

AGM 2023

Minutes of the 84th Annual General Meeting held at SuttonDinghy Club on Monday 4th December 2023.

Commodore Ciara O'Tiarnaigh took the chair.

In Attendance

there were 23 people attending and the list is attached.

1. Apologies

Apologies were noted for the following people,

Michelle Rowley, Andy Johnston, Katie Dwyer, Hugh Gill, Melenie Knief, Mark Masterson, David Mulhall, FionnMulhall, Aodhan Mulhall, Ruan O'Tiarnaigh and Charlotte O'Tiarnaigh.

2. Minutes of the Annual General meeting of 2022

The Minutes of the 2022 AGM had earlier been circulated and the meeting did not require that they be read out.

No further comments or amendments were raised. The Minutes were Proposed for adoption by Charles Sargent and Seconded by Gordan Kelly, and were unanimously adopted by the meeting.

3. Matters Arising

No matters were noted as arising.

4. Commodores Address

The Commodore, Ciara O'Tiarnaigh, addressed the meeting and a copy of her address is set out below.

Ciara firstly welcoming everyone to the meeting and acknowledged the members who had passed during the year.

Ciara commented on the highlights during the season singling out some of the achievements close to her heart:

- The amalgamation of the Sutton and Howth Community Employment Schemes and welcome to Peter Bolger as CE Supervisor.
- The re-introduction of the Launching Supper.
- Attending the Irish Sailing Awards on behalf of the Club where Sutton Dinghy Club has won the East Coast region award.
- Awarding Honorary Life Membership to Billy Bebbington as volunteer extraordinaire.
- Club racing being well attended and a new Committee boat acquired.
- The Howth Lions Club for their grant support towards the purchase of a new accessibility boat and Charles Sargent for collecting it from the UK.
- Sincere thanks to Hugh Gill who had retired as CE Supervisor at the end of August but is continuing in a new role as Club Manager.
- The GP 14 Nationals: thanks and appreciation to all for making it a super event.
- The return of the Interschools in October: which after a Covid enforced break was hugely important to Nolan and O'Tiarnaigh families.
- Thanks and appreciation to Eimear Shanahan for all her excellent work for the Club both as Sailing Secretary and Committee member.
- Attendance at Book Trophy in Cork with plan now to hold 80th Anniversary event in Sutton in 2024.
- Annual Dinner; a great success as and thanks to all for organising caterers, CE Staff and youngsters serving.

As she is finishing her two year term as Commodore, Ciara especially thanked all the Committee members by name both those continuing and standing down.

The Commodore's report was proposed for acceptance by Hugh Gill and seconded by Mandy Kelly, who expressed thanks and appreciation to Ciara on behalf of the meeting.

The Commodore's Address was adopted by the meeting.

5. Sailing Report

Conor Clarke introduced his report by firstly acknowledging with thanks and appreciation the work of Eimear Shanahan as Sailing Secretary and Andy Johnston as webmaster.

Conor then presented a very comprehensive Sailing Report on the years' activities, summarising club sailing, junior training, events run, regional/national events attended, individual sailor achievements and Class Reports. He commented on the initiatives that had worked well during the year, such as the Google Calendar, Buddy Sailing, Sponsored Sail (raising €1,400 for homeless charities) and Gold/ Silver fleetscategories. Conor outlined his ambition to expand on these successes next season. He added thanks to all the volunteers, instructors, safety crews and others critical to the years' activities, mentioning in particular the work of Jane Hunter, Senior Instructor.

A full copy of this is set out below.

Mandy Kelly expressed thanks to all the Volunteers for their assistance and enthusiastic support in helping run various sailing activities during the year, particularly singling out catering and shore support personnel.

Niall Ring spoke enthusiastically of the success from the initiative of assisting younger sailors to start racing with the pre race briefing and on the water coaching being particularly helpful where the experience gained by these young sailors is a great benefit in developing their social and independence skills. With plans to expand on this Conor Clarke added that he was already working on plans to use the new Committee Boat more often for racing next season.

The report was proposed for acceptance by Ciara O'Tiarnaigh and seconded by Carol Blay.

The Sailing Report was adopted by the meeting.

6. Financial report

Brendan O'Brien presented the Annual Accounts for 2023 highlighting the main points in Income and Expenditure for the year:

- The main income lines of Subscriptions, Boat Parking, Sailing Events & Functions, Adult & Junior Training are all showing good positive increases on the 2022 figures.
- Summer Sea Sessions activities too display a consistently strong figure and overhead Contribution to the Club's running costs.
- Other Income shows a bit lower reflecting the reduced level of Grant drawdown post completion of the Club development in previous financial year.
- Running costs expenditures are broadly consistent with previous years.
- With the Club's good cash position we had taken the opportunity after the year end to place €40k as a reserve into the Club's Deposit account.
- Confirmed too that a new Sports Capital Grant Application had recently been made for significant funding towards slipway works and the purchase of a replacement RIB and Engine. The outcome from this round of Grant applications is expected later in the new year.

The report was proposed for adoption by Trevor Blay and seconded by Ciara O'Tiarnaigh.

The Finance Report was adopted by the meeting.

