



Thames Valley Region News Bulletin

June 2010

Welcome....

...to this issue of the RYA Thames Valley Region News Bulletin. Any feedback appreciated, please e-mail mhaigh7@btinternet.com or call 07925 609909. The next issue will be in December, so please send me any regional news or promotions for future events. Also a request please for news/diary dates/publicity items to go on the region's web pages on the RYA web site, which will be updated regularly, see <http://www.rya.org.uk/aboutus/regions/thamesvalley/Pages/default.aspx> A big thank-you to all who contributed to this issue. Mike Haigh, RYA Thames Valley Regional Communicator.

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Changes to RYA Regional Committee

We welcome Alan Woolford as our new Regional Chairman and offer a big vote of thanks to outgoing Chairman Michael Shefras for all his work over the years, which earned him national recognition when awarded an MBE last year. Michael will continue his work in the political arena between the RYA and various bodies such as the Environment Agency, Port of London Authority, and Thames User Group. Welcome too to Chris Turner who brings a wealth of motor boating experience to the role of Vice Chairman, and to our new Secretary Pip Deverson, who has been around sailing boats all her life.

Regional Development

From Guy Malpas, Regional Development Officer (contact guy.malpas@rya.org.uk tel. 07799 714779):

Club Support

There is now has an expanded team of Sailing/Onboard Development Officers and Regional Club Coaches (RCC`s) working to support Clubs and Centres throughout the Region. Their role is to support the development of increased active membership through the RYA`s "More Adults SAILING More Often" and youth programmes.

There is also a new area on the RYA website called Club Development which gives clubs advice on many areas of development including Marketing, Funding and increasing Active membership. The link is <http://www.rya.org.uk/infoadvice/clubsclass/development/Pages/default.aspx>

If your club or centre would like some direct support in increasing regular and active membership / participation then please get in contact.

Protecting the future of your club

This year has seen the sad demise Taplow Lake Sailing Club and there are a number of other clubs in the region who are/could be under threat and who are receiving support and advice in lease and operational negotiations from myself and RYA Legal. If your club or centre will need to renew and/or re-negotiate its lease within the next five years, and would appreciate some advice, please get in touch.

Pond Weed

2009 saw a massive increase in the effect of weed on sailing together with advice being sought on how to deal with weed following the Environment Agency's new rules. Again, if you would appreciate some advice from RYA Planning and Environmental on this please get in touch. Also Alan Dibble, Rear Commodore at Maidenhead SC, was kind enough to send a paper for the newsletter on the problems and control of pond weed. It is too long to include here, but if you would like a copy of the paper please contact alan@huntercombecl.freemove.co.uk

Instructor Training

This year has seen a change in our Senior Instructor (Dinghy) Training from 1 large course held in the spring to a number of smaller courses held throughout the year at a number of different venues. The next course is being scheduled for November to be held in the East of the Region at Erith YC. If you, or anyone else within your club / centre, wish to join this course please email me.

Regional Fleets

This year the Region has once again invested in the regional fleets which are available for hire by RYA clubs and organisations.

Following the success of the RS Fevas last year, and to continue to support the work that is being done, especially in London in youth development, a second fleet of three boats has been purchased. Both fleets

come on a triple stacking road base that can be towed behind most family cars and also come complete with both racing (inc spinnaker) and training sails. If you need boats for an event, and /or are looking to inspire your junior/youth sailors then why not hire one of these fleets. Upper Thames SC did this in June last year and have developed from no Fevas within the club to now having seven, many with either mixed or all girl crews.

We also have two Oppi fleets with six boats in each, The Fevas are hosted at Erith YC and Desborough SC. Much of the use so far has been to support the London Feva Project which funded two of the three boats last year. In October each year we sell our oldest boats and no boat is ever more than three years old.

The loan fees for 2009 are:

Oppis – two fleets/trailers available, each with six boats. Prices per fleet:
5 week days £250 inc. VAT
1 weekend (2 days) £150 inc. VAT

Fevas - two fleets/trailers available, each with six boats. Prices per fleet:
5 week days £175 inc. VAT
1 weekend (2 days) £105 inc. VAT

To book a fleet please contact Paul.robson@thelistings.co.uk tel. 07789 515 614. The fleets are self financing, so it is very much a case of “use them or lose them”.

Grant Funding

A number of clubs in the region have recently been successful in gaining grant funding for the purchase of equipment. This ranges from dinghies and windsurfers to safety boats and even the part funding for a weed cutter. The current HOT fund is the Sport England Small Grant Fund.
http://www.sportengland.org/funding/small_grants.aspx

For further information on grant finding please visit the Club Development section on the RYA website and go to the funding section www.rya.org.uk/go/club

With thanks to Guy. For more information on Regional Development contact guy.malpas@rya.org.uk tel. 07799 714779

Regional Web Site

Our regional web site is being improved. On the RYA web site home page <http://www.rya.org.uk/Pages/Home.aspx> just click “regions” (you no longer need to go via “about us”) then “Thames Valley”, or use this link to get to our regional home page <http://www.rya.org.uk/aboutus/regions/thamesvalley/Pages/default.aspx>

The list of regional news items on the left of the above page will be changed from its current rather ad hoc list into sections covering the many different activities in our region, and all the items updated....providing you, your clubs and organizations provide information...so please, news items, and publicity for forthcoming events to mhaigh7@btinternet.com or call your Regional Communicator, Mike Haigh on 07925 609909.

