

Notice Board

SAILORS' MEETING

TUESDAY 15TH MARCH
8 pm in the Clubhouse

Skippers & Crews both welcome!

Your chance to have a final look at the draft Sailing Calendar for 2005 before it goes to print!

LEARN THE RULES!

WEDNESDAY 23RD MARCH
8 pm in the Clubhouse

Stephen Boyle will be continuing his series of lectures on the Racing Rules of Sailing – with new Rules coming into effect in 2005, CAN YOU AFFORD TO MISS THIS?

www.sdc.ie

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

LAUNCHING SUPPER

Clubhouse – Sat. 7th May

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

For tickets, contact the Clubhouse (tel. 839 3135)

PADRAIG BOYLE'S JAZZ NIGHT

Saturday 9th April 2005
in the Clubhouse at 8 pm

FEATURING THE MUSIC OF:

Louis Armstrong - Ella Fitzgerald -
Duke Ellington - Artie Shaw - Dizzy
Gillespie - Ray Charles - Max Roach -
Sarah Vaughan - Kenny Clarke - Anita
O'Day - Von Freeman - Thelonious
Monk - Frank Sinatra - Gerry Mulligan
- Sonny Rollins - Charles Mingus -
Ahmed Jamal - Sam Rivers - Billie
Holliday - And many more !

DRESS CODE: Jazzy - the jazzier the better! Hip, cool, crazy, 20's, 30's, beat, whatever - but it's got to be "Jazzy"! And bring dancing shoes!

ADMISSION €5 - includes food.
"Speakeasy" applies!

WANTED - GRP OPTIMIST & RIG FOR A LASER 4.7

At least one member is getting ready for the 2005 season - Trevor Blay is looking for a fibreglass Optimist suitable for a beginner (no, not himself!). He is also looking for a Laser 4.7 rig (sail and bottom section) – must be in reasonable condition.

Call Trevor at 831 4273 (home), 453 4031 (work). or e-mail tblav@dwme.ie



Sutton Dinghy Club

March 2005



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

SHAKE OFF THE WINTER BLUES!

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 we have seen snow on the ground in the past few weeks. So come out of hibernation, shake off those winter blues and get ready for the 2005 sailing season – some hardy souls have already been Team Racing!

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 2005, **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 13th to July 1st
July 4th to 22nd
August 2nd to 19th

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.

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!

SAILING – KNOW THE RULES!

Ace Sutton Racer and qualified coach **Stephen Boyle** has volunteered to pass on his knowledge of the Racing Rules of Sailing to his fellow Club members and a simple observation of some participants in our Club racing will confirm the need for his services! With new Rules coming into effect in 2005, this is your opportunity to become more acquainted with the "Rules of the Road" as they apply on the water.

You may have missed Stephen's initial session on 16th February, but he is scheduled to present another session on some of the simple Rules of Sailing in the Clubhouse at 8.00 pm on Wednesday 23rd March.

If you have access to the Internet, there is a website which provides a very useful feature to help you understand the rules: go to www.uksailmakers.com/RulesQuiz/ and you'll get the animated action of the rules. All kinds of situations develop as you watch, accompanied by the applicable rules. 17 situations, some covering multiple rules, are already posted; new quizzes are added regularly.

SUTTON DINGHY CLUB MEMBER AWARDED HONORARY M.B.E.

Well-known GP 14 sailor **Tom Burke**, who has spent the past decade collecting stories of Irish people who fought in the first World War, was awarded an honorary MBE in December by Queen Elizabeth (you know, Camilla Parker-Bowles' future Ma'am-in-Law). Tom founded the Royal Dublin Fusiliers Association in 1995, after a chance encounter with an elderly neighbour in Killester, who told him about his experiences fighting for the British army. Tom described the encounter: "He took out a shoebox with his medals in it and he broke down crying. When someone that age breaks down and then thanks you, because it's the first time in his life he has been asked to talk about these things, it sticks with you. It lit a light."

