



**SBC**

# The Small Boat Club Kingston upon Thames

Newsletter: 11<sup>th</sup> December 2021

## Commodore's Message

Hello All,

The last newsletter of this calendar year so time for a quick look back on 2021.

Covid meddled with the Club's activities throughout the year but we seemed to navigate a way through. Our membership from 2020, which you may remember we "froze" for a period of time, was just over 80 adults and in excess of 25 cadets. A great number for our small club. We saw that the island and our facilities were able to cope with those numbers, so we re-opened for applicants at the end of the summer. Whilst Greg and Julie Waugh, Ulla Wilke and Laurence Bain left the club, (we wish them well and hope to see them as guests in the not-too-distant future), we contacted those that had previously expressed an interest in joining and were very pleased to welcome them to Stevens Ait for the two working parties we held in November. They certainly put in some effort! We will be reviewing their applications this month, but suspect they will be successful!

We also said goodbye to a few boats this year. *Jem P*, *Caldwell* and *Master H* all left the club, but their owners upgraded to *Our Paradise*, *Margaritaville* and *ChrisAlex*. We also had *RoxyNickStella* join us, accompanied by a number of canoes. We also have a healthy waiting list of boats looking for moorings.

As for the maintenance and upgrades on the island, we achieved a huge amount of work. The Club fleet has expanded with a new long tender moored on the jetty, along with two brand new "self-bailing" dinghies, plus the day boat commissioned and ready for the spring. The new pontoon has provided a launching platform for canoes, a jumping in spot for those brave enough to dip in the Thames and, with

the addition of a ladder, a point near where dinghies can be moored. The Clubhouse was spruced up for its 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary with a few repairs being done to the woodwork, painting inside and out, and new lighting. The loo has had a lot of work done on it to make it more pleasant, with an internal re-fit and decoration plus a solar assisted fan. Then of course there is the ground work. The new grass with its top-soil and new watering system, a few new trees (and a couple of old ones going!) has made a phenomenal difference. We have also done a major clear out of the lockers and sheds on the island in preparation for next year.

Many thanks to those of you who have helped in all of this, for those of you who have not been able to contribute, there will be ongoing opportunities.

We were unable to have a New Year's lunch in February because of restrictions (but we hope to go ahead in 2022 on 6<sup>th</sup> February, so pencil it in your diaries now!), and our main events, the Family Fun Day and Island Party had to be moved around a bit, but we got through. The Family Fun Day was a great success, despite the weather, and the Island Party had a great turn out and turned a small profit! We also managed to have a special day to mark the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Clubhouse, an impromptu cruise on the day of the Euro Finals plus the Commodore's cruise (all of which have been covered in recent newsletters). A visit from the Brentford Boat Club was also hosted this year. Plus, of course, we had our AGM last month (**I urge you to read the minutes as, amongst other items, there are a couple of rule changes that were agreed**).

As for the Committee, James has stepped down as President and Linda has stepped down as Secretary but was then unanimously voted in as our new President. I, along with many others, would like to

pass on our gratitude for the time and effort Linda has put into her role as Secretary over the years and how she has helped the smooth transition of a number of Commodores. The rest of the Committee remains unchanged, but we have allocated a few Flag Officer roles out. These will be listed fully in the 2022 handbook.

However, we still have had no volunteers come forward to fill the role of Secretary. Whilst we will try to distribute some of the activities that Linda has undertaken in her role across the Committee, it was agreed at the AGM that, if the role is still vacant by the end of January, the Committee would bring in external resources to manage our meetings (agenda distribution, minute taking, production and distribution), the costs would be covered by levying an “**administrative surcharge**” of **£12 per year per adult member**. If any of you are interested in helping out, now is the time to step forward

As for 2022, we hope to get the new handbook out to you early in the New Year. As well as lots of reference information, it contains a *Schedule of Events*. Please check this as it shows what days you have been allocated for you to be **Duty Officer**. It also contains the dates of working parties, the New Year’s lunch, Fun Day, Summer Party etc. etc. We hope that we will be able to add a number of cruises next year (a number of full moons fall close to or on weekends, so maybe a moonlight cruise or two!), and Matt Harrison is helping coordinate boat related training that we might be able to put forward. We also have the rent review next year. Whilst I suspect the rent will go up, we hope to still be able to invest in our island and improve the up-stream end and Middlesex side of the creek.

Please remember though, everything depends heavily on the participation of our members.

So, I hope that you, your families and friends all have a great Christmas Break and a Happy New Year and here’s looking forward to seeing you all on the island through 2022.

