



# The Small Boat Club Newsletter 20<sup>th</sup> August 2022

## Commodore's Message

Hello again,

We are half-way through what has been an exceptional summer weather wise. Hopefully you have been making the most of it and enjoying your boats and the river.

Since our last newsletter we have had the Family Fun Day and the Summer Party. Reports are later in the newsletter but many, many thanks to Vaughan and Gavin for taking the lead on organising these two events, and many thanks to those that contributed and attended. Also, thanks to our resident 'party animal' Mick for putting together an impromptu BBQ on the island just last week. It shows the power of social media to get so many to join in. If you fancy a 'do', or company while doing a trip on the Thames, why not put a message out?

In the run up to the Family Fun Day it was noticed that one of the swans from the two nesting pairs we had, had some fishing line caught in its beak. The folk from the swan sanctuary came down and quickly sorted it out. We have made a donation to them in recognition of this. We also had the Maritime Volunteer Service call in on the Family Fun Day to show off one of their boats, again we have made a donation by way of thanks.

Maintenance activities tend to quieten down as we get to the middle of the boating season, but thanks to all who have fired up the sprinklers, mown the grass/weeds and tidied up the bird droppings. It all helps keep our island attractive. Please make a note in your diaries for the two closing down working parties on 30<sup>th</sup> October and 6<sup>th</sup> November.

Please join me in welcoming our new members Jenna, Oliver and family with their boat *Blue Moon*,

Matthew, Joey and family who are taking ownership of *Tamine*, Barry and Rachel with their boat *Santana II*, and Michael and Selena.

Looking forward, I am meeting with the Environment Agency (our landlords) to discuss rental rates. I think it is inevitable that they will rise, but we are working to keep the impact to the minimum. I am sure that they will reference what is happening elsewhere in the economy as context. Hopefully all will be known by the end of August.

As for our own fees, it was agreed at the last AGM that any increases for 22/23 would apply to memberships rather than mooring or canoe storage rates. Single membership becomes £60 (from £55), joint becomes £90 (from £85) and family membership £115 (from £100). Renewal letters will be going out to all members before the end of the month showing these and any mooring fees due by 1<sup>st</sup> September.

Please make a note in your diaries for the Commodore's Cruise on 18<sup>th</sup> September, the two closing down working parties on 30<sup>th</sup> October and 6<sup>th</sup> November plus the AGM and laying up supper on 19<sup>th</sup> November

At this year's AGM I shall be stepping down as Commodore, Gay will be stepping down as Membership Secretary (which was only ever temporary) and Sussan has already stepped down as Committee Member. It is vital that we have a Committee in order for the club to continue. It is preferable that the Committee is comprised of members that match the profile of our membership, so whether you are a long-standing member or new to the club, please consider putting yourselves forward for the Committee. Talk amongst those

members you are closest to and see if they might volunteer. Over the last few years, we have streamlined a lot of the administration, we have brought in WhatsApp and used Zoom to facilitate meetings, centralised all information, automated emailing and 'snail' mail, have modified the web site and have close to 100% electronic banking, all to try and reduce the admin burden so that the Committee can focus on the boating and maintenance side of the club. For anyone stepping up to the roles, you will always get support from current and previous Committee members and flag officers. It is in all of our interests. There is a nomination form later in this newsletter.

Elsewhere, do you love the River Thames? Would you like the opportunity to get on the river and serve the community with a focus on water safety? Can you commit to do an average of two four-hour river patrols per month on Saturday and Sunday afternoons (2:00pm-4:00pm)? Maybe this will be of interest [volunteeringkingston.org.uk](http://volunteeringkingston.org.uk)

Enjoy the summer and see you on the island 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

21 <sup>st</sup> August	R. & S. Higham
28 <sup>th</sup> August	G. Marriott
4 <sup>th</sup> September	Duty Officer Needed
11 <sup>th</sup> September	D. & S. Fountain-Parnell
18 <sup>th</sup> September	Committee Member (Commodore's Cruise)
25 <sup>th</sup> September	B. & C. Piercy
2 <sup>nd</sup> October	M Faxholm & A Blaikie
9 <sup>th</sup> October	M. & C. Harrison
16 <sup>th</sup> October	J. Roscoe
23 <sup>rd</sup> October	A. Gray
30 <sup>th</sup> October	Committee Member (1 <sup>st</sup> Island Closing WP)
6 <sup>th</sup> November	Committee Member (2 <sup>nd</sup> Island Closing WP)

### "Moaning Myrtle's Corner"



#### **Dinghies, dinghies and more dinghies!**

Please remember that, if you take the last dinghy from the jetty, you need to take it back by ferry or your own boat for others to use. If you didn't get to

the island by dinghy, then don't take one of the club's dinghies to get back or you may leave someone stranded. Finally, if you do use your own dinghy, please store it on or close to your own boat, not in a club mooring spot.

#### **Doors!**

If you are leaving the island, and there is no one around, please check the doors (clubhouse, shed, bosun, generator and WC) are shut and locked, and return the keys to the Bosun's Locker. Don't assume someone else will do it.

#### **Visitors Log!**

All guests must be signed in and out of the visitors log!



