



Chairman's Christmas Message 2025

This year has really flown past and what a year it has been. The weather held off for Cowes Week, and most classes had “champagne sailing” conditions. We were treated to the elite sailors competing in the Admirals cup held this year in new classes of boats and we watched Charlie Dalin win the Vendee globe.

It was not all great news, sadly this year we lost one of sailings “Greats,” the Paralympic sailor and sailmaker Andy Cassel passed away, but he leaves behind the legacy of the Andy Cassel Foundation giving opportunity and inclusion to disabled sailors in Cowes.

In the river we have seen the start of the development by Cowes Harbour Commission, of the new harbour marina in East Cowes. We are also seeing work lead by East Cowes Sailing Club to reinstate one of the slipways on the seafront for public use, Medina Mariners Association is represented on both of these projects and we will keep you updated on progress.

Closer to home we had an incredibly successful members working weekend tidying and sorting the dinghy park, removing debris and abandoned boats. Our next big project will be the oar house to better provide facilities for members to store equipment and outboards, making accessing boats in the river easier.

In the background the committee have been working incredibly hard to improve the legal standing of the charity and liaise with Greene King about a new secure lease for the site. It is no small feat to achieve both these things, and without the tireless work of our Trustees behind the scenes, it is entirely possible that MMA would have struggled to exist.

Our “last Friday of the month” social meetups have been a success, allowing our members to meet and feel part of the MMA community, and our laying up supper held at The Folly saw an impressive number of members join us, thanks in no small part to our Treasurer planning the event and encouraging participation.

We have a lot to look forward to, Next year will see the Cowes 200 event celebrating yachting, and it is hoped to involve not just the racing sailors but dinghy sailing and other water borne activities.

Medina Mariners Association keeps moving forward but we cannot do this without your help, so if any member has ideas or would like to help the committee please get in contact.

As some of you will have noticed I have been less present at events recently as my work now takes me further away from Cowes. I became the skipper of a large sail training vessel this year and find myself spending more time away from home. I have taken the difficult decision to stand down as Chair; I will continue to remain a Trustee and aid the committee in running the charity but do not want our progress to be held back by my lack of time and availability. We will have to elect a new chair and so if anyone has the time and enthusiasm, I suggest that you contact the committee and come along to one of our meetings to find out more.

So, for now, I would like to thank all our volunteers, Trustees, advisors, and committee members. I would also like to thank those that support us, and wish all our members a very Merry Christmas and a safe and enjoyable season on the water next year.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ad' followed by a long, sweeping horizontal stroke.

Adam James – Chairman

