

THAMES SCOUT CRUISING CLUB

NEWSLETTER



July 2011

No. 87

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*Join TSCC at
their Annual
Dinner
Thursday
27th October
(details to follow)*



Chairman's Log



I am extremely grateful to those who submit the articles that go to make up our really interesting Newsletters, and to the committee members who put so much effort into ensuring that we have such a variety of events to attend on and off the water. It is not my intention to discuss those we have enjoyed so far this year as they are well reported upon in the following pages.

Whilst you are dodging the rain this summer, let me remind members that the subject for the 2011 Ray Andrews Photographic Competition, chosen by Pauline Simpson our winner last year, is “**River Thames Boat Houses**”. Judging will take place during the Club Annual Dinner & Dance on Thursday 27th October 2011 in the Elizabethan Room, Glenmore House, Surbiton. So get those cameras out and have a go, but make sure the date of the Dinner & Dance is in your diary and look out for the flyer with more details.

Our membership drive has been a great success with nine applications now with Tony awaiting approval at the next committee meeting.

I am sure you will all wish to send your good wishes to Dusty, Gordon, Iris, Les H. and Max who have all been diagnosed with serious medical conditions in the last few months. Our thoughts are with you Guys.

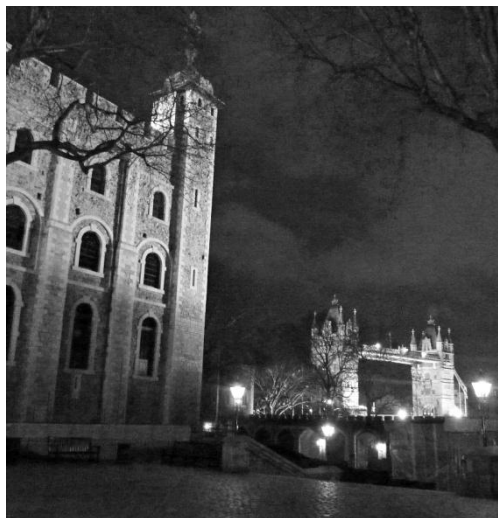
Will any member who is a Scouter and wishes physical help from the TSCC at any local Group fund raising event, please give me a call and we will see if we can rustle up some help.

Finally, enjoy the rest of the summer. Rosie and I hope to see you at one of our gatherings in the near future.

*Best wishes,
David*

Tower of London, Ceremony of the Keys

25th February



Members of the Club and friends met outside the gates of The Tower and straight away new they were in for a fascinating evening when they were introduced to their guide for the evening Yeoman Warder Jimmy James. Jimmy's wit and highly politically incorrect jokes helped us to absorb facts and figures as we went around a deserted Tower.

As we were led over the moat, now dry, through the Middle and Byward Towers, under the portcullis, still operational, and into the main body of the Tower we realised, with no hoards of camera touting tourists, how eerily quiet it was with the walls echoing back our footsteps and words. We learnt from Jimmy where the original Royal Mint was housed, how the moat was originally tidal, enabling the sanitation to be flushed out twice a day and how the river flowed up to the Traitors' Gate before the Embankment was built. Through the Bloody Tower, where the two princes, sons of Edward IV, were supposed to have been murdered and up to Tower Green where we learnt of the gruesome beheading of traitors and Queens. The majority of prisoners sentenced to death were publicly executed outside of the Tower on Tower Hill and their bodies frequently quartered for display with their heads being displayed on London Bridge!

We were very fortunate to be able to visit the Chapel of St Peter ad Vincula, the parish church of the Tower. A pre-

Norman chapel stood on the site and the chapel was rebuilt by Henry VIII and again by Queen Victoria, who tripped on the floor made uneven by the number of burials. These included the Queens Anne Boleyn, Catherine Howard and Jane Grey and unique in an Anglican church, in the crypt Sir Thomas More and Bishop John Fisher, two saints of the Roman Catholic Church.

