



SBC

# The Small Boat Club Kingston upon Thames

Newsletter: 7<sup>th</sup> December 2019

*AJ writes:*

Hello everyone,

I would like to start by thanking the Committee, and all associated with the Club, for electing me Club Commodore. I know the role comes with much history, tradition and responsibility. It is only right that I thank my behalf, but current leadership over His energy and been a real driving force – although I think he



James, not only on on behalf of all members, for his the last two years. enthusiasm have



missed an opportunity to rename his newsletter notes “The Manthel Piece”! It is great news that he will

be staying on the Committee as President.

2019 has been a great year for the Club. The work



done tidying up the island has made it one to be proud of. The hard work everyone put in cutting trees and

hedges, disposing of rubbish, finding homes for some of our “less



loved” items (you know who you are *Shrimp!*), finding replacement boats, providing refreshment for the members or just constructive criticism (!), has been amazing. The Fun Day and Hog Roast provided great entertainment and opportunities to meet with members’ wider circles of families and



friends. The Crew To trips gave a chance to spend a little more time with other

members and, perhaps, a chance to get to know them a bit more. The Commodore’s Cruise Past, which was the best attended for a number of years, was really memorable. I mustn’t forget too the work that has been done with the EA to strengthen the relationship there. I hope that the communications the Committee has put in place, including the text system and scheduled Newsletters, mini notice

boards on the ferry and the dinghy mooring point at the end of the creek, have helped keep everyone up to date and well informed. And, possibly leaving the



best until last, seeing our ferry, *Gofer*, back in service after its winter overhaul, was a sight for sore eyes! A slicker, safer, meaner, cleaner machine thanks to the efforts of Dom, Ray, Andrew and a handful of others!

So, 2019 is a tough one to follow, but we shall try!



A schedule of events was circulated at the AGM. It includes A New Year's Lunch that will take place on 19<sup>th</sup> January, a skittles match against Byfleet Boat Club on 1<sup>st</sup> February, our Fitting Out Supper in March and much more! On the maintenance front,



along with the Working Parties, we will have a "painting weekend". Unlike Dom, we have found a reluctance from some of our members to volunteer to be precariously hung from harnesses twenty feet up, in high winds, whilst cutting tree branches to the accompaniment of "oohs" and "ahhs" of the watching crowd. We also felt it unwise to have children

under of the age of 5 forced to undertake similar tasks. So, for those who feel



they can better contribute to less "life threatening" activities, come along on the 13<sup>th</sup> and/or 14<sup>th</sup> June to help paint the Clubhouse! We have several Crew To events organised, some with a theme (moonlight cruise, tea party....), others just an opportunity to enjoy the river (both tidal and non-tidal). We have a couple of other proposals that the Committee is looking into.

Those present at the AGM had the opportunity to select dates for their Duty Days. For those who were unable to attend, there will be another opportunity at the New Year's Lunch. The c Committee will then randomly allocate any remaining duty dates left!

We have also set up a club calendar in The Cloud! For those of you who have a smartphone, or use the MS-Outlook calendar function, if you drop me a note, I will add you, and/or send you a link so that you can subscribe. You will be able to see all of the events, who is on duty, and your view will be updated whenever we update the "master" copy. This is not a replacement to anything we currently do, just an addition!

There's a lot more in this last newsletter of 2019 so, I will leave you to read on, after wishing all of you, your families and friends a merry and peaceful Christmas and a Happy New Year!

AJ



*From the Committee:*

One of the Club dinghies has disappeared, presumed stolen. Dominic has found some replacements thanks to the local Sea Scouts group and these are being refurbished. We looked at ways of making it safer to board the dinghies – we'll try and make it possible to tie dinghies at both ends and investigate ways in which it might be easier to get into dinghies. Ideas welcome! Trevor has also suggested we should look at ways to stop the dinghies getting full of water after heavy rain – ongoing investigation!

Trevor had identified a firm that was willing to come and look to see how the operation of our Enviroloo could be improved. The company has made some suggestions using solar panels to power fans to increase the air flow. There will obviously be a cost but we hope members agree that it is an important facility for the island and is worth investing in. Subject to agreeing the specification, we hope the work will be done over the winter – once the present flow has subsided.

Expect a shuffle of boats before next season. There will be movement to make better use of space following several boats leaving the island (*Spike 2*, *Luvlee Jublee* and *Mummy Bear*) and we will be welcoming Simon Price's boat.

Also, a welcome to Simon Green and Sarka Juric and family who will be using Andy Juric's boat; David and Claire Rae and family; and John and Susan Roscoe and family, the latter new part owners of 'Dougal'.

The Club's AGM took place on 16<sup>th</sup> November. Great to see so many members there. The Committee for the coming year was elected and awards presented. Most enjoyed fish and chips (there were options) and had a challenge to manage the desserts. £150.00 was raised by the raffle for the Warspite Sea Scouts Wheelyboat project (an accessible boat) and £25.00 'in the boat' for the RNLI.

The next Club events will be –

- Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> January 2020 at 12.30pm: New Year Lunch at The Magpie, Lower Sunbury. The Menu is on their website [info@magpiesunbury.com](mailto:info@magpiesunbury.com) We will need to pre-book our meals so confirmation of whether you are coming and menu choices to Linda by Friday 10<sup>th</sup> January 2020 please ([lindavarney2@gmail.com](mailto:lindavarney2@gmail.com))
- Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> February 2020, 7.15pm for 7.30pm: Inter Club skittles match at Byfleet Boat Club. This is skittles as you have never known it – nothing is even or round! But great fun. Please let Linda know by 10<sup>th</sup> January if you plan to come along. Bring your own drinks but light refreshments will be provided @£3.00 per person.
- Boat training: some members had enquired about available training, both RYA powerboat training and on board their own boats. We have now identified an instructor based in Shepperton who would be willing to help members. Please let Linda know if you are interested as we may be able to arrange something on a Club basis.