7. Election of Club Officers

Those nominations for Club Officers which had been received subject to the conditions of submission as set out in our constitution and which had been circulated with the notice of meeting (copy attached) were read out by the Hon Secretary as follows:

<u>Office for 2024</u>	<u>Nominee</u>	<u>Proposer</u>	<u>Secunder</u>
Commodore.....	Gordan Kelly	Ciara O'Tiarnaigh	Jim Lambkin
Vice-Commodore.....	Brendan O'Brien	Gordan Kelly	Ciara O'Tiarnaigh
Hon. Secretary.....	Jim Lambkin	Gordan Kelly	Ciara O'Tiarnaigh
Hon. Treasurer.....	Charles Sargent	Gordan Kelly	Jim Lambkin
Sailing Secretary.....	Conor Clarke	Gordan Kelly	Mandy Kelly
Membership Secretary.....	Carol Blay	Gordan Kelly	Jim Lambkin
Junior Affairs Officer.....	Mandy Kelly	Mandy Kelly	Sinead Harte

There being no other nominations these nominees were deemed to be elected.

8. Election of Committee Members

Those nominations for Committee Members which had been received subject to the conditions of submission as set out in our constitution and which had been circulated with the notice of meeting (copy attached) were read out as follows:

Committee Member.....	Ciara O’Tiarnaigh	Gordan Kelly	Jim Lambkin
Committee Member.....	Kirk Durnford	Gordan Kelly	Mandy Kelly
Committee Member.....	Michelle Rowley	Gordan Kelly	Mandy Kelly
Committee Member.....	Sinead Harte	Mandy Kelly	Gordan Kelly
Committee Member.....	Alex Hynes	Mandy Kelly	Gordan Kelly
Committee Member.....	Peter Knief	Gordan Kelly	Mandy Kelly

There being no other nominations these nominees were deemed to be elected.

Incoming Commodore, Gordan Kelly thanked everyone for their support in forming a Committee for the coming year and added that he is looking forward to the working with everyone . Gordan also acknowledged the contribution of Stephen Boyle who is standing down from Committee after many years service including two years as Commodore.

9. Election of Honorary Auditors

It was proposed to retain the Company of Garland Mc Donald & Co Ltd. as Honorary Auditors. This was proposed by Brendan O'Brien and seconded by Jim Lambkin.

It was put to the meeting and adopted unanimously.

10. Subscriptions

The Hon treasurer proposed to leave the membership subscription rates for 2024 unchanged from 2023, namely Ordinary €205, Family €305 and Youth €100.

This was seconded by the incoming Hon Treasurer Charles Sargent.

It was put to the meeting and adopted unanimously passed.

11. Any Other Business

Billy Bebbington raised a point on abandoned dinghies in the boatyard being left neglected and open to the weather by their owners. The issue was noted for an appropriate action in the new year.

There being no other business the meeting concluded at 21.14.

Notes: The General Committee met on 11 occasions in 2022 with a number of other meetings by Sailing Committee and other sub groups for various organisation aspects.

Jim Lambkin

Hon Secretary

12th December 2023

Attendance:

Jim Lambkin

Brendan O'Brien

Ciara O'Tiarnaigh (Commodore)

Mandy Kelly

Saoirse Kelly

Alex Hynes

Gordan Kelly

Sinead Harte

Niall Ring

Ciara Harnett

Andrew Judge

Kirk Durnford

Darragh Clarke

Conor Clarke

Charles Sargent

Harry Gallagher

Aidan Henry

Billy Bebbington

Carol Blay

Richard Dunne

Trevor Blay

Peter Knief

Muriel O'Tiarnaigh

Commodore Report to AGM

Good evening fellow members. As Commodore, on my own behalf and on behalf of the Committee, I would like to welcome you and thank you for attending Sutton Dinghy Clubs Annual General Meeting for 2023. Your attendance is very much appreciated, particularly on such a raw evening. I would like to begin by taking a moment to remember and to acknowledge the passing of members, friends and family members of the Club. Former Commodore Padraig O Cearrhaill Sean Giles Joan Quinn Margery Kellett Brenda Barry-Duke Brian McCormack, father of former Commodore Ian McCormack Attractant O'Regan Madeline O'Shea and Brennie Connor. May their gentle souls Rest in Peace, and I extend our sincere condolences to their families. In March, the Sutton and Howth Community Employment Schemes amalgamated, having the combined Scheme based here in Sutton Dinghy Club. That brought Community Employment Scheme Supervisor Peter Bolger to us. As Hugh Gill was retiring from the CE Scheme in August, Peter was going to be his replacement. And so, they worked in tandem so that Peter could learn the ropes, so to speak. Peter is a super asset to the club and we are delighted to have him on board. The Sailing season of 2023 got underway with a social occasion, The Launching Supper was reintroduced after an absence of some years, on Saturday 25th of March. We had a great turn out and enjoyed a great evening of food and chat catching up with sailing friends after the winter break. Earlier on that day, myself and the four previous Commodores of SDC, Ian McCormack, Stephen Boyle, Jim Lambkin and Andy Johnston, travelled over to The Royal Marine Hotel in Dun Laoighre, to attend the Irish Sailing Association's Annual Award Ceremony, where we were presented with the Irish Sailing Club of the Year Award: East Regional