Our tour continued back past The White Tower with a fantastic view of Tower Bridge to the Yeoman Warders Club for a most welcome fish & chip supper, a glass or two of wine, a raffle and an explanation of the difference between a Yeoman Warder and a Yeoman of the Guard. (Ask somebody who was there).

The high point of the evening was the Ceremony of the Keys when The Tower is secured for the night. As ten o'clock approached we assembled by The Bloody Tower to see the Chief Yeoman Warder with The Tower keys and his escort with a lamp walk smartly up to the Middle Tower Gate, close and lock it and then return to be challenged by a Guard " *Who comes there?*" - " *The keys*" - " *Whose keys?*" - " *The Queen Elizabeth's keys*" - " *Pass Queen Elizabeth's keys and all is well*" They are allowed to pass and proceed up the steps towards Tower Green where the main tower guard present arms, the Yeoman Warder calls " *God preserve Queen Elizabeth*" to which we all lustily responded " *Amen*" the clock struck ten and the Last Post sounded. A truly historic ceremony held every night without fail for the last 700 years. Only once a few minutes late when a WW2 bomb dropped on an outer wall.

The Tower was secure for the night and after a brief return to the club the TSCC left before the wicket gate was locked at midnight. (Miss that and you are there till 6am)

A memorable and instructive evening enjoyed by all -
Thanks

Graham Bucknell

ATYC Dinner Dance

12th March

The switch of venue this year to the Crown Plaza at Marlow made a welcome change. TSCC was represented by Ray and Elaina Mears, David and Rosie Sowter, Linda and Max Grundy, Mark and Jackie Marriott, and Pauline and Peter Simpson. In total there were 165 guests. The food was good and the band "Panama" provided excellent music which meant that the dance floor was well used. The less formal, smart venue and event style seemed to go down very well and the venue has already been re-booked for 2012. A presentation was made to Chris Turner in thanks for his six years as ATYC Chairman.

Skittles Challenge

19th March

Once again TSCC and Weybridge Mariners enjoyed the hospitality and facilities of Byfleet Boat Club at what has become the annual skittles challenge between the three clubs. Last year TSCC were victorious but a strong and enthusiastic team were out of luck this year as Byfleet bowled their way to regain the trophy.

FITTING-OUT LUNCH at the "THE CLINK"

24th March

A visit to "THE CLINK" was a memorable occasion starting with the dramatic arrival of Marguerite and Brian into the car park.....mounting the central island!!

High Down Prison in Sutton is a high security prison and entry was by extensive checks on us all.

A recent jailbreak attempt was foiled by a guard. The subject was collecting bars of soap and shaping them together, over time, in the shape of a gun which, when painted and dried, could be capable of deceiving and instilling fear. The plot was to take a prison officer hostage

and try to escape. The staff are very brave and are always on the alert for schemes for escape.

Knowing all this, made us aware how brilliant and patient is the officer organizing the catering scheme. He well deserved the MBE he received for setting up the project. He is proposing to help those on the scheme, on release, to return to a new area from where they came from, by giving them a restaurant to run with the living accommodation above. He hopes that it will help them not to return to prison. This scheme will be extended to other prisons hoping for good results from re-offending.

We thought that the meal we had was delicious, well thought out, beautifully cooked and politely served. It is definitely a place to revisit for a meal.

Brian and Marguerite Rollason.

GATHERING AT HURLEY LOCK ISLAND

24th - 27th May

Ten boats took part in our up-river cruise to the Hurley Lock Moorings, they were: Gorjess, MyOwnie, Sea View, Enterprise V, Blue Mink, Orlando, Patty, Chiswick Liz, Madam and MV Saluki. Ray & Jacqui came by car and stayed overnight in a hotel in Henley. Les & Chris managed, in between grand children, to join us for the day on Thursday. We received a text from Bob & Diana in America and a phone call from Paul & Emily all sending greetings and wishing they could be with us.

