



UPDATE

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"Mooring Post"

We hope that you enjoy reading this edition of 'Update' as the dull grey days of the dredging season and winter give way to thoughts of warm racing, trips with grandchildren and just lazing on the river. The edition has again been quickly compiled by Jeremy Clark and Dave Anderton. We would very much like a keen new Editor to oversee future editions. Please, we beg one of you to help us by volunteering. Please contact us if you can help.

*Happy Sailing.
Jeremy & Dave*



This is not "Spot the Ball"!

CHAIRMAN'S NOTES

We wish you all a Happy New Year and hope that this summer we will have staggeringly good boating weather for us all to enjoy. There are a few issues developing on the river; pontoon insurance, the AGM, MDL and housebuilding and we would like to bring them to your attention in this issue. Firstly, though, I would like to note and thank all those involved in the operation of the river over the last few years for providing you, our Members, with a stable environment in which to enjoy sailing, motor boating or mucking about on the River Hamble. With stable fees and improved facilities in parts of the river this has been a good period for the Mooring Holders

and your committee will continue to work hard on your behalf to bring our needs and preferences to the attention of the Authorities.

However the clouds of uncertainty are gathering and it is likely that there will be significant changes to the river and we will have to face these shortly. The first of these tests will be to contain the forces that are likely to increase the level of fees and dues on the river next year.

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PONTOON INSURANCE

Firstly, you will have noted that there was a change to our moorings renewal papers (annual confirmation of insurance) last November which could affect us particularly if you own or share a pontoon. For pontoon owners they were required to sign a document to confirm that they had £3 million of third party Insurance cover rather than the £1 million cover required in previous years. We have asked the Harbourmaster about this change and he has confirmed that this was a mistake and that the actual requirement, both this year and next, is for £1 million. Some insurance companies already have cover to £3 million. We suggest that you check this with your insurance company particularly if you have signed last year's confirmation of insurance without checking that you are covered for the quoted £3 million. An aggressive claimant against you could, in theory, use the signed document to help increase a claim leaving you, personally, with a £2 million bill.

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THE HARBOUR OFFICE

Our new Harbourmaster Jason Scott has done much to help us as mooring holders and we have good relations with him and the Harbour Authority. We ask all of you to appreciate the difficult job he has to do juggling the requirements of the various river stakeholders. Please be as accurate and truthful as you can when completing paperwork etc. for the Harbour Office as this has not always been the case recently. We do not want to lose the good relations that have been established.

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RHMHA SUMMARY REPORT ON THE HARBOUR ACCOUNTS JANUARY 2018

Your Committee like to keep abreast with Harbour Authority expenditure, and whilst there must be room for savings, we conclude from the accounts that the costs are reasonably under control.

Comparing the January accounts with those of previous years it is clear that Harbour income is fairly static but costs have increased by 14% over 4 years while staff costs have increased by 15% over the same period. There was a surplus for 2014-15 and 2015-16 with general reserves at £108,642 at the end of March 2016. The shortfall of £20,580 in 2016-17 left the General reserve at £88,062 at the end of March 2017.

The Budget deficit (after a £35,000 transfer to the General Reserve) of £21,000 for 2017-18 and £23,000 for 2018-19 would leave £44,062 in the General Reserve. We have been critical of the build-up of reserves for some time and about three years ago Colin Brookes, on our behalf, made a Deputation to the Harbour Board against a proposal to transfer £39,000 from the General Reserve (generated by Harbour Dues) to the Asset Enhancement Reserve.

Now that the general reserve is predicted to reduce to £44,000 at March 2019 we would like to see the predicted balance on the Asset Enhancement Reserve, of £16,000, put back to the

General Reserve and then close the Asset Enhancement Reserve. This would leave two dedicated Funds whose purpose was understood.

The second of these is the Asset Replacement Reserve which currently stands at £443,402.00 by 31 March 2018. The Harbourmaster is currently reassessing the value of the assets which are currently £100,000.00 more than their present book value. The Harbour Authorities have calculated that the fund will stay between £330,000 and £590,000 for the next 20 years. With the best will in the world there must be a danger of unnecessary harbour fee and dues increases.

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We can get those Children and Grand children on the water soon



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PROPOSED HOUSING DEVELOPMENT AT MERCURY YACHT HARBOUR

Several members have asked us about the housing proposals at Mercury Marina. The proposals at Mercury would, if carried out, considerably reduce the size of the shore side of the Marina and the services available to boaters and would be very detrimental to the mooring holder's interests. Please let us know if you think that the proposals would affect you as mooring holders. The plan involves building on the present car park such that the lift out facility can no longer be used leading to a huge reduction in Marine services available on site. The shore side car parking for berth holders is reduced considerably and in general the proposal does not help those involved in marine pursuits on the Hamble River. The proposal can be seen at www.mdlmercuryforward.co.uk



THE AGM, PRESENTATION AND NEW COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Could you note that the AGM will be held at Warsash Sailing Club on Thursday evening the 15th March 2018 at 1930. The speaker after the AGM this year will be Captain Phil Buckley the new ABP Harbourmaster at Southampton Docks who will speak about future developments and commercial and leisure use of the port. At this meeting we (desperately) need to recruit new members of the committee as some of your committee members are getting on in years. Also, we need to interest someone in filling the post of Secretary urgently as we have been without a committee secretary for well over a year (and the strain may be showing!). Are there really no Association members with a sufficient interest in the river to devote some time to what is a fascinating and varied task that allows you to be part of a really complex, sometimes complexing, community? Please actively consider joining us. We hold up to six meetings a year but generally only four.

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THE RHMHA COMMITTEE

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NEW COMMITTEE MEMBERS WANTED