Winner, given in recognition of the outstanding achievements of our club in 2022. We were so proud to receive this award on your behalf...what a great club we have! That evening I also had the privilege of conferring Honorary Life Membership of Sutton Dinghy Club on our one and only Billy Bebbington in recognition of his amazing , and on going, contribution to our club, which we thank him for most sincerely. We had a full schedule of Club Racing and Club Championship Racing throughout the season, and, while a lot of our racing was blown out, the racing that took place was well attended and competitive. Conor Clarke our Sailing Secretary will give a full report on racing shortly. After having had our Committee boat The Saoirse break her mooring and be irretrievably damaged on the rocks at Westpoint last September, we were delighted to purchase her replacement The Snapper in June. She is a fine vessel and is a great replacement for Saoirse. Our Junior Affairs Officer Mandy Kelly, along with her team of helpers ran a series of Buddy sailing evenings and also brought a group from the CRC out for sailing at the club. Thank you SO much Mandy for all that you do. One of the core values of Sutton Dinghy Club has always been inclusivity. That is, that anyone who would like to sail would be afforded the opportunity to do so. As mentioned at last years AGM, Mandy Kelly and Charles Sargent secured 50% funding from the Howth/Sutton Lyons Club towards the purchase of our own, brand new Hansa 33 Accessible Dinghy, which Charles very kindly collected from the UK on our behalf, and brought her home. Thank you indeed Charles for all your time and effort. We officially launched the Hansa 33 in June, and Gerry Langford, Eamon Mckiernan and members of the Howth/Sutton Lyons Club attended the official launch. On your behalf, I would once again like to thank the Howth/Sutton Lyons Club for their generosity. The summer sea sessions...summer sailing courses...were a sell out again this year. The tension was palpable as parents sat poised over their devices to book their child's chosen course. Once again, as a consequence of Hugh's

organisation, the club was ALIVE with sailors throughout the summer months. A most sincere thanks to you, Hugh, for another summer well done. Friday the 24th August saw Hugh retire from his job in the CE Scheme, however, thankfully, he is staying on, in a new roll here as Sutton Dinghy Club Manager. We are delighted to have him. Sutton Dinghy Club hosted The GP14 National Championship's of Ireland from 1st to 3rd of September. It was a super event both on and off the water....we did ourselves proud once again. Thank you to PRO Jim Lambkin and his team on the Committee boat, and all the on shore support between collating results, hearing protests and providing sustenance to all. Thank you all. Unfortunately our Regatta was cancelled due to bad weather, so roll on next year. October 14th and 15th saw the Annual All Ireland Interschools Regatta return to the water after a 4 Year hiatus...2019 was cancelled due to bad weather and then COVID put paid to 2020,2021 and 2022. It was great to see the school teams competing against one another, and I was delighted to welcome Patsy Nolan and her daughter Clodaght to the club on Sunday afternoon, to present The Conor Nolan Memorial Trophy to the winning team. The last sailing event was on Saturday 11th November, when a team From SDC along with Andy Johnston, Jim Lambkin and myself travelled to Royal Cork Yacht Club to compete for the coveted Book Trophy, or as the Corkonians call it the Sutton Book, as it was at our invitation, that the First Book Trophy was raced for in Sutton Creek on 10th June 1944... just 3 days after D Day!! Unfortunately, we didn't manage to retain the book this year, leaving it in RCYC for the year, but hopefully we will win it back next year when we will host for the 80th year event. We held our formal competition Annual Dinner 2023 on Saturday 18th November here in the Club. We had a full house, and Chef Dan Finucane assisted by 2 other chefs provided beautiful food. Thank you to Grace, Lien and Olivia for serving, and to Tom Maples for running the bar. We were joined by guests from Howth Yacht Club, Malahide Yacht Club, Clontarf Yacht and

Boat Club and Suttonians Rugby Club. A super night was had by all with the chat carrying on into the wee small hours in the wonderful setting of our Club room. Finally, I would like to thank again, most sincerely my Committee, who gave me enormous support throughout my tenure as Commodore. Thank you to Gordan Kelly, Jim Lambkin, Brendan O'Brien, Eimear Shanahan, Mandy Kelly, Carol Blay, Conor Clarke, Charles Sargent, Kirk Durnford, Stephen Boyle, Michelle Rowley, Sinead Harte and Hugh Gill. I very much appreciate each and every one of you, and I look forward to continuing to work with you all on Committee. Thank you Ciara O'Tiarnaigh Commodore Sutton Dinghy Club

Sailing Committee AGM Report 2023

Report compiled by Conor Clarke, Class Captains and Club Officials

Firstly on behalf of the committee I would like to thank Eimear Shanahan for her work in the role as Sailing Secretary in 2022. Her enthusiasm and dedication throughout the year were greatly appreciated by all.

We wish to sincerely thank all our club volunteers including the rescue boat drivers and crews, the race officers, results officials, BBQ experts, slip masters, shop keepers, etc. Without the dedication and hard work of this small team throughout the year the club could not function.

The committee wishes to offer particular thanks to Andy Johnston who among many other duties runs the club's social media updates on the Website and Facebook pages, looks after the club's accounting software and manages the club trophies.

