

Notice Board



Sutton Dinghy Club

March 2007



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

OPTIMISTS NEEDED!

Sutton Dinghy Club need Optimists to teach young children to sail. If you have one that you no longer need, **WOODEN OR FIBREGLASS, ANY CONDITION**, we would be delighted with it!! Call the office on 839 3135 to arrange collection.

SAFETY IN NUMBERS

The Club needs to increase the pool of people who man our safety boats - vital to 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 are provided at cost.

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! If you would like to help run our Club racing, contact Hugh (tel. 839 3135)

NEW TO DINGHY RACING?

The Club is again proposing 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

INSTRUCTOR VACANCIES

Sutton Dinghy Club is currently recruiting Sailing Instructors for the 2007 Summer Season. Phone Hugh Gill on 8393135 for details or E-mail CV to info@sdc.ie

www.sdc.ie

Have you seen the new website? Lots of information there - event calendars, Membership and Boat Parking forms, "Buy & Sell" notices, and links to sailing-related sites.

You can contribute - we need up-to-date photos of people and boats enjoying our Club, afloat and ashore!

CLOCKS HAVE GONE FORWARD!

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 mountains in the past few weeks. So come out of hibernation, shake off those winter blues and get ready for the 2007 sailing season!

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 Boat Park extension is complete, spaces are marked out - so don't delay booking your place for the coming season. The aim is to make sure active sailors get the most appropriate parking spaces, and boats will only be allowed park in designated spaces. There will be NO parking in aisles, even for short periods.

If you plan to sail in 2007, **fill in the forms and get them in now** - or be prepared to keep your boat at home or 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 11th to 29th
July 9th to 27th
July 30th to August 17th**

Places are **LIMITED** - 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! In our Club, membership comes with an obligation of assistance with club activities. 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 administration a lot easier!

3-WEEK JUNIOR TRAINING 2007:

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 2006 course attendance and members' requirements; as a result, 2007 will see the continuation 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:	€200
Level 4 advanced:	€230

I.D.R.A. 14 CLASS JUMP THE GUN!

New IDRA 14 Class Captain **Paul McNally** isn't prepared to wait for Club racing to start – he's already hassling the Sutton IDRA 14 sailors to get their boats ready for launching on Sunday 15th April after a tuning session ashore the previous day. He's determined to keep up the class reputation for being a "fun class" which takes its sailing seriously – when it counts! So he's hoping to get three Sundays' sailing in before the rest of the Club fleets get going, including Team Racing on every second weekend.

G.P. 14 CLASS CROSSING SWORDS!

*Sutton GP 14 sailors are already competing – in the Swords S.C. Spring Series. Class Captain **Hugh Gill** is also determined to help his fleet achieve their full potential – starting with after a tuning session in SDC ashore at 7 pm on Wednesday 2nd May, and an on-the-water coaching session on the following Wednesday evening at 6.30 pm. Interested GP sailors should contact Hugh at the Club!*

*Former Mirror sailor **Gerard O'Sullivan** has joined the Sutton GP fleet, and launched his new boat "**Lap Dancer**" at the Club recently. His former Mirror crew **Ben Saunders** was there to witness the occasion, but not to take part – Ben is recovering from a serious road accident, and is not up to sailing just yet. **The Committee and members wish him all the best as he recovers from his injuries, and look forward to seeing him back afloat.***

COMMODORE DIGS FOR HISTORY

Club Commodore **Aidan Henry** has fond memories of his childhood sailing in Sutton Creek, when the **International Twelve Foot Dinghy** was the boat of choice for all young sailors. In case you don't know already, that was the first class sailed in SDC in 1944, the type of boat which is represented on our Club burgee! Aidan has some photos and information from those early days, but if you have any more photos or information about the Twelve Foot Dinghy Class over the years, he would be delighted to talk to you at the Club. The International Class have a Web site www.patrimoine-leman.ch/dinghy12 - check the Irish section!

2007 STARTS ON 6TH MAY!

To celebrate the completion of the new Boat Park, the Club Sailing Season will start with a special **Club Race event on SUNDAY 6TH MAY** – with special prizes in a party atmosphere. We hope that as many sailors as possible will come down for that event, and keep their boats at the Club to enjoy the waters of Dublin Bay for as much of the season as possible. So with over a month to go, you have plenty of time to get your boat seaworthy!

This year, in the interests of maximum 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 2007 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. This year's edition has been generously sponsored by **Roisin McGloughlin and Orla Blake of Sutton Cross Pharmacy** – maybe you could buy your sea-sickness tablets from them in 2007!*

HELP THE SPECIAL ATHLETES!

Sutton Dinghy Club has been asked to do some fund-raising to assist Irish athletes compete at the upcoming Special Olympics. So during the Special Club Race Event on 6th May, the "bucket" will be passed around for our special athletes – please donate generously, they deserve our help!

INCOMING INCOMING ..TEXT????

The Club has been exploring 21st Century ways of communicating with members, particularly those who are actively taking part in Club racing. Occasionally, when weather conditions are unpleasant, some members have been (incorrectly) assuming that racing will be cancelled, and stay at home. On other occasions, people have turned up on days when the Race Officer has already decided to cancel racing. So we are exploring the possibility of sending multiple text messages to mobile phones from a central point. If we can set up such a system, you will be invited to give the Club your mobile number to join the "alert" group, and get text messages when Club racing is cancelled or postponed. Otherwise, assume "no news is good news" – and get down here!

GOOD LUCK, MICHAEL!

SDC wishes Michael Garbutt of our CE Project Team all the best as he transfers to a CE project in Athy, Co. Kildare – closer to his new home. Commuting from Kildare to Sutton just isn't practical!

HAS ANYBODY A CAMERA?

A reminder to all Club snappers – we want your photos! In 2006, the Club launched a competition for the best photo every month – and we got **VIRTUALLY NO entries at all!** So the Sailing Committee has decided to try and tempt you again this year – you can still send in **ANY photos** you took in 2006 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 2007 final: the overall winning photo will be on the 2008 Club Handbook!