High Performance

This report from Chris Atherton, High Performance Manager chris.atherton@rya.org.uk:

RYA Volvo Zone Championships 25/26 September 2010

We are particularly keen to attract those that have not attended before and therefore we would ask everyone to help promote this Championship. It is perfect for those just starting to think about racing at open meetings.

We would expect sailors from the Thames Valley to enter the following championships (depending on where they live or which club they belong to):

Optimists to enter the South Zone Championships at Weymouth and Portland National Sailing Academy or the SE Zone Championships at Queen Mary Sailing Club

Toppers to enter the South Zone Championships at Weymouth and Portland National Sailing Academy or the SE Zone Championships at Queen Mary Sailing Club

Windsurfers to enter the South Zone Championships at Weymouth and Portland National Sailing Academy or the SE Zone Championships at Queen Mary Sailing Club

Mirrors to enter the South Zone Championships at Weymouth and Portland National Sailing Academy

Laser 4.7s to enter the South Zone Championships at Weymouth and Portland National Sailing Academy

Fevas to enter the SW Championships at Plymouth Youth Sailing, Mountbatten Centre

Entry will open in July and will be via www.ryaracingevents.org.uk

RYA Club and Coach Conferences 4 or 5 December 2010

The conferences for 2010 will be on either 4th or 5th December. Please can you ask people to keep the date free if at all possible? As ever these will be aimed at all those with an interest or involved in delivering, planning or coordinating club training, racing and coaching for both juniors and adults.

It should inspire committees, active volunteers and coaches with new ideas to start planning the next season's programmes. It will also be an opportunity for coaches to revalidate their Level 2 Racing Coach Certificates. (Editor's note – having attended these events in the past I can highly recommend them).

Racing Coach Level 2 Courses

These courses continue to be popular. Any club wanting to hold a course needs to put their request in early as the coaches get booked up very quickly

Club and Coach Funding

Clubs wanting to take up funding need to get in contact with me as soon as possible. We are able to offer clubs the service of a regional coach to go into the club, coaching both the young sailors and mentoring the club coaches. This is proving to be a useful service to the clubs helping the club coaches keep up to date with new thoughts and coaching techniques.

Other Key Dates

7 – 15 August 2010: Skandia Sail for Gold Regatta 2010 at Weymouth and Portland National Sailing Academy

16/17 October 2010: Junior and Youth Team Racing Championships 2010, Oxford

For more information on High Performance contact chris.atherton@rya.org.uk

Sailability seeks Young Ambassadors

RYA Sailability is seeking eight energetic and motivated young people aged between 14 and 24 years of age to build a team of volunteer Young Sailability Ambassadors, who will play a big part in developing youth Sailability sailing across London and Thames Valley. Four Ambassadors will be based in London and four in the Thames Valley, taking on various roles such as fundraising, marketing, activity development, chair person.

This is a great opportunity to form a young team and you will be able to have a positive input into your region. You do not need any prior experience within these roles as training and support will be provided. We are asking Youth Ambassadors to volunteer 16 hours of their time per month and be willing to meet with their team every six weeks to discuss matters. You must be aged between 14 and 24 and taking part in regular club or Sailability activities as a sailor or volunteer. If you are interested in becoming an ambassador please write in telling us:

- Name, Age, Address, contact number
- Centre/club name
- Your Role within your club / centre
- What ambassador role would you like to apply for and why?
- What sailing/volunteering experience do you have?

Please remember the numbers of roles are limited. Deadline for application is Sunday 20th July 2010 Please post your application to: Tony Mason, RYA Sailability, RYA House, Ensign Way, Hamble, Southampton SO31 4YA. For more information contact Tony on 07590 671 862 or anthonymasonuk@googlemail.com

Regional Sailors pick up Medals at National Youth Championships

Six regional sailors won medals at the coveted RYA Volvo National Youth Championships in April. Held on the 2012 Olympic waters of Weymouth and Portland, the event saw over 320 of Britain's best up-and-coming sailors and windsurfers go head-to-head over five days to land youth national titles as well as selection on to the RYA Volvo National Youth Squad with the added opportunity of securing funding for major international sailing regattas this season.

Hammersmith's Stuart Godwin, 19, picked up a silver medal in the single hander Laser Standard under 21 dinghy class. Recovering from a sixth place in his first race and being over the start line in the second, Stuart took firsts and seconds in the last four of the event's eight races

Twickenham's Joanna Evans, 17, took bronze in the RS:X windsurfer class. Joanna saved her best results for the last three races of the twelve race RS:X series to become third girl in the mixed class.

