

PLA HARBOUR MASTER'S RECREATIONAL NAVIGATION GROUP

Notes of the meeting held at Pinnacle House on 29th March 2017

Present:

Terry Lawrence (<i>Chairman</i>)	PLA, Harbour Master Thames Tideway Tunnel
Darren Knight	PLA, Assistant Harbour Master (Recreational)
Jon Beckett	PLA, SMS Manager
Sarah Broad (<i>Note Taker</i>)	PLA, Navigational Safety Systems Coordinator
Tony Handley	PLA, Marine River Inspector

Peter Finch	River Thames Society
Kevin East	British Canoeing
Tony Reynolds	TRRC Rowing Safety Advisor
Bill Mitchell	TRRC PLA Liaison Officer
Richard Hart	Association of Thames Yacht Clubs
Patrick	Dutch Barge Association
Alex Hester	Chelsea Kayak Club
Nick Edmonds	Richmond Canoe Club
Roger Squires	Inland Waterway Association
Chris Winnington-Ingram	Corinthians Trust
Paul Hyman	Active360 (Standup Paddleboarding)
Pamela Chart	Association of Thames Yacht Clubs
Harry Whelan	London Kayaking Company
Ray Blair	Designated Person (Marico Marine)

Apologies:

Mark Towens	PLA, Harbour Master Upper (HMU)
Mike Thomas	Dragon Boating
Mike Wardle	Shadwell Basin Activity Centre
Dave Jones / Mike Chambers	Association of Thames Yacht Clubs
Banny	National Community Boats Association

1. Welcome and Introductions

2. Minutes of the PHRNG held on 5th October 2016 were approved.

3. Actions from Last Meeting (All Actions listed here)

- a. AHMR to continue to develop signage at river entry points informing river users of the speed limit and any applicable local rules. **Ongoing Action**
- b. Visitor Moorings work has now been completed and all of the updated information is on the PLA App and on the recreational users' website. **Action Closed**
- c. PLA to write a letter to British Canoeing for their support of an I.D. scheme and agree on a way forward to implement this. **Action Closed**
- d. PLA to consider if vessel speed logs could be made public with tidal flow modelling data online. **Ongoing Action** – currently in discussions to develop an accelerometer on houseboats at key locations to measure wash issues
- e. HMU to enquire with PLA Hydrographic team as to whether there has been a change in sediment, particularly scaling out in the Hurlingham YC area. AHMR confirmed there were no change in levels but to keep this as an **Ongoing Action**
- f. HMU to check that Imperial Wharf Marina and Chelsea Harbour are meeting the requirements of their River Works Licence – not completed. **Ongoing Action**

- g. AHMR to discuss with the PLA Hydrographic team about the possibility of providing tidal stream data at various points along the tidal Thames. **Ongoing Action**
- h. Kew Bridge Pontoon – numerous meetings have been hosted to discuss the future of this structure, however progress is slow. St George is due to meet with the local Council shortly as to whether or not the pontoon will be kept – PLA will be supportive of any removal action.

Actions arising throughout the course of this meeting:

- i. AHMR to speak with Hydrographic team in relation to a tide gauge at Hammersmith Bridge.
- j. HMU to consider request to include dates in the title of Notice to Mariners.
- k. SMS Manager to consider the webpages for Notices to Mariners and the potential to have active and non active lists.
- l. AHMR to consider naming private vessels in incident reports to PHRNG.
- m. AHMR to review club representations at future PHRNG meetings.

4. Review of TTNC Pre-Season Briefing – Action Matrix Review

This year's briefing was praised by the PHRNG members, all actions from the 2016 matrix have been completed and closed. Presentation slides and a poll relating to the timings of future briefings have been released to TTNC members via the website. The 2017 event had nothing to follow up on, other than time keeping on the evening, which will be improved in 2018.

5. Publications Update

a. Paddling Code of Practice

The feedback has now been completed and all feedback received has been answered. Minor improvements are currently being made to the final version. The Code has been approved by the PLA Marine Managers Meeting and final proof reading is being conducted. In addition, a small print run has been approved.

