



SBC

The Small Boat Club Kingston upon Thames

Newsletter: 7th Nov 2020

Commodore's Message

Hello again everyone.

The nights are drawing in, the weather is turning colder (and damper) and we would normally be looking toward the winter activities of the club. Covid has decimated the year for many of us and the recent round of restrictions have dimmed much of our remaining optimism. Club wise, it has been particularly disappointing for me as my first year as Commodore. I seem to have spent the last seven months talking about what we cannot do and having to cancel events. I don't remember harming an albatross! Anyway, I will try to mix some things up in this edition pepper some good news in with the less good!

So, we have placed notices and sanitisers around the island. For anyone who does brave the currents to go across, adhering to lock-down regulations of course, please make sure someone knows you are there (for safety reasons), use the sanitisers (they need a couple of pumps to work), check in (NHS tracing app or visitor's book) and keep your distance. We have Pat Walsh Limited marine contractors on the island as I write. Their barge "Bertha" is moored on the public moorings. They are in the process of replacing the rubbing strifes on the Middlesex side for us. I understand that they are also planning to remove the Willow tree from the river under instruction from the Environment Agency. So be aware of "work in progress". I am pleased to be able to tell you that we now have our electrical work completed, and new compliance certifications for the next five years. Folk have been on the island tidying up, cleaning the decking and installing a new canoe rack. Simon Pinnock deserves a special thank you as he, aided by

Sharon, replaced the steps at the back of the club house with something a lot sturdier and safer! As of the end of October we are obliged by the terms of our lease to have everything on the island secured. Our island is frequently submerged during the winter months and we must do our best to make sure nothing gets swept away and becomes a hazard. Please make sure that nothing of yours is loose!

Apologies, but Covid and my own on/off need to isolate, mean that the Commodore's cruise is not taking place this year and we are not organising a firework cruise (although some members may go independently).

But, looking forward, the AGM is scheduled for Saturday 14th Nov at 19:00. The event will be done on Zoom (details have been sent out by Linda already). It is an important date in our calendar: we formally share our financial position, discuss expenditure, review/ratify our trustees and Committee membership. There is an opportunity to discuss any proposed rule changes, raise questions and share our plans for the new year. We will also be making a number of awards to recognise some of our members for their special contributions this year.

Please let Linda know of your intentions to attend or not.

By way of an incentive, it is an opportunity for attendees to choose duty days in 2021 rather than be allocated one at random by the Committee. On that point however, I do need to remind everyone that you are expected to do your duties as a condition of your membership. If you are unable to do your date it is your responsibility to find someone to cover, not the Committee's.

As usual, we will be looking for members at the AGM to step up to the Committee and help. New

members, do not think that you have nothing to offer – we do not have a monopoly on good ideas! Please, give it a go, we will support you! What has been particularly pleasing this year are the number of new members joining the Club. Paul and Mercedesz Stratos have recently joined along with their three Cadets Roxanne, Nicholas and Stella (this newsletter may well be the first they know about being accepted!). A warm welcome to you. We also have another application awaiting verification that may well be confirmed by the AGM! The great thing is that our recent new membership includes a large number of Cadets. The Committee, through Vaughan Simpson, are keen to put together a schedule of events next year that ensures our Cadets feel a big part of our Family Club. Any thoughts and support you can give will be well received!

Elsewhere in the Newsletter you will see some Club merchandise that is available just in time for Christmas! If interested, please let Sue know as soon as possible. This may be our last chance to use Sue's connections with our suppliers (more about that at the AGM). See you at the AGM and stay safe

AJ

A quick reminder of some useful websites:

The Club's website

<http://www.smallboatclub.co.uk/>

The Club's Facebook page

<https://www.facebook.com/SmallBoatClub.co.uk/>

The Boat Safety Scheme's news web site

<https://www.boatsafetyscheme.org/about-us/news-and-press-releases/news-releases/>

The government's web site containing information on the River Thames

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/river-thames-locks-and-facilities-for-boaters>

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RYA section on YouTube. It contains information on boating, safety and Covid:

https://www.youtube.com/results?search_query=RYA+club+zone

From the Committee

AGM: to add to what AJ has said, you should have received your Agenda, minutes from 2019 and nomination forms through the post. If you haven't received them, please let me know and also whether you plan to attend so AJ knows how many to expect. I will be sending out the Financial Report shortly for you to consider before the meeting and also a reminder of the Zoom login. Please let me have any nominations or points you would like considered (including possible Rule changes) as soon as possible. We have made improvements to the island and Clubhouse over the years - skylight in the galley, loo function lighting, new rear steps (thanks Simon and Sharon), refurbishing the ferry. If you have ideas don't be slow in letting the Committee know. It's also 25 years in 2021 since we opened the new Clubhouse (thanks for the reminder Gerry). Covid permitting, a celebration?

Last month, *The Wily Waterman* reminded us about winterising our boats. Could I add, if you are leaving your boat for the winter, please check the condition of your mooring lines. We get heavy flows on occasions which put strain on them and some have snapped allowing boats swing out or even break free. Please also allow for changes in water level as well as flow. This for water coming down river and also high tides which can push up beyond Teddington as Simon Price and I saw on 18 October to our surprise. members do visit during the winter months or keep an eye on things from their homes - but it is your responsibility to ensure your boat is secured safely.

