

ATYC NEWSLETTER – OCTOBER 2023

This is the ATYC Newsletter which will be sent out to Clubs on a regular basis. 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

MP's Letter. Following his recent visit to Elmbridge Dominic Raab has written to Therese Coffey the S of S for Environmental, Food and Rural Affairs regarding EA boating matters in the area. Specifically, Dominic complains on the lack of enforcement action on the long stayers at the Hurst Park moorings and the failure of the EA to remove unregistered boats – in this case the 2 slum boats. It would appear the Elmbridge are keen to acquire ownership of a section of EA owned land no doubt to carry out some enforcement action but the EA are not currently willing to allow this.

EA Enforcement Action. For the period 1 April 2022 to 31 March 2023, between Teddington Lock and Shepperton Lock, the EA recorded the following enforcement activity

1. They recorded 263.25 hours of patrols in this area. These patrols include enforcement activity and other activities such as checking that the navigation channel is clear from obstructions. They do not record how much time is spent on each activity while on patrol.
- 2a) They recorded 790 vessels as unregistered at the time their registration was checked. Note that these checks may include duplicates of the same boat at different times of year.
- 2b) They did not record any offences for lack of insurance, lack of Boat Safety Scheme certification or waste disposal. (*unbelievable!! Ed*)

CRT to Surcharge Wide beams. The CRT have announced swinging surcharges to licence fees for wide beam 'narrow' boats. There are also variations on charges as to whether the boat has a home mooring or not. By 2028 the widest boat without a home mooring will be paying a surcharge of 75% against the standard charge. Surcharges will also be applied to all vessels without a home mooring with boats no wider than 10 ft paying a maximum of 25% by 2028

Limehouse Visitors. The Marina have confirmed that visitor spaces are usually available but with limitations. Visitors will normally be moored on H pontoon, almost underneath the DLR track. There may also be some space on the wall on a first come, first served basis but there is no water or power at this location. Booking should be made via the marina office on 02073089930 and Channel 80 on arrival.

ATYC Meeting 13 Oct. Over 60 members from a variety of clubs attended the new format ATYC meeting held at the Windsor Club. John Dutson from the EA gave a resume of current issues and informed the meeting that Chertsey Lock would not open before end of November and there was a risk that the lock would remain closed for the winter. Lock Keepers would carry enhanced enforcement checks next year. Using drones, the EA have established that only 85% of the boats on the Thames are registered and paying licence fees (CRT compliance is 93% Ed)

2024 Ball. The Early Spring Ball 2024 will take place on Saturday 24th February at the Richmond Hill Hotel with drinks on arrival, a live band, an after dinner speaker and more for just £65pp! Full details are published on the web site.