



The 2003 Season has got off to a rather blustery wet start with one race being lost to bad weather and another race being sailed in near gale force winds. Hopefully summer is just round the corner.

We were all saddened by the sudden death of Gerry McGovern on board Dear Buoy whilst taking part in the first Thursday race of the season. The fleet paid tribute to Gerry the following Saturday by slowly sailing past the National Yacht Club, this gesture was much appreciated by his family who were present on the balcony of the club.

Tuning Weekend

The first weekend was spent tuning the boats and improving crewing skill under the guidance of Ben, Simon, Neil and Tim to the great benefit of us all. A special thanks to Ben and Simon, who travelled from the Solent, to give us the benefit of their vast experience of Sigma 33 sailing. The Tuning and Crewing Notes are on the web site. If anyone has any queries about how to set their boat up Tim Goodbody is the local expert and always has time to answer questions.

From The Bridge

Chubb International Team Racing Challenge

The first major event of the season was the Chubb Insurance International Team Racing Challenge that took place on 10th and 11th. May. This event was a great success and could not have taken place without the full support of the Sigma Fleet.

A special thank-you to all the owners who made their yachts available and to those who for one reason or another could not lend their yachts, but made every effort to assist and support the event. There was 100% support from all our owners culminating with 27 Sigma's available on the water.

We also owe our thanks to Chubb Insurance and Dun Laoghaire Harbour Company for their sponsorship. Without the support of sponsors we cannot run events of this quality and scale. Our visitors were suitably impressed by the calibre of the event and our facilities.

A special thanks to the organising committee Gilly Fletcher, Joe McDonald, Freddie Cooney, Johnny Martin, Deirdre Leonard and Tino Hyland all of whom worked tirelessly to make this event the success it was.

Finally, to the Royal Alfred Yacht Club and the three Waterfront Clubs who all worked together to make this a highly successful Championship. In particular Ailbee Millerick and Brian Craig who gave continuous help and support – many thanks.

I received many e-mails and letters of thanks from our visitors. Their comments were generous and complementary relating to the organisation of the event and in particular the facilities available in Dun Laoghaire. The irony of losing the Admirals Cup back to the Solent whilst attracting the Team Racing to Dun Laoghaire was not lost on many attending the event, particularly those from the Solent.

Congratulations to the all-conquering Hamble Sailing Club Team who took home the Trophy.

Visit the web www.sigma33.net site for the full results.

Note:

From comments received from a significant number of owners and crew I got the distinct impression many would like to have our own local Team Racing event later in the season. If this is correct please email – classcaptain@sigma33.net as we may try to arrange this for a couple of Saturdays in October.

It's your Fleet, so please let us know what you would like.

The Patriots Cup

The return match to the International Team Racing Challenge is the Patriots Cup, which is held in Newport, Rhode Island in mid September.

I have received an invitation from the Patriots Cup Organising Committee for an Irish East Coast Sigma Team to compete in this event. I have accepted this on behalf of the fleet and would appreciate if those interested in going would email the Class Secretary at secretary@sigma33.net. A team from the RSt.GYC will also be invited, I hope it includes a significant number of Sigma sailors.

At this stage I believe the dates are 19th to 21st September. We fly out on the Thursday 18th, go sailing on the Friday and the Challenge takes place on the Saturday and Sunday, before returning to Dublin on the Monday 22nd. On previous occasions some people have gone earlier or come back later to make a longer holiday out of it.

Does anyone have good contacts with Aer Lingus to help get competitive flights? On previous occasions the best deal has been through London, which seems ridiculous!!

Alfa Romeo Sigma 33 European Championships – 2003 15th to 20th June

Organisation for the championships is at an advanced stage with a healthy entry, we expect to reach a fleet of 50 boats. If you have not yet entered please do so as soon as possible as this will make things easier for the organising committee.

There is a full and varied social programme as detailed below which can be purchased at a flat all in rate of €100 for all social functions.

Social Programme

Sunday 15th June, Welcome Reception

Monday 16th June 2003 @ 5pm, International Ice-breaker

Tuesday 17th June 2003 @ 7pm, Crews Irish Céilí

Wednesday 18th June 2003 @ 5pm, African Barbeque

Thursday 19th June 2003 ~ Club night

Friday 20th June 2003 @ 7.30pm, Championships Gala Dinner

For more information check the web site, either www.sigma33.net or www.riyc.ie

Silver Fleet

After the fourth race a Silver Fleet will be identified based on the results of the first four races. Those in the Silver Fleet continue to race in the overall championships, but have a separate set of results and individual race and overall prizes.

A number of people have been wondering how they win the Silver Fleet prize? Well be positive and go for the overall trophy - "Sandbagging" is not allowed!

Your Class Captain

Timothy Goodbody – Class Captain

Dates for Your Diary

Saturday 7th June Lambay Race

Sunday 8th June Howth Regatta

The DBSC Race will be started (no race) for Sigma 33s. The Lambay Race will add a bit of variety to the normal Saturday race taking us on the scenic route around the northern shore of Lambay Island and back into Howth. We hope for a good turn out to avail of this great opportunity to demonstrate the strength of our Sigma Fleet.

Saturday/Sunday 26th to 27th July Cruise in Company to Malahide

It is intended to set out from Dun Laoghaire after the DBSC Race and take the flood tide north arriving in Malahide in time for dinner at Cruso's, a top class restaurant on the Marina. A passage race back to Dun Laoghaire leaving Lambay to starboard or a raft up and picnic off Lambay or Irelands Eye could be organised. E-mail ideas/comments to Class Secretary at secretary@sigma33.net. Early advice of participation is advisable to avoid disappointment Cruso's is very busy so we would like to be in a position to block-book the restaurant.

The Baily Bowl / East Coast Championships

Congratulations to White Mischief and her crew.

The turn-out was disappointing, especially as this was an ideal opportunity to tune-up prior to the Europeans. A number of boats sailed DBSC in spite of the class decision to race the Baily Bowl.

There is a clear need for DBSC and the RAYC to work together to avoid any conflict between their events, as everyone loses out.

