

TSCC



In this Issue: Annual Dinner, AGM, Photographic Competition, Christmas Spectacular, Royal Courts of Justice, Iris Bucknell, Louis Jankell, David Sowter.



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Thames Scout Cruising Club Newsletter

No. 104 March 2017

Chairman's Log



It's a huge honour to follow in the footsteps of so many outstanding TSCC Chairmen, most recently Elaina Mears and David Sowter. A very big thank-you to Elaina for three terrific years at the helm!

As ever, last year's programme was full of interesting and enjoyable activities and this, coupled with great camaraderie, is to my mind, the essence of the Club. The past 12 months were of course clouded by the passing of six Club members and most recently David Sowter. I had only known David for a few years but in that short space of time he became a very close friend and I will continue to miss him greatly. Our condolences to Rosie and to the partners and families of all TSCC members who 'went home' in 2016. They will however continue to live in our memories as we recall the fun times we all shared.

It was great that our recent AGM was again extremely well attended, a fact that was pointedly commented upon by the new Surrey Scout County Commissioner Joe Rogerson, whom we were pleased to welcome to the meeting. Joe rounded off the formal part of the afternoon by emphasising the importance of older people in Scouting and congratulating the Club for all that it does and in particular the money it raises to help deserving Scouting causes.

By the time this edition of the Newsletter appears, we will have enjoyed a sell-out tour of the Royal Courts of Justice, a sell-out trip to the West End musical *Wicked* and our annual skittles match at the Byfleet Boat Club. And, our annual Fitting-Out Supper will be just around the corner! Wow!

Other key upcoming events include our Silver Jubilee Garden Party in June and our Escorted Tour of Paris, also in June. We hope as many members as possible will join us for our Jubilee celebrations and if you are still interested in Paris, let us know in case there is a last minute cancellation.

For the coming year we have an exceptionally strong organising Committee and thanks to all of them for volunteering. If you have suggestions for things we might do, or ideas on how we might do things differently, please do let me know. It is your Club and if you think there are ways we could make it even better we would like to know.

Mark

TSCC is affiliated to: ATYC, River Thames Society, and River Thames Alliance.

Cover Photo: TSCC's visit to the Royal Courts of Justice (PS)

Annual Dinner

Our Annual Dinner took place in what was, for us, a new venue: The Casa Mia Italian Restaurant in Hampton Court Village. All of the feedback indicates that this was a great success and our thanks go to Janet and George Barber for arranging this and to everyone else who helped.



Pictures: Clive Bowles

TSCC AGM

It is wonderful to report that we had the traditional high turnout at the TSCC AGM. It was good to be getting together again – it always makes it feel as though the start of the boating season can't be far away.

Sally Gunning, 5th Potters Bar Guide Leader, was invited to speak about her experiences on an International Guiding visit to Costa Rica. A contribution towards



the cost of this visit had been made by TSCC. Sally said that she went to Costa Rica with Anglia Guides and had many photographs to show us during her presentation. The group consisted of 9 Guides aged from 15 to 18 and three Leaders and Sally went as an Assistant Leader. The overseas stay was organised by "Projects Abroad" and the Group spent one week working in a Children's Centre and one week on conservation work in a different location five hours vehicle travel away. When at the Children's Centre they all stayed with a large extended family in the family's accommodation built around a courtyard. The conservation project involved counting caterpillars. They also

visited bat caves, handled the bats, and went to a coffee roasting plant. Sally said that they all learnt a lot during their two-week stay and it was a very worthwhile experience.

Members were delighted that **Mark Marriott** had agreed to take on the role of Chairman. Thanks are due to existing Committee Member **George Barber** who has stepped-up to take-on the role of Secretary. We were also very pleased to welcome to the Committee **Jackie Marriott and Linda Grundy** (Linda is a returning Committee Member).



This meeting marked the retirement of our first lady Chairman - **Elaine Mears**. She was thanked by the incoming Chairman, Mark Marriott for steering us through three most successful and enjoyable years and he made a presentation to her, on behalf of the Club.

As mentioned in the Chairman's Log, **Joe Rogerson** – the new Surrey Scout, County Commissioner, made himself known to us. We were very pleased that he took the time to come to see us. He congratulated TSCC on its 25 years of existence and

thanked the members for staying in the Scout movement. Older people are crucial to the future of Scouting. The fund-raising that is done by TSCC is vital for the work of Scouting.

