



Thames Valley Region News Bulletin

December 2011

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Welcome....

...to this issue of the RYA Thames Valley Region News Bulletin. Any feedback appreciated, please e-mail mhaigh7@btinternet.com or call 07925 609909. The next issue will be around May 2012, so please send me any regional news or promotions for future events. A big thank-you to all who contributed to this issue.

From the Chair

From Alan Woolford, Chairman of RYA Thames Valley and London Region:

The Officers and Committee of RYA Thames Valley and London Region wish all RYA Affiliated Clubs and Training Centres in the Region Happy Christmas and a very successful 2012.

Stop Press News

This month RYA Council has approved the addition of London into the Region together with the appropriate change of name to Thames Valley and London. The new Terms of Reference (TOR) have also been approved which changes the date of the AGM to October/November. These TORs must be adopted by the Region at the General Meeting at Greenwich YC on 17th April.

Regional Web Site

If you haven't already taken a look at our regional web site please visit <http://www.rya.org.uk/regions/thamesvalley/Pages/ThamesValleyRegion.aspx> Fuller versions of most of the items in this newsletter can be found there. Please send any feedback, news items, and publicity for forthcoming events to mhaigh7@btinternet.com

RYA Thames Valley and London now on Facebook and Twitter

Our region is now using both Twitter and Facebook to engage a wider audience and promote regional events. People with Twitter accounts can now follow Steve Mitchell, Sailing Development Officer (SDO) for London at RYA_Mitchell and Tim Anderton, SDO for Thames Valley, at ryathamesvalley on Twitter.

We have also created a regional Facebook page "RYA Thames Valley and London Region" where similar information can and will be posted. Advertising regional events or spaces on Instructor Courses will be encouraged. To add to it, please e-mail info to tim.anderton@rya.org.uk

RYA Volvo Dinghy Show Ticket Competition

To have the chance of winning either a family ticket or a pair of single tickets to the RYA Volvo Dinghy Show 2012 just answer these two questions:

When is the RYA Volvo Dinghy Show 2012 being held?
Who is the show manager?

Hint.....look elsewhere in this newsletter. Winners will be selected "out of the hat" from correct entries. Entries please to mhaigh7@btinternet.com

HRH The Princess Royal presents Lifetime Commitment Awards to TV Sailors

Three Thames Valley and London sailors, Clive Church, Jeff Manning, and Peter Simpson were each presented with one of the RYA's (Royal Yachting Association) most prestigious awards, an RYA Lifetime Commitment Award on Wednesday (23 November) by HRH the Princess Royal, President of the RYA at the organisation's annual awards ceremony held at London's One Great George Street.

A total of 48 voluntary awards were presented to winners hailing from across the UK from as far afield as Hayling Island and Loch Tummel, Scotland.

Clive Church was nominated by Cookham Reach Sailing Club, which said of him: 'He has been a member the club for over 20 years, and has always been generous with the time and energy he puts into the club. 'He ensures the smooth running and development of the club, doing both routine maintenance and upkeep of the clubhouse and development of the club's facilities. His work not only helps to retain current members but also attracts new recruits to the sailing scene. Clive has always been the man to turn to for reliable maintenance skills and advice no matter what the task involves. He approaches every task with a well thought out plan and has the skills to take on any engineering or building related job.'

In nominating Jeff Manning, Henley Sailing Club said: 'Since the late 1979s Jeff has been a committee member in every possible role; Flag Officer, Commodore, and now Hon Secretary for the last 13 years, providing invaluable support to recent Commodores. That represents 32 years of continuous service to the club; an amazing achievement. Jeff continues to be an active sailor, encouraging new and old members alike into river sailing and sharing his extensive knowledge.'

Tamesis Sailing Club said of Peter Simpson: 'Since he joined the club in 1975, Peter has fulfilled many roles including a stint as Commodore. In particular he ran the Cadet section for many years, introducing a great number of youngsters to the joys of sailing. He has also served as honorary bosun for many years, ensuring that the club's rescue launches are in a fit state to be used for training and the race programme, and he also maintains the clubs other training boats.'

Clive, Jeff and Peter and the other RYA Award winners enjoyed a celebratory lunch in the presence of HRH the Princess Royal, and were presented with a commemorative medallion and certificate.

