



SBC

The Small Boat Club Kingston upon Thames

Newsletter: 15th August 2020

Commodore's Message

Hello everyone.

Here we are in August and still having to curtail our activities because of Covid. We had planned a "Crew To" event to Sunbury followed by a tea party for the 23rd. Because of Covid, I cannot take the lead on this. If any of you want to coordinate on my behalf, please feel welcome. I'll be happy to talk you through what was planned. But mark the 13th September in your diaries for the Commodore's Cruise!

It is great to see so many of you enjoying the island and your boats again. Part two of Mick Shoulders' adventures in Caldwell is later in this newsletter. Also, we have a new section, the "Wiley Waterman". Just a section that contains hints and tips that might be useful to those less experienced than others. It is anonymous, so feel free to contribute via our editor Ian for future newsletters. Our first one is an explanation of boating "sound signals".

As is always the case, we have a lot of "unsung heroes" in our club who continue to do work in these unusual times. Our new day boat (name to be revealed soon) has left its "workshop" and is now nestled beneath the clubhouse. We need to provide it with propulsion, we need to think about how members might book it and what familiarization they might need. But it is great: thanks to Dom for getting it this far, and to Ray for providing "remote" guidance.

Most of the electrical work I mentioned in the last newsletter has been completed and we await final certification. Andrew Barwick was, in the main, the electrician's apprentice with Simon Pinnock on hand to help. We just have a few final touches to do including new rope lighting to add some colour to

our events, some additional signage and the installation of some new solar panels. We do need to restrict what is stored in the generator room going forward to only those items specifically for the running and maintenance of the electrical systems. All other items should be in the bosun's locker or the shed.

The facility that attracts most criticism and witticisms, our loo, has also had some major work done on it, with great thanks to Trevor Savage for organising. It has been emptied, repaired and improved. I won't go into details here(!) but it should be far more able to deal with our waste. Additional ventilation has been added which will be further enhanced in the next few weeks. To date, most of this has taken place below "seat level", so might not be obvious at first.

Talking of waste, on the 4th August, the Committee discussed the removal of some items from the island ranging from "rubbish" through to "no longer needed" (such as three old generators which were given to an engineer on Trowlock island for re-purposing). Our outline plan is, through ad-hoc working parties, to create one or two piles of items on the island for disposal. Whereas in the past members have been doing runs to the dump in their cars and vans, this time, when we have a skip-full, we will try to secure a skip for a day on the Surrey side, transport the rubbish across, and have it taken away. To help with this, can we ask that all members look at any personal items that may be around the island or in various storage areas, and secure them in their boats? The Mooring Agreement, section 15, gives an idea of what moorers can store near their boats. Conversely, when the piles are established, feel free to use this as an opportunity to spring clean your craft! For those of you with dinghies or canoes that you might

not have space to store, perhaps you can contact James; he is setting up a canoe rack and will consider setting up a dinghy rack.

The new lawnmower secured by James has been put to use. The island has had a cut and looks so much better without the grass and weeds! Unfortunately, it is not just our members enjoying our island and jetty! A large number of youngsters are swimming, rowing and paddle-boarding across the water. Some are using the island as a playground, others jumping off of member's boats and more than a few using the jetty as a diving platform. James, our President, met with PCSO (Police Community Support Officer) Tanya Wakelin and her Sergeant Ian Willis on Thursday 6th to discuss. This is their advice to us:

If kids are seen using the island for swimming/jumping off (particularly off the top end of the island), please take it seriously. There have been recent incidents where boats have been damaged, but more worryingly children have found themselves out of their depth/ability and in need of rescue. Having liaised with the Local Community Police, they have asked that we report all such activity as in some cases it's even a safeguarding issue. So much so, they are about to start school visits to push river safety education as it's seen as such a growing concern. Our island has more hazards than most with boats, props, ropes, current and high walls. So the police are very keen to keep kids off the island. Please follow these three steps below- It seems excessive but if it saves a life it's well worth it as a simple warning will see them return.

1 - Take their photos (Sergeant Ian Willis of Kingston Police has confirmed we can). Send them to canbury@met.police.uk marked for the attention of Police Sergeant Ian Willis, with the subject Stephens Ayot - Small Boat Club (please copy Linda and myself). They'll pair with local schools if repeat offenders are identified.