Joanna, a member of Queen Mary Sailing Club, says: "It was a great event. I really enjoyed the first day which was very windy, and all week there was very close racing. It's a tough year, combining school, events, and training in Weymouth, but I enjoy sailing with the youth squad and am looking forward to the Skandia Sail for Gold UK World Cup event in the summer where I can get more practice of big events in."

Guildford brothers Ben and Tim Gratton picked up bronze medals. Ben, 17, won his bronze medal in the double hander 29er class, crewing with helm Lilly Carlisle from Tadcaster, whilst Tim, 15, won his helming in the 420 class sailing with crew Ed Riley from Warsash. Tim started strongly in the 11 race 420 series, and only a difficult last day spoiled his chance of silver. Consistent results for Ben and Lilly throughout the series earned their bronze.

Ben, who recently moved from the 420 class to the 29er, says: "I'm really, really, happy with the bronze, in only our second 29er event. I didn't really know what to expect but it was a lot of fun. I teamed up with Lilly after seeing her past results and giving her a call. We're now looking forward to the European championships in Spain."

Tim adds: "I'm really happy with the medal. Next it's the European Championships in France and the Worlds in Israel this summer."

Oxford's Amy Seabright, 18, and Hermione Stanley, 17, both members of Oxford SC, picked up silver in the double hander 420 class. Helm Amy and crew Hermione notched up some excellent results, including a first and two seconds over 11 races.

Amy says: "It was a great event but we had hoped for gold. We had a really good second day, when we scored a first and a second. We are hoping to qualify for the World Championship and European Championship teams and win medals at both, and we are out training every week-end."

Hermione adds: "The first day was most memorable as it was very windy, and we were happy to just get around the course! Next are two events in France, including the French National Championships, and in summer, we hope, the Worlds in Israel."

During the event competitors saw a huge range of conditions from challenging high winds earlier in the week to tricky light shifty winds in the later part of the week.

RYA Youth Racing Manager Duncan Truswell comments: "It was a really testing week for the sailors in terms of the quality of competition and the conditions, so to have landed a medal at the event and kept their results consistent under immense pressure throughout the week is a most impressive achievement. These sailors are definitely future sailing stars in the making."

As the premier annual racing event for Youth sailors, previous RYA Youth National Champions have included three-time Olympic gold medallist Ben Ainslie, Beijing 2008 Yngling gold medal winners Sarah Ayton and Pippa Wilson and Skandia Team GBR's double World champion 470 helm Nic Asher.

For more information and full event results visit www.ryaracingevents.org.uk/youthnationals

Thames Valley Youngsters triumph at Eric Twiname Championships

Henry Bloodworth from Tadworth and James Scott from Hampstead are riding the crest of a wave having windsurfed and sailed themselves to victory at the RYA Eric Twiname Championships (8-9 May) held at Rutland Water Sailing Club, Leicestershire.

Beating 21 sailors in the Bic Techno 6.8 class at the event, 11 year-old Henry from Queen Mary SC scooped his class win by the skin of his teeth, having missed his first race. But three second places and a much needed first in his last race were just enough to see off second place Lewis May.

Henry, know as HB, said: "I was really happy to win the event, having gone from ninth to first on Sunday. It was a really well run event and the races were a lot of fun".

Henry's father added: "Henry's windsurfing is a product not only of Henry's efforts, but also of the RYA's Team15 and Zone Squad, so all credit to them."

James (11), from Papercourt SC, beat 59 sailors in the Optimist class at the event, scooping his class win by a narrow margin. James jumped from 13th on day one to scoop the class event title by rounding off a cracking final day with a win in his penultimate race and a second in his last.

James commented: "It feels really good to be holding the Optimist trophy - I really wasn't expecting to be winning it this year! I had to really concentrate and keep focused and I just did it. I made a plan of the race and just made sure I stuck to it and just sailed it and didn't let anyone else stop me."

Now in their 24th year, the Championships are the pinnacle of the racing calendar for the RYA Zone and Home Country squads, which are the first rung on the pathway ladder to Olympic classes sailing. Some 325 sailors - all members of the RYA Zone/Home Country Squads - took part with racing across six RYA Junior classes, the Optimist, Topper, Feva, Mirror and Cadet dinghy classes with the windsurfers racing on Bic Techno boards with 4.5m, 5.8m, 6.8m and 7.8m rigs.

Having endured pretty testing high winds and driving rain, the concluding day of the championships bought with it far more favourable conditions with the sun coming out of hiding and the wind speed dropping from 20 to 10-15 knots.

RYA Youth Racing Manager Duncan Truswell said: "I was particularly impressed with the tenacity of the competitors on Saturday and the quality of boat/board handling demonstrated in what were really quite breezy, and cold conditions. It's been a really worthy test for the winners with all the races being fiercely contested. I hope the experience will prove an ideal platform for the sailors to go on and contest National Junior Squad selections throughout this season. I look forward to seeing how the sailors progress throughout this and future years," he concluded.

