

**SBC**

# The Small Boat Club Kingston upon Thames

Newsletter: 12<sup>th</sup> Dec 2020

## Commodore's Message

Hello again everyone.

We are now approaching the end of what has proven to be an unprecedented year. We have been restricted by an invisible threat in all that we might normally have done in respect of our shared pastime. Our island is a little short on TLC, our boats have had fewer hours on the river and our members haven't been able to socialise to the degree that we are used to.

I have been made aware of two of our number suffering from Covid. Whilst unrelated to the island or the club, it brings home the reality of the virus, so please continue to follow guidance and stay safe.

If you do plan to visit the island over the next few months, pay particular attention to the river conditions, let someone know that you are going to the island, and remember to check in either using the Q-code or signing the visitors book.

Looking forward, the outlook is more optimistic given the development of several vaccines, so maybe we can get back to a greater level of normality next year.

Last month we held our AGM via Zoom. We had a good attendance and I was able to share with everyone what had been achieved by the club in terms of maintenance. I was also able to give an overview of the Programme Of Works we propose for next year and received approval, in principle, to spend the money put aside for this. Next year marks the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the opening of the current club house, and much of the work is focussed on "sprucing" up the building. We are also looking to do work on the jetty and the island grounds.... oh, and to have a few social gatherings! The AGM also gave me the opportunity for giving out the annual awards recognising the work and

support various members have provided. A full list is attached to the AGM minutes, but you should note that far more folk were worthy nominees than we have awards to give out. So thank you to everyone for doing your bit this year.

We also shared the draft Schedule Of Events for 2021, much of which is based on what we had planned this year and have carried forward.

Attendees were given the opportunity to select dates to do their duty days. I have plugged these in, and allocated the remaining days at random. The Schedule will be included in our 2021 Handbook and sent out early next year. Please check your dates and make a note of them. If you cannot do the allocated date, it is up to you to find someone to cover: use email, the WhatsApp group or any other means to do so. Also, by way of a reminder, I have set up a Shared Calendar that you can subscribe to (free!) if you have a smartphone or MS-Outlook. Just drop me a note on [ajjones001@sky.com](mailto:ajjones001@sky.com) for access. Next year is already populated with planned events.

Sue Harmer has stepped down from the Committee, as has our Honourable Treasurer Stephen Gilmour. Thank you both, again, for all the work and support you have given to the Club. At the AGM we had a number of volunteers to join the Committee all of who have now had first-hand experience of our monthly meeting last week. Linda's "From the Committee" section gives a bit more detail.

Finally, there may still be time to get your orders in for Club Merchandise as mentioned last time. If you are interested, drop a note to Sue at [susan@slharmer.plus.com](mailto:susan@slharmer.plus.com)

I hope that you, your families and friends have an enjoyable holiday, a great new year and stay safe.  
AJ

## From the Committee

From the Committee:

We welcomed new members to the Committee – David, Gavin, Simon and Sussan – great to have some fresh ideas and views. But the Club isn't just the Committee – everyone can put forward ideas and take part.

As we come to the end of the year, there are still some things that need to be tidied up for the winter. Dom and helpers want to get the fences repaired and the red netting up to protect the grass from marauding geese! Many boats are already covered against the winter weather. As we said previously, please ensure your mooring lines are in good condition and can withstand strong flows, high water and winds.

The Committee looked forward to the new year, 2021! We hope to have the new day boat ready for use – details of how to book it should be in the Handbook. We should have better lights and a more efficient (less smelly) loo, thanks to Andrew Barwick and Trevor Savage. And we look hopefully to making up for lost time with a busy programme, fingers crossed.

When you start going out and about, The Environment Agency (EA) has given a contract for managing its 24 hour moorings to District Enforcement (DE) and this is now in force.

**IMPORTANT** - Mooring signs for the new management scheme are now starting to appear at 24-hour locations. If you decide to moor at these locations please take care to ensure you fully comply with the requirements to register on arrival and make the payment if required. The penalty charge for non-compliance is £150 with no reduction for prompt payment. Linda would be grateful to hear of your experiences with the new scheme – good or bad. Contact: Tony Riley ATYC  
There are still some questions about the arrangements but you need to comply. EA says it has brought some new sites into use so some good news; a full list is available. Just take care about the depth.

