

Notice Board

COMMUNITY EMPLOYMENT NEWS

Our Community Employment Project has staff working with Sutton Tidy Towns, St Fintan's Church, and Trackside Tennis Club helping keep our community neat & tidy, and have recently begun providing groundspeople for Kilbarrack United Football Club. SDC members appreciate the CE staff who run our office, manage our accounts, clean, maintain and refresh our Clubhouse, equipment, Committee boat 'Saoirse', our rescue boats and Club boats. The team under the guidance of Hugh Gill are continuing their winter Programme of work in the Club. Remember – all of our CE staff are looking for long-term employment opportunities, so keep them in mind!

RACE MANAGEMENT NEEDS YOU!

With the desire to improve our Club racing, and more Committee Boat starts, the Club are looking to expand the roster of Race Officers and assistants. We are looking for volunteers to lend a hand in this most important of roles. If this is something you would like to get involved in please contact the Club office, or any Committee Member.

SDC ON THE INTERWEB

Keep up to date with your Club on www.sdc.ie - news, boats for sale, etc.! And don't forget our Facebook page – check it today! We're always delighted to hear from our younger members who have any news, photos, gossip or reports on sailing experiences to be included in our Junior Members section.

SAFETY BOAT DRIVING / CREWING

Safety at sea means that Club sailors can rely on a competent team of Safety Boat drivers and crews. If you would like to learn Power Boat driving, SDC can provide National Powerboat Certificate & Safety Boat Training Courses using our two resident Powerboat Senior Instructors, Hannah Leonard & Sarah Horan. If you're interested, call the Club office on 839 3135. Courses are scheduled according to demand, and run at very discounted rates i.e. cost price to members.

If you are already a trained Powerboat driver, or a sailor who would like to be a Crew on a Rescue Team in 2015, we'd like to hear from you as well! Contact the Club office and leave your name and contact details.

RECOVERING OUR PAST

Following the 75th season celebrations, the work continues to document the passage of the years, identifying sailors and boats of years past. Many of you have Club memorabilia at home – either on a bookshelf or in the attic! We're working to create an archive of the Club history while we still have people who remember – so call the Club at 839 3135 if you have old photos, posters, books, trophies, prizes we can photograph or copy – all will be returned to you!



Sutton Dinghy Club

February **KNOTS**
2015



KNOTS is our Club magazine. We welcome your input & notices - contact the Club office (Tel. 01 839 3135, or e-mail info@sdc.ie)

COMMODORE JIM'S COMMENTS

A quick reminder of 2014 - we finished on a great note with the outstanding success of the 75th Gala Ball followed up by the Commodore Andy Johnston receiving the Afloat magazine Sailor of the Month Award both for his contribution to the celebration of this event and also his excellent work in sailing during his three-year term in office.

At the AGM we also brought forward a Constitution amendment in regard to having a system for succession of Club Trustees. James Ennis, Melvyn Phelan & Pdraig O'Cearbhaill had fulfilled this role for very many years, and I would like to thank them especially for their contribution during this time. I would also like to thank former Commodores Terry Harvey, Dick Dunne & Noel Dempsey for coming on board and taking up this appointment.

For 2015 the General Committee & Sailing Committee are already well advanced in planning the sailing year. The dates for the Regatta, Interschools, Cruise Around & Big Boat Regatta, and the Sponsored Sail are already set, the schedule of sailing courses are available on the Club website, and Junior Affairs are also actively developing a coaching programme.

Finally, I would like to add that I am delighted to have been elected to the role of Commodore, looking forward to making it a year with a major focus on club sailing. I would also like to expand our volunteer group as we are acutely aware of the 'ask' on the small number of dedicated members. So if you can give some of your time to any part of club activity please do not hesitate to talk to myself or any Committee member.

WE HATE TO REMIND YOU, BUT....!

The 2015 Membership Renewal Notices & Boat Parking Application forms are sent out with this edition of "KNOTS".

Sutton Dinghy Club offers good value for money, especially if you participate fully in the Club sailing calendar! So please don't put off paying – the Club depends on this income each year to keep it afloat! **Membership & training fees can be spread over 4–6 payments** by arrangement with the Club Office – tel. 839 3135.

