

MEDINA MARINERS

Registered Charity No. 282493



Summer newsletter 2019

Summer barbecue at the Folly

On Saturday, July 27, members of Marchwood Yacht Club will be joining us for a barbecue on the green next to the Folly.

All MMA members and their guests are welcome to join in, just bring your own food to cook on the barbecue – drinks are available from the pub next door.

We will be starting to cook around 6pm.

It's a good chance to get together and meet up – and the Marchwood crowd are good-fun, intrepid sailors who will have their boats on the visitors' pontoon.

MMA rally to Marchwood YC

MMA is planning a reciprocal visit to Marchwood, with a members' cruise to the club on August 31/September 1. Marchwood YC has pontoons near its clubhouse, which is at the top of Southampton Water (opposite the big container ships!) and we will eat in the Marchwood clubhouse.

Last year's rally was voted a hit, so do come along. Details are still being finalised, but you can register your interest by phoning Mary Phillips on 07807 566221 or emailing maryphillipsuk@yahoo.co.uk

Autumn date for your diary

It's a long way off but we are planning to hold our autumn 2019 laying up supper at The Breeze restaurant, in Island Harbour, on Friday October 18.

MMA Facebook page

Do join the **Medina Mariners Association** page on Facebook. It has more than 50 members and is a good way to keep up to date and to share information and photos.

MMA committee members

MMA chairman is Capt Peter Jackson, treasurer is Colin Gilbert, hon secretary is Mary Phillips and membership/site officer is Colin Caldicott.

Other committee members are Peter Bingham, Eric Ray and Philippe Wines.

You can contact the committee through the hon secretary, telephone 07807 566221 or email honorarysecretary@medinamariners.org.

Call the membership/site officer on **07900 033276** or email medinamariners@gmail.com (please note new contact details) for matters re membership or dinghy park..

MMA chairman Peter Jackson is the MMA representative on the Cowes Harbour Advisory Committee, which meets every few months.

MMA representative on the Newport Harbour Users' Group is committee member Peter Bingham. If you have any issues you would like to raise, let the MMA hon sec know.

MMA Chairman's Notes

The new MMA Committee, elected at the AGM on 23 April, met last month to carry forward AGM decisions. To help establish headmarks for the 2019 season, we reviewed the association's objectives set out in May 2017 to cover the following 3 years.

The objectives agreed in 2017 were:

- Sustain Green King Lease
- Maintain/improve general tidiness and appearance of dinghy park
- Promote "No gash to be ditched"
- Negotiate improvements to car parking (ruts etc)
- Provide water point at top of public slipway
- Representation on both Newport and Cowes User Groups
- Increase the number of sailing dinghies
- Dinghy racing programme
- Establish a cruising programme.
- Negotiate more benefits for members.
- Regulate berthing by size of boat (and type?)
- Update website
- Refurbish MMA office.
- Update Membership Communications (multi media etc)

We have seen significant changes at The Folly over the last 18 months. The landlord, Greene King, has carried out some major refurbishment work. A new outside beer bar is up and running and this should ease the pressure on the inside bar at peak periods. Unfortunately important measures to correct pontoon safety issues are still outstanding and the planned date for this keeps sliding right. Yet another new manager, Mark, took over at the beginning of June. Colin Caldicott and I had a very positive meeting with him and hopefully the solid working relationship between MMA and The Folly will be maintained relatively seamlessly.

The general tidiness of the dinghy park reflects the hard work by our garden contractor, and by our Membership Officer and new committee member Philippe Wines. I should like to remind everybody that it is their responsibility to keep the grass and weeds down in the immediate vicinity of their own berths (to ensure boats are not damaged by contractor's strimmers). Also, although MMA now has a waste bin by the dinghy park gate, this is only for very small items of rubbish. We are not a re-cycling centre so please take any sizable items home for disposal.

The berberis hedge planted to mark out the car park seems to have survived, although some of the plants have been trampled and will have to be replaced this coming autumn. If you are planning to leave your car at the Folly for more than a couple of days, please let Colin Caldicott know so he can alert the management and if necessary access the parking field on the South side. The new Folly manager has no further information on Greene King parking changes.

We are planning to hold an MMA rally to Marchwood on 31 August. Watch the MMA Facebook page for more details nearer the time. Before that we will be holding a combined MMA and Marchwood SC barbecue on Saturday 27 July on the South Meadow. East Cowes Sea Scouts will be again providing the BBQ cooking facilities. Bring your own food and hope for good weather. Let's have a good turnout and get together.

Some changes to the dinghy park have been made this year. In particular the "toast racks" have been adjusted to provide specific parking for kayaks, while at the same time some slots are now available for broader-beamed inflatable dinghies. Inroads have been made on berths occupied but not paid for this season. In future, owners of abandoned dinghies will be advised that they are liable for disposal costs of their boat. This year the disposal of abandoned dinghies cost MMA in the order of £700 and this is not sustainable.

The provision of a fresh water tap at the top of the slipway remains an aspiration. However there is currently no water supply within convenient distance and issues of water metering and payment are challenging to say the least. I see no realistic prospects of progress on this front in the immediate future.

One advantage of MMA membership is that as a group, we have a voice in both the Cowes Harbour Advisory Committee and the Newport Harbour Users Group. As an example of issues brought to the attention of the harbour authorities on your behalf, Philippe Wines drew CHC's attention to the exceptionally high degree of weed infestation on the river. The result was that advice was sought from the Estuaries Officer who understands that it results from a number of combined reasons including the quality of the water course, amount of nutrients in the river and the mild winter that have all caused the weed main growing season in the spring to be particular prolific this year. She also confirmed that many of the Solent and South coast estuaries and rivers have the same issues. The Environment Agency has been contacted to seek further information and asked for any advice or assistance.



There has been a modest increase in use in small sailing dinghies, mainly scows and mirrors, berthed at The Folly. There are also a few dinghies, mainly Mirrors, that are no longer wanted by their owners. If any member knows of anybody wishing to take on a mirror dinghy with a view to introducing younger people to sailing or other good cause, please contact Colin Caldicott.

Folly Ventures continues to operate the scrubbing berth on behalf of MMA. Folly Ventures staff are also being engaged on an occasional basis to undertake jobs such as clearing away abandoned boats, and removing scrap iron from the site. MMA retains the use of the old MMA HQ offices for committee meetings.

Finally, we try to keep up with trends in social media to keep the MMA informed of events, news, and other items that might affect their enjoyment of the river. Our Facebook page is proving to be a useful channel, and hopefully more people will be signing up to our dinghy sailing and kayaking WhatsApp Group. For access to this please contact the Hon Secretary, who will put you in touch with the WhatsApp Group Administrator.

So, looking at the objectives set 2 years ago, with one year to run we are broadly on-track. And on closing, one final reminder: Saturday, 27 July; our MMA barbecue with Marchwood SC. I hope to see you there.

Peter Jackson
MMA Chairman