Thanks to the long-standing and ongoing support of the Eric Twiname Memorial Trust, the event, for sailors aged between eight and 15, is very cheap to enter with almost all of the costs associated with the running of the regatta met by the RYA and the Trust. Further event information about the 2010 RYA Eric Twiname Championships can be found at the RYA Racing Events website www.ryaracingevents.org.uk and to find out more about how to get involved in sailing and windsurfing visit www.rya.org.uk.

Young Mariners are Club of the Year Finalists

Bury Lake Young Mariners (BLYM) are one of five finalists to be selected by the RYA awards panel for the prestigious RYA Club of the Year Award.

All the finalists have been invited to the RYA Volvo Dinghy Show on 6 March 2010, at Alexandra Palace, London, where they will enjoy a finalists' lunch followed by the Club of the Year Award presentation.

"BLYM is honoured to be selected as a finalist for the RYA Club of the Year," says Treasurer Alan Russell. "All our members, able bodied and disabled, are thrilled to be recognised in this way"

BLYM is a youth charity organisation which is used by over 3,500 young people each year. Located in the picturesque Rickmansworth Aquadrome, the club boasts a diverse fleet of over 70 modern sailing dinghies and six powerboats for use as rescue and coaching craft. The club is an RYA approved Training Centre, and is run entirely by over 100 volunteer helpers, including eight RYA Senior Dinghy Instructors, and numerous RYA Dinghy and Powerboat Instructors

Jackie Bennetts, RYA Volunteer Development Officer says: "The Club of the Year Award aims to recognise and promote clubs that are successful, forward looking, and vibrant."

"The first impression clubs give perspective members is pivotal in their decision whether to take up the sport on a more regular basis. We know there are some excellent clubs out there who are doing a fantastic job of engaging and inspiring people. The RYA Club of the Year Awards are an opportunity to recognise the hard work these clubs put into the sport."

For more information on BLYM visit www.blym.org.uk

LaserPerformance Pico Mainsail Design Competition

Young sailors from the RYA OnBoard scheme have been busy creating their very own sail designs in the LaserPerformance Pico Mainsail Design Competition for OnBoard clubs and centres.

LaserPerformance, in conjunction with OnBoard, held the design competition at the RYA Volvo Dinghy Show in March. There was an outstanding response from OnBoard members, and both winners in this national competition were from the Thames Valley.

Kane Lincoln from London Nautical School won the 12-16 year old age group, and Becky Knipe of Queen Mary Sailing Club won the 11 years and below group. Each wins a Pico mainsail made in their design, a two day course at SailLaser, and six Pico mainsails in their designs for their sailing clubs.

James Bullar, Head of Nautical Studies at London Nautical School says: "One of our students won the RYA OnBoard design a Pico Sail competition - hooray - we are looking forward to getting 6 new bright Pico sails to replace our old ones!"

For more information on LaserPerformance visit <http://uk.laserperformance.com/home>

Welcome OnBoard Brogadoons

Brogborough Lake Boardsailing Club launched RYA OnBoard and Team15 programmes on Saturday May 15th. Brogborough lake is probably the only large (220 acres) windsurfing only inland venue in the UK. With sailing possible in all wind directions this friendly club has it all with an on-site shop, food, and showers.

OnBoard is a grass roots programme which encourages newcomers to sailing and windsurfing. The OnBoard sessions are held on Saturdays from 9.00 to 10 am, are open to anyone aged between 9 and 15. The aim is to move into Team15 within 10 weeks.

Team15 is designed help those who want to improve their skills, and progress to freestyle or racing - perhaps even to the Olympic squad. Sessions are held on Saturdays from 10.00-11.00. The only requirement is to be able to sail around a buoy and come back to the shore. If you can't do this yet you can soon learn in the OnBoard team, then move up to Team15 when you are ready. The Brogborough team will be known as the '*Brogadoons*'.

RYA Regional Development Officer Guy Malpas says: "This is really exciting for youth windsurfing. Having Brogborough Boardsailing as part of the OnBoard programme will offer young people new opportunities not only to try windsurfing but to hopefully follow the example of 100's of other young windsurfers throughout the country who regularly take part in local, regional and national Team 15 club programmes and events."

To join, you do not have to be a swimmer; you only have to be comfortable falling into the water wearing a buoyancy aid. For both sessions children will need to have a responsible adult with them who remains present.

For more information please visit <http://broglake.co.uk> for Brogborough Lake, www.ruob.co.uk for OnBoard, and www.rya.org.uk/programmes/team15 for Team15.

OnBoard Star Retiring

Julian Bowskill, a teacher at Ashford School, has been involved since the outset with OnBoard scheme at Queen Mary, and has personally introduced over 200 kids to sailing, and more recently 40 to windsurfing, some of who have become club members and regular racers. Julian has announced that he is retiring this summer. Anyone wishing to pass good wishes to Julian can do so via tim.anderton@queenmary.org.uk

Young Windsurfers up for Farmoor Challenge

Oxford Sailing Club's Zoomers will be keen to repeat their 2009 victory when they compete in the opening round of the RYA Team15 South Zone Inter Club Windsurfing Championships 2010, at Farmoor Reservoir on 6 June 2010.

