

Notice Board

RESCUE BOAT DRIVING / CREWING

if you are a trained Powerboat driver, or a sailor who would like to be a Rescue Boat Crew, and want to be on a Club Rescue Team in 2013, contact the Club office on 839 3135 and leave your name and contact details. If you would like to learn Rescue Boat driving, we'd like to hear from you as well – training will be provided for anyone prepared to join the Rescue team.

RACE MANAGEMENT NEEDS YOU!

With the desire to improve our Club racing, and more Committee Boat starts, the Club are looking to expand the roster of Race Officers and assistants. We are looking for volunteers to lend a hand in this most important of roles. If this is something you would like to get involved in please contact the Club office, or any Committee Member.

COMMUNITY EMPLOYMENT NEWS

Our Community Employment Project has staff working with Sutton Tidy Towns, St Fintan's Church, and Trackside Tennis Club helping keep our community neat & tidy – and our Club thanks the CE staff who run our office, manage our accounts, clean, maintain and refresh our Club, equipment and boats. Great work has been done on our Club Committee boat 'Saoirse', our rescue boats and on Club GP14s. We welcome new recruit Plamen Prodanov and wish "Good Luck" to Samantha Caffrey who worked with Revd. Jim Carroll in Raheny Parish Office and in our Club Office – Samantha is going travelling in warmer climes!

SDC ON THE WEB

Keep up to date with your Club on www.sdc.ie - news, boats for sale, etc.! And we have our own Facebook page – log on today! We would be delighted to hear from our younger members who have any news, photos, gossip or reports on sailing experiences to be included in our Junior Members section

RECOVERING OUR PAST

Aidan Henry is probably the member who best remembers what Sutton Dinghy Club was like back when he was a boy, and over the decades since then! He's sure many of you have Club memorabilia at home – either on a bookshelf or in the attic! We're hoping to create an archive of the Club history while we still have people who remember – so call the Club at 839 3135 if you have old photos, posters, books, trophies, prizes we can photograph or copy.

SAILORS MEETING POSTPONED

The Spring Sailors' Meeting scheduled for 25th March has been postponed until Monday 22nd April at 8.00pm

IDRA 14 FOR SALE

14/134 "Siabhra Bán" for sale, complete with road trailer and two sets of sails. Contact Noel Dempsey on (01) 847 7109



Sutton Dinghy Club



KNOTS is our Club magazine. We welcome your input & notices - contact the Club office (Tel. 01 839 3135, or e-mail info@sdc.ie)

NEW YEAR RESOLUTION – PAY UP!

2013 Membership Renewal Notices & Boat Parking Application forms are sent out with this edition of "KNOTS"

Club Treasurer **Brendan O'Brien** is a patient man – he doesn't like to hassle people for money, and he does appreciate that in the current financial situation, everybody is cutting back in "unnecessary" expenses. However, we do believe that your Club offers good value for money, especially if you participate fully in the Club sailing calendar! So please don't put off paying your **MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTION** – the Club depends on this income each year to keep it 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.

Club sailing started on Sunday 3rd March, almost a month ago! If you're not out, use the Easter Weekend to get your boat ready – and the more often you sail, the more you get out of the subscription you've paid!

BOAT PARKING APPLICATIONS

Don't delay booking your Boat Park 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.

Fill in these 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!

HELP US TO HELP YOU

Membership forms include many "boxes" to be filled in – please fill them all in! 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.

A special 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! And don't forget – YOUR BOAT MUST BE INSURED before coming to the Club.

Apart from returning your Membership Renewal and Boat Parking forms, we would like all Junior Sailors to decide early which Training Course level they would like to take in 2013, and in which months. As usual, there are three choices of dates:

**June: 10th to 28th
July: 8th to 26th
August: 6th to 23rd**

PLACES ARE LIMITED – forms MUST be returned with your deposit by as soon as possible! Have a look at your schedule for the summer (holidays, 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!

SDC PARTICIPATE IN ISA DEBATE

Five SDC delegates (**Andy Johnston, Charles Sargent, Eimear Shanahan, Padraig Boyle and Stephen Boyle**) attended the **Irish Sailing Association (ISA)** forum to revitalise small boat sailing and youth training, held on 23rd March in the National Yacht Club (NYC) in Dun Laoghaire. Over 120 sailors from across the country heard important contributions from clubs and classes - the first step on a new blueprint to stem falling numbers in Irish sailing.

Although the contributions varied from the reintroduction of junior log books (**which SDC fully supports**) to coaching support for senior dinghy classes, delegates were united in the view that the Irish Sailing Association (ISA) has to change tack if it wants to properly support the clubs and classes it aims to represent.

Roger Bannon, a former president of the ISA, provided an overview of the problems in small boat sailing and how youth training can be made more relevant to clubs and classes by. He told the meeting there are serious problems with Irish small boat sailing and that important changes are needed, some of them quite fundamental, to ensure the future vibrancy of our sport.

