

Notice Board

RACE NIGHT EXTRAVAGANZA

Clubhouse on Saturday 20th April

To raise funds for refurbishing the Club kitchen and catering area, an enthusiastic band of Club members have joined together to organise this event. But we don't want you just to turn up on the night: the main task is to raise the money BEFORE the big night – by getting sponsorship and selling advertising in the Race Night Brochure. Call Hugh at the Club (839 3135)

So if you haven't already done so, see if you can get your friends or contacts to take out an ad (200 euro full-page, 100 euro half-page), or sponsor a race (300 euro, with a free full-page ad), a horse (20 euro) or a jockey (20 euro). Then come along on the night and see if you can win it all back by a few well-placed bets!

VHF Radio Course

The Club will be running a VHF radio course shortly – contact Hugh at the Club (839 3135) for details

Don't forget the Club Web site – www.sdc.ie – and tell your overseas friends!

GP14 Speed sails for sale

Main, Genoa and spinnaker in good condition. EUR440 (that's less than IR£350!). Contact Stephen Boyle – tel 832 2609, mobile 087 6488718.

Mandy Scott & Mick Harpur

The Committee of Sutton Dinghy Club extend their deepest sympathies to the families of the late Mandy and Mick, who died tragically while on holiday in South Africa. Mandy and Mick were local residents whose children attended a sailing course in SDC last year – they only recently offered the use of their garden to store Club boats while the walls are being repaired.

We wish a speedy recovery to Mandy's son who was seriously injured in the same accident.



Sutton Dinghy Club

March
2002



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

FULL STEAM AHEAD FOR SUMMER!

Last month, the Big Storm took the headlines, when it swept away our walls and fences. However, with the days rapidly getting longer, there was no time to waste. Offers of assistance came in from everywhere, squads of members rolled up their sleeves, the debris was cleared, and the new walls are currently under construction. With a lot of help from our friends (and this Club has many friends!), the Hard will soon be ready for parking boats as safely and securely as before. The 2002 spaces are being marked out (the layout is different from last year!), so if you haven't paid your sub and booked your space, DO IT TODAY!

And it's not just storm repairs – the Men's Changing Room is getting new floor tiles, bringing it up to the standard enjoyed by the Ladies in recent times!

And in the middle of all this, the Club had a stand at the Boat Show, telling the world about our Club, our courses, and of course the welcome which our members extend to new arrivals. Thanks to all the volunteers who manned the stand – and got the new Club Tee-shirts!

ALL WORK – AND LOTS OF PLAY!

The social scene at the Club didn't stop because of the storm damage – in fact it increased! The Social Committee have been very busy, running a succession of events from a romantic dinner on Valentine's Night, to a Coffee Morning, to "ceol, craic agus suipear" to celebrate St. Patrick's Day. All of these were successful in extracting money from members and friends in the best way possible – by giving them an enjoyable time!

THE SAILING SEASON IS UPON US

The 2002 Club Handbooks have been printed and are being sent out with this copy of "Knots" – complete with the calendar of events for the season (*isn't it nice, with the photo of Charles Sargent's IDRA 14 "Corsair" on the cover!*). The February Pico Team racing took place with only minor changes to the schedule of races in the aftermath of the storm.

March is the month in which you are supposed to be doing those last-minute repairs before you start racing in April, so the Club is currently running a one-week ISA Instructors' Course, and there was a Powerboat Driving course last weekend – it's all go even without walls! So give your boat that last coat of paint, or varnish, or polish, and get ready for action!

AND FOR NON-SAILING PARENTS:

Alan Carr has taken on the task this year of extending the pool of Race Officers (you know, the person who hoists flags, sounds the hooter, and records the results as each boat completes the course). There's more to Race Management than that, but it's something anyone can learn, and an ideal way for non-sailing parents to contribute very positively to the enjoyment their children get from competing in Club races (no, not by changing the results so that little Darling wins the race!).

Alan is arranging for Harry Gallagher (not just a Club member, nor just a National Race Officer, but the Director of Racing with the ISA, no less!) to give a course suited to running Club races, so call Alan today on 832 5869 and join the team!

