



**SBC**

# The Small Boat Club Kingston upon Thames

Newsletter: 29<sup>th</sup> February 2020

## Commodore's Message

Welcome to the first newsletter of 2020, and indeed the decade. I hope you all had a great time over the festive period.

It was wonderful to see many of you at the New Year's Lunch at the Magpie on 19<sup>th</sup> January. An opportunity to catch up, talk about the upcoming year and to hand out the Evans Above Trophy to Mick and Angie. A big thankyou to Linda for pulling this together. Also, it was great fun to have been invited to participate in the inter-club skittles match at the Byfleet Boat Club on 1<sup>st</sup> February. A report can be found elsewhere in this newsletter.



It's not been all play though! The Committee have been hard at work through the winter. You should by now have received our new 2020 Club Handbook (if not, a copy is on the website). It contains a schedule of events for the year to whet your appetite. There are a small number of additional events that are still in the pipeline, and not yet included in the schedule. Keep an eye out for these. We hope they will make 2020 a year to remember. And don't forget; you can have access to the club's shared on-line calendar from your smart-phone and PC to keep up to date with the latest information. For access, just drop me a line!



The Handbook contains a full list of duty days and duty officers: please look for and make a note of yours! It also pulls together a host of, what we hope is, useful information to help you make the most of our island.



Work has started on a club day boat and a dinghy to supplement our current fleet. They are expected to be in the water by the middle of next month, subject to weather and river conditions. A number of visits have been made across to the island. It has had a share of light damage from the high water seen on the river this year (see the club's facebook page for some photographs). I'll take this opportunity to thank Roger and Gerry who keep an eye on our island and let us know as soon as there are any obvious issues. The water damage is all manageable and fixable, but we really do need a good turn-out at the working parties on 8<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> March. Our Bosun, Andy Juric, has a list of work that will keep us busy for a few hours!

We have also had our first Committee meeting of the year. Amongst the many items discussed, we spoke of some interest being shown by some potential new members, so we look forward to our ranks "swelling" in the months to come. We also look forward to welcoming Simon Price's boat, *La Luna*, to our moorings in the not-too-distant future.



As well as the two working parties, before our next scheduled newsletter, we have the Fitting Out Supper on 14<sup>th</sup> March and a New Members Training Day on 5<sup>th</sup> April. The training day is being organised by Andrew Barwick and is a chance to learn (or remind ourselves) how to use the dinghy and the generator.

Finally, we have just heard that Simon and Sarka have brought a new “cadet” into the world at the start of February. On behalf of the club, I'd like to offer our congratulations.

AJ

### From the Committee:

While the winter so far hasn't been too cold, we have had high water levels and the island has been covered more than once. Thanks to Gerry Taylor and others who have kept us posted with photos by email and on Facebook. One boat was briefly caught on the bank by its stern. Another broke free and was recovered at Teddington. It is very important that boat lines are in good condition and mooring lines correctly positioned (see page 10 of the new Club handbook). Those who have been over to the island tell me there is a layer of silt to be cleared and the shed has been inundated. So please put **Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> March** in your diary as the first **Working Party** of the year. We need lots of willing hands to help clear up.

Many of you will have seen the new day boat at the end of last season. After a couple of months in the snug shelter of the Clubhouse she is ready for necessary renovation so that she becomes available to members for trips during the boating season. Dom will be undertaking much of this work supervised by our master craftsman Ray, sparing time from his own winter project. Anyone interested in helping should please contact Dom.

We continue to press the Environment Agency to repair the wooden edging on the Middlesex side of the island. The timbers will cause a hazard to navigation if they break away from the bank, which is likely as the bolts rust away. The hard concrete edge and protruding bolts risk damaging any boats that

moor against the bank including our own members' boats. Unfortunately, the river conditions over the last couple of months haven't helped as the EA equipment is stranded upstream. Andrew Barwick has been in touch with other contractors in case we need to arrange for the work to be done – hopefully at EA expense. We are also keeping an eye on a couple of willow trees on the island which are showing signs of weakening.

You should have all received a copy of the **SBC Handbook** for 2020 which includes the Programme of Events. Duty Officers are listed on pages 4 and 5. Please note the dates in your diary and the usual request: if you are unable to be Duty Officer on the date allocated, it's imperative that you find a substitute. Many thanks to Dominic and AJ for all their hard work pulling the material together and arranging publication of the handbook. Let Linda know if you haven't received a copy; there will be some spare copies in the Clubhouse.

There will be new **Members' Training** on the ferry and Club equipment (including those who need a refresher) on Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> March and Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> April. Please note the dates if you are not sure how to start the generator for example. We have contact with an RYA qualified instructor who is willing to go out with people on their boats. One person asked last time I mentioned it: are there any others before I contact him please? There will obviously be a cost, but I can see if he will make a reduction if several people book.

Linda

### Committee for 2020:

President	James Manthel
Commodore	AJ Jones
Rear Commodore	Dominic Evans
Treasurer	Stephen Gilmour
Secretary	Linda Varney
Bosun	Andy Juric
Committee members	Andrew Barwick Sue Harmer Ian Holiday Vaughan Simpson

## New Year Lunch

On Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> January, the Club held the New Year's Lunch at the Magpie Hotel in Sunbury. It was a great turnout of 31 members and 4 cadets (plus one "on the way cadet" hitching a ride with mum-to-be Sarka!).

