



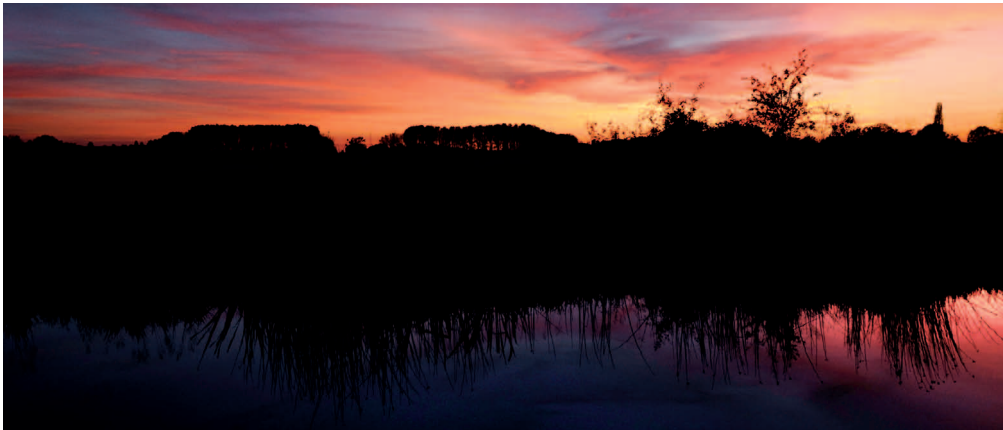
MOORING LINES

President:- John Cole
Commodore:- Dave Hansell
94 New road Woodstock Oxon OX20 1PD



Web Site:- www.RadcotCruiserClub.org.uk
E-mail:- Editor@RadcotCruiserClub.org.uk

News Letter **No.67** November 2011



IN BRIEF

Get your antifoul orders in for another great deal

We have once again managed to secure a good deal on antifoul this year. If you would like to order yours through the club, forms need to be back by 31st January 2012 (see form attached).

Boat Safety Scheme

Reminder: Any club member whose BSC is due for renewal now or in 2012 and wishes to use Joe Whitby (who examines our boats at a discount) should contact Dave Hansell as soon as possible on 01993 811150 or 07780 954781 so that Dave can arrange an inspection schedule for you.

Another season draws to an end

The weather proved to have the last laugh as we craned out this year. A summer that disappointed ended with a flourish of warmth, sunshine and even a few tanned faces.

There were over seventy applications for crane out this year and only room for sixty six boats! A bit of a problem!

Well, after many hours planning and re-planning, making phone calls to give the bad news to those members that we couldn't accommodate, I finally had a plan which should, in theory, work!

After watching the weather forecast all week the big day arrived and the weather was better than many of those so called 'summer' days. Practically no wind and warm sunshine after the early morning mist had cleared and to top it all, the smell of bacon cooking in the air. Perfect!

The Cranes both arrived on time and the first boat was hoisted at 0837. We tried something new this year on crane two. One of the most tiring and time consuming jobs is climbing up onto the boat after it has been chocked and lifting a heavy hook and strop to release it so the strops can be taken away. We had two additional short strops which doubled up to give us 10 ton capacity. By attaching the hooks to the loop of those strops it was possible to

reach and unhook the hook from ground level! No more aching shoulders and arms, no more trying to find someone young enough and fit enough for the job and I reckon it saved us at least 90 mins on the day. The last boat went down at 3:20, half an hour ahead of schedule! I did hear one member complain that he was told 1 o'clock and it was only two minutes to!!!

Efficient work from the jetwash team at the beginning of the day, almost had them spraying the hull of one boat even before it was on it's chocks.

The fine weather meant we had lots of helpers right to the end of the day (although I did have to round up a few early in the morning!)

My thanks to everyone that helped out not forgetting Helen and Jill on the radios and Steve and Dot down at Radcot who kept the flow of boats coming so well and the wonderful 'soup kitchen' helpers led by Tracy.

Let's hope Crane in will be as good.

Dennis

•• STOP PRESS •• THE REGISTRATION CHARGE FOR 2012 WILL BE INCREASED BY 6.4%

This is based on an increase of 2% plus 4.4% inflation based on the "consumer price index"

We are advised that EA will annually review the impact of their increases, together with economic and other pressures – the complete advice will be found on the ATYC Web Page.

ATYC Rally 2011

This year we had 18 boats at the West India Dock Rally with three boats entered in the competition.

People made their own way down river meeting at Kingston on the Thursday night. The weather was not brilliant but I don't remember too much rain.

We set off in convoy on Friday morning to catch the tide.

