

**River Hamble Mooring Holders Association - Update**

**August 2022**

## Introduction from our new Chair – Tony Blewett

“As the last of the founding Committee members of the River Hamble Mooring Holders Association I thought it would be appropriate to seek election as the Chairman at last winter’s AGM. I first had a mooring on the river some 40 years ago, but my interest in the River Hamble started as a small boy when I learnt to row off Hamble Village.

**Your New Committee**

**Chair:** Tony Blewett

**Secretary:** David Seer

**Treasurer & Membership:** John Grover

**Update Editors:** Robert & Helen Dawson

**General Members:**

Colin Brooks

David Chinn

Richard Leedham

Simon Butler

Peter Cooper

John Mitchell

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The last few weeks in Southern England have given us some wonderful weather to get to our boats and enjoy sunshine and no rain. The River Hamble has on occasion been very busy, not just with sailing yachts and motor boats as well as the rowing or outboard motor powered tenders, whose owners are just getting to and from their mid river moorings.

Since the pandemic there has also been a massive increase in the use of inflatable paddleboards and canoes often with complete novices propelling them, sadly too many have yet to learn about the “rule of the road at sea”.

The issues involved with these craft seems to be most acute around the A27 bridge at Bursledon and Swanwick Hard where many launch without the appreciation that as soon as they pass the last pontoon at Swanwick Marina they are navigating in the main channel. Some paddlers are so naive that the word tide and tidal streams means little or perhaps nothing to them.

At Swanwick Hard many mid river mooring holders, when launching their tenders, try with their greater knowledge to enlighten these novices when they are about to or are launching their often newly acquired toy. I trust that any of the RHMHA members elsewhere who meet these inexperienced people will make the effort to give them a little guidance.”

## EGM and AGM 2021

Due to the increasing age of the previous committee, and a lack of members indicating interest in taking on some of the roles, in October 2021, an Extraordinary General Meeting was held to request fresh members to step up, with the potential for the Association to be wound up if no volunteers were found.

Fortunately, nine members identified themselves as willing, and three previous committee members were happy to stay on, and so an AGM was then held in November 2021 where all were elected. As a result, we now have a large committee with a diverse range of backgrounds, and look forwards to many more years of supporting the interests of mooring holders on the River Hamble.

We held our first committee meeting earlier this year, and will keep members updated on our actions to support you as mooring holders.

**Harbour Board and other meetings**

Members of the Committee have attended the meetings of the Harbour Board, and Harbour Management Committee.

Key information from these is that the funding for upgrading the surface water drainage off the M27 Hamble River Bridge which was part of the Smart Motorway works, has now been lost, and that Harbour Dues are to rise 1% this year. At time of publishing, we are still waiting for information on the expected rise in the Crown Estate charges for piles and moorings, however this is expected to be announced when invoices are issued in November.

More positively for those members with holding tanks, there is now a new pumping out facility at the Harbour Masters jetty in Warsash. Southern Water has invested £100,000 to help the River Hamble Harbour Authority enable Hampshire boaters to keep the waters clean. The Chair of the River Hamble Harbour Authority; Councillor Seán Woodward, said:

“*Boat users will now be able to take advantage of our new on-site pump and help us in our collective duty to keep the River Hamble clean of pollution. This is an internationally important environmental site, which is home to a wide variety of wildlife including endangered species. We are pleased to have been able to work with Southern Water to deliver this initiative as part of the River Hamble Harbour Authority’s ongoing conservation plans.”*

**Upcoming meetings**

The RHMHA has a representative on the Hamble Estuary Partnership (HEP), this Committee normally meets twice a year and the details of the work which it does can be found on the Harbour Authority’s web site. The next meeting of the HEP will be in mid-September.

**Other news**

There have been a number of sewer overflows identified at sewers in Bursledon and Botley including the relatively small sewer next to Swanwick Hard. The Bursledon and Swanwick sewers have been cleaned in the last few months; the former was about a third blocked. Should you see overflows, please report them to the Environment Agency, Southern Water, and the relevant Council so that action can be taken.

The historic water control structures at Hook Lake (on the Warsash side at the mouth of the river) are near the end of their functioning lives. Rising sea levels are going to cause multiple issues in the near future in this area with the low-lying land behind the gravel natural spit. There was a public exhibition held at Warsash on 12/13 July called Hook Lake Coastal Management strategy. The details are available at <https://coastalpartners.org.uk/project/hook-lake-coastal-management-study>.

**The Bursledon Regatta** Saturday and Sunday, 3rd & 4th September 2022

After more than 50 years in Bursledon Pool, the Regatta is on the move. Prior to Bursledon, the Regatta was based in Swanwick at Moody’s boatyard, but before that, back in 1882, it was in Warsash. After successful discussions, Warsash Sailing Club have generously offered to host the Regatta 2022 and into the future.

This year’s Bursledon, Swanwick and Warsash “Caribbean” themed regatta will focus on racing for yachts, dinghies and rowing gigs, as well as providing lots of entertainment in front of the beach and a fantastic firework display. <http://bursledonregatta.org> for more information.