

NEWSLETTER

SUMMER 2012



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

Registered Charity – No. 282493

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AGM REPORT

The 39th AGM was held on 23rd April at Cowes Corinthian YC, with 20 members attending. A stable financial position was reported, a surplus of £1,841 having been achieved. This will allow some charitable commitments to be made in the current year and will also allow the subscription rate to be kept at £12 for 2013. Other matters discussed included parking at the Folly and the state of the lane (see over), our work in representing the interests of river users and berth holders and the monitoring of planning applications. The following were elected for Office for the next year: Chairman Ray Redrup, Hon Secretary Terry Webb, Hon Treasurer Allen Johnson, Membership Secretary Sandra Johnson, Bosun Ken Aspden.

Committee Members: Karen Ireland (new), Rodney Ireland, Jeff Johnson, David Redrup and Richard Steel. So, after many years of service on the Committee and as President of the Association, Dan Lyons has decided to stand down. We are very grateful to him for his work over the years in managing the dinghy racing and organising the annual dinner.

EVENTS REPORT

The Good Friday pub games evening was again held at Cowes Corinthian YC on 6th April. Teams representing the five Medina Combined Clubs members played pool, darts, shove ha'penny, toad in the hole and dominoes in what was a really well supported and enjoyable event. This was followed on the morning of Sunday 22nd April with a boat jumble at Island Harbour Marina. This was also a great success, with eighteen pitches and a terrific attendance that required an overflow car park to be set up. Another jumble is now planned, for Sunday 14th October. Just to note, Wednesday evening dinghy racing commenced at the Folly on 16th May, please contact Jeff Johnson on 568294 if you are interested. And all members are very welcome to join Marchwood YC members at their annual barbeque that we are hosting at the Folly on Saturday 7th July, commencing at 6.00 pm. Bring your own food and drink. Barbeque facilities are provided. It is always a fun evening.

HARBOUR NEWS

The new small craft access channel is now operational on the eastern side of Cowes Harbour, opposite Town Quay to the end of the Shrape wall. This provides a useful short cut to those wanting to head east. Meanwhile, the case for an outer breakwater was strengthened by heavy north-easterly gales on the morning of Sunday 29th April, with five Daring class yachts being sunk on their moorings and boats damaged in Cowes Yacht Haven. Those berthed upriver of the chain ferry were unaffected so these owners may question having to pay increased harbour dues for the breakwater. On the other hand, some may not grumble so much if some dredging is carried out in Folly Reach. It seems to be getting rather shallow around the Cowes visitor pontoon and Row A in particular. We also await some news on the cost of having water and/or power made available on Cowes mid river pontoons.

Meanwhile, Isle of Wight Council has clarified what it believes to constitute Newport Harbour Estate and has "brushed under the carpet" the inconvenience of having illegally let harbour properties for more than three years. We now await its proposals for the future management of Newport Harbour – will harbour users get a look in?

PLANNING NEWS

Members may have seen the reports in the County Press on the proposed asphalt plant planned on land adjacent to Medina Wharf, opposite Kingston power station. It has been described as a monstrosity, which begs the question of how the power station itself and the neighbouring aggregates plant should be described! Despite apparently strong opposition, we have tried to view this from the perspective of river and other leisure users and have decided that we should not object to the plans. This is because it is adjacent to and opposite existing commercial and industrial land, most of the material will be brought in by sea so reducing road traffic impact, acoustic screening and landscaping of the site is proposed in addition to existing tree screening, employment opportunities are offered, additional harbour dues will be generated and the proposal does not appear to affect nearby public access including the cycle path. Our “line in the sand”, however, is any development immediately south of this.

FOLLY LANE

We understand that the obstacle course otherwise known as Folly Lane is to be re-surfaced in August by Isle of Wight Council contractors. We'll believe it when we see it and how it will be done without major disruption to access we are not sure. We await further news with interest.

SOME DIARY DATES

Saturday 7th July at 6.00 pm
Marchwood YC BBQ at the Folly

Saturday 14th July
East Cowes SC Annual Regatta

Sunday 14th October at 9.00 pm
Boat Jumble at Island Harbour Marina
(Provisional date and venue)

Saturday 10th November at 7.30 pm
Quiz Night at Cowes Corinthian YC

Saturday 17th November at 7.30 pm
Annual Dinner (provisional, see article)

It is also hoped that some cruising rallies can be organised later in the summer. Please keep an eye out for details.

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ANNUAL DINNER

A study of the diary dates will show that we have yet to settle on a venue for the Annual Dinner. We have in fact not even settled on the type of event we should organise, although we have agreed that Dan Lyons should be at least one of our guests. Although last year's event at the Folly Inn was very well supported and seemed to be enjoyed by most who attended, some members thought it was not “special” enough – more like just another pub meal. One suggestion is that we have two events. One would be similar to the Folly event, maybe termed a “laying up supper”, with a separate annual dinner (or maybe a Christmas dinner), which is a bit more formal and upmarket. Any feedback would be much appreciated. If you have any views, please contact Karen Ireland at karen.ireland@onwight.net or on 5XXXX6.

AND FINALLY

What is going on with the weather? One of the hottest March months on record, followed by the wettest April and a wet, windy, cold and generally horrible introduction to May. We can only hold out for an improvement over the rest of the summer so, whatever type of boating or other leisure activity you have planned, we hope it will be enjoyable. If not, at least there is the Diamond Jubilee and Olympics to watch from the comfort of our armchairs!