



**This Weekend:
Vintage Merlin Open Regatta + China Bowl Thames A-Rater Regatta**

Briefing Note

Introduction

The purpose of this briefing note is to inform TSC members and event participants about the Vintage Merlin Open Regatta and the China Bowl Thames A-Rater Regatta which will be taking place at TSC this weekend.

The purpose of this briefing note is also to inform TSC members and event participants about two other major events taking place on the River Thames this weekend which will affect the TSC events:

- Tudor River Pageant - Organised by Hampton Court Palace
- Variety Club Event - Organised by Thames Motor Yacht Club

The Sailing Committee have only recently been made aware of the timings of the Tudor River Pageant and Variety Club Event which is why the publication of the official Notices of Race for the TSC Regattas has been delayed.

At this stage, it is envisaged that the formal NOR for each TSC event will be published on Friday 19th June 2009.

TSC is liaising with the organisers of the Tudor River Pageant and Variety Club Event and the Environment Agency to minimise potential difficulties on what will be an extraordinarily busy weekend on the River Thames between Kingston Bridge and Hampton Court Bridge.

TSC Regatta Information

Vintage Merlin Open Regatta

Date: Saturday 20 June 2009
Welcome/Briefing: 10:30
First Race Start: 11:00
No. of Races 3
Launch: Directly into the starting area
Entry Fee: TBC
Contact: Ian Pratt – Vice Commodore – Tel: 07751331308

China Bowl – Thames A-Rater Regatta

Please Note: For the reasons explained below it has been necessary to adjust the first race start time.

Date: Saturday 20 + Sunday 21 June 2009
Briefing: 12:30 Saturday 20 June 2009
First Race Start: 13:00 Saturday 20 June 2009
11:00 Sunday 21 June 2009
No. of Races 6
Launch: Directly into the starting area
Entry Fee: TBC
Contact: Ian Pratt – Vice Commodore – Tel: 07751331308



Other Events

Tudor River Pageant – Saturday 20 June 2009

Information from the organiser's website:

On Saturday 20 June 2009, Hampton Court Palace will mark the 500th anniversary of King Henry VIII's coronation (24 June 1509) with a magnificent Tudor river pageant sailing from the Tower of London along the River Thames to the King's favourite surviving royal residence, Hampton Court Palace. The river pageant is in association with Thames Alive.

At 10am, King Henry VIII and his Queen will board the Royal Shallop 'Jubilant' at the Tower of London. Accompanied by a flotilla of traditional skiffs, the King and his entourage will then travel up the River Thames with more boats joining the procession at Richmond for the final leg of the journey to Hampton Court Palace.

King Henry's loyal subjects are invited to line the banks of the river between central London through Richmond and down to Hampton Court Palace, cheering the King and Queen and their splendid entourage as they pass by on their journey.

According to the organiser's, the Pageant flotilla which will comprise of up to 50 man-powered vessels plus safety boats will pass TSC on the Middlesex side of the River between 14:15 and 14:45 on Saturday 20 June 2009.

For this reason, a 'clear water' policy will be invoked at TSC between 14:00 and 15:00 on Saturday 20 June 2009. To facilitate this, TSC race start times will be adjusted to suit.

During the 'clear water' period, all TSC members and event participants must stay off the water.

Refreshments will be available in the TSC clubhouse during the 'clear water' period and TSC members and event participants are encouraged to 'cheer-on' the pageant flotilla as the boats pass.

Variety Club Event – Saturday 20 June 2009

In addition to the Tudor River Pageant, members of Thames Motor Yacht Club (TMYC) in Hampton and their guests will be participating in the club's annual Variety Club Event.

This charitable event involves TMYC members giving disabled children and their families a trip out on the River on their motor boats.

This year, the TMYC organisers envisage that a flotilla of boats carrying a total of approximately 250 people will leave TMYC at around 13:00 bound for Teddington Lock and will return to TMYC at around 14:00.



According to the organisers, the flotilla will adhere to the 'normal rules of navigation' and will therefore pass TSC on the Surrey side of the River when travelling towards Kingston Bridge (downstream) and on the Middlesex side when travelling towards Hampton Court (upstream).

For programming reasons, racing at TSC will continue as the Variety Club flotilla passes on its down and upstream voyages and the TMYC organisers have been asked to inform their members that this will be the case.