For more information visit

<http://www.rya.org.uk/regions/thamesvalley/newsevents/awards/Pages/CommunityAward.aspx>

Young Sailor of the Year

Isobel Mitchell from Weybridge will pick up one of youth sailing's most prestigious awards in the new year, the RYA Thames Valley and London Region Young Sailor of the Year Award 2011, in recognition of her achievements and dedication to the sport throughout the year.

Isobel has made a fast and furious start to her sailing career since joining the Queen Mary Sailing Club (QMSC) youth sailing scheme in September 2010. This year she won the club's Winter, Frostbite, Spring and Summer series, competing on most Sundays against highly skilled and experienced crews in one of the largest RS400 club fleets in the country.

Isobel scored 34 first places from 47 qualifying races, more than any other RS400 sailor at QMSC, and in the Winter Series she took first place in every single race. Isobel has gone on to race on the RS400 circuit at the major venues including Rutland and the National Sailing Academy with results rarely outside the top five, in a fleet which is renowned for ex Olympic hopefuls.

The highlight of 2011 was winning a race at the National Championships for the RS400s, beating 83 other boats to become one of only two boats to beat the reigning champion.

All of this has been achieved at the age of 15 in a Year when Isobel also gained 6 A*, 5 A's and 2B's GCSE's

On Saturday 07 January at the Tullett Prebon London International Boat Show, Isobel will join 13 other RYA Regional Award winners from all over the UK for a VIP day out at the show including the eagerly anticipated awards ceremony at which they will receive their trophy.

<http://www.rya.org.uk/regions/thamesvalley/newsevents/awards/Pages/ThamesValleyYoungSailoroftheYear.aspx>

Regional Development Update

Tim Anderton, Sailing Development Officer Thames Valley, tells us of the following programmes to develop sailing at your club and in the region:

Activate your fleet projects. Seven clubs in the Thames Valley have been involved. We have provided coaches to do fleet specific courses to get more people actively sailing at the club. We engage with the fleet captains and try to get them involved in the training. Visit

<http://www.rya.org.uk/infoadvice/clubsclass/development/Pages/Activateyourfleet.aspx>

Can sail can't race. Clubs regularly run level 1 or 2 sailing courses, but struggle to get those people to transfer to regular racing at the club. Can sail can't race training has worked well with clubs and motivated people to get involved in racing.

OnBoard. Currently there are nine very active OB centres – see reports elsewhere in this newsletter. Visit <http://www.rya.org.uk/programmes/onboard/Pages/default.aspx>

Sport England Grants. £460,000 in total has gone to sailing. Thames Valley has been awarded a total of £49000 with several clubs receiving grants of around £10000, and further applications are in the pipeline. Visit

<http://www.rya.org.uk/newsevents/news/Pages/SportEnglandSmallGrantsProgramme-Applyforagrantforyourclub.aspx>

Inspired Facilities. Funding is available to apply for, to be used in improving facilities such as building refurbishment. See

<http://www.rya.org.uk/newsevents/enewsletters/theclubroom/july2011/Pages/ApplyforInspiredFacilitiesfundingforuseatyourclub.aspx> and <http://inspiredfacilities.sportengland.org/>

Sail for Gold. A nationwide project to make the most out of the 2012 Olympics and try to promote our sport in many different ways. 40 clubs have activators nominated.

Push the boat out is a day on the 21st July, when we are asking all our clubs to run some sort of regatta or open day to get as many craft on the water as possible. Visit

<http://www.rya.org.uk/programmes/sailforgold/Pages/about.aspx>

Commercial centres meeting. QM, DWSC, Bray, Berkshire, Oxford, Aqua Sports, Whitecap Leisure met in November to discuss how we can increase sailing and windsurfing across the region. The meeting planned taster sessions across the region which will be advertised through the County Sports Partnership, followed by learn to sail courses, followed by a regatta on the 21st July.

University projects. A new university sailing club is being formed at Bucks New University, and funding has been provided to increase grass routes participation, with DWSC providing the instructors. There is a three year plan to make this a self sustaining sailing club. Brunel University has a large sailing club already, and new funding has been provided to increase participation and to provide additional instructors.

Winter Club Development Conferences and Workshops.

A conference on 12 November invited clubs for a day of discussion on what has worked during 2011 and how we move forwards during 2012, with workshops such on funding, market segmentation, and instructor training. Further workshops at Upper Thames SC which have or will happen are:

December 1 - review 2011, planning assistance for 2012 and discuss allocation of coaching days.

