



**SBC**

# The Small Boat Club Kingston upon Thames

Newsletter: 20<sup>th</sup> November 2021

## Commodore's Message

Hello All,

A big thanks to those who turned up at the Commodore's Cruise on 10<sup>th</sup> of October. Seven boats in all, including Gofer and our new residents Roxy, Nick, Stella, and Simon and Sussan's new craft. All motored up to and under the bridges at Kingston, returning by the main channel, with a "sail by" on the Surrey side to deliver a salute. The weather was kind and everyone was able to have a glass or two of bubbly in the company of the current and two former Commodores.







A personal thanks to Andrew Barwick who, a few days after the Commodore's Cruise, let me join him on a mini cruise from Port Solent to Cowes onboard his boat AAA. Our membership is large

and varied with a vast range of boating experience.

In just a few hours, I learned a lot from Andrew about offshore navigation and procedures including, just how close you can get to one of Her Majesty's aircraft carriers before getting attention!



I returned the favour by asking Andrew, and Roger Higham, to help me take *C'Est La Vie* up to Walton for the winter just last week. "Three Men In A Boat"! The social side of our Club is important and getting to know other members better really does have its rewards!



This month we have had two working parties on the island that have achieved a huge amount. The shed, bosun's locker and Clubhouse have had major tidy ups, "stock checks" of the marquees done, final lengths of the water system buried, goose fencing



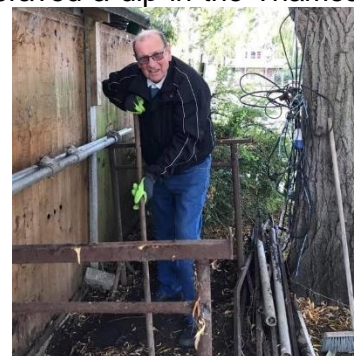
put up, the first stretches of the new fence on the Middlesex side concreted in (including mooring chains), access ways for the day boat made, leaves swept up, benches and pontoon put away for the winter.... the list goes on and on. Many, many thanks to those who made those sessions. For those who were unable to come along (you missed out on hot dogs BTW), but still want to help out, there is always plenty to do. The rubbish piles created will need to be disposed of (we used a "man and a van" previously and will likely do the same), the jetty needs some repair work, some further anti-goose fencing needs to go up...As long as the water conditions are on our side, I'm sure we can organise one or more "task specific" working parties....just let Dom and myself know if you are available!



Simon Price towing the pontoon to its winter mooring

It was great to see that a number of Club members made it to the Lensbury for their firework display at the end of last month. I must "tip my hat" in admiration for you that braved a dip in the Thames for a better view!

Over the last year we had a number of applications to join the Club, many of which we put on hold until restrictions allowed us to invite the applicants over for tours. Some of those were able to come over during the two working parties and we will likely be approving their applications at our December Committee meeting. We look forward to welcoming them early next year.



Looking a little further forward, we plan to have a New Year's lunch on Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> February, the location is yet to be decided on, but again, please make a note on your diaries now and watch out for emails.

Finally, as I put this newsletter together, I am also doing the final touches to the presentation for the AGM on Saturday. This is an important meeting as



we look at how the Club fared in the previous year (September 2020-August 2021) from finance, activity, membership,



and mooring's perspective.

We will look for confirmation of the current trustees, Committee members and Flag Officers.

You should note that our Club Sectary Linda is standing down at this year's meeting and we have yet to hear from anyone willing to replace her. This is a key role in the Club and will be a topic of discussion along with what the implications might be should we be unable to fill the position.

Please let me know if you are willing to step up to the position.

On the AGM agenda is also a summary of what is planned for the next year. We will discuss and vote on rule and fee changes that the Committee recommends. We currently have eighty adult members in the Club, but it looks as though the AGM turnout is only going to be around 25%.

