



UPDATE

www.rhmha.org.uk

June 2021 Issue No 29

Winter still appears to be here at the moment but, just as the position with Covid seems to be improving, so will the weather, and it has! Our Clubs are beginning to open again and we can start, or continue, to plan our sailing season. Information regarding the Official Rules is readily available on the Harbour Board's website and Facebook and via your Clubs. The normal harbours that we like to visit may require you to book in advance but it is clear that the waters around us will be very busy in July and August. We wish you an enjoyable season and here are some notes that may help you or put your mind at rest.

AGM

The AGM will be held at Warsash Sailing Club on the 14th October 2021 at 1930. Coffee and nibbles will be served beforehand and the AGM will be followed by a presentation by Ken Munro looking at "The Crown Estate Private Mooring Licence and its implications". Election of the Committee and Officers will take place but your committee would like to remind you that its average age is over 70 and that your Chairman is over 80. It is high time that a younger group of mooring holders took over and so we again ask for more people to put themselves forward for a place on the committee. The work of the committee is not onerous but is absorbing and occasionally quite exciting! If new members are not forthcoming, we will, in the very near future, be forced to consider how we could disband the Association. It may be that there is no longer any need for an organisation such as ours and you feel that the way the river is run is perfect! Time will tell.

VAT

For those of us that are worried about the VAT status of our boats our Harbour Master, Jason Scott, has offered help. He says: "*You will have seen the BREXIT transition period note on the website. It meant that all UK vessels not in Europe at the end of the transition period lost 'Union status'. In order to help avoid being challenged for VAT when your members visit the EU, two documents are helpful. One is evidence that VAT was paid on the boat in the UK and the second is a note certifying where the vessel was at the end of the transition period (2300GMT 31 Dec 2020). If your members want to contact me with details of the boat/length/type, I am very happy to issue a bespoke certificate.*"

UNIVERSAL MARINA PROPOSAL TO SUBSUME HARBOUR BOARD MOORINGS

The Universal Marina Proposal for additional Berths, put to the Harbour Board for Works Consent in October last year, was passed at the Harbour Board meeting of the 19th March this year. This would allow a number of the "J" pile moorings to be taken over and operated by Universal Marina. This

plan has been fiercely opposed by this association and almost all other bodies on the Hamble and we believe that the works will not be able to go ahead due to a number of factors. To help clarify the position here are statements from the Harbour Master and The Crown Estate:

From Jason Scott, Hamble Harbourmaster

"Despite the Harbour Works' Consent, the development will not proceed because the Crown Estate has decided in its earlier ruling that 'it cannot agree to this proposal given it would otherwise result in 'detriment to its operations on the River Hamble and to the interests of its berthing holders both immediately affected and more broadly on the River'. Entirely separately, the River Hamble Harbour Board is required to consider any application for Harbour Works Consent solely on its technical merits in relation to navigational safety and environmental compliance. In this instance, the Board approved the application by John Willment Marine Ltd following a report that set out how the company's proposed development could meet the thresholds required in those respects."

"Harbour Works Consent is just one of several approvals that any development on the river would require from several authorities. As the Board noted during its discussions, The Crown Estate has turned down this proposal, which means that the development cannot progress even with Harbour Works Consent in place. We knew this beforehand, as did the Crown Estate and the Developer."

From Rachel Wylde, The Crown Estate managing agent, Isle of Wight (Coastal)

"The Crown Estate reviewed the proposals made by Universal Marina and decided that it could not support the scheme as it would be detrimental to The Crown Estate's operations on the River Hamble and to the interests of its berth holders both immediately affected and more broadly on the River. The Crown Estate has said it remains open to exploring alternative schemes that would not adversely affect The Crown Estate's mid-stream moorings."

"I hope this provides you with enough information to pass on to your members."

PONTOON INSURANCE

We have had a large number of enquiries regarding Pontoon Insurance. Currently we have been made aware of at least five companies/methods that provide such insurance. They are:

GJW(Brokers) - insure pontoon for extra £25 (gjwdirect.com)
Navigators & General, part of the Zurich Group
SAGA Insurance (single handed night sailing included)
Pantaenius UK Ltd - (for some of us!)
Your own house Insurer

Yes, a recent development has been found by one of our members David Jobson. He has recently managed to obtain his pontoon insurance via the company that arranges his home insurance. This could help many of our members.