Tony Scott told us that we now have 84 members: 29 have current Scout Association membership and two have current Girl Guiding membership. Of these 29 Scout Association members:13 are Scout Active Support members registered through Surrey County; 2 are Scout Active Support members elsewhere (Staffordshire); 2 are Honorary Scouters; 4 hold current Leadership Warrants (1 Assistant County Commissioner, 1 County water activities assessor, 1 Group Scout Leader, 1 Scout Leader); 8 are Group Executive members (2 Group Presidents, 1 Group Treasurer and 5 have other roles on Group Committees).



Joe Rogerson

The Ray Andrews Trophy



The winning picture for 2016 was taken by Peter Simpson while on the TSCC Norfolk Broads holiday. The sailing dinghy was that used by George Barber and crew and is tethered to the stern of their hire craft.



The runner-up was George Barber's photograph of Janet.



The actual Trophy suffered an unfortunate mishap when the engraver misaligned the latest name and, being on glass, he could not correct it. Thus, we now have a new trophy (pictured on the left) which was provided free-of-charge including the engraving of ten recipients' details. The engraver was so concerned about his reputation that he would not take any payment, even for the new names.

The subject for 2017 is:
"TSCC's Silver Jubilee".

Submit any photo you have taken during a TSCC event in the last 25 years including 2017. One entry per member.

Christmas Spectacular

It was a damp and overcast morning as our group assembled at Sandown Park Hotel car park. Our Epsom coach, driven by Bradley, arrived in good time and we were on our way promptly at 9.a.m. We travelled via the M25 and Dartford tunnel to Thurrock services for a coffee and comfort stop before



heading on to the A12 heading for Great Yarmouth area. By now the sun was out and we were able to enjoy the passing countryside and pig farms. Nearer our destination we passed over the Waveney and the turning to Beccles, bringing back memories of our TSCC break on the broads last May.



Potters resort welcomed us with Mulled wine and mince pies and we relaxed and explored the resort while awaiting our room keys. Some went for a swim and we braved a walk along the beach

below the resort which though enjoyable certainly blew away the cobwebs!



We all settled into our lovely hotel rooms

and enjoyed a beautiful sunset from our balconies before preparing for dinner in the Garden restaurant. Then....it's Show Time....a slick colourful Christmas-themed show enjoyed by all. It has been a long but enjoyable day, so off to bed.

Cases out by 8.15a.m. then off to breakfast as we leave for Thursford at 10a.m.

This is the 40th year since John Cushing, owner of the Thursford collection, put on the first Christmas Show which has grown into the Thursford Christmas Spectacular that we enjoy today. We arrived in good time to have lunch and browse the Christmas shops and then to be enchanted by the "Fairyland of Christmas" where we could all pretend to be children again (well for half an hour at least). Then it was 'take your seats for the exceptional Christmas show' in the theatre.

We left Thursford around 5.20.p.m on our homeward journey, in the rain, along the A11. After a short comfort stop and a detour, due to problems on the M25, our driver Bradley got us safely back to Sandown Park having all spent two lovely days of celebrations to start our Christmas festivities - a fitting end to our TSCC 2016 programme.

Pam Dennis

The Royal Courts of Justice

A bright February morning saw our group of 29 make their various ways to London. After a brief time for refreshments we all made our way across to the Royal Courts of Justice building on The Strand. We passed successfully through security checks and were met by our tour guide Pat Rowe whose knowledge of the courts has been gleaned over some thirty years' service. Her enthusiasm and knowledge shone through, she is obviously so proud of 'HER' building.

We proceeded to court room 14 where we all sat and learnt the history of



this court and its various court rooms. It was decided back in the 1800s that London needed a new central court and after some 30 years the government of the day acted (nothing changes then!!) and compulsory purchase of the 5 acre site in The Strand was to be made use of. Next they needed to find a designer to build the courts. After a ballot, George Edmund Street was appointed and building began in 1873. Sadly, George Street died one year before its completion. His son was able to finish the challenge but not before George Street was able to leave a permanent mark on his project by way of one of a series of columns being left incomplete. A fact that probably escapes

most visitors without the help of the knowledge of a tour guide. We learnt of the different types of court hearings heard by the judges within this building.



