

Thames Vintage Boat Club

Committee Meeting Minutes – Wednesday 18th April 2012

Location: Adam Phones Ltd, Edensor Rd, Chiswick W4 2ST
7.30pm for 8pm start

| | | Action |
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| 1. | <p>Those present: Adam Toop, Jim Jackson, Robin Newlands, Helga Currie, Jane Percival, Patrick Prince, Peter Scrutton, Theresa Scrutton, David Lister</p> <p>Apologies: Sean Wiles, John Llewellyn, Mike Phillips, Grant Kinnaird, Lynda Kinnaird</p> | |
| 2. | Commodore's report | |
| a) | Minutes of the previous meeting (31/01/2012): These were approved after some further discussion shown below. | |
| b) | Any actions taken since the last meeting | |
| i) | 1 & 1: Grant sent a cheque to them which they didn't cash. 1 & 1 then sent a bill for a sixth of the amount originally charged and Grant paid it. Everyone agreed that this should put an end to our dealings with 1 & 1 and that a court case could be costly in terms of finance, time etc. The cost of reinstating the data was not as much as the cost of a lawyer. | |
| ii) | A time line is now incorporated in the Agenda. | |
| iii) | David asked if the Freebody application for affiliated membership had been processed. Peter immediately checked the membership list on his phone; Freebody is on the system under Melanie's name. We wondered if it was too early to ask Freebody's if we could visit them again. | |
| c) | <p>The AGM on 15/03/2012 was a success. Approximately 40 members attended. It started a little late yet ended on time. The agenda was fairly concise and the speeches suitably short, enabling it to be also a very pleasant social evening for the members.</p> <p>The AGM minutes were a true reflection of what was said at the meeting. Adam said he had complete confidence in the accounts and the finances of the club are looking good; the cash position has stabilised even though a fair amount of money has been spend on stock, the shed and the website.</p> <p>Many thanks to Helga and Eve for organising the raffle which raised £100 for the club funds.</p> | |
| 3. | Vice Commodore's report | |
| i) | Leander Club: David confirmed that the evening event will be taking place at the club on 3 rd November this year. They have put the price up by £1 per head but David thinks we can again charge £47.50 by saving £1 on the invitations. | |
| ii) | Jubilee pageant: David showed us the letter he has sent Ian Walsh on behalf of | |

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| | <p>TVBC, expressing Health and Safety concerns and issues regarding the overnight mooring arrangements at West India Dock and possible solutions (appendix). As a club, we are doing our best to make the event as safe as possible.</p> <p>The timetable prior to the event itself now seems to be: Thursday- arrive at Teddington Lock moorings Friday – boats checked, Saturday – arrive at Barn Elms Reach by 8pm. The water taxis will stop ferrying by 12 noon on Sunday.</p> <p>Club members who can't transmit on their radios can use mobile phones.</p> <p>There will be a briefing at the Thames Motor Yacht Club, Hampton. Devon Belle will be available to transport crews who wish to attend.</p> <p>Adam, Grant and Peter went on a practice weekend. They were perturbed that some boaters had scant idea how to handle their boats. The turning around procedure expected of the boats in case of emergency was particularly scary.</p> <p>ITV Meridian will be interviewing boaters on Friday 1st June.</p> | |
| 4. | <p>Hon Secretary's report</p> <p>Theresa advised that she had received an email from Caroline Pengelly of Hurricane Mouldings, a Cornwall based manufacturer of boat fenders. She has recommended to Caroline that her company advertises in The Boater to reach all our membership.</p> | |
| 5. | <p>Membership Secretary's report</p> <p>Theresa read out Sean's emailed report: Since the AGM we have one new member – David and Judy Norbury who own a clinker launch called Dame Alice.</p> <p>To ensure unsuitable applications are not being accepted, Sean would appreciate replies from the committee when he emails them details of new members. Everyone agreed to send 'OK's or comments.</p> <p>There followed a discussion how to include Sean in the meetings as he lives too far away to attend them. Adam is able to set up either Skype or Apple/Facetime to enable Sean to take part. Theresa said she would contact Sean to discuss the possibility of doing so.</p> | Theresa |
| 6. | <p>Hon Treasurer's report</p> <p>Peter presented a list of members who have not yet renewed. One Associate member, Peter Meech, has been receiving The Boater for two years without paying his subs. He has phoned to say he intends to pay but has not done so yet. The others have ignored the requests to pay.</p> <p>Although Peter can check the membership list he can't at the moment change any details so he will give the names of the lapsed members to Mike to take them off The Boater mailing list.</p> <p>Mike should then confirm to Peter and John that these names have been deleted. To cut out unnecessary costs, it is essential that we make absolutely sure lapsed members are taken off the list.</p> <p>As the cost of postage is going up 30% Peter will be buying enough stamps for a year's worth of Boaters.</p> | Peter Mike John |