We would like to invite more members to come forward and get involved in any suitable roles. We always need additional Rescue Boat drivers/crew and members to get involved in Event planning/Catering/Race results/Launch & Retrieval, etc. If you are interested in being more involved, please email the club or approach any of the committee members. We need you!

Club Racing 2023

The 2023 sailing season in SDC kicked off with an Easter Egg race held on Sunday 23rd April. This was nearly a fortnight after it was originally planned but unfortunately due to heavy winds it had to be postponed on two occasions.

In all there were 40 club races sailed between April and September. The Optimist fleet is absolutely thriving with 16 boats taking part throughout the year. In the end the winners of the Series were: 1) Robbie Clarke, 2) Wills

Harnett and 3) David Judge. In the PY Fleet there were 18 boats that took part throughout the season. The largest class was the Toppers (8) followed by Lasers/ILCA (4), IDRA 14s (3), GP14s (2) and an RS Feva. After some very competitive racing throughout the long season the winner was : 1) Aoife Clarke (Topper) followed by 2) Alan Carr (IDRA 14) and 3) Blathnaid Harnett (Laser 4.7).

The Championship Series ran on pre-designated races throughout the season. In total there were 10 races sailed. In the Optimists the winners were 1) David Judge, 2) Wills Harnett and 3) Joseph Lydon. In the PY Fleet the winners were 1) Aoife Clarke (Topper), 2) Blathnaid Harnett (Laser 4.7) and 3) Anna Brereton (Laser 4.7).

In order to try and encourage more sailors to participate in club races a mini-series was held in the months of July, August and September. Before each race the PRO held a briefing to explain the starting sequence procedure, the course and some basic racing tactics. The results for each month's mini-series were published after every days racing, so competitors could see exactly where they stood. This proved to be very popular with a significant increase in boats participating as the season progressed. It was particularly successful in encouraging younger sailors who had never participated in a race to take part and enjoy the fun. This is something the Sailing Committee intends to build on in 2024. It is the very essence of what makes a great club where we have junior sailors not just thinking that sailing is about the fantastic three week summer courses, but also actively participating in club races throughout the year to improve their helming and racing skills as well as making new friends.

The Frostbite Series started on the 1st October and ran until the 5th November. There were 10 races sailed in all, with 9 Optimists and another 10 boats competing in the PY Fleet. In the Optimists the Winners were: 1) Willis Harnett, 2) David Judge and 3) Daniel Clarke. In the PY Fleet the winners were 1) Chloe Bray, 2) Piers Hallwood and 3) Blathnaid Harnett. It was great to see new competitors taking part and winning prizes in this end of season series.

Junior Courses

Junior Training on club member courses again proved to be very successful this year. The team of Instructors and Assistants was led by our own Jane Hunter, a 2nd year Senior instructor who will shortly be embarking on her own training as a commercial pilot. We wish her well!

Our instructor team was a healthy mix of our own home-grown instructors and others from clubs across the country. Our juniors, as was witnessed at our end-of-course certificate awarding ceremonies, enjoyed the camaraderie, the craic, the sailing and have developed life-long friendships. Many of them are on the path to becoming instructors and in so doing, are developing life enhancing skills which will stand to them no matter where they are in the world.

The following are the list of participant numbers at the various levels this past summer:

- Start Sailing – 14
- Basic Skills -17
- Improving Skills – 26

- Kites & Wires – 15
- Level 4 Combo (which includes Racing & Advanced Boat Handling) – 25
- Adventure – 7

As always, our training courses are only an introduction to, and development of, sailing skills at each level. However, proficiency and skill enhancement is only attained by practice and competition. So participation at club racing and open events at other clubs is a strong recommendation for club members who wish to become competent sailors and/or instructors.

On behalf of the Sailing Committee I would like to congratulate Hugh for again organising the wonderful Summer Sailing courses in 2023.

Rescue Team:

As with most years, we struggled to get enough volunteers to join the Rescue Rota for Club racing and Events. We would like to thank the people who did volunteer for the rescue teams last year and hope we can rely on your support for the coming year.

A particular incident of note occurred at Red Rock on the evening of 11th June during Club Racing. One of our Ribs being crewed by Oisín Kelly and Alex Hynes assisted Dublin Fire Brigade in the rescue of a Dog that had fallen from the cliffs at Red Rock. Subsequently they were both presented with a medal of bravery from Dublin Fire Brigade, which is a fantastic honour in recognition of their efforts.

Unfortunately, we did have a number of issues with RIBs this season as is common with a working fleet of rescue boats. We believe it is time to begin to replace the older RIBs and maintain a rota for replacements going forward. We are happy to confirm that we have replaced all the trailers on the big RIBS and will endeavour to ensure that all winches are properly maintained. We replaced the tractor with a jeep that proved to be very useful for launch and recovery. Unfortunately, it developed an issue at the end of the season that needs to be looked at over the Winter.

We hope to run level 2 RIB courses next year and hope that we can encourage more parents to join the rescue teams.

