



Sutton Dinghy Club

July
2001



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

CELEBRATING 50 YEARS:

The celebration to mark the 50th birthday of the Sutton Dinghy Club clubhouse was held on SUNDAY 10 JUNE 2001 - with several IDRA 14s from other clubs invited to join the Club racing, and a barbecue afterwards. Turnout was excellent, with 40 boats on the water in glorious summer sailing weather - bright sunshine and a steady force 3 southerly wind. With the tide full in, racing took place in Sutton Creek, providing a colourful spectacle for anyone on the shore or walking along Strand Road, as well as for the dozens of Club members and friends who were watching from the Clubhouse.



Among the visiting IDRAs was "**Corsair**" (14/22) - the very boat that was raffled in 1949 to raise funds for the new clubhouse - still sailing, and in beautiful condition. This boat is a credit to Ed Walshe, the present owner, who together with his daughter was proud to take it sailing on such a momentous occasion. The deep gloss varnish, the polished brass fittings, the detailed additions which Ed has fitted to make it suitable for Shannon cruising – if only the rest of us lavished such care and attention on our own boats! A piece of history – but not just a memory!

A PARTY ATMOSPHERE – AFLOAT AND ASHORE!



One of the visiting IDRA 14's dressed appropriately for the occasion – former SDC Commodore and Life Member Ian Sargent brought 14/143 from Clontarf and dressed it overall with signal flags, using two spinnaker poles as a bowsprit and aft rig. Surprising as it may seem, all of this drag and the lack of a spinnaker didn't seem to slow him down much! Nobody has yet deciphered the precise meaning of the signal spelled out by the flags – probably a variation on Nelson's famous signal at Trafalgar, except this time "Sutton Dinghy Club expects every member to do his/her duty!"

And duty they did – those who worked so hard to make the day go well afloat and ashore, particularly the hard-working catering crew. With the fine weather, the numbers just grew and grew – and hungry people sometimes have little patience when the food doesn't come quick enough – and even less when it runs out!

If you were one of the impatient diners, please volunteer to help out at the next event – this Club depends on those who roll up their sleeves and get stuck in – **THANK YOU!**

Winners of the birthday races were:

	<u>1st</u>	<u>2nd</u>
IDRA14	Scorie Walls / Colm O'Neill	Frank Miller / Clare Sheil
GP14	Ruan O'Tiarnaigh / Emma	Stephen Boyle / Alan Blay
Laser	Barry Canton	Sarah-Anne Muckley
Mirror	Grainne Costigan / Meadh Costigan	Alistair Kissane / Richard Kissane

Safe Sailing

As the sailing season warms up, and increasing numbers are on the water every week, it's worth spending a moment to think about safety. The ISA has this season increased it's efforts in the promotion of safe sailing. Safety is everyone's responsibility. To this end, make sure lifejackets are always worn, care is exercised at all times on the hard and powerboats are operated only by trained helms and crews – the Minister for the Marine & Natural Resources has just introduced new controls in this regard.

Please think and act safely - and encourage all members and visitors to do the same – afloat AND ashore!

Boat Insurance

A reminder to all boat owners sailing from SDC that your boat needs to be properly insured. Adequate insurance is one of the conditions in the boat storage agreement and is necessary to protect you and your fellow sailors - Club officials may ask you to provide details of your insurance cover.

Insurance is relatively inexpensive and can be quickly arranged. Affinity Insurance brokers are sponsors of and recommended by the ISA. Contact Cormac Keohane of Affinity (01-280-1057) for further details.

A thought for those who travel to away events – have you checked if your car is insured for towing?

Dublin Bay Submarine Pipeline Project

As can be seen only too well from the Clubhouse this month, work is progressing on the dredging work associated with the Dublin Corporation Pipeline Project. A joint SDC - Corporation liaison group has been set up to ensure that we are kept closely informed of developments - and that the contractors are aware of what Sutton Dinghy Club is doing through the summer. It is hoped to keep disruption to a minimum, but there will be some days (hopefully not more than three or four) when sailing is seriously curtailed or even impossible.

The **dredging** operations are running 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Material removed from the trench is being stored in temporary stockpile areas alongside the trench and near the tip of the Bull Island (below low-water mark). Each of the dredgers moves about 100 metres a day.

