



SBC

The Small Boat Club Kingston upon Thames

Newsletter: 22nd May 2021

Commodore's Message

Hello everyone.

Finally, we are getting good news from the government about the easing of lockdown measures and how they affect us at the club. Whilst there are still restrictions on who can meet indoors (in the Clubhouse and on our boats), outdoor restrictions



have been lifted and so our Programme of Events can restart! **The Family Fun Day** is on **Sunday 27th June** and looks as though it will be a great turnout. Families are already queuing to get in ...

See Vaughan's update later in the newsletter. Oh, and for those of you wondering why Vaughan's boat looks a bit untouched, this is why ...



The **Club Party** will take place on the evening of **Saturday 10th July**. This year we will have a Spanish theme (just in case you are missing the package holiday of food, booze,

and disco music whilst being surrounded by Brits!). The caterer is booked to do us a paella, the DJ's are booked with a catalogue of Black Lace tracks, we just need you, a few friends and a warm evening to round it off ... I'll be sending out more information later.

Unfortunately, the celebrations to mark the 25th anniversary of the opening of the new Clubhouse have been pushed back because of covid (in particular the restrictions on the number of people allowed indoors), the knock-on effect on maintenance activities, and trying to fit in with other events. So, I plan to do a low-key event on **Sunday 4th July** from 10:00 until 15:00, and offer all members a glass of wine, some nibbles and encourage you to mingle (not sure what the hugging guidelines by then will be), say hello to members you have not yet met, and catch up with those you already have but may not have seen for a while! I expect that a few of you plan to take your boats out; so much the better. Say hello as you pass through one way or the other!

We hope everyone will be pleased with the work done for the club over the last few months. The new turf is amazing. See Dom's report on how it was achieved later in the newsletter. The outside of the



Clubhouse has been painted (well, there's a tiny bit still to do at the time of writing), the inside should be getting painted as this newsletter goes out, and we

will then need to ask for a tiny, little, bit more help to fix the fence, do a few "snagging" tasks and generally tidy up. A huge thankyou to everyone who has done their bit this year! And thank you for working around the wildlife. We are hoping for some news here soon

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Our club **Honorary Secretary**, Linda, is planning to step down at the end of this season. Linda has been doing the job for many, many years, and has successfully kept the Committee members in line. This is an important, full Committee position. The club would find it extremely difficult to operate without an Honorary Secretary. So, this is a call to everyone and anyone who might be able to step into the position to put their hand up! Linda estimates it takes 1-2 hours a week and has put together a brief "role description" which is available for those interested. It would be an ideal time to volunteer as it means you could shadow Linda for the next few months and would, of course, get all the support needed from the rest of the Committee. **Please contact Linda directly at lindavarney2@gmail.com**

Lastly, a reminder to boat owners that quarterly mooring fees are due 1st June, you should already have received a reminder from our treasurer.

A quick reminder of some useful web sites :-

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/>

[River Thames Conditions](http://riverconditions.environment-agency.gov.uk)

<http://riverconditions.environment-agency.gov.uk>

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

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

ps. A little bit of a moan (sorry), the wording of which I had to think long and hard about! Everyone knows our loo is basic and doesn't have a flush capability. When you use it, can I ask that you check the condition and leave it as you would hope to find it. Thank you!

AJ

From the Committee

While we have been concentrating on getting our island into good order and are now looking forward to some serious use of our boats, except for Vaughan who has to wait for Mrs Coot to hatch her brood,

others have been making full use of the River. Beside the birds AJ has shown, there are grebes nesting by the Sea Cadets buoy and the Egyptian geese are around. We also see moorhens but not sure where they are nesting. On the water the sailing clubs and rowers are all fully active. We have the 'London' boats passing (Cockney Sparrow for instance) but I understand it is berthed at Kew because of the continuing limitations on passing under Hammersmith Bridge. We understand better arrangements are being developed and Simon Price is suggesting a day trip to the Thames Barrier later in the season. Watch out for more details. Teddington Lock is now back to 24 Hour operation and most other locks have some degree of service, even if social distancing rules okay! At the EA 24 hour moorings, you no longer have to 'register' on arrival but please read the notices if you intend to stay more than 24 hours. If you try to moor at some of the other 'non designated' sites, please go in cautiously bow first to check the depth.

