

**Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the Hurley Owners Association
Royal Plymouth Corinthian Yacht Club, Plymouth
23 February 2013**

Present: Tim Sharman (Chairman), Rod and Donia Coomber, Ian Sinclair, Bruce and Vicki Carter, James Hester, Kevin Mitchell, Phil Biggs, Tony Littlewood, Ralph Smith, Tom Eaves, Mike Carter, Steve Dark, Phil Kirby, Steve Barber, David Reeves

Apologies: Alistair Lennie, Rene Schelker, Ray Morris, Keith Chittenden, Ian Clelland.

The Chairman welcomed all those present, particularly David Reeves, one time designer for Hurley Marine, who would talk later about his career and work for the company.

He reported that our President, Ian Anderson, was currently in a hospice in Exeter but was sufficiently well to have been visited by Tim, Ian Sinclair and Mike Carter (en route to the AGM) and to have sent his best wishes and asked to be remembered to the meeting.

1. Minutes

The minutes of the AGM held in Plymouth on 25 February 2012 were agreed to be a true record of that meeting. There were no actions outstanding.

2. Chairman's Report

The text of the report is in the Member's area of the website.

Tim Sharman spoke to the report.

HOA had had a very good year, achieving all its aims and objectives. The only real disappointment was that we had been unable to produce a newsletter during the year and that the post of Editor was still vacant. Ian Sinclair would produce an interim issue in March but a volunteer would be welcomed with open arms.

3. Treasurer's Report

Having tabled the accounts (now placed on the Members' area of the website), Ian Sinclair made the following comments.

In the previous financial year the organisation had succeed to some extent in reducing its cash balance by publishing the Hurley book. This year further efforts had been made – purchasing a scanner and an accounts software package, printing calendars and purchasing the rights to print copies of certain Hurley boat reviews printed in the commercial press – but it had not been possible to make our expenditure greater than our income!

4. Membership

As of today, there were 255 members, much the same number as last year, but there was a considerable turnover with people buying bigger boats or retiring. We had lost 72 in 2012 and gained 60. Only about 10% of owners of Hurleys were members and only a core of about 50 were active in HOA.

5. Changes to the rules

A number of detailed changes to the Rules of the Association had been proposed and discussed by the committee. All of the proposed changes were intended to either clarify the meaning of the relevant clause or ensure that the Rules actually reflect the current, agreed, operating practice. In summary, the following changes were made:

Para 2 – the insertion of a comma makes it clear that furthering the interests of the HOA can be distinct from furthering the interests of the members.

Para 3 – reference to boat details changed to reflect information actually held.

Para 4 – membership is not restricted to those resident in the UK and the offer of life membership needs to be properly agreed by the committee.

Para 5 - having a Vice Chairman is optional, but the other officers are necessary. There is no need for a formal Secretary/Secretariat. All members of the committee are volunteers so there is no need for them to be 'honorary' officers. Clause about independent examination of accounts moved to Para 9. Power to make recommendations moved to Para 6.

Para 6 – given the facility to make payments on-line the treasurer need only have the agreement of two committee members, not signatures, to make payments over £250.

Para 7 – simplification of the text, no need for reference to London as a possible AGM location, references to Secretary deleted as tasks fall to the Chairman.

Para 8 – title simplified to Subscriptions.

The changes were all accepted and will be published on the website.

6. Elections to the committee

The existing committee were all willing to continue. Tony Littlewood had volunteered to join the committee and was duly elected.

7. Donations to charity

The committee had given considerable thought to whether funds might be used to support appropriate charities. This had been a good debate to have and had instigated the review of the Rules. However, the Committee had concluded that HOA has no remit to support charities and its funds should only be used to support things which are really in the interests of the Association and its members. Charitable projects like that of John Roberts (supporting a Sea Cadet unit) could be publicised and reported (on the website and/or newsletter), but it should be left to members to give financial aid as they see fit.

8. Photo competition

An annual competition would be held, running from mid October to mid September the following year, with the winner being decided by the votes of members. (This year, it would run from today's date until 15 September.) The full rules would appear on the website – essentially one picture per member, taken by that member in the current or preceding year and including at least one Hurley boat.

9. Hurley design drawings

The chairman had met with Ian Anderson at his studio and taken away some 69 drawings. He had had these scanned and they were all now on the website. The copyright rests and will remain with Ian Anderson, as agreed with John Thomson (Ian's son). Most models were included with the exception of the H27 which was not found.

10. Hurley moulds

The moulds do exist and are stored in a site in Rye. The owner, Mark Reade, intends to catalogue them but he is not making any progress. HOA does not know exactly what he has or even if they are all Hurley. There was considerable discussion but the conclusion seems to be that if someone needs a new rudder, hatch cover or something then they should 'borrow' an appropriate one and have a new one made from that. HOA would attempt to maintain contact with Mark Reade.

11. 50th anniversary of the H22

This would fall in 2016 and it was thought important to plan for this and to try to arrange a major event. James Hester, who was himself planning to sail his H22 in Scottish waters over the next couple of years had suggested the following. Large burgees would be distributed to Hurley owners around the country who would endeavour to get them raised on as many H22s as possible all around the British Isles. The culmination would be as many H22s as possible congregating at, say, Plymouth. The South West group are enthusiastic about this project and took an **Action** to discuss how to take it forward.

12. Rallies

There was brief discussion of rallies and a date of 13th July was set for the South area rally, possibly in Yarmouth.

13. AOB

Production of a one-off newsletter was in hand – Ian Sinclair would be grateful for any material which might be included. A new newsletter editor was needed urgently – please would someone volunteer or persuade a friend!

Tom Eaves would make further contact with the Silhouette Owners.

14. Date of next meeting

A provisional booking with RPCYC has been made for Saturday 22nd February 2014.

15. The meeting closed at 1210 and was followed a very interesting talk by David Reeves about his life and particularly about his time with Hurley Marine.