

TSCC



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Thames Scout Cruising Club Newsletter No.113

March 2020

Chairman's Log



Pictured with Richard Hunt, Warspite GSL with the Don Everitt in the background.

Since I last put pen to paper we have enjoyed an immensely festive Christmas get-together; a fun skittles match at the Byfleet Boat Club (no trophy this year but another opportunity in eleven months' time!); a fascinating visit to the Globe Theatre followed by an excellent talk and dinner at the Little Ship Club; an outstanding Fitting Out Lunch at Glenmore House – and our AGM has come and gone for yet another year! My personal thanks to everyone who made it happen.

Corona virus permitting, we have some major events on the near horizon: a Scenic Scotland coach tour; our new format Thames Cruise; and a very different style of cruise

on the River Danube. We will monitor closely and keep you posted on any impact resulting from the current situation.

It was a great pleasure on Sunday 8th March to attend the official launch of a 'Wheelyboat' that will carry the name 'Don Everitt'. Like all Wheelyboats, the Don Everitt has a bow that can be lowered to allow wheelchair users and others with restricted mobility to get aboard and enjoy everything the river

TSCC is affiliated to the ATYC and the River Thames Society.

Cover photo: TSCC's visit to the Little Ship Club - bottom left, with white flag pole in front.

Thames can offer. The boat is the result of three years of fundraising spearheaded by Richard Hunt, Group Scout Leader of 1st Cuddington (Warspite) Sea Scouts working together with Ajax and with Sealion Sea Scouts in Surbiton. The TSCC is one of the many donors who helped to make this happen. Don Everitt was a Sea Scouter of the old school and a pioneering RYA Dinghy Instructor trained by Bob Bond who wrote the original RYA training manual. Don was also the founding principal of the Warspite / Ajax RYA Training Centre based in Thames Ditton. Many of us have very affectionate memories of Don who sadly did not survive to draw his pension. The boat was "Christened" with a few splashes of Bacardi and Coke, Don's favourite tipple, especially late at night at summer camp! Those were indeed the days! The task now is to staff the boat and make sure it delivers the maximum benefit for those who would otherwise be unable to enjoy what so many of us take for granted. The ceremony was attended by Sea Scouts, leaders and parents from all three Groups as well as numerous guests including Steve Collins, Chair of RUG 8, Richard Hart from the Docklands Scout Project and Joe Rogerson, Surrey Scout County Commissioner. Here's wishing every member of the Club a happy, healthy summer with boating aplenty.

Mark



WELCOME ABOARD!

TSCC extends a warm welcome to new members:

Greg Beardsall
Narrow Boat: Ben Gorton & Elstree

Chris & Su Knight
Boat: Alouette



We wish them lots of fun and friendship with the Club.

TSCC's AGM

This was our **28th AGM** and, as always, it was great to see so many members in attendance – 48 in all.

We were also pleased to welcome a number of invited guests:

Mrs Mary Osborn, Surrey County Scout Active Support Unit Manager and her husband Alan,

Joe Rogerson, Surrey Scout County Commissioner,

Julia Kielstra, a Surrey Deputy County Commissioner,

Gary Rixon, Acting Assistant Scout Leader and Assistant Cub Scout Leader, 1st Stanwell Group,

Chris West, Group Scout Leader, 4th Thames Ditton (Ajax) Sea Scout Group.

Tony Scott reported that the Club has a total of 81 members, made up of 47 Principal members and 34 Additional /Family members.

The vast majority of our members have a long history in the Scouting or Guiding movements.

Most Scout Active Support Unit members are registered through the TSCC and Surrey County although one is a Scout Active Support member registered elsewhere (Richmond upon Thames, GLSW) and two are Honorary Scouters. Five of our members hold current Leadership Warrants and another eight have administrative roles in Scouting, ranging from a County Vice-President to posts on Group Committees. Two of our members have current Girl Guiding (Trefoil Guild) membership.

Due to our boat owning and cruising background there is a certain geographical spread of TSCC Scouting membership. Whilst by far the majority are registered through Surrey County, two members are registered in Northamptonshire, two in Buckinghamshire and one each in Greater London South West and Hampshire.

The Club Chairman, Officers and Committee remain unchanged but we are most fortunate that **Lesley Oakley**, who had recently agreed to be co-opted onto our Committee, was formally elected at the AGM.

Mark Marriott announced that the **River Thames Alliance** (RTA) had been wound up voluntarily. The organisation, led by **Michael Sheffras**, had done valuable work to preserve the amenities of the Thames for all users and it is sad to see it close.

Ray Mears spoke about the organisation **Reclaim Our River (RoR2)** and encouraged members to join up. He said that TSCC members might like to contribute to the crowd funding in support of RoR2 efforts to rid the Thames of "slum boats" and those mooring long term at locations that should be available to all boaters

Gary Rickson, the ACSL and Acting ASL of the **1st Stanwell Scout Group**, was our guest speaker.