I know it has been a tough time for everyone concerned with the club during the pandemic. I understand that folk have been observing restrictions during that time and are now likely catching up with things they couldn't do. Hopefully we will be in a better place with Covid next year and everyone will all be able to contribute to the maintenance and running of the Club and facilities that we all enjoy. Over the winter months, we shall be working on the 2022 Club Handbook which will contain the planned dates for events next year. It should be with you sometime in January/February. Please have a read and pencil those dates in your diaries. Many thanks. Stay safe.

AJ

### **From the Committee**

The October and November Committee meetings were both largely concerned with looking forward and planning – to the working parties and what we need to achieve before the end of the season; to the AGM and what business we needed to transact with the membership; and to looking forward to the schedule of events for 2022.

The Working Parties have now taken place. Many thanks especially to Dom and to everyone who gave their time to help. The floors of the Bosun's locker and shed are now exposed! And a great deal of other clearing up has taken place. AJ has sent a warning that we still need to clear a load of rubbish from the Island so be prepared to help please. We do have concerns about the condition of the willow tree near the ferry landing and Clubhouse. Some heavy pruning is planned but this will take place when few members are likely to be on the island.

The AGM will take place on Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> November – there will be a report in the next Newsletter. There are a couple of Rule amendments proposed – you should have received details of them with the AGM papers. The evening will also include a Fish and Chip Supper and presentation of the SBC Awards for this year. We look forward to seeing everyone who is able to attend. AJ will be offering the opportunity to choose a Duty Officer date for 2022 to those present. The proposed schedule for 2022 was sent to everyone. A small change has been made to autumn working party dates to recognise peoples' concern about having a working party on Remembrance Sunday – the first one will now be on 30 October and the second on 6 November. Matt did lead us in a short silence on 14<sup>th</sup> November this year. Please note the proposal to have a New Year Lunch on Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> February 2022: save the date!

## River news

It was great to have the Lensbury firework display again this year. I think there were probably more people on the Ham bankside or in/on the water than at the Lensbury Club.

We should hear shortly from the Environment Agency what the licence fees for 2022 will be: you still have time to have your say about the service from the EA this year by filling the TMBA survey <http://www.tmba.org.uk/machform/view.php?id=15573>. There have been several problems with lock failures over the last few months. We are now heading into the winter works period but none of the locks on our immediate part of the river have scheduled works except Teddington and this doesn't involve a closure.

If you would like to know more about the Association of Thames Yacht Clubs, join the ATYC Drop-in discussions on zoom on Mondays 22<sup>nd</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> November at 8.00pm so that clubs and club members can question the chair and contribute input to current issues.

To obtain the Zoom joining information send an email to: [atyczoom@unimail.co.uk](mailto:atyczoom@unimail.co.uk)?subject=ATYC%20Zoom%20Drop%20In&body=Your%20Name%20and%20Club

Please add your name and club name in the body. You will receive an email with joining instructions which apply to both sessions. There is no need to pre-register.

### "Moaning Myrtle's Corner"



When finishing with the generator, please switch off the load for a few minutes to help it cool down then switch off using the ignition start/stop switch rather than the red EPO (Emergency Power Off) button.

**All moorers; please remember that your quarterly fees are due on 1<sup>st</sup> December.**  
**Thank you**



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

The source of some common phrases..... arguably!

Today the phrase **a square meal** means to have a full, balanced meal but some believe it comes from the story that sailors on board ships were served up meals on square wooden trays or plates known as trenchers.

The phrase **no room to swing a cat** means that there is not much space. Many years ago, when sailors were punished by being whipped, the whip was called a "cat". Some believe that the phrase described areas of a ship where the lashings could not be carried out because of a lack of room!

The phrase **pipe down** is used to ask folk to stop talking and be quiet. On board ships it was the final whistle from the Bosun to signal to the crew that it was time to go below decks and settle for the evening.

*Finally*, a reminder of how the two flags should be positioned on the Club flag pole:



They are only flown when there is a duty officer or a club function. The club Burgee should be flown from the main masthead and should always be higher than the Ensign. The Ensign is always flown from the yardarm; and on your boat, the closest part to the stern.

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