



General Meeting

**Held at The Clubhouse Penton Hook Yacht Club
Penton Hook Marina, Staines Road, Chertsey, KT16 8PY
On 26th June 2012 Commencing at 20:00**

1. CHAIRMAN'S OPENING STATEMENT

Michael Shefras welcomed everybody and thanked members for turning up to the meeting, Agendas are to be found on your chairs

Notice was circulated on the Notice Board and Messenger, thank you to those who circulate to the wider membership.

He reported that Officers are reinvigorating the way we work;

Dave Hansell – really up river

Dave Biggin – further up river (but now indicated not to continue)

Middle River – vacant

Lower River – Bob Smith

Teddington to the Barrier – TBC

From Barrier on North Shore – TBC

From Barrier on South Shore – TBC

Dave Jones – PLA & EA

Andy Soper – Honorary Treasurer

Jeremy Schomberg – Honorary Secretary

Mike Chambers – Training

Gaby Chambers – Communications

Terry Sharpe – Web Site

Andy Hogg - Web Master

The Agenda will show the enormous amount of work being undertaken on behalf of the Thames Boater either as members or not of clubs.

I want to try and get more involvement from the top table and from those here so do take part in the meeting.

Straight onto the work in the Agenda

2. APOLOGIES

Apologies received from:

Terry Sharpe

Gaby Chambers

Dave Biggin

Colin Law

Lynda Varney

3. CONFIRM MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Chris Night asked why two of the questions he raised had been missed off the last set of minutes wanted to know how we check for errors like this. The Hon Secretary pointed out that within questions and AOB not all items can be recorded and on occasions some are left out due to the complicated nature of the on-going discussions. It was agreed that a correction will be made and the past Minutes will be corrected and need to be re-signed at the next meeting.

MS + JS to amend and update and show details

The minute was amended to include:

“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.”

3. ACTION POINTS

All action points from previous meeting have been carried out.

4. OFFICERS REPORTS

Andy Soper – Honorary Treasurer

Andy reported that there is currently just over £15k in the bank account

Sponsorship for the rally is currently at £2,500 Peter Hasler commented that we will require more for it to be a success.

Jeremy Schomberg – Honorary Secretary

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

We are still actively looking for a Deputy Chair; he or she must be prepared to take over as chairperson from MS in 2014.

We have been working on the web site with Terry Sharpe and there has been a lot of progress and the site is becoming much more user friendly. We do however have a long way to go, if people could let me know what they want and how they want to see it, it would help.

The Messenger and notice Board have both developed in to useful tools to get messages across to the membership and we have had good feedback. We do however wonder how many are posted on to club notice boards.

7 BEALE PARK RALLY – JEREMY SCHOMBERG

We are looking to put on an exciting programme of events and evening entertainment. There will be outside catering supplied by Linda Johnson. The prices have been calculated on 80 boats so will be looking for all clubs to help with the promotion of this event. The total capacity for people to attend the evening functions is going to be 200. There will be the usual arrival on Friday and departure on the Monday.

The cost will be boat entry at £35.00 as it has been previously, no increase this year. The buffet BBQ will be set at £12.50 per head and the dinner dance will be £19.50 per head. The overall cost for a boat and two people will be £99.00. We have also negotiated a day rate entry deal with Beale Park of £4.00 per person per day. There will be a passport style booklet supplied to each boat with all of the tickets inside to avoid any confusion.

We are looking to return to the West India Dock for the 2013 rally; however we are looking to hold this on the May bank holiday. We will keep you all informed with progress on this.

The rally entry forms will be sent out very shortly.

8. CUSTOMER CHARTER – MICHAEL SHEFRAS

The Customer Charter is in a printed format and we have copies here for you tonight to take away with you. If you could please take a whole swatch back to your club's and distribute.

The costs of the printing are being covered by the EA with credit shown for the ATYC.

9. WATERWAYS WORKING GROUP (WWG) DAVID JONES

Meeting was held two weeks ago, a whole day was spent on the subject. Enforcement, trying very hard to collect licence fees, there has been several court cases for non-payers. It is work in progress; there has been small progress on itinerant moorer's

There is a programme of enforcement activities Inc. speed checks, radar etc. All are very encouraged. There have been some problems with the collection of mooring fees, some lock keepers having great difficulty. There have been so e very forceful people and the lock keepers have not been getting the backing they need.

In May there were four boat owners prosecuted with a further eight pending. The Olympics have taken a toll on the resources so there will be more enforcement later on in the year. There is a registration enforcement campaign planned.

There is a development of the river planned "The River into the Future", planning for sustainability also "Self Financing" with their being a reduced government involvement with more emphasis on canoeing, sailing and rowing. Without this there will be more costs falling down to the Motor Boaters.

There must be other ways found to finance these projects, in particular the weirs as they are not just for the boaters.

Question from Bob Smith, has any progress been made with working in partnership with local Constabulary's. Thames Valley has made progress with Surrey also making a huge commitment. There are now 36 trained constables waiting for boats. The Met Police have an active programme. The EA are not providing boats or crew, Surrey police are using an old police boat called "Fuzz" along with a helicopter but didn't catch any thieves or villains.

