



Cobb's Quay Berth Holders Association

MINUTES of the 2015 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING held at COBB'S YACHT CLUB on SATURDAY 21st MARCH commencing at 10.30am.

Committee Members Present:-

Jonathan Saunders – Chairman
Carol Turner – Secretary
Kevin Butler – Cruise Leader
Ian Wateridge – Merchandise & Ass. Resources
Val Grant – Membership Secretary
Jim Reynolds – Members Representative
Sarah Cloke – Co-opt Treasurer
Clive Snow – No Portfolio
Emma Butler – Dry Stack Liaison & Facebook Editor

Apologies from Committee members:-

Nina Dunne – Cruising Secretary
Peter Hayton – Webmaster & Horizons Editor

Member Apologies:-

Mr & Mrs Dopita

Introduction

The Chairman presented apologies from DC Wendy Weeks of the General Maritime section of the South West Counter Terrorism Intelligence Unit – who was going to give a presentation about Project Kraken. In Wendy's absence, Paul Glatzel encouraged members to report anything unusual using a 999 call and referencing Project Kraken.

Jonathan then welcomed the other guest speakers – Stuart McCalman – Bridge Operator and Trainer; and MDL representatives:- Dave Wilson – replacing Neil Salter as Marina Manager at Cobb's Quay - and Richard Marshall – Assistant Marina Manager at Cobb's Quay.

Jonathan thanked the members for attending and also the Cobb's Yacht Club for hosting the AGM. He introduced the committee members present and thanked them for their efforts through the year and their preparation for the AGM. He also reminded the audience that CQBHA burgees were available for sale at a special offer price of £15.

Minutes of 2014 AGM

The minutes of the previous AGM held on 22nd March 2014 had been posted on the CQBHA website and copies were available at the meeting. Kevin Butler proposed that the minutes should be accepted. This was seconded by Steve Jones and accepted unanimously. There were no matters arising.

Chairman's Report

Jonathan began by reviewing the **Key Objectives of the Association for 2014:-**

Purpose - Bring people together to have a better experience cruising from Cobb's Quay and Davis'

Vision - Enabling members to 'Go Further'

Key Strategies

- Develop members' experience of cruising from Cobb's Quay
- Continue to enhance communication with members
- Promote safety and skills
- Continue to be seen as a valuable partner by MDL

2014 Activities

Jonathan considered that CQBHA had been successful in the following activities:-

- Positively influence the functionality of the bridges
- Develop quality relationships with the new MDL structure
- Support an improved quality of experience at the Cobb's Yacht Club
- Increase membership by 20 – Achieved with MDL's support in promoting CQBHA to new berth holders
- Contribute to at least 3 social and training activities for the benefit of members

Moderately successful were:-

- Enhance the involvement of Dry Stack and smaller/day boats

Least successful were :-

- Enhance the role and impact of pontoon representatives. Only 'F' pontoon currently had a rep so volunteers were sought.

Member Events during 2014 included:-

- Cruises - which are still the core of what CQBHA does.
- Events
 - Boat Jumble - as in 2013, this was not very successful
 - Marina open day - CQBHA had pitch and sold burgees
 - Winter activity of rifle shooting proved popular
- Development Opportunities – shore based courses and practical events were offered.
- Visits to Poole Harbour Control - again thanks to support from Brad Bradshaw. However these were less well supported than in previous years

Association Successes for 2014 considered to be:-

- Bridges - feedback from members indicated the new timetable is working and is better
- Contributed to use issues e.g. basin pontoons with limited success
- Membership increased by 34 this year – now around 900 members
- Communication
 - Website continues to develop so make sure you visit it
 - Monthly member email newsletter
- Consulted members - 'LIKES' for Cobb's Quay Facebook page, Members photos, Horizons articles, help with events – no contact
- Finances - prudent financial control as ever

E Coms

- Website statistics:-
 - 32054 hits this year – averaging 87.82 hits per day
 - 56841 page views – averaging 155.73 page views per day
 - 1.77 pages per visit
- 122 (0.2%) spams
- Good range of advertisers - please mention us when you use them
- Facebook has around 80 likes
- 2360 visits to the Blog this year – please send us your photos of CQBHA cruises

Plans for 2015

The **Purpose, Vision** and **Key Strategies** of the Association remain unchanged for 2015.

