

NEWSLETTER

SUMMER 2013



***The Harbour Office, Folly Road
Whippingham, IW, PO32 6NB***

Registered Charity – No. 282493

AGM REPORT

The 40th AGM was held on 15th April at Cowes Corinthian YC, with 22 members attending. A stable financial position was reported, a surplus of £572 having been achieved for 2012. The decrease from the previous year's surplus was primarily due to an increase of £1,160 in charitable grant donations given to other organisations connected with the river. It was agreed that the membership fee be kept at £12 for 2014. A lively open forum discussion saw a number of issues discussed. The impact on dinghy park fees of a likely lease rent increase will be mitigated as far as possible by having increases phased in over a number of years. The Association's

position over the proposed asphalt plant at Medina Wharf was explained. Although we may not like the idea of it, our charitable objectives only allow us to object on the basis that leisure activity might be jeopardised and we have no evidence to support that it would. The proposed development of the old Folly Works site and its possible impact on our operation was discussed, together with the impact of Ryde Rowing Club now having a base at the Folly. It was agreed that we should hold talks with the Club. 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, Committee Members: Ken Aspden, Karen Ireland, Rodney Ireland, Jeff Johnson, Mary Phillips (new) and Richard Steel.

WELCOME TO THE MVS

We are very pleased to welcome the local Isle of Wight Unit of the Maritime Volunteer Service as honorary members of the Association. This national charity, locally run by Lynn Peppitt and Dave Dobson, provides training in boat handling and basic engineering, maritime safety, navigation and communication. They also work with local harbour masters, HM Coastguard and other agencies on a voluntary basis, and are very keen to attract new volunteers who must be aged

over 18. We have agreed with Lynn and Dave that we should try and work closely with them to help raise their profile on the river. To that end they have also joined Medina Combined Clubs and they will be using our harbour office as a base for their weekly training sessions. If you are interested in becoming involved with this worthwhile organisation, please contact Lynn on 884204.

EVENTS REPORT

First up this year, as usual, was the Good Friday pub games evening, held on 29th March at Cowes Corinthian YC. Twelve couples from the various clubs competed at pool, darts, shove ha'penny, dominoes, toad in the hole and the dice game "shut the box". It proved to be a long evening and the usual crewpot supper served by Carole and her team was much appreciated. The new format of the event actually produced winners this time, MMA members Ivan and Denise Kirk. Well done to them! The following weekend saw the Spring boat jumble at Island Harbour Marina on Sunday 7th April. The number of stalls was down, just eighteen this time, but there was a good turnout of buyers again, although some of them seemed reluctant to get their wallets out! Wednesday evening dinghy racing meanwhile commenced on 22nd May. Please give Jeff Johnson a call on 568294 if you want further details.

OUR BOSUN RETIRES

We are sorry to have to let you know that Ken Aspden, our trusty Bosun, has decided to stand down from that role after a number of years of dedicated service, for personal reasons. We are, however, pleased that he has decided to remain on the Committee and will continue to look after the Association's dory and act as support for the Wednesday evening dinghy sailing. This does mean that, for the moment, we have had to suspend the haul out service, although the scrubbing berth remains available, with Ken also agreeing to continue to oversee the bookings. Ken has worked very hard at this role, which he very much saw as providing an affordable service to our members, and we are very grateful to him.

HARBOUR NEWS

The election of a new administration hopefully might result in some progress being made about addressing the management of Newport Harbour, including more stakeholder involvement. In the meantime, by the time you receive this newsletter, we hope Cowes Harbour Commission will have erected prominent signs by advising of the speed limit in the river and warning boat owners to control their wash. We also understand that harbour staff recently received training from the Marine Police Unit in dealing with

transgressors. We will wait and see what impact these measures have on reducing this problem, one that is so annoying particularly for berth holders in the Folly Reach. Meanwhile, Government funding for the Outer Breakwater project looks to be in considerable doubt and, if the Harbour Commission decides to go it alone, we will be taking a close interest in any possible impact on harbour dues.

NATIONAL COASTWATCH

Tony Cole, who many of you will know as the long standing past Honorary Secretary of East Cowes Sailing Club, is one of a team of unpaid volunteers for the National Coastwatch Institution. He has asked that our members be made aware that watch keepers now operate from the old coastguard lookout at the Needles Battery, where they have a clear view from Fort Albert to Anvil Point and to the horizon in an arc to a line South-East of the Needles Light. The lookout is manned from Friday through to Monday each week from 09.00 to 17.00 (to 19.00 in July and August) and can be contacted on 01983 754231 for local information. It is hoped to soon extend weekend hours from 08.00 to 20.00 hours and, volunteers permitting, operate 365 days a year. Volunteers supply their own uniforms and rely entirely on donations so if you can help out in any way, Tony would be very grateful. He can be contacted on 07703 939925.

MEDINA VALLEY CENTRE

We should give a mention to our fellow charity based on the Medina, which this year celebrates its 50th anniversary. The Centre offers field studies, sailing courses, church weekends and holidays to both young persons and adults in a beautiful setting on the west bank of the Medina. It also has ambitious plans to upgrade its premises at an estimated cost of £2.3 million spread over three years so we wish it every success with its fund raising. If anyone would like more information about the Centre and its plans, please visit their web site, www.medinavalleycentre.org.uk

FUTURE OF THE MMA

Ken Aspden's retirement as Bosun, the anticipated increase in the lease rent for our facilities, the potential development of the Folly Works site and the apparent lack of willing volunteers stepping forward to help run the Association has concentrated the minds of your Committee to think about the future direction of the Association. We hope to be able to report on our conclusions in the next newsletter.

MEMBERS' DISCOUNT!

Austin Brierley of AMB Yacht Services is kindly offering a discount to our members. Please contact him on 07973642304 or email "ambyachtservices@gmail.com."