

Hampstead and Yalding Cruising Club

Newsletter – February 2009

Web site: www.hycc.org.uk

Commodores Column

Dear fellow members,

This is my first column to you as your Commodore, following the AGM and I would like to send you all my best wishes for 2009. I fully realise that the bad weather and the effects of various bugs laying members low, affected the attendance at the AGM, therefore this is my first opportunity to wish that you are now snow free and all have recovered from illness. If that is not the case, then I wish you a speedy recovery.

A list of the new committee is shown elsewhere, together with a report on the AGM. By now some 60 of you will be aware that the newsletter arrived by email, more about that later, but please note that the email addresses are hidden from each other.

To those who are Hale & Hearty I hope you continue to remain fit & well, and I look forward to meeting up with you all when the season starts.

Regards and Best Wishes

Bob Harvey – Commodore

Editorial

Work, which had been progressing on the river at Hampstead Lock, has now been delayed by flooding and continued cold temperatures are affecting the pouring of concrete for the new walls and base. As a consequence, the lock will now be open for restricted passage only from 12 pm Thursday 9 April 2009. These openings will be managed by Navigation officers or the contractors until the works have been completed. New mooring bollards are being installed which hopefully will allow larger vessels to be moored up more easily.

**Please don't forget to send your contributions direct to me (Bob Harvey)
at 39, Rochester Drive, Westcliff - on - Sea, Essex SS0 0NJ, email me at
robert.c.harvey@blueyonder.co.uk or if you do not have email, telephone me on 01702
332032 Articles not printed will be go in the next issue unless time dependent.**

HYCC Annual General Meeting

As you know, the AGM of the HYCC was held on the 7th February 2009 and fortunately we have a full committee of 12, but Mo Clayton (Hon. Sec.) and Jean Clarke (Hon. Membership Sec.) have advised that this will be their last year in their respective roles. Jim Clarke, our previous Commodore and Margaret Harvey our Treasurer of 10 years have both retired from the committee. Jim was presented with a Barometer for his services as Commodore. It is apparently planned that our Treasurer's efforts will be acknowledged at some future date. Bryan Clayton was voted in as President as there had been no other nominations.

I have taken over as Commodore, Andy Robinson is Vice Commodore and Gary Tucker is Rear Commodore, which completes the Flag officers elected at the AGM. The remaining committee members who were voted in were Sharon & Ray Prescott who will be joint Treasurers, Mike Rowe, and Tony Greener. Three new committee members, Avis and Tony

Crowhurst and Carolyn Tucker were also voted in as Committee members. We therefore have 12 committee members plus the President. In addition we have Brian & Jan Richards together with Tony & Linda Burton are prepared to help out at any social event with catering etc. It is also good to know that Linda is feeling a lot better than she has of late.

However, nobody was prepared to take over as Newsletter Editor, which caused quite a degree of discussion, so I am temporarily covering the job, but I would be grateful for a volunteer to take over, as I do not wish to cover both the Commodore and Newsletter Editor posts. The production of the Newsletter itself does take some time, but the largest part of the job is taken up in the production i.e. printing, stapling folding, stuffing the envelopes and stamping. The envelopes, printing and postage have also become expensive. It was therefore decided that where we have an email address for a member that the Newsletter should be sent out as an attachment by email. It has the advantage of speed, considerable reduced cost and, now I have set up the process, it will be much easier for me to manage. There is the added advantage that anything new relating to the river can be sent to you in this way, so such things as “Notices to Mariners” – and anything else for that matter, can be sent to you at the touch of a button.

The point of this message is to let you know early that this is what is planned for the Newsletter and to ask if any member is prepared to take on the task of Newsletter editor. Please let me know if any member is unable to receive attachments. If you have received a postal copy, but have an email address please send it to me at robert.c.harvey@blueyonder.co.uk.

The Newsletter is the main method by which we keep in touch with all the members, as our “home” marinas are spread over the length of the Medway and even up the Thames. However, do not forget we also have a web site too, address at the top of page 1 it is :www.hycc.org.uk.

