



**SBC**

# The Small Boat Club Kingston upon Thames

Newsletter: 3<sup>rd</sup> July 2021

## Commodore's Message

Hello everyone.

Another "hiccup" in the relaxing of lockdown rules has affected our social diary again. I sent an email note out earlier this week to you all with information, but here's a quick summary of the new dates:

**4<sup>th</sup> July** – Low key Clubhouse 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary recognition – drop in for a glass of wine between 11:00 and 15:00

**12<sup>th</sup> August** – Club Party – Spanish themed with Paella and DJ, 18:30 'til late

**19<sup>th</sup> September** – Family Fun Day – aimed at our younger members, family and friends

**Please get back to me a.s.a.p. with ticket requests for the Club Party. The caterer and DJ need 50% payments now.**

It is important to those who organise these events that we get a response, even if in the negative, so that we can be sure we are getting our communications out to everyone. So please respond one way or the other. We also try to get information out via WhatsApp, for which we have two groups set up. If you are not yet on those groups and want to be added, drop a note to [ajjones001@sky.com](mailto:ajjones001@sky.com)

Work on the island, club facilities and fleet continue. Please see Linda's section on "*From the Committee*" for a summary. A big "thank you" from me to all concerned. We have a new day-boat that is close to being officially launched. It will be available for hire by the day, morning, or afternoon. There will be some caveats attached such as having done a familiarisation session first, and the wearing of buoyancy aids. More to follow shortly.

A "heads up" on fees. As many of you know our island is leased from the Environment Agency. The fees payable are up for re-negotiation next year and the expectation is that they will increase. Because of

this, and to protect members from a sharp increase next year, it was agreed by the Committee some time back, to apply a small annual rise of £1 per foot to mooring charges each year. The Committee have agreed that this will apply again in September of this year but that, subject to approval at the AGM, for the 2022/23 membership year, it is planned that any increases would apply to membership fees.

A reminder that Linda is planning to step down this year from her role as Honorary Secretary. This is a full committee role and is vital to the club. **Can I call on all and any of you that might be interested to let Linda know.** We have the chance of a managed hand-over between now and the end of the year. Here's hoping that this summer will be a noticeable improvement on last years!

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/>

[River Thames Conditions](#)

<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>

## From the Committee

It was a great disappointment when the Government announced a delay in the easing of restrictions which meant our Family Fun Day had to be postponed until September. So many members had worked hard to get the island looking good for the day. Big thanks are due to Dom for masterminding so much of the island improvements, AJ for sorting the external clubhouse refurbishment and Sue for organising the internal painting. The picnic benches have been refurbished – thanks Simon Pinnock and helpers. If you notice something that needs repairing on the island, please let one of the committee know. The work list isn't exhausted yet!! So please be prepared to offer help as well as enjoying your boats.

As part of the improvements the Club has purchased



two new, more stable dinghies which are designed to be self-draining. The new ones are wider – so be prepared to 'stretch' when paddling. The larger dinghy on the downstream side of the jetty is also available for use so we now have five dinghies. Please

remember that our rules state that **one** dinghy can be left at the downstream end of the island, (near *Jem P*). Whilst others can be left at the head of the creek, it would be better if dinghies were taken back to the landing stage so that others have access to them. You should certainly do this if you leave the island for a trip in your boat.



The other major purchase is a floating pontoon which can be used for swimming and accessing kayaks or paddleboards. It is on the Middlesex side of the island currently alongside a ladder into the water. Thanks to Andrew Barwick and James Manthel for organising these two improvements. Please come along on Sunday 4th

July, especially if you haven't seen the improvements, and look at Gerry Taylor's display about the history of the Club while you admire the Clubhouse.

**First Aid:** the first aid box in the Clubhouse has been updated and restocked – thanks Sue. If you have an accident or injury, equipment is there to be used but please report it in the Accident Book and note what you used so we can make sure stock is replaced. It does include some sachets of sterilised water for washing wounds.

