



SBC

The Small Boat Club Kingston upon Thames

Newsletter: 20th July 2019

Hello Everyone,

I hope this finds everyone well and enjoying the season.

Well it was a great see so many of you at the Hog Roast last weekend. Thanks to Mike and Charlotte from the Wych Elm for the lovely food, and the free lunch for the raffle. We got lots of really positive comments again about the quality of the food and the ease of the operation. Also, Twinz disco were a great hit again!



Lots of dancing. This event is a great example of where we have utilised outside support to make an event 100 times easier for us as a club to organise. Special thanks to AJ for his efforts in making the event a success.

21st July sees the annual Kingston Dragon Boat regatta. It's a great day to be on the island so pop over and enjoy a bbq for lunch and watch the mayhem that surrounds 30 dragon boat teams competing for the top spot. Mike and Charlotte's Wych Elm team are hot favourites after cleaning up a few years in a row! This is also one of our Social Sundays so it would be great to see some people using the island for a relaxed informal day.

I would ask that you mark the *Commodore's Cruise Past* in your diaries. I'll chase for number closer to the time as I'll feed you all. So, pop the 8th September in your diaries. It would be great to see as many boats out as possible.

It's great to see the new Duty Officer Log in use. It's lovely to read of the Sunday activity and all the comings and goings. So please all continue to fill out the log on

your Duty days and enjoy a read of what's been going on.

It was great to welcome Trevor to the last committee meeting. Thanks, Trevor, for your attendance and input. For others wishing to drop in a see what the committee get up to, our next meeting is on 8th August – you are welcome to join us; please just let Linda know so we can expect you.

We remain in good shape with moorings, with a few boats on the waiting list. Not too many to make the wait unreasonable, but enough to make us comfortable that we have good interest in moorings, which are obviously the club's key revenue stream.

That's about enough from me so I'll sign off.

Thanks everyone for all the unseen support you offer to ensure the continued success of the Club.

All the best and safe boating,

James.



We are sad to report that **John Lavington**, President from 2009-2011 and an Honorary Life Member of the Small Boat Club, died on 11 June 2019. Happily, it was a pain-free, peaceful end in his own home where he had been cared for by a family member. He was 93 years old (1926-2019).

John and his late wife Babe were members for many years (from 1999). I have vivid memories of them approaching the Club from their home on Trowlock Island on Hutch, their Freeman 24, distinctive because of her green fenders. Babe would be on the bow, boat hook in hand, ready to pounce.

John was a real gentleman, a kind-hearted chap with joie de vivre and a strong sense of 'club'. He always had time for everyone. He was often seen with Gus Wylde at Club events, sharing reminiscences of life experiences.

Sue and I remember the President's Day that he introduced. At the first one John arranged for a bag of green ping pong balls to be dropped in the river at Hampton Court with the challenge to SBC crews to each collect as many balls as possible... The ensuing chase brought out the competitive streak in all the boat crews participating!!! So too did the dash back to the island for Babe's splendid lunch.

John worked for the Bank of England for many years,



which gave him the right to his own bank account with it. The scanned cheque shows a donation to the SBC after his election as an

Honorary Life Member.

Ill health had meant that we hadn't seen John recently, but we know he loved and supported the



Club, and will be missed by all his friends. Vee and Gerry Taylor represented the Club at John's funeral. For anyone who wishes to make a donation in memory of John, the nominated charity is 'Hope for Tomorrow', a

provider of mobile cancer screening facilities. Please ask Gerry or me for details of how to donate.

Linda

Future dates for your diary:

Sat 21st July: *Social Sunday*

Sun 11th Aug: *possible Limehouse Link Cruise*

Fri 23rd to Mon 26th Aug: *ATYC Rally in West India Dock*

Mon 26th Aug: *Social Monday on the Island*

Sun 8th Sept: *Commodore's Cruise Past*

From the Committee

The Committee spent some time reviewing the Fun afternoon and evening. It was agreed that it went well and probably made a small profit. Thanks to all members who helped at the working parties to prepare for the events and cleared up afterward. Feedback on both events welcome.

Andy Juric will be reviewing the moorings soon, particularly the positioning of the poles holding individual boats off the island edging. The Committee also continued the discussion about making access to the island easier including picking up Trevor's suggestion at the AGM that we cover the dinghies in some way to stop them filling up with water.

James and Dominic are continuing to press the EA to finalise the arrangements discussed for new notices and other ways of emphasising the SBC's authority as managers of the 24-hour moorings. We continue to chase the EA about the deteriorating condition of the Middlesex side of the island.

Questions were raised about formal training for people new to boating. The RYA has two inland waterways courses (crew 1 day; helmsman 2 days) – details are on the RYA website – and there is also Powerboat 2 course (2 days). If members are interested Linda will try and find details of where they are available and likely cost.



The Fun Afternoon/Music and Chilli Evening on Sat 22nd June went without a hitch and was enjoyed by many. What a great day! We had time to chill and to have fun and enjoy the company of members. It was great to see so many new members at the event and some potential new members.