The trip down to West India Dock was a bit bumpy but we all made it with no mishaps, just a few bags round props which were shaken off with a burst of reverse.

We had our usual moorings in the dock on the scout's pontoon. Very convenient for the marquee and the bar!

The competition took place on the Sunday morning with 10 boats competing.

The individual awards were:- Sea Chimes 2nd, Moppett II 4th and No More Bets 6th. No More Bets only had her normal crew of Roger & Joanne so theirs was a good result as some of the exercises were quite difficult with only two. There was only one other boat that took part with two crew members.

The overall Team Awards were as follows

1st -- Swan Radcot

2nd --Bray

3rd --TMYC

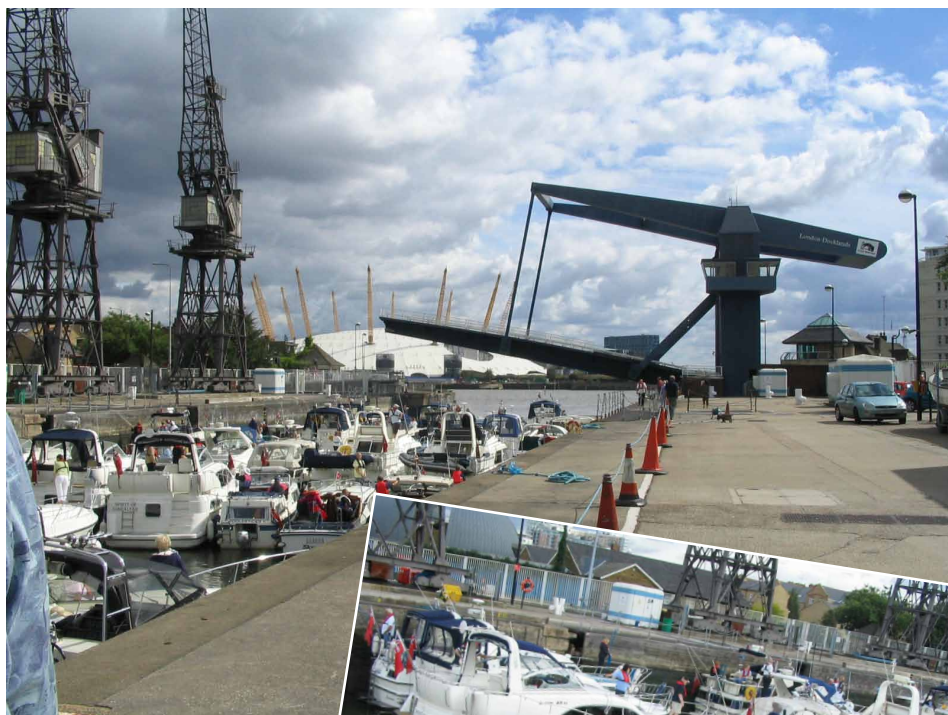
4th --UTMYC

We have entered this competition four times and come away with the top trophy on three occasions, can't be a fluke then. Next year the rally will be at Beale Park. I personally was going to give it a break next year but as the ATYC (with much pressure from SRCC) have given in and moved it nearer our end of the river much to Jill's disgust, I'll probably have to do it and as it's quite close maybe we could have an even bigger contingent from the club in attendance, especially as travel further down river may be difficult due to the Olympics.

Anyway on the Sunday night there was a dinner at the local floating restaurant. Bit chaotic as they really can't cope with the numbers. We were a bit disappointed as our club was split up

and put on the worst tables one on one side of the restaurant and one on the other. Oh well can't win 'em all.

The entertainment for the night was our very own Derek James. The MC for



the evening managed to drop Derek's microphone, which didn't go down too well as it didn't bounce. Derek had just got his car back from a service and hadn't put all his kit back in it so he had no spare. Looked like we were going to have no entertainment.