Tuesday

Everybody arrived at different times during the day, some missing the fun of nearly taking off with the gazebo whilst we tried to put it up in the strong wind. Eventually, by 5pm, it was erected and well secured just in time for Rosie's Pimms and nibbles party, which everyone seemed to enjoy. Pimms was followed by a DIY barbecue, after which the weather turned quite cold and most returned to the comfort of the boats. A few made their way to "The Rising Sun" for a nightcap.

Wednesday

In the morning we went to Freebody's Boat Yard on the other side of the lock cut. Dick, the longest serving Boat Builder at the yard, gave us a most interesting tour and explanation of the work involved in



building and restoring traditional wooden boats. He was very willing to answer our questions and we were given some free time, which allowed us to look around on a strictly "no touch" basis. It was nice to visit this

yard we have passed so many times before on our boats, and have the pleasure of observing the skilled craftsmanship that goes on there.

The afternoon was taken up with a short journey across the river in Blue Mink and Sea View who kindly ferried us over to Harleyford, where, after a short walk up hill to the Golf Club, 25 of us settled down to enjoy an excellent cream tea whilst Les (my husband) examined the nineteenth green. The weather could not have been kinder and we were able to appreciate the beauty of the area during our downhill walk back to the boats and on an extended journey via the weir stream back to our moorings.

Our evening was taken up with another walk, this time to "The Rising Sun" in Hurley Village and back. We had an excellent steak & wine meal and some even managed to sample the beer.

A very enjoyable day was had by all.

Thursday

The weather was not so kind to us this day, but we all still managed to either go by car or cruise to Marlow courtesy of Blue Mink and MV Saluki. MyOwnie went on their own as they were going to Windsor the next day.

There was time between downpours for individual shopping and to get a meal, before we all met up at "The Royal British Legion Club",

for a wonderful concert given by the **Berks, Bucks & Oxon Big Band**, in aid of the Thames Valley Hospice. Everybody thoroughly enjoyed their performance. After congratulating most members of the Band, we had the return journey in the dark back to Hurley, many thanks to Blue Mink and MV Saluki. A Special word of thanks goes to Graham, Andy and Gordon for hand-winding Temple Lock, if we had only waited until the 1st of June the power would have been on 24hours.

Friday

After making our farewells, everybody went their own way. Some boats went up river to continue their holiday and others returned home.

Many thanks to Rosie and Elaina especially, and to everyone else involved, for organising such a splendid 3 days. We know how much hard work goes into these things, but it was well worth it as everybody had such a good time, and I am sure we all look forward to the next cruise.

Sally Holdaway



Strawberry Tea

11th June

This year we changed the venue for the Strawberry Tea to The Walled Garden at Sunbury. This is a delightful garden gem in Lower Sunbury with car park and moorings nearby in the Sunbury lock weir stream. The weather had been dreadful all week, but as is said “The sun shines on the righteous” so for the three hours we were there it shone and warmed our faces. Linda and Max as usual had been busy purchasing beautiful strawberries and whipping lashings of cream. We found the perfect spot to set out the scones and strawberries with a view of the magnificent Lendy Memorial, a tribute to two local brothers who died in action in Africa in the 1890’s. We were also lucky that on the afternoon chosen a local choir sang for two hours. We had enough scones to be able to offer the choristers some during their break, much to their delight.

Twenty-two members enjoyed the event with four boats attending. It was great to see Dusty who had been unable to

join us at Hurley due to ill health. Several of us bought drinks from the cafe and also visited the Millennium Embroidery which is sited in a gallery in the garden and is free to visit.

In the evening nineteen of us went to the Weybridge Mariners Club at Shepperton to join in their midsummer ball which was greatly enjoyed by everyone, the buffet was superb and good

disco music for dancing.

Jim and Sylvia

were celebrating their

golden wedding anniversary and were

presented with a rose

from the TSCC in the afternoon and in the

evening Jim provide

everyone with wine.

