



St Helier Boat Owners Association



Newsletter 2010

Chairman's Remarks

Since the AGM your committee have been kept busy and I outline some of the topics that have been addressed:

Harbours Concept Plans

Following pressure from our members along with St. Helier Yacht Club members, in early February Senator Alan McLean stepped in and put a hold on the plans to reconfigure St Helier marina and the old harbours. He also announced his intention to replace the Marine Leisure Development Group (MLDG) with a new group titled the Marina Development Task and Finish Group (MDG). We have expressed regret to the Minister at the demise of the MLDG, which had a wider remit than just the 'East of Albert' and as I write, we await more details and terms of reference for the MDG.

In the meantime there remains a waiting list for marina berths and essential works are needed to replace some of the piles in St Helier marina and the pontoons in La Collette. There is a significant cost to bring pile-driving equipment to the Island, so Harbours are working on ideas to coordinate the creation of some additional berths with the replacement works. I am assured that no flooding will be involved and I will go as far to say that I am of the opinion that the old harbour will remain a drying harbour for some considerable time.

Fuel Duty

This issue is far from finished and I expect it to come to a head before the year is out. We will obviously oppose any form of duty on marine fuel but I am mindful it is going to be a hard battle to win this time.

Barraques Renovation

Following discussions with Myra Shacklady regarding the poor state of the Barraques, I am pleased to report that work has started on repairs. From what I understand the work may not be completed all at once. Work will continue as and when TTS has staff available. At least this bit of Jersey history is a last being restored.

Mooring Fees

Harbours have printed a Marina Tariffs document for 2010. We have found this very useful. We have raised a number of issues regarding charges and I am pleased to report that we have been successful regarding some of the figures. Drying moorings are now charged on the overall length basis rather than length x breadth. This we have no problem with, however we raised the issue of why there was a higher rate per metre for vessels over 9m. We felt this was unjust and I am pleased to report that the higher rate has been scrapped. The document can be obtained from the marina office or by following the link on our website.

La Collette holding area

Following clarification from Harbours please be aware that should you use a vacant finger berth to hold in La Collette, you are liable to the daily marina charge. If you hold on the holding pontoon, where you may have to raft, the charge is £7.34 a day for a maximum of 3 days. A longer stay than this will incur a cost of £21.63 a day. Local craft may stay a maximum of 12 hours in any 36 free of charge. Harbours are re introducing the pink ticket policy for this season so if you receive one on your boat and you think it is unjustified contact the marina office at once. Otherwise you will be liable for a £20 administration fee if they have to send you a bill.

South Pier Parking

Once the boats have been lifted in, the arm of South Pier will be marked out with parking spaces, with the area opposite the Yacht Club allocated for cycles and motorcycles. We support this move, however we have been advised that motorists who park inconsiderately will be booked.

Refuse Bins South Pier

The new bins seem to be working quite well, however some boat owners still seem to be dumping their bigger items alongside. This makes the area very untidy. Please consider taking these items to the proper place. The dump is open seven days a week.

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Boats on Quays

Jersey Harbours have reintroduced quay rental for boats on quays. This was the policy up to a few years ago, but it was stopped for some reason. In the current financial climate it is difficult to say that this is unreasonable so be aware of the charge prior to deciding to winter on the quay. The current rate is £3.25 per square metre per month.

Web Site

Last year 2009 your Association went live and launched its Web site. I am pleased to say that Peter Donne Davis & Nick Wood are now working on a new and very smart second edition. My thanks to them both for all the work they have put in.

20 years old

Your association will be 20 years old in July. This all came about due to a complaint to the Harbour Master of the day, Captain Roy Bullen. Thanking us for bringing certain matters to his attention, Roy stated that, as he could not deal with matters from every boat owner on a daily basis, he advised us to form an association to speak for St. Helier boat owners. That's exactly what we did.

Bon vent!

Mike Stevens, Chairman

AGM Topics

The AGM was held on 7th December 2009, with an excellent turnout of about 135 members.