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

Of the 346km (215 miles) of the Thames, some 160km (99 miles) is tidal. The Tideway as it is known, runs from Teddington lock down to the sea. The tide rises and falls twice a day by up to 7m (24ft) taking longer to subside or ebb (6-9 hours) than it does to flow in (4-5 hours). As well as consideration for the depth of the water on our boats, it also means that cruising with the flow of the tide, we can travel faster in relation to the shore, and it improves fuel economy.

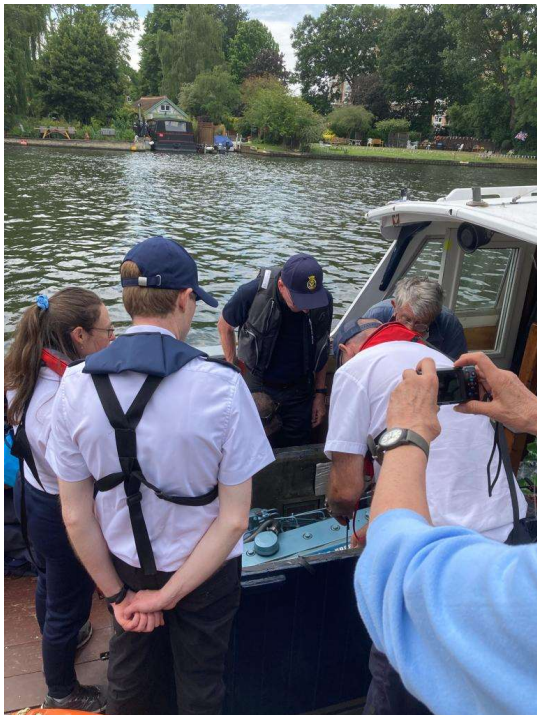


Even though the Thames above Teddington lock is considered non-tidal, its depth and flow can be heavily influenced by the weather up-stream. Large volumes of rain out to the west can increase water volumes and flow for some time after. The lock and weir system is designed to minimise the impact.

This year's **Family Fun Day** was held on 27<sup>th</sup> June and gave families and members



another great opportunity to mingle on the island and enjoy time on the water. The event kicked off with our venerable Commodore addressing the



gathered hoards and handing over Pirate Island to the cadets for the day. The pirate treasure hunt that followed got things off to a great start

much helped by the weather which proved to be far kinder than it was last year. A visit by the Maritime Volunteer Service in their boat *Blue Light* was a great opportunity to hear about the work that they do, and club members were invited on board to look

over the vessel. The paddleboarding and kayaking were again popular activities as they were last year, with boaters and paddlers to be



seen on the water for most of the afternoon. The club boat was put through its paces (big thanks to Andrew B for sorting that out) and the pinata was another hit, almost literally...With burgers, buns and a bar there was a relaxed atmosphere through the day with over 20 cadets and



upwards of 55 people in total passing through at one time or another.

Thanks must go to the organisers who helped pull it all together - Liz, Rob, Ellie, Jen, Andy, Gavin, Jenny, Dave and

Linda and those additional hands who helped on



the day, including AJ, Andrew B and Simon P. Keep an 'aye' out for next year's event...!"



**Brentford Cruising Club** would like to invite SBC members to the **Great River Race** on **Saturday 10th September**

Rowing boats will pass Brentford Dock from around 13:30 and there will be a Brentford Cruising Club and Brentford Dock Events Team BBQ on the Dock riverside as a fund raiser for the RNLI.

**The Channel Sailing Club** is organising **An Evening with Tom Cunliffe** on **Tuesday 18th October 2022, 8pm** at Leatherhead Theatre. Tom is a very entertaining speaker on boating matters. Please contact Andrew Barwick or Linda Varney for more details

*Message from the Committee:*

**What if....**

Have you thought about what you would do if there was an accident on the island? Please always have a charged mobile phone with you: you may need it to call for help for someone, even yourself.

We now have a *What3Words* identification for the island if you need to make an emergency call: **SAFETY.COAST.EXPORT**

There is a first aid kit on the wall near the galley in the Clubhouse. Andy Juric is planning some first aid tuition; details to follow.





## Summer Party 2022!

A good time was had by all at the summer party in July. With the 4th July only a few days later an American theme was adopted. Some great outfits, but sad to see AJ didn't decide to come as Lincoln - the top hat and beard would have suited him!



The commodore's welcome cocktail got things off to a great start, followed by a delicious bbq and serenaded by the DJ. The rain held off, which was greatly concerning the DJ, and despite being a mariner himself (or so he said) was also greatly concerned he may not get back to the mainland... maybe we should specify we're an island next year!



The raffle raised over £300 making contribution to the club funds and gave out some great

prices as usual; thanks Linda!



Thank you to all who helped setup, man the ferry, attended and tidy away again - a great time was had by all.



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



**Small Boat Club  
Proposal Form For  
Executive Committee**

*"Run by the Members, for the Members"*

Nominee (name) \_\_\_\_\_  
Position \_\_\_\_\_  
Proposed by \_\_\_\_\_  
Seconded by \_\_\_\_\_  
Nominee acceptance (signature & date) \_\_\_\_\_

Positions are as follows (see Handbook for associated duties)

Club President, Club Commodore, Club Vice Commodore, Club Rear Commodore, Club Secretary, Club Treasurer, Club Bosun, Committee Member

PLEASE SUBMIT FORMS TO THE CLUB SECRETARY [sec@smallboatclub.co.uk](mailto:sec@smallboatclub.co.uk) NO LATER THAN 10 DAYS BEFORE  
AGM