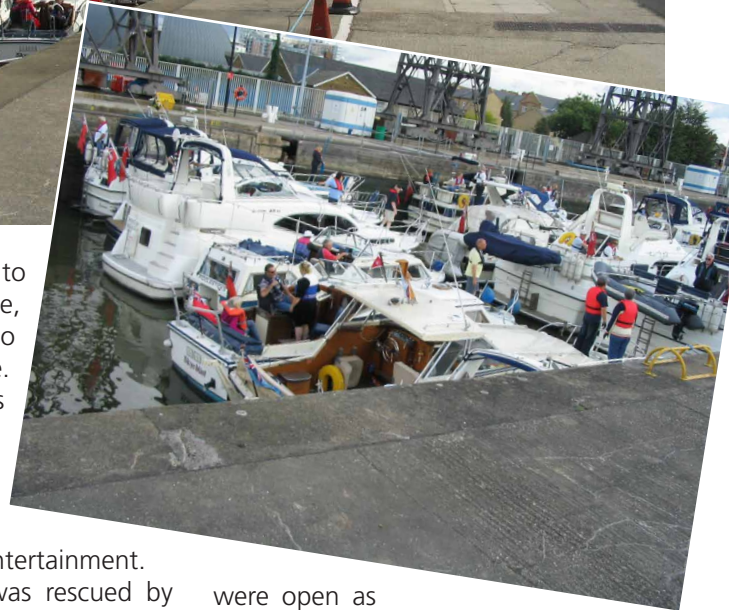
However the evening was rescued by Pete Hasler who, although no spring chicken, ran all the way back to his boat to get the mic from his pa system which took him about an hour! Needless to say SRCC were the last to leave.

Monday and time to head home, although a few boats went into Limehouse for a night and five of us stayed in West India Dock for a couple of days sightseeing. Whilst this was good it did make our trip home a bit of a rush.

Returning on the tidal section I was in the lead when we got to Teddington.

For those who don't know the entrance to the lock is controlled by traffic lights as you cannot see the entrance until you are right on it.

The lights were green, great I thought no hanging about. As I turned the corner and saw the lock I was a little confused. I couldn't make out what I was looking at, I called to Jill "I can't make this out where's the lock". Then it dawned, we had come up on an exceptional high tide and in fact both sets of lock gates



were open as the river level was the same above the lock as below, we sailed straight through on free flow waving to the lock keeper as we went. The other strange sight was at the weir. The river was flowing up and over the weir instead of down the weir.

We all arrived home triumphant and safe except Roger "No More Bets" who limped back most of the way with one broken engine. John Douse said it didn't sound right.

Sea Chimes

Club Communication Policy

With 120 members the clubs postage costs still keep rising despite many of you opting to receive communication via E-mail.

With another steep rise in the cost of stamps in the pipeline it was proposed and accepted at the 2011 AGM that wherever possible ALL communication with members will be either via E-mail or via the club web site.

To that end, every member for whom I have an E-mail address will now be put on the E-mail distribution list. We realise that there will be some members who genuinely do not have internet access so I ask those members to contact me (Dennis 0118 901 4359) as soon as possible so we can make other arrangements.

Dennis Hill (Black Sapphire)

Note: See section 4 of the attached revised constitution.

Notes on the RUG Meeting of 5th Oct 11

From Alan Graham

- Funds to support the EA have been reduced due to the current government austerity programme. Consequently, only 25 summer lock assistants were employed this year, giving a saving of around £130k. Help on the lock side was provided by 70 volunteers. Renting out vacant properties is bringing in extra funds – averaging £12.5k pa per property – and this process will be on-going.

Currently, 6 houses are being rented, 4 properties are vacant or being refurbished at Grafton, Cleeve, Chertsey and Sunbury. Goring, Whitchurch and Blakes will become vacant this year.

- The new legislation has had an effect on boat registrations for 2011. Private boat registrations increased by 406 or 4.8% and thus increased revenue by 8.1% or £191k. Interestingly, there were 866 new registrations and 674 boats previously registered but not in 2010.
- The newly formed enforcement team has issued 540 notices to unregistered boats. Joint EA/Police enforcement operations have been carried out in the Oxford and Kingston areas.
- The EA has produced two short guidance documents on swimming - one for swimmers and one for boaters. These documents have been sent to all event organisers on the Thames, and are available on the Swimming Association website.

Oxford Treasure Hunt

Elly Richardson (*Bilbo Baggins Too*)

Another Bank Holiday begins with the usual weather warning of showers to be expected, but 11 o'clock on Sunday 28th August has arrived and time to get started. Clues and clipboards at the ready, the teams set off from the Head of the River in brilliant sunshine, for the annual Oxford Treasure Hunt.

This year the clues were set by Alan & Carol (Captain Toad), Jim & Veronica (Amelia May) and Martin & Lesley (Perspectief), who I'm sure had good fun setting the clues as the teams had trying to find them.

Many of the clues took us to parts of Oxford not before visited on previous Treasure Hunts, especially by the Bilbo Baggins Too team who took a wrong turn and ended up in one of the less desirable parts of town populated by some "interesting" characters. Needless

to say, the Bilbo Baggins team didn't win.

The day stayed sunny and warm and was really enjoyed by all, thank you Alan and co for the excellent challenge that gave us all such a good day and our brains such a good workout.