Also government-ordered public enquiries are heard within its compounds and often televised at least in part. Cases heard in the court rooms are now recorded in full onto hard drives which are stored for 7 years.

After various extensions there are now 176 court

rooms in use. After our very informative visit to this impressive building our group made its way to the unique public space 'The Sky Garden' at 20 Fenchurch Street. The lift whisked us to level 36 known as 'The Sky Pod bar' and viewing area, from where we enjoyed 360 degree views across London and beyond.



Over a span of three floors we enjoyed the garden areas and views of The Shard, The Gherkin, St Pauls, Tower of London, Tower Bridge, The London Eye and beyond and of course the meandering river Thames. After more refreshments, liquid and otherwise, we all made our separate

ways homeward having learnt a lot and enjoyed our day in the City of London. Many thanks to Tony Scott for organising this.

Pam Dennis

Iris Bucknell



Iris sadly passed away on 6th December 2016. Iris brought enthusiasm and fun to all the TSCC events she was involved in, whether it be a singsong round the campfire at Cookham or just being joyful company at a cruising club meal. We all have fond memories of happy times with Iris and we do miss her greatly.

Graham recalls:

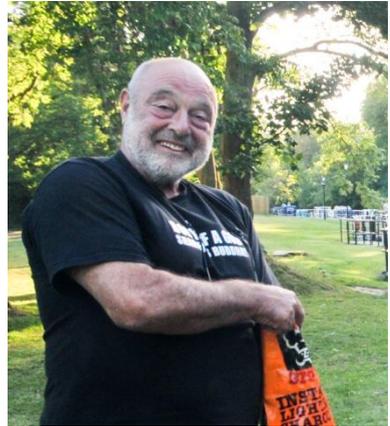
“Before we ever owned a boat we borrowed Jim’s original *Iffey* a little 18’ bright red cabin cruiser and explored backwaters and weir streams up the Thames for our holidays so it was natural when we became the proud owners of *Asto B* we joined the TSCC. What enjoyable times we had. Iris doing open canoe trips down the back stream at Cookham for all and sundry. “Haven’t canoed before, doesn’t matter, jump in” and off they would go. Or on another occasion we walked down to the Bounty for lunch while the Club came up from Cookham and Iris said “Why don’t you give us a lift back and come in for coffee” meaning just the boat we were on but all the escort boats came as well, 35+ in our lounge. Iris was always ready to help whether as a Cub Leader at 1st Molesey or a sailing instructor in later life. When we moved to Norfolk Iris looked forward to meeting up at Club events whether on the Thames or introducing people to our new cruising waters The Norfolk Broads.”



Louis Jankell

Our friend Louis.

We first met Louis way back in the mid-nineties when we had our narrow boat, we were on the Wey navigation at the Guildford boat festival, we moored alongside his boat Madam, as soon as we had tied up Louis's head popped out the hatch with glasses in hand and a bottle . "Welcome, please join me and have a glass of wine." His hospitality was generous to say the least. We went on to meet many times and enjoyed lots of wonderful conversations with him.



As well as being generous with his hospitality he was always happy to help in any way he could. Our Daughter was in her probationary year as a primary school teacher. One of her assignments was to arrange a lesson for her class to learn about a Religion. Did I have any ideas? I immediately thought of Louis, I knew he would be able to explain to the children as he had an excellent knowledge of the subject. I phoned him up and asked if he would consider helping. "Of course I will." He said. He went to the school and talked to the children, he kept them totally engaged for the whole lesson, no mean feat. Adele was very grateful. When the TSCC used to moor at Bovney Lock for their annual gathering Louis would join us and offer to take any member to Windsor on his boat. I can remember drinks all round on our trips.

He had a great sense of humour, on one occasion a lady approached his boat she was calling out Basil, she was distraught, it turned out to be her dog, and Louis cruised up and down the river calling Basil in his very loud voice, the dog came back when he was ready! Louis and Georgie often chuckled about it.

He spent many years on his beloved Thames and became very involved and knowledgeable on the day to day workings of the Environment agency, helping out at locks if there was a staff shortage. Committee involvement both at national and local, always standing up for the boaters. He will be greatly missed. (Louis passed away on 12 December 2016).