Members arrived before the meal for a pre-lunch drink and a chance to mingle and catch up with each other after the Christmas break. Our room, overlooking the Thames, was bright, sunny and gave a clear view of the fast running waters of the river below. A reminder that our island season was still a few weeks away.



We then sat down for, in the main, a traditional Sunday lunch. As is often the case, between courses, more mingling took place, creating a challenge for the serving staff!

After the meal, those that attended were given the chance of choosing dates for their duty days, if they hadn't already done so at the AGM. This left just a handful of days for allocation. Everyone also had the chance to look at the draft of the 2020 Club Handbook, which the Committee has been working on during the winter months. A few suggestions and modifications were duly noted – and most have been included in some form or other! Finally, we were able to award the 'Evans Above' trophy to Mick and Angie in recognition of their contribution to the Club during the 2019 season.



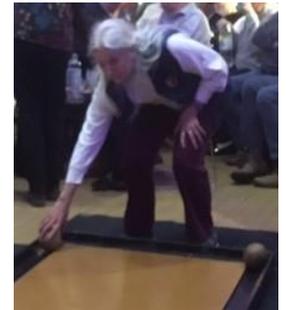
All went smoothly, in no small way down to the excellent organisation by Linda, and it was a great occasion.

## Skittles Match at Byfleet Boat Club



On Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> February, representatives of the Small Boat Club took part in the 2020 Skittles Match. There were four teams: (Byfleet Boat Club, Weybridge Mariners Club, Thames Scouts Cruising Club and ourselves) battling it out for the coveted wooden Skittles Trophy. The game was played on an indoor skittles lane with the traditional 9 pins, and 3 wooden balls (one of which was so old, battered and holed that it risked being categorized as "block" rather than "ball"). Each player was to bowl twice during the evening and their score for each round (with a possible maximum score of 27 per round) was then passed through a long and technical algorithm, devised by the BBC, to arrive at an "averaged score".

Our club was represented by Ray (team coach, physio and chief strategist), ("press ganged" Captain), Dom, our striking partnership of Linda and Gay, and myself.



The first half was slow and measured, with the teams showing mutual respect for each other. Decent scores all round punctuated by two moments of excitement as the opposition achieved scores in double digits.

Half time arrived, sandwiches, pies and other snacks made available. Alcohol (a permitted performance enhancing stimulant in this sport) began to be applied. Ray gave a rousing pep-talk (but what's said in the locker room stays in the locker room) and the second half resumed.

Dom and I continued at our steady pace and returned two further respectable scores that built on the solid foundation of the first half. Then, with the clock ticking down, Gay stepped up and delivered a spectacular 9! With the cheers still in our throats, and the promise of an historic come-back, Linda ghosted

through the crowd, moved in to bowl and hammered home our advantage by scoring a fantastic 10!

After the match, Ray said “It was a game of two halves. We played with the handbrake on in the first but showed our class in the second. I’m proud of the spirit of the team. I’m happy with the 12.6 score. It’s a wake-up call for the rest of the division. At the end of the day, we’ll go home and enjoy the result, but it’s back to the training ground first thing.”



*SBC with the winning trophy*

*Note:* Special thanks to the Byfleet Boating Club for hosting the event.

## **Fitting Out Supper Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> March at 6.30pm**

This event traditionally marks the opening of the boating season. Details were in Carola’s recent email but in case you didn’t take it in, on offer is: Monty’s curry (chicken or vegetarian), rice and naan bread & dessert. Bring your own drinks. Book your place with Carola [carola.m.harrison@icloud.com](mailto:carola.m.harrison@icloud.com) by Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> March or let her know you won’t be coming. Price: £5.00 per person (members’ benefit!); payment in advance into the Club account sort code 20-84-17 account number 00247995 reference surname & FOS, or by cheque to Stephen Gilmour.

If you can’t eat curry please tell us; don’t just opt out. Look forward to seeing everyone.

**Boat Jumbles:** there are various boat jumbles in the south of England – good places to find bargains! The nearest ones to us (open 10am; £4-5.00 entry fee) are:

Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> March: Kent Boat Jumble, Hop Farm Showground, Paddock Wood, TN12 6PY. also on Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> October

Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> May: Solent Boat Jumble, Royal Victoria Country Park, Netley, SO31 5GA also on Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> October

Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> July 2020: Titchfield Boat Jumble, Fareham, PO15 5DY.

Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> August: Portsmouth Boat Jumble, Cosham, PO6 1BJ

## **Coming up at the Club:**

- 1<sup>st</sup> Working Party      Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> March
- Fitting Out Supper      Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> March
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Working Party & New Member Training  
Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> March

## **Duty Officers:**

Sun 8<sup>th</sup> March – A Juric

Sat 14<sup>th</sup> March – Committee

Sun 15<sup>th</sup> March – Committee

Sun 22<sup>nd</sup> March – M Shoulders

Sun 29<sup>th</sup> March – P Harvey

**Don’t forget: mooring fees for  
March to May fall due on 1<sup>st</sup> March**

Please send any articles, notices & photos for future Newsletters to  
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