



ST. HELIER BOAT-OWNERS ASSOCIATION

Minutes of the 19th Annual General Meeting held at St Helier Yacht Club on 7 December 2009 at 1930 hours.

Present	The Officers, committee members and approximately 125 members.
In Attendance	Representing Harbours: Myra Shacklady, Commercial Director (MSh) & Andrew Boustouler (AB), Director of Finance & Information.
Introduction	The Chairman opened the meeting by saying he was overwhelmed by the record attendance. He welcomed MSh & AB, who would answer questions directed through the chair during the open forum.
1. Apologies	Received from Mr & Mrs A Courtness, Mr & Mrs De la Haye, Mr & Mrs A Olsen, Mr & Mrs P Mitchel, Mr & Mrs P Pitcher, Mr H Gill, Mr & Mrs C Cook, Mr & Mrs P Tinley, Mr & Mrs D chevalier, Connetable P Hanning & Mr T Scott Warren.
2. Minutes	The secretary read the minutes of the last AGM held on 8 th December 2008 and they were approved on a proposition by R Minkley, seconded by F Daly.
3. Matters Arising	<p>The Chairman gave updates on the following matters:</p> <p>Slipway parking – discs can be used as well as scratch cards.</p> <p>South Pier parking – a new layout had been agreed and marking would be done after the boats had been lifted in.</p> <p>Wi-fi – was expected to be available in all marinas by April 2010.</p> <p>Barraques – Harbours recognise the maintenance need, but lack funding at present.</p>
4. Chairman's Report	<p>The Chairman read his report covering the main issues and activities dealt with during the year. Following the vandalism in Elizabeth marina, a series of meetings were held with the Harbour-master, resulting in increased security patrols, a budget allocation for a new system to be installed in 2010 and the launch of a Boat Watch scheme.</p> <p>Nick Wood had set up an Association website in the Spring & PDD has been publishing up to date information, including committee meeting reports and several useful links.</p> <p>The Solas V regulations that came into force on 1st July had benefited from some concessions resulting from our input to the consultation, however he noted that the complete Guidance Notes, which Harbours had agreed to produce, were still awaited.</p> <p>The Association had continued to be represented on the Marine Leisure Development Group and in respect of the old harbours had raised concerns on a number of issues including mooring costs, loss of drying berths, cradles & reduced access time. These had been addressed in the concept plans, which Harbours had shown the committee. He stressed that no behind the scenes deal had been struck and that formal consultation would commence with a presentation to members on 14th December. He said that his personal view was that the old harbours should be cleaned up & remain a drying harbour, but the Association will put forward the membership's views, rather than his own.</p> <p>The issue of fuel duty had arisen again and the fuel lobby group had updated the 2006 report and Harbours had achieved a 12 month stay, by committing to an additional £200k contribution to Treasury. The Group had met with Asst. Treasury Minister Dep. Noel and officers in September and it was clear that more work will be needed to convince them of the serious effect the introduction of fuel duty would have on the whole marine industry in Jersey.</p> <p>He thanked MSh for her rapid response to routine matters although action was</p>

	<p>sometimes delayed when they had to be referred to TTS to schedule the work.</p> <p>Finally, he thanked the Committee members for their efforts and support throughout the year.</p> <p>P Mourant said he would not be able to attend the presentation on the 14th and asked the Chairman to summarise the concepts. MS said he was not competent to do so & MSh said she was happy to arrange for the Technical Director meet individuals or small groups.</p> <p>PDD said that website visits were averaging 50 a day and sought some feedback. Approximately half of those present indicated that they had visited the site and a small number used RSS feeds for notification of new content. For the benefit of P Mourant, he explained that RSS stood for Really Simple Syndication and said he would welcome any suggestions for improvement to the site's content.</p> <p>The Chairman's Report was accepted on a proposition by R Minkley, seconded by R Challinor.</p>
5. Hon Treasurer/ Membership Secretary's Report	<p>In her role of Membership Secretary, Penny Hatter said that more members would strengthen the Assn's voice and she encouraged any guests present to join the Association at the end of the meeting.</p> <p>She circulated and explained the audited accounts, which showed a surplus for the year of £530.20. She explained several items of expenditure and the stock of postage stamps, purchased for the AGM mailshot ahead of the price increase. Grateful letters of thanks had been received from CIAS & RNLI for the donations of £440 each and for the £100 collected at the sea safety evening in May, which had been shared between them.</p> <p>After the usual turnover, the membership total of 576 was 15 higher than the previous year end. She had received grateful letters of thanks for our donations from the RLNI & CIAS. She expressed thanks to Len Stevens and his staff at Tillyard for once again printing the Newsletter free of charge and to Tim Scott Warren for auditing the accounts.</p> <p>There being no questions for the Treasurer, he proposed a vote of thanks to PH and the accounts were approved on a proposition by C Blampied, seconded by F Daly.</p>
6. Election of Officers	<p>PDD took the chair and said he was pleased that MS had been persuaded to stand again. His was the only nomination for Chairman, proposed by P Donne Davis and seconded by N Wood and he therefore announced him duly elected.</p> <p>MS thanked everyone for their support and said he had been pressured into standing again, as the post of Vice Chairman had remained vacant, however he was pleased that Nick Wood had agreed to stand this year. He read the nominations received as follows:</p> <p>Vice Chairman – N Wood Hon Secretary – P Donne Davis Hon Treasurer – P Hatter</p> <p>Committee Members:</p> <p>M Anderson P Carter K Hennelly R Thebault</p> <p>MS declared that the above-mentioned were duly elected.</p>
7. Election of Auditor.	<p>The Chairman said that Tim Scott Warren was prepared to stand again and asked for a proposer from the floor. He was proposed by L Stevens, seconded by S Morvan and duly elected.</p>
8.	<p>The Chairman advised the meeting that the committee's recommendation was that the</p>

