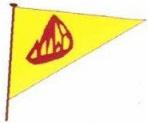


NEWSLETTER

SPRING 2012



Medina Mariners' Association
The Harbour Office, Folly Road
Whippingham, IW, PO32 6NB

Registered Charity – No. 282493

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ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Notice is enclosed for this year's annual meeting, to be held on Monday 23rd April at Cowes Corinthian Yacht Club. The agenda, minutes of last year's meeting and the Annual Report & Financial Statements for 2011 will be tabled at the meeting. If anyone would like a copy of these papers because they cannot attend or wish to view them in advance, please let Terry Webb know (phone 07850 616205). There are also several vacancies on the Committee for anyone interested in contributing to the management of the Association. Paul Redding stood down during the year and a couple of other Committee members are feeling they are now getting rather long in the tooth! Some new faces would be welcome.

COWES HARBOUR NEWS

Cowes Harbour Commission is in the process of applying for a Revision Order to allow Powers of General Direction that will replace existing Harbour by-laws. In the meantime, existing by-laws will apply at least for the 2012 season and the changeover when it comes will be over a winter period. Speed limits are proposed based on speed through the water rather than speed over the ground as the former governs wash caused by a vessel. There is also a provision for the chain ferry to have right of way. Perceived difficulties for some craft to keep clear of the chain ferry in strong tide situations have been addressed with what are believed to be effective proposals covering the safety issues and providing robust and workable control and enforcement measures.

Negotiations on the Outer Harbour Project continue with the Homes & Communities Agency (ex SEEDA), the Crown Estate and Sutton Harbour Holdings. New short stay pontoons at Town Quay are being discussed with Red Funnel and Cowes Yacht Haven but the cost of a lease for the pontoon bridge landing may stop the scheme going ahead. Finally, a new small craft access channel is being laid on the eastern side of the main harbour, opposite Town Quay to the end of the Shrape wall.

SUPPORTING THE RIVER?

Your Committee has recently given thought to how the Association can most effectively apply its funds to meet its charitable objectives as an alternative to directly providing its own facilities. Whilst the sums likely to be available are not large, it is felt that at least this is better than nothing. As a starting point, organisations with a presence on the river have been approached, including Newport Rowing Club and a more recent arrival, Cowes (ex Fishbourne) Sailability Club. It is hoped that some support can be given to one or more of these organisations, and they in turn can utilize the funds specifically in line with the Association's Constitution.

In practice, this means anything that helps protect and preserve existing amenities on the Medina estuary, the provision of additional facilities, and the promotion or organising of recreational activity in the area. These must all be in the interests of the social welfare, recreation and leisure time of local residents with the aim of improving their quality of life. If anyone has any specific ideas or suggestions, or would like further information about this, please contact Chairman Ray Redrup or Secretary Terry Webb. We of course hope to attract some positive publicity for this initiative.

PLANNING ISSUES

A planning application for the development of the SaRo site is anticipated soon. Any development could potentially impact on the Association's operation so we will be monitoring this carefully. Meanwhile, there is no further news on an application for the biomass plant at Stag Lane. We believe an Environmental Impact Assessment is almost complete and monitoring of landfill gas and leachate is being undertaken for an environmental statement to accompany the planning application. In any event, many questions are being raised about the supposed environmental benefits of this scheme, not least the effect of importing the wood pellets by ship, as well as the visual impact the structure will have on the Estuary. Again, we will be keeping an eye on developments. Finally, the planning consent for Island Harbour is assumed to still stand, and any works will presumably be deferred pending the transfer from administration to new owners.

RED DIESEL

HMRC draft legislation, effective from 1st April, incorrectly stated that red diesel for private pleasure craft can only be used in UK waters, and a declaration to that effect would need to be signed on purchase. Following lobbying by the RYA and the BMF, this has now been altered to the declaration being a reminder about rules applying in EU countries on diesel duty.

MORE COMBINED CLUBS

We are pleased to welcome a fifth member club to Medina Combined Clubs, Cowes Sailability Club, the former Fishbourne SC that is now based on the Medina, where it makes use of facilities at the UKSA, East Cowes Marina and, in particular, Cowes Corinthian YC. Cowes Sailability's main purpose is to give disabled persons the opportunity to get out on the water and to "put a smile on faces". The club relies extensively on grants and donations and, of course, volunteers. Most activity takes place on Monday afternoons so, if you are able to help, check their website www.cowessailability.bctk.co.uk for contact details. Now having five clubs within the group hopefully gives us an even more effective "voice on the river".

WHAT'S COMING UP?

A number of events are coming up, for which we would appreciate your support:

Fri 6th Apr, Pub Games at CCYC, 7.30 pm
Sun 22nd Apr, Boat Jumble, Island Harbour
Mon 23rd Apr, AGM at CCYC, 7.30 pm
Wed 2nd May, start of Folly dinghy racing
Sat 19th May, Riverfest at Newport Quay
Sat 2nd Jun, Sail the Wight for the Hospice
Sun 3rd Jun, Sail the Wight party, ECSC

It is also hoped to schedule in a few mid-week as well as weekend cruises later this year so please look out for details.

MORE ON EVENTS

The fifth Good Friday pub games evening will be held at Cowes Corinthian YC on 6th April. Please come along to have a go at pool, darts, shove ha'penny or toad in the hole. Food will be available. A **boat jumble** is planned for the morning of Sunday 22nd April, at Island Harbour, a new and hopefully convenient venue. Contact Terry Webb (07850 619205) if you might be interested in having a pitch (£5). **Wednesday evening dinghy racing** will commence at the Folly on 2nd May, please contact Dan Lyons on 2XXXX1 if you are interested. We also encourage our members to support **Riverfest** on Newport Quay, to be held on Saturday 19th May.

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