February 2- Funding workshop.

March 8 - Marketing clubs, county sports partnerships, offering activities for members.

For more information on regional development contact tim.anderton@rya.org.uk for Thames Valley or steve.mitchell@rya.org.uk for London (within the M25)

High Performance

From Chris Wren, High Performance Manager E and SE:

2011- 2012 Zone Squads - We are in the middle of selecting Zone squads for this winter, squad sizes will remain the same as last year.

The inner London clubs continue to thrive with Hillingdon Activity Centre and Queensmead Sailing Club achieving joint status during the summer. The Centre and the club work very close together, centre and club support the sailors at different stages of development. Dockland water sport centre continue to move sailors to the national and international competitions.

This summer saw the East London Racing program and Docklands Sailing centre have success at the Feva Class World Championships. Courtney Bilbrough and Orla Mitchell went to the Feva Worlds in Holland and won the Junior World Championships, a great achievement for some young sailors who just started sailing together at the end of last year.

For more information on High Performance in London contact paul.wren@rya.org.uk or for Thames Valley contact chris.atherton@rya.org.uk

RYA Volvo Dinghy Show

Passionate about dinghy sailing or simply want to find out more; then the RYA Volvo Dinghy Show 2012, the home of British dinghy sailing, is a must for your calendar.

Taking place at Alexandra Palace in London over the weekend of 3-4 March 2012 the RYA Volvo Dinghy Show, in association with Yachts and Yachting and Suzuki, has something for everyone; young or old, novice or pro, cruiser or racer and it is the only show in the world dedicated exclusively to dinghy sailing.

The show boasts loads of free advice, free workshops and free talks, as well as being packed to the rafters with dinghies galore, from timeless classics to the very latest in design. There will be hundreds of exhibitors filling the show so you'll find everything you need to hone your technique for the season ahead.

"This show has a really unique atmosphere; it's a great place to get up close to your sailing heroes, look at and buy equipment, meet up with friends, win great prizes, see loads of dinghies and chat with class associations, have fun and much more, all under one roof", commented Helen Waterhouse, RYA Volvo Dinghy Show Manager.

The RYA Volvo Dinghy show is a great place to experience all that's great about the sport. Already confirmed for the 2012 show is the RYA's Our Sporting Life exhibition, which will guide you through our Olympic sailing history, and a fantastic centenary display of Jack Holt design dinghies, alongside some show favourites such as Basic Rig Tuning and Racing Rules.

So save the date in your diary now and join us at the show. Tickets will go on sale at the start of December 2011. Look out for further information coming soon, visit www.dinghyshow.org.uk or check out the [Facebook](#) page

Oxford Zoomers Runners-up at National Finals

The Oxford Zoomers repeated last year's success when they again took the runner's-up title at the 2011 Team15 Champions Cup, the national final of the RYA Team15 (T15) inter-club competition, on 8-9 October 2011.

After qualifying by a single point win in the South Zone series the Zoomers earned their place at the Champions Cup for the fifth year in a row, where they met stiff competition from other zone winners from across the UK. But despite their five-year dominance at zone level the national title once again escaped the perennial campaigners.

A hundred young windsurfers from nine teams across the UK took to the water at Northampton Sailing Club, Pitsford Reservoir. West Kirby Warriors from the West Zone clinched the victory in the face of fierce competition from the Zoomers and other teams who hailed as far afield as Scotland and Cornwall.

Competitors, parents and local supporters also enjoyed testing the Tushingham/Starboard and Neil Pryde demo kit which was available to try out throughout the weekend.

Winners the West Kirby Warriors picked up a BIC Techno board for their club which was presented by ex Team15er and member of the RYA Volvo RS:X Transitional Training squad, Adam Purcell. Other prizes were donated from Neil Pryde, Tushingham /Starboard and Boards Magazine. Special merit awards were given to several competitors including Zoomer Alice Read.

To get involved with Team15 and locate your nearest local club visit www.team15.org.uk or contact the RYA 0845 345 0400.

