

Notice Board

SAILORS' MEETING

8.00 p.m. WEDNESDAY 10TH
MARCH IN THE CLUBHOUSE

(This used to be called a
"Boatowners' Meeting" – but crews
are welcome as well!)

Your chance to have a final look at
the draft Sailing Calendar for 2004
before we go to print!

LAUNCHING SUPPER

Saturday 24th April in the
Clubhouse

It may seem a long time away, but
time goes faster in Springtime, so
plan ahead!

Tickets are available now, contact
the Clubhouse (tel. 839 3135)

www.sdc.ie

Don't forget - our
Club has a website!
Check it out and
tell your virtual
friends

FIRST AID COURSE

Saturday 13th & Sunday 28th March
10 a.m. to 4.30 p.m. each day

Cost: €40 per person

Book by calling Hugh Gill at the Club
(839 3135)

IRISH SAILING ASSOCIATION AGM

The 2004 Annual General Meeting of
the ISA will take place on Saturday
April 3rd at Malahide Yacht Club. All
paid-up members of SDC are
members of the ISA through the Joint
Membership scheme, and so are
entitled to attend to see how our
National Authority runs its affairs. Your
views as are important as anyone
else's, so come along!

Check with Hugh Gill at Sutton Dinghy
Club for the AGM start time.

MIRROR FOR SALE - GREAT VALUE!

Excellent Condition - Dave Meighan built
New Paint job 2003, Varnished 2004
Launching trolley & mast up cover, all racing systems
Two suits of Trident sails incl. spinnakers
(One training, one racing)
Competitive boat – Ready to race!
€ 2,600 o.n.o. Call (01) 831 4273



Sutton Dinghy Club

March 2004



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

SPRING HAS SPRUNG!

Where did the time go it seems only the
other day we were having a seasonal get-
together in the Clubhouse in the run-up to
Christmas. Here we already into March, with
the long stretch in the evenings, even if the
frost is still hard on the ground each
morning. So come out of hibernation, shake
off those winter blues and get ready for the
2004 sailing season – some hardy souls are
already out there in the Pico dinghies!

Hopefully you've all recovered financially
after the Christmas prezzies and the January
sales – the Club needs your **MEMBERSHIP
SUBS** - you know, the money we need each
year to keep the Club afloat! Don't wait,
paying bills is no easier if you shove them to
the bottom of the pile, get it over with and
start getting the boat ready for the season.

BOAT PARKING APPLICATIONS

As in previous years, the simple fact is that
we do **NOT** have enough room to park **all** of
the boats **all** of the time. The sooner we
know **who** needs parking, and **when**, the
better we can plan how to use the very
limited space for boat parking in the Club.
The aim is to make sure active sailors get
parking spaces, at times when they need it.

If you plan to sail in 2004, **fill in the forms
and get them in now** - or be prepared to
keep your boat on the beach! Remember,
we also need these details to record your
racing results during the year – we note the
winning sail numbers, then match owners!

**The Membership Renewal Notices &
Parking Application forms are sent
out with this edition of "KNOTS".**

HELP US TO HELP YOU

Apart from the Membership Renewal and
Boat Parking forms, this copy of KNOTS is
accompanied by some other paperwork. For
our enthusiastic Junior Sailors, we enclose
application forms for the **Summer Junior
Training Courses** – as last year, there are
three choices of dates:

June 8th to 25th
July 5th to 23rd
August 3rd to 20th

Have a look at your schedule for the summer
(holidays abroad, Irish College, etc.) and try
to 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.

This year, the Membership forms include
some extra "boxes" to be filled in – and
please do so! 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.
Unfortunately, if all the work falls on the "old
reliables", there'll come a day when they
can't do it any more!

**One final request – when filling in forms
to send back to the Club, PLEASE WRITE
LEGIBLY AND FILL IN ALL SECTIONS! It
makes the administration task a lot
easier!**

PROJECT TEAM – OLD AND NEW

Unfortunately, all good things must come to an end – and Sutton Dinghy Club has had to say goodbye to Paddy Fullam who has worked as part of the SDC Community Employment Project team for the best part of three years. Paddy participated with great humour and enthusiasm in several aspects of the Club activities, both on and off the water. He showed great skill in fixing Club Mirror dinghies, and was a great source of stories – it was always a pleasure to be in his company, and we wish him every success in the future

They say one door never shuts but another one opens – and as Paddy went out the door, two new members - Vernon Chadwick and Grainne Cusack - joined the team. The nature of the Dinghy Club means that the location and the work is quite unlike what some of the team have experienced in the past – on sunny days when the tide is in, there aren't many nicer places to work!

We hope that Vernon and Grainne will have lots of those types of days – and none like Paddy witnessed in 2002 when the storm brought the sea walls tumbling down!