All teams staggered, at intervals, back to The Head of the River, very hungry and thirsty having only managed a toilet stop but no coffee and buns on the way round, so intense was the competition.

Congratulations to the winning team of

Nigel & Ollie (Anatolia) and Steve & Lyn (Mad Hatters) who somehow managed to accumulate 50 points out of 54 (Sour grapes from the Bilbo Baggins team who narrowly escaped having to set the clues for next year coming 4th out of 5). The honour of setting the clues for the 2012 Treasure Hunt went to the losing team – sorry Chris & Wendy (Stargazer) and Jim & Jill (Time Out).

This event is well worth attending for those who have not managed to make it as yet. It's very competitive, good fun and if you don't go off course and end up in the dodgy end of town like we did, leaves you enough time for some refreshments and possibly a bit of shopping on your way round.

Hope to see loads of new faces next year.

Ely (Bilbo Baggins Too)

CALENDAR FOR 2012

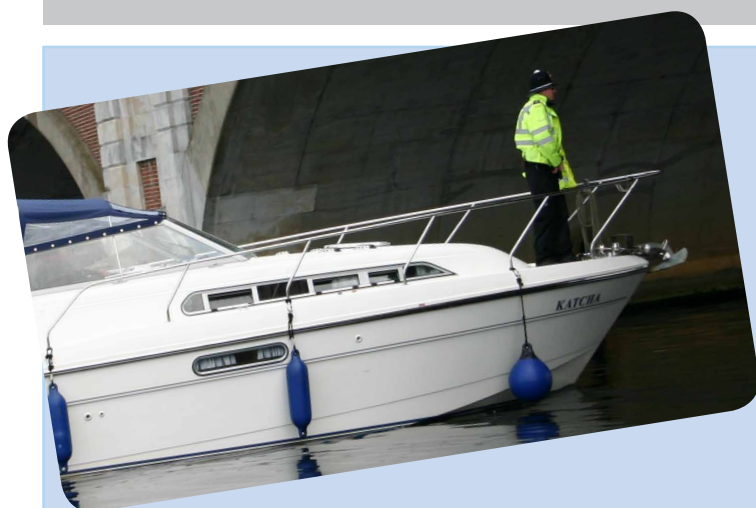
All dates are PROVISIONAL for this seasons events.. See web site for more info.

February 17th – 19th	Winter break at The Seabank Hotel, Porthcawl
March 31st	Crane In
April 14th	New members evening at The Swan Radcot
April 21st	Quiz night at The Swan Radcot
May 5th - 7th	Oxford Treasure Hunt (on the 6th)
June 2nd - 5th	Eynsham Weekend
June 30th	1940's Evening at The Ferryman Fancy dress optional but preferred
July 21st	Fun Day at the Radcot.
August 25th - 27th	ATYC Rally at Beale Park, Pangbourne
September 8th	AGM (at The Ferryman)
October 13th	End of Season Party at The Trout at Lechlade
October 20th	CRANE OUT NOTE this is a SATURDAY
April 6th 2013	Crane In

Planning next year's summer trip?

- Remember next year is Olympic year.
- The rowing events will take place on the Eton reach.
- There will be restrictions on mooring in the area and you will not be able to use the marinas.
- There will also be some restrictions on movement as you may need to have some sort of permit which shows your destination.
- These restrictions will probably apply from mid July to Mid September.
- Plans have not yet been finalised so we will let you know, when we know.
- Meanwhile keep an eye on SRCC and the ATYC web sites for updates.
- There is also a good web site worth a look with up to date news about the river which can be found at:

www.riverthamesnews.com



This "interesting" photo of Katcha is the subject of this month's

Caption Competition

send your suggestions to the usual:
editor@radcotcruiserclub.org.uk

The bulletin board:
www.radcotcruiserclub.org.uk/PHBB3

Only a few entries from last month:

"Hmm - wonder if I could fit sails to those table legs?"

"I said I wanted to "Table a Motion" at the AGM, not a "Table in Motion"

"I suppose you could say I am up on the Tabletop, instead of up on the plane."

"Now then, how am I going to get the chairs downstream?"



Lock Houses

A short rundown on the current situation

As most of you know the EA want to rent out empty lock houses where the resident lock keeper has retired and stop all further recruitment to replace them leaving 9 locks without resident lock keepers, Grafton being one. The EA claim this will go a long way to fill the funding gap.

The ATYC are TOTALLY OPPOSED TO THIS. As your representatives at a meeting on the 19th October we along with every other club there voted to allow the ATYC officers to fight this on behalf of all boaters.

The EA are not considering any alternative plan.

