

PICO TEAM RACING – FEBRUARY!

By the time you read this, the February Team Racing should be getting under way – first race is Sunday 3rd at 14.00 hours. It has proved difficult to get people to commit to formal teams in advance, so it will be a case of picking teams on the day, so come along and you'll get afloat! The next races are **Sundays 10th, 17th and 24th February**, with First Gun at **10.00 each day**.

CLUB DEVELOPMENT NEWS

In preparation for drawing up new plans for extending our boat and parking facilities, the Club have been involved in consultations with people who opposed our previous plans. We have received several very positive suggestions – many local people are very supportive of the Club, but would prefer that we extend seawards, rather than onto the beach.

In the meantime, we are in the process of seeing if we can construct a temporary decking structure to allow Lasers to be parked above other boats – more about this next month.

NO WORLD TITLE FOR SUTTON !

Having won the ISA Volunteer of the Year 2001 award, our former Commodore Charles Sargent didn't win the ISAF world award - at a special presentation last November, attended by the IOC President, Jacques Rogge and ISAF Council Members, **Alain Alcindor** of the Seychelles was announced as the ISAF Volunteer of the Year 2001. He received the title in recognition of his support and development to the sport of sailing in the Seychelles, in which he has been instrumental across all levels.

On presenting Alain with the official award, Jacques Rogge said: "Volunteerism is the essence of sports, without which there would be no grass roots."

On receiving the Award, Alain expressed his thankfulness to the Scout movement, which he said had guided him as a young sailor in the principles of helping others and fostering volunteerism.

BOAT SHOW 2002

Sutton Dinghy Club will again be exhibiting at the 2002 Dublin Boat Show, in the RDS (Simmonscourt), Ballsbridge, Dublin from Wednesday 27th February to Sunday 3rd March, which promises to be a bumper event!

The postponement of the 2001 show due to the Foot and Mouth Crisis, the three year gap since the last Dublin show, combined with the significant increase in the market here, look certain to make 2002 the greatest Boat Show ever. The opening hours are:

Wed/Thurs: 12pm - 7pm

Friday: 12pm - 9pm

Sat/Sun: 11am - 6pm

Adults €9, Children/OAP's €5

Bring your relations and friends to meet us on the SDC Stand – and then go and see everything else, there's plenty of variety:

- Chandlery, Clothing & Accessories
- Dinghies & Windsurfers
- Diving Equipment
- Engines & Electronics
- Fishing Boats
- Holidays Afloat
- Pontoons & Marinas
- Training Courses
- Yachts, Cruisers & Powerboats

You never know – even if you don't buy a new boat, or even a new shackle, you might pick up some ideas – and motivate yourself to begin thinking about sailing again, spring starts in February, and time passes quickly when you're putting things off!

WANTED: PHOTOCOPIER REPAIRS

The Club has obtained a photocopier (Xerox 5317) which needs repair/service (as a favour, it would cost too much professionally - call the Club at 839 3135 if you can help



Sutton Dinghy Club

January 2002

KNOTS is our Club magazine. We welcome your input & notices – contact the Club office (Tel. 839 3135), or any Committee Member.

BACK TO BUSINESS !

The party's over, it's 2002, and it's back to Club business as usual. You may not have noticed, but the days are getting longer, and the various club Committees and groups are busy making sure that the new season starts well by deciding on what's to be done, and doing it NOW!

How's that for a New Year's Resolution - and you can do the same! We need you to send in your **MEMBERSHIP SUBS** - you know, the money we need each year to keep the Club afloat! Don't wait, paying bills is no easier if you shove them to the bottom of the pile, get it over with and start getting the boat ready for the season. Apart from keeping our Bank Manager happy, it lets us know how many of you are serious about enjoying your sailing in 2002.

BOAT PARKING APPLICATIONS

It's a lot easier to plan how to use the very limited space for boat parking in the Club, if we know who needs parking, and **when!** The aim is to make sure our active sailors get parking spaces, at the times when they need it. This will mean asking some to take their boat away for a month during the summer, to free up a space for someone taking part in a Junior Training course. The simple fact is that we do **NOT** have enough room to park **all** of the boats **all** of the time, so – **SHARE!**

If you plan to sail in 2002, **fill in the forms and get them in now** - or be prepared to keep your boat on the beach!

The Membership Renewal Notices & Parking Application forms are sent out with this edition of "KNOTS".

"SAILING IN" THE NEW YEAR

It was probably a daft idea to begin with, but when Charles Sargent noticed that the high tide on New Year's Eve was at practically midnight, what seemed more fitting for a Dinghy Club than to organise a **race starting at exactly midnight?**

Given the fact that it would be dark, and late, it was decided to run it in single-handed Picos, and eventually four hardy sailors signed up: **Alan Carr, Hugh Brazier, Charles Sargent and Scorie Walls**, with **Gerry O'Hanlon** on rescue.

On the night, it was minus 5 degrees, cold enough to freeze the Walls off a brass Pico, and flat calm - but out they went, and sculled, paddled and pumped their way around the course. With the fireworks exploding overhead, and the full moon giving fine visibility, it was a real "night to remember" - mind you, they said that about the Titanic!



