



SBC

The Small Boat Club Kingston upon Thames

Newsletter: 12th June 2022

Commodore's Message

Hello again,

I am putting this together in the midst of the Queen's Jubilee celebrations and shortly after our own recognition of the event by way of our Jubilee Cruise.

It was a fantastic day on Friday with 15 boats in our flotilla sporting bunting, flags and cardboard cut-outs of Her Majesty, other royals and, of course, a corgi or two. With lots of members and their guests on-board, wearing varying degrees of fancy dress, we made a mid-day departure from the island in glorious sunshine and moved at a leisurely pace to Hampton Court, picking up a boat or two on the way. A regrouping by the moorings of the TMYC at Molesey, before returning to base for socialising and a few refreshments. There must be hundreds of photographs on the WhatsApp group, many on the

Facebook page, and plenty, I'm sure, still unpublished! Thanks to everyone that prepped the island with bunting and decorations as well as their own boats, to Linda for providing the cakes, to Gay for providing the Pimms and a huge thank you to Trevor for proposing and organising the event, for sourcing and providing the celebratory ale and for his outstanding costume on the day! Trevor will also be organising the judging of the competitions. By way of a reminder.....



1. Best bunting and flag decorated boat so please provide a photograph of your wonderfully adorned river cruiser with the name of the boat and the Skipper.

2. Best special hat so please provide a photograph of your best 'titfer-tat', the crew name and the name of the boat involved.

3. Best photograph taken during the cruise of any building(s), river views, other boat(s), spectators, birds or wild life items, fishermen or fun events. Five photographs to be entered per boat with each Skipper required to provide by email their five best cruise photographs with locations stated and suitable fun captions.

.....watch this space!

Although it is now some months since the first two working parties, there is still work underway on



the island. Huge thanks to Mick Shoulders for the work he has done on the Middlesex side and around the creek. He has continued much of the fencing work started earlier in the year, painted a lot of it and both supplied and fitted new AstroTurf. Rob Fountain also deserves thanks for tidying up the other half of that leg, power hosing it down and filling holes. This

part of the island probably gets the majority of the footfall during the summer months because of the pontoon, canoes and swimmers, so AstroTurf seems the logical covering. We will investigate at the next Committee meeting whether we can fund additional AstroTurf there as well as discussing what might be done on the up-stream stretch. Much of the other maintenance work I mentioned in the last newsletter has been completed but we will likely need a "focus WP" to help do the jetty...keep an eye out for a call for help.

The wildlife continues to thrive on the island. A few weeks ago it looked as though the pair of swans by the shed had hatched one cygnet, but it hasn't been seen for a few days now. The other pair of nesting swans on the slipway hatched, we think, four cygnets (although this seems to now only be three). Yesterday the whole family were away most of the day but came back in the late afternoon so, even though it may look as though they have moved on, they are just doing swimming lessons and are still around. Please give them space and don't disturb the nest.

On the "admin" side, the EA have now contacted us to open up discussions about the island rent, which is in line with our lease agreement. I expect these discussions to go on for a couple of months but hope that any cost increase is kept to the minimum. Our finances are in a good place, our treasurer and his predecessor took into account an increase by way of the mooring fee increments so as to cushion any blow. Our main source of income is membership and mooring fees, our other source of "income" is your participation in managing and maintaining the club.

You may have noticed a few emails that have been forwarded from the ATYC (Association of Thames Yacht Clubs). They represent all of the Clubs on the Thames from Southend all the way west. Amongst other things, they act as our combined interface with the Environment Agency and have been lobbying the EA on things such as lock maintenance, lock staffing, water provision, river maintenance and so on. At the AGM this May there were signs that the association might have to discontinue because of the lack of volunteers for Committee positions. Thankfully this has been resolved and the ATYC continues. I believe they are a body that some might not know its value until it ceased to exist. So good news.

In discussions with the ATYC I came across a training plan that leads to a "Thames Boating Certificate". It is a modular, "self-study" approach that covers the basic boating skills needed to boat on the Thames. It isn't a substitute for RYA courses, but is

a good framework for those new and casual boaters who might want a "check list" of things. It comes in the form of booklet which contains guidance, advice and a personal progress log. Those following the plan can reach out to other members for help and guidance. For those that see it through, we can get an ATYC assessor down to put them through their paces and, if successful, award a Thames Boating Certificate. All for £5! I'll bring along a bit more information at the Family Fun Day, or you can email me directly.

