

Dear Members,

Here is an update on current events.

LADDERS IN THE SOUTH PIER AREA

As some of you will know, we recently circulated members with berths in the Old Harbour and around South Pier following the removal of the ladder beside the water tap on South Pier. This is located beyond the buildings on South Pier & around the right-hand corner by the yacht club, so if you are walking towards the crane, it is on the East side of the pier about half way along. In the past there has always been a ladder adjacent to this tap, which facilitated easy access between boat and tap as you filled your tanks. This ladder has now been removed, so that tap users have to make their way to the steps on the corner by the yacht club or the steps nearer the crane, neither of which is convenient for moving between tap and boat.

Suggested solutions included reinstating the ladder, or moving the tap closer to another ladder. Reactions from our membership unanimously favoured reinstating the ladder, as moving the tap was likely to cause additional congestion in an already busy area. We have reported this back to Marine Leisure and await further developments.

AGM

Our current plan is to hold the AGM in the usual way at the St Helier Yacht club, with restricted numbers and requirements to pre-register if you wish to attend. At the time of writing the pre-registrations are approaching the maximum permitted capacity (40 people) so if you wish to attend and have not already applied, please do so sooner rather than later so we can plan for any overflow.

The AGM is planned for 17.30 on Tuesday 24th November, although the format and possibly the date might change depending on Covid restrictions.

HARBOUR DEVELOPMENT

Ports of Jersey have, in recent months, turned their focus rather more towards our Harbour (presumably because their plans to redevelop the airport are likely to be deferred in the current state of uncertainty). Many of you will have seen articles about this in the JEP. It seems that they are well aware of the current serious shortage of berthing capacity for leisure boats and are seeking ways to alleviate this. Plans include the creation of new 24-hour berthing pontoons along the Albert Pier and works to enhance St Helier Marina. The intention seems to be to create additional capacity for larger boats on Albert Pier which would then free up space elsewhere, especially in Elizabeth Marina. We will keep you posted as we learn more.

TRAFFIC LIGHTS – ELIZABETH MARINA

Congestion around the rather restricted entrance/exit to Elizabeth Marina has long been an issue, with many berth-holders complaining that that boats waiting for the green light to exit make it difficult from those entering the marina to do so without being obstructed. One reason for this seems to be that boats berthed at the North end of the Marina find it difficult to see the traffic lights and so move to a position where they can clearly see them. Your committee has suggested to PoJ that the installation of some additional repeat lights, for example along the wall on the West side of the marina, could alleviate this problem, as all boat would then be able to see the traffic lights from their berths.

MARINA OFFICE

It seems that the Marine Leisure Office at St Helier Marina is unlikely to open to the public access any time soon, although the team are still operational and say they are able to fulfil the vast majority of their usual functions. However, if you have things you wish to discuss with them you or business you need to conduct, you will need to use email or telephone to get the ball rolling.

At the end of a very peculiar season, and at a time when so many leisure activities have all but shut down, it does seem that leisure boating in Jersey has actually benefitted from the fact it is one of the activities that we can continue to enjoy in our spare time, even if we cannot easily go to France or the other islands. Many of our favourite local bays and anchorages have frequently been very well patronised, and such facilities as the availability car parking space & new berths, have been recognised by PoJ as coming under pressure. The Committee will be spending some time in the near future considering how we currently function and how we may be able to improve the way we serve our membership, both in a general sense and also in light of the 'new normal' that we are all living with.

Best Wishes
Will Simpson

Chairman