In the spirit of the Variety Club event, TSC will make every effort not to impede the progress of the Variety Club flotilla and all TSC event participants are asked to 'share waves and smiles' with the flotilla passengers.

Provisional Programme for TSC Events

Taking account of the Tudor River Pageant and the Variety Club Event, the provisional programme for the TSC events is as follows:

| Saturday 20 June 2009 | Activity | Event |
|------------------------------|------------------------------------|----------------|
| 08:30 | TSC Event Team Arrive | |
| 10:30 | Welcome/Briefing | Vintage Merlin |
| 11:00 | 1 st Merlin Race Start | Vintage Merlin |
| 12:00 | Lunch | All |
| 13:00 | 2 nd Merlin Race Start | Vintage Merlin |
| 13:15 | 1 st A-Rater Race Start | China Bowl |
| 14:00 | 'Clear water' + Refreshments | All |
| 15:00 | 3 rd Merlin Race Start | Vintage Merlin |
| 15:15 | 2 nd A-Rater Race Start | China Bowl |
| 16:30 | 3 rd A-Rater Race Start | China Bowl |
| 18:00 | Merlin Prize Giving | Vintage Merlin |
| 20:00 | Supper, drinks + dancing | All |

| Sunday 21 June 2009 | Activity | Event |
|----------------------------|------------------------------------|--------------|
| 09:30 | TSC Event Team Arrive | |
| 10:30 | Welcome/Briefing | China Bowl |
| 11:00 | 1 st A-Rater Race Start | China Bowl |
| 12:00 | 2 nd A-Rater Race Start | China Bowl |
| 13:00 | Lunch | All |
| 14:00 | 3 rd A-Rater Race Start | China Bowl |
| 16:00 | A-Rater Prize Giving | China Bowl |

However, participants will appreciate that the TSC Event Team may need to change the programme at any time.



Berthing + Boat Maintenance

When not being raced, all A-Raters must be correctly berthed in three trots in the three locations demarcated on the lower hard.

Careenage of boats must not impede the passage of boats on launch trolleys along the lower hard.

Subject to spatial constraints, all Merlin Rockets must be brought ashore after each race.

General River Traffic

This will be an extraordinarily busy weekend on the River in the vicinity of TSC. In addition to the vessels associated with the Tudor River Pageant and the Variety Club Flotilla there will be a variety of other vessels on the River including:

- Passenger ferries
- Rowing boats
- Canoes
- Hire boats (colloquially know as 'pubsters')
- Private launches.

Navigation

TSC enjoys a cordial relationship with other river users. However, the River is likely to be extraordinarily busy this weekend.

For this reason, participants are reminded to observe the Thames Navigation Licensing and General Byelaws 1993 at all times and especially the byelaws which relate to:

- Keeping a proper look-out
- Action to avoid collision
- Vessels constrained by draft and / or ability to manoeuvre

Printed copies of the Byelaws are available on request. For further details please contact the Race Officer.

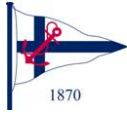
Communication with Other River Users

When on the water, DO NOT assume that other river users understand:

- The Navigation Byelaws (especially the 'pubsters')
- That You are racing
- What the marks of the course mean
- The principles of sailing (particularly 'tacking')
- Your intended course.

To minimise the potential for collisions with other river users when sailing, participants are strongly encouraged to make their intended course known to fellow river users at the earliest opportunity and to take avoiding action whenever a risk of collision occurs.

In addition, as a general principal all participants should keep clear of the passenger ferries.



Issues Involving Other River Users

Participants are reminded to be polite and courteous to other river users at all times.

Any issues / incidents involving other river users which may arise and particularly any collisions and / or disputes must be referred to the Race Officer and to the Vice Commodore.

Cooperation + Assistance

To help ensure that all of the events on the River this weekend are as successful and as enjoyable as possible, all TSC event participants should cooperate fully with and assist the TSC Event Team throughout the entire weekend; particularly the:

- Race Officer
- Race Box Team
- Safety Boat Team
- Sailing Secretary
- Catering Team.

Non-cooperation with the TSC Event Team will not be tolerated and any transgressions will be referred to the TSC General Committee.

Any concerns about any aspect of the TSC events should be referred directly to the Vice Commodore.

Ian Pratt
Vice Commodore
Thames Sailing Club

17 June 2009