



MMA CHAIRMAN'S NEWSLETTER December 2022

As 2022 draws to a close we are able to look back on that long, hot summer when we were glad to get afloat to catch what breeze there was. We remind ourselves that although this year there have been significant challenges to our world in general we have much to be grateful for: we live in relative peace and security on a lovely island; many can reflect on happy afternoons with MMA "just messing about on the river"; our Association is in excellent shape and we can all look forward to making the most of what we can afford and physically achieve.

Those who attended the successful laying-up supper at the Folly Inn last week heard me mention that there have been some changes within the MMA Committee. John Greg has had to give up his role of Membership Officer as he now works full time for Cowes Harbour Commission.

Thank you John for keeping the Membership lines open, and also ensuring that our warps were attended when we needed to refuel our boats. It is always good to be met at the fuel pontoon by a familiar face with a happy smile. MMA Treasurer Ady Heng has moved to an exciting new job higher up the river and with the prospect of regular overseas business trips MMA business cannot be given the necessary time.



Fortunately David Nixon has agreed to take over the MMA accounts with effect from January 2023 and pending formal appointment at the AGM next April has been co-opted to the Committee in a vacancy. Also, Jill Kernick has agreed to join your management team and will be working with Colin Caldicott to administer Association membership, berthing and club facilities in general. Should you have yet to meet David or Jill you can join them with the rest of your Committee at the Annual General Meeting to be held at the Bargemans Rest, Newport on Monday, 3 April 2023 at 7 pm.



The Folly Inn refurbishment is largely complete internally. Externally you will note improvements to the seating on the terrace and garden; the new shower block and the new Folly Taxi office are in place but fitting out is still in progress. The defibrillator is currently unavailable and awaiting reinstatement in a new position within the north yard. There is nothing more to report on the car parking other than to remind members to park in the south meadow area and to display your MMA windscreen sticker. The new Manager briefed me this week that she is still waiting to hear from Greene King

when the promised meeting with MMA can take place to discuss arrangements for members. Meantime your 2023 Membership Renewal Form will enable you to apply for a membership card that will allow you to register your car details with the car parking company when the new parking regime comes into effect.

The Membership Renewal Form attached to this Newsletter should be studied carefully. Last year we managed to keep 2022 membership fees and dinghy park charges unchanged. Indeed dinghy park charges have not increased for 3 years. We need to ensure that necessary improvements to dinghy park security can be afforded, and also expected increases to running expenses (rent, insurance etc) accommodated. Your committee has agreed that all dinghy park charges will be increased by £5.00 from 1 January 2023. So, a standard dinghy space will increase from £40 to £45 next year. Please don't think in percentage terms; MMA dinghy parking remains probably the cheapest in the south of England and still represents unbeatable value for money. Those taking advantage of Oar House storage also need to return their Oar House key with their membership form to claim the discount. Padlocks will be changed on 1st January. The question of membership fees is to be addressed next year by the Committee as part of AGM preparations.

Looking ahead to 2023, we hope to run another Folly Boat Jumble this coming Spring. Volunteers to help run it are now being recruited! If you feel able to offer some time please let either the MMA Secretary or Membership Officer know.

Ice and snow this week will be followed by gales this coming weekend. Under the terms of your dinghy park agreement boats must be kept in a seaworthy condition. At this time of year failure to ensure that covers are secure and boats well lashed down might well prove expensive. On Boxing Day those thinking about a leg stretch and possibly a glass of something at the pub could do worse than say hello to their dinghy or kayak in the dinghy park. In any event, I wish all MMA members and their families a very happy Christmas and look forward to seeing you all again in the New Year.



Peter Jackson
Chairman
Medina Mariners Association