



ASSOCIATION OF THAMES YACHT CLUBS

General Meeting

Held at the Windsor Yacht Club

On 28th March 2012 Commencing at 20:30

Minutes

Meeting started at 20.30

Officers present

Michael Shefras	MS
Andy Soper	AS
Michael Chambers	MC
Bob Smith	BS
Gaby Chambers	GC
Warwick Morgan	WM
Hon Sec - Jeremy Schomberg	JS

Members

NAME	CLUB
Linda Turner	TSCC
Chris Turner	TWYC
Mike Chambers	TMYC
Brian Walker	Middle Thames YC
Elsie Walker	Middle Thames YC
Pam Chart	Richmond YC
Philip Chart	Richmond YC
Darren king	BCC
Marion Lonsdale	BCC/TSCC
Paul Lonsdale	BCC/TSCC
Alan Hill	Swan Radcot CC
Dominic Evans	SBC
Nicky Pinkney	SOC
Richard Hart	DSP
Neil Winchester	LRYC/IYFR
Louis Jankel	TSCC
Andy Soper	RNSA & DBA
Philip Whitehead	AMYC
Susan Evenden	TYC
Chris Evenden	TYC
Roy Mason-Wood	BCC
Sheila mason Wood	BCC
Chris Knight	WMC
Linda Varney	SBC
John Bonnett	RYC
Clair Bonnett	RYC
John Harmer	TMYC
Colleen Harmer	TMYC

APOLOGIES:

Dave Jones
Dave Hansell
Martin Powell
Terry Scott
Dennis Hill
Lewis Read

1. Chairman's opening statement

Welcome to everybody and thank you for turning up to the meeting, it is as you will see a very important meeting with some extraordinary subject matter.

I welcome to the meeting Paul Irlam (River News Web Page) and local Lock Keepers.

On this occasion I am going to break with tradition and change the format of the meeting, we will start with a presentation from myself followed by an open forum at which point you will all have the opportunity to ask questions and be a part of the strategy to formulate the plan to take our concerns forward.

I then intend to allow the meeting to revert back to the normal format as shown in the agenda.

Welcome to you all

2 Apologies

Apologies received from:

Grant Kinnard
Andrew Bernstein
Chris Knight
Linda Varney

3. Presentation by Michael Shefras;

The full presentation is archived separately.

3.1 and 3.2 Additional Comment from David Jones and Open Forum

It was pointed out that with 45 lock keepers there would be only 33 at any one time due to the rota system, this will mean we have locks uncovered due to days off and sick leave.

DJ and MS showed how this will be covered by relief and temp staff in the ATYC proposal. It is with the basis of having 45 manned locks with designated staff.

It was pointed out that Grafton could not be rented out as it regularly floods, this would also leave the Weir vulnerable and un-managed.

It was also pointed out that money was being wasted on the development and construction of a Yurt, it was discovered that this temporary structure was too fragile to remove for the winter so more expense was required to build a cover for it.

It was also pointed out to the Chairman that there were a number of newly built shower and toilet blocks that were locked and needed a lock Keeper to unlock. These facilities would be left with no access.

It was also pointed out to the Chairman that one of these new toilet blocks was for disabled access, however the access was up 3 steps, and this was not acceptable.

The Hon Sec asked the meeting if they were in agreement with the presentation and strategy put forward by MS as a way forward. The vote was unanimous with all voting in favour.

The meeting now reverted back to the normal format.

4. Confirm Minutes of previous meeting

Minutes were passed by consensus. Minutes were signed by MS and will be archived.

5. Action Points

All action points from previous meeting have been carried out.

6. Officers Reports

Pete Hasler – Honorary Treasurer

Pete reported that there is going to be a reported loss of £350.00 on the rally and this will be after all advertisers have fully paid up.

Pete has been chasing the ATYC membership and there are still a few that are unpaid, Pete expects these to be paid.

Current bank balance is £15,037.00

Warwick Morgan – Dinner Dance

The Dinner Dance is booked for the 3rd March and will be at the Crown Plaza, Marlow as last year. The price is now set at £30.00 per head. Please ensure it is put into your commodores and clubs programmes. There will be a flyer on the web site. We are looking for club tables and also new themes. Dress will be DJ or Club Blazer.

