



Sutton Dinghy Club

**September
2000**



KNOTS is the newsletter of Sutton Dinghy Club. Contributions for it are always welcome - contact the office in the Clubhouse (Tel. 839 3135), or any Committee Member.

THANK YOU! - from the Commodore

The Knorr Bestfoods GP 14 Championship of Ireland 2000 at Sutton Dinghy Club at the end of August was by any standards a very successful event - and a credit to the members of Sutton Dinghy Club who put so much effort into making it such a success. The GP 14 sailors who came from near and far, from North and South, and from Britain all went home feeling that they had had a good time, and particularly that they had been made so welcome - that's what hosting an event is all about.

The planning had been going on since the year began; lists were drawn up, names were allocated against activities; letters were written; telephone calls were made - and true to their promises, members gave their time and energy to doing the work to which they had been allocated. To everyone who helped, in whatever capacity, I want to say a heartfelt "Thank You" - as I stood on the balcony to present the prizes to the winners, I was proud to be the Commodore of a Club, the representative of the membership as a whole, which had run such a memorable event.

The extent of the work which goes into organising such an event may not be obvious to many of you, particularly those who thought their major contribution was moving their boats from the Hard to make space for visitors. In accepting that Sutton Dinghy Club would host such a prestigious event as the GP 14 Championship of Ireland, one of the first priorities was to seek sponsorship to ensure that the event could be run to the highest standard - and Knorr Bestfoods were welcomed aboard as our partners in this venture. Personal invitations were sent to virtually everyone who owned a seaworthy GP 14 in Ireland and many in Britain; clubs were contacted to provide additional rescue boats, Committee Boats and Mark Boats; and even the Slua Muiri (the Irish Naval Reserve) offered two rescue boats and a motor launch. As the event date approached, the pace of activity increased - the event brochure was prepared, with calls and visits made to many companies to persuade them to take advertising space in it. Fingal Co. Council kindly assisted with resources to assist in the preparations.

To everyone who worked on this event; to their friends who they persuaded to lend a hand; to our neighbouring Clubs and organisations who provided additional resources; to Knorr Bestfoods and advertisers who contributed financially; to local residents who wished us well (particularly Joe Molloy, who provided his field as a campsite, and the Wickham family who provided their garden as a boat park); to the Minister for Education, the Cathaoirleach of Fingal Co. Council, to the Liaison Officer of the ISA, who attended the prizegiving; and to everyone I have forgotten THANK YOU!

NOTICE BOARD

LOST - TWO HISTORIC BOOKS

Two valuable books have were lost in the vicinity of Sutton Dinghy Club on Saturday 23rd September - but don't bother going down on the beach to look for them - we know where they are! That Saturday was the occasion of the Annual Book Race between Sutton Dinghy Club and the Royal Cork Yacht Club - the Team racing event which started way back in 1944. The winners of each race - Junior and Senior - get to take away "The Book" trophy, which is an actual book in which the story of the race gets written, In very windy conditions, sailing in Laser Picos, the Sutton Senior and Junior teams tried but failed to get the better of our Cork visitors - so We lost the Books! If any of you are visiting RCYC over the next 12 months, ask to see them - we expect them to be kept in good condition so we can win them back in 2001!

JUNIOR TRAINING - SUGGESTIONS?

Did you - or your children - take part in the 2000 Junior Training courses? If so, then our Junior Affairs Officer Gerry O'Hanlon would like to hear from you. We need to know what you liked about the course, and what you didn't - what was as it should be, and what can be improved / changed / omitted. We want to do things even better next year - tell us how!

SAILING - IT'S NOT OVER YET!

In the old days, the "Hauling-Up Supper" used to signal the end of Club sailing for the season - we had that Supper on Saturday 23rd September, but we're all looking forward to the Frostbite series in October - and to the "Bitter End" sailing in November, maybe even until Christmas!

Club sailing has been remarkable this year for the lack of enthusiasm in getting out on the water - but SDC is not a boat storage yard, it's a sailing club! So Laser, GP, 420, Mirror and Optimist sailors - make the most of the Sundays in October by frostbiting (why not practice on the Saturdays as well?)

POWERBOAT DRIVER TRAINING

Have you ever considered whether you could contribute to Club activity by driving our powerboats, providing safety and rescue services? Our Club needs to create a team of trained and competent people to man the safety boats, and we have instructors who can provide the training here in Sutton. Contact the Club or the Commodore - course schedules will be arranged once we know how many people are to be trained.

NOVEMBER - PICO TEAM RACING!

You read about how we lost "The Books" to Cork - maybe we need to practice Team racing! Contact the Club if you want to do so in the Club Pico dinghies during November.