CLUBHOUSE OPENED

In the mid 1940's, just as now, Sutton Dinghy Club was facing the difficulties of providing adequate facilities for the membership and their boats – but starting from scratch, they didn't own any premises at all!

Their ambitions to build their own Clubhouse coincided with the appearance of the IDRA 14 on the Irish sailing scene. They decided to raise funds for their Clubhouse in an appropriate way for a Dinghy Club - by raffling one of these latest "high-tech" dinghies available!

They put money together to buy 14/22, one of the first "Fourteens" ever built – coincidentally this was built by Charlie Sargent of Clontarf Yacht & Boat Club, who himself became Commodore of Sutton over twenty years later! (*Not to be confused with his son, the present Commodore – who wasn't around when the boat was built!*).

The raffle raised a total of £120, and the boat was won by someone from "down the country" – it was promptly re-purchased by Ian Morrison of Clontarf, and was christened "Corsair". (*This boat was last seen at Clontarf at the Class 50th Birthday celebrations in 1996 – a wonderful example of a Fourteen converted for cruising purposes, with beautifully built-in lockers!*)

The emphasis will be on fun, there is no entry fee: but we aim to get everyone to buy a ticket for the barbecue (starts from about 5.30 pm onwards, prices are £10 per adult for a steak meal, with burgers available at a lower price for children. Bring your friends, bring your granny – if you have a boat, get on the water; if you don't, then come along and watch – **it's party time!**

**We would like to remind all members and their friends that no alcoholic drinks will be on sale in the Club – but you are welcome to bring along a bottle, can or barrel of your own!**

Most of our present members were not old enough to help at that time, but work commenced building on the present site on November 16, 1948, and the official opening of the new clubhouse took place on June 1st, 1951 – half a century ago!

Incredible as it may seem today, the original boatpark could only accommodate six dinghies, but by 1967 the hardspace was increased to its present size.

To celebrate the fifty years since the official opening, the Club has chosen **SUNDAY 10<sup>th</sup> June** to hold a **BIRTHDAY PARTY** – Club sailing has been re-scheduled from 10.30 a.m. to a **3.00 p.m. start**, to take advantage of the high tide at 3.30 or so.

We want **EVERY BOAT WE CAN MUSTER** (i.e. all those on the hard - if the skipper can't be there, find a sub who will!) out on the water for this, with racing on the Club line in full view of the balcony and road. Simple to organise, no Committee Boats, minimum rescue and marklaying.

To commemorate funds raised by the raffle of an IDRA 14, we are inviting the **IDRA 14 fleet** to join us on the day: visiting boats will rig in the car park, not impacting on our hardspace.

## **FROM THE ARCHIVES - REPORT OF PREMISES SUB-COMMITTEE**

*This report was written when the members were trying to build the first Clubhouse – look at the amounts of money involved, the late 1940's were a very different time to the year 2001, although the issues may appear familiar!*

As you will remember at the last Annual General Meeting, it was proposed that a site be acquired from Major Kirkwood, and that funds be raised by the ballot of a 14' dinghy and by the issue of debentures. You will also remember that the only estimate received was for £620, a sum much in excess of the Club's means.

At a special General Meeting held in May other estimates were discussed, and with these in mind it was proposed to erect a gear shed on the site. We were to obtain a licence instead of a lease for the plot, and various clauses with regard to sleep, alcohol, music and other vices were to be debarred in this licence.

You all know of the great success of the ballot, this is due in the first place to Laurie McClelland who did all the spade work and most of the worry. The second member to whom we are all indebted is Charlie Sargent who parted with his boat in order to keep Laurie and Co. out of jail.

Since these last meetings the proposed site has changed hands and prior to its sale Mrs Kirkwood informed us that she would consider no further negotiations.

We then looked for an alternative site, and discovered that a plot 75' by 35' could be obtained above H.W. on the shore to the South of Boathouse Bay. A low retaining wall would raise this site above exceptional Spring Tides. Having got this far we instructed Mr Kenny to act for us in the matter of acquiring this site from the owners at a cost not exceeding £15 plus legal expenses.