Pipe-laying: Once the trench is completed, 10.5 kilometres of pipe will be pulled from Ringsend to Sutton. This will take two to three weeks, probably in early August. The pipe pulling operation is likely to be in front of Sutton Dinghy Club for two or three days. We do not yet know exactly when this will be.

The dredging and pipe-laying vessels are large and not very manoeuvrable, and it is important that everyone keeps clear of them. All boats should keep 300 metres away from the dredgers and other working vessels at all times. During pipe-laying operations, the exclusion zone will be extended to 500 metres.

Before setting out sailing, **check the noticeboard in the SDC Clubhouse**, where you will find up-to-date information on what is happening, day by day. Further information is available from Dublin Corporation's Dublin Bay Project web site.



Dublin Corporation has recognised the fact that this project is seriously curtailing the area available to this Club for sailing for the 2001 season. It also acknowledges that the Club has to undertake additional work and incur additional costs as a result. The Corporation has agreed to compensate the Club on the basis of a professionally-prepared and presented claim for losses arising from the Project operations. The Commodore is heading up a sub-committee preparing this claim.

Any money paid by the Corporation for loss of recreational facilities will be re-invested in Club development, to the benefit of all members. If you have any particular comments to make on how you personally feel this Club has been inconvenienced, please **write them down** and hand them in to the Club office for the Commodore's attention: ***once the claim has been finally agreed, it will be too late to think of other issues!***

CLUB RACING - MAY RESULTS

Full details are on the club noticeboard, but here is a selection from the most active fleets. Eleven GP14s, two IDRAs, four Lasers and three Optimists competed. After several hours of number-crunching on the computer (even more difficult than last month, to take account of complex discard rules), and the customary consultations with the phantom handicapper, the results were:

<u>Class</u>	<u>First</u>	<u>Second</u>
GP 14	Padraig Boyle	Dick Dunne
IDRA 14	Charles Sargent	Alan Carr
Laser	Davie Carr	Chris Pinner
Optimist	Alistair Kissane	Stuart Walls

Notice Board

SUTTON PAIR WIN 'RIOCARD O'TIARNAIGH CHALLENGE'

This particular event was the brainchild of the late Riocard O'Tiarnaigh, who was forever challenging convention and endeavoured to provide more exciting ways of racing our sailboats which would also prove to be spectator-friendly. A total of 28 boats competed over six races on June 2nd at Blessington Sailing Club, in winds which were strong and testing. As a strong GP14 club Sutton was well represented, with two out of the four finalists being Hugh Gill/Barry Canton and Paul Maguire/Stuart Boyle. Other finalists were Will Moody from the UK crewed by Nigel Tierney (also from SDC) and Niall Henry/Ossian Geraghty from Sligo Yacht Club.

It was a case of third time lucky for our boys Hugh and Barry, sailing their GP14 "Tai-Chi" to victory in the final series of races on Sunday 3rd June.

Howth-Sutton Community Council

A new venture has been launched in the Howth and Sutton areas - a Community Council, which is intended to be a group that will bring together all our concerns for the area, not only as a watchdog but also to create a vision of how we would like our area to be - in terms of the **environment** and also of the **people**, and a forum where we can discuss and agree the best way forward. The group currently meets in the Old Courthouse in Howth.

The group have started by inviting representatives of **all the organisations in the area** to join: residents, employers, sports clubs, etc. etc. getting a solid base formed which can discuss and agree the shape of a permanent body. Sutton Dinghy Club is represented by the Commodore - let him know if you are involved in any other group or organisation in either Howth or Sutton (or both!) - it is important that every group has a voice.

BOAT PARKING SPACE - THE DOOMSDAY SITUATION

With the arrival of all the boats taking part in the Junior training courses, the shortage of space in our boat park is only too obvious. The situation currently is that there are at least 22 boats on the waiting list - it's not a question of money, it's just that there is no more room to pack boats inside the fenced area, without making it impossible to move them around.

Until the Club can extend the boatpark, there are only limited options: park in the Car Park (as long as the mast is lowered); park on the shore above the high water mark; park in your own or a friend's garden, or arrange a "swop" with someone who already has a boat space.

There's no point getting angry at the people who are trying to manage a difficult situation - if you don't eventually get a space, you will get your parking fee back!