2 - Ring 999 and inform police so they can ensure kids are safely off the island. Police have requested this action so don't think you are wasting anyones' time). Suggest you give Kingston Rowing club as reference. Make a note of it in the duty log if possible.

3 - You can speak to kids if you want. Though we've had rather rude responses to date!!

If you see kids in water and concerns you but you don't want to report as above, you can call 101. Either call will result in a local PCSO swinging past if they are in the area.

We will continue to increase the signage on the island and are investigating security camera(s) and the placing a simple barrier (chain) on the jetty. A couple of members have reported that they had lost fuel from their boats over the winter months (I'm sure this wasn't the youngsters). Following this, I have installed a Vetus anti syphoning device on my boat. I got it from Sheridan marine for around £20. Easy to fit and looks as though it will stop anyone from putting a hose down the filler pipe.



We used to have a section in our newsletter called "Moaning Minnie". It does seem to have dropped off this year, so it falls upon me to moan! We have limited permission to park one or two vehicles in Canbury Gardens close to our jetty. The local residents are quick to complain if they see vehicles there – whether ours or not! – so this is an "ask" to only park there if you are involved in maintenance work on the island that absolutely requires it. Our duty days are on Sundays when street parking is free so please, please, please don't leave your car in the gardens if you are going away for a few days on your boat.

Our membership expands! We have a number of applicants to the club who were approved at our last committee meeting. We will let you know more as and when they accept. However, we do welcome a new craft, Beatrix III, to our island and her owners, Mike, Arabella, Simon, Georgina, Gavin and Jennifer along with a new cadet Olivia. A warm welcome to you all!

Finally, I feel we are getting our club opened up, albeit slowly, and that our newsletters will have more reports about the events we are having and less about what we cannot have! It also means that I might not have to think quite so hard about the content! Thanks for putting up with my musings!

Stay safe

AJ

Cliveden Woods Part 2 – Homeward bound

Day 4 arrives and the Captain begins to stir, relaxed and refreshed (albeit a tad fuzzy from an overindulgence of peanuts).

Coffee made, it is time once again to sit and be mesmerized by the natural surroundings. Morning chorus in full swing, the little boat and I are joined by some hungry swans. I try to muster an apology about the lack of swan fodder, which is met with grunts of disapproval and upturned beaks at the offer of the dregs of the Captain's supplies. Not more than eight to ten feet away an otter scurries out of the scrub and swims up the side of the island, thus causing the only ripple in an otherwise beautifully motionless river.

After a period of oneness with nature, daily chores are resumed, explorations of surroundings cease, and the weather forecast is checked.

Thunderstorms are predicted and the following day's not looking good either: rain, drizzle and showers. Seems silly to try and sit it out. After a heavy debate between Captain and little boat, plus an urgent stock-check of supplies, a collective decision is reached to motor back to familiar territory.

For the next twenty minutes or so Nature itself is duly subjected to various noises, aromas and plumes of smoke from both captain and little boat in preparation for the trip downstream. And by the look of it not wholeheartedly impressed!

The journey begins with a slow chug back the way we came, taking full advantage to check out the opposite side of the river avoiding fallen trees and sunken craft.

Passing through Boulter's Lock we arrive at Bray Lock whereupon, after a few "good mornings" and "nice weather" pleasantries with the general public, I strike up a conversation with a chap walking to Windsor. After a brief discussion about axe murdering – a trade in which we were both well versed – he is welcomed aboard, axe confiscated, and we both have a bit of company for a couple of locks. Turns out his cover when not murdering is posing as an art dealer specializing in Italian classic paintings, oh, and also Rolex watches!

I explained to him that my cover when not axe murdering myself was leader of special forces in extreme covert operations worldwide! The bull**** flowed beautifully from both of us all the way back to Windsor, with an extra pair of hands at Romney Lock to boot!

Windsor Promenade again, we moor in our now usual spot. The little boat and I say farewell to our new companion and return his axe. I disembark and

rush to my appointment with the lovely lady selling supplies at the co-op.