It has been very difficult to get accurate figures from the EA but the ATYC have come up with an alternative plan using the figures provided by the EA.

ATYC PROPOSE

- A resident lock keeper at every lock
- Promote 9 full time reliefs to fill vacant positions
- Work with just 10 full time reliefs who have weir skills
- Augment as necessary with part time reliefs who may or may not have weir skills
- Augment in high season with paid summer assistants
- Using resident lock keepers to augment the volunteer program

EA COULD....

- Stop micro managing the resident lock keepers!
- Allow them to manage their own lock site
- Group convenient locks to work together to organise their own rotas using volunteers and as necessary paid summer assistants.

Allowing the lock keepers to be managers means a layer of management at head office could be cut.

Hence more Indians less chiefs.

This is a simplified version of their plan but it would make the savings the EA are looking for without losing front line staff.

There is an ATYC PowerPoint presentation showing the figures which Dennis has put on the web site.

Those members who live near the river in Bampton, Lechlade, Clanfield etc should be talking to their neighbours and MP's making them aware of the EA proposals because if it goes ahead those areas will be at an increased risk of flooding.

It has also been suggested that the EA are looking for a large increase in registration fees. The ATYC say the EA are looking for 33% over three years. The ATYC have made their feelings known and will be making strong representation on our behalf. They say an acceptable figure would be around 5% in line with inflation. We should not still be paying for years of previous under funding. We should know what the increase will be the end of October.

Alan Hill

For those on the field at Grafton

If you intend to do any sanding on your boat, please, in consideration to others, make sure you complete it at least 3 weeks before we crane in. There's nothing more annoying when you've just finished cleaning and polishing your pride and joy than to see it now covered in grit and dust because your neighbour has decided at the last minute to start sanding! Also, a reminder that it is a club rule that dry sanding of Anti-Foul is NOT allowed because of it's toxicity.

Don't forget to make sure your boat has been properly winterised with your domestic water system drained and antifreeze pumped through your raw water system on engines etc. Saves an awful lot of extra jobs come the spring especially if we have another winter like last year.

Also, remember not to leave anything under your boat that is likely to float away should the field flood (wood, ladders etc). It's a long walk to Radcot Lock to retrieve them from the weir.

A thank you note received from Adrian Swift following the presentation of a framed club flag to help celebrate his retirement from the EA.

*Dear Alan,
I would be most grateful if you would pass my sincere thanks to Club members for the lovely gift and their good wishes for my retirement.
Wendy and I also wish to thank you all for your generosity and hospitality at the A.G.M. - we really enjoyed the occasion.
With all best wishes and happy boating
Adrian*

Anti-foul

You'll be pleased to know that we have once again been able to negotiate a good price for this year's anti-foul! A slight increase on last year including the VAT increase but still pretty good. The usual Blakes (Hempel) Broads will be £40.25 per 2.5. You can also order the better quality Cruising Performer at £46. I can also obtain Roller and tray set at £3.11 each and 1 inch masking tape at £2.04 per roll. Those include a full trade discount and vat. If you want some please complete the order form attached to this newsletter. I MUST have your order by the end of January AT THE LATEST. I will collect the order and deliver it to you at Grafton a few weeks before crane in as normal.

Broads

Medium strength copper based antifouling specifically designed to reduce paint build up and give a good performance in both fresh and salt water. Maximum launch time 1 month.

Cruising Performer

Developed to maximise the qualities associated with erodible antifouling. Cruising Performer has been specifically formulated to offer great all round performance. The very latest eroding technology reduces the build up of paint, maximising cruising capability in all areas, whilst ensuring fouling is kept to a minimum. An excellent covering rate and good colour stability ensures Cruising Performer offers you the very best in value. Available in 4 colours, suitable for use on all substrates except aluminium. Maximum launch time 3 months.

Dennis Hill (Black Sapphire)

Order form for Anti-Foul Paint

Closing date **31st January 2012**

Name

Boat Name

BROADS at £40.25 per 2.5 Litre

REDBROWN TRUEBLUE GREEN BLACK

PERFORMER at £46.00 per 2.5 Litre

LIGHTBLUE TRUEBLUE RED BLACK

Please enter the number of 2.5 Ltr cans in the appropriate box. The colours are approximate. For a colour chart see the web site http://www.theyachtshop.co.uk/blakes_cols.asp

Roller and Tray at £3.11 1 inch masking £2.04/roll

Please enter number required in the boxes

Cheque enclosed in sum of £

Return to **Mr. D. Hill. 35 Cottesmore Road. Woodley, Berks, RG5 3NX**
Cheques made payable to **Swan (Radcot) Cruiser Club**