We had a very good turnout and a fabulous day enjoyed by all.

The chilli and fire pit plus the fantastic music during the evening went down well. (That was a relief) lol.

I would like to offer my thanks to all of you who helped on the day and without your help this would not have been possible to have taken place.

These include: Linda on Hot Dogs & Burgers; Russell on Refreshments and Cakes; Sue for baking really delicious cakes; Hilary on Tombola; James

on the Beer Tent; Dominic and Steve D'Souza for their help in setting up; AJ for supplying background music for the afternoon; Sharon – firstly, for arranging the amazing singer and guitarist who continued to play until 11.30pm! and secondly, for the amazing face painting!

I would also like to thank many of the guests who also contributed with helping to serve food, arranging tables around the fire pit on the evening, clearing away and of



course running the ferry back and forth. Also thank you to all who came along and helped to clear up on Sunday.

What a lovely day!

Jackie V

Boat Canopies:

Several members are having new canopies made for their boats. You should be able to see the results on 'Kisamisket' and 'Water Dancer' in the next couple of weeks. If anyone else is interested, the company is based at Shepperton and will come to the island for measuring and fitting. Sue can give you contact details.

Duty Officers for the next few weeks:

28th July: Trevor & Carole Savage

4th August: ***Island closed***

11th August: John & Tali Croom with
Christopher & Alyson Silcox

18th August: Rob Baldwin

25th August Roger & Susan Higham

27th August: Ray Timms

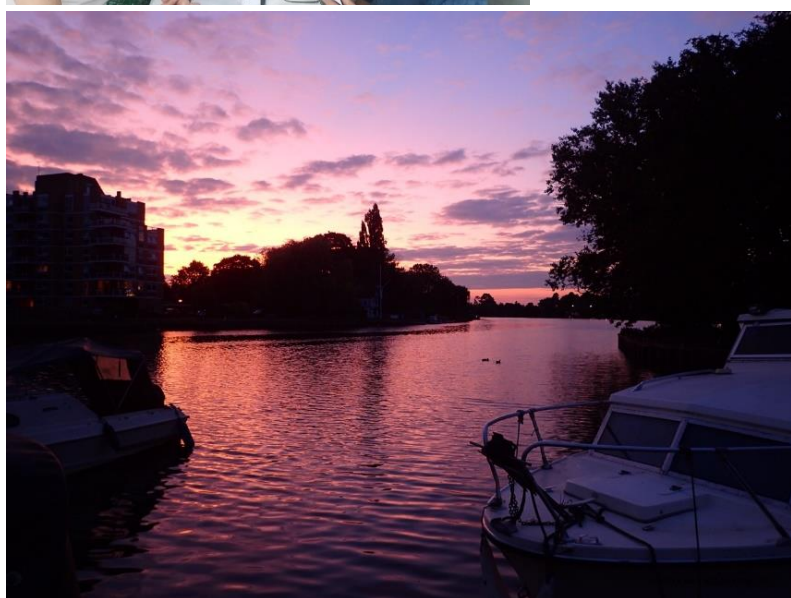


The 2019 ATYC Rally will be held in the West India Dock on 24th to 26th August – over the Summer Bank Holiday weekend. ATYC hope to attract at least 100 boats. There are a huge number of attractions and functions being planned - Docklands moorings, live music, cooked breakfasts, licensed bar, shoreside toilets and showers, bbq, water-based activities for young and old, fun races – the list goes on and on! If anyone wants to take their boat down for the Rally or is interested in crewing, please let Linda know as soon as possible.

The **Hog roast and Disco on Sat 13th July** was a great success. Members and many visitors enjoyed excellent food, a wonderful night of disco dancing and music, and a really convivial atmosphere.



Thanks to Gerry for these photos



Sunset seen from the island at the Hog Roast

Photo taken by one of our guests, Pam Butler

Sunday 21st July is not only our **3rd Social Sunday**, but also the day that the Kingston Rotary Dragon Boat Challenge takes place. Our island is one of the best places to enjoy all the action on the river that day. With music wafting over from the bands in Canbury Gardens you can watch the crowds on the riverbank jostle for position while enjoying the oasis that is Stevens Eyot. Bring a picnic, or use one of our two gas BBQs, a bit of liquid refreshment and the company of other SBC members! And don't forget to grab some picture for the club's FaceBook page and newsletter!

The forecast is for a fine day with temperatures in the low 20s.

For those driving, parking can be a challenge on Dragon Boat day, so maybe consider public transport or plan to come early.



For more information, go to <http://www.boaterskingston.com/events/21-07-2019/dragon-boat-festival-2019>

Reminder:

**Ride London takes place on Sunday 4th August.
The Island will be closed for the day.**

We welcome guests on the Island, but they should always be accompanied by a Club member. Please bear in mind that if, heaven forbid, anything went wrong related to a dinghy or the ferry, they would not be covered by our insurance if not accompanied.

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