

PICO TEAM RACING – FEBRUARY!

By the time you read this, the February Team Racing is already well under way – cold but determined teams! 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! Races are on **Sunday mornings**, with First Gun at **10.00 each day** – be at the Club by 9.30 to take part.

G.P. 14 CLASS NEWS

2003 will be an important year for the GP 14 Class in Sutton – the very prestigious Leinster Championships will be held here on 14/15th June.

After 2002, when our GP sailors didn't bother even going to Regattas in Dublin Bay, many of them have a lot of catching up to do if they want to compete credibly in the "Leinsters"!

Plans are afoot for Sutton GP sailors to take part in **combined coaching and sailing** in **Swords Sailing & Boating Club** on Sundays after Paddy's Day and into April – hopefully most will avail of this opportunity!

VHF RADIO COURSE – ALL PASSED!

The recent VHF Radio Communications course in the Club was a great success, in that all of the participants passed the final tests – good communication skills are essential in any Club, but particularly when over the airwaves!

The successful Club participants included (in alphabetical order, to avoid upsetting anyone!):

Chris Pinner	Gerry O'Hanlon
Huw O'Droma	Ian Byrne
Luke Scott	Paddy Fullam
Trevor Blay	Tricia O'Brien

There are rumours that at least one of these took the course so seriously that he couldn't sleep at night, going "Over" and "Over" but not succeeding in getting "Out" – hopefully he is catching up on all that lost sleep!

BOAT SHOW 2003

Sutton Dinghy Club will again be exhibiting at the 2003 Dublin Boat Show, in the RDS (Simmons Court), Ballsbridge, Dublin from Wednesday 26th February to Sunday 2nd March, which promises to be a bumper event!

The opening hours are:

Wed/Thurs: 12pm - 7pm
Friday: 12pm - 9pm
Sat/Sun: 11am - 6pm

Adults €10, Children & OAP's €6

Bring your relations and friends to meet us on the Sutton Dinghy Club stand – it proved very popular last time, probably due to Aidan Henry's idea of giving lollipops to all the children! **(Before you go complaining to the Child Protection Agency, please note that his activities are FULLY approved by the Club Committee!)**

Then go and see everything else, there's plenty of variety:

- **I.D.R.A 14 and GP 14 Class stands**
- **Chandlery**
- **Clothing & Accessories**
- **Dinghies & Windsurfers**
- **Diving Equipment**
- **Engines & Electronics**
- **Fishing Boats**
- **Water-based Holidays**
- **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, Club sailing starts in April - and time passes quickly when you're putting things off!



February
2003



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 already February 2003, and it's back to Club business as usual. You may not have noticed, but the days are getting longer, sailing activities have already resumed, 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.

BOAT PARKING APPLICATIONS

Until the Club succeeds in its efforts to extend the Boat Park, the simple fact is that we do **NOT** have enough room to park **all** of the boats **all** of the time. The sooner we know **who** needs parking, and **when**, the better we can plan how to use the very limited space for boat parking in the Club. The aim is to make sure our active sailors get parking spaces, at the times when they need it.

If you plan to sail in 2003, **fill in the forms and get them in now** - or be prepared to keep your boat on the beach! Remember, we also need these details to record your racing results during the year – we note the winning sail numbers, then match owners!

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

2003 – SPECIAL OLYMPICS YEAR

Everyone knows that the Special Olympic Games will be held in Dublin, with competitions in various sports being held during the week 20th – 29th June. However, you may not be aware that sailing will be part of the competition, with the Royal St. George Yacht Club hosting these events.

The sailing Games start with boat familiarisation on Sunday 22nd June, divisioning on Monday, followed by the event proper with prize giving on Friday 27th on the Plaza beside the Stena Link terminal. They hope to have about 100 athletes from many countries - applications are still being received. The George will be using Fireflies and Squibs for the event. The breakdown of the fleet will become more obvious once they have established the skill levels of the athletes.

The goal is to meet the challenge of the games:

"To provide in Ireland a unique and unparalleled sporting and cultural experience for the athletes taking part, from 160 international delegations all over the world, as well as for their coaches, families, volunteers and sponsors, combining the excitement of sport with the opportunity for personal distinction, achievement and pride".