Chairman's Report

Mike Stevens read his Chairman's report covering the main issues and activities dealt with during the year. He referred to the serious incident of vandalism in Elizabeth marina. Meetings had been held with the Harbour-master, resulting in increased security patrols, a budget allocation for a new security system to be installed in 2010 and the launch of a Boat Watch scheme.

Nick Wood had set up the Association website in the Spring & PDD has been publishing up to date information, including committee meeting reports and several useful links.

The Solas V regulations that came into force on 1st July had benefited from some concessions resulting from our input, however full Guidance Notes were still awaited from Jersey Coastguard.

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.

He encouraged members to see Harbours latest concept plans on 14th December, but said that his personal view was that the old harbours should be cleaned up and remain as drying harbours.

The issue of fuel duty had arisen again, the fuel lobby group had updated the 2006 report and Harbours had achieved a one year stay, by agreeing an extra £200k contribution to Treasury. More work will be needed in 2010 to convince Ministers of the serious effect the introduction of fuel duty would have on the whole marine industry in Jersey.

He thanked Myra Shacklady for her rapid response to routine matters, although action was sometimes delayed when they had to be referred to TTS to schedule the work. Finally, he thanked the Committee members for their efforts and support.

Open Forum

Mike Stevens welcomed Myra Shacklady (MSh), and she responded to topics raised from the floor including:-

- 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.
- Allocation of berths to non residents. MSh replied that there is just one waiting list for Elizabeth marina, the only marina where non resident contracts are permitted.
- Access to the security gate when using the La Collette holding berth. MSh said owners could get their cards updated in advance at the Marina office.
- Skateboarders & cyclists 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.
- A number of questions were put regarding the subsequently suspended concept plans.

The chairman adjourned the meeting at 9.20pm and invited members to join the Committee for a glass of wine and Matthew's excellent buffet.

Some 120 members attended the reconvened meeting on 18th January 2010 to consider the proposition against flooding the old harbours, which was overwhelmingly carried. PDD

Dolphin Watch

Thanks to Francis Binney from the Société Jersiaise Marine Biology Section for this useful contribution:-

"When you're out at sea it is the most wonderful experience to have whales or dolphins visit the boat. It's heart warming to see them out in the middle of nowhere, where mammals are few and far between. But you have an overwhelming feeling that you are visiting their world, and however precious those moments with them are, their world is to be respected." *Dame Ellen MacArthur.*

As most boat owners will know dolphins and seals are a fairly common sight in the waters around the Channel Islands. You may find a Bottlenose Dolphin riding your bow wave or spot some Grey Seals basking in the sun when you visit Les Écréhous, but have you ever come across any of the more elusive and mysterious visitors to our waters?

Over the years there have been sporadic reports of Whales, Porpoise, Sunfish, Basking Sharks and the less common species of Seal and Dolphin visiting Channel Island waters. Very little is known of their movements in this area, or how often they visit the waters surrounding our island. We don't even know whether they come here to feed, rear young, or are simply passing through.

To better understand and monitor the visiting and resident populations of these marine creatures the Société Jersiaise has set up a marine life recording project with the support of the Jersey Environment Department. A detailed online form has been set up for you to report your sightings; it includes a latitude and longitude plotter in case you didn't get a chance to note it down and a species ID guide to help you identify any unknown marine mammals.

The main focus of the form is on marine mammals with Cetaceans (Dolphins, Porpoises and Whales) and Pinnipeds (seals) taking centre stage, but it also gives you the opportunity to report sightings of Basking sharks, sunfish and any other unusual life you come across in our waters.

You can find the online form either through this link: <http://tinyurl.com/y4qvl2q>, or by typing 'Societe Jersiaise marine mammal' into a Google search.

When filling in the form please include as much detail as possible but if you are uncertain of any requested information, it is better to leave it blank than guess. All the information you submit will be collated and published back on this website within three months of submission, as well as being shared

with the States of Jersey and French and British research groups.