CLUB "OPEN DAY" TO VIEW OPTIONS FOR BOAT PARK EXTENSION

AT THE CLUBHOUSE FROM 10 a.m. TO 8 p.m. ON TUESDAY 9TH APRIL 2002

The Club has **131 boats registered in 2002**, but even with Optimists stacked three high, the present facilities can **only accommodate 81 boats** with adequate space between them and clear aisles for safe access - this means that **50 boats have no adequate or safe parking spaces**. Having taken 12 months to consider the outcome of the Bord Pleanala decision on the original development proposals, the Club Committee concluded that the creation of additional boat parking space took precedence over any other Club projects. The Club will be shortly be applying for Planning permission and a Foreshore Lease for a **750 square metre extension** to the boatpark to cater for the current demand. However, there are several options as to where these 750 square metres can be located – the Club would prefer if possible to **develop in whatever way will gain maximum support from the local community**.

In an effort to address the concerns of those who opposed the original plan, the Development Committee wrote to the individuals and organisations who had lodged written objections with An Bord Pleanala, and invited them to enter into constructive discussions on finding a mutually acceptable way forward.

Following this period of consultation with interested local residents, the possible options will be presented for **public viewing** at the Clubhouse on Strand Road, from **10 a.m. to 8 p.m. on Tuesday 9th April 2002**. Invitations are being issued to our **immediate neighbours** (everyone living on Strand Road & La Vista Avenue); to **Fingal County Councillors**; to **local TDs**, to **members of the Howth-Sutton Community Council**, and to other interested parties. This "Open Day" will give an opportunity for everyone to see and understand the nature and scale of our proposals.

*This **NOT** a public meeting at which proposals will be argued about and voted on, it's just a day on which people (including all members of the Club) can come along and see exactly how many boats we have, how many members we have, and how many other people use our Club for courses. Diagrams will be available to see how big the extension would be, whether it extends seawards, or along the beach, or somewhere in between. In order to give some real idea of what these might mean, the Club will put markers on the foreshore indicating the actual boundaries of where the new extension would be, for each of the alternatives.*

Many of the issues with the original proposal were caused by a widespread belief that the Club did not consult with local people. This time, we are asking the widest possible audience to let us know which option they believe would be most appropriate, given the nature of the location. All views will be taken into account when the final plans are being drawn up.

LOCAL RESIDENTS HAVE ALREADY OFFERED SUGGESTIONS

Several local residents responded positively to the invitation to discuss the issue, and following a series of meetings, telephone conversations and letters, the Club has been given a list of ideas to be taken into account in any development plans. However, although all of these suggestions were offered in what was believed to be the "greater good of the community", some are directly contrary to others. ***The reality is that no matter what final decision is reached, it will not please everybody - the Club will make every effort to proceed with a viable plan that will gain majority support.***

The following are points made by those who entered into the consultation process:

- ***The majority of local residents believe that the Club provides a very beneficial recreational facility to the people of the area, particularly to children and teenagers.***
- ***Having been made aware of the current numbers of Club members and of the numbers of boats to be parked, the need for additional boat parking is generally accepted.***
- ***The Club must provide adequate parking on-site for all members' boats, rather than cause traffic congestion by bringing "local" boats along the road from their homes.***
- ***Any extension to the boat park should be to seawards of its current position, and not along the south-eastern beach, to preserve the amenity value of the beach.***
- ***Any extension to the boat park should be along the south-eastern beach, and not seawards, to minimise the impact on the view of Dublin Bay from Strand Road.***
- ***Any extension to the boat park should be to the limits of the existing right and left boundaries of the Club property, then seawards, not onto the south-eastern beach.***
- ***The Club should limit any development to a boat park extension – local residents have no wish to see the Club bankrupt itself by an over-ambitious development plan.***
- ***The Club should create a new access ramp directly from the road to the south-eastern beach, allowing the Club to park boats on the existing pedestrian access path.***
- ***The Club should not use any of the present car park area for boat parking, because every effort must be made to avoid unnecessary parking on the narrow road.***
- ***The Club should excavate the car park/bank and construct a larger "deck" structure at road level, allowing more car parking above, with additional boat parking underneath.***

**OUR CLUB NEEDS MORE BOAT PARKING SPACE – TO
PROVIDE RECREATIONAL FACILITIES FOR EVERYONE TO
SAFELY ENJOY THE CLEAN WATERS OF DUBLIN BAY
HELP US TO CHOOSE THE MOST APPROPRIATE LOCATION -
BRING YOUR FRIENDS AND FAMILY TO SEE WHERE YOU
ENJOY YOUR SPORT, AND ASK FOR THEIR OPINIONS!**