

ATYC Matters...

News and Views for Member Clubs and their members

Committee News

Your committee have been very active in recent months considering how we might reinvigorate the Association and take it forward into the 2020 decade. The committee recently agreed a proposal tabled by the Deputy Chairman to reorganise the committee structure and it was intended to bring this proposal to the AGM on 2nd April. Unfortunately, we are now unable to do this due to the exceptional circumstances arising from the Coronavirus emergency.

Earlier this week Michael Chambers decided to stand down and allow the Deputy Chair to take the chair and drive the project forward. The newly reorganised committee is therefore as follows:

Position		Club	Boat Name
Acting Chairman - co-opted	Tony Riley	TWYC	Legacy
Acting Deputy Chair – co-opted	Richard Hart	Dockland Scout Project	Lord Amory
Acting Honorary Secretary – co-opted	Mike Kolling	TWYC	Manxman
Honorary Treasurer	Roger Haile	MTYC	Ragamuffin II
External Affairs Officer – co-opted	Chris Turner	TWYC and TMYC	Silver Sceptre
Development and Training Officer	Andrew Bernstein	TMYC	Knot ‘Arf
Functions and Events Officer	Pam Chart	Richmond YC	Rosel
Communications Officer	Tony Riley(temp)	TWYC	Legacy

Michael Chambers, Gabrielle Chambers and Brendon Kavenagh were intending to step down at the AGM but have agreed to do so now to facilitate the new arrangements. We thank them for their service and will do so more appropriately in due course. Neil Winckless continues to be a member of the committee without portfolio. I am delighted that we have managed to draw this new team together and ask you all to support and encourage their efforts to make the ATYC a credible and valued organisation representing the interests of Thames boaters.

AGM Deferred Until Further Notice

Due to the current Coronavirus emergency the meeting scheduled for 2nd April has been cancelled. The committee have considered how we should proceed in these exceptional circumstances and ask you to accept the following recommendations:

1. We are clearly unable to meet our obligation under the rules to hold an AGM by the end of April.
2. The committee recommend that the current committee (as above) continue in office until such time as it becomes possible to resume normal business.
3. That an AGM or EGM be held as soon as this can be arranged at which normal election of committee members will take place.
4. That the finalised accounts for 2019 be circulated to clubs and made available on the website

Dinner Dance deferred

The Coronavirus emergency made it impossible to continue with the Dinner Dance at Bisham Abbey at the end of this month. Due to the late cancellation we were faced with significant cancellation costs but with the cooperation of Bisham Abbey we have been able to negotiate a much-reduced deferred liability provided we hold a replacement event before 31st December. We will let you know our proposals for this in due course.

Improving Communications

1. Mailchimp Contacts Database

The new Mailchimp email contacts database is now operational and contains contact details for at least one representative from all bar 3 member clubs. We would appreciate your cooperation in assisting us to develop this to its full potential. In particular, we want to make sure that we have reliable contact details for at least two people in each member club. We are also requesting that you do not use generic email addresses as this increases the likelihood of messages ending up in spam and junk folders. Please email atyclubs@unimail.co.uk for any queries relating to Mailchimp or if you wish to be reminded of the logon details for adding contacts to the database.

2. Website Improvements

The committee have approved expenditure to update the website and provide some new features which will make it easier to use. The website operating system (for those in the know, the website operates using a Content Management System called Joomla) together with various plugins will be upgraded to current update status and performance verified. A new Blog Page will be implemented making it possible to easily and quickly post information that can be viewed by anyone visiting the site. An email subscribe facility will be implemented so that users can receive email notification of new blog posts by admin. we hope this work will be completed by the end of this month.

3. This Newsletter – “ATYC Matters...”

The newsletter will now be sent to clubs using the mailchimp email system so please do ensure that your contact details are kept up to date.

We ask all clubs to ensure that the newsletter is forwarded to all your club members. We will no longer be maintaining a separate email list just for the newsletter, but it will also be available on the website.

If any clubs have information that they would wish us to include please contact us via atyclubs@unimail.co.uk

4. Social Media

For those of you that use Facebook the ATYC has its own Page – “ATYC - Association of Thames Yacht Clubs”

We are also setting up a closed, private Facebook Group which will enable discussion between one representative from each club plus the ATYC Committee – watch this space.

5. Teleconferencing

We have set up a teleconferencing facility to enable the committee to communicate via group telephone discussion so we are able to hold remote meetings as and when required.

Enough for this time

We have made enormous strides in recent weeks and I hope we have established a sound basis for the future success of the ATYC. However, this is, at the end of the day YOUR association and we hope you will assist and support us in moving forward.

Kind Regards

Tony Riley
Acting Chairman