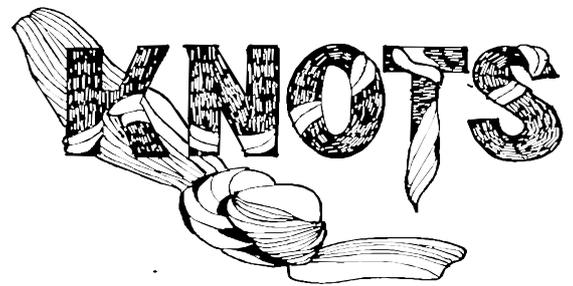




Sutton Dinghy Club

September 2004



SEASONAL BOOKS

It's the Autumn Equinox, and the weather is typical – gales getting in the way of sailing! Club racing has suffered, but we're hoping our next two major events will be spared.

The first will be the Annual Book Race between SDC and the Royal Cork Yacht Club, a 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. Last year, Sutton Senior and Junior teams travelled to Cork and tried but failed to get the better of their Cork hosts – and came back bookless!

However, it's our turn to host the event in 2004, and the racing is scheduled for Saturday 25th September. With a bit of luck and good sailing, our teams are hoping to make sure that the Cork teams leave "De Books" behind when they catch the train home!

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

INTER-SCHOOLS TRIAL

The next major event at SDC is a real trial for the organisers – hosting the annual **All-Ireland Inter-Schools Team Racing**. The weekend of Saturday 2nd and Sunday 3rd October will see schools from all around the country sending their best sailors to compete at Sutton – in Optimist, Mirror and Mixed Class fleets.

Devising a schedule for so many teams, running and recording races for Teams and Portsmouth Yardstick competition, then correctly identifying the winners – no wonder everyone is exhausted at the end!

BOAT PARK CLEARANCE

Sunday 26th September is the last day for scheduled Club racing of the season, and the weekend before the Inter-Schools - when the Club will have to make room for a large influx of visiting boats and trailers. The Committee have decided that **ALL boat owners must remove their boats from the Club Boat Park by the evening of Thursday 30th September - unless the boat is being used in the Inter-Schools event.**

Any boats remaining after that time may be moved by the Committee onto the beach or elsewhere, at the owner's risk.

Remember - if you're not putting your boat away for the winter: the four-Sunday Frostbite Series starts Sunday 10th October

NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

IDRA 14 – 3 Sutton boats in top 4!

The IDRA 14 National Championships took place in August at Wexford Harbour Boat & Tennis Club, and Sutton Dinghy Club boats were well to the fore in the fleet of 22 boats. At the finish line of the last race, **Alan Henry** and **Gerry O'Hanlon** of Sutton (14/28 "Charmian") and **Pat O'Neill** and **Killian Sargent** of Clontarf (14/15 "Delos II") tied on 12 points each. When the tie break rules were applied, the Henry/O'Hanlon pair took the trophy for the third year in succession. In third place was Sutton's Jim Lambkin and Noel Dempsey, (14/134 "Siobhán") closely followed by another Sutton pair, **Alan Carr** and **Alan Blay** (14/38 "Starfish"). The other Sutton team, **Charles Sargent** and his son-in-law **Edmond Fleming**, competing in 14/126 "Smurfette", achieved 10th place.

Alan Blay also won the Crew's Race.

GP 14 – Hugh Gill is Irish Champion

The GP 14 National Championships were held this year in Mayo Sailing Club. Although they didn't win the event, Sutton's **Hugh Gill** and **Stuart Boyle** are definitely the "Best of the Irish", being beaten into second place by Richard Instone and James Goodfellow from Britain.

Two other Sutton GP 14 teams competed in the event - **Stephen Boyle** and **Diane Parker** (10th place), and **Dave Mulhall** and **Peter Reynolds** (28th).

SDC SAILORS ON TOUR

Four lucky SDC Junior Sailors have been selected to participate as crew members on the training brigantine **Asgard II** as it travels from Oban in Scotland to Dublin from the 15th to the 22nd of October: **Conor McMeel, Sarah Horan, Sorcha Maguire & Peter Finn**. It is hoped (providing they don't get blown off course or led by faulty navigation to Vladivostok) to have a full report and photos of the trip in next issue of "Knots".

HIGHLAND (MAC) CRUISING

No, we're not still talking about that trip from Oban to Dublin; we're talking about the more local movements of the Club cruiser "Highland Mac". **Aidan Henry** and **Gerry O'Hanlon** have been trying out their skills as navigators and ocean sailors as they took fellow members and friends on overseas trips in the Highland Mac (*well, they were observed to go round the Bailey to Howth to the Squib Championships, but they have to gain confidence!*).

Having returned to base successfully every time, 2005 should see some more adventurous trips!

AILEEN JUDGE R.I.P.

The Committee and members of the Club were greatly saddened recently to learn of the tragic death of **Aileen Judge** following a riding accident. Aileen was a very keen young sailor and, together with her sister Maeve, had worked as an instructor at Sutton Dinghy Club last summer.

Our sympathies go to her parents Paddy and Mary, to her sisters Maeve and Maura, and to her brother James.

BILL McCORMICK R.I.P.

The Howth and Sutton area has lost a great campaigner for community values - **Bill McCormick**, Secretary of the **Howth Sutton & District Community Centre Ltd (HSDCC)**, died suddenly on 19th September. Bill has been very active in the "Save Howth Library and Village" campaign, and worked closely with Sutton Dinghy Club's **Charles Sargent** on the HSDCC Board, as well as on the **Howth-Sutton Community Council**. The Club extends its sympathies to his wife and family.