These athletes will be supported by their parents, friends and coaches, "Ireland of the welcomes" will be on show – **see inside for details on how YOU as a member of Sutton Dinghy Club can support this event, helping to sponsor a competitor!**

SDC SPECIAL OLYMPICS SUPPORT

Sutton Dinghy Club are aiming to raise €1,000 to sponsor a Special Olympics sailor: we are asking every member to add a **VOLUNTARY** donation of €10 when renewing their membership (similar donations will be sought from new members) – **this is shown on membership forms.**

The aims of the Special Olympics are as follows:

- To ensure the athletes will be the centre of the Games.
- To stage a truly global and quality event that will allow all athletes to compete and participate at a fair and challenging level and where all athletes will have a reasonable opportunity to succeed.
- To promote the Games in such a way that everyone will feel they have contributed and that they belong.
- To encourage family participation.
- To showcase the cultural heritage of Ireland and Europe.
- To ensure that everyone involved approaches the event with a sense of enthusiasm, dignity and respect.

CHRISTMAS CHEER AT SDC – WITH BRIGHT & SUNNY SKIES!

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 22nd 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.

With such fine weather, calm seas and blue skies, Santa decided to stay around for a while after giving away all his goodies – treating many of the children of Sutton Dinghy Club to a ride on his rubber inflatable “sleigh” – with Hugh Gill at the helm!



SPECIAL OLYMPICS – DETAILS

Sailing will take place between the 22nd and 17th June in Dun Laoghaire harbour, and all of the local and national agencies are rowing in behind this event with great vigour to ensure the harbour is fully available and looking its best.

Viewing stands will be erected on the marina breakwater, and the Royal St. George Yacht Club intend having a commentator available to ensure it is a real spectacle.

Many may remember the glorious week a few years ago when the George hosted the World Team Racing National Championships – they hope to replicate the joy of that event in their Club this year.

Apart from sailing, the Special Olympics World Summer Games 2003 will include Aquatics, Athletics, Badminton, Basketball, Bocce, Bowling, Cycling, Equestrian, Football, Golf, Gymnastics, Powerlifting, Roller-skating, Table Tennis, Tennis, Team Handball and Volleyball.

There will also be three demonstration sports offered, Kayaking, Judo and Pitch & Putt.

SAILORS' MEETING – 18TH FEB

The Spring “Boatowners’ Meeting” will be held in the Clubhouse at 20.30 hours (that’s 8.30 p.m. for those new to sailing!), and as usual ALL sailors are welcome, not just those who actually own boats! Dinghy sailing in two-person boats is all about teamwork, and the crew is just as essential to success as the helm. There are, of course, many Junior sailors where Dad (or Mum!) is the actual owner of the boat, but this meeting needs input from all who will be actually out on the water during 2003.

The aim is to “kick-start” the sailing season, to try to drum up enthusiasm in each Class to get out there and enjoy the waters of Dublin Bay for as much of the season as possible. This year, with the new sewage treatment plant in Ringsend coming on stream, these waters should be cleaner than ever – all we need now is fair winds and sunny weather!

The 2003 Club Handbook is almost ready for printing, and will be sent out to all members within the next few weeks – it will provide the full Sailing Calendar for the Club activities. In addition, it will provide details of Regattas and other Open Events in other Clubs which may be of interest to our sailors in the GP 14, IDRA 14, 420, Laser, Mirror, and Optimist classes.

GP sailors – support Regattas in 2003!

Wooden Optimist for sale in superb condition with launching trolley, only €600 contact **Hugh Gill** at the Club. tel. 839 3135

Another Powerboat Level 2 Course is being organised. Interested people should leave their name with the Club office, tel. 839 3135

NEW KITCHEN NEWS

Recent times have seen a campaign to raise funds for a new kitchen for the Club: a campaign which was very successful, so now it’s time to put the money where our mouths hope to be – on the means to produce good food in proper hygienic conditions!

The designs have been finalised, tenders have been obtained, and contracts are being signed – all going well, the new facilities will be in place by Easter. The actual area of the “Wet Room” taken up by the kitchen facilities will be slightly more than at present, but will not significantly restrict the use of the room.

However, it is important that ALL members respect the need for the kitchen to be kept clean and tidy, not least of all for reasons of health and safety, so access to the kitchen area will be restricted to those using the cooking and related facilities. Inappropriate use of the area, such as sitting on the work surfaces, will NOT be treated as harmless fun, and may result in sanctions being applied to offending members.

MORE SAFETY AFLOAT

Club members who have already gained their Level 2 Powerboat Certificate are taking part in a Safety Boat course over the weekend of 15/16th February. This will increase the level of competence in our Club to properly ensure the safety of sailors afloat – both our members and visitors taking part in our open events.

NO TIME FOR D.I.Y. AT HOME?

Charles Sargent has identified the need for a local “Handyman” service for people who lack the time, skills or tools to “Do It Yourself”. Attic flooring, carpentry, plumbing, flat-pack assembly – you name it, he can do it! **Free yourself to get out sailing – contact Charles at 866 2211 or on his mobile 087 953 4888.**