EVENTS

Sponsored Sail 2023

This year on Saturday 22nd July we saw the return of the Annual Sponsored sail down Sutton Creek. We had 27 boats participating in this fun filled event. This was an adventure for most sailors on the day and gave participants the opportunity to socialise with other members. The sailors managed to sail past what used to be Kilbarrack Sailing club and beyond Dinghy Supplies landmark and right down to a turning mark that was laid along the Blackbanks and then back to the club on the ebbing tide. There was great sailing under favourable conditions enjoyed by all. It was claimed on the day the last time boats sailed down as far was before the causeway was built in the 1960's. It was spectacular sight for anyone on the seafront and fantastic PR for the club while raising funds for club resources and junior training. When back at the club sailors had fun, food and prizes compliments of our generous sponsors: Afloat Magazine, Irish Sailing, Craftinsure, Active Difference Ltd and local sponsors Redmond Dental Care, Findlaters Howth and Higgins Family Butchers. Funds raised supported members junior training, new equipment and social events. The PR on the day prompted members of the public to pop into the club on the day to get membership information which resulted in a number of new members joining the club.

This event was a huge success and something we hope to build on next year.

GP14 Nationals

After successfully hosting the 75th edition of the Champions Cup in GP14s last season, Sutton Dinghy Club saw the extended GP14 fleet return for *Championship of Ireland* at the start of September. The Club certainly put on a great show, attracting 37 boats from across Ireland and including some stellar names from Irish Sailing with 3 Olympians including local boy Rob Dickson (Tokyo 2021), Curly Morris (Munich 1972) and multiple winner and Champions Cup holder Ger Owens (Athens 2004, Beijing 2008 & London 2012). In addition Fireball sailor, Chris Bateman from Monkstown Bay, a former Junior Champions Cup winner returned to Sutton where he won the 2022 Fireball Ulsters to try his hand in the GP14 fleet. European Laser Master Champion Sean Craig returned to partner our own Stephen Boyle again, the pair having taken the Munster Championship back in early June. Back to school and college pressures along with some illness ultimately meant the hoped for 40+ boats didn't materialise but a top class field nonetheless including Sutton's, Ruan & Charlotte O'Tiarnaigh, Hugh Gill & Richard Street, Katie Dwyer & Michelle Rowley, Conor Twohig & Matthew Street. Young instructors also made the start-line for their first GP14 event.

The 3 day Championship took place over the Friday, Saturday and Sunday. Race officer (Jim Lambkin) and his team did a fantastic job, dealing with significant tides and fog, managing to complete 8 races over the 3 days in what looked set to be a very light wind event.

Friday dawned with not much hope of sailing, Dublin Bay was reflecting in the sunshine. Jim having kept the fleet onshore for an hour postponement, then sent them out to a building thermal breeze. After a few General recalls and the threat of a black flag, the fleet got underway in the 7-9 knot breeze. The light winds and interesting tides made for some difficult sailing, many rafts were seen throughout the day at the leeward mark, and plenty of raised voices looking for that extra bit of room to help manoeuvre their boats in challenging conditions. Day 1 ended with 3 different winners in Jane Kearney & Rebekkah O'Tiarnaigh, Chris Bateman & James Dwyer and Ger Owens & Mel Morris.

In Race 2 and 3, the left side of the race course seemed to be the favoured side for the remainder of the day, leaving passing opportunities at the front fairly limited, new faces to fleet Chris Bateman and James Dwyer sailed an excellent race to showcase their talent and introduce themselves as top contenders to the championship with a race win in race 2. They held off Ger/Mel and local GP guru Hugh Gill and Richard Street after what looked like a great battle at the front. Jim had done a great job in completing 3 races as Howth and Skerriessaw no racing due to very light winds.

Saturday dawned and the non-existent wind first thing allowed the fleet to wait patiently knowing that most likely the warm weather and blue skies would bring more of the same sea breeze.

3 races were again completed in lovely conditions, the race course a little further out in Dublin bay allowed for great racing conditions. Races winners on the day were Ger/Mel with 2 bullets, assuring them of the title before Sunday, and Sean Craig & Stephen Boyle with Ruan and sister Charlotte taking a couple 2nd places to remain in contention for podium spot.

On Sunday, the fleet were launched into a stronger sea breeze, to the delight of the slightly heavier crews. Racing throughout the fleet was extremely tight, place changing on every leg, allowed for some epic battles. The days 2 races went to Ger & Mel and Ross Kearney & Daniel Nelson. With the win already secured for Ger/Mel, Sunday was always about the 2 other podium spots. Despite a retiring in race 8, Ruan and Charlotte's consistency in tricky conditions secured a well-deserved 2nd with Ross and Daniel climbing throughout the weekend to sneak 3rd from Sean Craig & Stephen Boyle with Robert Dickson & Adrian Lee in 5th.

The weekend saw plenty of former GP14 sailors drop by, including Pat Murphy who caught up with his Cape May Worlds crew Charlotte from 1983 where the pair finished 4th. It was an excellent event of top-notch racing, a credit to the GP14 class for such competition throughout the fleet. A huge thank you to Jim Lambkin who was the toast of the GP14 Class and overall an excellent event.

SDC Regatta

Unfortunately this year's SDC Annual Regatta which was scheduled to take place on Saturday 30th September had to be cancelled due to adverse weather conditions. Anyone who paid the entry fee will be automatically entered in next year's event.