Ray and Elaina Mears

David Sowter

David was Chairman of TSCC from 2011-2013 and Secretary from 2014-16. His contribution to the running of the Club was enormous. He clearly loved the Club as well as boating on the Thames. He was never one for procrastination – if he thought of something that needed to be done he could be emailing at 3.00am and he could be on the phone as soon as he thought people would be out of bed. He was an outstanding communicator.



As well as TSCC, David had been a member of Weybridge Mariners, the Royal Society of St George (both Westminster and Waterloo branches) and he was a Free Mason. One of the great things about David was that he brought so much interest and enjoyment to other people's lives by introducing them to the clubs he belonged to or by inviting people to events that the various clubs were running.

David was a member of the Environment Agency's Regional Fisheries Ecology Recreation Advisory Committee for the Thames Region and was also a member of a number of committees, including The Thames Navigation User Forum; Thames User Group (Navigation) and River Users Group 8 of which he was the Chairman. It goes without saying that he had boundless energy and enthusiasm.

David completed his service in the Metropolitan Police at the rank of Detective Superintendent. A long term friend and former police colleague said "his chief attributes were enthusiasm, determination and dedication" and he brought those qualities to everything he did in his retirement.

TSCC was fortunate to have "team Sowter" in its membership, for Rosie and David together were a formidable team and helped to provide us with some truly memorable times.

We will miss you David, thank you for all you did for TSCC and its members.



I would like to say a very big thank you to all my dear friends in the TSCC for all the heartfelt sympathy cards and letters I received following the death of David and to let you all know that £795 has been sent in his memory to the London Air Ambulance. A cause very close to his heart. Rosie.

A letter from TSCC member Ronald Judd:

“Members may be interested to learn, that I no longer work full-time or part-time at Limehouse Marina, so, should the club pay a visit, I will now not be there to welcome you all in.

It may also be worth noting, that BWML have increased their leisure mooring at Limehouse and in my case by some 92%. The Canal and River Trust claim that the mooring fees were “Historic” and therefore justified to make this exorbitant increase in one jump.

The company did give 18 months notice to berth holders that this was on the cards. However I felt it was very unfair to non residents that their outlay was to be nearly the same as a residential mooring, which comes in at around £10,000 per year.

Over a period of 5 months, I took this argument through the three stages of the complaints procedure with BWML and even involved the Inland Waterways Ombudsman. This was to no avail, as I was informed that the Trust can charge what they like and if you do not wish to pay this increase, remove your boat.

This I have now done (removed Nepos). We are back on the River Medway moored up just outside Chatham Dock Yard at Thunder Bolt Pier. Unfortunately and with bitter disappointment, I have had to close my Boat Training School for Inland Waterways as Nepos is now moored on a tidal river!

I recently understand that due to some pressure, BWML are considering new visitors moorings but I have no idea what the fees will be.”

**A warm welcome to new members Harvey and Joy Bell.
Their boat “Harveys Joy” is a Fairline Mirage.**



Elaina thanks all those members who made donations for last year's Shoebox appeal

TSCC Programme for 2017

All dates and events are subject to change

February 12 Sun	AGM at Ajax
February 20 Mon	Royal Courts of Justice & Sky Garden
February 25 Sat	ATYC Dinner Dance
March 8 Wed	Theatre Show: 'Wicked' The Apollo Victoria
March 18 Sat	Skittles Match - Byfleet Boat Club
April 5 Wed	Fitting Out Supper – Mitre, Hampton Court
May 2 Tues	Cheese & Wine, Quiz and Defibrillator Training
June 11 Sun	TSCC SILVER JUBILEE Garden Party
June 23-26 Fri-Mon	Escorted Tour of Paris
July 26-30 Wed-Sun	Cruise to Hurley
August 25-28 Fri-Mon	ATYC Rally West India Dock
September (TBA)	Tour Warner Brothers Studio, Watford
October (TBA)	Murder Mystery Evening
November 13 Mon	TSCC Annual Dinner – Casa Mia, Hampton Court
December (TBA)	Pre-Christmas Weekend Away



Bob Breeze at the
Sky Garden

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