



ATYC NEWSLETTER – AUGUST 2026

This is the ATYC Newsletter which will be sent out to Clubs on a regular basis for onward publication to all club members. It can be used as an ATYC Club Noticeboard and can carry such items as a Club's major event or a short news story. Contributions should be sent to me. Happy reading and stay safe.

Mike Chambers

RALLY NEWS In last month's newsletter we said the rally is fully booked. Due to serious medical issues, we have had 2 boat cancellations so if there are any club members who wish to attend, please book immediately via by email at chair@atyc.org.uk as the online bookings are now closed. Bookings will close very shortly.

All club members who have booked will receive mooring details shortly before the rally. Please be aware that all visiting boats have to be moored on the outside river pontoon and that we are relying on the information you have provided in planning where boats will be moored. If you have not included things like a dingy or tender in your overall length then please do not bring one.

We will require your help and understanding in getting all boats in position bearing in mind we will not know when boats will be arriving; so those that arrive early may have to move position. Use VHF Ch 06 when through the lock calling ATYC Control but please wait before calling again if no immediate answer. The Sunday evening meal will include a quiz by quizmaster Stuart Ashmore

A welcome bag containing a programme and much more will be available to each attending boat. Please make sure you collect yours.

HIGGINSON PARK MOORINGS AND OTHERS. Everyone is now aware of the ridiculous charging regime at Marlow where you pay £1.25 ph for each slot you take up. We have heard of 2 enterprising skippers of 40' + boats who took it upon themselves to moor stern to - Mediterranean style thus only occupying 1 slot. Well done! There are rumours that work is about to start on the repairs to Hurley Lock moorings. Also that there are now some moorings to be had at Fawley Meadow, Henley, but at £25 for 24hrs.

Moorings are now a major concern for us all and we will be pressing the EA about this at the next TWF meeting.

Alcohol Limits for Leisure Boaters. Marine accident investigators have criticised the ‘ineffective’ system of regulation, enforcement and education currently in place within the recreational boating community ‘with respect to alcohol consumption’. The renewed call for a drink-drive limit for leisure boaters is made in a MAIB report, published today, into the double tragedy of a rigid inflatable boat (RIB) *Peaky Blinder* in Portsmouth Harbour. The owner of the vessel was under the influence of alcohol, which ‘substantially increased the likelihood of an accident’. In the report conclusions, the Secretary of State for Transport is recommended to ‘make an order to commence the provisions on alcohol limits for non-professional mariners contained in the Railways and Transport Safety Act, 2003.’

The MAIB is recommending an alcohol limit for recreational boaters in line with regulations for professional mariners, and road users in Scotland and most of Europe: 50 milligrams (mg) of alcohol in 100ml of blood – where one drink could put you over the limit.

The England, Wales and Northern Ireland limit is 80 milligrams (mg) of alcohol in 100ml of blood for drink-driving on the roads.

Lock Restrictions. In addition to current restrictions in place from St

John’s Lock to Osney Lock, the EA are introducing further restrictions to navigation from Goring Lock to Culham Lock and Penton Hook Lock to Shepperton Lock from Monday 3 August 2026. This is due to low river flows across the Thames.

Full details of the restrictions can be found in the River Restrictions section of the EA website

Canal and River Trust Satisfaction Survey. The CRT have published the results of its Annual Boaters’ Survey, with overall satisfaction at 50%, down from 55% in 2025 but remaining above the 2024 low point of 46%. (I wonder what the results of an EA satisfaction survey would look like? (Ed)