

Notice Board

SAILORS' MEETING

Wednesday 29th MARCH
8 pm in the Clubhouse

Skippers & Crews both welcome!

Your chance to discuss how we will make the most of the Sailing Calendar in 2006!

AHOY GP14 SAILORS!

Club sailors of GPs are ~~summoned~~ (sorry – invited!) to a Class Meeting in the Clubhouse at 8 pm on Monday 13th March.

The aim is to encourage maximum participation and enjoyment by all during 2006

WANNA BE A PRO?

In sailing terms, the PRO is the Principal Race Officer – the one who manages the race from start to finish.

Our Club needs more people to train as Race Officers – and you don't have to be a champion sailor! The ISA are organising training courses – see inside pages. If you wish to be nominated by SDC, contact Hugh (tel. 839 3135)

NEW TO DINGHY RACING (or forgotten how or why you do it?)

Due to public demand, the Club is planning to hold an "Introduction to Racing" course for new Adult Members & adult Level 2 sailors.

Of course, learning how to get your boat to go in the desired direction was important – now find out how racing is organised; basic rules and signals; scoring and penalties; and lots more!

If you are interested (or know someone who ought to be!), call the Club office on 839 3135 and leave your name and contact details.

THERE'S SAFETY IN NUMBERS

The Club needs to increase the pool of people who man our safety boats – vital to the safe enjoyment of our sport.

If you would like to train as a Safety Boat driver or helper, contact the Club office on 839 3135 and leave your name and contact details. Training and full certification will be provided at cost.

www.sdc.ie

Don't forget your Club website!



Sutton Dinghy Club

March 2006



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 2006 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

The fact that our Boat Park extension is soon going ahead is no reason to delay booking your place for the coming season. The sooner we know **who** needs parking, and **for what boats**, the better we can plan how to use the space. The aim is to make sure active sailors get the most appropriate parking spaces.

If you plan to sail in 2006, **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 12th to 30th
July 10th to 28th
August 8th to 25th

Places are **LIMITED** (see article on centre pages) – so book early! 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!

3-WEEK JUNIOR TRAINING 2006:

FIXED NUMBERS ON COURSES

To best serve Club members, we must use our resources to their fullest, and provide the best quality course possible, at the best price. We have reviewed the 2005 course attendance and members' requirements; as a result, 2006 will see the introduction of **fixed place courses**. In other words, each course will have a set number of places available. This will ensure that the correct ratio of instructors to trainees is maintained throughout all courses; facilitate forecasting of resources; minimise wasted effort, and provide the correct framework for higher quality training.

This year will also see the introduction of performance indicators on new entries to Junior Training, i.e. those coming from our Open Courses. A set number of places will be reserved for people who have participated in Open Courses - these will be actively filled.

Level	Jun	Jul	Aug
Introduction to sailing	0	6	6
Basic Skills	6	12	6
Improving Skills	10	12	20
Introd. to Racing Skills	10	10	12
Advanced Sailing	0	0	12
Total trainee places:	26	40	56
Reserved places:	3	7	10
No. of Instructors:	3	5	6

With the extra space provided by the extension to the hard, we will be in a position to provide boat parking to all our membership throughout the sailing season. This should be done in a controlled and purposeful fashion. The open courses provide a huge pool of members who previously did not maintain full membership, because they could not park their boats. Moderate targets will be set for this year with a view to raising the bar for future years.

The price of junior training is set in-line with Club guidelines and kept to a minimum:

Levels 1, 2, 3 and 4 racing:	€190
Level 4 advanced:	€220

2006 – THE I.D.R.A. 14 CLASS IS 60!

Our sailors know that we have two types of 14-foot dinghies in the Club – the GP 14 and the IDRA 14 (which, being the original and best, prides itself on being the “Senior” Class in Sutton!). This year, the IDRA 14 Class is celebrating 60 years since its creation. A series of events are being organised across the country to celebrate a long and successful history of building a reputation for being a “fun class” which takes its sailing seriously – when it counts!

Sutton Dinghy Club used a raffle for one of the first of these boats to raise funds to build the Clubhouse, so it's fitting to look back on where it all started. It may surprise you that the prototype design of this uniquely Irish Class, which was called “Fuss”, was designed and built in Poole, Dorset, England by the Irish naval architect George O'Brien Kennedy in the winter of 1938/1939. “Fuss” proved to be very successful when raced by the designer in Poole Harbour in 1939.

The Irish Dinghy Racing Association (IDRA) was set up in late 1945 to encourage and control dinghy racing in Ireland. In early 1946 the “Fuss” design was adopted as an Irish National Class by the newly formed Association. The full name given to the Class was the “Irish Dinghy Racing Association 14 foot One Design Dinghy” – the name was such a mouthful that it soon was shortened to “IDRA 14”. Although the Association later became the “Irish Yachting Association” in 1964, and more recently (1992) the “Irish Sailing Association”, the Class retained the name “IDRA 14”.

The Class flourished strongly for many years with large fleets mainly in the Dublin & Cork areas with smaller fleets in other Clubs. With the advent of plywood designs (which proved much easier to build) the active numbers decreased and Fleet racing became confined to the Dublin area. The Class rallied with the introduction of the GRP (fibreglass) versions in the late 1970's and 1980's. Fresh interest has now been shown in restoring the wooden boats and many are now being actively restored or have been acquired for restoration. This will result in extra numbers racing in the years to come.

SAILORS' MEETING – 29th MARCH

The Spring “**Sailors' Meeting**” will be held in the Clubhouse on Wednesday 29th March 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 2006.

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, more sailing times are scheduled to make the most of the high tide times. As was the case last year, it is agreed **NOT TO SCHEDULE** evening sailing for dates when the tide is fully out.

The 2006 Club Handbook has been printed and is being sent to all members with this edition of KNOTS. It provides the full Sailing Calendar for the Club activities throughout the season. In addition, it provides 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 is a necessary but expensive part of the Club operations. If you are in a position to sponsor the printing costs, or take advertising space, you may be able to help next year – call Hugh at the Club, tel. 839 3135.

TRAINING FOR RACE OFFICERS

In preparation for the coming sailing season, the Irish Sailing Association is providing a training programme for Race Officers. Courses have been arranged as follows:

Level 1: Sunday March 26th
Venue: Poolbeg Yacht Club 10.30–16.00

Admission to a Level 1 course will be strictly limited to those who have an ambition to be Race Officers and must be nominated by the Club. (A separate course – Race Team Training – is available on request for those who require training in the other functions of the Race Team e.g. timing, flag procedures, recording).

Level 2: Sunday April 2nd
Venue: National Yacht Club 10.30–16.00

Admission to a Level 2 course is open only to Local or Regional Race Officers.

Soup & sandwiches will be available at both courses.

Those interested should contact Hugh at the Club Office, tel. 839 3135

WHERE ARE YOUR PHOTOS?

A reminder to all you snappers - we want your photos! The Club IS holding a competition for the best photo every month - and we got **NO entries** for January or February 2006! So the Sailing Committee has decided to extend the time limits - you can still send in **ANY photos** you took in 2005 for January and February **AS WELL** as March! You can't say your Club isn't generous!

Each monthly winner will go forward to the 2006 final: the overall winning photo will be on the 2007 Club Handbook!