The PLA and this forum will need to have a mini review after the first year to see how the Code has been received. Following on from feedback received during the consultation, the PLA will look at hosting a Navigational Risk Assessment Working Group (NRAWG) in the Winter of 2017/18, to investigate in detail a suggested special paddling arrangement between Richmond Bridge and Teddington Lock. Some concerns were raised about how racing craft can comply with the Code, however the SMS Manager reiterated that the Code is for the clubs to adopt. HM(TTT) added that the code represents best practice to avoid incidents and needs to be looked at in terms of the craft paddlers are utilising (stability and purpose).

b. PLA App

All members welcomed the introduction of the PLA App. Any feedback from users is welcomed by the Corporate Affairs team. It was noted that the App has taken 2 years to develop so far. A request was made for a real time Tidal Gauge at Hammersmith Bridge, as this will assist in understanding whether the tidal stream is more or less than expected? It is recognised that upriver Tidal gauges provide height of tide not flow however the PLA will investigate if it is possible to give estimates of tidal flow in various areas to assist. With regards a tide gauge at Hammersmith Bridge, there are various tide gauge boards already in this area, admittedly not feeding information into the tidal data live onto the PLA website or App.

6. Events

a. Online Events Calendar

All events are now online via the event calendar, and are also available on the PLA App. AHMR asked whether this forum still wished to receive the printed out list. After a discussion it was concluded that the print out are still needed at these meetings, for the time being and to be kept under review. The next phase of the App is to have more information to highlight the relevant Notices to Mariners for a passage plan. It was mentioned that it would be useful to have dates of when the notice is in force in the headline of the Notice, as well as in the email when promulgated. It was also asked that the PLA encourage other organisations, in partnership to update their own websites as they are very dated. The group was made aware that the 350th anniversary of the Battle of Medway will be taking place in June 2017. **NSSC has informed the Deputy Harbour Master (Lower) who are already aware of this event.**

7. Review of Incident Report

- i. The incident report was reviewed and is attached in Appendix A to these minutes.
- ii. There has been a significant decrease in the numbers of incidents, down 30% from last year. AHMR said that it is good to see that more incidents are now being reported and that Clubs are improving there SMS following these incidents. The PLA are continuing to taking action if Byelaws are being failed to be adhered to.
- iii. It was noted that British Canoeing have introduced an incident reporting facility. However it remains that any paddling incidents must be reported to the through London VTS, as the new British Canoeing incident tool cannot be shared with the PLA.
- iv. It was asked if the PLA could publish the names of the private vessels causing the incidents, as the PLA name Clippers etc. AHMR to consider this for next meeting.

b. Ebb Tide Flag Stats

- i. The flag stats are from 1st October 2016 until 28th February 2017

Red	0%
Yellow	0.7%
Green	72.2%
Black	27.1%

AHMR confirmed that the Black Flag days are not affected by Thames Water. A Notice to Mariners will be published in due course regarding water quality monitoring from the outfall from Mogden between Horse and Syon Reach.

c. Safety Bulletins

- i. Since the last meeting the PLA have not issued any Safety Bulletins.

d. MAIB Safety Bulletin

- i. The MAIB are currently investigating a carbon monoxide fatality in Cardiff
- ii. Attention drawn to the Irish MCIB/252 No.9 of 2016) Fatal Kayak incident - http://www.mcib.ie/fileupload/Documents/reports/mcib-252-kenmare-bay/2017-01-12-12-14-updated%20pdf%20%20for%20website%20%20Kenmare%20Bay%20Report_Redacted.pdf would all members please circulate accordingly.

- iii. Attention was drawn to the MAIB Investigation report – Petunia Seaways and Peggotty, following this report the PLA has improved the guidance for ‘Navigating in Fog/Restricted Visibility, the group was content with this in general however would welcome the addition of ‘sound signals should be made’ within this guidance.