Tom received the honour for the "significant contribution" the association had made to British-Irish relations. The association (www.greatwar.ie) now has 400 members and runs trips for schoolchildren to the battlefields of France. As well as organising exhibitions and events highlighting the Irish involvement in the war, the association has met republican and loyalist groups in the North to explore aspects of their shared heritage. Tom said the fact that he had "no baggage" meant people were more willing to discuss the issue with him. However, he recalled meeting one Northern loyalist who told him: "You guys have the Famine, leave us the Somme." He believes that that sort of mentality had to be broken down and exposed.

Dinghy Club members know Tom as a GP 14 sailor – his is also an engineer and an avid GAA fan, He says he accepted the award "with the grace in which it had been offered". "I'll wear it with my old hurling medals," he added with a smile. Her Majesty made no comment!

I.D.R.A. 14 CLASS NEWS

Charles Sargent (14/126) has taken over from **Alan Carr** (14/38) as Class Captain of the Sutton IDRA 14 fleet for the coming season, and looks forward to seeing as many of the "Fourteens" on the water as possible.

With all of the boats undergoing winter maintenance, the only news so far this year is of new babies! Charles Sargent became a grandfather again at the end of January, when his daughter **Vanya** gave birth to a beautiful little girl, **Eimear Lily**. Keeping pace, **Noel Dempsey** (14/134) recently increased his stockholding of grandchildren when his daughter **Clodagh** also gave birth to beautiful little girl, who will be called **Ciara**.

Not to be outdone, **Gerry O'Hanlon** and **Aidan Henry** (both associated with 14/28) have been cooing over their very own new baby, called **Coulin** – although she couldn't quite be described as beautiful at the moment. You see, Coulin is a boat – 14/7, built in 1947 and formerly owned by the late intrepid IDRA 14 sailor **Jackie O'Reilly** of Clontarf. Gerry and Aidan intend to lavish tender loving care on Coulin (but won't go as far as breast-feeding!) to restore her to her former glory good luck, boys!

SAILORS' MEETING – 15th MARCH

The Spring "**Sailors' 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 2005.

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, in an effort to improve the enjoyment for all, it is proposed that Sunday sailing will alternate between morning and afternoon start times, to make the most of the high tide times. It is also proposed NOT TO SCHEDULE Wednesday evening sailing for dates when the tide is fully out.

The 2005 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, Laser, Mirror, and Optimist classes.

The actual production of the Club Handbook has been a problem in recent years, being photocopied, cropped and assembled by hand. If you have contacts or are involved in the printing business, you may be able to help – call Hugh at the Club, tel. 839 3135.

FINGAL TEAM RACING CHAMPIONSHIPS

Six Sutton sailors (in alphabetic order: **Ciaran O'Hanlon, Darel Clarke, Davie Carr, Kirsty Clarke, Mairead O'Hanlon, and Sarah Ann Muckley**) have already begun taking their Team Racing seriously this year. They took part in the inaugural Fingal Team Racing Championship hosted by Swords Sailing and Boating Club on Saturday 26th February. The Sutton team took on teams from **Swords, Skerries, Rush, & UCD** sailing in light to moderate winds on the Broadmeadow estuary. The event was held in Firefly dinghies kindly lent by UCD.

The racing started out with a "Round Robin" series of races, and after some close stuff, Rush were the unfortunate team to be eliminated at this stage.

The Sutton team got through to the semi finals, where they were beaten by a very confident and capable looking Skerries team, and Swords beat one of the pre event favourites, UCD, in a much closer affair.

The final was then between local rivals Swords & Skerries scheduled to be the best of five races.

Race one started in a strengthening wind which appeared to suit the host club, but after a very tactical & close race in which a Swords boat capsized, it was deemed that it was caused by an illegal action from a Skerries boat, and a re-sail was ordered.

It was then decided to cut the final to best of three races and, as Skerries were victorious in the next two races, they were deemed to be the champions.

From the Sutton point of view, it was a good start to the year – we need as much Team Racing practice as possible to stand a chance of winning the Book Trophies back from the Royal Cork Yacht Club they have held them long enough!