

URGENT NEED FOR ACTION ON OLYMPICS OPPORTUNITY

PLA chief executive Richard Everitt has told shipowners and river users to take action now in securing the contracts which will be generated from London's winning bid for the 2012 Olympic Games.

"The River is entering a period of real opportunity," he said when making his first speech at the annual lunch of the London Shipowners' and River Users' Society held on the *Queen Mary* on the Embankment.

Mr Everitt said the opportunities that would come from the Olympics were significant - but that they needed to be grasped sooner rather than later.

"London's winning bid included the fact that this would be a carbon neutral Games in terms of the construction of the facilities. That will, by its very nature, see a great deal of the construction material being moved to the venues via the River and waterways," he said.

"All of us should fight hard and fight now for that business because the decisions are already being taken.

"It will be one of the great legacies of the Games that the facilities will owe a lot to the movement of materials along the River."

Mr Everitt added that in the short and medium terms the potential for opportunity was very good.

He cited the London Gateway; the reactivation of wharves and the Stora Enso projects as positive aspects for the Port, adding that work would continue to increase access to the Thames via the Princes Channel which would be improved with a programme of dredging.

Report by JON GUY

He also said that one of the major concerns remained a waste strategy for the Thames.

"If the River is going to continue to be used as a resource for waste handling, it will require a decision on the long overdue recycling infrastructure for the handling of waste," said Mr Everitt.

He also revealed that after the success of the Nelson flotilla and the Great River Race, which saw more than 300 competitors involved, he will take part in the event next year.

"It will be an interesting experience for me given that I have not rowed before," he told the meeting.

Society chairman Mike Harrison told the guests that cost remained a significant issue for those who used the Port and its facilities.

He welcomed the decision on the London Gateway and

the opening of Stora Enso facility adding that he hoped that London would soon regain its role as the UK's biggest and busiest port.

"Of course, a prosperous future is dependent on a realistic cost regime," he added. "In this day and age, everybody must constantly look to the bottom line and make savings wherever possible.

"I say wherever possible because we do understand the constraints of modern operations with the increased emphasis on safety management and security demands.

"Nevertheless there has to be a balance so that port users can see they are getting value for money. Annual price changes reflecting RPI should not be seen as the reference point for increases.

"We can no longer automatically pass on higher costs to our customers. Rather our customers look to us to pass on savings because they too are under pressure from their customers and we in turn must look around to see where and how we can effect reductions."



PLA chief executive Richard Everitt (left) welcomed to the lunch by Mike Harrison

Government backs policy to protect Thames wharves

The future of the Thames as a working river has taken a major step forward with the Government giving the go ahead to the Mayor of London's plans to protect wharves. This means the wharves recommended by the Mayor and the Port of London Authority for protection are now legally safeguarded for cargo-handling use.

The Mayor and the PLA submitted a detailed assessment of wharves in London and their future potential for handling cargo earlier this year. Central to this is use of the 'safeguarding' policy, which protects key riverside wharves from redevelopment into non-port use.

Extra wharf capacity is needed to handle predicted increases in riverborne freight. In particular, wharves all along the river are

needed to give industries greater flexibility and help reduce the number of trips by heavy goods vehicles on London's roads.

These recommendations have now been accepted by the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister and the Government Office for London has issued formal planning directions to protect the wharves. This updates existing government safeguarding direc-

tions and means:

* 25 wharves east of the Barrier have been 'safeguarded' for the first time

* 25 wharves west of the Thames Barrier are to remain 'safeguarded'

PLA chief executive Richard Everitt said: "This announcement by the Government will help ensure the Thames remains a successful working river. The decision to safeguard wharves east of the Thames Barrier is a very welcome step forward. It means that there will be working wharves at key points on the River - securing the Port of London's key position in the year's ahead."

SAFETY GUIDE FOR THE RIVER

A new guide for recreational users of the tidal Thames is now available. The booklet is written for anyone who uses a yacht, motorboat, speedboat, RIB, sailing craft, dinghy, rowing boat, canoe, narrow boat or other private leisure vessel on the River.

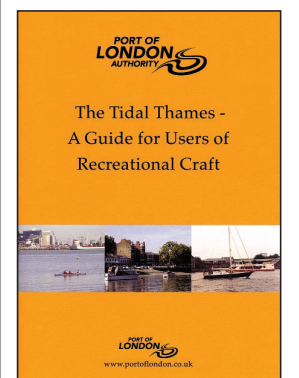
'The tidal Thames - a guide for users of recreational craft' is available free from the PLA. The 30-page booklet explains the key rules that apply on the tidal Thames and outlines basic safety procedures. The guide covers the entire tidal Thames from the estuary all the way to Teddington in west London, some 150 km (93 miles) in all.

