

NOTES OF OFFICERS MEETING

14 NOVEMBER, 2012

Hosted by Jeremy Schomberg

1950 – 2215

OFFICERS

Michael Shefras	MS	Chair	Present
		Deputy Chair	Position Vacant
Jeremy Schomberg	JS	Honorary Secretary	Present
Andy Soper		Honorary Treasurer	Apologies
David Jones	DJ	RUG7 & Floating	Present
Mike Chambers	MC	Training Officer	Present
Gaby Chambers	GC	Club Communications	Present
Warwick Morgan	WM	Sponsorship & Commercial	Present
Terry Sharpe	TS	Web Master	Present
Dave Hansel	DH	Area 1	Present
		Area 2	Position Vacant
		Area 3	? Paul Lonsdale
Bob Smith		Area 4	Apologies
(Chambers)		Area 5	Present
		Area 6	Position Vacant
		Area 7	Position Vacant
		Area 8	Position Vacant
		Area 9	Position Vacant

1. CHAIRMAN'S OPENING STATEMENT – MICHAEL SHEFRAS

- 1.1 Welcomed all to the meeting thanking **JS** for hosting.
- 1.2 The agenda had been slightly amended to allow the officers to get right into the important work facing us

2. APOLOGIES As noted above.

3. CONFIRM MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

- 3.1 The initials **MC** were amended to say **MS** in the last line of Item 11.

3.2 The last paragraph of Item 6 was amended to advise that if possible the suggested blind competition could be part of the fun element outside the actual competition.

3.3 With those amendments the Chair signed off the notes.

4. ACTION POINTS FROM PREVIOUS MEETING

4.1 MS asked that as there had been the General Meeting after the officers meeting much of the action had taken place. If at the end of the meeting there were outstanding actions not covered in this meeting we would pick them up at that time – **Agreed**.

5. ANNUAL DINNER & DANCE – Warwick Morgan – Paper

5.1 BOOKING FORM

a.	The menu was accepted as a good choice. Noted to have lamb instead of Chicken would have cost a further £6				
b.	It was noted that should the room rate be offered at a lower rate ATYC would also get that advantage.				
c.	There were questions on how the form would work with just one cheque from each club required. <table><tr><td>i.</td><td>Gaby would contact Linda Tuesday to resolve it ACTION GC/LC</td></tr><tr><td>ii.</td><td>It was noted that Andy might not have the same problems with the numbers of cheques that can be banked? (After Note: AS confirms that there is still a restriction on the number of cheques he can bank in a month.)</td></tr></table>	i.	Gaby would contact Linda Tuesday to resolve it ACTION GC/LC	ii.	It was noted that Andy might not have the same problems with the numbers of cheques that can be banked? (After Note: AS confirms that there is still a restriction on the number of cheques he can bank in a month.)
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5.2 WM requested that a promotional flyer be prepared and distributed. GC would follow this through.

ACTION GC/LC

5.2.1 MS advised that he would be circulating a **Notice Board** first week in December, notice can be put on this and the flyer sent out at the same time.

ACTION MS

5.3 RAFFLE ORGANISATION

5.3.1 **JS** would take responsibility for organising the raffle.

ACTION JS

5.3.2 **DH** would assist by providing the sales team at the function.

ACTION DH

5.4 GUESTS

5.4.1 **MS** would invite **Mike & Helen Gates** and **Matt Carter and partner** as guests but not expected to speak.

5.4.2 **MS** to make a very short thank you speech.

ACTION MS

5.4 TROPHIES

5.5 **GC** will be responsible for collection of trophies and organise engraving.

5.5.1 **GC** will communicate with the holders of the silver to request that it be brought back at the Training Morning at Penton Hook on Sunday 27 January, 2013. It will also be covered in the Notice Board.

ACTION GC/MS

6 MANAGING THE ASSOCIATION

6.1 **MS** thanked **DJ** for extensively following up the exercise to involve the clubs in the Tidal waters who are members and who we do not see or talk with although we do communicate via the Notice Board.

a.	DJ has visited Lee & Stort, Broxbourne, Benfleet, Leigh Island , and has had contact with Gravesend .
b.	Following this up both MS and MC have had further communication and with MS following up with communication with C&RT on behalf of Lee and Stort and Broxbourne .