Interschools

After a Covid induced break, the Riocard O'Tiarnaigh instigated *All Ireland Interschools* got back on track this year on the weekend of the 14th/15th October. While the overall numbers were lower due to competing events, the local schools were well represented with St Fintan's HS, Sutton Park School and Santa Sabina participating. There were also entries from Belmayne ETSS, Belvedere College, Holy Faith - Clontarf, Holy Child - Killiney and St Gerard's - Bray.

Sailing conditions were challenging on the Saturday, with a fresh forecast and Small Craft Warning in place. However there was a good daytime high tide and with a south westerly wind direction a flattish sea, it was deemed safe to race close in in front of the Club so that any sailors over pressed by the conditions could quickly retreat to the safety of shore. Two triangular course races were efficiently run by the race team and while there was some drop outs from the sailors most seemed to enjoy the 'helter skelter' racing and were ashore early to enjoy a hot burger and refreshments.

Sunday dawned with a noticeable lack of wind and the Committee Boat team efficiently got a race away shortly after 11am following a very brief postponement. This proved fortuitous as the wind faded completely within the hour and was gone for the rest of the day so that only the one race was completed to make a respectable three races for the series.

The overall winners of the '*Conor Nolan Memorial Trophy*' were local hero's St. Fintan's HS (Fiachra Farrelly, Harry Dunne and Charlie Keating). Fiachra Farrelly also won the best individual prize, while Holy Child Killiney won the Optimist Team award. The Best Sutton Boat award went to Maeve Kellett.

Book Trophy

Following our victory in Sutton in 2022, our Cork friends were keen to ensure we made the trip to Crosshaven to renew rivalries in 2023. The initial date was set for 16th September with the plan to take both a Senior and Junior team. As with many events this year the weekend was pulled as the forecast was very bad as well as availability

being an issue. Thankfully Royal Cork were up to arranging another date and we finally got to travel down for Nov 11th, but unfortunately only with the Senior team.

The travelling party assembled around midday in Crosshaven with initial discussions centred around how many races. Sutton were keen to have best of 11 or 13 while Cork were happy to keep it to best of 5. In the end it was agreed to go with best of 11. The Sutton Team was made up of Alan Blay & Hugh McNally, William Lacy & Ian McCormack and Conor Twohig & Matthew Cotter. The weather was cold, windy and racing was in the river with a big tide.

While all experienced sailors there was not huge amount of team racing experience in the Sutton team. Hence why we wanted best of 13 as it was felt that the first races would act as our training stint. And unfortunately that was the way it turned out with RCYC, 4 nil up after 4 races. Sutton rallied to take race 5 but the next 2 races went to RCYC to see them home 6-1. Some races were close but the RCYC team's experience told, with at least 3 races in Sutton hands until late on the very last leg.

The National 18 Laying-Up supper was scheduled for that evening and all the Sutton team and management which included Commodore Ciara, Andy Johnston and Jim Lambkin (who ended up as PRO for the event) were invited to attend. The members of Royal Cork Yacht Club made us very very welcome with a superb dinner in which the Book Trophy or Sutton Book as its referred to in Crosshaven was the talk of everybody. Andy Johnston was asked to provide a short talk to the assembled outlining the history of the event and remembering past competitors from both Clubs. Ciara was also asked to present our own Katie Dwyer, who hails from Cork and whose family are involved in the National 18s, a special prize from the Class. Ciara also took the opportunity to exchange Club burgees with Kieran O'Connell the Admiral of the Royal Cork Yacht Club. Big thank you to Richard McGlade in Royal Cork for helping make sure the event went ahead.

Next year is the 80th anniversary of what is reckoned to be the oldest team racing event in the World. The history books show that RCYC lead 28 to 19 and both Clubs agreed to make extra special efforts to make sure this unique and historic event continues to thrive. This will be a perfect opportunity for us to ramp up team racing in the club, particularly for the Juniors. We're looking forward to it already.

Santa Hat Fundraising Sail

Only last Saturday, 2nd December, there was a fantastic turnout for the inaugural Santa Hat fundraising sail with 25 sailors participating on the water and a further 10 down to enjoy the onshore fun and refreshments. Supporting the sailors we had 8 rescue volunteers, 4 catering volunteers, 3 Dad's supporting the launching along with siblings of sailors helping and joining in on the craic.

The conditions were very favourable considering the time of year with light winds but it was very cold. The sailors used the club Picos and Hartleys and sailed up Sutton Creek to St Fintan's HS and back. Along the way they sang festive songs while wearing their Santa hats. Incredibly, some dipping in the water was also undertaken by the brave hearted! Great fun was had by all. The event was kindly sponsored by Apache Pizza who donated pizzas for all the sailors when they came ashore. In the end over €1400 has been collected which will be split equally between The Dublin Simon Community and Focus Ireland. To round off the day there was a raffle with lucky dip voucher prizes donated to us during the season.

CLASS REPORTS

Optimist Class:

The optimist class had an absolutely fantastic season this year, filled with adventure, learning and most of all fun! The optimist sailing season started off in April with the Brassed Off Cup, held in Howth Yacht Club, Ethan Harte represented SDC in this event.

By request we held an information meeting in the clubhouse for all the Oppi sailors. Topics covered were race tactics, rigging, taking care of your boat, entering regional events and a Q&A session.