Last year's victory saw the Zoomers go on to compete in the national finals for the fourth time in four years. In 2010 The Zoomers, and Thames Valley team Queen Mary Skimmers, will be up against competition including Southampton team Calshot Flyers and the Academy All Stars from Poole.

Team15 Competition Organiser Chris Lewis says, "Last year's achievements will be hard to beat, with Oxford Zoomers not only winning the zone championship but then going on to score a credible 4th overall at the National Champions Cup. The other teams will be working hard to reel them in this year and I can see some tight racing ahead for all sailors and teams involved! I'm very happy to see that we were the second biggest zone in terms of attendance, missing out on top spot by just one entrant last year. The sailors are a credit to their clubs and their region."

The event, hosted by Oxford Sailing Club, is the first of four championship events taking place around the region. The team posting the best results over the four events will be crowned regional champion and will represent the South Zone at the Team15 national final, the Champions Cup, held in later in the year. Event dates are:

Oxford Sailing Club, Farmoor Reservoir – 6 June 2010

Queen Mary Sailsports – 26 June 2010

Calshot Activities Centre – 24 July 2010

FC Watersports, Poole – 12 September 2010

RYA National Windsurfing Development Officer Gillian Wright says: We are anticipating it being another fantastic series leading up to the Champions Cup in October having had many new Team15 clubs sign up this winter. Competitors' always put in 100% so we can expect some very close heats this year and many newcomers winning the Merit Awards."

Supported by industry leaders Tushingham/Starboard, Windsurf magazine, Boards magazine, Neil Pryde and Boardwise, T15 was set up by the RYA to help make windsurfing more accessible and appealing to youngsters at a grass roots level.

Fun and informal training sessions take place at T15 clubs all over the country for kids up to the age of 15, which are run weekly by specialist RYA coaches. The T15 inter-club championship takes place regionally over the summer adding a competitive edge and race training for those keen to hone their skills. Kit can be borrowed from the clubs and the cost of sessions is kept low.

To get involved with Team15 and locate your nearest local club visit www.team15.org.uk or contact the RYA 0845 345 0400.

Goring Thames SC Feva Open

Rob Jones, Junior Development Officer at Goring, reports:

Goring Thames Sailing Club became an RTE in 2008. With a five year club development plan adopted in 2006 we increased our membership from 250 to 350 in three years, spending £50000 on new boats and facilities over the last two years, buying amongst other things a fleet of new RS Visions as training craft

In 2008 we were invited to host the first ever RS Vision Open Meeting on a river. Disaster struck with the dreadful floods of July 2008, and the day before the Open we had to find another non flooded venue. We stumbled across Black Swan SC who turned out to be remarkably hospitable, so much so that we returned in 2009 with our juniors racing against them in a regatta with Maidenhead SC.

This has now snowballed into a return fixture with juniors racing from a number of Thames Valley sailing clubs in a team racing event using a fleet of RS Fevas, including the RYAs Regions Fleet. So here's the plug:

Are you a competent sailor? Do you want to compete in a fantastic Team Event
Then come along to our Thames Challenge Race at Goring Thames S.C

It's on Sat 3rd July and it's a team racing event so bring your friends. (Minimum team size 6, max age 16)

- ❖ Cooked Breakfast served from 9.30
- ❖ First race at 11.00a.m.
- ❖ BBQ lunch & teas later
- ❖ Prize giving at 6.00p.m.

For more info please on the event call 07973 261 852 or email rob@gardendesignco.co.uk for more information on Goring Thames SC visit www.goringthamessc.org.uk

Haversham SC Youngster wins Sports Award

Matt Brushwood from Emberton Park (now a Haversham member) picked up the Citizen/Sport-MK monthly award for November 2009 at the Sport-MK Sports Personality of the Year presentation. This was based on his Topper results at the NSSA regatta last year.

Race Management and Racing Rules

There are three levels of race officials: Club Race Officers, Regional Officers (for Open Meetings) and National Race Officers. Training can be organised through Charles Wand-Tetley crwt77@hotmail.com and can include laying marks using GPS, dinghy safety management and ideas to make racing more interesting.

The RYA Racing Charter was prompted by the disappearance of protests and protest meetings, and rules being broken regularly. The Charter reinforces self-policing and encourages clubs to do something if the rules are being broken. The RYA now suggests an advisory hearing which gives people an opportunity to discuss a situation and be given an opinion. There is also an arbitration hearing which is much less formal but enables people to put the case to an arbitrator, witnesses may be allowed, to decide who is in the right or wrong. The infringement can result in the loss of points as opposed to disqualification.

Chris Simon our regional Racing Rules Advisor, can provide training at your club, and clubs are encouraged to take this up. The booklet "A Handy Guide to the Racing Rules" is recommended to all. A new book called "Racing Rules Explained" is now available.