Gaby Chambers – Vice President

There are some clubs that don't put notifications on the boards; we need a better and fuller level of usage of notice boards.

Communications are sent to the Commodore's and Secretary's, however are these the right people to communicate with in your club?

We need to constantly update all of your details so please send in your changes.

MC (Mike Chambers) asked "how many people don't get to see our communications", results were inconclusive, however it was not all.

Dave Eatwell – Rug Liaison

Dave will be visiting 2 RUGS this month.

Jeremy Schomberg – Honorary Secretary

I am now settling in to the post. Having had two Officers Meetings, 1 General Meeting and a Rally. I am getting to know most faces; names are coming but a little slower.

My prime concern is to ensure that Meetings are booked and administered with the Governance of information and Continuity of Process.

I am pleased to announce a new post and that we have a new Web site Administrator in Terry Sharpe, (currently on holiday).

I am however sorry to announce that Andy Soper has resigned as Deputy Chairman, he has resigned early to allow a successor to be found before the AGM next year. Andy is now working with Pete Hasler to take over as the Honorary Treasurer in March when Pete retires from post. Andy is also working on taking over a number of the other jobs that Pete currently takes responsibility for.

So we are now actively looking for a Deputy Chairman, he or she must be prepared to take over as chairperson from MS in 2014.

Dave Eatwell has given notice that he is also to retire in March. So we are looking for a new vice-chairman.

I would like to make a short reference to the 2012 Pavillon d'Or, having being asked by MS to carry out an extensive feasibility study and financial assessment it was decided that in the current financial climate the level of sponsorship was not forthcoming and the risk was too great. We had invited the TMYC to join us in this study and after extensive meetings and

costing exercises it was agreed that neither the TMYC nor ATYC could enter into a project with such a high level of financial risk. My thanks go to the Sub-committee set up and chaired by John Harmer from TMYC and Dave Jones from ATYC who worked with me on the project. The RYA have been notified of our intention to withdraw and they have also in-turn notified the UIM.

7 Thames Boating Certificate – Michael Shefras

We have been working with the RYA for them to recognise the TBC as part of inland training and we are very hopeful that we are going to achieve a positive result. We are on the way with 12 to 15 TBC trainers. Those clubs who are already RYA Theory training establishments can apply to have a RYA recognised Inland Helmsman Certificate trainer and we expect 6 RYA Inland Helmsman Instructors by the end of the year.

8 Competition Committee Update – Mike Chambers

I have been nominated as Chairman of the Sub-committee for competitions. Next year the competition will be at the Rally now being organised at Beale Park. It is to include a fun test and a shore based test in addition to the normal formal tests. I will be strengthening the rules in areas such as the Burgee and what constitutes a family in the family competitions.

There will be a new category trophy for “veterans” where all of the crew will have to prove to be over 60.

I have agreed the tests in principal and they will be announced at the 1st training meeting on the 22nd January at 10.00 at penton Hook. I would like one of the ATYC officers to do a short speech on Beale Park at this event. There will be 1 demonstration of two of the tests to be held at Windsor, the finalised dates to be in April.

I feel we are moving into a new era and will be going forward with new vigour.

9 WID – Rally

It was reported

We have not received any negative comments on the rally so far, it has generally been agreed that the rally was very successful, if you have any comments please raise them now. No comments raised, other than a joke comment made “More prawns”.

It has already been unofficially announced but I can now tell you that we have negotiated and agreed with Beale Park for the 2012 Rally. Swan Radcot will help with possible help from Upper Thames. The main centre will sit and accommodate 200 people. I am very pleased with the deal that we have and looking forward to a successful 2012 August Bank Holiday Rally.

A question was asked about the mooring being very shallow?

MS answered that there is adequate depth and if any problem occurs then the deeper draft vessels will be moored on the outer side.

10 Customer Charter and PLA Matters – Dave Jones

MS stated that the Customer Charter started in 2010 and was relatively successful but needed improvement for 2011. Because EA were not aware of where the navigation was going in 2011 nothing had been set up although the Customer Charter was produced. There was a lack of staff throughout the entire season and the Charter failed.

Louise Jankel asked if a letter can be written from the ATYC to the Se Director to inform him that the Customer Charter was broken in every month – It was a non-recoverable position. The future of the charter was dependent upon how the river is named in 2012. (After Note: The matter was discussed in depth at the WWG on 31 October and there will be a meeting at which ATYC will be present.

