

# Notice Board



Sutton Dinghy Club

# April 2005



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

## HOWTH PENINSULA - AN ILLUSTRATED TALK

A fascinating talk on the history of the Howth peninsula and its characters- by Michael Hurley, author of "Dark Strangers - A History Of Baldoyle" (we wonder what he calls Sutton people!!!)

*Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> April at 8.00 pm in the Clubhouse*

Long-term residents of the Peninsula are particularly welcome - you may be able to provide Michael with more detail or "local colour"!

*Admission is free to all (not just Club members - and bring your friends). You will, however, be requested to leave a €5 donation for the RNLi.*

## LAUNCHING SUPPER

**Celebrate the formal beginning of the 2005 Sailing Season with food & good company - Saturday evening 7<sup>th</sup> May in the Clubhouse**

*Tickets are available now - only €15 per person, Contact the Clubhouse (tel. 839 3135) or any Committee member*

[www.sdc.ie](http://www.sdc.ie)

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

## POWERBOAT COURSES

**Two courses - each on three Sundays**

**Course 1: 8<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup> & 22<sup>nd</sup> May**

**Course 2: June 12<sup>th</sup> & 19<sup>th</sup>, July 3<sup>rd</sup>**

*There are only 6 places on each course - to book yours, contact Hugh at the Clubhouse (tel. 839 3135)*

## **BACK ON THE WATER - AT LAST!**

You have had the best of excuses this year - time has stood still over the past few weeks. Pope John Paul II reached the end of his reign here on Earth, and the television coverage held your attention until his final breath. Then came the lying in state, and the funeral .... followed by the speculation, the conclave, and the black smoke - and the relief when the white smoke proclaimed the election of Pope Benedict XIV.

And during all that time, while most of our Club members sat in front of the television, their precious boats still lay under the winter cover, awaiting the lick of paint & varnish to get it ready for the 2005 season. Well, wake up and smell the coffee - the 2005 season is already here! The Sailing Calendar has sailing scheduled for all Sundays in April, but there are very few boats taking to the water just yet! Yes, we know - the final Club Calendar is still awaiting printing and distribution, but time is ticking away! Get that toolkit out and make sure your boat is seaworthy before taking it out on the water.

## **ARE YOU A MEMBER? NOT HALF!**

As usual at this time of year, only about 50% of Club members have sent in their membership renewal subscriptions - which means about half of you have forgotten, or your forms are still in the pile of unanswered correspondence somewhere! With space so limited in the Boat Park, it is particularly important that boat owners renew their membership, and send in the Boat Parking Application Form to secure a place to park their boat for the season. Call the Club at 839 3135 for new forms if you need them.

## **SAILING IN MAY - DATES & TIMES**

While you are awaiting your printed copy of the 2005 Club Handbook with the full Sailing Calendar, we wouldn't like you to lose out on enjoying the spring sunshine out on Dublin Bay.

The following is the full May schedule of on-the-water activity - (so you can't say you didn't know!):

<u>DATE</u>	<u>FIRST GUN</u>	<u>ACTIVITY</u>
Sun 1	15.30	Club Racing
Tue 3	19:00	Magic Mirror Night
Wed 4	19.30	Club Racing
Thu 5	18:30	Laser Bumper Night Optimist Fun Night
Sun 8	15.30	Team Racing
Tue 10	19:00	Magic Mirror Night
Thu 12	18:30	Optimist Fun Night
Sun 15	15.30	Club Racing
Tue 17	19:00	Magic Mirror Night
Wed 18	19.30	Club Racing
Thu 19	18:30	Optimist Fun Night
Sun 22	10.30	Club Racing; (** Laser)
Thu 26	19.00	Optimist Fun Night
Sun 29	15.30	Club Racing
Tue 31	19:00	Magic Mirror Night

## MIRROR NEWS - SUTTON CREWS SHINE AT EASTER EASTERNS

60 Mirrors enjoyed excellent racing at the Mirror Eastern Championships held at Malahide Yacht Club on Broadmeadows over the Easter Weekend. Malahide, as always, ran an excellent event both ashore and on the water.

With Easter so early this year, it proved the ideal location for the first regional event of 2005, with sailors rewarded by moderate winds, sunshine, excellent and very close racing, and a huge fleet from all corners of Ireland.

PRO Neil Murphy was able to use the full extent of Broadmeadows waters to set excellent courses, and his "threat" of the black flag got all 5 races away with the minimum of delay, leaving the black flag firmly in the bottom of the bag!

With lots of new faces in the fleet, many crews now helming, and changes at the top end of the fleet, it was all to play for and no one had shown particular form. Also the new GRP boats, with 15 boats at the event, proved equal to their wooden counterparts, making for a very open event.

The Sligo, Skerries, Royal North, Royal Cork and George fleets showed that winter training counts with all these clubs featuring high up in the places on day one.

## G.P. 14 CLASS NEWS – SAILING AWAY ..... AND A MAST MYSTERY

Some of the GP14 sailors have already started racing – not at Sutton, but making guest appearances at Swords Sailing & Boating Club. It hasn't been plain sailing - no wind the first week, and almost too much the 2nd week! The fleet at Swords availed of some specialist GP14 advice from our own GP flyers **Stephen Boyle & Hugh Gill**. Good to see some of our new members showing early enthusiasm!

