



SBC

The Small Boat Club Kingston upon Thames

Newsletter: 14th August 2021

Commodore's Message

Hello everyone.

As I am writing this, we are in the last preparations for the summer party on the 14th. The island has had a tidy up, marquees are in place, food ordered and music to come. I know that the shuffling of dates has meant that many of you can no longer attend. Given the restrictions of the last 16 months or so, I fully understand that there are other demands on everyone's time. A big thankyou to those that have helped so far in the preparatory work, Sue, Linda, Gay, Simons Pinnock and Price, Roger Higham, Trevor, Gerry, Andrew Juric, Vaughan, Ray and Dom who popped over on a flying visit. Also, a massive thankyou to those that have contributed items and experiences for the raffle, Sam, Colin, Paul Stratos and Rob Fountain to name a few.

With the rescheduling our events, we took into account the Family Fun Day so as to time it when most, if not all, of those on holiday would be back. This is on the 19th September, and Vaughan has more on this later in this letter.

We also had the 25th anniversary of the opening of the Club House on 4th July. A bit of a subdued event but many thanks to Gerry for setting up the exhibition and giving a

commentary on events leading up to the fire along with the challenges of rebuilding our home.



Of course, probably the best news of late, is the lifting of Covid restrictions. The Clubhouse is open as normal again. We will be removing some of the sanitisers around the island (many are now broken!) but will leave a supply of liquid inside. For those of you that still want to check in using the NHS app, we will be leaving the Q codes up for a while yet. As we are no longer obligated to keep a record, members no longer need to fill in the visitors log for themselves (but please continue to log in any and all non-members). I'm hoping that you will now all feel comfortable enough to help out the Club at the working parties (currently scheduled for 7th and 14th November) to tie everything down for the winter – and maybe have a beverage afterwards! Also, that you will join us at the AGM (details to follow). There will likely be a number of short notice social events as well involving the boats and, hopefully, give us a chance to swap crews



around to give us a chance to get to know each other again! And if you fancy organising a run, no matter how short or long, shout out. It will give us a chance to check out the Stratos's boat which has just recently taken up mooring in the creek and James's new acquisition which may be with us on the island shortly.

Another reminder that Linda will be stepping down this year from her role as Honorary Secretary. No one has yet come forward to take over from her which will create a problem for the club. **Can I call on all and any of you that might be interested to let Linda know.**

It has been a tough year and a bit for everyone. We have still managed a lot of improvements at the Club whilst operating within the restrictions and I sincerely hope that we can now all now start to enjoy our Club as much, if not more, than before we had even heard of Covid!

Stay safe.
AJ

From the Committee

In July, the Committee members had their first chance this year of meeting face to face and admiring the results of all the work that had gone on during the first half of the year. The grass is looking great, much appreciated by the geese who are leaving copious amounts of 'thank you' messages. We discussed the possibility of a spray which doesn't hurt the grass or other creatures but makes the grass taste rather unpleasant to geese. Until then, brushes and rakes to the ready.

Thanks to Dom and all his helpers who got us to this 'position'. And to everyone else who has helped mend and maintain all the fabric of the Club especially Simon Pinnock for sorting the steps, benches, and anything else that needs wood, screws and the appropriate tools. Not to forget our sanitation duo, Andrew and Trevor, who have been making our loo a more pleasant place to visit. Let's enjoy all we have achieved. After everyone's well-earned summer break there will still be jobs waiting so please be ready to help.

AJ mentioned getting some social/boating events going. Thanks to Vaughan for his suggestion of a pre-Euros Final cruise when we dusted off the St George's Flugs and headed off up river to Hampton Court. It was an interesting afternoon – Kingston

had a Regatta and the Hampton Court Flower Festival was on its last day so some navigational challenges! I offered to crew for Trevor and we were joined by Sharon, Mick and Angie so a good crowd and lots of chatter! Andrew Barwick is trying to



organise a trip down river so watch out for details and the opportunity to crew for someone you may not know well. All ideas welcome.