Help us to help you - membership forms include many "boxes" to be filled in – please fill them all in! And send in your Boat Parking forms **NOW** - or be prepared to keep your boat at home or on the beach! Remember, we also need your **boat details** to record your racing results during the year – Race Officers note the finishing sail numbers, then try to match the sail number with a boat and its owner!

In our Club, membership comes with an **obligation to assist with club activities**. We're asking every one of you to indicate if there are aspects of the Club activities where **YOU** could help out – **catering, race management, safety boat driving**, etc. The success of our club depends on those who give as well as take – that's how we manage to keep our membership fees down while running a full schedule of sailing and social activities.

A special request – when filling in forms to send back to the Club, PLEASE WRITE LEGIBLY AND FILL IN ALL SECTIONS! It makes administration a lot easier! And don't forget – YOUR BOAT MUST BE INSURED before coming to the Club.

2015 CLUB SAILING COURSES

Apart from returning your Membership Renewal and Boat Parking forms, we would like all **Junior Sailors** to decide **early** which Training Course level they would like to take in 2015, and in which months. **Johnny Whelan** is returning to fill the role of Senior Instructor: here is the draft 2015 schedule:

June 2nd – June 19th:

☞ **Improving Skills**

☞ **Kites & Wires**

June 29th – July 17th:

☞ **Start Sailing**

☞ **Basic Skills**

☞ **Improving Skills**

☞ **Go Racing**

☞ **Advanced Boat Handling**

July 27th - August 14th:

☞ **Start Sailing**

☞ **Basic Skills**

☞ **Improving Skills**

☞ **Improving Skills**

☞ **Kites and Wires**

☞ **Adventure 1**

Courses will only proceed if sufficient bookings have been received and appropriately qualified instructors are available, so it is important that bookings are submitted within the dates specified. Look at your schedule for the summer (holidays, Irish College, etc.) and see which courses will suit you best – the sooner we know how many will be on each course, the sooner we can book instructors and other staff who make it all possible!

Courses may be booked by payment of a deposit of **€50 per person, non-refundable** (unless a course is cancelled due to lack of numbers), before the deadline of **Friday 27th March 2015**. The balance is payable before **Friday 1st May 2015**. There will be a **limited number of places on each course, which will be reserved according to booking receipt date**. Each applicant must be at least 10 years old (or 9 years old and have successfully completed the SDC "Taste of Sailing" Opi Course), and be a paid up member of Sutton Dinghy Club.

2015 OPEN SAILING COURSES

Sutton Dinghy Club also provides sailing courses **open to non-members** – so tell your friends, maybe by taking one, they might like it enough to join the Club! Details of course dates, times and prices can be obtained by contacting the Club office on 839 3135:

"TASTE OF SAILING" OPI COURSE

A great hit with the younger kids - ages 8 & 9. This fun-filled "Taste of Sailing" Opi Course is for young children who want to try dinghy sailing for the first time and enjoy the fun, the sea and getting comfortable with jumping in and out of dinghies at Sutton Creek. This is designed to allay children's fears of the water, give them a feel for dinghy sailing and encourage them to appreciate the marine environment and life at Sutton Dinghy Club.

YOUTH START SAILING & BASIC SKILLS

Ages: 10 and older (or 9 if successfully completed "Taste of Sailing" Opi course). The aim of these courses is to provide young people with the opportunity to try the sport of dinghy sailing in a friendly, fun-filled and safe environment. It is our mission to infuse our novices with such a love of the sport that they want to keep coming back for more. We provide all necessary equipment including buoyancy aids and full length wetsuits for these starter courses.

ADULT TASTE OF SAILING SESSIONS

The aim of these 3 hour introductory courses is to give a positive introduction to the thrills of dinghy sailing at Sutton Dinghy Club. No prior experience or knowledge is required, wet suits and buoyancy aids supplied.

