

Notice Board

STILL WANTED - CLUB RACE RESULTS COMPILERS

You all know about Club racing - but have you ever wondered what happens the results of each race, and who works out how each Club sailor has done, over the season? Now's your chance to not only find out, but to help out! We're looking for two volunteers to share a necessary task.

For a long time now, Nick Spalding has taken away the Club Racing record sheets and fed them into his computer, producing the end-of-season list of champions and runners-up. Now we have the facility to enter them on the Club computer every Wednesday and Sunday, for instant results, but Nick can't be there twice a week, every week!

Training provided (it's not very hard!) - call the Club office at 839 3135

Courses - Powerboat & VHF Radio

The Club will be running two courses in June, one for Powerboat Driving, another for VHF radio, contact the Club office (839 3135) for details

Don't forget the Club Web site - www.sdc.ie - and tell your overseas friends to visit it!

Club sailing at SDC - getting more organised

Alan Carr (IDRA 14 Class Captain and Race Management Organiser) has worked hard to produce a "Club Race Kit" - a box of tricks and associated equipment to make the running of Club races easier. On the basis that not everyone knows where things are kept, what should happen when, or in what order, he has provided the Sailing Committee with standard Race Management Instructions, Course Maps, Results Sheets. These are now being refined: consideration is being given to adding pictures of flag signals, providing laminated Course Cards for each boat, using Number Boards to show the course

By 2003 every boat will have a laptop computer and GPS!



Sutton Dinghy Club

June 2002

KNOTS

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

CLUB SAILING - LESS IS MORE!

Anyone who participated in or watching the Sunday racing on 9th June might have wondered what **Ruan O'Tiarnaigh** was doing, setting a VERY short course layout - if the normal three races were run, the day's schedule would be completed in less than an hour. With beautiful sunny weather, it seemed a pity not to make it longer

However, Ruan's aim was to build on his coaching lessons of the previous day, and decided to have MORE races over a smaller race area! **The short course legs meant concentration from the warning signal - if you were late for the start, you wouldn't catch up!** In addition, the fleet never had time to spread out - bunches of boats were arriving together at each mark, simulating what happens on large Regattas and Open Events, and showing very clearly who knew the rules (*and more importantly, who didn't!*) about giving way and keeping clear!

By the time **Aidan Henry** finished the last race, a total of eight races (or was it nine - the competitors hadn't time to count!) had been sailed. With a barbecue warmed up ashore for sailors to cook their lunch, the scene was set for a good social atmosphere - and lots and lots of time to go over the on-the-water "incidents"! This is real "learning by doing" - and so much fun that we'll do it again!

This is what Club sailing in Sutton is about - so if you've been studying for exams, or just haven't got round to getting the boat on the water - come down and join in! **There's still lots of dates in the calendar, Sundays and Wednesday over the rest of the summer, and Sundays until the end of October.**

BIRTHDAY PARTY - SUN. 30TH JUNE

Last June, we held a Birthday Party to celebrate the fifty years since the official opening of our Clubhouse - *it proved to be a fun, so we're doing it again!* This year the Club has chosen **SUNDAY 30th JUNE** - Club sailing has been re-scheduled from 10.30 a.m. to a 3.00 p.m. start, to take advantage of the high tide at about 4.30.

We want EVERY BOAT WE CAN MUSTER out on the water for this (i.e. we want **every boat in the Boat Park** to go on the water - **if the "usual" skipper can't be there, find a sub who will!**). It's a party, so the emphasis will be on creating a party atmosphere - **the more balloons and bunting on your boat, the more likely you are to win a prize!** Starts and finishes will be from the Club line in full view of the balcony and road. Simple to organise, no Committee Boats, minimum rescue and marklaying.

To commemorate the fact that the funds to build the Clubhouse were originally raised by the raffle of an IDRA 14, we are inviting IDRA 14s from other Clubs to join us on the day, either sailing in or arriving by road. Visiting boats can offload and rig in the car park, because the Boat Park is full.

You've no excuse for staying away: there is no entry fee: but we aim to get everyone to buy a ticket for the barbecue (starts from about 5.00 pm onwards, prices are 10 Euro per adult for a steak meal, with burgers available at a lower price for children.

Bring your friends, bring your granny - if you have a boat, get on the water; if you don't, then come along and watch - it's party time!

IT'S JUNIOR TRAINING SEASONAGAIN!