Don't forget: if you want to fill up with water at any of the locks you need to take your own hose (as pointed out by AJ and Lucilla). Please check river conditions before you set out – after a very dry April, some of the River is now on warning boards after the recent heavy rain showers. Now is also the time to check your life jackets – the trigger cartridges have a time expiry date on them. There is a card in the Clubhouse showing you how to check your life jackets.

No doubt everyone has been aware of recent media interest in our part of the River. Sadly there was major fire on Platts Eyot which largely destroyed Otter Marine and one of the Dunkirk Little Ships. Members posted various photos on the WhatsApp site. The Committee agreed to make a contribution to help those who had lost so much. And more recently following the seal we had the baby whale at Teddington. Sadly, although it was rescued from the boat rollers, it became disorientated and unwell so couldn't be relocated down the estuary. But the latter does show that the River is pretty clean and there are plenty of fish for animals to eat.

Linda

Duty Days

23rd May: Committee Member (Painting Working Party)

30th May: Simon Pinnock

6th June: Sharon White

13th June: Bazil and Zoe Arden

20th June: Paul Honigsfeld

27th June: Committee Member (Family Fun Day)

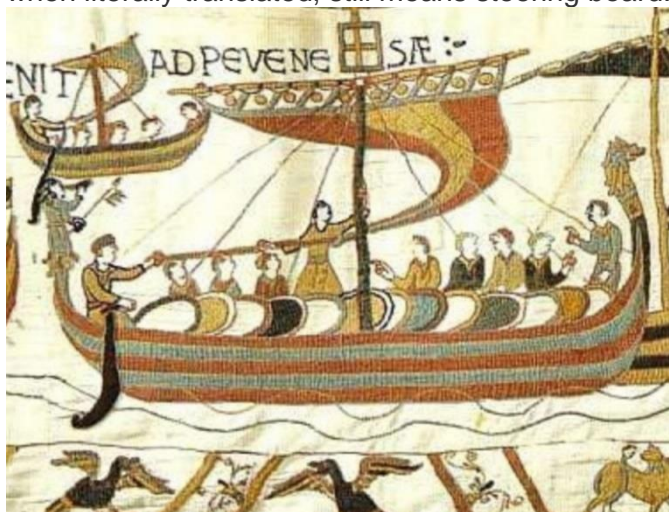
4th July: Steve and Penny D'Souza



The Wily Waterman *Hints and Tips passed down*

What are the origins of Starboard and Port?

Some of the earliest boats were simple, dug-out canoes, propelled and steered by a single oar. As the majority of people are right-handed, this oar, when used to steer, would most frequently be on the right side of the canoe when facing forward. As boats developed and became larger, the “**steering board**” also became larger and fixed. Rather than fixed in the middle at the back of the boat, it was typically on the right-hand side and became known as the “**steorboard**” in Anglo Saxon and subsequently evolved into starboard in modern English. The Dutch use the word “*stuurbord*” which, when literally translated, still means steering board.



..and what about Port?

In medieval and later English, the left-hand side of the boat was referred to as “*laddebord*” or loading side. This was because the “*steorboard*” was susceptible to damage if the boat was brought to moor on the right-hand side so it was moored with the left hand side against the port. The word evolved to “*larboard*” and continued to be the side

facing the port. From the mid-19th Century, according to Admiral Smyth’s “*The Sailor’s Word Book*”, “...the left side of the ship is called Port, by Admiralty Order, in preference to larboard as less mistakeable from Starboard in sound...”
Many thanks to Simon for suggesting this item.

Family Fun Day, 27th June

There has been a fantastic response to the upcoming family fun day at the end of June, with over 60 members and cadets planning to pop along for the day. Doors will open from 11:00 followed by a visit from the Teddington Lifeboat at around 12:00. During the afternoon there will be a range of activities for people to try and, conditions permitting, opportunities to get on the water as much as possible. The whole idea is to allow families and members to have some fun, bring along a picnic to enjoy on the new lawn in front of the clubhouse and get to know one another as the boating season picks up steam into the summer.