Despite a sudden

downpour drenching

our boating members

on their way to Shepperton and a road traffic accident

involving a police car in a ditch at Walton bridge holding up

those going by car it was a perfect day with lots of great food

and wine and convivial company.



and wine and convivial company.

Rosie.

LIMEHOUSE TRIP

July 8th – 11th

Six boats, Miss Amanda, Gorjess, Patty, MV Saluki, Orlando

and Thrupenny left Teddington at 8.30 am on Friday July 8th

on a somewhat wet and windy morning bound for Limehouse.

Four hours later everyone was safely moored and the sun

decided to come out, everyone visited each other's boats and

hospitality abounded, showing signs of a good weekend

ahead. At 6.30pm sixteen members and one friend gathered at the Cruising Association Club House for a meal.

Agnus the Polish girl in charge of catering had set up a long table and balloons and banners had been put up as a surprise for Phyll and Buster who celebrate their Golden Wedding anniversary in September, David presented a “Golden



Wedding”

rose to them from the club

and

everyone

enjoyed

chocolate

cake and

toasted their

60 years of

married life.

Most of us

went back to

our boats at closing time to go to bed, that is apart from Tony and David who decided to have a nightcap and put the world to rights sitting on the stern of Orlando. Eventually David poured Tony onto Miss Amanda around 1.30am where he landed on top of Phyll then slept with his glasses on all night. Next day something was mentioned about Tony being unable to mix red and white wine. Hate to tell you Tony but it was Jack Daniels!!!

Saturday and Sunday were beautiful sunny days and various groups went off exploring, some to Greenwich, others to the Museum of London, Petticoat Lane and other markets and some just enjoyed the surrounding area.

Monday morning arrived all too soon but once again another lovely warm sunny day for our return journey to Teddington. It was a perfect cruise and another great day on our beloved Thames.

Rosie

Buster and I would like to thank the club for the lovely surprise on Friday night at Limehouse for our 50th wedding anniversary and the rose that you gave us.

At the same time David was talking to Buster about how he got his name of Buster. He was born in a nursing home and he weighed 8lb 3oz - when the nurse picked him up to give to his Mum to feed she said he is a 'Buster' and the name has stuck to him. Even when he went to school all his cousins were there and they called him Buster, so the teachers started to call him it as well, and it has been with him ever since.

Phyllis

FOOD for PENS and COBS

I am often asked what the best food with which to feed swans is. Quite simply the answer is this: Whenever one feeds swans, or any other river bird for that matter, ALWAYS make sure there is water to help them swallow. For instance do not feed bread to a swan in a field without also giving water - it is hard to digest down those long necks without moisture.

Bread is quite all right BUT, and this is a big but, never ever give bread, cake or biscuits that might have blue mould. This could make the birds extremely ill and I really cannot emphasise this point enough. It could even kill! The bread can be fresh or stale, brown or white just make sure no mould and plenty of water. Lettuce and spinach is good, but not cabbage as the leaves are tough and stalks could choke. Also, corn and wheat grain too. When the youngsters come along, crushed Wheatabix is good, or crushed cornflakes.

You will notice swans eating grass, even small cygnets, and the parents will indeed pull bits of grass for the young to eat. If you are feeding swans and you have your family pet with you, please make sure the dog is well away from the birds. Two reasons, parent birds are very protective of their young and they may be upset by the dog being too close. Second reason is that your dog may be very well behaved and the swans get used to this so that when an uncontrolled dog turns up they are not always well prepared.

Linda Grundy

“Après le Deluge”

The Minister has spoken with Solomonic precision. The New Waterways Charity/ British Waterways (NWC/BW) charity will start without the Environment Agency (EA) waters. Many of us have been campaigning for just such a course of action. Now we know where the government sponsored waterways are initially going it is imperative that everyone gets behind the NWC – oh I do hope we get a name soon – and join together constructively to make it work.