Marine mammals are intelligent creatures with distinct personalities, dolphins have a similar level of intelligence to dogs – and we are talking Border Collies as opposed to Afghan Hounds here. While some may approach your boat, others will prefer to keep their distance, either way its important to respect their freedom and privacy. Here are 5 best practice points to remember when you encounter dolphins (or whales) at sea:

Don't make sudden course or speed changes – Its best to slow to around 5 knots and maintain a steady course or come to a complete stop and put your boat in neutral.

If a dolphin starts to bow ride when you are travelling at speed, allow it to do so without making any tight turns or increasing speed.

Never drive through a group or pod and give extra clearance if you see there are young present.

Leave a respectful distance; generally 100m is the advised minimum, increasing to 200 in the presence of multiple boats. If the animals want to come closer to your boat they will do so.

You shouldn't try to swim with marine mammals but if you find yourself in the water with dolphins be very cautious as they have been recorded ramming other mammals at over 20mph. Also, if a male dolphin makes physical contact don't be surprised if you are poked by a certain 'protrusion' they use it much like a hand to discern your shape – you just have to hope they don't find your shape too interesting!
Francis Binney

Saint-Cast le Guildo

After some seven years of planning, two years of construction and an eye-watering €27.5m spend (that's why we build marinas on dry land!), the new marina opened in July last year, albeit with some dredging and shore-side works still to be completed. Our Treasurer checked it out and enjoyed the experience:-

St Cast now has a brand new Marina and is approx 9nm west of St Malo, so take the flow either east or west about the Minquiers depending upon the tidal streams.

We were greeted by extremely pleasant and helpful staff who even jumped ashore to tie us up on a more than spacious finger pontoon.

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There are three good restaurants on the quay, but no food shops. We walked along an impressive new walkway linking the marina to the lovely beach for a daily swim. The small pretty 'town' is a mere 2/3 minutes walk away from the beach with pedestrianised areas and a supermarket.

The shower facilities were temporary but sufficient and the new facility block will be completed for 2010. There are lovely cycle rides too. We were very impressed with St Cast.

Just two or so miles east of St Cast is the delightful small Île des Ebihens, a private island, but you are allowed onto the beach and can walk the designated paths. We anchored there for a week before we ran out of provisions and it was idyllic, and then returned to St Cast for the restaurants and shops! All this and just one hop away from Jersey!

Pilotage hasn't made it into Reeds 2010 almanac, but it is shown in Wiley's online almanac and there are some nice aerial pics on the Cotes d'Armor C.C.I. website at www.tinyurl.com/y3dedob.

I have recently been in touch with Keith Martin, an Englishman who works for the operators, Cotes d'Armor C.C.I. and he has provided this up to date information:-

“Situated on the beautiful Côtes d’Armor coast, just a few hours sailing time due south from Jersey, the modern marina of Saint Cast has 800 pontoon places and 150 places on mooring buoys, and is accessible 24hrs/24hrs. All the pontoon places are equipped with fresh water and electrical points.

The marina, managed by the Côtes d’Armor C.C.I. is still being developed in order to offer the finest amenities available in the area. A brand new port office, with 20 shower and toilet facilities, will be operational by the beginning of July. These facilities will also include a range of laundry and dish-washing equipment to cater for the needs of the biggest boats.

A 20T mobile boat hoist is scheduled to be installed on the newly-built slip, and repair and maintenance facilities are available.

The town centre, with bus connections to Saint Malo and Saint Brieuç, as well as inland tourist spots, is just 10 minutes walk away. A waterbus also operates during the summer season between Saint Cast, Dinan, Dinard and Saint Malo.

Dominique Delamotte is the Marina Master and you can phone him or Virginie, his assistant, on +33.(0)296.810.443, or you can send email to him at: dominique.delamotte@cotesdarmor.cci.fr.”

PH

Local Sailor Reaches Avranches!

New member, Paul Mahrer, took SOLAS V to the extreme, spending five months preparing his voyage plan for this unique trip!

Avranches is a town six miles inland from the south east corner of the bay of Mont St. Michel. It became twinned with St. Helier in 1982. On 2 March this year I managed to reach Avranches in my 6.8m Rib, “Archangel”.

