

Notice Board

JOBS FOR THE BOYS (AND GIRLS)!

Our Community Employment Project has staff working with Sutton Tidy Towns, St Fintan's Church, and Trackside Tennis Club helping keep our neighbourhood neat & tidy, and provides groundspeople for Kilbarrack United Football Club. Our 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 if you know of any vacancies!

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. 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 2016, we'd like to hear from you as well! Contact the Club office and leave your name and contact details.

RECOVERING OUR PAST

The Easter Rising commemoration reminds us to document the passage of the years – for SDC, this means 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

March 2016



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

The 2016 season is fast approaching. - despite the prevalence of winter storms to the extent of half the alphabet, business as usual is our motto in the Club's 77th season!

Since the Annual General Meeting both the General Committee and Sailing Committee have been actively planning for a busy year ahead. Dates are set for our main events and a draft calendar is available on the Club website. Clearly the premier event this year will be the combined Mirror Nationals and GP 14 Leinsters in late July. We also have the annual Interschools, Dinghy Regatta and Cruise Around & Big Boat Regatta dates scheduled as well as the ever popular mix of Supervised Sailing and coaching evenings.

We are well advanced too in Instructor interviews with a view to being ready to run our full Junior Training programme. I am hearing many a proud grandparent boasting of their offspring booked in for third generation sailing in Sutton Dinghy Club which is very gratifying.

In tandem with this we have just recently committed courtesy of the Sports Capital Programme Grant to the purchase of three new TR3.6 dinghies and a new Mini RIB.

The House & Grounds group with the back up of the Community Employment team are also reviewing and doing the myriad of maintenance tasks to maintain the Club facility in good order.

On a sad note, we note the passing of our long time Club trustee, James Ennis. Jimmy's foresight and guiding hand in earlier years ensured we can all enjoy the great facilities we have today.

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

The 2016 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.

2016 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 2016, and in which months. Dates:

June 7th – 24th:

- ☞ **Improving Skills**
- ☞ **Kites & Wires**

July 4th – 22nd:

- ☞ **Start Sailing**
- ☞ **Basic Skills**
- ☞ **Improving Skills**
- ☞ **Kites & Wires**
- ☞ **Advanced Boat Handling**

July 27th - August 14th:

- ☞ **Start Sailing**
- ☞ **Basic Skills**
- ☞ **Improving Skills**
- ☞ **Kites and Wires**
- ☞ **Adventure**

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!

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.

"Taste of Sailing" Opi Course dates 2016:

July 4th – 8th	July 11th – 15th
July 18th – 22nd	July 25th – 29th
August 2nd – 5th	August 8th – 12th
August 15th – 19th	August 22nd – 26th

MIRROR CLASS PLANS FOR 2016

2016 is shaping up to be a fun filled and busy year for Mirror sailing in Ireland. The Class 2016 season has begun in **Lough Ree Yacht Club** with Winter training in January, February and March with **Cillian Dickson** and **Graeme Grant** as coaches. The next training sessions there are on April 16th – 17th - sailors of all levels are welcome to attend this training. Lough Ree Yacht Club have kindly offered free indoor storage of your Mirror throughout the duration of the training, so you don't need to bring it there for each session and you are assured it is dry and safe!

The Racing Season features the regional events with:

Westerns	Apr 23/24	Sligo YC
Easterns	May 21/22	Lough Ree YC
Southerns	Jul 9/10	Lough Derg YC
Northerns	Aug 27/2	RNIYC Cultra

The Nationals are due to be held in our home club **Sutton Dinghy Club** from Friday 22nd to Sunday 24th July 2016. This event will be held in conjunction with the GP14 Leinsters. It is shaping up to be a great weekend, and a great opportunity for as many local boats as possible to take part in National Racing.

Royal Cork Yacht Club will be hosting the Mirror European Championships in Ireland this year from Sunday 7th to Friday 12th August. This again is a great opportunity for Mirror Sailors to compete at an international level without the need to leave Ireland.

Details of events and training are posted on the Mirror Sailing Ireland Facebook group and on the International Mirror Sailing Association Ireland website. Should you have any Mirror queries, e-mail the association representative **Niamh Dooley** on niamh.dooley4@gmail.com

BOATS FOR SALE (OR SAIL?)

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

IN MEMORIAM

Two of our former Club members passed away in early 2016 - **Nan Hanson** and **Ciaran Scott**.

In February we said goodbye to **Nan Hanson**, former Committee member and one of the hardest-working of the catering team. Longer-serving members of our Club will remember the long hot summers when **Catherine, John, Richard** and **Sarah Hanson** were very much part of the youth scene at Sutton Dinghy Club – and their parents **Sean** and **Nan** even more part of the adult social scene! Even after their children left Club sailing, Sean and Nan continued to be staunch supporters of our Club and its ideals until Sean's untimely death ten years ago.

Then in March we heard of the passing of **Ciaran Scott**, in his day one of Sutton Dinghy Club finest young sailors. Ciaran crewed with **Dan O'Grady** through 1987 and what turned out to be a momentous international Mirror campaign in 1988. The pair won the **Irish Mirror Nationals** in Baltimore and followed this up with a **British Open** and **World Championships** victory at **Sidmouth Sailing Club**, beating none other than **Ian Walker** into 2nd place and creating one of the biggest shocks to British Mirror sailing at the time!

Ciaran continued to sail and race in Howth Yacht Club on his Cruiser 3 'Rossinver' until quite recently. Last summer he dropped into Sutton Dinghy Club when the kids' sailing courses were in full flow. Much to his embarrassment, **Hugh Gill** introduced him to the kids as a former Sutton Dinghy Club racer and World Champion, pointing out the photo of him with Dan O'Grady on the wall. Ciaran received a huge cheer and round of applause from all the young sailors!

FROM THE CREEK TO LAKE GARDA

Sutton sailors continue to make their mark at international level – we congratulate our own **Daniel Gill** on making the **Trinity College Dublin Racing Team** that will represent Dublin, Ireland at the **Laser Performance Collegiate Cup** in Lake Garda, Italy in August. Another inspiration to our junior sailors, showing what is possible!

COMMUNITY EMPLOYMENT NEWS

The continued support by the **Department of Social Protection (DSP)** Community Services for the SDC CE project provides unemployed people with valuable work experience, quality education and training, confidence and capacity building opportunities. For each participant, their time on Community Employment opens up pathways to employment, education and training. They also increase their confidence, capacity and motivation, and become role models for their families and friends in the community. The local community benefits directly from the placement of participants in different locations such as **All Saints Church Raheny**; **St. Fintan's Church Sutton**; **Sutton Tidy Towns Community Group**; **Trackside Tennis Club**; and **Kilbarrack United Football Club**. In addition, the wider community (extending as far as Ballymun and Dublin City Centre) benefits from the greater availability of recreational activities at SDC open to the public, which would not be possible without the input from the CE Project team.

For the past seven years, the DSP contact for the SDC project was Higher Education Officer **Seamus Moriarty**. However, Seamus recently made the decision to jump ship and bid adieu to the public service and retire. Wishing him well in retirement, we all hope that it was not our project that pushed him over the edge!

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 2016 rates, getting a friend to take up Adult Membership at €195 will mean a refund of €19.50 to you!