Unlike the EA navigations that have suffered considerable hiatus during the “open book” exercise, BW have been sailing full steam ahead for their goal of April 2012. Legislation permitting that is now realisable.

The deficit that BW have struggled with has some resolution now. The Trustees have complete and unfettered use of the “property portfolio” or non-operational assets and we know that some £7.5m worth are to be sold off this year. These assets are specifically available for NWC/BW to use to help balance their books.

The NWC Trustees and the Management Committee will need to get to grips with the actual “funding gap” that exists over the current BW waters. Last year Robin Evans was heard to whisper “£35m” being the extra amount he would like to run the company the way he feels does it justice. This is a less than perfect world. We now know that the employee pension fund requires an extra £5m annually to help cope with its deficit. Now the NWC no longer has the protection of funding by a government agency, we can rely that the pension fund trustees will do right by it. God bless that uniquely British institution, the charity commissioners.

The EA navigations have a target to aim for. The next government spending review in 2014 Defra, the current funding government department, will include an assessment of how the NWC has managed in their initial two years. For those of us on EA waters, we need the assurances that the criteria set out in the minister’s statement and subject to assessment are fulfilled if the EA waters are to be transferred in 2015/6. Effectively those factors are:

1. The NWC has achieved a degree of financial viability and is a stable charity.

2. The NWC Trustees can be sure that the EA navigation assets/liabilities of £500m can be sufficiently indemnified by further grants from the Treasury.

Consultation with stakeholders will allow the government to transfer the EA statutory responsibilities to an unregulated body that the NWC will then be.

The path to these aspirations is:-

1. The NWC trustees and the Charity Commissioners initially must be the arbiters of this. The Charity Commissioners have clear guide lines. Defra or whomever holds the EA purse strings must be sure that the navigations' futures can be secured within the NWC as these navigation functions play a crucial part within the Integrated River Basin Management. In 2015 Defra will be facing potential European Union (EU) infraction fines if the Water Framework Directive (WFD) implementation plans do not pass muster.

2. The Minister was clear that the weirs and - we must presume – responsibilities for them, will not to be included within any transfer of assets. On the Thames the weirs and adjacent infrastructure are valued at just under £500m and is now out of the equation. We are left with the locks etc. On the Thames those lock assets in 2008 were valued at £256m. With the added work carried out since then of £15m and the inflation on the valuation there will be precious little change out of £300m. How much contingent liability is required from the Treasury by the trustees is a dichotomy of available funds and minimum requirement not to mention the period of time such a contingency is demanded/offered.

3. There is a possible conflict between what the Thames navigation has statutorily and historically provided and how it is to be guaranteed into a future with the NWC. The NWC Trustees have primary and almost exclusive responsibility to the Charity Commissioners, the law and their personal well-being. Covenants undertaken on behalf of the NWC by NWC Trustees that accompany EA navigations would take precedent over other NWC duties.

One example of this is the right of navigation upon the Thames. During the foot & mouth outbreak of 2001, the Ministry of Agriculture Farming MAFF – they still existed then - had powers to ban movement in and out of areas infected by the disease. A MAFF

drafting lawyer told me with some Machiavellian glee that the provisional banning order that would be used for the River Thames in event of a significant infection, had been drafted that day. After a suggestion from me that some more investigation might be best undertaken, I was told the following day that at least the towpaths would be closed. In extremis, in such an instance of the towpaths being closed, a boat could have entered the river at Teddington, cruised languidly up to Lechlade and back again, being able to shop wherever they stopped as long as they remained within that control area ashore.

I make that point to underline just how powerful the right to navigate the Thames is founded. Such rights must be upheld by the NWC and its trustees. We have yet to understand how the EA, that currently hold these duties, can securely pass all of them onto the NWC. I have no idea of the sanctions that anyone objecting can have applied by a breach of the right, but I doubt it is solely financial. Imagine the meeting of the NWC trustees because they are all in the Tower – no problem with a quorum!!!!