<http://www.rya.org.uk/regions/thamesvalley/youthjnr/team15/Pages/ZoomerssecondatNationalFinals.aspx>

Thames Valley Youngsters at Zone Championships

Thames Valley sailors and windsurfers excelled at the prestigious RYA Volvo Zone and Home Country Championships held on 24-25 September 2011, when more than 800 of Britain's rising young stars of the future competed across nine venues throughout the UK.

The Championships, sponsored by Volvo Car UK, has proved to be one of the biggest and most popular events on the RYA Racing calendar and it traditionally marks the end of the junior racing season.

The event gave the sailors the chance to experience big regatta racing without having to travel far from their home sailing clubs. It welcomed competitors from current RYA National Junior and Zone Squads as well as many new club level racers, who developed their racing skills and ability after venturing out onto the competitive circuit for the first time.

South Zone

The South Zone Championship was hosted by the Weymouth and Portland National Sailing Academy, the venue for the 2012 Olympics sailing, and boasted the largest entry of the nine RYA Zones with over 260 sailors taking part.

Here in the 4.5 metre open windsurfer class Chay Tudberry of Oxford Sailing Club took victory, and Emma Ashman, a member of the South Zones' leading windsurfing team the Oxford Zoomers, was first girl and third overall.

Skandia Team GBR and Team Volvo for Life 2012 Olympian Lucy Macgregor was there to see the South Zone sailors in action. Whilst enjoying the day out on the water and offering coaching tips, McGregor also chatted to the stars of the future about her sailing career and how she progressed from club level to her first regional event and then onto elite level.

The finale for the winning sailors was to be presented with their medals by McGregor.

South East Zone

In the South East Zone the youngsters had champagne sailing conditions all weekend at Bewl Valley Sailing Club. With a total of six races for the weekend regatta, the sailors did well to cope with some shifty conditions and perform to a very high standard.

Thames Valley top three places were:

Optimists - 2nd Alex Smallwood (Wraysbury Lake SC)

Toppers - 1st Felix Crother (Queen Mary SC), 3rd Harriet Ward (Queen Mary SC)

Feva - 1st Jenny Smallwood/Jamie Webb (Wraysbury Lake SC)

East Zone

Grafham Sailing Club hosted the East Zone Championship, where another great day of racing was had as the weekend regatta came to an exciting finish. With the wind increasing from yesterday to Force 4 the sailors were all pumped up for an exciting climax to their Championships. With some massive gusts spectators were amused by some screaming reaches downwind.

Thames Valley top three places were:

Windsurfers: - 4.5 Open Class 1st boy James Barnwell (Queen Mary Sailing Club) ,
2nd boy Ben Barnwell (Queen Mary Sailing Club).

Techno 6.8 - 1st boy Alexie Murphy (Bray Manic Monkeys).

For more information on the RYA Zone Championships and video action visit www.ryaracingevents.org.uk

<http://www.rya.org.uk/regions/thamesvalley/youthjnr/Pages/TVYoungstersatZoneChampionships.aspx>

Honda Youth Rib – Thames Valley Youngsters power through to National Final

Two young RIB (Rigid Inflatable Boat) drivers from the Thames Valley powered through to the national final of the Honda RYA Youth RIB Championship by winning the regional round of the competition on 14 May 2011.

The Honda RYA Youth Rib Championship, sponsored by Honda and Ribcraft, is a National Championship in which 8-16 year old RIB drivers demonstrate their boat handling skills in a race against the clock with the goal of winning a 5m Ribcraft or a Honwave T40 for their club. The final will be held at Southampton Boat Show.

The event, hosted by the Sea Cadets at Royal Victoria Dock was open for all regional clubs and training centres to send competitors for each of two categories: 8-12 and 13-16 years old. Increasing winds during the morning made for very testing conditions.

Josh Lee Patterson (10) of Bagshot representing Wokingham Multi Activity Centre took first spot in the 8-12 age group in his first attempt at the competition. Sea cadet Thomas Wood from the host centre was runner up.

In the older group Erith Yacht Club member Adam Bermingham (16) from Greenwich posted an astonishing time, matching that of the winner at last year's national final, to take first place. Second place George Galloway of Windsor Yacht Club and third place Rory Cooke from Black Swan Sailing Club had a really close battle, both ending up with the same time, but after a count back on penalties George just pipped it.

