

Notice Board

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Monday 27th Nov. 8.00 p.m.
in the Clubhouse

See attached notice for Agenda
and 2007 Committee
Nominations

**PLEASE NOTE THE PROPOSAL
TO AMEND THE CLUB
CONSTITUTION IN
RELATION TO FAMILY
MEMBER VOTING RIGHTS.**

www.sdc.ie

Keep up to date with Club news on
the Web – see the latest photos of
the new Boatpark development,
and Mount Temple Transition Year
students enjoying their sailing in
Sutton Picos, and lots more.....

ANNUAL DINNER

8.00 p.m. SATURDAY 25th NOV.
IN THE CLUBHOUSE

A most enjoyable night, a four-course
meal in the company of some honoured
guests.

Tickets only €30 per head – there are still
some available. Why not make up a
table with your friends?

Book by calling the Club (839 3135) or
contact any Committee Member.

Christmas Cheer!

After the AGM, and the Annual Dinner
- there's more! - don't forget:

Christmas drinks / Annual Prizegiving
in the Clubhouse on Sunday 10th
December at 1.00 p.m.

and Santa Claus will arrive by boat
(weather permitting!) for the younger
members – don't miss it!

HAVE YEZ NO HOMES TO GO TO? IT'S CLOSING TIME!

Now that the only scheduled sailing activity is Pico Racing in November, you **MUST remove your boat from the Club** - the Boat Park has to be cleared in preparation for marking out the boat parking spaces for 2007, which we hope to begin shortly.

Apart from anything else, your precious boat will be safer and drier under cover when winter winds are blowing and temperatures drop towards freezing!

If you have already taken yours home Thanks!



Sutton Dinghy Club

November
2006



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

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING - 27TH NOVEMBER 8.00 p.m.

Monday 27th November at 8.00 p.m. in the Clubhouse is where you need to be to contribute to the discussions on the way forward for our Club in 2007. The Annual General Meeting is where **YOU** decide on who will be running things for the next season, and make major decisions about the Club's future.

This AGM coincides with the completion of the Boat Park extension – the most expensive project in the Club's entire history. An enormous amount of work has gone into this project up to now: it's time to get moving on fund-raising, to pay off the debt in the shortest time possible!

This year, the Club Committee is proposing a **revision to the Club Constitution**, to recognize the reality that **not all families are headed up by a married couple**, and to acknowledge the input by **adult children who are covered by Family Membership while they are full-time students.**

Article 25 covers members' voting rights:

*"Each **Ordinary Member**, each **Life Member** and each **Student Member** shall have one vote at General Meetings. Votes must be given personally"*

Article 6 (b) presently defines family membership as follows:

***Family Members** (Husband and wife, each ranking as an ordinary Member, together with their children who are under 18 years of age on 1st January of the current year, or who have satisfied the Committee that they are full-time students under the age of 25 years in the current year)*

The Committee are proposing the **new wording** below for Article 6 (b):

*"Family Members (**Gentleman or Lady and their partner**, each ranking as an Ordinary Member, together with their children, **if any**, who are under 18 years of age on 1st January of the current year, or who have satisfied the Committee that they are full-time students under the age of 25 years in the current year. **Each child between the ages of 18 and 25 who is full-time student shall rank as a Student Member.**")*

*Changes to the Club Constitution require a two-thirds majority vote at the AGM, so please **come along and make sure your vote counts**. Sutton Dinghy Club has always been a family-friendly Club, and this change recognises the changing form of families in the 21st Century, and the number of children who continue in full-time education beyond the age of 18.*

SEAN HANSON – A GREAT LOSS

Longer-serving members of Sutton Dinghy Club will remember the long hot summers when **Catherine, John, Richard** and **Sarah Hanson** were very much part of the youth scene at Sutton Dinghy Club – and their parents **Sean** and **Nan** even more part of the adult social scene! In more recent years, Sean and Nan have continued to be staunch supporters of our Club and its ideals.

Sean's sudden death in October has saddened us all – our sympathies go to Nan, their children and families.

A NEW MAST TO SOUTH AFRICA

Top Irish Mirror helm **Alan Blay** is busy preparing to take on the best of the international Mirror sailors at the World Championships in South Africa next January. Sutton Dinghy Club is very proud of Alan's steady progress up the ladder of success in his Mirror sailing, and wishes him and his crew **Cian Hickey** every success in this endeavour.

Alan was down at the Club on 8th November trying out the **new alloy mast** on his boat, a new feature which may play a part in success or failure for many sailors at the Worlds. The rules of the **International Mirror Class Association** have been amended to permit the use of aluminium spars, changing the Mirror from a gunter to a bermudan rig.