These arrangements are for EA 24 hour moorings. Some other sites are also managed by DE – for instance DE has a contract with the Royal Palaces – so similar arrangements will apply in the Hampton Court area.

Best wishes and stay safe,  
Linda



*The Willy Waterman  
Hints and Tips passed down*

## Shipping Forecasts

So, have you thought of venturing beyond the Thames next year? Maybe on your own or crewing another boat? Well, there is a world of difference between our island's surrounds and those of the sea. A lot more skill, knowledge and planning is needed. So, how about the weather and sea conditions?

You may be familiar with the Radio 4 shipping forecast that gives a high-level view of sea conditions, but do you know what the forecast conveys?

The Shipping Forecast started up on radio in 1924, when the Air Ministry started broadcasting its weather shipping programme, using 13 maritime zones, twice daily on the Home Service. It was suspended during the Second World War but was relaunched in 1949. There are now 31 zones, which are given out in strict order, beginning at Viking in the north-east bordering Norway, and proceeding in a clockwise direction round the British Isles.

Only seven areas survive from the original list: Forties, Humber, Dogger, Thames, Wight, Shannon and Hebrides. Minches was absorbed into Hebrides in 1983; North and South Utsire were added in 1984, and, in 2002, Finisterre became FitzRoy (named for pioneering meteorologist Admiral Robert FitzRoy). As with most of the Met. Office's services, forecasts are now available on-line

The forecasts describe

**Wind** - Direction and speed/force 0 (calm) to 12 (hurricane).

**Sea State** - The conditions of the sea, which don't always match the wind. Waves, ranging from 0 (calm) to 9 (phenomenal) and Swell, ranging from 0 (no swell) to 9 (confused)

**Visibility** - Ranges from Very poor (less than 1,000 metres) through to Good, 5 nautical miles or more.

**Pressure** in HectoPascals

So, what do you do with all of this information? I'd suggest taking one of the many RYA endorsed courses!

## The History of the SBC (continued)

### **Open Day Saturday June 1st. 1996.**

On Saturday very early Phyllis, Sandra and her daughter were up and down the steps carrying boxes and trays of gorgeous food, followed by Peter with cases of wine, while others were inside preparing the boathouse ready for our guests.

Gradually during the morning guests were arriving either on their boats or by car, where they were ferried across to the island and met by Edmund who then introduced them to me, and received a welcoming drink from one of our waiters, Mike Lelyveld and Mike Hale. I then gave an outline history of the SBC, the fire damage and the work of restoration. There were over 100 visitors and members: it was lovely to see so many.

At 1.00pm the two buglers from Kingston steadfast started the opening with a fanfare whilst raising the colours, which was carried out by Fred Orford, alongside 19 burgees from our visiting clubs. We then moved up the steps in front of the clubhouse where I was about to address the visitors with my speech. I started with....