Subscriptions	subscriptions for the following year remain unchanged at £5 single and £8 joint. The recommendation was approved on a proposition by F Daly, seconded by G Baudains.
9. Donations	<p>The Chairman advised that, following last year's increase, the committee's recommendation was that donations of £440 each be made to the RNLI Jersey Branch and to CI Air Search.</p> <p>K Livesey proposed that the Committee's recommendations be accepted. This was seconded by A Le Chevalier and carried.</p>
10. Changes to Constitution and Rules	<p>MS read a proposition against flooding the old harbours, submitted by C Fairbairn. He pointed out that Harbours had arranged a presentation of their concepts for the following week and suggested that it would be unwise to vote in advance. He asked C Fairbairn if he was prepared to withdraw the proposition. S Morvan said an EGM could be called if the presentation did not allay concerns. P Mourant said there were so many rumours to be resolved and he suggested adjourning this item for a week, however L Stevens felt more time was needed to publicise the date.</p> <p>C Fairbairn proposed that the meeting vote on whether or not to proceed with the proposition. The Chairman called for a show of hands, which resulted approximately 2 – 1 in favour of deferral. He then undertook to set a date & venue to reconvene in January and to announce this at the Harbours presentation on 14th December.</p>
11. Open Meeting	<p>MS invited questions to MSH to be put through the Chair.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - asked if the concept plans could be available for those unable to attend the presentation & MSh said she would consider displaying them in the Marina office. - said he was a long standing berth holder in St Helier Marina and complained about the lack of information from Harbours about the reorganisation. MSh said that work on the local pontoons would not start until next winter and owners would be contacted in advance. - expressed concern that despite the notices, skateboarders were riding through the car park, risking accidents. MSh acknowledged the problem & said all incidents were reported to Health & Safety, £55k had been spent on extra security and they had insisted that the skate park be closed at 8.00pm instead of 10.00pm. She had also applied to Planning to put a manned barrier outside Maritime House due to youngsters racing on Albert Pier at night. - sought justification for the recent relaxation of GST rules for superyachts. MSh said this did not just apply to superyachts, but to all boats, cars & planes owned by non residents and brought Jersey more in line with the EU, although they had to leave the Island for 14 days before starting a new 18 month period, whereas elsewhere it was only 1 day. This was not a Harbours issue, but the responsibility of Jersey Customs. - asked if the boat park would be upgraded for superyachts & MSh said she wanted to improve it for all boats. - asked about boats of non residents in Elizabeth marina and MSh said they were monitored by Customs who stamp their documents in & out. - asked if non residents paid GST on mooring fees & MSH confirmed that they do. - asked if there were firm plans for the drying moorings. MSh said a number of ideas were under consideration. <p>P Hatter read a question concerning commercial vehicles using drop off spaces at Elizabeth marina and also broken chains on trolleys. MSh said vehicles seen abusing the</p>