6.2 **DJ's** work is based on there being 9 areas served by an area officer who will be designated a **Vice Chair**. It would not be expected that they attend every officers meeting but from time to time there would be an officers meeting down river to keep them in touch.

- 6.2.1 How this would work is set up under the Officers table at the beginning of these notes.
- 6.3 It would be hoped that some of these clubs might well support the Rally in the West India Dock at the August Bank Holiday..
- 6.4 The exercise has enabled ATYC to have the up to date contacts for these clubs and **GC** now has updated the data base.

ACTION GC

- 6.5 **DJ** has also talked with others who might become involved to take up some of the vacant positions as shown and is conscious that we have to build in succession to follow existing officers by having strength in waiting.
- 6.6 **MS** would follow up the request to those clubs who currently do not support the rally or dinner to invite him and a colleague to attend their clubs committee meeting.
- 6.6.1 To that end **MC** and **TS** who would be attending the AGM's of MTYC and UTMYC would endeavour to set the scene as appropriate seeking support and sourcing Vice Chairs.
- 6.6.2 **MC** also suggested that there could be a volunteer to take up the position of Admin Secretary.
- 6.7 **DJ** advised that it was very much work in progress.

7. SERVICE LEVELS ON THE THAMES 2013 – Michael Shefras

- 7.1 **MS** reported that it is obvious that the current austerity challenges facing all levels of society are also in place with the EA and the management of the river. Actually during 2012 service other than an extraordinary glitch in one area boaters have had reasonably good service at locks.

a.	This has come about by there being many more volunteers to assist working the locks
b.	The use of Summer Reliefs coming on board April/May up to 31 October, and Summer Assistances coming on board in May which did not happen in 2011.

7.2 CUSTOMER CHARTER – 2013

7.2.1 Representatives of boaters met with Navigation Managers on 1 November, 2012. At this meeting it was agreed:

a.	The current service levels from A – E will not continue.
b.	There will now be three service levels, High, Medium, and Low.
c.	Representatives of users have identified Choke, Difficult, Income and Beam locks and against them the manning category on each.
d.	The layout of the standing booklet will be revised with service levels at the start.
e.	From consultation with users, it will not be printed but be available on the EA Web Page. Service at locks sections will be able to be taken out easy to use on boats if necessary.
f.	There would be a further meeting on 27 November, 2013 to see how the budget can be stretched to get the best possible service to the boater in 2013.
g.	It was hoped that the service levels at locks might be published in the BMF River Book.

7.3 LOCK HOUSE STUDY GROUP

7.3.1 **MS** reported that the users' representatives on this group, Andy Soper, Mike Chambers, Louis Jankel and himself have had several meetings.

7.3.2 Much of the information has to be confidential as it is of a commercial and personal nature and hence we are not able to communicate this widely.

7.3.3 We can advise that there is an ongoing exercise to compare the difference between those locks with a resident and those with a part time summer relief. This is ongoing work.

7.3.4 There are to be more meetings where the facts will be worked out leading to a report in March.

7.4 FUTURE OF NAVIGATION

7.4.1 **MS** advised that he had reported in depth what had happened in his **TUGn Paper 1146 NNUF** which had been widely circulated and it would serve no purpose to repeat it again but this was the opportunity to consider the outcomes of that meeting and what was happening on the river.

7.4.2 **MC** was concerned that perhaps ATYC was not represented under their own title rather than MS having to declare an interest as chair of ATYC. Perhaps ATYC should be a member of NNUF on its own right? The other NNUF members did not appear to represent the Thames Motor Boater.

a.	MS explained that NNUF was a national consultative body.
b.	He had to fight heavily in 2006 to get a chair at the meeting praying in aid that TUGn was representative of nearly 70% of the boaters in the country and he had taken the argument up to very senior levels to obtain a seat at the table.
c.	There was representation of our type of boats from GOBA and now the NENE Boating Association and Medway Boating Association. TUGn was in a very strong position because of the numbers of boaters it represented!

