



ATYC NEWSLETTER – JANUARY 2025

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

Tony Riley RIP. *The death is announced of Tony Riley who died on 3 Jan aged 83 in the Bray Hospice. Tony was the founder of the Thames Motor Boating Association (TMBA) and was the ATYC Chair during the difficult Covid years. A fuller obituary can be found in the ATYC website.*

Thames Boaters Fined. Five boaters have been convicted by magistrates following prosecutions by the EA. Paul Phillips from London was charged after an Environment Agency (EA) officer found the defendant's vessel Triton moored against a derelict pontoon on Hurst Park below Garrick's Aite without a valid licence. Mr Phillips attended court and pleaded guilty and was fined £35, ordered to pay compensation of £485.86, £60 costs and a £15 victim surcharge by Staines Magistrates' Court.

In the second case, Richard Biddulph from Winchester, pleaded guilty by post. He was fined £160, ordered to pay compensation of £2,114.10, £60 costs and a £15 victim surcharge for not registering his boat *De Hoop* after being caught at Thames Ditton Marina.

Nicholas Tsirides of Oxford was found without a valid licence for his boat Banbury whilst downstream of Sonning Bridge in the Reading area. The defendant was found guilty in his absence and fined £200, ordered to pay compensation of £845.64, £85 costs and a £15 victim surcharge.

Hadrian Smith who lives onboard Nyko and has another boat under the name of *TT Nyko* both of which are moored on the River Thames at St Albans Park, attended court and pleaded guilty. He was ordered to pay compensation for both vessels of £454.14 and costs for both at £60.

Alistair Trotman (again!) of Kingston upon Thames attended court and pleaded guilty to two registration charges for two boats - *Hui* and the Old Kingston Coal. Hui was found moored at Kingston upon Thames without a valid licence. The defendant's other boat, Old

Kingston Coal, was also found without the correct registration along Teddington Reach. Mr Trotman was ordered to pay compensation for both vessels of £1,812.69 and costs for both of £60, totalling £1,872.69.

In relation to a separate navigation offence Alanda Thompson of London pleaded guilty by post to one charge of keeping or using a boat that had inadequate sanitary appliances that allowed raw sewage to enter the river. This is contrary to Byelaw 66 of the Thames Navigation Licensing and General Byelaws 1993. The defendant's vessel Manimal - underwent a sanitation inspection by an Environment Agency officer whilst it was moored upstream of Teddington Lock. Ms Thompson was fined £35, costs £60 and victim surcharge of £15, totalling £110.

Dehumidifier Fire. Boat owners attempting to battle winter damp aboard their yachts are urged to use desiccant rather than compressor dehumidifiers and to maintain and monitor units to minimise fire risks. Yacht Havens marina group has issued safety guidance to its berth and mooring holders following a blaze at one of its sites, which destroyed the interior and damaged decking on a Sadler 29. A spokesman said: A recent investigation into a boat fire at one of our Yacht Havens discovered that a domestic compressor dehumidifier had been set up to drain permanently into the bilge. The coils within the dehumidifier froze and subsequently overheated. The Sadler 29 was written off. Insurers often require dehumidifiers to be rated for marine use as a condition of cover.

Pontoon Ladder Deaths. Concerns have been raised about marina safety following the tragic death of a boat owner who drowned after falling into cold water. The casualty appears to have thrown her handbag from the water onto the pontoon. There were marks on the toes of her boots indicative of her trying to get out. This particular ladder was 1.5m in length with 3 rungs in the water but the bottom rung extended no more than 600mm beneath the surface of the water. It would have required the casualty to raise her legs up high and have the necessary strength to pull herself up. It appears that, sadly, she was unable to do so before succumbing to the cold and drowning. At the inquest the Coroner stated: "I am mindful that safety improvements have been made at the Thames and Kennet Marina, specifically in relation to risk assessment and ladders having been upgraded to 2m in length with a minimum of 1m beneath the water.

Imray To Cease Chart Production. Imray, the leading publisher of nautical information for leisure sailors, will cease its paper chart publishing operations in 2025.

"While this decision has not been taken lightly, it is a recognition of growing trends in nautical digital navigation", the company, which has published charts for more than 200 years, said in a statement. Imray will continue to produce its pilot book and cruising guide titles, together with the 'Explore with Imray' digital product,

which provides mariners with verified information for coastal and offshore navigation.

Charts will continue to be printed and supported by Imray Notices to Mariners “through the 2025 season”. After that, Imray will no longer publish new editions.

2025 SPRING BALL SAT 22nd FEBRUARY Following last February’s very successful event we are returning to Richmond Hill Hotel and hope you will support this event as you did last February. Club and individual booking forms can be found on our website.

The costs from the hotel have risen slightly and are now £72.50 pp. Included with the 3 course silver service dinner will be an after dinner talk from Mr. Ian Gilbert, Hon. Vice Admiral, Association of Dunkirk Little Ships [the 85th anniversary of Operation Dynamo falls next May], grand auction and raffle as well as dancing with a live band until midnight.

We would like as many clubs as possible to bring just 5 couples to make a club table, decorated with your own burgee. Obviously, some clubs will have more than 5 couples and all can be accommodated.

There are a limited number of discounted rooms available; please book directly with the hotel. Cost for a double room is £185.

2025 Annual Rally over August Bank Holiday Weekend. Rally August Bank holiday 2025. Discussions continue with Kingston Council who are making lots of new demands upon us. However we are proceeding with our plans and will be giving full details of our programme shortly. Keep eyes on our website.

Please can you indicate your support now to help with planning the events.

Full details and booking will be via the website.

2025 AGM and Social event Monday 14th Apr. Please note this date and support this event. More details nearer the time.