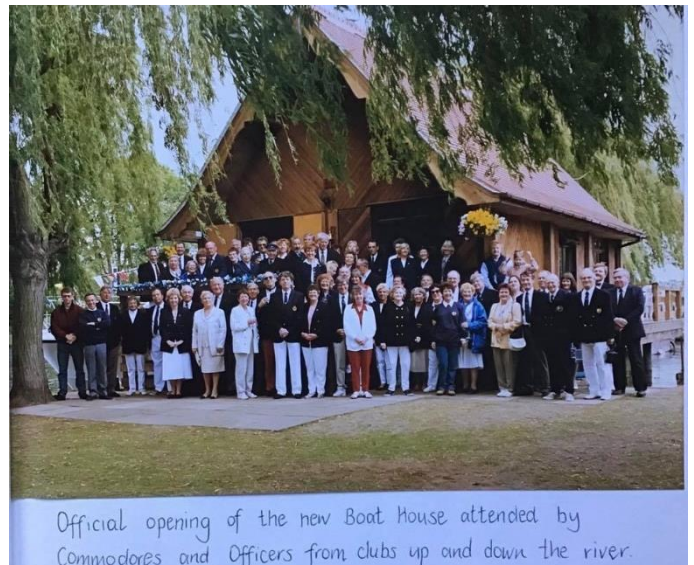
“Thank you all for being here today with the Small Boat Club members. Just under three years ago on a July evening at approximately 22.40hrs our old boathouse went up in flames. Just one hour later all the hard work, memories, dreams, pleasures and fun for so many members over the years was in ashes. These dreams started over 43 years ago back in the early 1950’s when a small group at that time – just six people – got together and started the club. They looked for a place to meet near the river and had a choice of three places, they chose ‘Tea-Pot island’, Stephens Ait. The club grew and grew. One of those founder members, Dorothy Jackson, is here today to play a big part in the opening: she will be cutting the ribbon. After the fire our then Commodore, Lucilla Phelps, called the committee together, while the ashes were still warm, and started a steering committee to move forward before the club became too despondent and fell apart. Over the next couple of years we had problems but received a lot of support from other clubs, your clubs, with your kind thoughts and donations and the use of your clubhouses, we at the Small Boat Club thank you all. You were such a great support in our time of need. One person who helped us over our hardest times and proved to be a real friend of the Small Boat Club was Mark Warner. He has helped us through our most difficult moments, and he was always there to offer advice. Thank you, Mark. Also, I would like to thank Robin Newlands of the Environment Agency, for his help and support. It was just as hard for them as for us! Thank you, Robin. Although we have builders to do the main part of the boathouse a lot of work has been carried out by our

members and past steering committee. I am not naming names, but they will always be remembered by the club records of this historic day. There will be a group photo taken just after the ribbon is cut, so please group closely together. Today we are not just a number of clubs from up and down the river, but more like a family that has come together. Thank you all for coming. I would now like to ask Mark Warner and Dorothy to open the Small Boat Club 1996 boathouse.”

Dr Mark Warner responded on behalf of the guests and expressed his happiness at the successful outcome after so much difficulty. Taking great pride in declaring the boathouse open, Dorothy cut the ribbon, with rather large scissors, then pulled the ribbon tassel, to reveal the commemorative plaque. Soon the boathouse was full of hungry people who were happily appreciative of the superb selection of food. “Happy sailing” was the toast, at which moment the heavens opened and in disbelief at the heavy rain which was at least well timed if it had to happen at all! Sure enough, when we were all well wined and dined the sun came out, so did the people, and the island was the idyllic scene we had dreamed it would be. I know that we were all proud to be members of the SBC.

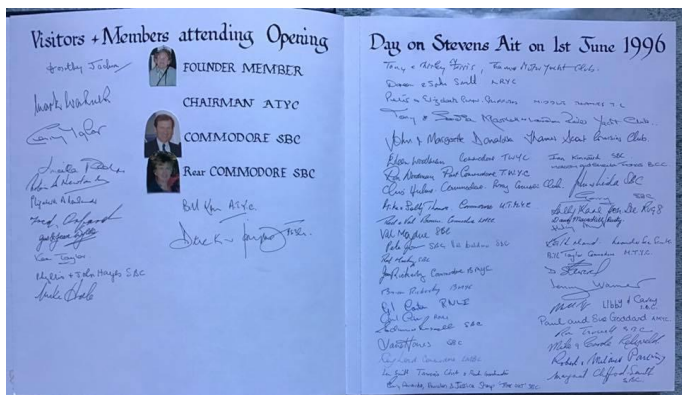
Gerry Taylor.

*p.s.* One thing we learnt from this is to make sure that our insurance was up-to-date, and to open a second safety bank account in case of any future high costs



*This concludes (for the moment) a remarkable series of articles put together by Gerry to inform us all of details in the history of our Club. Thank you so much, Gerry, for all your work putting the text and the photos together for us all.*





Please send articles, notices & photos for future Newsletters to:  
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