



MMA CHAIRMAN'S NEWSLETTER September 2021



On 29 August the Cowes Torquay Powerboat race set off from Cowes. The race winner took 2hrs 21 minutes for the passage to Torquay and back at an average speed of 82.3 kts. I know I should have had *Vixen's* bottom scrubbed! Usually the power boats mark pretty-well the end of the main Solent boating season, but thanks to Covid-imposed delays there are still some important regattas to be run this autumn. After the start of the new school term local marinas have berths for who prefer a more leisurely form of boating. No need to stow away the sea boots just yet.

Life on the River Medina is very different from May when I last reported to you. Once again the Folly pontoons are full of visiting boats. We have recently enjoyed an excellent afternoon's informal dinghy racing in perfect conditions. The new set of MMA race flags were expertly wielded by Chris Brooks and Ron Rich from a committee vessel kindly loaned by Folly Ventures. It was great to find the Folly Inn buzzing under the direction of Sam, the new Manager. Crewpots and dancing on the tables are back, and she is being given full support by Greene King who is determined to overcome the well-known difficulties of recent years. I am confident that the strong working relationship between MMA and The Folly Inn is in a healthy state and I see no reason why we should not be able to move forward together in tackling issues of site security, parking and general cooperation.



It is of concern to your Committee that one night in late July four inflatable dinghies were stolen from the dinghy park. All signs point to organised crime. All the dinghies were nearly new and in unmarked condition. All were well secured with padlocks etc. Police response has been disappointing. Discussions at last week's committee meeting led to no instant quick fix measures to ensure site security. It is generally felt that members would not wish to see a fully-gated and locked compound with all-round intruder-proof fencing. CCTV cameras can provide some information but experience shows that intruders are alert to the risk and measures are taken to disguise identity. Having said that, CCTV might have some deterrent value and systems are now relatively affordable. Accordingly money has been put aside by MMA to follow that path if ongoing research indicates that MMA should have some CCTV coverage.

In the longer term it is expected that Greene King's currently dormant plans to manage car parking will feature wider CCTV security coverage of the parking areas and some automatic number plate recognition (ANPR) system. If this happens then security at the Folly will be enhanced and MMA will benefit accordingly. Talking about car parking, recently all parking zones at the Folly have been filled to capacity. This underlines the need for MMA Members to display their current MMA Parking Sticker. This allows Greene King, the landowners, to



contact MMA should any parked vehicles need to be moved, and to help identify abandoned vehicles. Currently MMA stickers are available only to dinghy park berth holders. However your committee is aware that there are some MMA members who, while owning boats moored on the river, make other arrangements for reaching their craft. As pressure on Folly parking continues to increase it is clearly desirable that all MMA members should be entitled to an MMA car sticker. The aim is to achieve this to coincide with the issue of 2022 stickers.

Covid caused the cancellation of several local Boat Jumbles. Many of us have accumulated items of boat gear that need passing on. The Oar House in particular could do with a good clear out of unused or abandoned equipment. Plans are now in place to hold a Boat Jumble at the Folly on Saturday 2 October 2021 from 1000-1200. This will be a charity event organised by the Folly Inn in partnership with Island Harbour YC, Waypoint Yacht Brokers and MMA. Your chairman has zero experience in running any sort of boot sale or jumble and would welcome the advice or guidance from any member who has been involved with boat jumbles in the past.

Furthermore, we are looking for somebody to run an MMA “pitch” so that we can sell on unwanted Oar House contents, and allow those with only a few items to avoid having to set up their own pitch. Should you be able to help please contact either myself (07777 682974) or Colin Caldicott. If you are able to arrange good weather that would also help.



MMA is affiliated to the RYA, our national boating authority. This allows us to run races using World Sailing’s racing rules. It also provides access to much valuable advice and training. RYA has its own legal department and MMA has recently made good use of this resource to deal with abandoned dinghies and non-payment of membership dues strictly in accordance with the law. Experience thus gained has led to some essential amendments to the Terms and Conditions of membership that you agree to when signing your membership application or renewal form each year. Please read the “small print” carefully. It is important!



I have mentioned that the Folly Inn is under new management. Furthermore Greene King is addressing necessary change at the very highest level. Notwithstanding some disappointing food and service issues over recent years, MMA needs to give the new team all the support we can provide. It is hoped to be able to arrange a traditional Laying Up supper there, possibly in October. I look forward to meeting as many of you as possible then.

With best wishes

Peter Jackson
Chairman
3 September 2021.