In many ways the packed club house was testament to his concerns that Irish small boat sailing is in trouble. The full extent of the problem was starkly put into focus with the publication earlier this week of information which showed an alarming decline in attendance figures at dinghy championships and falling participation in junior training schemes.

Former president **Paddy Maguire**, who chaired the meeting, asked attendees to make four minute contributions and they

- ABOUT DINGHY SAILING FUTURE

did not need much encouragement with strong contributions from champions, instructors, youth sailors, University team racers, senior dinghy sailors, sailmakers, sailing school owners, club commodores and junior organisers. Contributions from delegates (including Andy and Padraig for SDC, and Charles on behalf of the IDRA 14 Class) included observations relevant to SDC such as:

- *Numbers participating in dinghy and small one design boats are steadily declining in both youth and adult classes. There are some exceptions, mainly in older traditional classes but unfortunately, this decline represents a fundamental underlying overall trend.*
- *The retention rate of junior sailors in the sport, after emerging from our training schemes, is alarmingly low, at less than 10%. The expected natural progression of youth sailors into adult classes as they mature is also low.*
- *The general standard of racing and boat handling skills in most adult classes is also considerably below acceptable levels and certainly much lower than in prior decades.*
- *The justified emphasis placed on elite sailing has been implemented at the expense of improving standards generally and supporting international participation in non-pathway approved classes to improve skill levels.*
- *It is expensive to obtain qualifications to become an Instructor, and this disincentivises many who might be excellent candidates.*

Those attending submitted written suggestions as to how these issues can be addressed - the meeting ended with a commitment from the ISA to publish its report and action plan.

ALL-ROUND OPTIMIST SAILORS!

It has been a busy winter sailing for some of us Oppy sailors. I qualified for the Optimist Trials, which gave me the opportunity to take up a place for a second year on the OPG team. This is made up of sailors from a number of clubs in Dublin Bay. The sailors mainly come from **Howth**, the **National** and the **Royal St. George Yacht Clubs**, and I am the only Sutton Dinghy Club sailor. It has been a very cold and windy spell but we got a lot of experience of all weathers on the water. We had two coaches from the UK - these guys focused a lot on fitness training, on and off the water. This is to prepare us for the Optimist National Trials for teams. So I hope more SDC sailors will push themselves a little harder and make trails to open the doors of opportunity, to expand your sailing experiences, and to meet new friends along the way!

This year to kick off the season in February we had a squad of four SDC sailors: **Isabel, Rory, Dylan** and myself attended the International Optimist Dinghy Association in Ireland (IODAI) spring training week in Baltimore. This year SDC Junior Affairs Officer **Mandy Kelly** organised the event on behalf of IODAI, and proudly represented Sutton.

-----<>----- THE INTERNATIONAL "TWELVE"

*The Sutton Dinghy Club burgee features an **International 12 foot Dinghy**, designed by **George Cockshott**, an amateur boat designer from Southport 100 years ago. This boat became the first one-design racing dinghy to gain international recognition. It appeared on Irish waters in the Royal Munster Yacht Club in 1923, and it was introduced to Dublin Bay at Seapoint Boat Club in 1925. In 1931, the **Keating family** started sailing their "Twelve" in Sutton Creek, leading to the formation of SDC in 1940.*

- A REPORT BY DARRAGH KELLY

The squad had a great week on and off the water experiencing coaching from ten different international coaches and some top Irish coaches like **Ger Owens** and **Diana Kissane**. They taught us a lot of new skills and helped us improve old ones. The days were long with training in the morning and racing in the afternoon, with some challenges, but the hot chocolate was amazing after a long day on the water! Then we headed to the shore-based activities laid on for the evenings, like the swimming pool, discos and pizza nights. The conditions on the water were really good most days for gaining a variety of skills, however on the Wednesday it was gusting 35 knots and we got 3 races in the afternoon. Overall we think it's a great week for Optimists sailors to attend as you gain a lot of new skills, and confidence to push yourself out to race on the circuit in events; and you meet people who will be your friends for life.

The SDC squad are training in Sutton this Easter break with one of the top Irish optimist coaches, **Ger Owens**. So watch out - we plan to win a lot of prizes at home and at away events this season!

-----<>----- - CELEBRATING 100 YEARS

*Although virtually forgotten in the Ireland and the UK, the class still enjoys an enthusiastic and sizeable following in the Netherlands, Italy and Japan, and is regaining popularity elsewhere. Special events are planned for this centenary year, including a June 28-30 return to **West Kirby Sailing Club**, where the first-ever race for 12' Dinghies was sailed in October 1913. Sutton veteran sailors **Aidan Henry** and **Billy Bebbington** will be there, flying our burgee and sailing "**Dorado**", built 1932.*