AJ

### **AGM and Laying Up Supper**

Twenty-Four members were able to meet at the Leander Sea Scouts HQ on Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> November for the Annual General Meeting and a fish and chip supper. Sadly, Covid restrictions and prior commitments reduced the numbers able to attend. AJ and David Hudson reviewed the previous year

and the financial situation. Despite the restrictions, a great deal of refurbishment work had taken place with Dom Evans project managing the reurfing of the



major part of the island aided by many willing hands. The Clubhouse had been painted inside and out and the loo had a good 'clear out' and spruce up. The recent working parties had achieved other improvements but there was more to do. We had



finally been able to enjoy some social get-togethers, especially the Summer Party and the Family Fun Day. Despite all the money that had been spent, the Club was still in a healthy financial position. The Financial Report



circulated to all members before the meeting was approved unanimously with thanks to David. AJ reminded members that the amount paid to the EA for the Club's lease of Stevens Eyot was due for an 'open market' review in 2022. The Club was committed to pay half the cost of the person undertaking the review and anticipated an increase in the cost. AJ suggested that any increase in cost to members should be on the membership fees in 2022 rather than another increase in mooring fees. This was agreed. There was a lively debate around criteria for membership; a small group would consider this over the winter months. Matt Harrison agreed to look at possible boat handling courses to encourage members to participate in boating. We would have the day boat available for members' use next year and hoped to have more 'crews to' days when members were encouraged to join others for a trip. A couple of rule changes were agreed relating to family membership and the supervision of cadets. Please read the Rules carefully when you get your new Handbook in 2022.

The following were elected as Officers and Committee for 2022:

Commodore AJ Jones  
 Vice commodore Gavin Bowen-Ashwin  
 Rear commodore Dominic Evans  
 Secretary *no nomination*  
 Treasurer David Hudson  
 Bosun Andrew Juric  
 Committee: Andrew Barwick; Sussan Eglund; Ian Holiday; Simon Price; Trevor Savage; Vaughan Simpson  
 President Linda Varney

Trustees for the year were confirmed as:

Andrew Barwick; Lucilla Phelps; Gerry Taylor

Members pointed out there are still times when people are taking dinghies to the island and not returning them to the jetty before leaving on a trip or taking the last one so no one else can access the island. Please be considerate of others and if you take the last one, watch out for new arrivals.

The business completed, the mood lightened as the food arrived and everyone tucked in to their chosen fare followed by dessert and cheese and biscuits. During the remainder of the evening, amidst lots of catching up, AJ announced the winners of the SBC Awards for 2021 and the raffle was drawn. £95.00

was raised for Club funds. Thanks to Carola and Matt Harrison for organising and collecting the hot food and cheese board and Sue Harmer for providing the desserts. And a big 'thank you' to AJ for his leadership during a difficult year. Here's hoping that 2022 will be a year when we can enjoy boating, events and good fellowship on the island.

Linda

Linda

**SMALL BOAT CLUB AWARDS 2020-2021**



<b>The Commodore's Cup</b> Commodore's personal award	<b>Paul Stratos</b>
<b>'evans above'</b> For stepping up to a 'challenge'	<b>Roger Higham</b>
<b>The Attendance Cup</b> Highest attendance at Club events throughout the year (& generally supportive)	<b>Simon Pinnock &amp; Sussan Eglund</b>
<b>The Cortina Trophy</b> Enthusiasm boat handling and seamanship	<b>Simon Price</b>
<b>The Enterprise Cup</b> For enterprise and helpfulness with boating	<b>Vaughan Simpson</b>
<b>Good Fellowship Cup</b> Most goodwill, help and friendliness	<b>Piercy family</b>
<b>Inland Waterways Log</b> For the best log of an inland waterways trip	<b>Ian Holiday</b>

<b>Gwen Norris Trophy</b> [For the winner of the predicted log] Most active new member(s)	<b>Team Beatrix</b>
<b>The Ladies Trophy</b> For the woman member who contributed most help	<b>Sharon White</b>
<b>Commodore's Cadet Cup</b> Best junior member(s)	<b>R N &amp; S Stratos</b>
<b>Hornblower Cup</b> For demonstration of competence in boat handling	<b>L &amp; K Piercy</b>



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

### **Karavaki, the Greek Christmas Boat**

There is a tradition in Greece, that multi-island nation, to display decorated boats around Christmastime. The tradition saw a resurgence in the late 1990's and carries on to this today.

It is thought that it stems from the fact that Greek sailors are away from home for long stretches of time and that their families, during the winter months of storms and dangerous seas, would spend their days worrying over, and praying for, their loved one's safe return. On spotting the ships returning to harbour, those families would rush home and prepare for celebrations by decorating small wooden boats. They would be arranged on the floor or by the fire with their bows pointing inwards to symbolise the homeward journey.

An alternative explanation is that 6<sup>th</sup> December is celebrated by those of Christian faiths as St. Nicholas's day. St. Nicholas is the patron saint of sailors, and these decorated boats are in his honour by way of a prayer for the safety of all sailors.



Tradition says that the decorations are taken down on 6<sup>th</sup> January.



### **"Moaning Myrtle's Corner"**



If you go across to the island and take a club dinghy, please ensure that anyone else who wants to come across after you can do so. If you are going to be on the island and can offer a lift, let folk know (pin your number on the bell box, or put a WhatsApp message out there). If you are going to be taking your own boat out, then please tow a dinghy back to the jetty as you go out, or use the ferry to take one back.

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