

CONTACTING SUTTON DINGHY CLUB

The main point of contact for Club members and the public alike is the Club office, which is manned from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily throughout the year from Monday to Friday.

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The full postal address is :

Sutton Dinghy Club
Strand Road
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All queries should be directed in the first instance to the Club Office. However, depending on what the nature of your contact may be, you may find it useful to speak directly to particular individuals:

Club Manager:

Hugh Gill, Tel. 839 3135

Commodore:

Noel Dempsey, tel. 847 7109

Sailing Secretary:

Padraig Boyle, tel. 831 3456

Junior Affairs Officer:

Gerry O'Hanlon, tel. 839 2645

GP14 Class Captain:

Tom Burke, tel. 848 6254

IDRA 14 Class Captain:

Alan Carr, tel. 832 5869

420 Class Captain:

Louise Fitzgerald, tel. 832 1881

Laser Class Captain:

Davie Carr, tel. 832 5869

Mirror Class Captain:

Trevor Blay, tel. 831 4273

Optimist Class Captain:

Alice Kissane, tel. 832 6717

CLUB DEVELOPMENT DURING 2003

Sutton Dinghy Club continues to improve its facilities to meet the needs of its members – and the short-term needs right now relate to their eating habits! Following a successful campaign to raise funds for a new kitchen for the Club: the Club is now putting the money where mouths hope to be – on the means to produce good food in proper hygienic conditions! Designs have been finalised, tenders have been obtained, and contracts are being signed – all going well, the new facilities will be in place by Easter.

An application for a major extension to the Boat Park is currently being lodged with Fingal Co. Council. This application, if successful, will allow every member to keep their boat at the Club throughout the season – giving no excuse for not getting it on the water!

SUPPORT FOR SPECIAL OLYMPICS

Sutton Dinghy Club is aiming to raise €1,000 to sponsor a Special Olympics sailor: every member has been asked to add a **VOLUNTARY** donation of €10 when renewing their membership. Similar donations will be sought from new members – **this is shown on our membership application forms.**

The aims of the Special Olympics are as follows:

- To ensure the athletes will be the centre of the Games.
- To stage a truly global and quality event that will allow all athletes to compete and participate at a fair and challenging level and where all athletes will have a reasonable opportunity to succeed.
- To promote the Games in such a way that everyone will feel they have contributed and that they belong.
- To encourage family participation.
- To showcase the cultural heritage of Ireland and Europe.
- To ensure that everyone involved approaches the event with a sense of enthusiasm, dignity and respect.



Boat Show 2003



KNOTS is the Sutton Dinghy Club magazine. Input & notices - contact the Club office (Tel. 839 3135), or any Committee Member.

MEET US AT THE BOAT SHOW!

Are you looking for a relaxed, friendly, and affordable way to experience the thrill of sailing? Then come to **Sutton Dinghy Club** - long recognised as one of the great venues from which to learn and enjoy the sport of dinghy sailing!

The Club are exhibiting at the 2003 Dublin Boat Show, hoping to attract even more people to come out and enjoy sailing on North Dublin Bay, in a **warm and friendly Club environment.** Club officials will be on hand to provide information on the **Club facilities, the boats** sailed there, and the **wide range of training courses** open to members and the general public alike.

Founded by a group of local dinghy sailors in 1940, Sutton Dinghy Club now provides a valuable recreational and educational amenity open to all. The membership numbers have increased over the years to a current total of over 400 people – more than half of whom are Youth members (children and full-time students) who avail of on-the-water racing and training activities - the most enthusiastic are involved in on-the-water activities from February until the end of November.

The Club ethos has always been, and remains, **to provide affordable access to sailing and marine-based recreation for all.** Through its Sailing School fleet of boats, the Club also provides opportunities for **schools, community groups** and **individual members of the public** to participate in a wide range of water-based activities and training courses.

CLUB AND TUITION CENTRE

*As well as being a long-established sailing club catering for dinghy enthusiasts, Sutton Dinghy Club is also an Irish Sailing Association (ISA) **Recognised Teaching Establishment (R.T.E.)** and its sailing coaches and instructors are trained, monitored and accredited by the Irish Sailing Association to its certification levels. Many Irish National and International dinghy racing champions have been trained in Sutton Dinghy Club. Coaching at the competitive end of the sport is also carried out there - the Club is used as a base for training coaches under the National Sail Coaching Development Programme. As well as sailing courses, the Club can provide training in **Windsurfing, Powerboat Driving, and VHF Radio Communications.***

There is a full-time presence in the Club from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily throughout the year from Monday to Friday. Voluntary committee members provide supervision of Club activities daily from Easter to October, and during weekends throughout the year.

CALL OUT AND VISIT THE CLUB!

Located at the entrance to Sutton Creek, Sutton Dinghy Club boasts clear access to open water in Dublin Bay. In the event of varied weather conditions, sheltered waters are available only a stone's throw from the Clubhouse. 15km from Dublin city centre and 2km from Sutton Cross - just keep the sea on your right and follow the coast road. You can't miss us!

The Club has its own Website: visit www.sdc.ie for more information!

LOOKING BACK – SOME HIGHLIGHTS FROM 2002

"SAILING IN" THE NEW YEAR

With high tide on New Year's Eve 2001 at practically midnight, what seemed more fitting for a Dinghy Club than to organise a **race starting at exactly midnight?** Eventually four hardy sailors signed up: **Alan Carr, Hugh Brazier, Charles Sargent and Scorie Walls**, with **Gerry O'Hanlon** on rescue.