7.4.3 **DJ** asked the meeting to allow him to make a statement as he would like to see the future of the Thames.

a.	He was not too sure that Angela Quayle was the friend to ATYC as she appears to be continually seeking ways to by-pass the existing users' organisations to perhaps split what might appear to be concerted effort to carry through an argument. <table border="1" data-bbox="376 1391 1402 1648"> <tr> <td>i.</td><td>DJ believed that Government wanted out of navigation and putting Thames into C&RT was an obvious way out for them.</td></tr> <tr> <td>ii.</td><td>He was convinced that Angela Quayle had been instructed to move any barriers to move the Thames out of the EA into C&RT!</td></tr> </table>	i.	DJ believed that Government wanted out of navigation and putting Thames into C&RT was an obvious way out for them.	ii.	He was convinced that Angela Quayle had been instructed to move any barriers to move the Thames out of the EA into C&RT!
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ii.	He was convinced that Angela Quayle had been instructed to move any barriers to move the Thames out of the EA into C&RT!				
b.	He continued by suggesting that much of the Thames superstructure was not for navigation at all but users were being asked to pay for it all!				
c.	There are huge costs for flood prevention and water supply and sewage disposal.				

d.	We should be moving to have a different type of specific Thames Management								
e.	MS countered by saying that what we had to concentrate on what was achievable and at this time it seemed that right that we should maintain our stance against being absorbed into C&RT. <table> <tr> <td>i.</td><td>DJ's explanation of how the river was regrettably far away from the way it works with the contra being the situation with lock keepers being subsidized for the work they do for flood management and from other contributions which are called matrix funding! This is the ongoing argument. What is actually the navigation and what are the actual assets being used!</td></tr> <tr> <td>ii.</td><td>Having said that, he was currently uncomfortable in the way there has been so many staff changes that we again have to ensure that we have the correct consultation process in place.</td></tr> <tr> <td>iii.</td><td>He had also been uncomfortable with some of the "spin" in published EA e-mail material and currently he is in discussion with several managers to resolve it.</td></tr> <tr> <td>iv.</td><td>He had been very uncomfortable in the way that Peter Ainsworth the EA Board Member dealt with challenges at NNUF and this would have to be followed through.</td></tr> </table>	i.	DJ's explanation of how the river was regrettably far away from the way it works with the contra being the situation with lock keepers being subsidized for the work they do for flood management and from other contributions which are called matrix funding! This is the ongoing argument. What is actually the navigation and what are the actual assets being used!	ii.	Having said that, he was currently uncomfortable in the way there has been so many staff changes that we again have to ensure that we have the correct consultation process in place.	iii.	He had also been uncomfortable with some of the "spin" in published EA e-mail material and currently he is in discussion with several managers to resolve it.	iv.	He had been very uncomfortable in the way that Peter Ainsworth the EA Board Member dealt with challenges at NNUF and this would have to be followed through.
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7.4.4 **MS** followed this up by advising that there had been a new paper at NNUF suggesting that there be a new licence for new boaters that would commence as they bought their boats.

a.	This followed the advice that a proposed Rolling Year Licence could not be introduced because of no budget it to cost £50,000 to adjust software. <table> <tr> <td>i.</td><td>Unanimously the user representatives voted against this paper (Full reported in NNUF paper 1146).</td></tr> <tr> <td>ii.</td><td>It had never been discussed at WWG!</td></tr> </table>	i.	Unanimously the user representatives voted against this paper (Full reported in NNUF paper 1146).	ii.	It had never been discussed at WWG!
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b.	MC was concerned that users had not had the opportunity to discuss this paper.				

i.	Speaking as a boat examiner there are times when the brokers find it hard to explain to a new boater that they have to pay for example for six months when they put their boat on the river at the end of the year!
ii.	MS advised MC that Brian Clark BMB representative advised him that the trade had not seen the paper either! MS believed that it was specifically a paper by officers who found the complaints hard to deal with and had proposed this alternative rather than moving on the rolling year program.

7.4.5 **MS** advised that if DJ put his ideas forward then ATYC might be able to deliver a policy for the future, but our best opportunity is to stay with EA rather than C&RT unless circumstances change which he doubts in the short term. What DJ is suggesting would need an Act of Parliament and this is the hardest thing to achieve!

7.5. **WM** felt that it appears that the EA managers are playing games with us! He did not know how the flood management worked and it was explained to him that Local Authorities pay a levy to EA to cover flood risk.