He said that the Group is located at the edge of Heathrow Airport and is the only Scout Group in Stanwell and Stanwell Moor. It is a socially deprived area according to the Government web-site.

Gary spoke about the community activities that have been recently undertaken by the Group, such as litter clearing and putting up a bridge on some wasteland to permit public access.

The Group has a serious problem with the heating of its HQ. Calor Gas changed their gas storage tank as part of ongoing maintenance and condemned their pipework as unsafe. This has been rectified and TSCC provided half the funding for this. Unfortunately, the boiler has broken down now and there is no heating in the HQ. The Scouts and Cubs wish to remain in their HQ and now wear coats throughout meetings. The Beaver Scouts now meet in the District HQ. There is also a need for financial support, because of parental circumstances, for some Cubs and Scouts to enable them to go on visits and to attend camp.

A question was asked: "How will you fund the boiler replacement?" Gary replied that he did not know, but the job is being done on Tuesday.

Graham Bucknell suggested that, immediately after the meeting, a voluntary collection is made to give financial support to the 1st Stanwell Scout Group. This was done and **£353.16** was raised.

Mrs Mary Osborn, the Surrey County Scout Active Support Unit Manager, was invited to speak and she thanked the Club and the committee for their fundraising efforts to support young people in Scouting and also for the social aspect of TSCC for its members.

Mrs Osborn presented the Chief Scout's 25-year Scouting service award to Tony Scott. (see photo with Mary, Tony and Joe)



Joe Rogerson, the Surrey Scout County Commissioner, was invited to speak. He spoke about the great work on fundraising that is done by TSCC and its members. He said that he knows the 1st Stanwell Group and they certainly are deserving of support. The leaders work very hard for the young people and have very little opportunity to raise money from their locality, so TSCC financial support is very valuable.

Joe commented that Christian SASU members are encouraged to pray for the success of Scout Groups.

(With thanks to Tony Scott for his excellent Minutes which form the basis of this article).

TSCC to the RESCUE

It was our twin Granddaughter's 18th Birthday last New Year's Eve. I had been



asking them what plans they had, were they going to have a party, they just could not make up their minds. Then less than a week before the big day, they announced that they would really like to have a birthday celebration. Our Son Neil and his wife very kindly (bravely) said OK they could go ahead and have the party at home. "Lovely" they said. "We will invite some friends".

I thought it was rather short notice, but hoped that a few would be able to make it.

We happened to be at their house when the twins came down stairs, very excited, and announced that after asking college and old school friends, plus Emily's rowing friends and Charlotte's trampoline club friends, they had had loads of replies and sixty people were coming, and wasn't it fantastic!!!

Neil and his wife whilst quite shocked would not disappoint them by calling the whole thing off. What to do? They do have a reasonably sized through room, but we could not imagine how it would hold sixty lively teenagers.

What about a marquee attached to the French doors that go out into the garden, thankfully the weather at that time was clear and bright? Where to get one? I then remembered that TSCC had one just the right size. Mark very kindly said we could borrow it. What a blessing.

The whole family managed to put the marquee up. Old carpet put down. A quick trip to the garden centre to buy 750 fairy lights, 70 balloons, and a heater. Lots of hard work and hey presto, job done. The party was wonderful, one the girls will remember (I expect the neighbours will too). A few bruises to the house, but nothing that could not be fixed.



A big thank you to the wonderful TSCC

Elaina

CHRISTMAS with TSCC



More from our Christmas party.....



Photos from Mike Fowler

Santa's little helper surprises the elf!
(photo Mark Marriott)



The pictures say it all!
This was a fun party and everyone had a good time.
Our thanks to all those who helped setting-up, organising
games, organising food, and clearing-up.

Globe Theatre and Little Ship Club



Photo: Tony Scott

A damp afternoon towards the end of a very wet February saw sixteen of us converge on Bankside for our guided tour at the Globe Theatre. On arrival, and after a welcome coffee, we were greeted with a magnificent rainbow to the north of the river which cheered us on our way into the premises. Our excellent guide,

Janet, who is herself an actress, told us interesting things such as the fact that

the current theatre was not built on the site of Shakespeare's 16th century building but, due to there being a listed building on the original site, it was built some 230m upstream. The auditorium is open to the weather and now, as in the original theatre, the plays are enacted from April through September whatever the weather, within reason presumably.

Janet explained that it was Sam Wanamaker who, being extremely disappointed that there was no Shakespeare theatre in London where the original one used to be, instigated and was the prime mover in the building of the new theatre as a replica of the original in the 1990s. Sadly he did not live to witness the completion of the project.



Janet took us into the theatre where we sat in one of the galleries and took in the construction, all in wood with oak columns and beams secured to each other with wooden pegs, plain pinewood benches (hard on the bottom), thatched roofing covered in moss encircling the perimeter, this time topped with sprinklers

in case of fire. There are two large wood columns about 1½m high in the middle of the open area for the witches in Macbeth to climb up on so as to be right in amongst the audience. We were fortunate to see part of a rehearsal of Macbeth taking place on the stage and it seemed somewhat strange that one of the characters was portrayed (very enthusiastically) by a Chinese actor.