For more information about the Honda RYA Youth RIB Championship, details on how to get involved and a list of regional finals scores visit www.rya.org.uk/go/hondayouthrib

Honda Youth Rib 2012

The 2012 TV and London Honda Youth Rib Regional Championship will take place at Queen Mary SC on 26 May. The event coordinator at Queen Mary will be Phil Dickinson. Clubs and training centres in the region are encouraged to run training and submit an entry, and if there are several possible entrants, to run a selection heat.

All information re heats, training and entry is on the RYA web site www.rya.org.uk/programs/hondarib

OnBoard Festival at Queen Mary

An RYA OnBoard Festival was the finale for children from local schools who have learnt to sail at Queen Mary Sailing Club through the RYA's OnBoard grass roots sailing and windsurfing programme.

The event, hosted by Queen Mary Sailing Club at Ashford on 7 July 2011, saw teams from St Ignatius, Ashford and Haliford schools compete in races, challenges and games. All 40 competitors started sailing through the OnBoard scheme.

The relay race saw entertaining swap overs, with kids in the water and free-floating boats. A marathon paddling race required them to pick up over 200 floating balls, before a more conventional sailing race. Finally there was a scored "jump in" with judges marking the best dives, bombs, and routines.

A strong breeze provided challenging sailing, before forcing everyone to move indoors to enjoy the finale barbecue. The competitors left happy with goodie bags supplied by sponsor Harken.

For more information about how to get involved in sailing visit the RYA's website www.rya.org.uk or the OnBoard website www.ruob.co.uk

<http://www.rya.org.uk/regions/thamesvalley/youthjnr/onboard/Pages/OnBoardFestivalQueenMary.aspx>

Docklands OnBoard Festival

After just five weeks of sessions learning how to sail, youngsters from Tower Hamlets battled it out in an Inter Schools competition during an RYA OnBoard sailing festival on July 18 2011.

All 70 competitors from Canon Barnett, Virginia, Mayflower and Christ Church Primary Schools were introduced to sailing by the RYA's OnBoard scheme. The scheme encourages local young sailors to take part in youth activities at the host Docklands Sailing and Watersports Centre (DSWC), and eventually join in with the Volvo Championship Club racing which has become popular amongst its youth membership.

Morning activities included a boat rigging competition, a sailing race, a competition to collect the most floating balls, and a paddleboard race. Dragon boat racing followed lunch.

The majority of the events were won by Canon Barnett, to give them overall first. Virginia Primary took a solid second, with Mayflower Primary in third.

LaserPerformance provided 10 Laser Bugs. Steve from Laser came along for the day to help out. A very big thank you to Laser for their support.

For more information about OnBoard visit www.ruob.co.uk

<http://www.rya.org.uk/regions/thamesvalley/youthjnr/onboard/Pages/DocklandsOnBoardFestival.aspx>

Berkshire Sail Training Centre OnBoard Festival

Local school children enjoyed a day of sailing and racing when Berkshire Sail Training Centre (BSTC) ran an RYA OnBoard Festival on 29 September 2011.

More than 20 youngsters aged between 11 and 17 from Theale Green Community School, Reading, Leighton Park School, Reading, and Alderbridge School, Aldermaston Wharf took part. All of them started sailing through the RYA OnBoard scheme.

Indian summer conditions brought very light airs on a bright and sunny day. The festival was a great end of season activity for the children who all enjoyed it immensely.

Peter Sriggs (15) and Luke Tizzard (14) took victory for Theale Green Community School in the Intermediate race. The novice race was won by Myles Puddephatt and Arjun Anand, both 13, of Leighton Park School.

BSTC is an RYA approved OnBoard centre and runs regular session for local schools to encourage children into sailing and windsurfing. <http://www.berkshiresailing.co.uk/>

Queen Mary Youth Open

More than 100 young sailors from across the region hit the water at Queen Mary Sailing Club (QMSC) for the Youth Open meeting on 15 October 2011. The youngsters, many of who were introduced to sailing through the RYA's OnBoard Scheme, came from 10 different sailing clubs as far afield as Oxford, Haversham, Docklands and the south coast. Despite people waking up to ice on their cars, the weather was fantastic with sun all day and light winds. To encourage the new competitors races were kept short, and on the water coaching was given to the youngsters at the back of the fleets.

