



SBC

The Small Boat Club Kingston upon Thames

Newsletter: 24th Sept 2021

Commodore's Message

Hello All,

At last, a newsletter that can look back on some good times!

Back on 14th August we were finally able to hold our annual party, this year with a Spanish theme. We had a few last-minute cancellations, but they were balanced out by more than a few last-minute additions, resulting in around 90 members and their guests turning out on a balmy evening for a colourful, noisy, fun evening. The island and Gofer had been spruced up with decorations and lights, the Twinz disco provided entertainment (with some pretty corny visual accompaniments), and Scoff 'n Nosh provided tasty and plentiful paellas (some members and ex-members were seen to be heading off with Tupperware boxes of leftovers for later!). We were introduced to some new dance moves from Bazil, Suzanne G. and even Mike Faxholm was seen to be swaying in rhythm(ish). Simon Pinnock and Sussan were spotted doing some pretty nifty jiving in the corner of the dance floor whilst the youngsters were adding to the party atmosphere with balloons. A massive thank you to all who helped set the evening up (too many to mention), to those that contributed

raffle prizes, to those that bought the raffle tickets and to everyone who made it such fun. And an apology to those who couldn't make it because of other engagements.

Finding a "rearranged" date

was never going to suit all. We also made around



members.

£300 after costs, which will go into the funds for projects next year.

On 12th September, Andrew Barwick and Simon Price hosted a visit from the Brentford Cruising Club to our island. Feedback from their Commodore, Deborah, was very positive and Andrew hopes to be able to pull together a small trip in the other direction for our



Then on the 19th we finally held our re-arranged Family Fun Day. Linda reports on it under the "From the Committee" section but I'd like to send big thanks to Vaughan and everyone involved in setting it up for what was a great day. The weather and Gofer



conspired to try and put a damper on things, but the effect was

"galvanising"!

Everyone tried that much harder to make things work.....and

they did. Great teamwork, great spirit, and a shared



experience that everyone who was there will look back on for years to come! The only downside (for

me) was that my multimedia theatrical entrance to the event was rained off. My smoke bombs now damp squibs, my sound system drowned, and my outfit shrunk! But my jokes are still intact and will be brushed down for next year! More big thanks are due to Cissy, Barney and Big Barney for being our water borne Uber Taxi for the day.

Looking forward, we have a few dates for your diary which I touched on in the last letter.

On Sunday 10th October we will hold the Commodore's Cruise. An excuse (if one was needed!) for everyone to take their boats out, burgees

aloft, for a small circuit of our little piece of the Thames and then return for a small glass or two of refreshment and chat.

The plan is to gather on the island around mid-day and set off at 1.00pm. There may be some folk out there without a boat, or a boat moored elsewhere, who are looking for "ride" so, if you are planning to take yours, why not put out a call on WhatsApp for additional crew.....a great way to get to learn a bit more about your fellow members.

We have working parties on the 7th and 14th November. We have a lot of work to do in fixing, maintaining, and locking things down for the winter. It is important that we get as full a turnout as possible to these working parties. We will find tasks for all (except maybe the youngest!). Dom is working on a consolidated "To Do" list as I write (please feel free to drop him a note if you think anything should be added) and will be putting names against activities, so be warned. In exchange, I and Mrs Commodore will provide a light snack and the club will provide teas, coffees and maybe a cake or two.

We plan to hold the Annual General Meeting on 20th November. Another important event in our club calendar. I plan to bring a draft schedule of events for

next season and attendees will have the opportunity to select dates for their duty days (there's the carrot!). After the event, dates will be allocated.

Finally, we are still looking for a Secretary to take over from Linda when she steps down at the AGM. If we are unable to find a volunteer within the club, we will have to consider outside services, the costs of which will have to be borne through membership fees. We don't want to become a "commercial marina", so please step forward if you can.

BUT, it's great to see club events kicking off again and hopefully putting smiles back on the faces of members!

Happy boating.

AJ

From the Committee

Whilst the Committee spent time looking at forthcoming events at its meeting on 7th September, it also looked forward to what needed to be completed before the end of the boating season.



The first event was the long-anticipated Family Fun Day which sadly we had to postpone in June. Vaughan had succeeded in maintaining the enthusiasm of his organising group and plans were well under way with over 50 adults and children planning to attend (see more later). AJ also mentioned that he was planning to reschedule his Commodore's Day for Sunday 10th October (details elsewhere). The AGM and Laying Up Supper will be on Saturday 20th November; we hope to be able to use the Leander Scouts HQ again.

There are still maintenance jobs to be completed; Dom is compiling a list of jobs for the **Working Parties on Sundays 7th and 14th November. All members will be expected to attend at least one and help.** If you notice something that needs doing, please let Dom know so it can be added to the list. We are aware that some of the mooring poles need remedial work to ensure they prevent boats riding



onto the edge of the island – but please also check your mooring lines (and if necessary replace them) to make sure they will withstand winter flows.

The Day Boat is ready for use but members are asked to do a familiarisation session with Dom or Andrew before taking it out. Please contact one of them for details.

Quick reminder:
Membership subscription renewals and mooring fees at the new rate were due on 1st September. Please pay promptly.
Next meeting: Tuesday 5th October at 7.30pm.