On the night, it was minus 5 degrees, cold enough to freeze thes off a brass Pico, and flat calm - but out they went in single-handed Picos, and sculled, paddled and pumped their way around the course. With fireworks exploding overhead, and the full moon giving fine visibility, it was a real "night to remember" - mind you, they said that about the Titanic!

THE BIG STORM – AND AFTER

In February the Big Storm took the headlines, when it swept away the Boat Park walls and fences. However, with the days rapidly getting longer, there was no time to waste. Offers of assistance came in from everywhere, squads of members rolled up their sleeves, the debris was cleared, and the new walls were constructed in time for the sailing season.

110 HORSES – IN A DINGHY CLUB?

April saw Sutton Dinghy Club transformed into Ascot (or Cheltenham, or wherever those horsey set hang out!). The "**Race Night Extravaganza**" was under way, generating funds for the new kitchen.

A 30-REINDEER-POWER OUTBOARD

The annual Christmas festivities at the Club brought fine weather, calm seas and blue skies. **Santa** decided to stay around for a while after giving away all his goodies – treating many of the children of Sutton Dinghy Club to a ride on his rubber inflatable "sleigh" – a Club Safety Boat!

SAILING ACTIVITIES IN 2002

Having cleared the decks during April to allow the repair work to proceed, Club racing got under way for the Spring Series during the month of May. On **Sunday 5th May**, with **Tom Burke** as Race Officer in one of the Yams, the fleet of **IDRAs, GPs, Mirrors, Lasers** and an **Optimist** enjoyed three short sharp races in beautiful sunshine out beyond the Martello Tower. It was a wonderful way to start the season – we should have known the weather would be all downhill after that!

Apart from the regular Club Sailing on Sundays and Wednesdays, the major event on the 2002 Calendar was the **TOP Regatta Weekend** in August. Unfortunately, the annual **Cruise-in and Barbecue** in September had to be cancelled (at least in terms of coming by boat) due to weather conditions – the participants made their way to the Club by alternative means, and enjoyed the barbecue anyway!

SOME OF MANY "AWAY" SUCCESSES

Stephen and Stuart Boyle won the **GP 14 Leinster Championships** with **Hugh Gill** and **Barry Canton** taking 3rd. **Hugh and Barry** also won the **Ulster Championships**, finished 3rd in the **National Championships**, and 4th in the **British Championships**.

Jumping classes, **Barry Canton** achieved National Championship Gold Medal success in the **Flying Fifteen** class by crewing with **Justin Burke** of Dun Laoghaire at Dunmore East in August. **Barry** also represented UCD with a team of others at the **Student Yachting World Cup**, taking 4th place.

Alan Henry and **Gerry O'Hanlon** won the **IDRA 14 National Championships** in Galway Bay Sailing Club in August. Sailing "Charmian", a boat built over 50 years ago, they proved that hard work on sailing and re-tuning the boat, concentration, teamwork and learning from your mistakes can win over any amount of flash gear!

CLUB MEMBERSHIP

Once you have completed the Start Sailing course and learned the basics, or you are already an accomplished sailor, the best way of progressing in the sport is to **join the Club**. *Unlike other sailing clubs, where you have to own or know someone with a boat in order to go sailing, Sutton Dinghy Club provides a range of boats and other equipment which can be availed of, subject to certain conditions.*

MAIN CLASSES OF BOAT IN SUTTON:

GP 14: A two-person 14-foot plywood dinghy, the most popular class among adult sailors at Sutton. Most are wooden, but some fibreglass boats are sailed. **The Club is hosting the GP 14 Leinster Championship in June 2003.**

IDRA 14: A two-person 14-foot clinker-built trapeze dinghy adopted by the Irish Dinghy Racing Association (now the ISA) in the 1940s. Both wooden and fibreglass versions are sailed - visit the IDRA 14 stand at the Show.

420: A two-person fibreglass trapeze dinghy popular with Youth and adult sailors.

Laser: An Olympic single-hander sailed at Sutton mainly by the under-20s - but there are also several older (including some much older) Laser sailors ...

Mirror: The most successful two-person Junior boat ever on the Irish sailing scene, the Mirror has long been the boat of choice for Sutton Junior sailors.

Optimist: The boat in which most under-15s learn to sail - but also a very competitive class throughout Ireland and the world. The "Oppies" at Sutton range from old wooden beginners' boats to the latest sleek fibreglass models.

CLUB RACING ACTIVITIES

The Sutton Dinghy Club racing season runs from April to October, with Club Racing on most Sunday mornings and on Wednesday evenings when daylight permits. Club Racing is based on Class of boat, with competition results based on the performance of each boat against others in the same Class

Sailing also takes place through the winter months, although the winter racing programme is run separately and does not count towards the Club Racing points. All members are free to use the water while racing is in progress.

Races are normally scheduled to take place on **Sunday mornings (aim: 3 races, starting at 10.30am)** and **Wednesday evenings (aim: 2 races, starting at 7.30pm)**. Over the entire season, this amounts to a total of 107 races scheduled over 41 dates – enough for any enthusiastic sailor!

The Club season begins with Team Racing in the Club's Pico dinghies every Sunday in February. This is aimed at shaking off the Winter blues! Club racing proper begins on 30th March and continues through the season until 26th October. The season concludes with another Team Racing series in the Picos on the Sundays in November. Major sailing events to be hosted by Sutton Dinghy Club in 2003 include:

Jun 14/15: GP14 Leinster Championships

Jun 28: Junior Regatta

Jun 29: Senior Regatta & Cup Races

Jul 13: IDRA 14 Open Championships

Jul 16: Junior Team Racing Champs.

Aug 31: Keelboat Cruise-in & Barbecue

Sep 27/28: Inter-Schools Team Racing

And it's not "**all work and no play**" – there's a full Social Schedule as well!