7.6 **TS** asked why a volunteer cannot work a lock on their own and the process was explained. Once signed off by the resident lock keeper a volunteer can manage a lock, but until that time he or she is not allowed to work the lock. It is different when a boater uses public power as that boater takes responsibility for working the lock. The signed off volunteer is a responsibility for the management of the lock but not the weirs and would not open or close the site.

8 PLA MATTERS – DAVID JONES

8.1 **DJ** advised that there was nothing new to report other than the suggestion that recreational craft might have to have holding tanks in Thames Tidal Waters is **not correct**. Commercial and moored boats will have to conform by January 2016, but the Bye-law does not cover recreational motor cruising boats.

8.2 **DJ** would attend the Lower River and Upper River consultation meetings in coming weeks and **MS** would attend the Estuary meeting which clashes with the Upper meeting to which DJ will attend..

9 ATYC RALLY 2013 AND FORWARD LOOK TO 2014.

9.1 **JS** confirmed that Derek James had been booked for the Sunday evening entertainment.

9.2 **DJ** advised that he has spoken about the same Quiz on the Saturday. **MS** suggested that instead of this we might introduce Pearly Kings and Queens to lead a sing song which had worked several times at TMYC. **MS** was asked to investigate but not confirm.

ACTION MS

9.3 **JS** was asked to investigate sites up and down the river for the 2014 rally.

a.	Henley or Kingston could be considered again.
b.	Other sites mentioned were Mapledurham but it was recognised that DBA were able to use boards to disembark and the conditions might not favour our type of boats.

10. CLUB MATTERS – GABY CHAMBERS

10.1 **GC** Was not happy that the Notice Boards were e-mailed out to club members as we;; as putting it on the Club's notice board..

10.1.1 **MS** had asked at the Thames Managing committee and had been advised that some members appeared to get them whilst others did not. **TS** suggested that there were problems with the TMYC circulation that needed to be resolved. **WM** advised that it appeared that Windsor did not circulate them either.

ACTION MS TO FOLLOW UP.

11 HONORARY OFFICER REPORTS.

11.1 **JS** had nothing to report.

11.2 **AS** had sent his report and **JS** advised that currently there was £14,719.94 bank balance and it was noted that we had paid a £1,000 deposit for the Dinner Dance.

12. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

12.1 DATES OF OFFICERS MEETINGS:

12.1.1 We had published the dates of the Officers Meeting but it appeared that some officers cannot attend on a Monday, Tuesday, now Wednesday and advised Thursday.

12.1.2 **DJ** would speak with Bob Smith to see if he is not able to attend any Wednesday meetings as he is coming up to be Commodore. If that is the case we will alternate the Wednesday and Thursday.

ACTION DJ AND ADVISE

12.2 NEW ATYC WEB PAGE – TERRY SHARPE

12.2.1 **TS** advised that he had spent on ATYC's behalf £125 and about to spend £166 for software and licences and there would be an annual charge depending upon what we finally agree but will not be higher than these figures. There could be more to come if we include additional features, for example a forum. **TS** did not put a limit on the eventual annual cost, particularly of the licences but they will not be in excess of the initial costs probably considerably less. He continued by saying that we could limit the ongoing costs by simply not renewing the licences but I would not be in favour of that. This was accepted.

a.	The page is to promote the ATYC and provide a Thames Almanac as a one stop page for Thames Boaters.
b.	He circulated the example of the home page and advised that the picture at the top would be an ongoing video.
c.	From WM comments TS confirmed that pages today have to be telephone mobile friendly and he would ensure that ATYC page conforms to this.
d.	It will be up to us to decide what is going to be public and what available by registration and as he moves this on we can make decisions.
e.	He would hope to be able to show officers some movement in March/April next year.

12.2.2 In response to a question from **MS**, **TS** advised that Andy Hogg is comfortable with what we are doing.

12.2.3 **MS** thanked **TS** for the amount of work he is doing for us and advised that it was really appreciated.

12.3 **MS** confirmed to **MC** that he had written to Windsor and Marlow regarding their mooring charging regime.

The meeting concluded at 2215 with thanks to Jeremy Schomberg for hosting it.