River News

It's been a relatively quiet time for river flow conditions; the heavy storms have created problems on the roads rather

than the river although there has been some overflow from drainage systems. The EA still has some challenges with staffing – some lock keepers are self-isolating, and they have one or two long term sickness issues so you may still find 'self-service' notices at locks. But all the volunteers have their own life jackets now so should be fully deployed. The new mooring arrangements seem to be in operation so if you see a sign where you plan to moor please read it and comply if you need to. It's also getting busy so keep your eye out for Regatta boards and swimming events. You can get details of events by subscribing to Harbour Master notices. This will also alert you to urgent difficulties such as lock breakdowns or incidents. I have details of what is happening on this reach.

Linda

Family Fun Day - 19th September

We are all looking forward to finally being able to hold the Family Fun Day on Sunday 19th September with a line-up of activities to enjoy both on and off the water. Thank you to everyone who confirmed their attendance at the first attempt, however in order for us to be able to plan for the revised date we'd be grateful if you could re-confirm that you can still attend on the 19th or if you will no longer be able to make the new date - a short note to confirm either way and any changes to your group numbers to

vaughansimpson@hotmail.com, or PM me from my number on the SBC WhatsApp group, would be great and ensure we can cater for the number of people attending. Thank you, and we look forward to seeing you there on the 19th September!

Cheers,
Vaughan.

“Moaning Myrtle's Corner”



When the ferry engine is running, unless involved in specific ferry maintenance works, please keep everyone inside the rails. Because of the twin-hull design, should something or someone slip off the front, the first thing that is likely to be met is the prop!



The Whiley Waterman Hints and Tips passed down

Have you ever wondered about the club's logo used on printed communications, this newsletter, clothing, pennants and signs around the clubhouse?

Most of it you may be able to work out but there are a few subtleties.

The club was initially one for small sailing boats. As such, the white triangle to the left depicts a sail.

The pale blue at the top represents the sky.... with no clouds!

The dark blue at the bottom represents the water.

The sky and water are delineated by waves of which there are seven to represent the seven seas.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION.

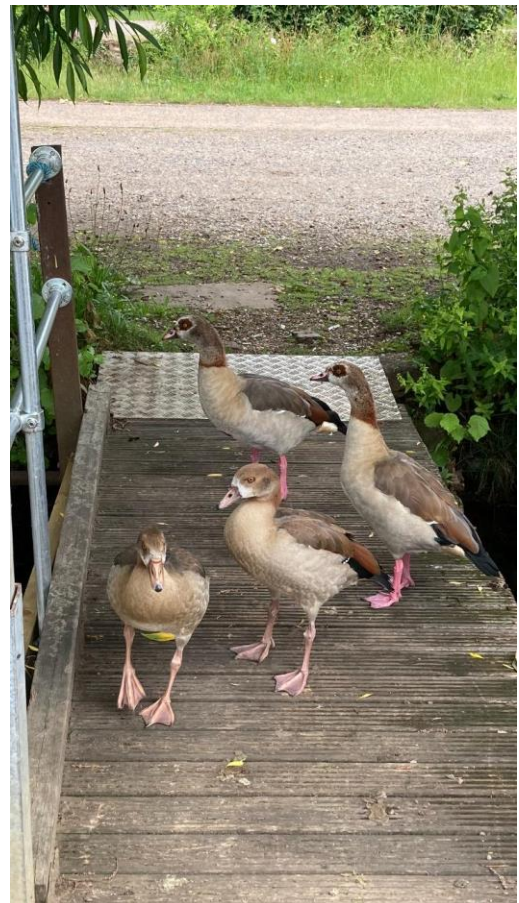
Government E10 Fuel.

Please be reminded that Regular unleaded petrol is going to change to contain 10% Bio Ethanol as from September. Petrol engines for vehicles and 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 the internet.

A gentle reminder that membership fees and mooring fees are due on 1st September...

Duty Officers:

15 th Aug	A & M Pettigrew
22 nd Aug	Adrian Grey
29 th Aug	Russell and Hilary Hanslip
5 th Sept	S & G Harvey



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