



Jubilee Cruising Club weekend report



As part of the Queen's Diamond Jubilee celebrations, MBM managed to reserve 20 berths at London's St Katharine Docks, along with some prime river frontage from which to view the 1000 craft of the Pageant. Of the many thousands of stories from this very special Jubilee, here is ours



Maya and Jocelyn get all patriotic

In the end, 19 of the 20 boats expected made it to St Kats. Sadly John Hall and Jazzbo had to abort their passage around South Foreland due to unhelpful mechanics and unkind weather, bad luck John.

With everyone else safely moored up, the crews

gathered for a slightly odd briefing, somewhat lacking in the usual serious cruising substance. We are used to discussing matters such as waypoints, weather fronts and sea conditions at these meetings, but here details were restricted to a couple of good local boozers. Still, the

serious business of Fortnum & Mason hampers being dispatched to each boat was taken care of, and it gave new St Kats marina man, William Bowman, a chance to introduce himself to the Cruising Club fraternity.

As part of the weekend, a best-dressed boat award



MBM Ed Carl gives a casual briefing



Tally (centre) with friends Mike and Fiona



Charisma wins 'Best Dressed Boat'

was also up for grabs, complete with a suitably slick trophy. Judged by MBM editor Carl Richardson, his daughter Maya, and William Bowman, points were awarded for both crew and boat attire, as well as bonus points for patriotism and originality.

Awash with red, white and blue, the fleet put on a grand display, highlights being Geoff and Ann Parr's *Third Time Lucky* with its grottoesque cockpit and Colin and Jocelyn Wright's *Karin*, bedecked in floral tributes. But the unanimous winner was *Charisma*, with Andrew Rogerson and Patricia Wright turning out an impeccably dressed crew and cockpit.

As we all now know, the weather gods did not exactly smile on the day of the Pageant. In the shadow of

Tower Bridge, the MBM crews gathered, just downstream of its northern buttress. First came the Belfry Barge and its Jubilee Bells, followed by the row barge, *Gloriana*, pulling majestically past.

With the *Gloriana* came the so-called manpower section, a vast array of rowing boats from around the world.

As the Queen, aboard the Royal Barge *Spirit of Chartwell*, cruised beneath Tower Bridge, its arms raises in salute and a rainsquall that felt more biblical than royalist duly fell upon us. But nothing could dampen the spirit of the crowds, nor the noise they made. For our part, most of the Cruising Club crew were well prepared for

Gloriana passes beneath Tower Bridge



Suitably huge and resplendent in gold leaf and regal red, the Royal Barge *Spirit of Chartwell* pirouettes around in front of the MBM viewing area, ready to receive the fleet

Onboard victuals came in the form of luxury hampers



Third Time Lucky's very regal grotto



The crew on Karin get her properly dressed

such a squall and cheered on regardless. Sadly the same couldn't be said of the MBM Editor, sporting a patriotic outfit bereft of any waterproofing qualities.

Suitably huge and adorned in golden ornaments and Royal finery, *Spirit of Chartwell* pivoted around in front of the Cruising Club viewing deck,

before mooring up at *HMS President*, allowing Her Majesty a chance to see the Flotilla sail downstream.

A fitting finale came at around 1800 with the London Philharmonic Orchestra and a blast of fireworks marking the end of a truly unique moment for Queen, country and the River Thames.



Maya takes her judging duties most seriously

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The RSM dip their ensigns in salute