There are also national and regional seminars available on judging, umpiring, match racing, mark-laying and international race officials. For more information, and to arrange training at your club, contact Racing Rules Advisor Chris Simon chrisimon@compuserve.com or Race Management Advisor Charles Wand-Tetley crwt77@hotmail.com

Gerrard's Cross Sailing Association

Ray Prowse, Chairman of GXSA, writes:

The Association 44th season starts on 6 October 2010 with talks each Wednesday from October through to March. Our bar opens at 1930 with talks beginning at 2015. If you're interested in anything that floats; just some of the subjects; whether you have a boat or not, why not join us?

Confirmed talks include:

London's More Important River – Jeremy Batch returns for what we know will be a polished, humorous and enlightening evening delving into the background and history of London's more important river – and it's not the Thames! Come and find out.

Arctic Exploration – Eric Broissier, renowned French high latitude sailor, shows us and talks of his research and experiences whilst intentionally ice bound for two polar winters in 'Vagabond', his purpose built yacht.

The Moody Story – David Moody tells of the background, history and design of the yachts that bear his family name.

Please visit our website www.gxsa.org.uk for details of our Gerrards Cross venue, dates of talks and background to our Association.

Bob Bond

It is with deep regret that we announce the death of Bob Bond, the pioneer of the RYA's training schemes, who sadly lost his long battle with cancer on 3 March, age 73.

Appointed by the RYA in 1969 as National Coach, Bob set up what was then called the National Proficiency Scheme for dinghy sailing. Many of his innovations, including the famous RYA method of teaching people how to sail, remain virtually unchanged today; a testament to his vision and foresight.

James Stevens, RYA Training Manager, and successor to Bob as head of the RYA Training Department said "Bob had a profound influence on the sport of sailing in the UK. His remarkable achievement was to persuade all the various people involved in training and instruction to adopt a common syllabus and method of teaching sailing. His belief in the importance of instructor training and the principles he initiated are the reason why RYA training is the world leader."

Alan Woolford, RYA Regional Chairman, writes:

The report of the sad death of Bob Bond led me to think that without him there may not have ever been an RYA Thames Valley Region. Why? Because when Bob introduced the National Dinghy Training Scheme in 1970, the Thames Valley was divided between the SE and South Regions, following the Sports Council Regions. He could see that there was a huge number of dinghy clubs in the area bounding the Thames, under the umbrella of the Association of Thames Valley Sailing Clubs (ATVSC), and an organisation was needed to coordinate the Coaching Scheme across an area with its common interest. The Thames Valley Coaching Committee was formed and I was appointed Regional Coach, Thames Valley, without a region, reporting to both SE and the South at their regional meetings at the ILEA in London and RYA, Woking.

I believe this situation caused the appointment of a Working Party, of which I was a member, under Geoffrey Judd as Chairman, following a pressure group from the clubs, to consider the formation of an extra region for the Thames Valley. I am sure the already formed Thames Valley Training Committee greatly influenced the working party to report in favour of the new region, and Vincent Blake, Commodore of Cookham Reach SC, was the first Chairman. The report, which included the realignment of the boundaries of the South and South East Regions, was then agreed by RYA Council at the time of Secretary General John Durie in autumn 1978.

Of course the Association of Thames Yacht Clubs (ATYC) and ATVSC did have a hand in it as well and were represented by Harry Fountain and Graham Donald of Ranelagh SC, both of whom became Regional Chairman in turn, starting the rotation of Sailors and Motor boaters in the role of Chairman. So you see the massive involvement of the Thames Motor Boaters in RYA matters is largely down to Bob, the National Sailing Coach!!!!!!

Obituary - Colin Bell

It is with sadness we report the death of Colin Bell. Colin and Brian Willis saw the need for club training at Queen Mary Reservoir when it first opened in 1971, when many of the founder members were new to sailing. They set up a training scheme and called it the 'Training Centre'. Colin was the first Principal when the club became a Recognised Teaching Establishment, one of the first sailing clubs to achieve that status. He continued to run a very successful operation using volunteers and visiting RYA staff in the Bob Bond era until Charles Wand-Tetley set up the full time sailing school, Queen Mary Sailsports.

Colin was also a member of the Association of Thames Valley Sailing Clubs (ATVSC) committee and an early Secretary of the RYA Thames Valley Region, which was founded in 1978

ATYC

Craft Registrations - Angela Quayle, Strategic Waterway Manager writes: The craft registration renewals are going out and I just wanted to flag with you as ATYC that we are offering 50% off tenders in 2010 when they are registered at the same time as the main boat.

Dave Meineck - Chris Turner writes: I have just returned home to hear of the death last Thursday the 27th May of Dave Meineck. Dave was a founding member past Chairman and loyal supporter of Thames Scout Cruising Club, and supported ATYC in many ways. His funeral will take place with full Scouting honours on Tuesday 15th June at 1530hrs at Randall's Crematorium, Leatherhead. Donations to RNLI. Linda and I will attend along with any other officers.