The first of the regionals started off on the 21st/22nd May with the Leinsters in the National Yacht Club. SDC were represented by Robbie Clarke and David Judge in the Regatta Racing fleet. It was a slow start in Dun Laoghaire on day 1 due to very light winds. The Regatta Racing Fleet managed to complete one race within the harbour before returning to shore. With better conditions on day 2 the fleet managed to get six races completed within the relative shelter of the harbour. With 38 sailors in total racing Robbie finished in a very respectable 13th place overall (including 5th place in the final race) and David Judge finished in 25th (with a 6th place in the first race). A great start to the season for Team SDC!

An Optimist rigging session was held at the club on 11th June for all our diligent novice sailors who were preparing for their "start sailing" summer course.

On 25th June Dan Brereton represented SDC at the Howth Yacht Club Dinghy Regatta. This was a small regatta and perfect for his first racing experience outside the club.

The season was now well under way and next up was the Optimist Munster Championships in July in Waterford Harbour Sailing Club. SDC had three sailors racing in two fleets with Ethan Harte in the Senior Main Fleet (37 boats) and Robbie Clarke and Dan Brereton in the 47 strong Regatta Racing Fleet. On a very tough weekend of racing, with strong winds and perilous squalls, the boys did the club proud over the course of five very competitive races, posting strong finishes on both days. Overall Robbie Clarke took a commendable 5th place and Dan Brereton 12th (both boys had top 5 finishes in extremely tough conditions on Saturday).

By the time the August Race series got underway, a lot of our junior sailors, had just completed their start sailing course and participated in the racing in very challenging conditions at times. With races being held on Wednesday evenings in addition to the weekends, there was great participation and competitive spirit during both the August and September Race Series. The races were short and close to the shore so it was also a great spectator sport!

Also in August, SDC were represented at the National Championships in the Royal St George by Daniel Clarke, Robbie Clarke and Dan Brereton. With challenging races in very strong and blustery winds, both boys posted very impressive top half results in the Regatta Racing Fleet with Robbie in 5th and Dan in 15th out of 34. Daniel Clarke (coaching fleet) was 1st overall. It was great to see the SDC lads so far up the leaderboard.

The Connaught Championships were held in Lough Ree Yacht Club, on 16th/17th September. Day 1 was a frustrating for our Regatta Fleet sailors with very strong winds and choppy conditions meaning only the Junior and Senior main fleets could sail. SDC was represented on the water by Ethan Harte who finished the day in 3rd place in the Senior Bronze Fleet. For the regatta fleet it was a day of shore based games and coaching. The 10 strong SDC OppiSquad stood out, and drew a lot of attention, in their new crested hoodies.

Day 2 at the Oppi Connaughts brought more favourable conditions with a gentle breeze and only a little rain. After a total of 5 races Ethan Harte held on to his 3rd place finish in the very competitive Senior Bronze Fleet. The Regatta Racing fleet comprised an incredible 58 boats with SDC represented by Skye O'Callaghan, Dan Brereton, Robbie Clarke, David Judge, and Wills Harnett. Best of the SDC Gang was Robbie Clarke in 7th place overall. The Regatta Coached Fleet also had a great turnout with 41 boats. Best of the SDC Squad was Daniel Clarke in 6th place overall. Both Rory Rowley and Áine Cahill had commendable top 10 finishes in races 2 and 3. A great result for the SDC Oppi Squad, some of whom had never attended a National event before.

As the season was nearing an end, the Malahide Regatta was held on 15th October. SDC was represented by four Oppi sailors: Wills Harnett, Rory Barron, Robbie & Daniel Clarke. While Robbie made his first foray in the main fleet (9 Opi's) our other sailors battled in out in the Regatta Racing fleet (8 Opi's). Exceptionally light winds and a 180 degree wind shift made for challenging conditions but the Committee managed 3 races for the regatta fleet and 2 for the main fleet. Wills and Rory finished in first and second place overall.

A nice end to the Halloween mid-term break was with a two day Oppi Coaching session with Saoirse and Oisín Kelly. They covered racing techniques including starts, mark rounding, and general boat handling skills. It was thoroughly enjoyed by all.

The calendar has been published by IODAI for next year's events and we are really looking forward to the new season with lots of excitement, opportunities and new adventures for the SDC Oppi Squad.

GP14 Class

The SDC GP 14 fleet is a very active group of sailors often travelling the length and breadth of the country to compete at regional, national and UK National championships which is very commendable. They have all represented the club in the Gold Fleet to a high standard.

Conor Twohig & Matthew Cotter put in a lot of practice over the winter and attended all open events bar one. Their efforts resulted in a 3rd in the Leinsters, a 4th in the Hot Toddy and a 4th in the Season's Gold League.

Alan Blay & Hugh McNally also practiced in the winter which resulted in them placing 2nd in the Leinsters and 3rd in the Ulsters. Hugh Gill teamed up with Richard Street from Blessington this year. They managed to secure 4th in the Leinsters and 6th in the Nationals here at Sutton. So, the Leinster Championship at Dun Laoghaire proved a happy hunting ground with SDC sailors taking 2nd, 3rd & 4th.