2015 Activities

The Committee's priorities will be to:-

- Positively influence the functionality of the bridges
- Enhance the involvement of Dry Stack and smaller/day boat users

- Develop quality relationships with the MDL
- Support an improved quality of experience at the Cobb's Yacht Club
- Drive up membership numbers by 20 during the year
- Contribute to at least 3 social and training activities, for the benefit of members
- Enhance the role and impact of pontoon representatives

Other activities will be to:-

- Have a positive impact on the use of the Backwater Channel and the Harbour
- Continue to develop communication with members
- Liaise with MDL to give added value to members, enhancing our joint working
- Use finances prudently to the benefit of all members
- Continue to develop a relationship with Davis' Boatyard - office and members

Detailed Plans for 2015 are:-

2015 Cruise programme

Kevin Butler – CQBHA Cruise Leader – updated members about the 2015 cruises – which have to be planned & booked with marinas by November. Marina bookings have become more difficult for 2015 as occupancy is increasing in the improving financial climate.

- Exciting programme visiting:-
 - Sheppards Wharf - full
 - Northney - full
 - Guernsey - spaces
 - Cherbourg - subject to interest. This has been offered but cancelled due to lack of interest for the past 4 years. We have to let Cherbourg know by 1st May and need a minimum of 5 boats to be viable - so let us know quickly if you are interested.
 - Port Hamble – only 1 space remaining
 - Lymington day cruise - spaces
 - Torquay & Dartmouth – Marinas have limited this to 20 vessels and there are currently 27 bookings!
 - Weymouth - full
- Continuing 'required' briefing attendance and enhanced skipper guidance

Training

The Association will continue to support part funded shore-based passage planning and pilotage courses in conjunction with Powerboat Training (PBT) and RYA Active Marina. Paul Glatzel from PBT – updated members on training plans:-

- PBT will be providing a support vessel for the Lymington cruise for dry stack/day boats
- Planned courses:-
 - A safety refresher course
 - Pilotage & passage planning
 - Diesel Engine basics
 - First Aid
- Courses will start in May and will cost £15 for all 4 courses or £5 each with proceeds going to RNLI
- Tell us what else you would like

Representation

- Pontoon reps - especially need a yacht rep and another Dry Stack rep. Anyone interested was invited to speak to Jim Reynolds – CQBHA Member Representative – at the end of the AGM.
- MDL/CQBHA contact

- Promote member interests to the Bridges Operating Board (BOB).

Events

- Black Tie Event on Saturday 13th June at the Poole Yacht Club. Tickets limited to 110, cost £29.50 and on sale from Ian Wateridge at the Quay Shop.
- Boat Jumble – the next will be held in 2016
- Harbour Control visits – let us know if interested
- Summer Party - we plan to actively support the MDL party as last year
- Special event for Dry Stackers with a small boat cruise to Lymington
- Keen to involve yacht members - maybe even establish a yacht specific section? – need volunteers

Twin Sails Bridge/Poole Bridge

- Enhance quality of the link with the leisure rep on the Bridges Operating Board
- Respond positively to any consultation requests - need your input

Communication

- Monthly e newsletter - make sure we have your up to date email and other details
- Website - important to look at it regularly – it's where we put news
- Magazine - looks like we may put this on hold
- Facebook - our most instant communication method – so please 'like' us!

Summary

In bringing the presentation to a close, the Chairman concluded by saying:-

- During 2014/15 your Committee has continued to work hard to take the Association forward - but we need more ideas of what you want
- Other events – we need help with events to be able to engage all berth holders as well as CQBHA members. We need a replacement for Mike Brine as Events Coordinator!
- Cruising is still at the heart of the Association - same for 2015 – great to see renewed interest this season with many takers old and new
- Link with Bridges Operating Board remain weak but there is little to do – want to change that and reminding the members present of our vision "**Enabling members to go further**"

Treasurer's Report

Following Jennie Higson's resignation, Sarah Cloke was co-opted as Treasurer. Sarah began her report by thanking Jennie for all her help with the takeover of duties and also thanked the auditor Dave Whale from the Michael Dufty Partnership Limited.