TUGn - Thames User Group (Navigation) continue with their work on behalf Thames Boaters to ensure that during the 2012 Olympic period the river between Windsor and Maidenhead remains open for navigation. ATYC and RYA are members of TUGn. A full report of a recent meeting can be found on ATYC Web Page Library

Moorings - Serious work on all sides of the mooring issues continues into year two of the process. Initial work during 2008 led to an improvement in the enforcement issues on over-stayers on twenty-four hour moorings, mainly in the lower river but includes the Tesco "hot spot" below Caversham lock. From comments, both positive and critical, following the removal of a boat from the Desborough back water by the EA, it appears that many users are not aware of the amount of work being carried out on behalf of all the boaters and residents living on the side of the river. [The minutes of the River Thames Alliance Mooring Group](#) now in the library section go some way to update the current situation and ATYC members are asked to expedite the information as they talk to other interested people who have concerns. A full report was given at the ATYC AGM and at RUG 8 on Tuesday 21 April (Thames Motor YC).

River Conditions - The EA's New web page showing up to date River Thames conditions and advice to boaters <http://www.visitthames.co.uk/riverconditions> shows up to date River Thames conditions and advice to boaters. Add this link to your own clubs web and check it out before starting any trips or events

Forthcoming ATYC Events and Links:

- 13 Jun 2010
[TMYC Senior Watermanship Competition](#)
- 16 Jun 2010
[General Meeting](#)
- 28 Aug 2010
[ATYC Annual Rally](#)
- 25 Sep 2010
[Great River Race](#)
- 23 Jan 2011
[Competition Training](#)
- 17 Apr 2011
[Competition Training and demonstration](#)
- 08 May 2011
[Competition training and demonstration](#)

Making the most of the Thames

The Port of London Authority (PLA) promotes the safe use of the tidal Thames. Although PLA oversee the running of Britain's second biggest port and busiest inland waterway, it also take pride in a river that's a centre of excellence for rowing; a home to around 70 leisure craft clubs, facilities and marinas; an iconic destination for visiting boats; and host to 50 sporting events every year. PLA believes passionately in a Thames that's accessible for all responsible river users, and works closely with commercial, recreational, community and amenity groups to make this happen. For more information please see www.boatingonthethames.co.uk

Environment Agency (EA) Boating Customers Charter for the Thames

The EA manages the freshwater (non-tidal) River Thames, which extends for 217km (135 miles) from the town bridge at Cricklade to the boundary obelisk just downstream of Teddington lock. For more information see <http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk/homeandleisure/recreation/boating/31543.aspx>

The EA wants all its customers to enjoy using the non-tidal River Thames, and their customer charter explains the service they will provide, see http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk/static/documents/Leisure/Customer_Charter_2010_print.pdf

Motor Boat Training

An ATYC working party has developed a Training Scheme for Thames. The reason for this initiative is that it is felt that the standard of boat handling had deteriorated on the Thames, and clubs should be able to offer this syllabus to their members. It will go further than the RYA Inland Waterways Helmsman Certificate and include skills particular to the Thames. Subjects will include: how to pack locks, right of way through bridges, navigation through a fleet of sailing boats, Thames sound signals, 24 hour moorings, airdraught through bridges, mooring alongside, Tideway rowing code and Narrowboating. There would be a Limehouse to Teddington endorsement. There would be ATYC approved examiners and a special burgee for successful candidates. The objective is to encourage clubs to accept and recruit trainers to train other members. Examiners will then visit and to check standards are being maintained. Those participants completing and passing all units could be presented with a 'defaced' burgee. Questionnaires have been sent out following the ATYC AGM and a decision will be made once the results have been analysed.

RYA certificates would not include local knowledge of the Thames as it would be too much to cover, but the Thames scheme is seen as a good stepping stone to the formal RYA Certificates. For more information contact michael@shefras.demon.co.uk

The Five Ws Column from Newsman:

EA Raise Mooring Charges. Overnight charges for the EA moorings have been raised for this year. Vessels between 5 – 15m will now pay £7 a night. After some pressure the EA have agreed to lower the proposed pump out charge from £9.50 to £9.00

EA (Inland Waterways Order 2010) The long awaited Order eventually has eventually been approved and now gives the EA additional powers with regard to craft registration, insurance requirements and enforcement. As some of the regulations will be new to the Thames a sub group will be formed to discuss implementation and the timetable; it is envisaged that the requirements will be enforced as from Apr 2012. In brief, the Order will introduce a requirement for all Thames registered craft to have at least Third Party insurance, allow the EA to vary the registration periods and to permit the EA to refuse or revoke registration unless directed on appeal to a magistrate's court.

EA Plan to Harmonise Charges. Linked with the Waterways Order the EA plans to harmonise licence charges across all of its waterways. As far as the Thames is concerned the plan will see the demise of the area charge and this will be replaced with a length only charge with discounts for certain types of boats and widths. The figures show approximately half of the boaters will be winners and half losers; some anomalies have already been identified and these will be examined in more detail before the plan is implemented.

Hosepipes Withdrawn Visitors to both the Limehouse and St Kats marinas should note that the fresh water hosepipes have now been withdrawn from these locations and boaters will now have to supply their own hoses.