Stephen Boyle imported a helm, Sean Craig, to great effect for two events winning the Munster Championship and placing 4th in the Nationals.

Katie Dwyer & Michelle Rowley attended and enjoyed 3 events this year and are full of good intentions to train & practice more for next year. Attendance at Club racing has been poor to say the least but Toby Hallwood's consistent participation must be commended. Peter & Melanie Knief occasionally go cruising in their GP14 and

enjoy the delights of Dublin Bay. Hopefully in the next season we might see more coaching by our Gold fleet sailors for our novice sailors and so develop and encourage greater participation in Club sailing.

IDRA 14 Class

Four Sutton IDRA 14s were active in 2023, and participated in Club racing. Alan Carr in 14/38 "Starfish" was the best performer at away events (2nd place in Northern & National Championships, and Howth, Dun Laoghaire and Clontarf Regattas, with Ciaran Durnford and Callum Delahunty sharing the crewing position aboard 14/38. Charles Sargent in 14/126 "Smurfette" also travelled to most of these events with Ed, Caoimhe and Eimear Fleming alternating as crews, winning the Silver Fleet trophy at the National Championships. Jim Lambkin and Wendy Rudd also flew the Sutton flag in 14/1 "Error" achieving 6th place in the Gold Fleet at the Nationals. Gordan Kelly and Mark Masterson stayed at home in SDC with 14/29 "Del" – their duties on Rescue duty for Club events taking priority.

Laser & Topper Classes

We have a very good number of Laser and Topper sailors in Sutton, however there have been very few attending away events.

There were only 4 Lasers racing in club racing even though there are a substantial number of the boats in the club. Special mention to Blathnaid Harnett who competed in over 50% of the Club races and hardly missed one race from the start of July.

As mentioned earlier there is a very active fleet of Toppers participating in club racing, but they have not been heading to Regional or Open events.

We will endeavour to improve Laser and Topper numbers in both club racing and events next year by offering coaching to sailors who would like to improve their racing skills.

Buddy Sailing

We had a number of buddy sailing sessions in the calendar. One highlight was the CRC Rehabilitative Training Centre evening on 21st June. The centre is a school for students post Leaving Cert applied to come and develop social and independence skills in parallel with their formal education, QQI Levels 1 to 3. On that evening we had the launch of the Hansa with The Howth Sutton Lyons Club present for its inaugural sail. Oisín Kelly launched the Hansa with Roman one of the Ukrainian students who lives in Deer Park, Howth. The group had a lovely evening sailing in the hands of the SDC rescue team and Juniors who volunteered their time to buddy sail on the evening. The juniors often use the experience to gain credits for their Gaisce award. Buddy sailing is a two way learning experience along with building a rapport with the community groups who come to the club to enjoy the sport of sailing.

The Special Olympics groups for local clubs come to participate in our buddy sailing and really build on confidence and enjoy the experience on and off the water. The big highlight when they warm up is the BBQ burger SDC style.

Buddy sailing was established in SDC 2015 and then unfortunately break during Covid but thankfully now returned to its annual slot.

New for 2024

There were several efforts to encourage "Team Racing" in the club in 2023. Unfortunately due to poor weather conditions a number of planned training sessions had to be cancelled. Next year again we will be looking for sailors both Junior (Under 18) and senior to participate. We will be offering training and coaching in team racing. It is a very tactical form of racing and would be suitable for many sailors in the club. We plan to use the TRs and new Hartley's (double handed boats), so we'll be looking for both helms and crews. With the Book Trophy being hosted in SDC next year it will give a great target for us to win the trophy back!

The Google Club Sailing Calendar was reworked in 2023 and it has performed well. This will be updated again will all club racing and events for the 2024 season.

We intend to increase our junior class coaching to support the development of racing skills for club races and away events. We will also look at more supervised sailing along with increased buddy sailing now that we have our own Hansa accessible boat. Buddy Sailing is fantastic for our junior members to do some peer to peer sailing and disability awareness especially our for the TY group.

We also will look at introducing a Gold and Silver Fleet in the club races, so that new sailors to racing will be able to compete against those of similar ability and hopefully win a prize.

The club said goodbye to the Saoirse (which was irreparably damaged when she broke her moorings in heavy winds last season). A replacement boat was purchased in Cork during the year and is named "The Snapper". It is the same make as the Saoirse but is smaller, which means it can be launched and recovered on a trailer and does not require a crane. This is a far more suitable Committee boat for the club. It is intended that we will use The Snapper to run designated club races in the Bay next season with courses laid on the day to match the wind direction. This will help our sailors prepare for away regattas and events.

Lastly we would encourage Active sailors who attend away events to get a key to the boat yard so they can access to their boats when the club is not open. These keys can be sourced through the club office.

Sailing Committee 2023

Eimear Shanahan (Sailing Secretary)

Mandy Kelly (Junior Affairs, Lasers & Buddy Sailing)

Ciara Mulhall (Commodore)

Charles Sargent (IDRA 14s)

Gordan Kelly (Vice Commodore)

Sinead Harte (Optimists/Fundraising)

Jim Lambkin (Hon Secretary)

Hugh Gill (GP14s)

Kirk Durnford

Conor Clarke (Toppers)

Stephen Boyle

