

Commodore's Sail Past Saturday --- 11th October 2014

Well Jim Potheary certainly surpassed himself with his organizing skills for the annual Commodore's Sail Past!

A total of 15 boats duly arrived at Lady Linsey's Lawns for the muster prior to the sail past.

The weather forecast had predicted sunshine and showers but for the moment the sun was shining.

The order came out from V.Com. Potheary that there was to be a skippers briefing at precisely 10.45 hrs so we all duly arrived for it at about 10.50 hrs. We were informed that only the WMC Burgee was to be flown (*I reckon we should fly the RNLi Burgee as well if so desired*) and after setting off all fenders were to be lifted and that all craft should keep a distance of 50 to 80 yards apart (*or was that metres*).

The order in the sail past having been decided and confirmed by our intrepid Vice Commodore the crews dispersed back to their boats to make ready for the sail past to begin.

At the appointed time we slowly proceeded up river, avoiding where possible the rowers and other craft, past Desborough Sailing Club and on past D'Oyly Carte Island. From here the skirl of bagpipes could be heard emanating from the club balcony.

Passing through the Shepperton Lock pool each boat took up position below the clubhouse balcony.



There on the clubhouse balcony, looking resplendent, stood Commodore Wendy and her husband John awaiting her flotilla accompanied by Piper Ron Brown.

Wendy took the salute from the passing boats.

The Flag Officer of the Day, Roger Francis, duly lowered the Club Flag in response to the salute.

Boats then circled below the weir and moored on the opposite bank in front of the clubhouse and crews were transported over to the club by Bev on Kool Kat (previously "The Len Outtrimm", Club ferry) for lunch.

Vice Commodore Jim had especially ordered sunny weather for the sail past

itself and it was timed to perfection. However the heavens opened and released the rain soon after we had all moored up. (*Got my canopy up just in time!*)

After a most excellent ploughman's lunch Commodore Wendy spoke saying that she was extremely pleased by the turnout and thanked all those who had taken part. She thanked all those who had prepared a most excellent lunch and she also paid particular thanks to her V.Com., Jim, for organizing the event. Finally she announced that during the sail past Sonja, who runs an art class from the club, had been judging the entries to the photographic competition and called upon her to announce the winner.

Sonja said that the entries were all good and singled out several with special mention, but the winning entry was of a scene on the river depicting Marlow Bridge taken by Roger Potheary.



Apart from getting back a fender I didn't know I had lost, my thanks to Carole & Martin for retrieving it, the day went off without incident and I took Bibi back to her berth above Penton Hook Lock.

The boats participating in the sail past were as follows:-

| | | |
|-------------------------|------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Jim Potheary | <i>Myownie</i> | (Vice Commodore) |
| Martin & Carole Small | <i>Lee Marie</i> | (Snr Past Commodore) |
| Les & Sally Holdaway | <i>Enterprise V</i> | (2 nd Snr Past Commodore) |
| Mike & Ann Fowler | <i>Weather or Knot</i> | (Past Vice Commodore) |
| Bev Shields | <i>Kool Kat</i> | formerly called Len Outtrim |
| Alf & Jan Lucas | <i>Rude Knot Too</i> | (Committee) |
| Rob & Elaine Fry | <i>Kalipso</i> | |
| Jim & Leslie Hamments | <i>Gowie</i> | |
| Terry & Mandy Hoyle | <i>Lady Farrington</i> | |
| Brian & Sue Mitchell | <i>Bibi</i> | |
| Colin & Barbara Barnard | <i>Serenade</i> | |
| David Morse | <i>Runabout</i> | |
| Roger & Lynne Potheary | <i>Mirabella</i> | |
| Ian Gilbert | <i>Pappilon</i> | |
| Chris & Sue Knight | <i>Alouette</i> | (Rear Commodore Tidal) |

Brian Mitchell

