

## **Boaters ordered to pay £6,587 for flouting registration and other navigation laws**

Five River Thames boaters without valid registrations and one with inadequate sanitary appliances have been convicted by magistrates after prosecutions brought by the Environment Agency.

The separate cases were heard at South Western Magistrates' Court on Monday 16 January, Reading Magistrates' Court on Friday 13 January, and Staines Magistrates' Court on Thursday 12 January. They were charged under Articles 4 and 18 of the Environment Agency's (Inland Waterways) Order 2010.

Paul Phillips of Victoria Mansions, Willesden, London, was charged after an Environment Agency officer found his boat 'Triton' moored against a derelict pontoon on Hurst Park below Garricks Ait without a valid registration. Mr Phillips attended court, pleaded guilty and was fined £35, ordered to pay compensation of £485.86, £60 costs and a £15 victim surcharge by Staines Magistrates' Court.

In the second case, Richard Biddulph of Main Road, Hursley, Winchester, pleaded guilty by post and was fined £160, ordered to pay compensation of £2,114.10, £60 costs and a £15 victim surcharge for not registering his boat 'De Hoop' after being caught at Thames Ditton Marina.

At Reading Magistrates' Court, Nicholas Tsirides of Lytton Road, Oxford, was found without a valid registration for his boat 'Banbury' whilst downstream of Sonning Bridge in the Reading area. The defendant was found guilty in his absence and fined £200, ordered to pay compensation of £845.64, £85 costs and a £15 victim surcharge.

In the final cases at South Western Magistrates' Court, Hadrian Smith who lives onboard 'Nyko' and has another boat under the name of 'TT Nyko', attended court, pleaded guilty and was ordered to pay compensation for both vessels of £454.14 and costs for both at £60. Both boats are moored on the River Thames at St Albans Park, Hampton Court Road.

Alistair Trotman of Eden Street, Kingston upon Thames, Surrey, attended court and pleaded guilty to two registration charges for two boats - the 'Hui' and the 'Old Kingston Coal'. 'Hui' was found moored at Canberry Gardens, Kingston upon Thames without a valid registration. The defendant's other boat 'Old Kingston Coal' was also found without the correct registration after an Environment Agency officer found the vessel moored to trees along Teddington Reach.

Mr Trotman was ordered to pay compensation for both boats of £1,812.69 and costs for both £60, totalling £1,872.69.

In relation to a separate navigation offence Alanda Thompson of Canonbury Road, London, pleaded guilty by post to one charge of keeping or using a boat that had inadequate sanitary appliances that allowed raw sewage to enter the river. This is contrary to Byelaw 66 of the Thames Navigation Licensing and General Byelaws 1993. The defendant's vessel 'Manimal' underwent a sanitation inspection by an Environment Agency officer while it was moored upstream of Teddington Lock. Ms Thompson was fined £35, costs £60 and victim surcharge of £15, totalling £110.

Mick Dutson, an Environment Agency Waterways Enforcement Officer, said:

"Owners have a responsibility to ensure their boats are registered and we regularly challenge people using boats on the river without registration plates displayed. In response to customer feedback, we continue to do routine patrols and lockside checks. In addition we carry out targeted enforcement exercises and these prosecutions are a direct result of such action.

"It is crucial that owners also provide adequate sanitary appliances for their boat to ensure that no raw sewage is discharged into the River Thames, because it can have a detrimental affect on human health and wildlife.

"The income we raise from boat registration is very important for the community and the environment. It contributes directly to maintaining waterway structures such as locks and lay-bys, as well as providing facilities like visitor moorings, water points, rubbish and sewage disposal and electric boat charging hook-ups."

## **ENDS**

### **Notes to editors:**

As the navigation authority for the River Thames between Cricklade, Wiltshire and Teddington, Middlesex, the Environment Agency's lock staff and enforcement patrols monitor all boats on the river. Anyone keeping or using a boat on the non-tidal Thames needs to register it, and display a valid registration plate: failure to do so will lead to prosecution.

You cannot keep or use a boat on the non-tidal River Thames without it first being registered with the Environment Agency. This applies to all types of craft, including motor cruisers, sailing boats, narrow boats and unpowered craft such as canoes or rowing boats.

An annual registration charge is payable and covers the period 1 January to 31 December. A registration plate is then issued which must be displayed on the boat. Visiting boats also need to be registered to cover the period of the visit.

Anyone taking up boating on the non-tidal River Thames should make themselves

aware of the relevant rules and regulations. This information can be found on our website at [www.environment-agency.gov.uk/riverthames](http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk/riverthames)

Getting registered is now even easier:

- Customers from previous years can renew their annual registration by credit or debit card by calling our craft registration team on 03708 506 506.
- If you require an annual registration for the first time, applications can only be made by post. A registration form can be downloaded from [www.environment-agency.gov.uk/boatregthames](http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk/boatregthames) or requested by calling 03708 506 506. It should then be posted to Environment Agency, Boat Registration, PO Box 544, Rotherham, S60 1BY
- If you plan to visit the River Thames this year then we have three types of visitor registrations available and we offer the option to mix and match to suit your river holiday needs, giving a total of 67 days on the beautiful River Thames.

Please visit our web site at [www.environment-agency.gov.uk/riverthames](http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk/riverthames) for more details and application forms.

The Thames Navigation Licensing and General Byelaws 1993 are made under the Thames Conservancy Act 1932 (section 233).

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