



60th Diamond Jubilee

1953 - 2013

Saturday 22nd June 2013

Guest of Honour: Mayor of the Royal Borough of Kingston upon Thames:
Councillor Penny Shelton and the Mayoress, Mrs Hilary Saw (sister)

Representing ATYC : **Michael Shefras MBE** (Chair)

Walton Lady Cruise 14:00 departs – returns 17:00

A brief history of the Club

Founded in 1953 by Arthur Rowbottom and “Jacko” Jackson the club was deliberately named the “Small Boat Club” to offer those with modest means, an opportunity to enjoy the river without the often onerous pomp associated with other, more *grand* clubs.

It was and still is, a very family friendly and locally supported club.

SBC and Steven’s Ait

In 1960 the members approached Thames Conservancy# and asked if the Club could lease the Creek and the old disused boathouse on Steven's Ait. This deal was done and the island has been SBC's home ever since. Forty years ago (1971) the club was able to secure additional mooring space on the Surrey bank and permission to have exclusive access and use of the downstream end of the Island.



Upstream end post clearance work 08

More recently (2008) the EA approached the club, asking it to become agent for the maintenance of the upstream end of the island. (It had become an eyesore, overgrown and home to vagrants and unlicensed boats.) Post a trial period, that included massive member effort to clear the site, both Club and EA agreed an extension which is now being consolidated into a lease, securing SBC's continuing tenancy for the next 20 years. This in turn will mean the club can implement its plans for island improvements, again benefiting the wider local community, exemplified by the club's recent purchase of a ferry capable of taking wheelchair bound guests.

the forerunner of the body we now call the EA (Environment Agency)



Upstream post pollarding and laying asto turf 2010



Upstream end at 2013

Overleaf, the “great fire” SBC in the community.....

SBC 60th Jubilee Year Celebratory Cruise – The Great Fire



With thanks to Gerry Taylor

On a July evening in 1993 our boathouse went up in flames, it took just over an hour to burn to the ground. Within a few weeks then Commodore Lucilla Phelps started a steering committee, to move forward and plan for a new boathouse. Comprising ; Gerry Pyke, Doug Steward, Rod Mackay, Mike Lelyveld, Neil Phelps, John Chance & Gerry Taylor. Gerry Pyke drew up the plans, however the EA took until summer of 1995 to finally accept and pass them!

With tenders sort a contract was agreed. It was estimated that it would take 8 to 11 weeks and the steering committee agreed that Rod Mackay would work with the builders full-time. Work commenced however at about 14 weeks there was still a lot of work to be done and the builders made their 1st request for more money! We agreed on a sum, but just a fortnight later they asked for more, threatening to leave. We had to let them go, hoping that the members would rise to the challenge as there was still a lot of work to be done & very little in the way of funds (£2,000)!

It took around six months for the members to: Run wiring, create steps, install ceiling panels and battening, build a galley, paint walls painted, finish guttering, shutters, rendering and landscaping . Members and friends also donated materials, pictures, notice-board, knot-boards, a propeller, SBC branded clock, fire-extinguishers and furniture was kindly donated by our friends at the London River Yacht Club. All was achieved ready for the grand opening on June 1st 1996.

The Club formally opened the new Boathouse in June 1996 nearly 3 years after its demise.

Members & guest attending the day



SBC 60th Jubilee Year Celebratory Cruise – SBC in the community...



Initially including both sail and motor boats, the club thrived during the 60's & 70's when leisure time became more available to all. Gradually during this period the sail owners migrated to more appropriate venues and the club became, as it is today, one where the owning member interest is motor boating.

SBC was a vanguard member (1958) of the ATYC (Association of Thames Yacht Clubs) and it has maintained its support ever since, with many members winning safety orientated boat handling competitions run by the ATYC. The club pedigree strong with special mentions to Lucilla Phelps and Doug Steward (both past Commodores and Presidents of the Club) Paul Bellingham, Nickie Harmer and most recently Rhiannon Evans as 1st place young [lady] skipper 2010.



SBC & 1st HH Sea Scouts

Thanks to the intervention of current ATYC chair Michael Shefras MBE, the Club was also represented by current Commodore Dom Evans in the recent Queens Diamond Jubilee Pageant.



Club members have also been adventurous with two boats and several members proudly representing us at the 70th commemoration of the Dunkirk Evacuation in (2010). In spite of the size of their boats, members

have crossed the Channel many times. Fred Orford having reached Paris in Fred's Argo.

The Club actively supports and promotes safer seamanship and local inter-club help and co-operation, from hosting the finish of the regular "Heads of River" rowing competitions to a close working relationship with the council funded "Albany Park Canoe & Sailing Centre", an RYA recognised training centre.

The SBC is an eclectic group of members from all walks of life. One member having recently joining post publication of her book "Eyots & Aits" and one who is [almost] 94 years old Gus Wilde, who has in his time been secretary of the Club and a previous President.



SBC 60th Jubilee Year Celebratory Cruise – the trip...



The SBC is a member club, run by the members, for the members. It cannot survive without substantial volunteer member effort. This effort is harnesses by an executive committee charged to ensure the club endures it comprises:

Sue Harmer President

Dominic Evans Commodore as Chair

James Manthel Vice Commodore

Simon Pinnock Rear Commodore

Linda Varney Secretary

Greg Waugh Boson

Gary Gilmour Treasurer

Joining each meeting we have addition member representatives as committee members these are: Steve Lasenby, Russell Hanslip and John Croom who is also a trustee, alongside fellow trustees, Lucilla Phelps and Gerry Taylor. Please take the opportunity to thank them for all their hard work and continued support.

Outline Programme

- “ 1:00 **Walton Lady** (thanks to French & Co) at John Lewis Quay
- “ 1:30 Members (and guests of members) arrive & board
- “ 1:40 Invited friends of SBC including Commodores of affiliated clubs & reps
- “ 1:45 VIP representing AYTC Mr M Shefras MBE
- “ 1:55 “Piped Aboard” Guest of Honour, The Worshipful the Mayor of the Royal Borough of K-upon-Thames, Councillor Penny Shelton and Mayoress, Mrs Hilary Saw
- “ **2:08** Welcome from Com who formally thanks invited guests & members
- “ 2:10 Photo of us on boat with Island in background, taken from Broom Park
- “ 2:20 Upstream photo opportunity two
- “ 2:25 Some announcements and food available
- “ 4:00 Presentations & cake cutting
- “ 4:45 Arrive at John Lewis Pier
- “ 5:00 Arrive at island – to continue celebrations