With around 30 cadets expected to attend as well as many new members it would be timely once again to remind parents and guardians of the importance of safety on the day. Children must be closely supervised at all times and buoyancy aids or lifejackets are recommended where appropriate. If you are planning to be in the water then wetsuit shoes are advised to be worn to protect feet from the underwater hazards in the shallows or along the edges of the island.

The ferry will run a frequent service throughout the day with activities winding down around 16:00, though of course everyone is free to make use of the island as they wish for as long as they want to stay (it is your island, after all!). Finally, thank you to everyone who has offered to help and we look forward to seeing everyone there on 27th June.

Vaughan Simpson

“Alone we can do so little; together we can do so much!”

To me this phrase best summarises what we have all achieved.

Below are a few notes and some **BIG** “Thank You’s”

Pre-Work Surrey Leg



Post-Work Surrey Leg



We started by finding the biggest Rotovator we could hire – delivered on Friday 26th Feb 2021 Jack & I gave it a little go – it appeared it would work! and on Saturday 27th & Sunday 28th with small but perfectly formed Covid compliant teams of 4 we set to work with “Ground Prep Part 1”.



At this point I had established an “A” Team principal player’s being Simon Price & Mick Shoulders. I cannot thank them enough for being my Colonels-in-Chief; not only did they do every shift, they were critical sounding-boards from concept to checking – estimates to process.

Chaps, thanks from me & all Members!

With *Ground Works 1* sorted – we estimated we needed 30 ton of topsoil with a barge capacity @ 20 ton!



AJ's sage advice was taken, and we agreed we'd get some Boy's Toys: a 1 ton capable tracked Dumper and a "Powered Rake" – and with these safely transported via the trusty Ferry (and remarkably, still strong Jetty) we were ready for *Ground Work's 2!*



At this point another shout out to David Hudson who came over with his concrete breaker to attack the 600mm cube (roughly by Val's boat), the source of our almost forever "pooling" of standing water. He also provided me with a load of great quality shots, that I now can't find!

Bottom Line: post another weekend of teams, we were ready to call in the Turf & Barge again. With 540m² of turf we needed high tides at Twickenham. This resulted in the *Turf Dates Weekend*, 9th- 11th April.

The Call Went Out – and we were able to muster separate Laying and Carrying teams. Roger Higham gets a special mention too, as he helped advise on the new watering system now dug in and available to all Members. Plus, he's our man in the sky ...his brief a "time dated" series of shots, eg the photos below!



As you may see, Mick led the 1st team, hoping to join up with the 2nd "Southern Hemisphere Team (and you'll never know the difference!) Getting into it, David then put his hand up to lead the 3rd team. With this fantastic teamwork we made great progress and by noon we were well into the Club House lawn!!

With David's team in full flow the turf laying was pretty much completed come 3pm Saturday – so what of Sunday's team I here you ask?

Again, our call-out had been answered, and the critical element was “Watering-In”. Our 120 litres per minute pump was able to “flood” everywhere & then we stamped down the result with wide planks (to maintain the Wimbledon surface!?!). It took most of the day!



In Summary: I thanked numerous Members for specific helps and assistances on the day/s. Yet what was so super impressive, was your response, availability, and commitment – every Member I asked either contributed on the day (in some case days!) and for a couple who had more than good reason to be elsewhere, they too have contributed, eg contributing to the extended watering regime!

Others with shout-outs missed thus far; Simon P for sorting so many items, including the underground piping, and Hilary (our landscaping specialist) for sage advice and comfort / sense checking. Gerry for his facebook shots – and writing this now, I’m racked with angst as I hope I’ve not missed a help that was special or overlooked – if so, super sorry! Dom

Before Club House End



After Club House End



Now Ready To Enjoy

NB: the “Call” went out to everyone sub-65 without underlying health conditions. Each boat owner was represented within the teams, including the multi-owning Members. In addition, Members without boats or off-island boats showed up; as did a few 65+, along with a couple with health concerns. In regard to the Ladies Prize, obviously I need to flag: Suzanne Gilmore as an accomplished turf layer; Linda (as ever) keeping us fed and watered; Gail & Sharron for raking, tidying and general duties – I can’t call it so a “Special” thanks to all of you.

Dom

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