Sarah presented audited accounts for 2014/15 and summary copies were available for members at the meeting. CQBHA had made a slight loss this year of £93.41. The Association's sources of revenue were limited - since members only paid a one-off joining fee. Cruise booking fees provided most of the income and CQBHA still maintained a healthy bank balance of just under £10,000. CQBHA aimed to make all its events and activities cost neutral.

Sarah had investigated the viability of electronic payments and concluded this presented too many difficulties. Electronic outgoing payments lacked the security of two signatories on a cheque and would require changes to the Association Rules. Incoming payments for membership and cruise bookings would be difficult to identify, as they could be for the same amount. Paypal was too expensive for the low number of transactions involved. Kevin Butler proposed that the accounts should be accepted. This was seconded by Clive Snow and accepted unanimously.

Election of Officers

Jennie Higson – Treasurer and Mike Brine – Vice Chairman and Social Events Coordinator had both resigned during 2014 after many years on the CQBHA Committee. The Chairman thanked them both for all their hard work. No new nominations had been received, but the current committee members were willing to stand for re-election. The Chairman suggested that the committee be re-elected en bloc with Kevin Butler as Vice Chairman and Sarah Cloke as Treasurer. This was proposed by Oliver Miles, seconded by Clive Jay and accepted unanimously.

Appointment of Auditor

The current auditor – Dave Whale – from the Michael Dufty Partnership Ltd was re-elected unanimously.

The Chairman then declared the official business of the AGM completed at 11:25.

After a short break, the meeting resumed to listen to the guest speakers.

Guest Speaker 1: Stuart McCalman – Bridge Operator & Trainer

Stuart has worked for Poole Council for 10 years and has been involved with the Twin Sails project since it began. Stuart has a maritime background and has been involved in training the current bridge operators. All the bridge operators hold a VHF licence and have a maritime background. The Poole bridges and basin are unique. Vessels wishing to transit the bridges should call 10 – 15 minutes ahead of the scheduled lift time so that the operator knows a lift sequence is required. Once one vessel has requested a lift, it is not necessary for others to do so. Although the signage refers to 'Bridge Operator', the correct call sign is in fact 'Bridge Control'.

The Bridge Operator has to manage both road and basin traffic. Road signs are set 5 minutes ahead of the lift time. The operator must first check the bridge is clear of vehicles and pedestrians before lowering the barriers. A check is also made for vessels transiting with air draft clearance. The operator then decides the priority for vessels entering/leaving the basin, records the number of vessels involved and sets the appropriate light signals. After closing the first bridge, road signs are changed ready for the second lift in the sequence. If there are 20 or more vessels in the basin, then priority is usually given to vessels exiting the basin.

In the Q&A session CQBHA members observed that yachts often 'block' motorboats from passing under a partially open bridge, as they wait for the leaves to open fully. This was outside of the bridge operator's control. Members also reported basin holding times varied from 5 – 20 minutes with different operators. Stuart responded that procedures and training required the second lift to start as soon as possible after the first bridge re-opened to road traffic – and were not based on any timings for a fast commuter cyclist! Members also stated that more information on bridge opening delays would help skippers decide whether to depart Cobb's Quay, tie up in the basin and leave their anchorages.

Basin priority was discussed further and the point raised that incoming vessels do not have much manoeuvring space along Poole Quay. Also when there was only Poole Bridge in operation, priority was determined by tidal conditions. Stuart acknowledged holding station was problematical in strong tidal conditions and suggested skippers should contact the bridge operator if experiencing severe difficulties.

With the two bridges, operators are no longer responsible for Careline and car parking calls.

In summary, the Chairman stated that members were generally pleased with the new bridge operations, found the operators more helpful and courteous than before, but requested more communication about bridge delays/problems. Stuart promised to take back comments to the bridge operating team. He also suggested that members could raise issues directly with the Head of Transport – Julian McClaughlin. CQBHA also thanked Stuart for the double bridge lift for safety during the 2014 Bournemouth Air Show – recognising the 'stress of navigation' caused by the large number of vessels involved.