8. River Works

a. Central Navigational Channel Arch Closures at:

- i. **Hammersmith Bridge** – the bridge had emergency works carried out in February 2017 and this has been completed. Tender for works will be going out shortly and investigatory works are due to be completed by the end of 2017.
- ii. The main repair project is likely to commence in 2018 and will last for approximately two years. The PLA will continue to monitor the predicted timings for the project and will keep river users’ updated once further information is available.
- iii. **Garden Bridge**
No further updates following the last PHRNG meeting in October 2016.

b. Thames Tideway Tunnel

- i. HM TTT drew attention to M26 of 2017 – Ground Investigation works – moored at Blackfriars – three week drilling programme. Arch closures – members urged to look out for Notices relating to any future closures. Shadwell Slipway Construction will take approximately seven weeks to complete. Chambers Wharf – no further incursion – 60 metres from the edge, works to be completed by end of September 2017.. Blackfriars – by the end of May 2017, Arch 2 will be closed for a year. Victoria Embankment – Tattershall Castle – to be moved on the 10th April 2017, this is four months late. HM TTT said that the tunnelling will be running to programme.
One member pointed out the difficulty with taking groups through Blackfriars Bridge when Arch 2 is continually closed. HM TTT said that we do try to limit the impact on all river users but sometimes does prove difficult to do so.
Putney Slipway – due to complete in mid April 2017. Main work at Putney to commence end of July, reactivated at Putney Bridge creating a non navigational exclusion zone at Putney. The slipway will not open until Putney draw dock has closed.

c. Nine Elms Reach – Battersea Power Station/Northern Line Extension

- i. TTT Work are due to commence in Nine Elms in May 2017 – Attention is drawn to any Notices in relation to this.
- ii. Northern Line Extension – tunnelling works are due to commence on 3rd April 2017.

A question was raised in relation to Fulham FC works, the PLA have heard nothing further in relation to this and hence the reason why the item has been removed from the agenda.

9. AOB

- a. Zero Harm – the SMS Manger gave an overview – reflects aspiration for zero incidents – campaigns on human error and initiatives to simplify rules and regulations.
- b. Locked Gates – an issue was raised regarding the stairs behind Cadogan Pier with the gates being unlocked by council, only to have TFL later putting chains and locks back on them to keep them secure. This seems to be an ongoing matter, but in the interim it was suggested that fire keys are acquired by any interested parties to gain access.
- c. Hammersmith Tree Works – completed two weeks ago. This has been a long process in getting the works complete on PLA land. AHMR has asked that any tree concerns are forwarded to him by August 2017 so that they can be considered prior to the 2018 Tree Works programme.
- d. Head of River Race cancelled – All clubs notified, however a group proceeded to go downriver to race, outside the allotted time scale. They failed to call VTS and impeded the safe passage of a tug and tow. The group also failed to comply with PLA Thames Byelaws and Rowing Code. Whilst on their return trip back up river, they went four abreast and struck Albert Bridge in the process. The PLA are currently investigating this, however in the meantime all the crews directly involved have been temporarily banned by the TRRC and will need to resit any endorsements. All coxes and coaches will be meeting with AHMR for any necessary enforcement actions. SMS action points are currently being developed however it is likely that the current 2-hr either side of high water restriction below Fulham Railway Bridge will be extended to 3hrs before and 2hrs after.
- e. British Canoeing have introduced a guide scheme. An endorsement is to be introduced which will have elements on leadership skills. The scheme will look at upgrading coaching status, and will be aimed at senior coaches and commercial providers. PLA reassured the group that the Paddling Code once introduced will be sent to the clubs and promoted.
- f. It was suggested that representation at this forum should be reviewed as the group has become quite large. PHRNG members suggested if there was any capacity for various clubs took turns to sit on future PHRNG meetings. AHMR to consider this further.
- g. Thames Vision – Putney and Chelsea Bridge now designated areas for recreational development. While lessons have been identified from the Fulham Reach, the PLA will continue to encourage multi use centres for water sports and to encourage current centres/clubs to open for longer periods of time and diversify their activities offered.