The NWC not being able to afford an urgent and unplanned repair that impedes navigation on the Thames will be no defence. The NWC will have to find the money at whatever cost to other current planned expenditure and it is such situations that the 29,000 Thames users will want underwritten. The scale of expenditure for just such an instance is available. On the Thames, Sandford lock gates failed late May 2010. After emergency action and a couple of days of complete closure the lock gates were stabilised sufficiently to allow for supervised use for the remainder of the season. The full remedial work completed this winter has cost in total more than £1.5m; all quite unplanned and forced the postponement of other maintenance work to an equal value for a future date, government funding permitting.

Politicians, Defra and stakeholders would like to see all the navigations within the UK under a single organisation. The treasury would like to excuse its liability to fund any waterway. How that is achieved is a little more complicated than just expressing the aspiration. Whatever is suggested it must ensure that every waterway should benefit. Anything less is unsustainable. To inject

the EA waters into the NWC before the NWC has had a chance to create a firm foundation with its new fiscal opportunities would be unfortunate and potentially damaging for everyone. The Minister has found a course of action that can offer challenges to both the NWC and the EA. If both grasp these opportunities the future can be good but it is imperative that there is a firm base upon which to build. We need to get behind the NWC to help create that solid base.

Louis Jankel

HELLO SAILOR!

There is a speed limit on the non-tidal River Thames upstream of Teddington and it applies only to power-driven boats.

The maximum speed is 8 kilometres per hour (5 miles per hour or 4.3 knots) and it's measured over the bed of the river. **It's equivalent to a fast walking pace**, but you should always look behind you to see if your wash is disturbing other boats or breaking on the bank; if it is, you need to slow down.

Speeding boats are dangerous to other river users as well as anti-social. The wash they make can also cause great damage – to moored boats, the river bank and wildlife.

Environment Agency(**EA**) patrol crews carry out regular speed checks using laser enforcement equipment and they prosecute offenders – **the maximum penalty is a £1000 fine**.

EA incident Hotline 0800 80 70 60

You should call this 24hr Freephone* number to report an environmental incident, an urgent situation affecting use of the river or boats, or an urgent problem at one of our locks. Examples include:

- Damage or danger to the natural environment; Pollution;
- Fish in distress or dead fish; Vehicle or fallen tree blocking the river;
- Collapsed or badly damaged river bank; Boat fire or explosion;
- Boat sinking; Lock breakdown outside duty hours;
- Alleged navigation offence, e.g. a speeding boat

*Calls from mobiles are charged at network operator's normal call rates.

Popeye the Sailor Man

1st Surbiton (Sealion) Sea Scout Group/Surbiton Festival

present

RNLI THAMES RALLY

(In aid of the Royal National Lifeboat Institution)

Queens Promenade, Surbiton

17 & 18 September 2011

RNLI fundraising stall and charity stalls

Teddington Lifeboat Station Rescue Demonstration

Traditional Sailing Barges on view

Illuminated Sail Past by local Boat Clubs on Saturday Evening

Scout & Guide Youth Marching Bands

Boat Trips

Assembly of Motor Vessels from Local Boat Clubs

For Further information contact the organiser Roger Jones

020 8399 6261 or rogercjones@btinternet.com



TSCC Programme for 2011

All dates and events are subject to change.

- | | |
|-------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| August 13 th | Sunbury Regatta and Fireworks |
| August 27 - 29 th | ATYC Rally London |
| September 10 th | Heritage Day at Walton |
| September 17-18 th | RNLI Surbiton Rally |
| September 23 rd | Olympic London Explorer Tour |
| October 15 th | London by Night sightseeing tour |
| October 27 th | TSCC Annual Dinner |
| December 2 nd | Thursford Christmas Spectacular |



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VISIT OUR WEBSITE: ThamesScoutCruisingClub.org.uk