2004 REFLECTIONS- A MIRROR PERSPECTIVE

This year approximately 60 Mirrors from Clubs all around the country entered for the Championship circuit - two Sutton boats took part: **Gerard O'Sullivan** with **Ben Saunders** crewing, and **Alan Blay** with **Ross Harte** as crew.

The first event was the **Western Championships** held at Easter in **Lough Derg Yacht Club** in Dromineer – the venue for the Mirror European Championships to be held later in the season. Approximately 60 Mirrors competed – Alan and Ross finished 24th overall. Unfortunately, Ben has been injured in a school rugby accident at the end of the Easter term, and could not compete in this event. Thankfully, **Sorcha Maguire** stepped in to crew the boat at the last minute (*thank you, Sorcha!*) to help Gerard achieve 30th place.

Along came the Summer and some more regattas: the last weekend of June saw the **Southern Championships** in **Wexford Harbour Boat & Tennis Club**, with Ben back crewing for Gerard. The Sutton results were Gerard 13th and Alan 14th – this meant that Alan won the Silver Fleet, and so was promoted to the Gold Fleet.

The following weekend both boats were competing in the **Northern Championships** at **Strangford Lough Yacht Club**, where Alan Blay achieved 7th overall, leaving Gerard two places behind at 9th.

The **Royal St George Yacht Club** was the next venue, for the **International Youth Regatta** – Gerard brought credit to the Northside by winning the Mirror Class – Alan had to be content with 6th place.

The second weekend in July (yes, the third Championship event in three weekends!) saw the parents dragging boats and sailors all the way to **Skerries Sailing Club** for the **Eastern Championships** – Alan and Ross managed a respectable 11th place, with Gerard and Ben close behind at 13th.

The parents then enjoyed a well-earned rest (all right, so the sailors also deserved a break, they had put in some effort!) until the **August Bank Holiday**. The whole entourage then headed back to Dromineer for the week-long **European Championships**, attended by no less than 123 boats from Ireland, Britain, Holland and Sweden, with one New Zealand entry (OK, so they saved on the air fare they actually live in Cork!). The intention was to sail ten races over five days, but due to light winds (*boring!!!*) and forked lightning (*RUN AWAY!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!*), only eight were sailed. With the tough international competition, Gerard and Ben finished 44th overall, with Alan and Ross 75th. Both teams were a little disappointed with their performance at Dromineer, and set about psyching themselves up for the "Main event" – the **Mirror National Championships** at the **Royal North of Ireland Yacht Club**, Cultra, Co. Down.

Three Sutton boats competed at Cultra – **Ronan and Rachel Cull** achieved the best result, coming home at 11th. Alan and Ross were 13th overall, and Gerard and Ben came 23rd.

Thank God the evenings are closing in, it must mean that this level of involvement is coming to an end for a while – next year there's a **Mirror World Championships** in Sweden, and that's a lot further away than Cultra, or even Dromineer! Better cut back on Christmas presents this year the petrol bill alone will be heavy!

FORTHCOMING CLUB COURSES

The Club will shortly be providing more VHF Radio, Powerboat Driving and First Aid courses - contact Hugh Gill at the Club, tel. 839 3135

CRUISE-IN 2004

Sunday 5th September saw the annual spectacle of a flotilla of cruising yachts make their way up Sutton Creek and drop anchor off the Club. The crews, not just intrepid round-the world racers, but their wives, children, grannies, friends and hangers-on, then waited patiently to be ferried ashore to enjoy the food and refreshments provided by the Dinghy Club personnel.

2004 certainly was vintage year, not just in the fact that on this day the sun shone and the wind didn't blow, but also the numbers attending were an all-time record. Counting every vessel arriving in Sutton proved too much for **Aidan Henry** (and even for **Noel Dempsey!**) – there was consensus about there being more than any previous year, and possibly eighty if you count the RIBs as well, but who cares they were gorgeous!

As usual, prizes were awarded to those who went to great effort to dress their boats and crews to suit the occasion – B. Freyne won 1st prize for "Empress II", and Wendy Rudd (with her motley crew of bloodthirsty pirates) won 2nd in "No Strings".

The picture below shows some of Sutton Dinghy Club's oldest friends (meant in the nicest way!) being brought ashore by Jim Lambkin in the Club's cuddy.



PLANNING APPLICATION

As most of you are aware, Sutton Dinghy Club had submitted an application to Fingal County Council to extend the boat and car parking facilities at the Club. Rather than approve or reject the application, in 2003 the Council requested the Club to provide additional information in regard to the application for an extension to our parking facilities, in order to better understand the issues involved and to make a better informed decision. The Club submitted a detailed response document within the required 6-month period.

Once again, rather than approve or reject the application, early in 2004 the Council requested the Club to provide written clarification of certain aspects of the additional information provided – this time, without specifying any time limit on responding. Due to delays in obtaining relevant information from the Department of the Marine, the Club response took longer than 6 months to complete – but Fingal County Council, without consulting the Club, decided to deem the application "withdrawn" because the response was not provided within six months.

Having sought legal advice, the Club has continued with the process, and submitted the clarification information anyway, asking the Council to reconsider the legality of its one-sided decision to terminate the Club's application.

The Council's response is awaited as this edition goes to print.

PARENT DRIVERS

Parents of Junior sailors - Would you like to train to be Rescue Powerboat drivers?

Contact Hugh Gill at the Club, tel. 839 3135