	<p>spaces would be booked and MS encouraged members to report such instances.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - asked how berths are allocated to non residents. MSH replied that there is just one waiting list for Elizabeth marina, the only marina where non resident contracts are permitted. - asked where is the value in allocating berths to non residents, when locals are on the list. MSh said that superyachts provided higher income to Harbours & the BMF estimated an annual spend of 10% of their cost, a proportion of which would be spent in the Island. - commented that he agreed with that justification for superyachts, but not for smaller boats. - reminded members that attracting non residents had been a key factor in the States approving funding to build Elizabeth marina in the first place. - asked about the impact of the new visitors area on nos. 4&5 berths on holding for locals. MSh said that the pontoon would be extended south & and an area reserved for local holding. MS added that holding problems had been raised many times and one benefit of the new visitor location would be that the area would be manned & could be properly managed. - raised the regular problems accessing the La Collette holding pontoon & MS said the committee had already suggested that one side be reserved for boats up to 8m & the other for those above 8m. - said that new recycling bins had been installed elsewhere, but only glass was separated at Elizabeth marina. MSh said that TTS would be providing more. MS said the facility on Sth Pier was working well, after an initial hiccup with lids blowing open. - asked how to get back through the security gate when using the La Collette holding berth and MSh said owners could get their cards updated in advance at the Marina office. MS said the new entry system was now working well & MSh advised that someone had been charged in connection with the vandalism at Elizabeth marina & 110 other offences. - suggested a facility to recycle old chain. <p>MS advised that TTS had removed a number of dinghies from the old harbours & there would be a charge for returning them & MSh said 62 had been identified as in breach of the regulations.</p>
Termination	<p>There being no further questions, the Chairman thanked MSh & AB for their time and members for attending in such numbers. He also thanked St Helier Yacht Club for the use of their premises and reminded anyone who was not a Yacht Club member to sign the visitors book. He advised that the Hon Treasurer was ready to receive subscriptions and had House Flags available for sale. He wished everyone a happy Christmas and good boating in 2008 and he invited members to participate in the buffet & wished everyone a happy Christmas & good boating next year.</p> <p>The meeting was adjourned at 2120 hours until a date to be decided for consideration of the proposition in agenda item 10.</p>



ST. HELIER BOAT-OWNERS ASSOCIATION

Continuation of the Minutes of the 19th Annual General Meeting, reconvened at St Helier Yacht Club on 18th January 2010 at 1930 hours.

Present	Present were the Officers, committee members and approximately 115 members plus several prospective members.
Apologies	Apologies were received from Mr & Mrs R Lock, Mr L Carter & Mr P Carter.
Introduction	The Chairman (MS) opened the meeting by expressing appreciation for the large turnout to discuss a topic clearly close to everyone's hearts. He reminded members that the AGM in December had been adjourned in respect of the Item 10 proposition and that was the only business for consideration at this reconvened meeting. He said that the Hon.Sec. would take minutes, which would be posted on the website & he requested that any recording equipment be switched off, so that views could be expressed freely.
10. Propositions or Changes to Constitution and Rules	<p>MS read the proposition submitted by C Fairbairn (CF) as follows: <i>'To approve a proposition that the members of the St. Helier Boat Owners' Association are opposed to any proposal for the loss of the Drying Harbour, (Old Harbour, French & English Harbours), and that the members direct the Chairman, on behalf of the Association, to make known this decision to the Jersey Harbours department and other relevant authorities.'</i> G Baudains seconded the proposition and MS invited CF to address the meeting.</p> <p>CF said he had discussed their concept plans with Harbours' officers and with the aid of a flip chart, he summarised them as construction of a sill between the New North Quay & the Commercial Buildings side at a height of 7m above chart datum and another between NNQ & South Pier at 6m above datum. The area north of the 7m sill would be dredged to 1.5m to provide basic pontoons in the centre and Mediterranean style moorings against both sides. He contended that the space required for bow tackle and manoeuvring had been underestimated and would significantly reduce the number of pontoon berths available in the centre.</p> <p>He said the area between the 7m sill & South Pier would also be dredged to 1.5m up to the beaches in the English & French harbours, which he had pointed out would require walls to retain the beaches & this area would be a 'full price' marina. The Harbourmaster had said that up to 75 drying moorings would be retained on the 2 beaches, but CF pointed out that they would have severely limited access on neap tides & were really only storage moorings & in any case this was a small proportion of the 440 current moorings. In summary, the plans would provide for fewer boats, questionable access times, the loss of natural harbours & would cost £4.5m.</p> <p>He questioned why Harbours were intent on pursuing this idea in view of the results of their 2008 survey of boat owners and he read page 6 of the survey report, emphasising that "less than 2% of those moored in St Helier harbour said that they had no concerns about drying areas being ponded". His conclusion was that their focus was on the development of luxury flats & tapas bars rather than the boat owners.</p> <p>He asked members that agreed with the importance of preserving the drying harbours to support his proposition and also to use other means of disseminating their views, such as writing to the JEP & calling phone-ins.</p>