Max and Sally Clapp of Royal Southern Yacht Club lead the 30 strong Feva fleet and, with four firsts, also collected the QM Youth Open Champions title for having the best score in any fleet. Courtney Bilborough and Orla Scott from Docklands scored two seconds and a third, as did fellow Docklands' sailors Olly Scott and Tom Mitchell, the former pair taking second place on the countback system.

The great turn out in this relatively new class showed how well it has taken off, and the RYA has just announced the creation of a South East Feva Squad, which will offer more training to these youngsters.

In the Topper fleet George Hunter of Haversham Sailing Club was first of the 31 entrants, with three straight wins. QMSC sailors James Cook and Patrick Croghan took second and third. Local knowledge obviously paid dividends as 8 out of the top 10 Toppers were from QMSC.

The Laser series was closely contested with Cameron Tweedle of Oxford Sailing Club just taking the overall win from Will Harris of QMSC. Both had two firsts and a second, Cameron taking the decision on the countback system.

<http://www.rya.org.uk/regions/thamesvalley/newsevents/Pages/articlewrapper.aspx?pageUrl=/newsevents/news/Pages/RecordYouthOpenatQueenMary.aspx>

Club and Coach Conference

The regional Club and Coach Conference was held at Datchet Water Sailing Club on December 4th.

Updates from the regional High Performance Manager and Sailing Development Officers (see items above) were followed by workshops on the club model and developing racing within clubs.

After lunch RYA junior and youth squad physiotherapist Matt McGovern lead a session on sailing posture and fitness, and left us all thinking again about how we looked, stood, and moved around our boats!

(A very informative and motivating day – if you missed this one don't miss next year's - Ed)

Good News for Barn Elms

Following protests from many groups Thames Water have changed their excavation site for the Thames Tunnel from Barn Elms.

Nick Price, Commodore at Ranelagh SC, says: "It is great news for the sailing and rowing on our stretch. The main shaft drive is now proposed to be at Carnwath Rd, just West of Wandsworth Bridge. They are not proposing to take any spoil away from the Barn Elms site so there will also be no river traffic except from Putney Bridge foreshore down river and maybe not much from there."

RYA Regional Chairman Alan Woolford adds: "I am sure the sailing and rowing lobby had some influence in the result."

For more information on the Carnwath Road proposal visit <http://www.thamestunnelconsultation.co.uk/site-profiles/carnwath-road-riverside/>

J80 Sportsboat Sailing in London

Would you like to sail Europe's fastest selling sportsboat? Enjoy some coaching or have a go at Match Racing?

The Magna Carta Sailing Project is based at Queen Mary Sailing Club. There are two J80 boats available for hire to groups or for individual instruction or just for a fun day out. Half/whole day or evening rates are available. Club groups are welcome – it's an exciting day out for clubs or club youth groups.

Further details from Charles Wand-Tetley at j80@live.co.uk

Gerrards Cross Sailing Association

Gerrards Cross Sailing Association (GXSA) offers a thriving, friendly sailing association ninety miles from the sea and on your doorstep, renowned for the quality of talks given each year over the winter/spring season.

For a full programme of talks for 2011/12 visit www.gxsa.org.uk

Motor Boating News

ATYC NEWS

The following from the ATYC:

Users meeting with SE Region Director inconclusive

Users' representatives on behalf of all boaters on the Thames, including the trade, had a four hour meeting with Howard Davidson and his team, attempting to find a resolution to the EA's plan to freeze recruitment and let lock houses

We have to advise that whilst we were able to discuss many Thames issues, Mr Davidson was not able to move towards us by accepting our proposal that at least six Relief Lock Staff be appointed to residencies as they become vacant over the next three years. Whilst this is a set-back, we are seeking an urgent meeting with Lord Smith on behalf of 120,000 users of the River Thames to endeavour to find an acceptable resolution Clubs will be advised as the situation develops.

Objection to additional 2% registration increase

Whilst we are pleased that we were able to convince the Agency to move back from their proposed 33% increase over three years, we are not happy with the additional 2% increase over inflation!

Unfortunately there is nothing more to be done this year and we face the 6.4% increase for 2012 but we have put down strong markers that, facing what might mean worse service in 2012, we will want urgent discussions on the 2% before decisions are made next year!