GOODBYE TO THE PARKERS – GOING BACK TO SUNNY SOUTH AFRICA!

We'd only got used to having them around the place, this enthusiastic South African pair who participated so actively in our Club sailing that Anthony was unanimously nominated and elected as our Sailing Secretary for 2004. Every thing was looking so promising, it was too good to be true..... and then they went on one of the Club "winter walks" in the mountains. We should have known better – the views from Lugnaquilla just don't compare with Table Mountain, so Anthony and Diana have decided to return to South Africa somewhat earlier than expected!

A pair of Parkers – or "Parkas" - this picture of our two departing friends was taken on that fateful hike – they say their decision was entirely work-related, but who wouldn't jump at the chance to return to sunnier climes in the depths of our winter!

The good news – they've said that any SDC members visiting South Africa are welcome to call on them we hope they have plenty of spare bedrooms!



CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to new member **Joseph Boyle** who recently completed his first journey in life and arrived into the world to see what his parents, **Stephen & Louise Boyle** looked like. He timed it well – Stephen had some other things to worry about in recent weeks, but was there when Joseph decided to arrive.

Stephen recently attended an RYA coaching course given by Jim Saltonstall (formerly of the RYA youth Development & Olympic squad). Apparently only 50% of participants passed – Stephen among them, despite the stress of becoming a father (though they say it's easier second time around) so well done!

Another element of stress on Stephen in January was the difficult job of being Best Man at **Ruan O'Tiarnaigh's** marriage to **Tammie Ballagh** on Jan 16th – it's not easy trying to manage Ruan and keep him on the straight and narrow at the best of times, but Stephen managed to ensure the event passed off successfully!

Congratulations to Ruan and Tammie – not before time – what took you so long?

SAILORS' MEETING – 10th MARCH

The Spring "Boatowners' Meeting" will be held in the Clubhouse at 20.00 hours (that's 8.00 p.m. for those new to sailing!), and as usual ALL sailors are welcome, not just those who actually own boats! Dinghy sailing in two-person boats is all about teamwork, and the crew is just as essential to success as the helm. There are, of course, many Junior sailors where Dad (or Mum!) is the actual owner of the boat, but this meeting needs input from all who will be actually out on the water during 2004.

The aim is to "kick-start" the sailing season, to try to drum up enthusiasm in each Class to get out there and enjoy the waters of Dublin Bay for as much of the season as possible. This year, as well as the customary schedule of Sunday morning and Wednesday evening sailing, there will be training for adult sailors on Monday evenings in May and June – depending on the success of the initial months, this may be continued throughout the season.

The 2003 Club Handbook is almost ready for printing, and will be sent out to all members within the next few weeks – it will provide the full Sailing Calendar for the Club activities. In addition, it will provide details of Regattas and other Open Events in other Clubs which may be of interest to our sailors in the GP 14, IDRA 14, 420, Laser, Mirror, and Optimist classes.

Apart from Club racing and training, the Club will be hosting several large Open events in 2004. July will be a busy month, with the **Annual Regatta** (for both Junior and Senior classes) on **Sunday 4th**; an **Open Day** on Sunday 17th in conjunction with the **Howth-Sutton Festival**; and the **Crosbie Cup** for the Optimist Class on the weekend of 24th and 25th. The annual **"Cruise-in" Barbecue** will be on **Sunday 5th September**, and the **Inter-Schools Team** racing on 2nd and 3rd of October.

SCHOOLS AND SAILING

SDC Commodore **Muriel O'Tiarnaigh**, a long-time supporter of promoting sailing as a sport for schoolchildren, attended the recent inauguration of the **Schools Sailing Association of Ireland** at a meeting in the Montague Hotel in Portlaoise. Teachers and parents from schools in the West, East and South attended. The object of the Association is to encourage and organise sailing and windsurfing competition between secondary schools (initially). The immediate work programme will be focussed on:

- Deciding on a format for regional and National Racing
- Developing a competition format/ programme for 2004/05 school year
- Looking at support structure and organisation of SSAI

An interim Steering Group was established chaired by **Patricia Kaiser, ISA Director**, which includes Muriel O'Tiarnaigh, **Tim O'Connor** from **Schull**, and **Martin McIntyre** from **Westport**, pictured here with **Tony Wright** of the ISA.



NO TIME FOR D.I.Y. AT HOME?

Charles Sargent is continuing to fill the need for a local "Handyman" service for people who lack the time, skills or tools to "Do It Yourself". Attic flooring, carpentry, plumbing, flat-pack assembly – you name it, he can do it! **Free yourself to get out sailing – contact Charles at 846 2211 or on his mobile 087 953 4888.**