We considered the only possible building within our means was a curved asbestos shed 40' x 16' drawings of which were lodged with the Corporation in January. Costs and methods of erection were investigated, materials would cost 150 to 170 pounds and this left no alternative but erection by members.

Desmond Keatinge offered the loan of a concrete mixer and gave doors and a window. Finton Chadwick offered the loan of a concrete block machine. Working four and eight men teams at weekends and holidays we hoped to get the work finished about three months after starting.

Then came the blow, the Corporation refused permission to erect what it pleased them to call a Nissen Hut in what they describe as a prominent position. We are now trying to appeal against this decision, but have not yet heard whether we have any chance of success.

We had hoped to have turned the first seaweed last week-end and intended to call for volunteers at this meeting for building work, as well as for money raising efforts such as Desmond Keatinge's excellent concert, and Tubby's snooker.

It is my opinion that the success of the Club depends on the erection of premises this season, we have already abused the Keatinge hospitality for six years, and we have raised money for the erection of premises. For this reason I suggest that we still need volunteers both navvies and money raisers, and should our appeal to the Corporation fail, I would ask for the fullest possible co-operation of every member in the acquisition of one of the other possible sites.

# IT TOOK LONGER THAN THEY ANTICIPATED – BUT THEY SUCCEEDED!



# Notice Board

## SUTTON WINS SILVER AT PURCELL TROPHY

The GP 14 Purcell trophy was hosted by Swords Sailing Club on 12/13th May. Stephen Boyle and Peter Reynolds were the sole SDC reps in Swords, and won the Silver Fleet.

There were seventeen boats and eight races sailed over the two days with a variety of four different courses. It was a very enjoyable event and the weather was varied. It was hot and sunny with light winds on the Saturday, just what was needed to ease GP sailors back onto the water this year. Sunday morning saw increased wind with a few boats capsizing. However, the wind died down in the afternoon making it easier for everybody. The overall winners were Damian Bracken and Allen Parker.

### 'Riocard O'Tiarnaigh Challenge'

The GP 14 Class are going to hold a Challenge event at Blessington Sailing Club on 2/3rd June. It has been named the 'Riocard O'Tiarnaigh Challenge' in honour and memory of Riocard who contributed so much to sailing and particularly the GP 14 Class. This type of event has received very positive comment in the past and the Class have changed some aspects of the format in response to previous competitors and members suggestions. A new trophy will be presented to the overall winner.

### Welcome!

The General Committee welcomes aboard Mrs Chris Sweeney, who has taken on the role of Catering Convenor - when she calls on you for assistance, get ready to cater for her!

### Sincere condolences

Our deepest sympathy is extended to two Project Team members and their families - Eileen Memory, on the death of her mother, and Joe Power, on the death of his father.

May they rest in peace

**[www.sdc.ie](http://www.sdc.ie)**,  
Don't forget the  
Club website  
address – and send  
in your ideas or  
contributions to  
[info@sdc.ie](mailto:info@sdc.ie)

### Parents' Meeting

Wed. June 6<sup>th</sup> 8.00 p.m.

All parents of those doing the ISA Junior Training course in June are invited to attend this Information Night in the Clubhouse

## COLLISIONS AT SEA – THE NEED FOR VIGILANCE

In the light of the recent tragedies in Dublin Bay, when on two successive weekends there were collisions between commercial craft and recreational sailors, it is essential that everyone afloat is aware of, and practices, the "Rules of the Road" at sea. The presence in our Club sailing waters of the various vessels involved in the Corporation Pipeline Project has brought this very much to our doorstep, and we have set up a Liaison Committee with the Pipeline Project Team to agree safe procedures on both sides. Weekly reports of planned Pipeline activities are posted in the Clubhouse - **READ THEM!** In addition, the Pipeline personnel have been provided with a full schedule of our activities. Remember the basic Rule: "**Avoid collision at all costs**" - keep away from working vessels, and keep alert!