



# ODCC Waterlog

May 2024



The journal of the Oxford Ditch Cruising Club

Welcome to the Spring issue of Waterlog. Now the warmer weather is fast approaching, we can start to look forward to the new season, but at the time of writing, like most people we are still waiting for the river levels to return to normal.

## A Very Wet Winter

With the recent issues regarding global warming and the increase in flooding across the country we are taking a look at how some Club members are being affected.

After a few hot dry summers, the balance has been redressed with arguably more than enough rain.



The drone picture above was taken in early January this year and shows our boat perched on the end of the island, only just clear of the water.

Other members are experiencing different issues. Our Commodore, while lucky enough to have his own mooring, can now only access his boat by dinghy as the river has flooded his garden up to the house, as you can see from the following pictures.



2023 got off to a slow start as we waited for the river levels to return to normal and red boards were in evidence well into the normal boating season.

This year seems to be going the same way, as the rain began around October last year, and has rarely stopped since.

At the time of writing, early May, the river is still on red boards and we are still waiting for our boat to be re-launched.

Moving on to the end of May, while we are finally back in the water, sadly the river is still not behaving itself and apart from doing a few jobs onboard, we still haven't moved from the mooring.

**Sue Macdonald**

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## ATYC Spring Ball

On Saturday 24th February 2024 Chrissie and I had the pleasure of attending the ATYC Spring Ball on Saturday 24th February at the Richmond Hill Hotel. The hotel appeared to be newly

refurbished and had fabulous views over the park sloping down to the River Thames. Prior to the event we had time to walk to Richmond Park and get up close to the roaming deer and view the parrots populating the trees.



A brief bite to eat in the pub next door was followed by some excellent cocktails in the hotel bar.

156 people attended this function and we were treated to an excellent meal. The after-dinner speaker was Commodore Robert W Dorey, a member of the Middle Thames Yacht club. His speech consisted of a potted history of his career and experiences which are far too numerous to mention here. His last job was with Trinity House from which he retired 3 weeks ago and is now establishing himself as an independent Marine Consultant.



There was a raffle which the club donated a lovely cheeseboard set including cheeses which was won by a member of the UTMYC. A separate raffle offered the prize of a lift, bottom scrub and back in but sadly I didn't win that!

Finally, there was dancing to a group that was supported very well. We all had a lovely evening, a good night's sleep, and a superb breakfast (unbelievable muffins!), what more can you ask for! The hotel staff were very friendly and helpful which all contributed to a very enjoyable event.

**Andy Wilson**

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### **Fitting Out Lunch**

For this year's edition of our Fitting Out Lunch, we returned to the Maybush Inn at Newbridge on 13<sup>th</sup> April.

After an unusually soggy start to the year, it made a pleasant change to drive up to Newbridge on a pleasantly warm and sunny afternoon.

The venue appears to be very popular and as a result our table was booked for 3:00 PM.

It's been over three months since the Christmas lunch, so it was nice to be able to meet up with other members again and to catch up with all the latest news.



The service was good, even though the restaurant was busy, and the meal was excellent.

After lunch, a Tombola ensured everyone left with a prize.

**Stuart Francis**

## **Weekend Away**

This year our eleven members made their way to the Hambledon Hotel in Shanklin on the Isle of Wight for a long weekend over 26<sup>th</sup> – 28<sup>th</sup> April. Unfortunately, the weather was not very kind to us and although it was chilly and breezy, we didn't get particularly wet.

Friday evening was spent at Pavarotti's, an excellent local Italian restaurant. Although quite a compact venue, they managed to squeeze us all in.



The following morning, four of us made our way across the island to Carisbrooke Castle where we enjoyed a light lunch and spent a very pleasant few hours exploring the ruins.

On returning to the hotel, we held a raffle to bolster Club funds and our Commodore Andy, was particularly pleased to win an ensign complete with staff. Shortly after we drove over to the Taverners at Godshill for dinner.



Sunday saw us off to a site with several craft shops and a shipwreck museum. From there, we toured around and finished at Godshill again for afternoon tea before heading back to the hotel.



During Sunday, seven members returned to the mainland while the four of us who remained, spent a relaxing final day prior to catching the ferry on the Monday morning.

**Stuart Francis**

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## **Forthcoming events**

10<sup>th</sup> August

Beale Park picnic and get together.  
We hope to see you there.

**Editor**

## **And finally ....**

Just a reminder of the offer for discounted tickets for this year's Southampton Boat Show, when purchased before 1<sup>st</sup> of July or between 2<sup>nd</sup> July and 22<sup>nd</sup> September. (See page below).

**Editor**

# SOUTHAMPTON INTERNATIONAL BOAT SHOW

13-22 SEPTEMBER 2024

Dear

*Susan*

I am delighted to be writing to you again on behalf of the Southampton International Boat Show with our very special clubs and associations ticket offer for individual members for a third year.

As many of your members may know from the loss of John Goode in 2021. I agreed to continue John's legacy, working closely with the many Clubs and Associations that attend the Show, alongside helping organising speakers and presenting on the Foredeck Stage at the Show.



This year the shows organisers have allowed me to offer a very special 2024 ticket deal for attending during the show this year. This can be shared to your associations and will apply to the General Admission ticket.

**The special ticket offer: Valid for ANY ONE DAY OF THE SHOW**

- Entry to the show for £17.99 instead of £29.99 up until 01st July 2024
- Entry to the show for £19.99 Instead of £29.99 from 02nd July to 22nd September 2024

**How to redeem the offer:**

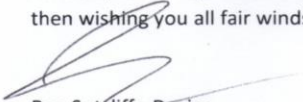
- Visit: <https://www.southamptonboatshow.com/visitor-information/tickets/>
- Click on Promo Code at the bottom of the page.
- When prompted, enter the promotional code:
- This will bring up the 'Clubs and Associations' ticket for your club which is **BENSCLUBS2024**
- Select Quantity and proceed with booking.

If you haven't visited the Show for a while, I'd like to convey how much it has changed in the last few years. From the unveiling of the newest boats, cutting-edge products, and state-of-the-art equipment to the adrenaline-pumping action on our newly curated Watersports Lake and On Water stage, our show promises a spectacle for all.

Commemorating our 55th anniversary, we will proudly host industry legends whose contributions have shaped our journey, alongside thought-provoking discussions led by Olympic medallists on the prestigious Foredeck stage. Whether you are looking for family entertainment during the day or to revel in the vibrant atmosphere of late-night Saturdays with friends, with such a diverse array of offerings, there is indeed something for everyone.

Furthermore, the show is delivered by British Marine, a not-for-profit organisation, whereby all profits made are ploughed back into safeguarding and growing our industry for many generations and years to come.

Please do share the ticket offer with your members and please do not hesitate to get in touch with me if you have any further queries. Feel free to come find me at the foredeck stage any time throughout the show, until then wishing you all fair winds and calm seas!

  
Ben Sutcliffe-Davies  
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