**River news:** The full complement of lock volunteers is not in place yet so there are occasions when locks are not 'manned' ie show 'self-service'. Be prepared to operate them yourself or help other boaters who are around. Also, the water points seem to be causing problems. Don't forget that you need a hose if you want to use an EA water point, and the flow is slow because of the fittings. You could be in for a long wait if you arrive behind a narrowboat! We are into the regatta season so do look out for Regatta boards when you are out and about especially at weekends.

**My 'moan':** if you bring new equipment to the island, please take the box home with you for disposal. If that isn't possible for some reason, please don't leave it somewhere it will get wet and soggy, and others use it as a general rubbish container. We don't have rubbish collection from the island; one of the other members will have to remove it.

*Linda*

## Duty Days

- 04/07 Steve & Penny D'Souza
- 11/07 AJ & Gay Jones
- 18/07 Simon Green & Sarka Juric
- 25/07 Roger and Suzie Higham
- 01/08 Matthew & Elizabeth Taylor
- 08/08 Laurence Bain & Ulla Wilke
- 15/08 Alastair & Maria Pettigrew

## IMPORTANT INFORMATION.

### Government E10 Fuel.

Please be aware that Regular unleaded petrol is going to change to contain 10% Bio Ethanol as from September this year. Petrol engines for vehicles/boats manufactured before 2000 should now use Super unleaded which will remain at 5% Bio Ethanol. Continued use of regular petrol with increased Bio Ethanol will damage/rot fuel systems. Further information is available on Internet.



## *The Whiley Waterman* *Hints and Tips passed down*

### Engine Checklist

Here is a generalised check list for those taking powered boats out. It should help reduce the likelihood of issue while away!

It might also be worth getting to know your own engine set-up (if not already the case) and modifying this to create your own specific checklist.

1. Bilge blower  
Where fitted. This blows fumes out of the engine compartment to avoid CO coming back into the boat and/or to blow fuel vapour out.
2. Visual check  
If you know your boat and engine well enough, you may just spot something that has changed since your last outing, or just doesn't look quite right and needs closer investigation.
3. Fuel and fuel tap/stop  
Check you have enough for your trip, plus a bit for contingency (just in case that lock you were going through isn't manned and takes a little more of your time to get through). And make sure the fuel stop is open before you start your engine and drain your battery!
4. Fuel filter

Some engines have a see-through fuel filter, have a check to see if there is any muck in there. It is a good idea to have the fuel filter checked at each service.

5. Engine oil level  
Make sure you have enough engine oil. Normally checked via a dip-stick, when the engine is cold and before having been cranked.
6. Gearbox oil level  
This will vary from engine to engine but should be checked before setting off. A gearbox seizure is a major mechanical issue to try and fix.
7. Raw water filter and sea cock  
Engines need water to cool down. Unlike car engines, the water is drawn in from the river/sea, pumped around the engine, and expelled. Do a visual check of your water filter, and make sure your sea cock is open.
8. Fresh water level  
Do you have a freshwater tank on-board? Do a visual check on levels.
9. Battery switch  
Make sure this is switched on or, for larger set-ups with two batteries, set to "both".
10. Stern gland greaser  
Make sure this is set to the open position.
11. Hydraulic fluid  
Check level(s) before setting off.
12. Outdrive leg  
If you have an outdrive on your boat, do a visual check of it. Look for cracks, hydraulic levels and, if possible, state of prop.
13. Instruments working  
Ignition on, and check dials. Are they where you would expect? Fuel, Revs, Amps/charge, temperature, trim (if fitted).....
14. Out of gear (neutral)  
And, probably most important when moored close to others, **MAKE SURE YOU ARE IN NEUTRAL** before firing up!  
Before setting off, it's a good idea to let the engine warm up a bit and visually check that coolant water is coming out indicating that the engine won't overheat.

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