



RIVER THAMES ALLIANCE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

**10 July 2008
Minutes**

Venue: Henley River & Rowing Museum, Henley
4 p.m. – 6.30 p.m.

All of the presentations made at the AGM can be downloaded in PDF format by clicking the links that are located throughout this document. Please note that, due to their size, some of the presentations may take a couple of minutes to download.

1 Welcome and Introduction

Les Jones, Vice Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and was particularly pleased to welcome the Chair, David Suchet.

David made his Chairman's report. [Download the report](#)

2 Elections

All of the current members of the Management Group were happy to continue and were re-elected. Nominated by: John Dalton Seconded by: Brian Roberts.

Barry Dellar nominated Anita Cacchioli, the Director of Environment , Culture, Arts and Sport at Reading Borough Council to fill the one gap in the Local Authority representatives. Seconded by Louis Jankel.

As we have gaps for the sporting and environmental organisation representatives, nominations or ideas were requested, Chris Poupard had some ideas for us to follow up with him after the meeting.

Update on Eileen McKeever, Thames Waterway Manager Environment Agency and one of the founding members of the RTA. Eileen has been considering the balance of her work and commitments at home for some time and has decided to make some changes. When Eileen returns to work from annual leave at the end of July, she will be working part-time in a strategic regional role at the Environment Agency.

Mark Rowe who is the Upper Thames Manager will be the Waterway Manager for the next six months whilst a permanent replacement is sought. There is also some extra help on strategic issues from the Head Office Navigation Team so Julia Simpson will be working with Thames and representing EA on the RTA Management Group in the short term.

Les gave thanks to Eileen for being the driving force behind the formation of the RTA. There was a round of applause in recognition by the meeting of Eileen's work and support of the RTA.

- 3 **Thames Waterway Plan - Progress Review**
Angela Quayle, Business Development Manager
Environment Agency
Angela presented the highlights of progress we have made over the last year.
[Download the presentation](#)
- 4 **Marketing Partnership update**
Sam Godfrey, Recreation and Business Development Team Leader
Environment Agency
Sam updated the meeting on the work of the Marketing Partnership, which is particularly important in the current economic climate.
[Download the presentation](#)
- 5 **Education Partnership update**
Paul Mains, Chief Executive
River & Rowing Museum
Paul updated the meeting on the Education Partnership and launched the new [learning pages](#) on the [visitthames](#) website.
[Download the presentation](#)
- 6 **Moorings Group update**
Mike Shefras, RYA/RUG8/ATYC and Chair of the group
Mike updated the meeting on the progress of the new Moorings group.
[Download the presentation notes](#)
- 7 **Thames Path annual review**
Jos Joslin, National Trails Officer
Jos presented the Thames Path annual report. This will be a standing item in future.
[Download the presentation](#)
- 8 **Water Framework Directive**
Myles Thomas, Environment Agency

Myles explained the water framework directive and what it means for the Thames.
[Download the presentation](#)

9 **Update on Thames Access Points project**
John Sherlock, JDD Consulting

John is going to tell us where he's got to on the TAPs project which many members have been involved in.

[Download the presentation](#)

10 **River Thames Boat Project**
Miranda Jagers

Miranda updated the meeting about her work bringing disadvantaged and disabled people on to the River aboard the Richmond Venturer.

[Download the presentation](#)

11 **AOB and questions**
Lock Houses

David Suchet made the following statement.

"Wearing my boaters hat, I have been opposed to the proposals to sell or rent river thames lock houses. I have now spoken to Robert Runcie (Thames Regional Director, Environment Agency) and came away very optimistic. Everything is on hold for six months and during that time, I have been assured nothing will happen to anybody, there will be no movement, nobody will be losing their homes and there will be further consultation with staff and other groups.

I know this is an emotive issue but I cannot stand up as a known figure and front every group asking me to - wearing my River Thames Alliance hat, I just can't do it. I will continue to be actively involved and in regular contact with the Environment Agency as the matter is discussed. I am part of the group of people that will make sure the outcome is best for the River Thames. I want to make sure all those involved will be made very comfortable and avoid distress."

Questions

- Val Mason (RTS) raised the issue of the Taplow Development in Maidenhead and urged people to contact her if they want to know more as it's an excellent opportunity to improve a River Thames site that may be given over just to housing.
- Cllr Moreton Moore (Runnymede) raised the opportunities offered to us by 2012 Olympics and the Octcentenary of the signing of the Magna Carta in 2015. He also asked for an update on how the Jubilee River is operating as his area was not flooded in 2007 and he was pleased.

- Robin Ford (Thames Traditional Boat Society) reminded the meeting not to forget slipways/bank access points to encourage low cost/inclusive boating. He also asked whether there were plans to extend the number of recycling points.

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