After the Globe Theatre we were swept across Southwark bridge by a strong south westerly wind and made our way down the steps on the North side to the Little Ship Club. Once ensconced in the bar we were joined by Andrew and Celia thus boosting our number to eighteen. The officers and committee members of the LSC were very welcoming and they split us into three small groups to show us around the club house. The group that I was in was conducted by Barrie Martin, the Rear Commodore Racing. We were particularly intrigued by the sleeping cabins with snug looking bunk beds, portholes and en-suite showers. Both the bar and dining room overlook the river.

After the tour we made ourselves comfortable in the library for a talk by Charles Richardson about Captain John Illingworth and Sir Francis Chichester, both larger than life characters. The former has been described as “the father of post-war offshore sailing racing” and the latter, more well known, was an adventurer extraordinaire who’s flying and sailing exploits make the TSCC down river trips seem very tame indeed! I was particularly amazed at Sir Francis’ survival of his crash into overhead power lines whilst flying in Japan which scuppered his plan to circumnavigate the world by air. This was an interesting insight into the lives of these two outstanding men and the inter-action between them on boat design.

Our brain cells having been stimulated by Charles we were ushered into the dining room for the excellent club-night meal of chicken supreme followed by a ‘Desperate Dan’ size portion of spotted dick and custard (not good for some of our diets). During coffee Anne Billard, the Commodore, welcomed us as guests and invited Rosie to say a few words on behalf of TSCC. Rosie described how TSCC started, how it has grown over the last 25 years or so, its aims as a charitable club within Scouting and its busy social side.

Our thanks to Don Walker, committee member of the LSC, who was our host for the evening and to Rosie who organized both these visits which were thoroughly enjoyed by all of us.

George Barber

In Case of Emergency

While on my last holiday I was chatting to a lady who told me all about I.C.E. I had not heard of it before and thought it sounded like a very simple but effective scheme.



You have a small white plastic bottle with a green cross which you keep in the fridge and inside the bottle is a sheet of paper which has a list of your personal details and current medication, next of kin and a recent photo. There are also 2 stickers, 1 for the outside of the fridge and 1 for the inside of your front door. These are to enable any emergency personnel to know all about any

condition you may have and to help you get the correct treatment as soon as possible.

This has been sponsored by British Lions Clubs and is free. I felt that it might be very useful to TSCC members and set about obtaining some bottles. Boots the chemist don't do them neither did 3 other independent chemists I approached so after no response to emails I did eventually manage to talk to someone on the phone. The largest number of bottles they will send out at one time is 20. They are free apart from postage which works out at 25p each. I now have 20 so if anyone is interested please either email me or give me a ring. If there is more than 1 person at the same address you need to make a copy of the form for each resident (rosie.s@tsc.org.uk).



Rosie

Photographic Competition

The subject for the Ray Andrew's Trophy this year is:

“WATERY WONDERS”



It could be a fountain, a reflection, a waterfall, etc., it's all up to your imagination. If it looks wonderful and it's wet – it qualifies.

Let's make this year's entry as good as last years.

Judging will take place at the Annual Dinner on 16th November.

News Roundup

- British Inland Boating has awarded its Lock Keeper of the Year Award to Aiden Mahon at Sandford Lock on the River Thames.
- The Maidenhead Waterways Restoration Group says the work is almost complete on a new weir that will raise the water to navigable levels on the new tributary of the Thames through the town.
- The Woolwich Ferry Service is to be re-nationalised after the current contract comes to an end in March. It will be run by Transport for London.
- New black and white waymarkers are being installed along the complete route through London of the Thames Path National Trail.

TSCC PROGRAMME OF EVENTS for 2020

All dates and events are subject to change

Theatre visit: "The King and I" at New Victoria Theatre, Woking	Wednesday 8 th April – Matinee performance
Scenic Scotland Coach Tour (Loch Achray)	20 th – 25 th May
Thames Cruise	20 th – 24 th June
River Danube Cruise	19 th – 26 th July
TSCC Event (details soon)	Tuesday 8 th September (provisional)
Autumn Getaway (Bath and Bristol)	18 th – 20 th October
Annual Dinner at Leatherhead Golf Club	Monday 16 th November 7.00 for 7.30
Pre-Christmas Event (details soon)	Tuesday 1 st December (provisional)

All Event information can be found on the TSCC website. Try searching for ThamesScoutCruisingClub on your Smartphone or PC and then save the website in Favourites.



Thames Scout Cruising Club Grants

FINANCIAL SUPPORT FOR SCOUTS/GUIDES

TSCC is always looking for Scouting/Guiding projects which need financial support. If your local Group is in need of funds for specific projects ask them to write a letter to our Secretary giving full details. Our Committee will be pleased to consider all requests.

Newsletter edited by Peter Simpson – media@tsc.org.uk

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