

Mullingar Sailing Club – Mirror Sailors News - January 12th 2007

Greetings and a happy new year to all our mirror sailors. 2007 promises to be a very exciting year for the mirror fleet at Mullingar and we are busy planning for events here in the club and away at other clubs.

Contacts

In order to get information to you quickly and efficiently we would like to get up-to-date contact address, mobile and email details from all our sailors. All information will be treated as strictly confidential and will only be used for the purpose of sending club information to you. There will be a lot of news and updates going out this season to let you know what is going on and we will be sending text alerts and emails as much as possible to keep in touch with you.

A contact detail page is attached. You can complete this and return by post or alternatively email the details to James Hackett – the email address is sovision@indigo.ie.

A copy of the form will be posted on our club website and all club information will be posted on the site through the season. The web address is www.msail.net

Early Season Events

There are several events taking place before the main season gets going and I would encourage as many of you as possible to compete in these – in particular last year's level 4's and those taking level 3 and 4 this year. The experience you gain from this will really stand to you later in the summer when the serious competition starts.

Last year we had boats competing at several national events and our sailors had great fun and are getting to know sailors at other clubs around the country. Our sailors competed at Novice Fleet Level at these events but this season will certainly attain Bronze Fleet and some possibly Silver Fleet status.

O'Dowd Cup – Lough Derg – Saturday 17th & Sunday 18th March

This is the opening event of the season and would be a great way to blow off the cobwebs and check your boat for the season. If you wish to compete here you really need to start planning now to ensure your boat is in good condition and has all its gear – including bungs! Contact James Hackett for assistance and further information.

Mirror Easterns – Royal St. George Dun Laoighre – Sat 7th & Sunday 8th April

This is the first regional event of the season. We hope to take a strong team to Dublin and give as many of you as possible a taste of competitive sailing.

Provisional Date

National Novice Fleet Challenge – Mullingar Saturday 6th May

This event was instituted last year and involved just Mullingar and Sligo clubs. It was such a successful day that we expect many clubs to send teams this year. The event is designed for novice fleet sailors who wish to improve their racing skills and will consist of six or seven short races run over a single day.

Junior Sailing Course

The junior sailing course will take place during the first three weeks of July. This year all participants taking Level 3 and Level 4 will be required to have a Mirror dinghy in full working order and rigged for spinnaker use. We are putting a lot of effort and planning into the course this year to ensure you achieve your levels and come out as highly competent sailors in your level. To this end we need to update the Mirror fleet at the club.

If you do not have a boat or you need to upgrade now is the time to start looking! There are several good sources for second hand boats or you can always splash out on a brand new racing rigged boat! (I would recommend used!!). Here are some sources you can look at;

www.apolloduck.ie	A great site with loads of boats for sale in all price ranges.
www.imcai.com	The mirror association website - 'boats for sale' section
www.buyandsell.ie	The buy and sell magazine and website usually have a few.
www.msail.net	If anybody has boats for sail email me the details and we will post it on our club website

How much to spend.

For those starting off in Mirrors I would advise getting a second hand boat and spending in the region of € 600 - € 1200. It only needs to have a basic rig (Mainsail & Jib). The important thing to look for is that the hull is sound – in other words not rotten. It doesn't matter if it has been repaired – I have put new sections into the bottom of our first mirror twice after hitting various objects. These boats are very easily repaired, even by people with no experience.

For those progressing to the higher levels, you should be looking for boats with racing rigging. They must have spinnaker rigging and the sails need to be in good condition. In general the more you spend on the boat the better it should be. If you are going to compete in the Mirror association events it should have a weight and measurement certificate and sail number. I would advise you to spend as much as you can afford – this boat should last you for several years and will hold it's value quite well if you look after it. Good boats start at around € 2000 and go up to over € 5000 for the top winning boats. Be prepared to haggle!

Get Free Advice

If you do not have any experience of boats we will be happy to help you and give advice on boats that are for sale.

Mullingar Sailing Club – Mirror Section

**Junior Organiser - James Hackett
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Email sovision@indigo.ie**

**PLEASE COMPLETE THE FOLLOWING CONTACT DETAILS AND
RETURN TO JAMES HACKETT BY POST EMAIL OR FAX. THIS IS ALSO
AVAILABLE ON OUR CLUB WEBSITE www.msail.net**

PLEASE PRINT IN BLOCK CAPITALS

JUNIOR MEMBER NAME;.....

ADDRESS.....

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MOBILE NO.....

EMAIL

PARENT OR GUARDIAN NAME.....

PHONE (HOME).....

PHONE (WORK).....

MOBILE.....

EMAIL