

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 2014, 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.

SDC ON THE WEB

Keep up to date with your Club on www.sdc.ie - news, boats for sale, etc.! And don't forget our Facebook page – check it today! We're always 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.

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. We thank our CE staff who run our office, manage our accounts, clean, maintain and refresh our Club, equipment, Committee boat 'Saoirse', our rescue boats and Club boats. We welcome new recruits Karl Chandler and Colm McGrath who are working with Sutton Tidy Towns, and recently said goodbye to Derek Knott who has been with us for the past three years. Remember – all of our CE staff are looking for long-term employment opportunities, so keep them in mind!

RECOVERING OUR PAST

In this 75th season, Commodore Andy Johnston is determined to document the passage of the years, identifying the sailors and boats of years past. Many of you have Club memorabilia at home – either on a bookshelf or in the attic! We're working 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 – all will be returned to you

NICK SPALDING R.I.P.

In February Sutton Dinghy Club mourned the passing of Nick Spalding, one of our longest serving members. In 2013 Nick celebrated over 40 years continuous service to the Club, still fulfilling his results-keeping role right up to last November with the SDC Frostbite series.



Spring
2014



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

75 YEARS OF SAILING IN SUTTON!

If you had sailed in our Club first season in 1940, 2014 would be your 75th.... but not even Aidan Henry has been around that long! However, we will be celebrating the continuing success of SDC throughout the year – we intend to enhance our annual “Cruise-in and Barbecue” by combining it with a one-design Keelboat Regatta to introduce a competitive aspect into an outstanding social event. We are in discussions with Royal Cork Yacht Club with a view to reactivating the annual inter-club “Book Trophy” competition – inviting Cork teams to Sutton to mark our 75th year sailing. The highlight of our celebrations will be the “75th Dinner” on a date yet to be confirmed.

So much for what's to come – we've already started the season on 23rd March with the “March Madness” series. 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 annual subscription!

Speaking of annual subs – the 2014 Membership Renewal Notices & Boat Parking Application forms are sent out with this edition of “KNOTS”.

Sutton Dinghy Club offers good value for money, especially if you participate fully in the Club sailing calendar! So please don't put off paying – the Club depends on this income each year to keep it afloat! And send in your **Boat Parking forms NOW** - or be prepared to keep your boat at home or on the beach! Remember, we also need your boat details to record your racing results during the year – Race Officers note the finishing 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 2014, and in which months. As usual, there are three choices of dates:

**June 9th – June 27th
June 30th – July 18th
July 28th – August 15th**

PLACES ARE LIMITED – forms MUST be returned with your deposit by 25th April! 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!

SCHOOL TEAM RACING CHAMPIONSHIP

You know the sailing season is almost upon us when the **Leinster Schools Team Racing Championship** is underway. Nine teams from across Leinster battled it out over the weekend of 22nd March in Dun Laoghaire Harbour for the title of Leinster Schools Champions. The **Royal St George Yacht Club** hosted the event and the School teams were quick to grips with the club's Fireflies. The event had to be postponed the weekend before with Southerly gales preventing any sailing which was especially unfortunate as 5 of the original 14 team entry could not make the rescheduled event.

Sutton Dinghy Club had 6 junior sailors taking part: **Tim Coyne** and **David Johnston** were on the **Belvedere College** team. With **Santa Sabina** taking part for the first time, **Ellen Harkin**, **Tess Coyne** and **Saoirse Kelly** were experiencing team racing for the first time.

The Skippers' briefing was held about 10am by **John Sheehy (RStGYC)** and **Gordon Davies (ISAF Umpire and Secretary of the Irish Team Racing Association)** - quite a lot of information and serious logistics go into running a team racing event like this!

A steady 12-knot Easterly wind allowed racing to start at 10:45, which was a relief to all given the 40-odd knot gust the previous Saturday! Racing continued non-stop throughout the day with OOD Graham Elmes completing the 36-race round robin shortly after lunch.

With time running out, a final and a petit final were sailed. As the winds dropped the sailors needed all their skills to get the boats around the course with the ever watchful Umpire Team ready to rule on any Rule 42 violations.

Despite their best efforts, the Sutton sailors and their school team mates were unable to overcome the opposition. **Gonzaga** won both races in the best of three final, forcing the **Mount Anville** team to settle for second place. **Blackrock** won their petit final against **Rathdown** - these top 4 teams qualify for the All-Ireland Schools Team Racing finals in Schull on the weekend of May 3rd.

CLEARING THE DECK FOR DINGHIES

Saturday 29th March was an early start at SDC – with the team of Club volunteers on hand to help re-launch the cruisers which have been parked on our “Hard” for annual maintenance over the winter. And what a winter it has been for the hardy cruiser owners, with the succession of severe storms which lashed the country week after week – it's hard to strip, sand and re-paint hulls when you have huge waves breaking across the boat park, and storm-force winds driving rain into every nook and cranny! Unfortunately, time doesn't stop because the weather is bad – so work had to be complete in time for the arrival of the huge **Kavanagh Crane Hire** machine to coincide with March high tides.