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| <p>7.</p> <p>i)</p> <p>ii)</p> | <p>Boater Editor's report</p> <p>Theresa read out John's emailed report:</p> <p>The colour was put on the recent edition by Aquatint who had difficulties with the cut-out porthole of the cover because the thickest available paper is much thinner than the old pre-printed card and so catches in the machines.</p> <p>John suggests that either the cover is printed with the picture printed in the porthole without the cut-out, or the covers are pre-printed as has been done in the past.</p> <p>We all agreed we like the porthole as it currently is and were happy to revert to the old process of production if John was happy to do so too. Peter would liaise with John about reproducing the covers in bulk. The look and feel of the covers of older copies felt better quality and there was surprise that the current edition was more expensive to produce. Advertising in the magazine would cover additional costs.</p> <p>John has sent out invoices to all our advertisers, with copies to Peter.</p> <p>It was uncertain whether or not Colin had paid for the advert on the back cover. Peter would find out from John when Colin had paid, what he had paid and whether this should be increased.</p> <p>David suggested that the inner back cover, being a right hand side page, is another prime location and should also be used for advertising. We should offer this on a first come, first served basis. Perhaps Colin Henwood or Freebodys might be interested. Colin Messer would be given first refusal for the outside back page.</p> | <p>Peter John</p> <p>Peter John</p> |
| <p>8.</p> | <p>Webmaster's report</p> <p>Mike was unable to attend this meeting.</p> <p>We would appreciate an update from Leon and invite him to demonstrate at the next meeting what has been achieved so far.</p> | <p>Mike</p> |
| <p>9.</p> <p>a)</p> <p>b)</p> <p>c)</p> <p>d)</p> | <p>Forthcoming events</p> <p>Beaulieu Boat Jumble, Sunday 29th April</p> <p>This is the biggest boat jumble in Europe but new merchandise is also sold. Jane has benefitted from it and recommends going early to get the bargains. Maybe next year TVBC should have a stand to collectively sell our unwanted 'jumble' and promote the club. This will be included on the agenda and discussed in the meeting in October.</p> <p>Queen's Diamond Jubilee River Pageant – see above.</p> <p>Goring and Streatley Jubilee Regatta, Sunday 3rd and 4th May</p> <p>This is an alternative for those unable to attend the pageant in London. Henley is also running a regatta and both events were advertised at the AGM.</p> <p>Beale Park, Friday 8th June – Sunday 10th June</p> <p>As Grant was unable to attend this meeting and is the person organising TVBC's involvement in this event there was not a lot we could discuss.</p> <p>Jane can help set up and will contact Grant.</p> <p>David is taking two boats and Sean is taking 'Irene' to display on the grass.</p> | <p>Theresa</p> <p>Jane</p> |

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| e) | <p>Jim is going up by boat. He is happy to lend his van but this would need to be arranged in advance as he doesn't know when he can get up to Beale Park.</p> <p>Thames Trad Boat Rally, Henley, Sat 14th and Sun 15th July</p> <p>Adam would like the TVBC stand to look smarter, eye-catching and more welcoming to encourage people into the tent. The following points and decisions were made during the ensuing discussion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chairs: these should all look the same. We looked at Nauticalia canvas chairs (£34.99 each) and agreed that the natural canvas with teak effect frame was in keeping with TVBC colours. On the backs of the chairs would be printed the club logo. The chairs would be water-proofed and protected by Scotchguard. The fabric would be taken off the chairs during storage. About a dozen chairs should be bought to allow for breakage. Robin agreed to check out these chairs at Nauticalia. The entrance to the tent would be left open without a counter to make it more welcoming. Boats arranged in such a way to allow easy access into the tent. Table cloths should match and be the club's colours. A 42" plasma screen (provided by Peter) at the back of the tent would rotate about 300 moving images. Photos to be reprinted to smarten them up and cropped to show close ups of the parts of the boats illustrating their traditional quality (rather than show the entire boat) and expressing how we feel about our boats. The photos would be mounted on two pull up frames which are quick and easy to assemble and light-weight. Tables would line up along the walls of the tent for displaying The Boater and archive albums. A vase or two of flowers and a bowl of apples would make a friendly display, and less of a 'shop'. Restrict the number of archive albums to maybe two on each side of the tent as people who come in want to have a chat and hopefully join if they're not already members. Have some music quietly playing (could be a sound track on the screen). Do away with the banner that doesn't fit the tent and the old flag pole. <p>This would be too much to get ready for the Beale Park Boat Show which will retain the usual presentation and the chairs for the last time (although a radio might be added for some sound). At Beale everyone should have a good look at what the other stands do to get some more ideas.</p> <p>For this year's TTBR we should at least aim to have the chairs, the plasma screen and the two pull ups with the reprinted pictures. There will be a BBQ as usual.</p> <p>It was agreed that the club colours should remain brown and cream as these are very distinctive. These colours should be 'tightened up' though with everyone agreeing what the Pantone colours are so that the same colour/shade appears on all TVBC merchandise and stationery.</p> <p>We need a designer/brand 'guardian' as there is no consistency with too many suppliers. David suggested PDT. Whoever was chosen could design and print the two roll up displays described above.</p> | <p>Robin</p> <p>Peter</p> |
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10. **Club Calendar Considerations**

It would be great if we could secure a famous person who is passionate about the river to give the speech at the annual dinner. They could talk about anything of their own choosing.