Your new committee will be looking at all events during the year as members’ attendances at all events over the last year have been very poor. There may well be reasons for that and if there are, I would like you to tell me what they are, so we can avoid organising events which will result in poor attendance. The first casualty is the” Spring Dance”, as no arrangements have been made by the outgoing committee in view of the loss in 2008. We may well delay that event until members are on their boats and then it will make it easier for you to attend. I know that as many of us live some way away from the river, a trip for a social event unrelated to using the boat is often more difficult, impractical or just plain expensive.

Hopefully emails will be a more effective way of communicating and even more importantly I would be grateful if it was two way. I would like to hear from you all and your opinions matter, after all a club without members is no club at all and a club which does not take the members needs into consideration is not worthy of being called a club.

Kind regards to you all,

Bob Harvey

Commodore & Newsletter editor – (Has anyone got a broom?).

An update from the MRUA and the Environment Agency (EA); and some questions

1. The EA two major capital schemes have started, these being Hampstead Lock Refurbishment and the replacement of East Lock and Oak Weir Lock upstream and downstream landing stages. The river remains closed in these areas, however between Hampstead Lock and Allington Lock the river remains open (subject to river flows).
2. The navigation team is busy with clearance work to small trees above Tonbridge Town bridge. (again subject to suitable river conditions).
3. The lock keepers are continuing with their painting programme at Allington Lock
4. The toilet block at Allington was re-opened in November.

5. I have not yet contacted MBC regarding using the land at Tovil as a location for casual moorings - but will do this month. Can someone send me a map of the site boundaries please? Address to send it to:

Philip Munslow, Environment Agency, Endeavour Park, London Road, West Malling, Kent ME19 5SH

6. Non-powered craft licences. We are increasingly being asked for boat registration figures so we can show patterns of increasing (or decreasing) usage. We have a large contingent of canoeists using our river 99% of whom say they have British Canoe Union membership. This means that although we receive money from the BCU via indirect means, the actual number of registered non powered craft is very low. Our proposal is to provide a free registration sticker to all canoeists who are members of the BCU. That way we can keep an eye on usage and trends.

7. We are looking for sites where we can offer overnight camping for canoeists, also required are casual mooring sites for boats. Does anyone have any suggestions? We are very keen for the MRUA to approach land owners to agree suitable locations. If something can be agreed, we'd like to advertise these.

8. Finally, there is now an Allington Lock web site (not run by the Environment Agency) It can be found here: www.allingtonlock.co.uk

9. The Medway consultation meeting was held on 4th December 6pm at Addington

The editor is aware that some items have already occurred, but felt you should be kept informed. Please address any responses to the Philip Munslow for the Environment Agency as above and the MRUA can be contacted via the web site www.mrua.co.uk.

BOATCALL - Marine Radio Courses **2009**

The RYA SRC (Short Range Certificate) course is a one day course with a requirement for 8 hours training, covering the use of VHF/DSC (Digital Selective Calling) Radio under the Global Maritime Distress and Safety System, which on completion you will obtain the Short Range Certificate which entitles you to operate a VHF/DSC Radio as a competent radio operator, safe in the knowledge you know the correct procedure for making distress, urgency and safety messages by the means of marine VHF/DSC Radio.

Other Courses: • Boat Handling • Navigation Plus UK Boat Delivery at special prices

**For further information contact Bob Tuthill
114 Avenue Road Beckenham Kent BR3 4SA
Tel: 020 8659 9860 Fax: 020 8778 2672
e-mail: info@boatcall.co.uk www.boatcall.co.uk**

Future Events

Below are listed some of the events which are to be planned, but will take place at some stage during the year.

The Mayor of Maidstone Cruise, The Mayor of Tonbridge Cruise Cruises both down river and

at least one Cruise up the Thames. Fireworks, Auctions and the like are still being reviewed.

(Opinions expressed in this Newsletter are not necessarily those of the Management Committee)