



ATYC NEWSLETTER – SEPTEMBER 2024

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 REPORT

To all participants – THANK YOU

To the ATYC Committee – THANK YOU

To West India Dock – THANK YOU

To the Britannia International Hotel – THANK YOU

To the Dockland Scout Project – THANK YOU

To the Environment Agency at Teddington - THANK YOU

And even to the PLA – THANK YOU TOO

It took the two chairmen and all those I have thanked above to get to the rally. The organisation involves all those people doing their own "thing" and coming together.

This was our first rally after the pandemic, and we hope you felt it was worth it. We're not going to take a rest – it's time to start work on the Rally 2025.

We would love to get some photos and maybe a few words for the newsletter and the website from clubs and their members who attended. Please send any contributions to communications@atyc.org.uk and **Dennis** will include what he can in the website. For the newsletter you can send to michael.chambers263@ntlworld.com.

The event itself went very well indeed. Most of the participants cruised to the lock with little issue although there were a couple of queue jumpers and a number of craft navigating on the wrong side of the river. Locking in and mooring seemed to go well and eventually everyone was provided with electricity.

Saturday afternoon was quite quiet on the moorings but that might have something to do with a very early start.

It was great to receive so many at the Chairmen's drink reception at the hotel prior to the buffet and disco.

The food was delicious and plentiful and seems to have been met with the approval of the almost 80 diners.

After dinner, the disco proved popular with the dancefloor full for a while.

After breakfast on Sunday **Ian Weston**, crewed by **Janet Lodge** and **Jon Wilmot** aboard Flying Colours then demonstrated two types of towing a distressed boat with Cymru, crewed by **Linda** and **Clive Crocker** acting distressed very convincingly. There followed a demonstration for getting yourself out of a trot and some interesting stuff about throwing lines.

We then had a great few hours with **Richard Hart**, **Ian**, **Martin** and two **James'** of the Dockland Scout Project. They gave tuition, demonstration and general fun including rope work, knots and splices as well as Kat Canoe racing, all from the committee pontoon. This led to a really pleasant afternoon tea followed by a glass of wine or two.

Monday brought us to the journey home. Firstly, was the loading of the lock. We had a mooring plan for 29 boats which failed after the first 5 had moored so what ensued was a little disorganised but achieved within the time frame to get us out on the river in plenty of time for a very gentle cruise line astern from Knot Arf for half of us and the rest astern of Silver Sceptre. We needed to ensure we navigated without wash and without impeding commercial traffic. Having had a number of communications from the PLA about our conduct on the Saturday and from 2019 we had mentioned the cruising home conduct a few times over the weekend. Cruising at a little under 5 knots to Hammersmith Knot Arf had 6.8m clearance and then reduced to tick over while the tide took us up to Richmond just in time to watch the sluice gates fold away under the bridge.

The toughest part of the whole weekend must have been the hanging around at Teddington lock. Their staff did their absolute best to lock us through as quickly as possible but at about half a dozen at a time it took ages at the end of a very long ride home.

I reiterate the THANK YOUS at the head of this article – everyone contributed to a great weekend for all.

We hope to see you at the Open Meeting & Social Event on Monday 21st October at the Penton Hook Yacht Club when we hope to have an interesting and relevant guest speaker. Arrive from 19:00hrs for a 19:30hrs start. Date for your diaries: The 2025 Spring Ball will be held on Saturday 22nd February at the Richmond Hill Hotel.

Chris Turner

Henley Mooring 'Fines'. There are reports of boat owners being ticketed for £75 for failing to register their boats on arrival at the Mill Meadow moorings despite mooring being free between 1000 – 1500 hrs. The sign states that owners should register their arrival even during the free period.

EA Issue Staffing Statement. As might be expected the EA have cited reduced funding as the reason for the continued staff shortages and the provision of a full assisted passage facility. In a recent statement, the EA also are having to spend more money on maintaining the essential infrastructure. Additionally, the lack of funding has impacted on the employment of seasonal lock staff. They state they are continually looking at ways of improving the situation but the outlook would appear to look somewhat bleak.