The trip was the result of five months' planning. I had the help of an English-speaking guide who walks parties across the bay of Mont St. Michel and who, over the winter, repeatedly plotted the course of the River Sée from Avranches to Tombelaine. We also consulted aerial and terrestrial photography but even then had to wait for when the river was in spate and the tide was as high as possible.

The main difficulty during the trip was the very shallow depths found in the area. The water just east of Tombelaine was less than 10ft deep but at that point we still had eight miles to travel to Avranches. The lack of water so far from our destination coupled with the inability to see the seabed due to the high levels of sediment was very unsettling.

In the estuary of the river Sée, navigation was further hampered by the tide flooding the fields adjacent to the river course making accurate route finding impossible and we ran aground on several occasions. About five miles upstream, just before Avranches, we were nearly stopped in our tracks when we encountered a recently constructed bridge under which we had only two inches clearance.

When we reached Avranches we anchored at La Route de Granville about 200 yards from the train station and quickly became the centre of attention. People were telling us that they had never seen a boat on the river in living memory. I suspect that "Archangel" was the first foreign vessel to reach Avranches for a very long time, perhaps ever.

Since we had no chance of returning to sea before the tide fell we stayed overnight and left the next morning. Downstream, we encountered a 3-ft bore on the incoming flood and had to deal with some violent currents and large items of debris.

I dropped Ian, the guide, off in his canoe at the Grouin de Sud and after a quick stop-off at Mont St. Michel I headed back to Jersey. The wind that morning was a F6 from the north east and the journey home was disgraceful. Still, it was all worth it, believe me.

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I have made a video of the trip and it can be seen on YouTube. Just search for "Jersey Avranches".

There are also some photographs on display in the Town Hall. I would like to thank South Pier Marine, DK Collins and GT Marine for their help in getting the boat ready. I am especially grateful to Mr. Ian Wood (Guide de la Baie du Mont St. Michel) for all his help over the last six months.

Paul Mahrer

Notes from the Treasurer

Report for financial year ended 31st October 2009

General printing costs remained low once again due to the loan of photocopying facilities and the Spring Newsletter continues to be printed by Len Stevens' staff at Tillyards, our thanks to all concerned.

The surplus of Income over Expenditure was £530.20 (2008-£81.02). Bank account balances totalled £6,716.06 (2008 £6,185.86). My thanks go to Mr Tim Scott Warren for auditing the accounts.

We held a well attended Sea Safety Evening at St Helier Yacht Club on 19th May, a collection was made and £100.00 was split between RNLI Jersey Branch and CIAS and letters of thanks have been received.

Many thanks to SHYC and to the staff of South Pier Marine and Richard Yates Sea Safety Officer for the local branch of the RNLI who ably provided and demonstrated various equipment. I think we all learned a great deal that evening.

The sum of £880.00 was voted for at the AGM last December to be split between the RNLI, Jersey Branch and CIAS. Letters of appreciation have been received from the relative Treasurers.

Membership

Membership at 31/10/08 was 561. During the financial year there were 23 resignations and 38 new members, bringing the final total as at 31st October 2009 to 576.

From 31/10/09 to date, 24 members have resigned (with 5 unpaid). 53 new members have joined, so another milestone has been reached, with the total membership now 600!

Finally, please encourage new membership so that this Association has a strong representative voice when liaising with the Jersey Harbours or others Departments. Do download some forms from the website for neighbours. Subscriptions remain a bargain at £5 single or £8 joint.

PH

Members' Discounts

Why not make the most of your membership by taking advantage of the discounts kindly offered by several local firms? By showing them your membership card, you can get a 10% discount on most chandlery and clothing from **South Pier Marine** and **Iron Stores Marine**.

Adding to your enjoyment of non-boating pursuits, **Allied Traders Catering & Swimming Pool Division** are also offering 10% discounts to members.

These are valuable benefits of membership of the Association, so do carry your card at all times, so you can quickly and easily recover the cost of your annual subscription – and tell your friends!

PDD

Inshore Safety (Jersey) Regulations 200-

In last year's Newsletter, Sarah Price, the then Jersey Harbours' Business Compliance Manager, expressed appreciation for the contribution from the Association to the consultation in 2008.

