

Notice Board



Sutton Dinghy Club

September 2007



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

"LIDL" SAILORS SUCCESS

The new Sailing course for children aged 8 and 9 this year in Little "Lidl" boats (Oppie lookalikes) was a great success. This will be repeated next year, so make sure Santa brings them sailing gear for Christmas!

WINTER STORAGE

Clontarf Yacht & Boat Club keelboat sailors have difficulty finding enough space at their Club for winter storage, so Sutton has offered to accommodate some of them when we lift our own "Highland Mac" into the Boat Park for winter storage.

If you are looking for a place to park your keelboat over the winter, from 6 October 2007 to 23 March 2008, contact the Club (telephone 839 3135) - there may be some space available.

Acceptance of each application is subject to Sutton Dinghy Club's terms & conditions, and the physical constraints of the storage area.

A PICO TAKEAWAY!

2 Pico dinghies for sale - call Hugh Gill at the Club on 839 3135 for details.

CALL TO "OLD-TIMERS"

Sutton Dinghy Club was launched in 1940, when seven International 12 ft. Dinghies sailed their first race under the new club burgee, which was (and still is) blue with a white silhouette of this 12 ft. dinghy.

Commodore Aidan Henry has restored one of these, 'Dorado', a 1938 model, to its former glory and invites any 'old sailors' who would like to sail for old times sake to contact him at the Club.

To read more about the 12 Foot Dinghy go to www.patrimoine-leman.ch/dinghy12

TAKE YOUR BOAT HOME!

Unless you are taking part in the Inter-Schools or the October Frostbite Series, you **MUST** remove your boat from the Club - the Boat Park has to be cleared. Apart from anything else, your precious boat will be safer and drier away from wind and sea spray!

www.sdc.ie

Have you visited the Club website? Lots of information there - event calendars, Membership and Entry forms, "Buy & Sell" notices, and links to sailing-related sites.

You can contribute - we need up-to-date photos of people and boats enjoying our Club, afloat and ashore!

AUTUMN WINDS ARE BLOWING

The 2007 Club Racing season has drawn to a close - Sunday 23rd September was the last date in the series which began in Spring. It's been a busy season, not blessed with the best weather, but with some great turnout numbers for Club racing.

Now it's time to decide whether to take your boat home early for the winter, or sign up to participate in the Frostbite Series for Laser, GP 14, Mirror, Feva, Pico, and Optimist classes. This is run over four Sundays (7th, 14th, 21st & 28th October) and is open to non-members. Tell your friends from other Clubs to come along! The entry fee is €35 for a two-person boat, or €20 for single-handed.

Entry Form and Sailing Instructions are available on the Club website www.sdc.ie.

BOAT PARK CLEARANCE

With the end of Club racing, the Boat Park must be cleared to make room for the visiting boats participating in the 32nd All-Ireland Inter-Schools Sailing Event, which takes place at Sutton Dinghy Club over the weekend of 29th/30th September. **Unless you are competing in this event or in the Frostbite Series, you MUST remove your boat from the Boat Park - otherwise it will be placed outside the security fence for you to collect.**

THIS IS IN YOUR OWN INTEREST - if you are not sailing your boat, it should be stored away somewhere safely before the autumn and winter gales sweep across Dublin Bay. If you don't have room at home, ask a friend who has a garden take care of your boat and it will live to sail again in 2008!

ALL-IRELAND INTER-SCHOOLS

The annual Sutton Dinghy Club All-Ireland Inter-Schools Event takes place this year on Saturday 29th & Sunday 30th September. This most popular event has seen many schools compete for the coveted trophies below over the past thirty years.

Originally run on a Team Racing basis, with separate competitions for Mirror and Optimist classes, the format has had to be changed over the years to suit the wider range of boats sailed by school children.

*This year it has been decided to drop the Team Racing for Mirrors, and instead concentrate on the **Mixed Fleet Handicap Racing** where schools will compete for the **Conor Nolan Memorial (Mixed Fleet Team) Trophy** and the **Davidson Memorial (Mixed Fleet Individual) Trophy**. A separate course will be set close to the club for Optimist sailors who will compete for the **Institute of Education (Optimist Class Team) Perpetual Trophy**.*

This is a major event, with possibly up to 80 boats attending, all sailed by school children. **Club members are needed** to help with launching, rescue and catering, to ensure everything goes well and safely.

For launching we will need some members in wet/dry suits to help with launch & recovery. For rescue we will need drivers who have Powerboat Level Two Certs & experience - contact Wendy Rudd on 087 279 9488.

For catering we will need people who are willing to do whatever is necessary in the kitchen - please contact Caroline Farrelly on 839 4285 or 087 242 9477.

SMALL BOAT SAILING SCHEME - A PARENTS' GUIDE!

Each year we are asked by parents how their children have progressed, and what they need to do to ensure their children are getting the best out of the courses offered by Sutton Dinghy Club.

It is important to realise that the "Small Boat Sailing Scheme" (SBSS) is level-based, and progression from one level to another is based on the skills learned.

There is no "pass or fail": as you gain the skills from Level 1, you progress to Level 2. It may take two seasons at the same level to gain all the skills encompassed by that level. All skill requirements are outlined in the SBSS logbook, available from the club office. All trainees need one, and should have it to record their progress.

Level 1 - Start sailing: *This course will introduce you to the basic boat handling techniques & background knowledge necessary to get you started.*

Level 2 - Basic Skills: *By the end of this course you should be safely sailing on your own, in light winds.*

Level 3 - Improving Skills: *The improving skills course allows you to develop a competent, safe, practical approach, to sailing your boat in moderate conditions. You will also be introduced to more advanced aspects of the sport such as racing & day sailing.*

Level 4 - Introduction to Racing: *This course provides a sound introduction to the skills that you will need to get racing at your local club.*

Level 4A - Advanced Sailing Skills: *On this course you will develop the skills required to handle your boat in strong wind conditions and to undertake more extended day trips.*

The overall scheme lays out the path to fully competent sailing. In order to achieve competence and retain skills, a certain level of sailing activity should be maintained between each year's courses. This should be **recorded in the back of the log book** for presentation before next year's course.

