

CHAIRMANS AGM REPORT MARCH 2018

For AGM Thursday 15th March 2018 at the RAF Yacht Club

- 1) Welcome again to the 2018 AGM of the RHMHA. Firstly I would like to say how lucky we are to be in possession of a mid-stream mooring or marina berth on the River Hamble and able to enjoy all it has to offer. For many of us as we venture out into the Solent one of the most testing small craft journeys in the world is to aim for Cowes. We feel that the high standard of seamanship exhibited by those who moor on the Hamble River contributes to the low number of incidents recorded in the area. It will be fascinating to hear what our speaker tonight, Captain Phil Buckley the new Southampton Harbour Master has to say about this crowded seaway area.
- 2) I would like to thank all the committee members for their hard work this year. We do work hard on your behalf. Major illness has struck more than once and yet we have managed to achieve all that we set out to do during the year. John Selby has just updated our web site and changed to a more up-to-date code. There is useful information on the site and I encourage you to look at it and use it.
- 3) Your committee has again struggled through the year without a secretary. It is difficult for us and we desperately need help in this area. Please, there must be someone you know who could do the job. We also need one or two new committee members and an Editor for our news sheet 'UPDATE'. We would like to be able to produce more than one edition a year.
- 4) All meetings of the Harbour Board and Management Committee, except one, have been attended by one or more committee members as an observer. The minutes are not a full record of the meetings as only decisions are recorded and we feel that to represent our members to the best of our ability it is important for at least one committee member to attend to take note of discussions in these meetings.
- 5) Your Committee has met for 4 formal meetings since the last AGM, less than last year due to the cancellation of some Harbour Authority Meetings and decisions.
- 6) Over the last few years we have pressed the Harbour Board to keep fees and dues ALARP – As Low As Reasonably Possible), This year the freeze on Harbour dues will probably end in the autumn. The Harbour Board are looking at the reserves to make sure that they match future expected costs. We will do our best to limit any proposed rises as much as possible.
- 7) A high priority for the Association over the last year or two is the problem of access to the river and facilities for launching tenders. The Harbourmaster and Harbour Board have this problem in mind and are working hard to find a proper solution at Swanwick Hard.

Our committee member Tony Blewett has helped personally, with a group of interested people, to improve the environment and storage of tenders at Swanwick Hard.

- 8) Some members have asked about the possibility of making an access point to the river near its mid-point (around Mercury area). This is proving to be difficult. Any ideas will be gratefully received.
- 9) We are currently working on your behalf to make sure that the proposed pontoon rearrangement at Premier Marina in Swanwick does not interfere with those mooring on the 'V' piles and that the proposed closure of the safety channel at Deacons Boatyard does not go ahead as there is much local feeling that this would significantly worsen the navigational safety in this very busy part of the river.
- 10) The beginnings of another major headache for our members are being played out at Mercury Marina. Here MDL is about to apply for planning permission to build houses on and around the present Marina. The initial proposal shows that the Marina would lose its hoist and much of its space for winter boat storage, together with dedicated parking. This loss of facilities and access to the river is likely to affect mooring holder's ability to maintain their craft more and more as time moves on. The deluge of house building on the Hamble peninsular is likely to put further pressure on the ability of mooring holders and other river users to access the river. Our association needs to join with other stakeholders on the river so that access to the river and its facilities can be maintained.
- 11) Membership Numbers are always of great importance to the effectiveness of an Association – without a good proportion of all of the mid-stream mooring holders as members we begin to lose our ability to influence river matters. Last year we circulated some Association Business Cards with the notice of the AGM. Each member was asked to give one of these cards to the master of the boat that they moor next to and try to make them aware of the advantages of joining the Association. If you have not already done so could do so this year?
- 12) Finally Can I remind you that the River Hamble Annual Forum is on Monday 26th March 2018 at Warsash Sailing Club at 1900 hrs. This is the time to find out what the Harbour Master is doing and to be able to ask him questions about the Hamble River and its activities. For those who keep their dinghies at Warsash and Hamble this is your opportunity to take part in the ballot for free tender moorings. As last year there is an increase in the number of moorings available due to the new pontoon link between the Harbour Master's and Fishermen's Jetties at Warsash. Please make good use of these hard won facilities.

DA

14/3/2018