River News

The river levels have been low recently with the lack of rain. But please be aware that maintenance work is ongoing at Queen Elizabeth Reservoir so Thames Water is taking more water in other places and this can affect river levels. If you are mooring elsewhere, please allow some slack on your lines. The drain off below Teddington starts on 1st November; this means that it will be fully tidal below Teddington for about 3 weeks. If you plan to go for a trip down river, please check the state of



the tide to ensure there is adequate water.

The EA's consultation on charges for 2022-2024 has now closed so we await the outcome and whether there were enough objections for

the EA to have to reconsider its proposals. Otherwise, be prepared for around a 6% increase on your licence fee next year. I understand the summer relief lock keepers will be in place until the end of October but please be prepared to find locks on self-service – not difficult to do yourself but a bit slow. Follow the instructions on the pedestal and make sure the sluices are fully closed at your entry gate.

The EA has recognised that the new water taps have been causing difficulty and plans to add extra taps, but you will still need your own hose and connector. It has also ended the mooring enforcement contract with District Enforcement (DE); DE's notices will be removed this month hopefully. But please note – DE does have contracts with other organisations, eg the Royal Palaces, so the conditions at Hampton Court Palace still apply.



Family Fun Day
Sunday 19th saw the much-anticipated Family Fun Day. Vaughan and the organising

group had good support and families arrived with loads of gear for open water swimming, paddle boarding and canoe/kayaking. Loads of preplanning and preparation meant we were prepared for almost



everything – until the ferry broke down! Fearless members stepped into the fray and *Big Barney* was first up as a replacement ferry with *Beatrix III*, *La Luna* and *Cygnus IV* helping out later in the day. And then, just about noon, the heavens opened, and various members arrived looking like drowned rats, including Hilary and Russell, as *Fleet* had helped return the ferry to the island! Undeterred, activities got under way: Sharon creating beautiful butterflies and other creatures including later a splendid tiger; biscuits becoming flower gardens or faces; glittery tattoos and, in the Clubhouse, a team trying to knock down a scary face which turned out to have loads of sweets inside for everyone. Luckily, the rain eased off for the arrival of the Teddington Lifeboat, blue lights

flashing. The crew gave a quick talk about safety and the RNLI and handed out mementos in response to



questions. The timely arrival of bbq'd sausages was welcome and cakes appeared so the RNLI volunteers tucked in while talking to members but



declined the Park brew being enjoyed by others. Then it was time for water activities led by Sam and some of the other parents. A great time was had by all – and we still had things organised that we weren't able to do because we ran out of time. 'It was a great mix of organisation and yet maintained a relaxed atmosphere'.



Thanks to everyone involved. Here's to the next one!!!

Linda

"Moaning Myrtle's Corner"



Please would members take 'empties' home with you, (rather than expecting others to act as refuse collector!) and leave all Club property as you would like to find it (the loo, the bbq etc). Thanks

Remember: if you take the last dinghy from the jetty and find that there is no one on the island when you get across, and you plan to be away yourself, please tow one back on your boat before going off for the day. If you are going to stay on the island, keep an ear out for the bell.



The Whiley Waterman Hints and Tips passed down

Outboard Engine Checklist

A few months ago I covered Engine Checklists for inboards and outdrives, here is a generalised check list for outboards.

Again, it might 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. Clamps or bolts

Carry out a check of all clamps and bolts on the engine, such as the cover, and those holding the engine to the boat. Make sure all are present and secure.

2. Fuel

Have a quick look at the fuel indicator window if fitted, or look into the top of the tank. Check for obvious contamination (leaves, twigs, water...) and quantity. If you are unsure as to how much you might need for your trip, take along a top-up supply and a funnel (spilling fuel across the top of a hot engine is dangerous).

3. Oil

Have a visual check of the oil in the engine for quantity and contamination. It is likely you will have a dip stick to do this.

4. Controls

Make sure there is full and free movement of the throttle grip and the engine as a whole. Ensure that, if you have a tiller type outboard and are seated near the engine, you won't get in the way of that full movement!

5. Propeller

If you can tilt the outboard up, have a look at the prop for any obvious nicks, dents or imbalance that may cause issues. If you can't tilt it, try and have a look through the water!

6. Fuel line (if fitted)

If your outboard doesn't have an integrated fuel tank, check the line between the tank and engine. Make sure there are no obvious tears, cracks or holes. Make sure any clips or joints between the hose, tank, engine, primer bulb and inline filter are all secure.

7. Fuel filter (if fitted)

If you have an inline filter, check that there is no excessive debris in there.

8. Tank vents

As fuel is used up, air needs to get into the tank to stop it collapsing. Check that any vent is unobstructed.

9. Battery switch (if fitted)

For those with an electric start, check that the battery switch/isolator is in the on position

10. Primer bulb (if fitted)

If this is the first trip of the day, give the primer bulb a squeeze or two. The resistance will increase as the fuel pipe fills.

11. Kill cord

Check it is attached to the engine, to the operator, that it comes away when pulled and that it shuts the engine off when needed!

12. Out of gear (neutral)

Before firing up, make sure the engine is in neutral!

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.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION.
Government E10 Fuel.

Please be reminded that Regular unleaded petrol is going has changed to contain 10% Bio Ethanol. 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 were due on 1st September...

Duty Officers:

26th Sep I & R Holiday

3rd Oct R&J Fountain

10th Oct Ray Timms (Commodore's Cruise)

17th Oct G Taylor & V Baldwin

24th Oct S&J Gilmour

31st Oct M&C Harrison

7th Nov Various (Working Party)

14th Nov Various (Working Party)

FERRY SERVICES ENDS





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