



Newsletter

December 2010

Another wonderful year for the Association ~ more boats and longer course at the Oxbridge Watermen's Challenge; the Tudor Pull going downstream again; another Tudor Pageant at Hampton Court Palace; great racing at the Admiral of the Port and the Port of London Challenges and then the icing on the cake... the Lord Mayor's Show flotilla.



The Oxbridge Watermen's Challenge this year was again two divisions of boats ~ four in the first and five in the second.

The start this year was Chiswick Pier with TBWBC arriving just in time!

The first division got away to a clean start with the crews dropping in to line astern up by the Band Stand. The second division lined up and were off to a three boat clash! The PLA, Port Health and Trinity House managed to disengage whilst the others disappeared up the course. There was some great racing between the crews and all finished safely returning to UL boat house for bacon butties and the prize giving.

The overall winners of the Tallow Chandler's Trophy were The Scientific Instrument Makers (11.01) and their ladies crew won their division (12.47).

Next year the course will be twice as long ~ Hammersmith Bridge to the finish line with once again a maximum of 12 boats (two divisions of 6) so keep up the winter training for what will become a 20+ minute race.

The day of the Tudor Pull dawned sunny and warm ~ perfect weather for a long pull down to London! The ceremony at Hampton Court Palace was performed with great gusto by the Head Warder and after parading down to the boats 'Jubilant' set off escorted by four cutters

At Richmond the remainder of the flotilla were enjoying the hospitality of Richmond Bridge Boathouse when the advance party arrived. All was going well until it was realised I had miscalculated the time the barrier would close at Richmond lock "All crews get afloat and we'll meet at Kew!"



The only problem was that the PLA crew were nowhere to be seen. The flotilla disappeared off downstream with mumbles of "You owe me a bacon butty Malcolm!" from the crews. The PLA crew returned, boated and rowed off to catch up ~ they declined a tow.

The flotilla eventually became one at Chiswick and proceeded on downstream under clear blue skies. Numerous rehydration stops ensured all the crews had an enjoyable day.



For the Admiral of the Port the fourteen TTRA crews were joined by a crew from the British - Australian Society all under the control of the starter Sherriff David Wootton.

A total of fifteen crews were competing for the three prizes ~ Mens, Ladies & Mixed. Both divisions had minor clashes of blades but all crews quickly separated and continued without further problems.

The British - Australia Society visitors came up against Joe Lane and his merry men in 'Trinity Tide' who piped them to the post by ONE second! Some great racing, well done to all the crews. (Photo's at www.web.me.com/nicky09/Nickys_Phography/Welcome.html)

The winning times were Men's ~ 'Water-Forget-Me-Not' 7.44, Ladies ~ 'George Williams II' 9.22 and Mixed ~ 'Lady Gillett' 9.43.

The reception and prize giving was once again a splendid affair with the crews being joined by the Australian High Commissioner John Dauth LVO ~ we didn't mention the cricket score that day!

The Port of London Challenge was once again well supported with twelve crews arriving for the briefing only one issue though ~ only eleven boats! It transpired that a crew from Wandsworth Council had taken 'Tallow Chandler' for an early evening paddle leaving the racing crew to adjourn to a hostelry to discuss what might have been.

The two divisions got off to clean starts with no incidents for the umpire and supporters boats this year. The crews battled it out upstream completing the course to Chelsea Harbour in excellent times. As usual a wonderful cruise back with the prize giving completing the evening.

The winning boats were: Men's 'Centurion' 29.43; Ladies 'Water-Forget-Me-Not' 33.14 & Mixed 'Buccaneer' 33.49.

In July Hampton Court Palace working with Thames Alive had again organised a Tudor event ~ Henry's Honeymoon with Ambassadors from France and the Holy Roman Empire attending the Palace by boat to pay their respects.

'Jubilant' and 'Royal Thamesis' led by HMS 'Victory' cutter were the centre piece to this flotilla with the two 'Invasion' boats from the 'Robin Hood' movie providing transport for musketeers supported by a flotilla of cutters.



Another sunny day out on the river with all our crews entering in to the festive spirit whilst enjoying the efforts of those competing at the Hampton Court & Dittons Skiffing & Punting Regatta.

Many of you took part in the Great River Race which was again a great success being run over the upstream course. I was scooting around marshalling the start and passed you all on the way upstream. Well done to all the crews, this wonderful event goes from strength the strength.

Now came the call we had always dreamt of "Can you arrange some boats to do a row past for the Lord Mayor's Show?" At last we were to be a part of this spectacular City of London event.



Nineteen crews arrived at RNR HMS President in the late afternoon to prepare for the dusk row past.

Lights and flags were fitted and we made our way upstream watched by 1000's of people.

The Lord Mayor's cavalcade drove along the Embankment as the flotilla tried to

hold water below Blackfriars Bridge ~ tide and time waited for no man and the boats rowed on towards HQS 'Wellington' to see the Lord Mayor hurriedly climbing up on to the upper deck to take the salute.

"All crews toss oars, three cheers for the Lord Mayor and Admiral of the Port of London!" hailed the first flotilla for many years.



With a little encouragement the crowds cheered the crews as they rowed on under Waterloo Bridge. We moored at Savoy Pier, disembarked and watched the fireworks, a splendid end to a wonderful evening.

We look forward to seeing crews from London Youth Rowing and the Thames Traditional Boat Society out with us again next year.

Thank you to everyone who has worked so hard to help make the events run so well and to all the crews who participated. Please come along to the AGM at The Barber's Hall on Monday 10th January 2011 at 18.30 to discuss all matters concerning our events and your cutters.

Have a wonderful Christmas and the toast is "The TTRA's continued success in 2011!"

Best wishes,

Malcolm

Secretary TTRA

*Merry
Christmas*