*Linda*

*Obituaries:*

Charles Dobney

We have recently received the sad news that Charles Dobney (Charlie) Honorary member of the Small Boat Club has died. Charlie joined the SBC in 2002 with his boat *Tickety Boo* and friends Liz and David (Nobby). Then, in 2004, he invested in a new acquisition, a twin engine 8 mtr Seamaster *Simba*. Charlie very much enjoyed boating, joining in club activities and taking friends and family on river trips. He also spent many a happy hour in the bilge tinkering with the engine. Unfortunately, ill health curtailed his boating and eventually forced him to sell. We were able to keep some contact by telephone and email until about three years ago, but continued to keep him updated on the SBC by sending regular newsletters. However,

the August edition was returned as “no longer at this address”. Knowing Charlie was an active member of The London Scottish Association, we researched their website and found his obituary. Charlie celebrated his 90th birthday with his family and friends in February 2017 and was delighted with the large cake depicting the regimental badge.

The full Obituary for Charles Richard Edmond Dobney can be found on The London and Scottish Regiment website

*Sue Harmer*

We have also heard that Mike Avery has died. Mike, with his boat *Valerie Ann* was a fixture on the island for many years and he acted as Bosun for several years. With his wife Babs he raised considerable sums of money for the Club running a stall at the RNLI Rally in Kingston when it was held in June on Queen's Promenade. Our thoughts are with Babs and the family.

*Linda Varney*

#### **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

#### **SBC Awards**

<b><i>The Commodore's Cup</i></b> Commodore's personal award	<b><i>Linda Varney</i></b>
<b><i>'Evans above'</i></b>	<b><i>Mick Shoulders</i></b> <b><i>Angie Schmidt</i></b>
<b><i>The Attendance Cup</i></b> Highest attendance at Club events throughout the year (& generally being supportive)	<b><i>Trevor Savage</i></b>
<b><i>The Cortina Trophy</i></b> Enthusiasm, boat handling and seamanship	<b><i>Andrew Barwick</i></b>
<b><i>The Enterprise Cup</i></b> For enterprise and helpfulness with boating	<b><i>AJ Jones</i></b>
<b><i>Good Fellowship Cup</i></b> Most goodwill, help and friendliness	<b><i>Ray Timms</i></b> <b><i>Andrew Barwick</i></b> <b><i>Dominic Evans</i></b>
<b><i>Inland Waterways Log</i></b> For the best log of an inland waterways trip	<b><i>Ray Timms</i></b>
<b><i>Gwen Norris Trophy</i></b> Most active new member(s)	<b><i>Simon Price</i></b>
<b><i>The Ladies Trophy</i></b> For the woman member who contributed most help	<b><i>Marja Manthel</i></b>



*James writes:*

would like to announce our two new Honorary Members: Sue Harmer and Linda Varney.



Both Linda and Sue have been valued members of the club longer than most can remember. If you look on the Clubhouse walls you will see their names as past Commodores and Presidents. What you won't see mentioned is all the years of Committee membership, various flag officer posts, as well as unstinting contributions to events and direction of the club. They also represent the Club at various meetings up and down the river and dedicate time to other river charities. Both Sue and Linda are wonderful members that we are lucky to have as an integral part of our club. Hats off to you, ladies, and a huge "thank you" from everyone at the Club, past and present!



*Crew To:*

On the evening of Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> September, the Club's Moonlight Cruise took place. Crews started to arrive on the island from around 5.00pm. The



ferry was up and running to transport them and their provisions to the island to prepare the vessels. Covers removed, provisions on-board, navigation lights tested, and orders for the fish and chips taken, we were ready to depart at 19:30. Just one last thing to do, put the lights on at the island for our night-time return. BUT the generator battery was flat! Paul Honigsfeld came to the rescue and managed to jump start the generator from one of the spare batteries. Lesson learned: **please leave the starter switch in the OFF position when closing down the generator.**

Time to go but, *C'Est La Vie* wouldn't start!

Another flat battery. This time a picowe jumpstarter came to the rescue and we were up and running. Our flotilla consisted of Peter and Fiona on *Snow Goose*, Adrian and Jill on *Sulis*, Vaughan, Lucy and the children Ruby, Livia and Archie on *Dotty Do*, Mick, Angie and their guest Al on *Caldwell*, with myself, Gay, Kaija (the dog) and Paul Honigsfeld on *C'Est La Vie*.

We motored up-stream in the mild evening air. A slower pace needed combined with a good look-out





and careful steering to avoid the various water-birds bobbing on the surface and the lines of the many anglers along the shore – the latter with an assortment of torches, lights and colourful language to tell us if we were too close! Passing under the rail bridge we could see Kingston town waterside lit up by the shops, bars and streetlights, all busy with the Saturday crowds making the most of the mild evening.

Further on, Kingston road bridge was lit up in blue. A little further on at Raven's Ait, there was a reception under way. Again, under the lights, we could see all of the guests in their finery dancing away.



AJ



**Thanks to Gerry Taylor and Russell Hanslip for most of the photos**

We are on the map! AJ submitted an edit request to Google, so we now show up on google maps!



**The next Newsletter will be published on 29<sup>th</sup> Feb 2020**

Please send any articles, notices & photos for future Newsletters to [ianholiday54@gmail.com](mailto:ianholiday54@gmail.com)