

The 2014 Annual General Meeting turned out to be very lively & well attended. Many matters of interest to members were raised such as the Club's finances when it was suggested that some of the capital should be spent on Club facilities rather than sitting in the Bank. It was explained that as our land is only leasehold it was felt that the accumulated funds give us the security of being in a position to acquire alternative facilities if our leases are not renewed. Various ideas were put forward on how to celebrate the 50th Anniversary such as a day on a Thames River Boat, Meal on the Cutty Sark, a Dinner & Dance & a port tour of Queen Mary II but after consideration it was decided to hold our own event on the North Bank. The Meeting was informed that the GFBC together with interested parties have been successful in stopping the Environment Agency from significantly narrowing the river just above Highway Marine. This is a continuation of the Club's on-going work to protect the public right of navigation on the Kent Stour. It was proposed that a CCTV security system be installed which would cost about £7,000. The costs to be met by the Club & by an increase in the mooring fees which is still to be set. 25 members voted in favour, with just 2 against. The accounts were approved & were available for inspection at the AGM. In 2013 we were joined by 12 new members but 7 left leaving a membership of 162 in total. The proposed improved toilet facilities on the North Bank were unanimously endorsed by a show of hands vote & will cost about £10,000. The Port of Ramsgate has given the Club an old but weatherproof portacabin which will be stripped out and converted into a catering facility to replace the old caravan. The 2014 Committee is as shown in the next column.



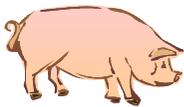
The Grove Ferry Committee for 2014

Commodore
Vice Commodore
Rear Commodore
Treasurer
Secretary
Membership Sec.
Membership Rep.
Works Co-ordinator
Compound Manager
Committee Member
Past Commodore

Alan Gittings
Steve Dennis
Tony Mackenzie
Peter Downs
Clive Mowatt
John Bottle
Keith Lathwell
John Arnold
Dave Burford
Peter Dowell
Colin Brazier

Alan Palin & Sheila Howard volunteered to join the Committee to help out & were formally co-opted at the Committee Meeting on 3rd March.

An appeal was made for help with the Fitting Out Supper & to join the Tea Rota. Grateful thanks were expressed to the members who take their turn with providing the teas & to all those who work so hard at the work parties & to the Editor of the Newsletter



Menagerie Misery !!!! The high water & subsequent flooding caused mayhem in the Grove Ferry gardens, all the ducks left home, the chickens were scattered & thoroughly frightened, Then first one of the pigs completely disappeared presumed washed away with the remaining one having to be housed in the outside loo. Not a happy time for any of those poor animals & since that episode, the second porker has also met an untimely end.



It's a Cock Up !! That's a phrase which we have all heard or even used many a time but do you know how it originated. Well in the days of the Long Bow the arrows had flights made from goose feathers. A white feather from a cock bird, which was heavier, was used along with the ordinary grey ones & when aiming at a target the Archer had to make sure that the white feather was on the inside, if not the arrow would go completely off course & the shot was deemed "a cock up"

Floods, Surges & Warnings !! Thankfully the waters have subsided & the moorings are accessible. We shovelled 3 inches of mud off ours before we could begin to wash it down. It was very frustrating being in Spain & receiving all the flood warnings & not being able to respond, what an awful episode but at least the sluice down river seemed to work. Many thanks to Tony Mackenzie for his valuable warnings & information for the duration of the floods & gales & to everybody else who took the time and trouble to go down and check the boats. I don't think that anybody incurred real damage so we can count ourselves quite lucky. Lets hope there won't be a next time.



Doggie Do Dos Sorry to raise this old topic yet again but I have been asked to mention that dog mess is still being found in the compound & along the North Bank. Not all members bother to read the Newsletter so if you notice somebody's pooch doing what comes naturally, perhaps you could politely draw this to the owner's attention. Folk busy working on their boats tend to let their pets roam free which can result in nasty deposits.

Working Party 25 volunteers turned up to get stuck in on the main job which was a big clean up around & in the South Bank Club House. In John A's words, Red Cedar gallop was applied to various places & the patio jet washed. The workers enjoyed the usual lunch & hot drinks but Mandy might be touched to hear that her "working party nosh" was much missed but great credit is due to Alan G for his effort to satisfy the appetites of the hungry workers



Charming Kate has had her bottom cleaned & mechanical problem fixed so it was nice to see her running sweet as a nut on the Shakedown Cruise & John & Jean are now looking forward to the coming season.



Parking Tickets Please could you make sure that you hand your Club parking tickets back before you leave the car park after Club functions or Sunday Tea as several have gone missing.