May is just around the corner and the start of the season proper - so let's see all Sutton GPs on the water & get some good competitive racing. By way of encouragement Hugh & Stephen will be happy to advise, instruct, and even jump into peoples' boats. The first Open Event of the GP season is the **Purcell Trophy** at **Cushendall Sailing Club** on May 28<sup>th</sup>-29<sup>th</sup>. Plan on getting away that weekend and have a real break!

Has anyone seen **Tom Burke's** G.P. 14 mast? We always knew that Tom's boat was secretly a flyer .... but not to such an extent that his mast flew to God knows where from on top of the container over the winter. If you know where it has landed, Tom would be glad to help it on its return flight to Sutton! Any information – pass it to Hugh Gill at the Club (tel. 839 3135).

Mark & Ciara Armstrong of Sligo (from the Silver Fleet) showing early form, leading the pack after 2 races. However the wily older "dogs" began to emerge from the pack with Ross Kearney (crew Adam McCullough) RNIYC, Doire Shiels (crew Graham Daly) SSC, **Gerard O'Sullivan** (crew **Simon Pearson**) SDC/HYC all counting a win after 3 races and with other luminaries hot on their heels in close racing. The same proved true in all 3 fleets with a large number of bronze fleet sailors doing their first regatta.

In the end, after 5 races, Ross & Adam pulled away to win the event, with 3 boats tied for 2<sup>nd</sup> place, and **Gerard & Simon** on 19 points leading the tie break for **2<sup>nd</sup> place** from Doire & Graham in 3rd with Simon McGrotty (crew Melissa Daly) taking 4<sup>th</sup>. The next three boats were within 4 points making everything very close at the top. **Alan Blay** and **Ross Harte** of SDC finished 7<sup>th</sup> overall with 29 points – well done the Sutton sailors!

With the Worlds in Sweden in August, with 35 Irish boats traveling to that event, the season promises to be full on. The next event, at Ballyholme, over the May weekend will give all the opportunity to prove early form or catch up..... who knows?! And we wish good luck for 2005 to our Sutton sailors who are competing at National level.

## NEW PROJECT TEAM MEMBERS

The Club has extended a very warm welcome to four new staff members who have come on board over the last few months-- **Betty Martin, Celine Grace, Killian Garvan** and **Michael Garbutt** (in alphabetical order, not age or beauty!). When you are down at the Club, please introduce yourselves when you meet - they would like to put faces to the names that they see on the various forms that come through their hands! We hope that they will all enjoy working at Sutton, and that they will make many new friends there.

## JUNIOR TRAINING UNCERTAIN

Many members take it for granted that Junior Courses will take place as planned, and don't bother booking places until very near the date. However, the Club cannot work like that – unless we are sure of the numbers for any particular course, we cannot give firm contracts to the instructors. They, naturally, need to know where they are working for the summer – and they will go elsewhere if we don't sign them up.

So – if you intend participating in any of the Sutton courses this year – **BOOK NOW! Courses will NOT run if bookings are not received.**

## USE IT ..... OR LOSE IT!

The problem of boat parking has not gone away, you know – we still have more members' boats than we have spaces for. The Committee has agreed that priority must be given to those who **actively use their boats** – and this will be monitored. Any owner who parks their boat at the Club, and then fails to make reasonable use of it, will be requested to take it home - or it will be put on the beach, leaving space for those who want to use their boat for sailing. You don't have to race – go fun sailing, but get on the water!

Please complete all sections on your Boat Parking Application Form - especially the **sail number** and **insurance details**.

## HOWTH IDEA COULD WORK HERE!

Howth Yacht Club have an excellent idea for an event which could provide a lot of fun for our Junior Members – the **Parents' Annual Dinghy Race!**

Juniors - just think of it! Here's how to get your own back on your parents. You know the way they 'FORCE YOU' to go sailing? Well, if you can convince the Sailing Committee to take up this idea, you could 'FORCE THEM' to go sailing!

Any dinghy may be used - Optimist (!), Laser Pico, Laser, Mirror or 420, so long as a Parent is on the helm.

Entries can be accepted on the night to the Principal Race Officer.

The Howth Race Committee devise a secret handicapping system so that special effort will be rewarded – we're sure that some similar method could be applied here (especially if **Aidan Henry** goes sailing!)

Give it a go, what have they got to lose but their reputation!

## HERE'S LOOKING AT YOU, HUGH

Hugh Gill asked the Editor of KNOTS to put in a request for second-hand mirrors – the first thought was that he wanted to put them up around the Club, to see if he looks as young as ever.

Apparently, this was a mis-reading of the situation – he's actually looking for Mirror dinghies which are no longer needed by their owners, and which are in reasonable condition. The Club can renovate these for use by young sailors, who might not otherwise be able to have a boat. So if you have, or know of, unused Mirrors about the place - please contact Hugh at the Club, tel. 839 3135.

## LAST BUT NOT LEAST – IDRA 14s

The IDRA 14 sailors in SDC will be preparing for two Open Events coming up soon – the **Northern Championships** in Rostrevor on 4<sup>th</sup>/5<sup>th</sup> June, and the **Open Championship** in Clontarf 11<sup>th</sup>/12<sup>th</sup> June.