SMALL BOAT SAILING SCHEME - SUTTON DINGHY CLUB REQUIREMENTS

Gerry O'Hanlon, the SDC Junior Affairs Officer, extends his congratulations to all who participated in the Junior Sailing courses 2007 – there was plenty of evidence of the expertise & skill being developed by our up-and-coming Junior Members.

Gerry is taking the opportunity of this edition of KNOTS to explain the **additional criteria being applied to entrance onto courses for next year.** Based on experience, in addition to successfully participating in a sailing course, the Club has laid down a minimum requirement of **sailing activity recorded in the sailor's logbook**, between each course, for progression to the next Level:

Level 1 - progression to Level 2:

No logbook requirement

Level 2 - progression to Level 3:

10 days logged racing / sailing

Level 3 - progression to Level 4:

15 days logged racing / sailing

Level 4 - progression to Level 4A:

20 days logged racing / sailing

As a parent you should try to encourage completion of these requirements as a minimum and ensure the logbook is kept up to date. If this amount of sailing is completed between the courses, it's amazing how much more is gained at the next level. Remember these sailing sessions must be "logged" (verified by a club official at the time of sailing).

A useful way to achieve this is to take part in the Frostbite Series arranged by the Club (four Sundays 7th, 14th, 21st & 28th October). This will refresh those skills learned through the summer and give a good foundation to the challenges of the next level.

DR. DAN SHEAHAN

Sutton Dinghy Club mourns the recent death of one of its long-standing Life Members, Dr. Dan Sheahan of "Sutton Cottage, St. Fintan's Road. Our sympathies go to his wife Eileen, children David, Linda, Mary, Dan, Margaret, and their families.

2007 – A GOOD SEASON AWAY!

Sutton members in many classes at all levels participated at many "away" events during the season, many with great success:

Optimists: With the renewed level of activity in Optimist sailing in Sutton, **Daniel Gill** took himself away as the only Sutton entrant for Crosbie Cup at Lough Ree YC, and took 2nd place in the Regatta Fleet – well done! *Five Sutton "Oppie" sailors brought their boats to the Leinster Championships in Malahide looking cool in their SDC Oppie Squad Hoodies. Only those who travel to away events qualify to buy one of these limited edition hoodies!*

GP 14s: **Gerard O'Sullivan** and crew **Ronan Cull**, in their first foray in their new Duffin built boat, won the O'Tiarnagh Challenge Silver fleet, run at Swords Sailing & Boating Club. **Hugh** and **Jamie Gill** took 8th position at the Leinster Championships in Mullingar, closely followed by Gerard O'Sullivan and **Peter Collings** in 10th place. Gerard and Peter achieved 17th place at the Ulster Championships, *Travelling to Mounts Bay in Cornwall, Hugh Gill with his old partner Stephen Boyle took 5th place in the UK National Championships, while young pairing of Gerard and Peter came in 24th competing in their first UK Nationals. This pair hope to build on this experience and be a force to be reckoned with at the World Championships in 2008!*

IDRA 14s: Thanks to Class Captain **Paul McNally**, the IDRA 14 class were **by far the most enthusiastic Sutton class** to compete at away events: Northern's in Carlingford Lough Sailing Club, Open Championships in Clontarf, Dun Laoghaire and Clontarf Regattas; and the National Championships again in CLYC where **EVERY ONE of the eight boats in the IDRA Fleet in SDC attended the event!** **Alan Henry** together with **William Gordon** are 2007 National Champions, while **Alan Carr** and **Aoibhin De Burca** came 3rd. **Ciaran O'Hanlon** with **Darel Clarke** came 3rd in the Silver Fleet.

AND A GOOD SEASON AT HOME!

The highlights of the sailing season in Sutton were the events where we welcomed visitors from other Clubs to compete on (or just enjoy!) the superb Sutton sailing waters.

A great day was had by all who participated in the Regatta day on 29th July. Race Officer Harry Gallagher had a big challenge with the variable wind conditions on the day, but he succeeded by setting up great courses. The weather was kind to us with plenty of sunshine! 50 boats competed, with Lasers and Optimists out in force. Visitors travelled from Clontarf, Malahide, Courttown and Royal St. George Yacht Clubs and were most welcome. The day ended with a most successful barbecue.

GP 14 sailors came from all round Ireland and Britain for the 2007 **Championship of Ireland** in August. This was a great success, thanks to the large volunteer effort by Club members and generous sponsorship by **HB Dennis Airside & Volvo!** *Go on, buy a Volvo – you know you want to!*

The GP Championship provided an ideal occasion to hold the Official Opening of the Dinghy Park Extension. Senator Martin Brady and Fingal Co. Councillor Peter Coyle, who had supported the Club development, officiated at the ceremony.

Sunday 2nd September brought the **Annual 'Cruise-in'** - a great day was had by all who participated and attended. Boats came from **Howth, Clontarf, Malahide, Skerries and Poolbeg.** Barbecue, salads and dessert were up to the usual great standard - **thanks to all the members who helped on the day!**

COMMODORE'S RESTORATION

At Lough Ree Yacht Club's Classic Boat Regatta on 8th - 9th September, Club Commodore **Aidan Henry** took First Prize in the International 12 foot Dinghy Class, ably supported by his crew **Billy 'Brokenfinger' Bebbington.** Aidan also received the prize for best restored boat – a well-deserved accolade!