The new mast has been designed with the racing sailor in mind. All halyards are internal and the shrouds and forestay are attached to the mast by T-terminals, keeping the mast simple and 'clutter free'.

A key requirement for the new mast was for the mast tip to give "gust response", in a similar manner to the wooden gaff so as not to overpower the lightweight sailors within the fleet. Manufacturers claim to have been able to "tweak" the taper characteristics to provide excellent gust response maximised to the limits of the class rules.

Let's hope it works for Alan & Cian!

NEW PROJECT TEAM MEMBERS

Two new faces are to be seen around the Club these days - new members of our Project Team staff. **Anthony Kelly** is our new Rescue Boat Driver, and **Roisin Drew** is a Trainee Watersports Instructor. We hope they enjoy working with us - please introduce yourselves to them when you're down at the Club.

TEAM RACING - PASSING THE BOOK!

The annual **Book Trophy** (Junior & Senior) Team Racing event has pitted Sutton Dinghy Club against **Royal Cork Yacht Club** for most years since 1944, This year, it was the Cork team's turn to make the long trek to Sutton and compete on our "turf", In theory, Sutton should have had the advantage - we even sailed the Senior Race in IDRA 14s, boats unfamiliar to our Cork guests.

However, the Southern visitors proved that the better sailor wins on the day - in windy conditions, our Senior team were convincingly beaten in every race. There is no truth to the rumour that **Jim Lambkin** and **Wendy Rudd's** two capsizes were totally responsible for the bad result! Our Juniors fared better in Pico dinghies, achieving a draw before racing was called off as the weather deteriorated.

There are lessons to be learned - about practicing Team Racing in Sutton, if we're to send a winning combination to Cork in 2007!

IDRA 14 NEWS - NEW BOAT FOR 2007

*Next year the IDRA 14 Class will see 14/129 join the Sutton fleet - with brothers **Barry** and **Gordan Kelly** aboard. Good news for the Class - but bad news for helms **Alan Carr** (14/38) and **Charles Sargent** (14/126) - the Kelly brothers were their crews! So Alan and Charles will be looking for new partners - maybe Santa Claus will bring them something in his sack on December 10th!*

GP 14 NEWS

The Sutton GP 14 fleet will see a new boat joining the fleet for 2007 - **Michael Doran** will be at the helm, hoping to get lots of competition on the water from Sutton GP sailors.

Stuart Boyle and his partner **Denise** have been busy training in their new son **Matthew** (*who only arrived in this world last May - a very light-weather crew!*). The GP Class congratulate them on their recent **engagement**, which they announced in time for this edition of "KNOTS" - they probably heard about the proposed Constitution change regarding Family Membership!

MOTHERS ARE PEOPLE TOO

"Why should the kids have all the fun?" - that was the question some of the Club mothers have been asking themselves. **Hugh Gill** provided the answer - in the form of a sailing course which catered exclusively for a group of willing mothers who were prepared to "give it a go" in the fleet of Pico dinghies. By all accounts, it was a great success - although **no photographs (embarrassing or not!)** were made available for inclusion here.

So, mothers of the Club unite - you too can go wherever the wind blows. Now for the land-lubber fathers - what have you got to lose? Except perhaps your dignity, and your kids already know that you haven't got much to lose!

Hugh would like to take this opportunity to remind you that Club sailing courses are fun, and open to everyone. If you want to arrange something for a specific group, call him!

GOODBYE - THE HARDEST WORD?

Scores of children from St. Fintan's National School, as well as many local people and their families, were down at Sutton Dinghy Club on Friday 10th November to see **Fintan** and **Ronan** slip into the sea and swim away, hopefully forever. Who are these two individuals?

Here's a clue - they seem cute and cuddly, but are not ideal housemates: when they're not eating, they spend their time lying on a beach somewhere. No, not Irish teenagers on holiday, these are two baby seals who have been nursed back to health by the Irish Seal Sanctuary, and released back to sea.

The pupils in St. Fintan's National School had set up a competition to name the two, charging for each suggestion: they raised a wonderful total of €600 for the Seal Sanctuary before settling on Fintan (*Patron Saint of Sutton and of their school*) and Ronan (*which means "Seal" in Irish!*).

THANKS FOR BOATS RECEIVED

Several people (some Club members, some not) have very generously donated unwanted Mirror dinghies in varying states of repair to Sutton Dinghy Club. After restoration work by the Club Project Team, these are then sold to new sailors who will enjoy them for years to come.

In thanking those who have already donated boats, the Club (tel. 839 3135) would like to hear from anyone who has a spare boat they no longer want (Optimist, Mirror, 420, whatever!). We can give these boats a future - better than rotting away in your garden!