Steam Cleaning Trial The EA has recently conducted a trial to clean lock walls by steam cleaning. By all accounts the trial was successful but Newsman is unaware as to whether the trial will be extended.

And finally 1.... Many would have heard and seen the demise of the 'house boat' owned by a Mr Hamilton which was moored between Hammertons Ferry and Richmond. His craft, which was not much more than a collection of rafts and tarps caught fire last month and was all but destroyed. Newsman passed the location recently and it would seem that some rebuilding has started. Hamilton appears to be amassing a further collection of flotsam and jetsam and it will only be a matter of time before the Richmond Hilton rises again like a phoenix from the ashes.

And Finally 2....A 45 year old motor boater who thought he was sailing around the coast of the UK but was in fact circling the Isle of Sheppey had to be rescued by the RNLI earlier this month after running out of fuel. He didn't take any charts or navigational equipment, instead thinking that if he kept the coast to his right, he could navigate into the North Sea, through the Dover Straits and onto the Solent. But his plan came undone when he ended up sailing round the eight-mile-wide Isle of Sheppey for a day and a half before running out of fuel.

With thanks to Newsman.

Accessible Inland Waterways Boats

A comprehensive document with full details of inland waterways boats which are accessible to those with a range of disabilities, from non-ambulant through to learning difficulties, has been created by our Regional Chairman, Alan Woolford. The document, too large to include in this newsletter, will shortly be linked to our regional website, and meanwhile can be obtained from alanwoolford@aol.com

Inland Waterways Association National Festival and Boat Show 2010

A great three day celebration of the waterways, the 2010 National Festival and Boat Show will be held at Beale Park, Goring on Thames, 28-30 August. Some 600 boats are expected and over 100 have booked in already. See <http://www.waterways.org.uk/News/Pressreleases/IWA2010NationalFestival>

Weybridge Thames-side Festival – 4th September

The Environmental Agency will improve the boat/visitor moorings and ferry access on the Weybridge Waterfront towpath over the summer this year, including providing full ramped access to the Thames Path ferry between Weybridge and Shepperton. Other improvements have already taken place.

On 4th September the Weybridge Society are organising an event to celebrate the completion of these improvements, and many of the sports clubs along this stretch of the river are joining in. After the long closure of the towpath, the Society aims to encourage the general public of Elmbridge and Spelthorne to return to (or discover) the many leisure possibilities along here.

The event, held in support of the Sam Beare Hospice and other Weybridge charities, will feature a spectacular show from a large variety of visiting riverboats and narrowboats, some of which will be on their way downstream after the Inland Waterways Association National Rally at Beale Park on the late August Bank Holiday week-end. Vessels from all clubs based on the Thames are invited to join in (e-mail harbourmaster.festival2010@weybridgesociety.org.uk).

Additional attractions will include a celebrity opening, free boat trips for the public, a vintage bus service from the rail station and high street, displays by local clubs, live music, stalls, the unveiling of a new sculpture, an illuminated boat parade, and (on the Sunday) a Dunkirk Little Ships gathering.

Phil Gray, Waterspace Coordinator for the Festival, says "This is going to be a wonderful opportunity to see the fun and enjoyment that can be had on the river. Together with the towpath events, this will provide loads of entertainment for all the family".

For more information please see www.weybridgesociety.org.uk/events and click on 'Festival'.

Sanford Lock

The Environment Agency (EA) closed Sanford Lock on 26 May after a maintenance inspection revealed a faulty lock gate. Environment Agency divers were examining the lock when they found a fault on the lock gates on 21 May. To keep the lock open over a busy weekend, staff operated the lock and provided three hours of extended service. Businesses and customers were advised about the problem, notices were displayed at neighbouring locks and updates were added to the Visit Thames website and the Environment Agency's information line 0845 9881188.

EA staff will carry out a temporary repair on the gate, enabling boaters to continue using the lock during the busy summer months. The work is expected to take three days. The EA will work on a permanent solution during the winter months when fewer people are using the river.

Simon Hughes, Environment Agency area manager, said: "I am very concerned this has happened and we are taking urgent action to solve the problem. We are entering the busiest time for boating on the River Thames so we need to minimise the impact on people using the river. Last year, nearly 9000 boats went through Sandford Lock and we're responsible for making sure the lock is in safe working order for them. I can reassure customers that we have our best engineers working on this around the clock to reopen the lock to the public as soon as possible."

Boaters can keep informed through updates by visiting: www.visitthames.co.uk/restrictions and on the Environment Agency's information line 0845 9881188. Local hire bases, passenger boat operators and marinas have been contacted by local Waterways Officers

The Epilogue

That's all folks for this issue. Thank-you to all who contributed. Don't forget please to send your feedback – positive or good-humoured negative - news and diary dates for the next newsletter (due December) and the region's web page (ongoing) to Mike Haigh, e-mail mhaigh7@btinternet.com, tel. 07925 609909. Items should be of interest on a regional/national level rather than events purely related to your own club please