There is a huge programme of works for 2012/13, some locks will be closed

Iffley Lock, Old Windsor Lock and Abingdon Lock from Nov to Feb
Teddington in August 2013

EA now have a program for Volunteer Boatmen have and they have received 30 applications. Out of these 8 have been successful. They must be experienced; they will get 30 days a year boating on a patrol boat. They should have been inducted 2 weeks ago. It will now take place on 5th and 6th July due to all of the red boards. Though ATYC Michael Shefras has volunteered to assist with the training program of these volunteer boatmen..

MS felt that Andrew Graham might have set the standard too high asking for 30 days a year commitment. In the future it is thought that regular policemen could join the volunteer boatmen.

10. LOCK HOUSES AND STUDY GROUP – ANDY SOPER

AS reported that boaters representatives including ATYC Officers met with Lord Smith with a result that other than four lock houses all other actions was frozen pending the setting up of a Lock House Study group jointly chaired by Simon Hughes of EA and Michael Shefras of TUGn. As well as Michael, he will sit on the group with Mike Chambers and Louis Jankel.

There will be serious discussions going forward and with real numbers. It is expected to have real figures coming from actual rental.. If there is no financial success – ATYC will aim to put a stop to it.

Chris Turner commented that it is taking too long with modern day computers it should all happen a lot faster.

MC added – safety – weirs etc. must be added to the decision making process. EA's navigation budget is approx. 1% of overall budget; they have never had to account for it as it is so low, it is causing a problem as there has been no previous need.

11. TRAINING (INCLUDING TBTA AND COMPETITION)

MICHAEL CHAMBERS

Tests are on the web site, including Judges, time keepers and entry forms

There is a need for 8 Judges + 2 Time keepers as a minimum.
Entries in as soon as possible please so we can plan.

TBC – Expected to have a meeting room to iron out any problems,
Instructors symposium later on this year. We are still selling the books.

Chris Turner asked if Instructors to have a preferential route with the RYA?

MC answered, absolutely NOT, Instructors must have an Inland Helmsman Certificate and also be Inland Helmsman Instructors. This is to ensure credibility.

We are working with the RYA on the TBC and they are offering a deal for instructors to become Inland Waterway Helmsman Instructors. So far this has been achieved by Penton Hook and TMYC who can now run practical courses.

There are more opportunities, This will all add credibility.

12 PLA MATTERS – DAVID JONES

There is an amendment to the last newsletter; it should have read as through the water and not over ground for 8 & 12 knots.

There are 3 ID's being issued - Resident, Transiting and confirmed mooring. The requirement to show these will be from mid-July to mid-September.

Alan Woolford , what happens if you are not an ATYC member?
DJ All will get stopped. A patrol boat can issue a permit ID if all documents are correct.

There is no restriction on use

Main checks will be at point of entry at Gravesend and all locks

The cruising guide is available on the web site, for recreational boaters they will send you a tide table and guide.

The site is www.boatingonthethames.co.uk

Non tidal can join this as well

The London Array wind farm has crossing cables so low water is down to 1m

There is VHF at Richmond Lock but they are still not using it – call London VTS

13 QUEENS DIAMOND JUBILEE PAGEANT 2012 –

MICHAEL SHEFRAS

MS reported that it was a fantastic day despite the weather. And there were 60 boats in our section managed by the ATYC the RMS went extremely well.

We should all be proud to have been a part of such a historical event

The ATYC first started working on this in 2010, it's now happened and we are a part of history.

Pete Hasler – one of the highlights was seeing all the rowers at Hammersmith

Chris Turner – MS was the best person to have done it for the ATYC, he worked very hard and must be commended.

MS thanks all.

Chris Turner commented that the BBC coverage was diabolical
MS advised that a letter has been sent to points of view and the BBC Director General. But had not received any response.

MS has suggested that they should produce a DVD with all the footage and have a proper commentary of all sections.
No response, it is very rude.

MC – the service that was given by the PLA was exceptional. MS worked on behalf of the RYA-Thames Region, we had a very good rapport. All under PLA Command Romeo worked very well. The support PLA boats did very well. Thanks has been sent and the response has been very positive.

All of the royal party saluted the RMS as they dipped their Ensigns in salute.

14. OLYMPICS 2012 – MICHAEL SHEFRAS

From Boveney to Bray, they have laid the buoys and floating line as a security cordon. No Mooring.

The bridge is up, a number of boats have hit it and caused extensive damage. Having a CEVNI height sign would have been very useful.

There is a heavy Police presence, watching who's who.

MS – thinks there will be fewer boats

No problems perceived.

15. AOB

Alan Woodford reported , there are two RYA initiatives, "Push the boat out" and "Sail for Gold"

There is to be a Weybridge pageant, Desborough combined with Weybridge Mariners and Weybridge sailing Club are to hold a sail past. Elmbridge and Spelthorne Mayor to take the salute on 21st July

More good news is that there has been an invite to Erith Yacht Club for the passing through of the Olympic Torch.

This is for the RYA and ATYC

The Torch will be at Henley on the 10th July

Hampton Court – there will be a rolling stoppage to Teddington so that the PLA can take it up to the Docks.

BS – Sunday 1st July Penton Hook has an event. The RNLI's life jacket clinic and flare amnesty
There will be display by the Bomb Disposal team

It has been noted that several comments have been made that the Web Site is very dated. TS is to talk with AH to see if we can improve.

.Thanks were offered to Penton Hook for sorting out the arrangements for the use of the Club House to be used for the meeting.

Meeting ended at 21.30

=====