It's that time of year again, when our Junior Affairs Officer **Gerry O'Hanlon** and his team of helpers and instructors begins to wonder why they ever took on the job - when hordes of enthusiastic youngsters get on the water for the first Junior Training Course of the season. School's over for the academic year, and all that pent-up energy has to go somewhere. ***We pray for good weather and moderate winds, so that they can be all on the water for as long as possible - and the noise level in the Clubhouse will be bearable!***

June 2002 sees 24 of our Junior sailors on the ISA Level 1, 2 and 3 courses, and another 22 on the Open Course, The first week coincided with Ireland's World Cup match against Saudi Arabia, **so as a special concession** (we don't do this very often!) the trainees were allowed to take time out from the much more important business of perfecting their sailing skills! **Hopefully the Ireland soccer squad will be knocked out on Sunday 16th June, to avoid any more lost sailing time!**

The July ISA courses are fully booked, with 60 participants - there are still some places available in August, but if you want one, move fast, and call the Club at 839 3135 - there are already 40 places taken!

DALKEY CRUISE POSTPONED AGAIN!

Last month, the cruise to Dalkey Island and back was called off due to bad weather. It was re-scheduled for 2nd June, but ...! Lack of wind, and lack of people! We'll do it yet, when the weather is suitable and there's enough takers!

OUT WITH THE OLD, AND IN WITH THE NEW (SAILING SECRETARY)

When you've gone to all the trouble of persuading someone to take on the role of **Hon. Sailing Secretary** (brown envelopes and all that stuff), and you find that not only is he willing, but he's also very **nice, enthusiastic, effective, and organised**, you sit back and decide "let's give him just enough praise and acknowledgement, and he might keep on doing it". So it has been with **Hugh Brazier** for the past couple of seasons, and the General Committee were looking forward to this aspect of Club activity being under control for the foreseeable future.

Then the unthinkable happened - Hugh announced that due to family and career circumstances, he would be moving to England in early August - and not only that, he was taking his family with him (or are they taking him?), so we're losing all the Braziers. Despite all of the pleas (but no more brown envelopes) from their many friends and colleagues in SDC, they seem determined to go through with this - so the Club was faced with finding a replacement.

After a series of interviews and shortlists, **Dave Mulhall** of the GP 14 Class has agreed (and his co-option was agreed by the General Committee on 11th June) to pick up the baton when Hugh completes the next round - this is scheduled to happen at the next Sailing Committee meeting on June 24th.

The Commodore and Committee of the Club wish the Brazier family the very best of luck in their new life in England - and, of course, wish Dave every success in following a very hard act!

OPTIMISTS ON THE RIGHT RACK

The February storm damaged the old Optimist rack, and before deciding to repair it as it was, the Club took the opportunity to visit other Clubs to see what form of racking they were using. Having seen some good ones (and some bad!), taken measurements, contacted suppliers, and obtained prices, the type was finally agreed and the components ordered.

With the June training courses almost upon us, a squad of wise and handy workers (**Aidan Henry, Billy Bebbington, Gerry O'Hanlon, Tom Burke, and Walter Kennedy**, listed alphabetically rather than in order of merit!) measured, cut, and assembled our new racks, in three separate sections to provide maximum flexibility in terms of position. These are a great improvement on the former system, and sailors allocated spaces on them should find easier access to boats.

LASERS ARE OPTIMISTIC

Trials have shown that the same rack system is suitable for Lasers, for as long as we have not enough room to park all Lasers on the ground. Work will proceed shortly on the construction of racks for a number of the Lasers in the Club.

NOT THE FINAL SOLUTION!

Of course, each boat on a rack needs an empty space to lift it into for rigging, so racks don't solve our parking issues: they DO NOT mean more people can go sailing at the same time, it just means more boats can be parked in the Boat Park, rather than transported by trailer to the Club every time they go sailing!

PARKING POLICE - CATCH-22?

The 2002 parking spaces have been marked out, and the spaces are being allocated to those boatowners who have paid their 2002 Club subscriptions. To prevent chaos, **YOU MUST PARK YOUR BOAT IN YOUR PLACE, NOWHERE ELSE!** And places will be reviewed every month, so you may not be in the same place all season!

Boats causing a nuisance (parked in other peoples' spaces, taking up more than their allotted spaces, without covers, on broken trolleys, etc.) will be dealt with firmly but fairly - the Boat Parking Agreement is to help everyone to manage in a very tight situation. If you've forgotten what you agreed to when you booked your space, get another copy from the Clubhouse!

Although the Committee intend to police the parking situation very carefully, each Class Captain has a role to play as well - try to make sure "your gang" follow the rules, reminding, encouraging - ah you will, you will, you will; go on, go on, go on!

Those who were late in booking spaces are on the waiting list, so if you don't keep your boat properly and securely parked where it should be, we have plenty of others who will be delighted to take your place!

C.E. PROJECT RENEWED

Hugh Gill has been successful in his application to FAS for renewal of the Club Community Employment project for another year - everyone on the **Project Team** contribute a huge amount to the success of our Club, so we're delighted that they can continue the good work!