She gave us a progress report on this planned replacement of the Boat and Surf Riding (Control) Regulations, saying that Jersey Harbours were working on the practical application of the new Regulations and drawing up a plan for their implementation.

This work has apparently taken rather longer than expected and we are advised that Harbours now hope to bring the revised regulations to the States in June or July.

The regulations cover a range of functions, including the registration of craft, accident reporting and compulsory 3rd party insurance. The Association has long pressed for the insurance requirement and is also keen to see it evidenced, where practical, by displaying something similar to the car insurance disc.

Sarah advised last year that some of the suggestions made in the Association's consultation submission had been accepted. The Committee awaits an updated document, to learn of the fate of our other proposals and to see whether any other changes have been introduced, which might have an adverse effect on members.

We will publish the final version of the Regulations on the website, as soon as they are available.

PDD

Snippets

SOLAS V Guidance – The Safety of Life At Sea Chapter V Regulations, which relate to the safety of navigation, came into force on 1st July last year. Jersey Coastguard published an explanatory leaflet at that time and, after some persuasion, issued Further Guidance Notes covering applicable Regulations which had been omitted from the leaflet. These can be read on the Association's website.

However, some questions have been raised as to whether the guidance in its current form is satisfactory. We are pursuing these concerns and, if valid, will be referring them to the relevant authorities.

New Standards for Radar Reflectors – Under SOLAS V it is a requirement to have a radar reflector fitted 'if practicable'. Unfortunately, as we noted in last year's Newsletter, most of the reflectors currently available are not very effective and do not meet international standards and the standards themselves were in course of revision.

The International Maritime Organisation has now produced two new technical standards: ISO 8729-2:2009 for the active type and ISO 8729-1:2010 for the passive type. These standards aim to improve the visibility of leisure vessels on the radar screens of commercial shipping.

Hopefully, manufacturers will soon develop products that meet these new standards. In the meantime, members considering buying new kit would be well advised to read the 2007 QinetiQ report on the various units currently on the market. (available online at: <http://tinyurl.com/yz89py9>).

Elizabeth Recycling – We understand that Harbours have reached agreement with Dandara to construct an area for re-cycling bins and a trolley park for Elizabeth marina. It will be located behind the underground car park.

Evacuation Rally – St Helier Yacht Club is organising a rally on the weekend 18th-20th June to celebrate the 70th anniversary of the club's assistance with the evacuation of British troops from St Malo, as the German army approached. This valiant effort led to the granting of the club's defaced ensign. Club members should complete & return their indicative entry form.

Island Plan Review – As Marine Leisure got barely a mention in the review document, we put in a submission that the regeneration area East of Albert should leave sufficient land available for boating infrastructure.

Boat Watch – Another marina 'invasion' in April prompts a reminder to be on the lookout for anything untoward. Have you entered the Boat Watch number, 447705, on your mobile phone?

...and finally, parking – Please do play by the rules when using marina car parks - commuters & shoppers are warned that Harbours are operating a 'three strikes & you're out' policy.

PDD

Your Committee for 2010

If you have any harbour or marina related issues, or you spot something that needs attention, please do let us know. Contact one of the officers, or any committee member.

We try to monitor the facilities regularly, but we can't be everywhere, so your feedback is important.

Mike Stevens, Chairman Tel: 853233

“Dawn Lady II” French Harbour

Peter Donne Davis, Secretary Tel: 863765

“Midnight Blue” St Helier Marina

Penny Hatter, Treasurer/Members Tel: 482447

“Sundream” St Helier Marina

Martyn Anderson Tel: 735631

“Jabot” Elizabeth Marina

Phil Carter Tel: 629916

“April Rose” Elizabeth Marina

Kevin Hennelly Tel: 853179

“Indybar” St Helier Harbour

Peter Rose Tel:483529

“La Rose Sauvage” Elizabeth Marina

Roger Thebault Tel: 730694

“Araok” La Collette

Nick Wood Tel:07797 786877

“Corona” Elizabeth Marina