MS opened discussion to the floor & the following questions & comments were made:

- suggested that members should raise their concerns with politicians.
- asked if non-members would be allowed to vote & if not could he join. MS said that only those who were members prior to the meeting could vote.
- asked for more detail on the Mediterranean moorings & CF explained that boats would be stern-to long pontoons. He also wondered if a survey of the bed rock had been undertaken & whether Harbours would reimburse him with the cost of his new chains.
- said she had phoned Myra Shacklady (MSh) to enquire about the pricing structure. MSh had not been willing to give figures, but had questioned the value of the Members Survey due to the small proportion of responses. She also wondered how many of the 270 on the waiting list were local.
- (a non-member) said it was important that low-cost moorings were retained, not just for current owners, but also for future generations. He referred to Weymouth where fees at the town marina were considerably lower than the commercial alternative. He also questioned Harbours' assertion that Jersey fees compared favourably with the UK, pointing out the higher cost of other services, such as the hoist.
- said that the fresh water stream running through the old harbour was a haven for wild life, which would be lost to ponding.
- criticised the recent letter from the Harbourmaster as implying that the ponding would be done regardless.
- congratulated CF on his efforts and asked for his view of the driving force behind the scheme. CF said that flooding had been discussed some years ago and when he was YC Commodore he had argued against it in 'Harbour News'. Thereafter it had gone quiet for a while only to be revised with access by Falkirk Wheel. In his view, the driver was WEB's wish to take advantage of the enhancement of land value.
- said internet surveys were a problem for those without computer access. MS acknowledged this, but said in this case time was of the essence and the cost of a mailing was also a consideration. Forms had been available at the yacht clubs.
- asked if Harbours would need States approval & planning consent for the project. MS said the budget would require States approval & he believed that planning consent was also required
- a former planning officer, confirmed that only porta-cabins were exempt from consent.
- recalled that she had written an article about the history of the old harbour for the Association Newsletter. Founded in 1542, it was the oldest Island harbour and an important part of its heritage. The Island's seafarers had been valued by king George II, whose statue stands in the Royal Square and the tradition would be damaged by flooding.
- suggested a petition to grant SSI status for the old harbours.
- said a sill at 7m would restrict many boats.

	<p>- said he had raised this point with MSh & she had confirmed that there would be gates in the sills, so access should be unchanged.</p> <p>There being no further speakers, MS asked if anyone wished to speak against the proposition and his request was met with silence. He announced that he intended to abstain, in case the vote was tied and he had to exercise a casting vote and he put the question. MA & PH acted as tellers and he announced that the proposition was carried, 114 in favour, 2 against and 2 abstentions.</p>
	<p>MS declared the business of the meeting concluded at 2025 hours and invited Julian Barber to say a few words about the members survey, which he had been commissioned to manage on behalf of the Yacht Clubs & the Association.</p> <p>Julian outlined his professional credentials, including conducting the Harbours' survey in 2008. He said he believed that the response was satisfactory and unbiased. The survey had been aimed at those who had seen the concept plans and had been prepared quickly, after Harbours' presentation on 14th December. It had opened on 18th December & closed on 10th January in order to get analysis in time for this meeting. He summarised the results and copies of the summary were circulated.</p> <p>MS called for any further comments.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - suggested that when notifying the authorities of the decision taken, reference should be made to the vote on a similar proposition at St HYC's AGM. - said the plans were badly obscured at Harbours' presentation & they needed to be available to members so that they could participate in the consultation. MS said MSh had advised him that they could not be shown, as they were not finalised! - questioned what would happen to the boats during the excavation. - reminded members that the Island Plan consultation continued until March & suggested submitting comments regarding the harbours. - asked, even if Harbours were persuaded, what was to stop WEB from bringing the idea back time & again. - said the best way was to lobby politicians, particularly bearing in mind there will be an election next year. - drew a parallel with the protracted difficulties in negotiating the Yacht Club lease.
Termination	<p>The Chairman thanked everyone for attending a passionate, but orderly meeting. He also thanked the Commodore of St Helier Yacht Club for the use of the premises once again and reminded anyone who was not a Yacht Club member to sign the visitors book. He advised that the Hon Treasurer had application forms for any non members wishing to join the Association.</p> <p>The meeting was closed at 2045 hours.</p>