David told us that the PLA relations are good, they were very complimentary on how the Rally departed the WID and how the ATYC managed the overall departure. There were no complaints. Teddington was very slow but still a very good service.

News – the Thames River Park, maps are available. However the officers of the ATYC have unanimously agreed to support the PLA's position and reservations – based on safety, silting up of the river etc.

Richmond has VHF but the full roll out has been delayed due to training delays.

The gauges at Hammersmith for the air draft will now be replaced but in the same location.

David reminded us of the PLA web site and that it is a font of information. The PLA has produced the "Thames Recreational Users guide 2011"; this is free on request and can be requested via the web site.

There have been a lot of problems with people racing to beat the tide at Hammersmith. Beware there will be a higher police activity - they are training new teams so watch out.

The Police are no longer able to stop boats under the anti terrorism rules unless they have good reason to suspect.

There are yellow buoys at Hammersmith by Dove Pier. Keep central of the channel – safety precaution is temporary - they are looking for a more recognisable buoy to be used but at this stage have not decided on which one.

WWG

It used to be an ad-hoc group which had no official bias. 4 years ago it was turned into a functional entity. Now all consultation on navigation is the through the WWG.

Swimming – this is now a major problem and on-going concern. The general view is that they should pay their way. This is an on-going subject to be discussed further.

Moorings – the itinerant squatters are getting worse. Molesey and the Garrick lawns they are now double banked, Teddington and Richmond are getting worse as well. The EA have new enforcement teams since since the 1st August, and we hope that there will be a new regime.

Landlords are now buying boats and letting them out at extortionate rates (Similar to the Rackman Syndrome). We have had a positive letter back from the Minister saying that they are recognised as illegal. What is required is a zero tolerance employed throughout the river. There is a move to cut costs however if they imposed a fine system the revenue would backfill the cost cutting and offer a positive position.

AS stated that if there was a commercial income this would ensure a better revenue stream. There should be more made of film locations, weddings etc. What else can they do, they have allegedly found a new Commercial Manager to fill the existing vacancy.

11 Queen's Jubilee 2012

The publicity in the papers for the numbers of cruisers is over inflated; it will be no more than 100. These 100 will start to be selected from October 2011. All participants will have to be up to standard and in particular be able to deploy their anchor. The PLA and MCA will be inspecting with a predetermined scrutiny. Boats will be invited to a point lower than Hammersmith Bridge and tested on mooring on a buoy. There will be no exceptions and all must pass the mooring on a buoy test.

After the event all boats are to go to the Royal Victoria Dock. If you cannot abide by these rules you will not be able to attend and you will be denied entry. With no exceptions nobody will return. There will be a large number of safety boats to attend to all needs.

MC (Mike Chambers) had two questions.

1/. What will the time be when all can leave the lock to return? The answer is to be confirmed.

2/. Will they be allowing boats in that are not part of the QJ – No

12 Club Matters

No matters arising on this occasion

13 AOB

Olympics

There will be a continual passage at Eton/Dorney with the river being dredged and the trees cut back. There will be a raised police presence and there will be a large number of Special Branch, both have asked that regular boaters are vigilant to any new comers and or unknown boaters.

There will be no road access with a lock out during June to September. All will need a passage plan to go both up and down river. At Gravesend if you do not have moorings you will be stopped and turned around. All cruisers from this point will need to have a PLA pass.

It has been reported that the Limehouse mooring charge during this period will be raised to £1,400 per week and £4,000 per month. There will be no overnight mooring at Boveney during the Olympics.

On behalf of the Lock Keepers it was noted that they are under a gagging order. Therefore please do not question them on any of these sensitive matters as they will be sacked if they speak up.

A question was raised by Chris from Weybridge Mariners – why so many boats from TMYC were accepted on to the QDJP. Other clubs missed out with no representation.

MS responded, there was a change when more spaces had been allocated and all commodores of all clubs had been invited of the ones that had applied. If they had not applied they were not considered.

Thanks were offered to Andy and Kate for sorting out the arrangements for the use of the Windsor Yacht Club to be used for the meeting.

Meeting ended at 21.40