



SBC

The Small Boat Club Kingston upon Thames

Newsletter: 12th February 2022

Commodore's Message

Hello All,

And welcome to 2022. I hope you all had a good time over Christmas and New Year.

Even though this may be a quiet time on the river, your Club and Committee continue to be busy.

The 2022 Club Handbook should by now have landed on all of your doormats. Many thanks to those that contributed to its content and to Dom for pulling it all together and getting it printed. Feedback suggests that you find it a useful source of information. Please have a look at the "Key Dates & Duty Roster" section to see your allocated duty day. As with previous years, if you cannot make the date, please organise a swap with someone else (typically the WhatsApp group seems successful in facilitating this). Also, bear in mind that, if you want some familiarisation or refresher training on the Ferry, drop Andrew (Andrew@TheBarwicks.com) a note. The section also has a number of dates for events this year including the working parties and socials. Not all are there yet as we are working on some additional activities, in particular to recognise the Queen's Platinum Jubilee in June. We also have one of our members looking at what training the Club might be able to offer our membership with outside organisations. So, stay tuned!

I try to keep a shared calendar up to date with Club events. I know I can share it with users of i-phone/pad devices and MS-Outlook calendars; I can't guarantee others but, if you would like to "subscribe", send me a note (ajjones001@sky.com) and I'll respond with a link.

Last Saturday, 5th February, we had an extraordinary working party to undertake an overdue cut

of the trees on the island. Most have been trimmed back but we have a couple outstanding, a lot of debris still to transport over to the riverbank to then be chipped/shredded for removal. Andrew Barwick has been leading this work, so many thanks to him, but also to all of you who turned up during the day to help and support. There will be another call for help to finish the work: please get involved if you can.

On Sunday 6th February we had the first of our social events for 2022 by way of the New Year Lunch held at the Wych Elm. The food was good, the portions generous and the company excellent. It was a good turn out and gave us the opportunity to catch up with a few friends and meet some of the newer members. Thanks must go to Gavin Bowen-Ashwin for organising the meal. Keep an eye out for more communications from Gavin: as our Vice Commodore he will be updating you on social events through the year.

Looking forward, we have the Fitting Out Supper scheduled for Saturday 12th March. We are hoping to be able to hold this on the island. Gavin will be sending out more information, but it falls between the two working parties on 6th and 13th March, and marks the opening of the season for us with ferry duties starting the following week. Please support us at one, two or all three events!

Looking forward, we have asked Steve D'Souza to set up a sub-Committee to examine membership of the Club. This has been prompted, in part, by a view that the Membership profile over the last few years has changed. In particular, an increase in the number of Family Members (with children under 18), more boats with shared ownership, more non-boat owners (or with boats elsewhere), and a general growth in membership overall.



The aim of the sub-Committee is to review and make recommendations against possible changes and adjustments to: the Small Boat Club's offering to Members, its membership structure and our requirements of membership.

Several members have already put their names forward to participate, but we need a few more. If you are interested in helping (re)shape your Club, please drop a note to Steve, stevedsouza@blueyonder.co.uk for more info.

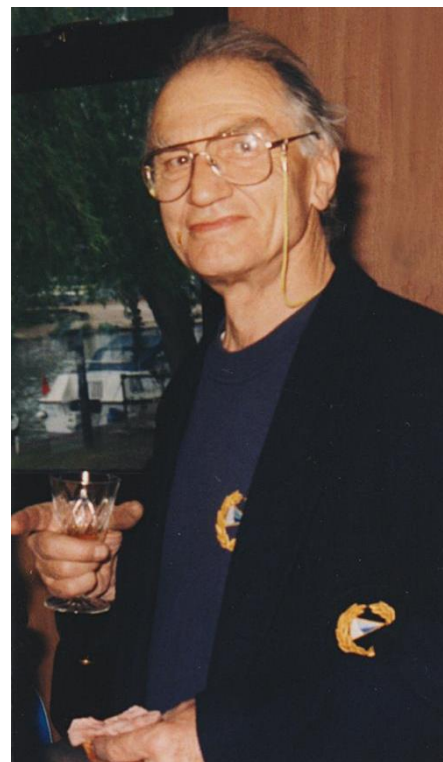
Unfortunately, as mentioned in previous newsletters, we have had no volunteers come forward to fill the role of Secretary. We continue to try and distribute some of the activities across the Committee. It was agreed at the AGM that if the role remained vacant at the end of January we would look to bring in external resources to manage our meetings (agenda distribution, minute taking, production and distribution). We shall be advising you of the consequent "administrative surcharge" shortly.

Sadly, this year we lost one of our former members and past Commodore, Derek Foster. Only the more long-standing members of the Club will likely remember Derek but Linda and Gerry have put together a small piece about him later in this newsletter.

Finally, as Covid restrictions are relaxed, I sincerely hope that we will all get the opportunity to see more of each other through 2022, will get more use from our boats and get to enjoy the river.

AJ

Derek Foster. RIP.



Sadly, Derek Foster died on 23rd December 2021 at the age of 97. His funeral was held on 18th January 2022 at Clandon Wood Natural Burial Ground, West Clandon.

Derek and his wife Jane joined the SBC in 1988 and, while they didn't have a boat at the time, they lived very locally to Stevens Eyot, just along Lower Ham Road.