New Year's Eve, at midnight – going nowhere fast!

CHRISTMAS CHEER AT SDC - EVEN SANTA WAS EXHAUSTED!

It seems a long time ago now, but the Christmas festivities began with the traditional Prize-giving and Mince Pie reception at the Clubhouse on 16th December. There were prizes and certificates for some, and warmth everywhere - in the mulled wine, in the mince pies, and in the welcome the children gave to Santa Claus as he arrived at the Club in the Safety Boat! He was welcomed ashore by a huge throng of children on the Club balcony, and came up the steps with his bag full of presents.

The scene was quite different some time later, when a tired and weary figure came down the steps with nothing left but the children's shopping list for Christmas Eve - luckily poor Santa had some days to recover after meeting the children of Sutton Dinghy Club!



YOUR BOAT MUST BE INSURED

There have been suggestions that during the 2001 season, not all of our Club members had their boats insured while they were at the Club and participating in Club activities.

While the Committee have no way of proving whether or not this was the case in previous years, they want to take this opportunity to remind you that boats are parked on the Club premises at the **absolute risk of their owners**. The Club will **NOT** accept responsibility or liability for any loss or damage to your **boat hull, sails, spars, trolley, cover or any gear relating to the boat** while parked at the Club.

It is up to **you** to make sure that **YOUR** boat is insured – not just to cover you for anything that might happen to it, but to protect **YOU** in case your boat does damage to another boat or to another person. To help you remember to insure it, you will have to provide your insurance policy details **BEFORE** you can bring it down to the Club during 2002. If you don't already have insurance, some members use Euromarine Insurance Services - tel. no. **061-378116**, or your Class Association may offer deals.

THE PIPELINE – IT'S NOT OVER!

You may have thought that it was all over, that with the pipeline in position, sailing would get back to normal in 2002. However, because of the delays experienced by the Pipeline Project team during their operations, there are still tasks remaining which may cause some disruption to our 2002 activities.

At a recent meeting with the Corporation representatives to discuss the situation, Commodore Noel Dempsey and Charles Sargent were informed that work in the upper Creek area is expected to last until March-April. This will mean continuing obstruction to sailing in that area, and service vessels will be travelling up the Creek past the Club occasionally. The Club will continue to maintain direct contact with the operators to ensure the safety of our sailors.

The Commodore repeated our concerns about the sandbank opposite the Club, which will significantly reduce our sailing facilities because it is higher and wider than before the dredging work started. The Corporation confirmed that it has the responsibility to restore it to its former state. They will first survey it, then decide what actions to take.

EXPLODING INTO 2002 - FOR THE LIFEBOAT!

The New Year's Eve celebrations at SDC were even better this year, with an excellent meal followed by the now-traditional fireworks display, which provided a chance for members to get rid of all their old Punts. This raised a total of £100 (€127) for the Royal National Lifeboat Institution. This was the ideal sort of event for SDC: it was enjoyed by all, and made a few bob for both the Club and a very deserving charity!



Our thanks go to the Henry and O'Hanlon families and their large band of helpers for doing all the hard work to make it happen!

And thanks to those who missed the night, but came along the day after, and were pressed into service to do the clearing up afterwards!

Thought for the day, when you're clearing out the garage to work on the boat:

Junk is something you've kept for years - and throw away three weeks before you need it!

"FORGET-ME-KNOTS"? NEVER!

How could anyone forget **Pat and Olivia Murphy**, well known to all SDC members as the owners of "**Dinghy Supplies**", even though they've hardly been seen about the place for years? In case you didn't know, they are currently about half-way through their round-the-world voyage aboard their yacht '**Aldebaran**', having departed Howth Harbour in July 1999 for a journey that is taking them to all corners of the globe.

Pat and Olivia visited Sutton Dinghy Club on **Monday 21st January** to tell us all about it. Pat's a great one for telling yarns, but this time he had the pictures to prove it! Crocodiles, skulls, turtles, dolphins, volcanos, and lots of desert islands with palm trees and golden beaches!

We learned a lot (some of which we might have been better off not knowing!), but much to give us a head start in Pub Quizzes for years. Why are the **American Virgins** better than the **British** ones? – because they're **Foxtrot Romeo Echo Echo**, that's why! Who recommends WD 40 as a cure for arthritis? And where did a one-eyed, one-armed, one-legged defender take on the British Navy – and win?

With computer technology on board and access to the internet, Pat & Olivia are charting their progress and experiences with monthly updates on the Internet – have a look at their monthly reports on www.vhihealthcare.com/globalchallenge and listen to their regular "appearances" on the RTE radio programme "Seascapes".

If you didn't make it to Pat's lecture (or even if you did), and want to tell him YOUR story, send your e-mails to patandolivia@hotmail.com. They do love to get even the smallest bit of home news, or better still, gossip – but **no jokes, no attachments!** With the e-mail coming in over a radio link, simple text is best, but photos and other pictures take forever, using up valuable time. Even Pat agrees that when you're at sea, size matters - **small is beautiful!**