ADULT START SAILING COURSE - Level 1

The aim of these courses is to provide a hands-on introduction to dinghy sailing for beginners. By the end of the course participants will have had an exciting introduction to the sport of sailing, including basic boat handling techniques and essential background knowledge.

BASIC SKILLS LEVEL 2

By the end of this course the successful sailor will be safety conscious, have a basic knowledge of sailing and be capable of sailing on their own without an instructor in light winds.

ACCESSIBLE SAILING IN SUTTON

In 2015, SDC hope to expand sessions to facilitate accessible sailing in Sutton in partnership with **Accessibility Ireland**. Last year, the Service Users from the Rehabilitative Training Unit of the **Central Remedial Clinic** (CRC) went on their fourth annual "taste of sailing" evening in June, with the support of SDC junior and senior members. To ensure the guests had a safe and pleasant evening, the team led by Junior Affairs Officer **Mandy Kelly** assessed and allocated jobs and activities for all guests appropriately. The Club chartered in wheelchair-accessible boats from Disability Ireland to accommodate wheelchair users.

The weather was warm and sunny when the CRC visitors arrived, were greeted by Club members and given a briefing on the plan for the evening. Some pushed out their boundaries in new directions to enjoy the thrills and spills of dinghy sailing, some also got to experience power boating in SDC Rescue Boats. This was followed by a BBQ which all enjoyed.

Feedback from CRC visitors' experience:

Amanda Farrell, a wheelchair user, said she was amazed she could be safely transferred on to a boat and sailed down the Creek in the company of a Club member. She considered it a great experience - would like to go again!

Stephanie Geoghegan, a wheelchair user, was hoisted carefully into an accessible boat. "At first I was petrified thinking I couldn't do it then **Saoirse**, one of the Club's juniors, chatted to me and we went for a great sail."

Conor Sheridan said "I had a great time on the speed boat - can we do it again?"

Conor Hughes added "if my Ma and Da could see me, now they wouldn't believe I can sail a boat!"

To date, Sutton Dinghy Club has hosted sessions for the **Rehabilitative Training Unit, Clontarf Day Centre** and **Transition Programme** in CRC; **Malahide Special Olympics** football team; and a summer project from **St. Michael's House**, all co-ordinated by Mandy and a good team of Club members and Community Employment Staff.

SIGN UP A FRIEND – AND SAVE!

For our Club to remain viable, it needs to maintain a level of membership which guarantees that it will remain financially "afloat" – this means providing enough social and recreational enjoyment to keep many members renewing each year, and attracting new people to consider taking up membership. SDC has introduced a "financial incentive" to encourage members to help increase our numbers – if you can persuade a friend to join for the first time, and propose them for membership, your own renewal subscription will be **REDUCED** by 10% of their subscription. At 2015 rates, getting a friend to take up Adult Membership at €195 will mean a refund of €19.50 to you!

NEW TRAINING BOATS

Three new TR 3.6 training dinghies supplied by **Curradinghy** arrived at SDC on 20th December, part funded by grant under the **Sport Capital Programme**. They look well and offer many interesting possibilities for the future of sail training at SDC.

BOATS FOR SALE (SAIL?)

Buying a second-hand boat can provide a very affordable way of getting into sailing. There are a currently a number of Mirrors & GP14s on the market; for details (or to add your boat to the list!) contact Hugh Gill at the Club Office, tel. 839 3135.

SUTTON OPTIMISM IN BALTIMORE

The 2015 **Optimist Spring Training Week** hosted by **Baltimore Sailing Club** was a huge success, attracting over 150 kids aged 7 to 15 from all across the country. Aside from our Junior Affairs Officer **Mandy Kelly**, SDC competitors included **Oisín Kelly** (youngest sailor!) and **Allanah McGrath**.

On the coaching side we had **Callum Maher, Ciaran White** and **Saoirse Kelly**, with assistance from **Isabel McGrath** and **Alannah Carroll McGeehan** on the Regatta Fleet. To complete the family involvement, Safety Officer **Gordan Kelly** and **Darragh Kelly** manned rescue for the week. SDC Mum **Pauline Carroll** played a vital role ensuring all kids got fed and watered each day through the busy week. Well done all!