Despite the forecast, Saturday 29th March proved to be very suitable for the task in hand, with light wind and calm seas – even the early rain cleared in time. With former Commodore **Dick Dunne** nominated to be the communications link with the crane driver, the SDC team and boat owners set about the task of getting all cruisers safely afloat before the tide went out again. The sequence was repeated for each boat in turn: heavy straps were positioned under the hull; lifting chains were secured in place; the boat was hoisted clear of the cradle so the final touch-up of anti-fouling paint was applied; then it was up and over the fence into the water where the safety boat crews were ready to assist in detaching the straps. One by one, the departing cruisers set off into the sea mist under their own power, back to their own Clubs for the 2014 season then the volunteers retired to the Clubhouse for well-deserved breakfast rolls with mugs of tea and coffee, all prepared by **Dave White** and his kitchen helpers.

Thanks to all who turned up to help – the “Hard” is now clear for you dinghy sailors to bring your boat down for racing you have got it ready by now, haven't you?

Thinking ahead – next Autumn when dinghy sailing is winding down, we'll be again offering space for cruiser storage and maintenance. Spread the word among your big-boat friends, they can pre-book by calling the SDC office at 839 3135.

THE CRACK IS MIGHTY AT SDC – BUT WE'LL BE PUTTING IT RIGHT!

As you walk down the Club driveway beside the car park, have you noticed the vertical crack in the block wall on your left? Unfortunately, the levels of rainfall over the past years (Global Warming?) have increased the ground pressure behind the wall, to the extent that the blockwork joints are failing. The Committee has taken the decision to carry out repair works sooner rather than later – we certainly don't want anyone to be hurt if the wall eventually collapsed!

The work will involve contractors removing sections of the old blockwork, laying stronger foundations, and rebuilding the block walls with additional steel reinforcement and better drainage than before. The work will proceed in stages, without blocking access to the boat park or the beach, and all going well will be completed before the busy summer season.

ANOTHER FACE OF SDC

Are you on Facebook? If so, have you “liked” the Sutton Dinghy Club Facebook page yet? We've always tried our best to communicate with all of our members, and for years relied on this old-fashioned “KNOTS” newsletter. Moving with the times, we first set up our website www.sdc.ie, now we're on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/SuttonDinghyClub>.

The best thing about this is that whenever we post some news on it, all of our Facebook “friends” are automatically notified about it – and can add in their own comments, creating a two-way conversation. On Saturday 29th March, after the cruiser lift, Commodore **Andy Johnston** posted his photos of the event on Facebook. This prompted **Ian Walsh**, a former SDC sailor who lives overseas, to respond with the comment “*sixty years ago, I had my first season here, where did the time go?*”. This is real communication – not only with our current members on our mailing list, but also with former members, friends and supporters who are interested in our Club – and best of all, it's free! So log into Facebook and “like” us today – Ian Walsh couldn't have done this sixty years ago!

2014 - ASGARD CENTENNIAL SAIL-IN

On Sunday July 26th 1914 the sailing yacht **Asgard**, owned and skippered by **Erskine Childers**, sailed into Howth harbour and landed guns which had been collected from a German tug off the coast of Belgium for the Irish Volunteers. This was a pivotal event in Irish history.

The restored Asgard is now on display in the National Museum at Collins Barracks, Dublin. In preparation for the 2014 Centenary of the gun-running, **Pat Murphy** and a group of enthusiastic volunteers worked for months on rigging Asgard - the final part of their project is building a replica of the boat's dinghy, whose basic plans were discovered by John Kearon in the Colin Archer archives in the Norwegian Maritime Museum in Oslo.

Pat is currently giving talks on the history of the Asgard, from its launch in 1905 to its present conserved exhibition. On the Centennial this July it is intended to have a commemorative sail-in to Howth on Sunday 27th July, led by a yacht of the period. All are welcome to join in the celebrations - so if you're not participating in the SDC 75th Season Regatta, get over to Howth for the spectacle!

The plan in outline is:

1.30 to 2.30 - Assembly of flotilla of period boats and modern yachts outside the Harbour, with commentary and music on the pier.

2.30 to 3.30 - The Landing.

3.30 to 5.00 - Presentation of Asgard Dinghy to the National Museum of Ireland. Music and Picnicing.

This non-political event is being organised by the voluntary group, with the support of the Director of the National Museum.

It will be a family and community event with local drama and tourist groups, sailors, fishermen, businesses and musicians participating in the re-enactment and celebration - there will be no speeches, other than from the commentator who will explain the various aspects of the event.