Suggested speakers included: David Suchet, Alan Titchmarsh, Boris Johnson, Robin Knox Johnson, Yuri Geller and Paul Daniels. Paul Daniels often attends Beale Park; whoever is manning our stand could try and ask him.

We should aim to get someone to speak about the pageant during one of the social evenings.

Robin suggested Jake Cavanagh who used to be a lock keeper.

11. **AOB**

We looked at the first page of the Constitution (1992 version).

The class 'Family Membership' no longer exists, having been merged with 'Full Membership'. David suggested that the wording should show that each family should only have one vote unless there was more than one fully paid up adult member within the family.

Date of the next meeting: Wednesday 20th June, 2012

Theresa Scrutton
Hon Secretary
22/04/2012

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Appendix -Vice Commodore's report, 3(ii)

Dear Ian Welsh

The Commodore, Adam Toop and my self Vice-commodore, David Lister of the Thames Vintage Boat Club would like to take this opportunity to express our concerns over some Health and Safety issues, concerning the Pageant following your proposed plans. We would also like to take this opportunity to provide simple solutions to these issues.

As a club we know the strengths and weaknesses of our boats better than anyone else.

There will be several H&S issues caused by leaving Teddington on Saturday:-

- 1) Leaving safe moorings on the non tidal Thames for buoyed moorings on the tidal Thames where the boats, double moored will be subject to being bounced about by the wash caused by river traffic overnight.
- 2) Transferring passengers and crews on Sunday morning from a limited number of water taxies, to the up river boats in wash and strong stream (some of the passengers and possibly crews will be elderly and not use to this situation).
- 3) Parking is almost impossible at Putney at the best of times and public transport from up river is not an option.
- 4) If the 60 boats coming from Teddington have an average of 10 people per boat, that will be 600 people to ferry from Putney to their boats. I understand there are about 300 boats on these moorings. That would make 3000 people to transfer in a limited time, with the water taxies creating lots of wash damaging the classic boats.
- 5) Picking up moorings approaching from up stream on a fast tide is a recipe for disaster. It only takes one boat to overshoot for a sinking to occur.

Our considered solutions:-

- 1) Depart from Teddington on Sunday morning using the Barge Lock and 2 X Launch Lock (all 60 boats could leave with in 45 minutes of each other) on the top of the tide Richmond ½ lock would be open and the boats would spend minimum time on the PLA uncertified temporary moorings all in daylight hours.
- 2) All passengers and crews could board the boats at Teddington in the safety of alongside moorings, where speed and wash limits are enforced by the Environmental Agency.
- 3) There is plenty of car parking at Teddington on a Sunday.

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- 4) The up river boats would arrive with crew and passengers aboard, reducing pressure on the overstretched water taxis and reducing the number of people transferring boats mid stream.
- 5) As the Thames Barrier is now going to be closed for the event (as I suggested some months ago). There will be 3 to 4 times less follow when picking up the moorings from up stream. So even if some boats do overshoot, they will not be crashing into moored boats in front of them running on a 3-4 knot tide that will be present on Saturday.

We also have some H&S concerns over your plans to get so many boats into West India Dock, which will all be arriving at about the same time:-

- 1) Many of our boats have original or period engines. These engines were not designed to spend hours ticking over, while waiting to enter a dock, any breakdowns at this point with hundreds of boats milling around could cause a serious problem.
- 2) The mix of finely built wooden boats and heavy wood and steel boats manoeuvring in a restricted space is a safety hazard.
- 3) The dispersal of boats on Monday and Tuesday with the tide in full flow is an unnecessary risk and congestion of the smaller up river locks will be a problem.
- 4) Public transport back to cars at Teddington will be overcrowded with the additional Millions of spectators in London.

Our considered solutions:-

- 1) Boats wanting to return up river, should be allowed to leave once the Pageant has finished. With the Thames Barrier closed going against the tide will not be a problem.
- 2) The boats and the people aboard who are concerned would not be at risk of damage and injury as they could moor in the safety of the non-tidal Thames. There would be less boats milling around waiting to get into the dock and more space in the dock.
- 3) The up river boats would be able to leave the tidal Thames while the Thames barrier is still closed, making the transit much safer then in full tide flows. The dispersal would be spread over 3 days, reducing the pressure on up river locks.
- 4) Less people would be travelling on the overcrowded public transport. The passengers and crews who chose to, could travel back to Teddington, would be in the comfort and safety of their boats.

While we are sure the organising committee is trying to solve many problems and we do not know all the issues you have to take into account. We trust you will also take into account our concerns.

As you can see we have tried to provide simple safe solutions to all the H&S issues we have raised.

Yours sincerely

David Lister MBE