Eventually they bought a Microplus 'The Silly' from another Club member, Ron Trowell, and enjoyed boating so much that they bought a Freeman 26 'Salamanda VI' from Sue's father Peter. Their final boat was 'Brandy

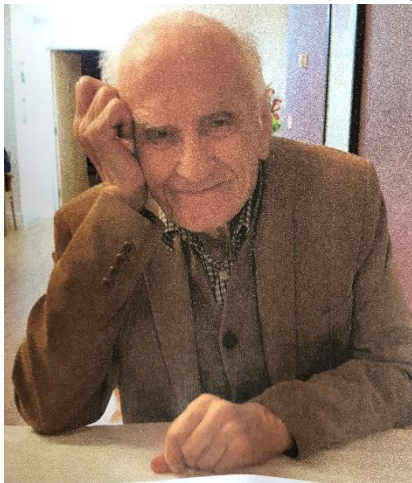
Snap a Freeman 27 bought in the hopes that their grandsons would join them more frequently.

Derek and Jane soon became involved in the Club and Derek spent many years on the committee before he became Rear Commodore. He became Commodore for three years from 1997 to 2000, then President from 2000-2001 after which he was given honorary life membership along with his wife Jane who was also on the committee as secretary for many years.

Three members represented the SBC at Derek's funeral: Lucilla Phelps, Gerry Taylor and Linda Varney. Derek's son Marcus remembered his father very fondly as a very intelligent man; Lucilla remembers how everyone wanted Derek on their team for quizzes as he had fantastic general knowledge. Many of us have memories of the scrapes Derek and Jane got into with their boats but they lived to tell the tale. Marcus has offered to give some of their photo albums of Club cruises to the SBC; we look forward to reliving memories. Derek was a very kind man, a real gentleman, who contributed a great deal to the Club. It says much about him that staff from the care home where he lived wanted to attend his funeral – and definitely not to make sure that a 'tiresome resident' had finally gone!

Derek's family decided to organise the funeral in a way that meant much to them and reflected their memories of Derek. Gerry reports "I found the service completely different to what I was expecting!

Marcus, Derek's son, started the service by telling us to expect a lot of laughs (and there were), then spoke about the happy times and memories of his father and the funny things he did. Then came the first song; we were allowed to sit down while



singing, the music started and we all joined in with 'What shall we do with the drunken sailor', with background sounds of the sea and sailors chanting. I couldn't help but smile.

Then Caroline, Derek's daughter and three grandsons spoke about their memories; I found it all very touching. Next song was 'We all live in a yellow

submarine' again with sound effects, then finally before we left the chapel the third song was 'Ob-la-di, ob-la-da' (Desmond has a barrow in the marketplace, Molly is the singer in the band ...). I wasn't sure about the words to this one, but I sang along. Derek was then carried in his wicker casket across this muddy field to where he was laid to rest. The family intend to scatter wild flower seeds on the soil later. Well, what more can I say, only that that was a funeral like no other! One we will certainly remember!"

Gerry, Sue and Linda

Linda writes:

I would like to thank all those involved in producing the certificate that AJ presented to me at the SBC New Year Lunch. It came as a total surprise hence no 'thank you' speech at the time. I have enjoyed my time as Club Secretary, and I hope I haven't frustrated Commodores on the way by not handling things quite the way they would have liked! I'm happy to help whoever decides to take on the role: it's fun being involved in helping to run the Club – and please don't think you need to do the job the way I did.

Many thanks, Linda.

"Moaning Myrtle's Corner"



Whilst a member of the Committee will try to monitor the available fuel for the ferry, generator, and power tools along with the gas for the kitchen and BBQs, don't be shy! If you use up any of these, please replace

and keep any receipts; the Treasurer will gladly re-imburse you.

Thank you.

**Please note that
quarterly mooring fees
are due on 1st March.**



The Whitley Waterman *Hints and Tips passed down*

In 1872 Steven's Eyot became the site of Kingston's first public swimming area after complaints about nude bathing in the Thames. A screen was put around part of the island to allow nude public bathing without offending the locals! However, the "public" who were allowed to use the area did not include women and children!

SBC Fleece Jackets & Gilets.

Looking forward to the start of this year's boating season? Then why not treat yourself and crew to a SBC fleece jacket to keep out the early spring chills.

Fleece Jacket

The jacket is made of 320gram heavy weight fleece with zipped front and pockets, which offers warmth, shower resistance and wear durability. Colour navy blue with club badge embroidered on chest.

Sizes: xs 34/36; small 36/38; medium 38/40; large 40/42. Price £27.40

Gilet (body warmer)

A 210gram medium weight fleece, zipped front and pockets in navy blue with embroidered club badge.

Sizes Ladies: 8/10; 12/14; 16/18
Men: small 37/38; medium 39/40; large 41/42; XL 43/44; XXL 46/48; XXXL 48/50
Price £24.81

All prices include VAT.

Please contact Sue Harmer if you wish to place an order or require more information:
sue.harmer11@gmail.com; mobile 07522336287; or on the SBC members WhatsApp.

Planned restrictions and closures on the Thames are regularly updated and easy to find at: [River Thames: restrictions and closures - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](http://www.gov.uk)

Upcoming Duty Days and other dates

6 th March	Committee Member (1 st Working Party)
12 th March	Committee Member (Fitting Out Supper)
13 th March	Committee Member (2 nd Working Party)
20 th March	S. White
27 th March	T & S Cogswell
3 rd April	H&R Hanslip and V Baldwin
10 th April	R. Baldwin
17 th April	S&J Gilmour
24 th April	J&M Manthel

A reminder to Members: if you don't wish to be on the 'Air B'n'B' list for birds looking for potential nesting sites, please consider covering bathing platforms and outboard engine wells on your boats with netting or similar. Both Dotty Do and Willow had 'guests' last year. Once the birds have established a nest, you are not supposed to move the boat until the eggs have hatched and the chicks have left the nest.



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