River News: Covid means restrictions again - please don't stay overnight on your boat or make non-essential trips; restrictions on short term moorings have been lifted for the period of the lockdown. As far as I know planned works will go ahead (subject to conditions and staff availability) so the draw off at Richmond (the river is fully tidal to Teddington) starts on Monday 9 November for 3 weeks. Molesey Lock closes on 16 November 2020 until the end of January 2021. Updates are available on the websites at the end of the Commodore's Notes
Best wishes and stay safe, Linda



*The Willy Waterman
Hints and Tips passed down*

Maritime VHF Radio

Ever wondered about radio communications while on your boat? Maybe you have a two-way radio fitted but have kept clear from using it? There is a lot to operating the radio. You could be talking ship to ship, ship to shore or even ship to air. Because of this, there are protocols in place as to what to say, how to say it, and when to keep quiet! The VHF radio operates on range of frequencies from 156MHz through to 174MHz. These frequencies are divided up and referred to as Channels. The Channels in turn have been allocated various usages (as per the table below). Most maritime radios have these Channels pre-defined to make switching easier and not having to worry about getting the frequency right, including the three decimal places (unlike aircraft crew who have to dial in precisely). As added complexity, some Channels are “Simplex”, which means they receive and transmit on the same frequency (so you can’t listen as you speak!) and others are “Duplex” which means they use two frequencies, one to receive and one to transmit, so you can, with the right equipment, speak and hear at the same time. It is possible that, on one of our “Cruise To” events, your organiser will ask you to listen in on one of these Channels for any ship-ship updates. Should you have aspirations of taking your boat further afield, out to sea, or just expanding your knowledge and experience, there are a number of maritime radio licenses you can study for and attain. The Ofcom site below has a list.....
<https://www.ofcom.org.uk/manage-your-licence/radiocommunication-licences/maritime-radio>
 you might also consider doing the RYA “Marine Radio VHF (Short Range Certificate)” available, online, from many RYA training centres.

Here is a sub-set of the marine Channels:

Usage	Channel
Distress / Safety /Call (1Min duration for call)	16
Inter Boat	8,72 & 77
Public correspondence ship to shore (on way out)	25, 26 & 28
London VTS (Vessel Traffic Service)	
Operations boat movements Teddington to Crayfordness	14
Operations boat movements Caryfordness to Southend	68
Operations boat movements East beyond Southend	69
Yacht Safety (UK Only)	67
Marina Channel	80
Bridge to Bridge comms. for shipmasters safety of large vessels	13
DSC (Digital Select Selective Calling) Distress calls	70
Follow up on voice channel	16

continuing the History of the SBC

Members finish building the boathouse, 1995-6

In fear of things dragging out it was agreed to set a target date: June 1st 1996 would be the opening day. Planning now started for catering, decorating the Island and sending invitations to members and other Clubs. Plus finishing all the jobs in time.! We started 1996 with a lot of work still to be carried out on the boathouse, with little funds available. At one time there was less than £2000 in the bank to pay all our bills. To complete the boathouse, it was agreed that a selected number of members would carry out the work. It took around six months. Some of the jobs carried out by members included electrical wiring, replacing steps, ceiling panels and



battening, installing the galley, painting walls, putting up guttering and shutters, rendering the generator walls, laying paving slabs, turf, shrubs and much more. Members and

their friends donated materials, pictures, noticeboards, knot-boards, propeller, clock, fire-extinguishers and also furniture from the London

river yacht club, which arrived just in time for the grand opening on June 1st.

During this time donations from members and other Clubs were received, totalling £2752. Donations



Please contact Sue harmer if you would like to discuss and purchase any of these Club items



were received from Richmond Scouts; Albany Yacht Club , Thames Motor Yacht Club, Harleyford Yacht Club , Oxford ditch cruising ,

Phyllis Court , Purley Cruises , Windsor Yacht Club , Bray Cruising, Lee and start, ATYC, £1000 from Robert Parvin (a member), and £500 from Dorothy Jackson, which paid for the food and drink on June



1st . Plus, a number of other members did not claim for their expenses.

I have not mentioned the club boat, which was badly damaged during the fire, and was sent away for repair; most of the rivets in the panels had to be replaced, also a new engine with cabling.

The donations we received helped to pay

for this. We also purchased a secondhand generator from the British Motor Yacht Club for £500. This was stored at Leander Sea Scouts for around 18 months until we could install it in our new boathouse.



GUILLET



A smart sleeveless fleece very useful when you don't want to overheat and just need a little more warmth

Price : £20

CLASSIC FLEECE



Stephen is wearing the classic must have Navy Fleece Fantastic quality

Price : £27

CLUB BURGEE



A must have to brighten up your boat and represent the club

Price : To Be Confirmed

SWEATSHIRT SKY BLUE



More warmth with this great comfortable sweatshirt in a flattering sky blue

Price : £17

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