Guest Speaker 2: Dave Wilson – Manager Cobb's Quay Marina

Dave began by explaining that he had now returned to Cobb's Quay after a time as an MDL Regional Director. Following a recent MDL re-structure, there would now be only 3 Regional Directors - based at MDL Headquarters. Neil Salter had returned to his previous role as International Director and would also be General Director for the Hamble Marinas.

Dave had replaced Jon Eades on the Bridges Operating Board (BOB) and the most recent meeting had been held earlier in the week. Poole Bridge would be 'closed' for 9 months in 2016 for a £4.5M refurbishment, so the lift schedule would be changing, but Dave promised to push for extra i.e. hourly lifts

for the weekends. He also advised that a training exercise was planned involving a vessel (RIB) on fire in the basin. The BOB were aware of problems caused by boats jumping the lights. These were generally small boats transiting under the Twin Sails side spans.

Winter storms had damaged pontoons at Queen Anne's Battery Marina and the insurers had written them. These had been acquired for use in the basin. Burgess Marine would be installing them - subject to final agreement with Poole Council – hopefully by May. MDL was paying the associated costs.

On Marina issues, Dave reported that a £16K solution had now been installed to resolve WiFi problems. The Big Shed would be having a £190K update, including a new roof. The building would now be called the 'Saltmarsh Building' and the RNLI were due to vacate at the end of March. A new Business Consortium was expected to take over the building, but there may still be some space for berth holders to work on their own boats. The environment around 'F' pontoon had also been improved recently.

The MDL 'Friends & Family' initiative had resulted in 16 new berth holders – with berthing discounts available to the recommending skipper. The Chairman also reminded the meeting that MDL was now paying the £10 CQBHA membership fee for new berth holders. Cobb's Quay Marina was last full in 2008. This season there were still some vacancies although the Dry Stack was almost full. One member reported on his experience of Freedom Berthing in the Hamble and said it had worked well and he had been made welcome.

Dave thanked Kevin Butler for his work with the CQBHA Cruises and offered assistance with the Torquay berth numbers restrictions. Unfortunately the number of vessels were also restricted by berths available at Darthaven.

Wessex Water had wanted CQ to install 'break tanks'. However MDL had already been to court with South West Water over break tanks and an alternative solution agreed. The objective was to prevent backflow contamination by sea water – regarded as 'class 5' water. New water regulations mean that berth holders will have to disconnect hoses from taps after use – otherwise the hoses may be removed from the pontoons.

Harbour Dues are available with a 10% discount if paid before the end of April. Dry Stackers are also eligible for a further 25% reduction, as the boats are stored out of the water. Unfortunately the same discount was not available for jet skis. Last year the Harbour Authorities wanted to impound 4 vessels for non-payment – but the owners paid up just in time to avoid this. Dave promised to investigate the possibility of including Harbour Dues in the berthing fees to simplify administration. Members requested that Harbour Dues stickers should be resistant to U/V bleaching and be removable.

MDL were planning some activities at the Marina over the Easter weekend and on 2nd May would be offering coffee & cakes to both new and old berth holders. The Poole Boat Show was taking place on 9th-10th May and MDL would be present. There would be a Dogfish Dave competition again this year – date tba. The MDL Summer Party would be taking place on 18th July with a bigger Marquee and plans to avoid last year's problems of queuing for food and insufficient seating. The children's Crabbing Competition would be on 1st August and the Bournemouth Air Show would be 20th-23rd August. As usual the MDL Hospitality Suite would be present at the Southampton Boat Show in September.

In the Q&A session, members requested 'No Wash' signs in particular for ends of 'A' and 'D' pontoons and the Fuel Berth. Dave also explained changes at the end of 'F' pontoon. Cormorants and seagulls favoured this area – and the berths were currently offered at a cheaper rate. A member suggested removing these berths to create longer berths on 'D' for the bigger boats choosing CQ. Dave would need to investigate further to determine if viable and financially beneficial.

Other topics raised included the new WiFi cables rattling all night, MDL interest in Premier Marinas, boats occupying wrong size fingers and progress on MDL's bid for a new Marina in the Harbour.

The meeting closed at 12:40pm.