Re-stocked with beer and a new brand of peanuts (to try to alleviate the murky mornings) we stepped up the pace for the rest of our return adventure. Moseying along quite happily and receive a call from the Staines massive! My friends who we moored with on the journey upstream. They and their friends are all playing boats but had encountered lock trouble at Bell Weir. They had managed to get through (albeit with a struggle) but were now having trouble returning. Once again, true to form, when things are going well comes the dreaded curveball! Again Damn the Dam! We arrive to the party late on and the lock has been closed for three hours. Shame – we had made great progress.

After much murmuring and debate it is decided we sit it out: there is after all talk of a man who knows about these things arriving!

After a fair go at the new peanut and beer stocks from myself and new friends, sure enough a man appears. After much debate and a strokey beard meeting he and of course two other men in work trousers (obviously drafted in to watch the first man) manage to open the lock.

By this time of course there is a fleet of vessels of all shapes and sizes queuing, sounding horns, ringing bells, whistling and hooting.

Once space is allocated, the little boat and I squeeze in at the second opening of the lock and then are accompanied through Penton Hook and Chertsey Lock which is where our lock luck ran out. The fleet had all dispersed and it was left now to the little boat and I to navigate the last few locks alone. Pitch black we turned on the navigation lights cracked open a can of peanuts and headed for home, accompanied only by a trusty torch and a few homeless geese.

As luck would have it, we did meet a couple coming up stream at Sunbury lock, so only a one-way operation by us required.

Unfortunately, by the time we reached Moseley Lock both gates closed and the lock empty!

Never mind we ploughed on, got through, and closed the gates behind us.

We then headed home on the last leg of our journey to our beloved Stevens Eyot in pitch darkness but full of great spirits, and of course, beer and peanuts!

Mick Shoulders

.... the series of articles by Gerry on the history of the Club will continue in the next edition of the Newsletter

Cabin Cruiser FOR SALE

8 metre SeaMaster

sleeps 4 in two cabins
with centre cockpit
Diesel – newly serviced
Galley with gas cooker
Shower, portalo
Boat Safety till 2022

Also Included:
removable davits
Yanmar generator
small outboard motor
ship to shore radio
all ropes and tools

moored at Kingston-upon-Thames
07766077193

New Members

A Warm Welcome to more new members –
Stephen & Anna Higgins;
Barney & Cissy Piercy, Lily and Kit;
Rob & Jennie Fountain, Eva and Lara;
Tristan & Sarah Cogswell, Myla, Rowan & Alana

Navigation

Teddington Lock continues to be operational between 7.00am and 9.00pm until the end of the month at least. The summer relief lock keepers are back but it often means no cover during the lunch break. The EA says it won't be printing any more licence plates for 2020 BUT this doesn't mean that officers won't know whether you have paid your licence fee! Please make sure you have paid for a licence – it's part of the Club requirements.

Early notice: the Richmond draw off (when the river is tidal up to Teddington) will be from 9th to 27th November 2020.

Hammersmith Bridge is now closed not only to road traffic but also to navigation, until further notice.

Duty Officers

16 th Aug	Vaughan Simpson
23 rd Aug	Simon Harvey
30 th Aug	Bill Benham
6 th Sept	C&M Morrell
13 th Sept	Commodore's Cruise – tba
20 th Sept	Sharon White
27 th Sept	Simon and Sarka

Moorings and Subscriptions

Everyone should have received a letter telling you of your new mooring rate from 1 September 2020. Please adjust your Standing Order in good time (if you have one) and save yourself and Stephen issues about "catching up". We are also asking you to sign a new mooring agreement. The letter also had a reminder that membership subscriptions for the new financial year are due on 1st September. If you don't receive a letter please let AJ or Linda know.

For Sale

Andante

Moored in the creek on the island



Lovely 5m dayboat we bought new in 2018
Reluctantly selling as we just don't use her enough
Mariner 510XL with a Suzuki 20hp outboard
Comes with a number of extras
Speak to Ian, 07803 445400 or
Rosalyn, 07808 732458

Please send articles, notices & photos for future Newsletters to:
ianholiday54@gmail.com