Amongst the contents featured are:

- * safety advice;
- * navigation rules;
- * radio and emergency communications;
- * water sports regulation.

Richard Everitt, PLA chief executive said: "The Thames is popular with users of different types of leisure and recreational craft. The tidal Thames is also one of the UK's busiest commercial ports, with a wide variety of commercial ships coming and going. With such a mix of traffic, it is vital that all recreational users understand the safety rules that apply on the River."

For a free copy of *'The tidal Thames - a guide for users of recreational craft'*, contact Martin Garside, PLA, 7 Harp Lane, EC3R 6LB. Tel: 020 7743 7915. Email: martin.garside@pola.co.uk



THAMES PARTNERSHIP SET TO DEBATE ESTUARY MANAGEMENT

THE Thames Estuary Partnership annual forum will take place on November 17 at the Tate Modern on the banks of the River Thames in London.

This event will appeal to any organisations or individuals who have an interest in the management of the Thames Estuary.

The morning session will comprise presentations from high profile speakers including Mitesh Dhanak, head of

Thames Gateway Delivery Unit, ODP; Dornford Ruggs, Marine Bill Division, DEFRA; and Thames Estuary Partnership president Chris Baines, environmental advisor, writer and broadcaster.

The afternoon session will allow delegates the opportunity to attend and participate in one of several workshops which will include:

1 *State of the Thames Estuary* - setting an agenda for action.

2 *TEP development - the way forward* by Jill Goddard,

executive director, Thames Estuary Partnership

The event costs £40 for representatives from organisations and £10 for individuals and includes lunch.

For further information please contact Fionnghuala Ryan on 020 7679 5285 or e m a i l f.ryan@thamesweb.com

The Thames Estuary Partnership and Gravesend Grammar School for Girls joined forces to organise the first ever *Switch on to Science on the Thames* at the Tate Modern over the Thames Festival Weekend.

The event involved more than 100 students from 12 schools within the Thames region coming together for a unique opportunity to talk to and work with science professionals.

Participating businesses and organisations included the Environment Agency, PLA, the Zoological Society of London, the Natural History Museum and the Royal Yachting Association.

BATTERSEA BRIDGE INCIDENT - PLA LAUNCH INVESTIGATION

PLA is undertaking an investigation into the incident which took place on September 20, when the vessel *James Prior* became stuck under Battersea Road Bridge.

There were three crew on board, none of whom were injured. The bow and wheelhouse were severely damaged, but there was no pollution.

A number of craft were involved in the response to the incident. London Coastguard requested the launch of the Chiswick and Tower Lifeboats. In addition PLA patrol launch *Ravensbourne II*, the fire vessel *Fire Dart* and police launches all attended the scene.

The vessel was taken in tow by the tug *Rose Steel* after the falling tide

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allowed the vessel to come free of the bridge structure. Both the bridge and the vessel were extensively damaged.

In accordance with normal procedure, the master of the vessel was breathalysed by the PLA launch master. The test was negative.

The bridge was immediately closed to road traffic but has now reopened to pedestrians.

An initial inspection, undertaken following the collision, revealed that Battersea Road Bridge may

have to remain closed to vehicular traffic for several weeks. Localised road closures and diversions are in

place and Transport for London is advising drivers to use other routes to cross the river and allow extra time for their journeys.

PLA has advised all river users that No 2 Arch of Battersea Road Bridge is closed to navigation until further notice due to the impact damage sustained to the up stream side.

TILBURY DOCKS SPORTS & SOCIAL ASSOCIATION

The club's facilities include pool, darts, snooker and a gymnasium. Also, if you are celebrating a birthday, anniversary, christening or any other event and you would like to invite your friends and colleagues for a private celebration the club's lounge is available for exclusive use. Club prices mean that the prices of a pint of bitter and spirits are lower than you will find anywhere else. For further information ring 01375 845955

Athlone House, Dock Road,
Tilbury, Essex
Telephone (01375) 845955

SURREY DOCKS

RETIRED STAFF REUNION

will be held at the China Hall, opposite Surrey Quays station on Saturday, November 5 at 12 noon.

All welcome.

Further details from Colin Hood, 020 8 778 2090.

ANNUAL PORT OF LONDON / PORT OF TILBURY SERVICE OF REMEMBRANCE

In association with the Mission to Seafarers will take place on Monday, November 14 in the Cruise Terminal Baggage Hall, Tilbury

Refreshments at 5pm

Service commences at 6pm.