Queen Jubilee Pageant

We have now been advised that the final numbers of recreational boats attending the review on 3 June, 2012 will be 60 motor boats, 40 narrow boats, and 20 dutch barges. The Royal Squadron will have 30 vessels; Rowing 300; Historic 160; Working 20 and Class V 90. It is expected we will be advised who has been selected by the end of December, 2011

ATYC Officers from March 2012

We seek nominations for a new Deputy Chair and several Vice Chairs. Remember it is your association and it needs Officers to run it!

Olympics 2012

During June – September, it will be necessary to obtain a pass to proceed up and down the tidal river.

ATYC Events

Please visit <http://www.atyc.co.uk/> for a current list of ATYC events.

THE 5WS COLUMN BY NEWSMAN

Licence Fee Increase The EA have announced that river licence fees will rise by 6.4% for 2012. This is lower than the 10% first mooted but higher than the 5% suggested by the River users. The ATYC is advised that the EA will annually review the impact of their increases, together with economic and other pressures. The complete advice will be found on the ATYC webpage www.atyc.co.uk The ATYC says: "We regret that the increase was not the circa 5% negotiated, but the charge down from 10% to 6.4% has to be acceptable providing users of the Thames can expect the same Customer Charter Service delivered in 2010. It is a saving to the boater of 10% over the next three years." It is expected that before the end of the year, with other river users ATYC will meet with River Management to work up the 2012 Customer Charter.

Lock Keepers Cottages The EA have recently announced that they will not be installing resident lock keepers in 4 currently empty houses and by 2013 this figure will rise to 9. Instead of a resident the lock will be managed by a permanent 'relief' keeper. The EA insist that the measure will not affect either lock service or the control of flooding. River users, however, do not agree and, as meetings with the EA's Regional Director have failed to reverse the decision, a letter has been sent by TUGn to the EA Chairman Lord Smith expressing concern on the effect that the decision will have on the Thames.

Mayday Call Changes. Newsman has only recently learnt that changes have been made to the internationally recognised marine VHF Mayday message content. The message must now include the vessel's callsign (not the same as the vessel's name) as well as the MMSI number (if the set being used is DSC enabled.) The full message content can be found on the RYA and other various up to date websites.

SAR to Change Hands. The government have announced that the provision of Search and Rescue (SAR) facilities currently provided by both the RAF and the RN will be replaced by a civilian contract within the next few years. This will dovetail with the RAF's intention to retire its SAR Sea Kings by 2016.

Beneteau pull out of London Boat Show. Beneteau will not be exhibiting at the upcoming London Boat Show. The French yard said they would concentrate instead on the [Southampton Boat Show](#), which this year featured more Beneteau boats than ever before. Next year's show at ExCel will be held between 6 – 15 Jan 2012. Offers of reduced ticket prices are already on the web.

River Thames Conditions Website Change As from 16 Nov, the River Thames conditions pages are accessible on the Environment Agency website. The change comes as part of a project to refresh boating information on the Environment Agency website, absorbing much of the information currently housed on the tourism website, www.visitthames.co.uk. Boaters will need to change their internet bookmarks and favourites to www.environment-agency.gov.uk/riverthamesconditions.

Bridge Marine Christmas Closure. Bridge Marine will be closed as from 19 Dec to 4 Jan 2012. Gate keys are available from the Chandlery.

Out of Hours Lock Power – The EA have announced that following the trial of 24hr out of hours power for the hydraulic locks it has been decided to make the scheme permanent.

Licence Fees. Application renewals for EA licences for 2012 are expected to be issued after 21 Nov.

EA Uniform. The EA have decided to revert to Merchant Navy insignia for their boat crews, Technical Officer and Harbour Masters. Uniformed patrol launch crews currently wear an epaulette with 'EA' logo under a Thames Conservancy crown and this will be replaced with gold stripes according to rank. Merchant naval insignia is commonly worn by many harbour authorities including the PLA both nationally and internationally. It can assist users in identifying officers of authority within a maritime environment and can form a valuable part of the enforcement toolkit.

EA Enforcement. A team comprising of bailiffs, police and EA officers successfully removed an itinerant enclave of boats that had gathered against the Thames Water bank just downstream of Platts Eyot. Needless to say the boats have now moved onto other sites including the Lambeth Waterworks public moorings just above the Aquarius Sailing Club.

Police Activity. The Surrey police appear to be reviewing their policing of the river policy. At the recent RUG8 meeting they gave some details of a Neighbourhood Watch system they would like to start. The point was made to them that they needed to spend more time afloat both to note any strange vessels but also to act as a deterrent. It was suggested that they could patrol on privately owned boats if sufficient willing skippers could be found.