As for off-island matters, we would all like to congratulate our former President and Commodore James for his resounding success in the recent local elections and we wish him well in the role.

Next: for your diary! As the dust settles on the Jubilee weekend our thoughts now move to the **Family Fun Day** on Sunday **19th June**. There will be fun for all ages, games, competitions, prizes, water based and land based activities, visiting craft If you haven't already done so, please let Vaughan know you are coming.

Then, the **Club Party!** This year, with an American theme, we shall be holding the event on **2nd July**. You and your guests are all invited and, if you get your tickets before 25th June, they are £8.50 per child and just £16.50 per adult. Let Gavin know at gbowenashwin@googlemail.com if you are coming. Also, you can check your email in-baskets for the note sent from me on 8th May for additional info, or go to the web site at

<https://smallboatclub.co.uk/event/sbc-party-2022-and-everything-american/>

Finally, I have done some modifications to the club web site (www.smallboatclub.co.uk) and put in place an Events Calendar (look in the What's On page). This now has all of the Club events, key dates and duty officers' rota loaded. There is a "month" view by default but other views can be selected. It also has a search facility (magnifying glass icon) so you can look for your duty days (one less excuse!), full moons, working parties and the like. Behind some of the entries, by clicking the title, you can get additional information such as prices for events, start/end times. It is also possible to subscribe to the Calendar (although there seems a limit to the number of events that are synchronised) ... anyway, have a look. Any suggestions you may have or additional information you think should be included, let me know.

Happy boating and see you on the water soon!

AJ



On the River

There are frequent closures on the Thames that could affect your trip(s). Details are regularly updated and easy to find at: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/river-thames-restrictions-and-closures>

Upcoming Duty Days

12th June	P&S D'Souza
19th June	Committee Members (Family Fun Day)
26th June	S&G Harvey (Swap needed)
3rd July	Committee Members (Island Party Clear-Up)
10th July	T&S Cogswell
17th July	P&M Stratos
24th July	J Blyth
31st July	A&M Pettigrew
7th August	J Ball
14th August	B&Z Arden
21st August	R&S Higham
28th August	G Marriott

Club Burgees

Our beautiful high quality sewn Burgees are available, price £25 (cost price). A great way to smarten up your boat and promote our club. Get one from Andrew Barwick.



"Moaning Myrtle's Corner"



Donations

Please, before making any donations of items to the Club, check with the Committee. We seem to have plenty of five place dinner sets, mis-matched cutlery,

½ pint beer jugs and "land based" water craft of various shapes and sizes to last a while!



The Whitley Waterman Hints and Tips passed down

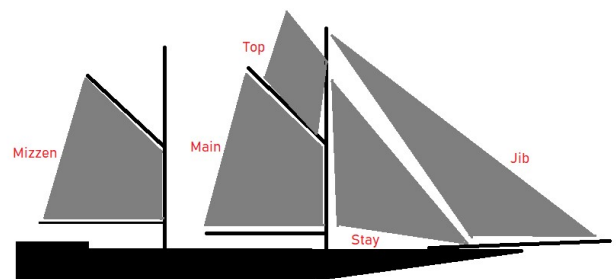
Sails.

We know that if we, in our powered boats, come across a boat using one or more sails for propulsion, we need to give way. There is also a sail (the white triangle) on our Club burgee as a nod to the days when the club was predominately a sailing club. The earliest record of a ship under sail comes from an Egyptian vase from around 3,500BC, Vikings are thought to have sailed to North America 1,000 years ago, and improved sail design has increased exploration, trade, migration and recreation.

There are many type of sails, and many variants of each but the most basic types are:

1. Mainsail – the biggest and flown from the main mast
2. Mizzen – flown from the second mast
3. Jib Sail (or foresail) – flown in front of the mast from a forestay
4. Topsail – flown above the mainsail or the jib
5. Spinnaker – a special sail design to maximise the wind force when coming from behind

Sails are raised or hoisted by ropes or wires referred to as halyards and then controlled by ropes or wires referred to as sheets.



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