



## 60th Diamond Jubilee 1953 - 2013

We decided to mark this massive club milestone in a way that enabled all members to enjoy each other's company, whilst being able to reflect on the river and our island home environment.

Yet again, the membership# rose to the challenge of organisation and we all owe Gerry for putting together his display of memorabilia, including old newsletters and cini8 film transferred to DVD. We marvelled at both the quaintness and indeed some of the issues that are still relevant today!

As a not-for-profit club we have moved on significantly from those sepia days and photographs, yet still binding this elective group of disparate individuals is a passion for the river, motor boating and the island we are proud to call home.

As the privileged Commodore in this very special year, I would also like to thank all those members who contributed so much.

Com Dom.



Sue's beautiful cake.....



Mayor of Kingston Penny Shelton cutting Sue's beautifully crafted cake

The Worshipful the Mayor of the Royal Borough of Kingston-upon-Thames, was our "Guest of Honour," - Councillor Penny Shelton, she was accompanied by Mayoress, Mrs Hilary Saw (her sister)



# *60th Anniversary*

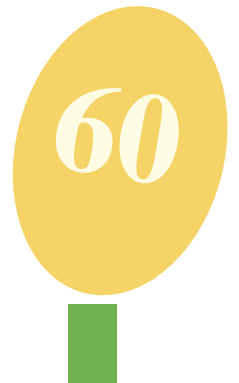
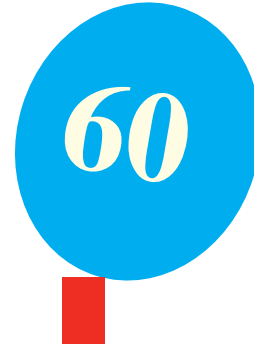
## *Balloon Release*



1953 - 2013



Club members waiting for the balloon release



Taylor children who released  
the long distance balloons.



An update on the balloon release is that the red tagged balloon was spotted at Mendlesham in Suffolk. The blue tagged one turned up in Epping Forest.



## Caption competition

Please send to Simon

Prize!.... Simon will buy your drinks for the evening at the pub of your choice!!



**Izzy Cox,  
celebrating her  
9th birthday with  
friends on Coxy.**





This year's BBQ was a great success with a beautiful warm (for a change) dry evening and a real focus on fund raising. The theme of "Diamonds & Jubilee" did not inspire too many of our 150 attendees to dress up (or as I hear prompt too many to buy their partners high valued rocks) however everyone enjoyed the evening.

Special thanks go to James for securing so many "top prizes" and his team of cadets for arm twisting so much money (£326) into the raffle. This new approach together with the inspired efforts of Greg and Janice and their now famous "shots patrol" that generated a further £270, meant we were able to raise OVER £1,200 which makes this by far our most successful event ever.

As ever we had some huge set-up and strike contributions from stalwart members, all of whom should take great pride in what they achieved. I'd like to thank them all formally here.





## ***SBC – Our not-for-profit club***

Recently, sharing a warm evening and a few drinks with some members the conversation turned to the club, its future and development now we likely to be in residence for another 20 years! As part of this discussion one member said; “Why don’t we ever get a chance to vote in the committee members at the AGM?” I did answer this saying; we always ask for nominations, particularly for flag Officers# however because we don’t get more two (or more!) members offering themselves, we are left with no alternative, other than to vote in the one person!

This comment did get me thinking! That it would be nice to have a genuine vote at this year’s AGM however to achieve this we need at least two nominations for each post!

At this point it’s worth paraphrasing the relevant “governing rules” of the club:

**ANY MEMBER CAN PUT THEMSELVES FORWARD FOR ELECTION TO A FLAG OFFICER POSITION AT ANY TIME (to be ratified at the club AGB) AND THAT ANY MEMBER CAN JOIN THE COMMITTEE OR ATTEND ANY COMMITTEE MEETING AT ANY POINT.**

Our conversation did move on and post an understanding that the AGM was no stitch up a member reflected that:

“...it might be an idea for the flag officers and in particular the commodore to outline why they were standing for election, and that this might sensibly include a synopsis of what they envisaged for the club & its membership”.

I accept this appears to be post rationalisation, however I did say on my appointment at the AGM (and before this to many) that I was putting myself forward as I felt able to contribute towards the (then pending) lease negotiation! Now that this is pretty much sorted, I am willing to offer myself up for one more year, and if elected would want to: “Help create an agreed direction for the club and to then have in place the mechanism to achieve whatever goals and ambitions are set”.

Summary: I would like to invite all members, as individuals and or as a collective of member friends to have a think:

What do you want for the club?

Who might best represent your views?

What might you be able to offer the club (eg relevant skills)?

What position would you like to nominate yourself for?

Whom might you want to see in what position?

Hopefully we’ll have more than one candidate ready at the AGM and thus hopefully we’ll have a proper vote – whatever happens it’s worth emphasising that the AGM is set up in the rules as **THE MOST IMPORTANT AND RELEVANT FORUM FOR ALL MEMBERS**, it’s an opportunity to question, discuss and shape how we want our club to function.

*# Central to running the club is an executive committee comprising; Commodore, Vice Commodore, Rear Commodore, Treasure, Secretary and Bosun these positions are named as “flag officers” in addition to the flag officers the rules state; we **MUST** have 4 other members sitting on the committee.*

**PLEASE SAVE THIS DATE!!!**

**We’d like a good AGM turn out at the Old Swan Thames Dittion**

**Saturday 16th November**

**It’s the season finale and our Awards night!**



Stephens Ait circa 1953



## *Works on the Island*



The club formally took back possession of the island in June. I think everyone has agreed the work was done to a high standard with your committee extracting as much value as was possible from the disruption.

We have, as previously described concluded the rent negotiation element and are now going through the final hurdle which is the actual lease. The EA only sent this to us a week or so ago, and we had to send it straight back as it was so far removed from the original. We are hoping to have an agreement pre our AGM.

Assuming this happens we will want to canvas member views as to how we move forward over the next 20 years.

Please start thinking about how you'd like to see the club progress. Please think about the balance between facilities and overall look and feel of the island, against the cost of achieving the same. The committee is currently discussing a "vision" which will be presented at the next AGM, thus it's important you get your membership payments to gary asap and set aside the AGM date.