Members who do not own a pontoon but use it regularly should make sure that their boat's insurance covers the regular use of the pontoon for loading and unloading family and crew.

PADDLE BOARDERS AND SMALL CRAFT

One of the more delightful aspects of the Corona Virus lockdowns has been the increased use of small craft on the river. Many users are not very familiar with the rules of the river or the collision regulations and speeding motor boats and Paddleboards do not mix well. It may be that additional

Byelaws may be required for the smooth operation of the river with this increase in small craft. If you have witnessed any incidents perhaps you would be kind enough to inform us and perhaps indicate in which ways matters could be improved.

CAR PARKING ON THE FAREHAM SIDE OF THE RIVER HAMBLE

Fareham Borough Council plan to introduce car parking charges at its coastal car parks this summer. The maximum charge to be £6 per day, with season tickets available at £80, which will have a profound effect on some boat users on the Hamble. The Harbourmaster Jason Scott has written to the Borough Council highlighting some of the problems that this will give to those using the Hamble River:

"As a Harbour Authority, clearly, we try to be alive to the needs of River Users, some of whom are local (and therefore arguably less affected by any imposition of charges) and many of whom come from further afield (abroad, Midlands, North, Wales etc.). All sail and motor their craft and need car parking facilities which cater for their needs. There are other considerations from your perspective too – the need to avoid currently free car parking being used indefinitely by some who park cars unreasonably. For our River Users, many (by no means all) wish to take their boats away for extended periods, say a fortnight. That is what boats do. Under the new arrangements, many boat owners will no longer have a much cherished and appreciated opportunity to leave their vehicles in a safe and adjacent location. In extremis, the inability to access their vessels with limits on car parking may conceivably have a bearing on their decision to choose the Hamble as a place to keep their craft."

"Accommodating sailors, admittedly only one part of the demographic, is important; Warsash and Swanwick are and always have been sailing villages. Accordingly, looking after sailors is part of the local tapestry and considering them fully in any decision made is a must. I know FBC will be doing that."

Members effected might like to write to Fareham Borough Council to get them to reconsider or modify the decision.

NEW RULES FROM Ofcom TO BOAT VHF RADIO LICENCES

The changes relate to the electro magnetic fields generated by radio equipment, including radar, to ensure the health of the general public. Reading information about this on the Ofcom website is quite frightening. The RYA suggests that provided you have the equipment manuals on board you should have no problems. Otherwise, you will need to use Ofcom's online EMF calculator and keep a record of the results on board. You have about six months to comply. But watch this space.....

REDUCTION OF STORAGE/MAINTENANCE ASHORE ON THE HAMBLE

With Mercury Marina shut for storage ashore and various Marina's on the Hamble applying for permission to build houses on their land are we approaching the time when there are not enough shore facilities to allow for the necessary annual maintenance of boats on the river Hamble? Any thoughts or information on this topic will be gratefully received.

TENDERS BALLOT APPLICATION FORMS

Application forms to enter the Tender ballot for dinghy moorings at Warsash and Hamble are available by Emailing the Harbour Office (Harbour.Office@hants.gov.uk). Ballot usually takes place in September/October.



Tender Ballot
Application Forms

Now available by email
from the Harbour Office.

If you require a
Tender Ballot application form for 2021
Please email Harbour.Office@hants.gov.uk



THE FOUR BOUYS OF SWANWICK BEND

Please note that the four buoys that have appeared on Swanwick Bend are not there to moor up to for lunch! They are part of a project to help Oysters being run by Portsmouth University and should be given a wide berth. You can sign up to receive the project Quarterly Newsletter using the following link:

(<https://rantransproject.us10.listmanage.com/subscribe?u=fc4d5bb8dadcc64cf8633be282&id=4bb5ceb117>) if you are interested in what the project has going on in the Hamble and elsewhere.

PERMISSION TO ACT ON YOUR BEHALF

Could members note that if you wish us to act in any way on your behalf, that we need to have your permission to use your data. If you could remember to do this at the same time as your enquiry it would help to speed up the process.

=====