Birmingham Boat Show Cancelled. The Birmingham Caravan and Boat Show scheduled for 21 – 26 Feb 2012 has been cancelled. The cancellation of the show which was to celebrate its 50th anniversary has been blamed on the lack of support from the caravan industry.

The Tullet Prebon London Boat Show at ExCel will be held between 6 – 15 Jan 2012. RYA Members you can buy tickets in advance at the special discounted price of £12, for any day of the show, including the preview day. And don't forget that 'Kids Go Free' - up to two children aged 15 and under can enter free with each paying adult. To find out how to take advantage of this offer visit www.rya.org.uk/newsevents/events

Jubilee Pageant Application Deadline Passed. Entries for June's Queen's Diamond Jubilee Pageant next summer are reported to be four times oversubscribed as the deadline for registration has passed. Successful applicants for a place in the 1,000 strong flotilla on Sunday June 3rd will be notified by the end of December. The 12-mile long flotilla will stretch from Hammersmith, where boats will muster, to Greenwich where they will disperse.

EA To Rent Lock Houses The EA have announced their intention not to install resident lock keepers in the Sunbury, Chertsey, Cleeve and Grafton locks with another 3 by the end of 2013. The savings are in the region of £400K per annum and the decision has been made in the light of the significantly reduced government Grant in Aid

CART Starts to Move. Following the government announcement to move the BW into a charity the new organisation has been named the Canal and Waterways Trust (CART). Already the water wits are having a field day with discussions as to whether the towpath horse will be put before or after the CART.

New Boat Showrooms Broker. John Harris is now the new broker at the Shepperton based Boat Showrooms of London brokerage. He replaces Giles Ball who has retired.

ATYC Rally 2012. The 2012 ATYC Rally will be held at Beale Park. This venue has been used in the dim and distant past and comes after members did not want to return to Kingston and it was becoming difficult to use Henley. The Rally will be held over the Aug Bank Holiday. The new Chairman of the Competitions Committee is proposing to change the format with only 2 formal tests, one 'fun' test and a shore based test.

Walton Bridge News. As demolition starts of the houses by the bridge starts, serious work on the new bridge has begun. The main construction work will commence in Jan 2012.

Romney Weir Hydro Power. The EA's recent repair works on Romney weir have now come to an end – making way for the construction stage of the exciting new hydropower scheme which is set to revolutionise the electricity supply for Windsor Castle. Huge Archimedes screw turbines are on site ready to be installed over the coming weeks. Each screw turbine weighs an impressive 40 tonnes and are 4 metres in diameter – the turbines are the driving force for the 300KW of energy expected to be generated every single hour the scheme is operating, which is the equivalent electricity needed to power 400 houses. The Romney weir has been used to control the flow of water between the locks at Old Windsor and Boveney for 214 years. The EA started repair works back in May, with work being undertaken to the weir's steel piles which form the foundations. All money generated from commercial rent of the weir will go straight back in to the work in improving and protecting the environment. Romney is the first of many such schemes being proposed for the Thames.

Registration Fees The registration charge for 2012 will be increased by 6.4%; this represents an increase of 2% plus 4.4% inflation based on the consumer price index.

ATYC Training

ATYC has launched its training package for safe boat handling on the River Thames. The Thames Boating Certificate (TBC) was launched in January 2011 and the first club instructors were inducted during February. Participating clubs will be able to provide training and working through a log book explaining the scheme, advising the syllabus and the practical exercises expected to be mastered. On completion of the training, after a suitable examination a skipper will be entitled to display a window decal to show that he is qualified to the TBC standard on the type of boat displaying the decal. The boat will also be entitled to fly a defaced ATYC burgee showing that he is a competent boater on that type of boat. For more information contact michael@shefras.demon.co.uk The scheme is seen as a stepping stone to more senior RYA qualifications.

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The Epilogue

That's all folks for this issue. Thank-you to all who contributed. Don't forget please to send your feedback – positive or good-humoured negative - news and diary dates for the next newsletter (due May) and the region's web page (ongoing) to Mike Haigh, e-mail mhaigh7@btinternet.com Items should be of interest on a regional level rather than events purely related to your own club please.