

Chairman's Annual Report 2012

The aim of the HOA is to foster an interest in Hurley boats in all their forms and in particular:

- To keep members informed of developments concerning the Association and any proposals concerning the Association Rules.
- To organise meets, afloat and ashore.
- To maintain an archive of information of general and technical interest relating to boats within the Association.
- To provide a forum for discussion and queries through a newsletter and website

In recent years, when it comes to drafting my Annual Report, there have been some particular notable events which formed the core. Last year it was publication on the Hurley History and meeting the Hurley family. This year it would seem that there is nothing especially particular note to report – we just all seem to be getting on with it! Always, I check back to the aims of HOA, above, to get a feeling of whether we are on track. I am glad to say that we always have been (in my time) – which is good but no less than we expect. As I review the year I believe that we have clearly met our aims in all categories.

The Association itself, its rules and aims, is I think, in a good a stable condition. We know who we are and what we are attempting to do – and also what we are not attempting to do. Regarding meets, the South West area continues to complete an impressive programme of rallies and social meetings and, this year, the South area managed to achieve its rally in Poole, in spite of some challenging weather. In addition in the South, we had the first of what I hope will become a regular feature, a ‘dry meet’ at the Golden Lion, Southwick, which saw 10 members get together to talk boats yachts and yachting over a drink and a meal.

It is particularly pleasing that, following a connection via Ian Anderson, Shona Fairchild, a member in the East area, attended the Countess Owners ‘dry meet’ and AGM and, along with Steve Humm, participated in their rally at Bradwell. Whilst these connections with other associations may never achieve a huge amount, nonetheless the connection exists and may be of benefit to some in a practical way. In the case of links with COA, HOA members in the East area who perhaps cannot arrange rallies of their own are able to add this important social element to their sailing. I was impressed to see that COA actually badged their rally ‘the Countess and Hurley Owners Associations Rally)!

Likewise with the Silhouette owners – Ian Sinclair was able to meet up with their Solent rally this September, in Cowes, although I narrowly missed them in Yarmouth, due to a stiff headwind keeping them bottled-up in the central Solent. In committee we are discussing ways of working more closely with SOIA, who are kind of ‘cousins’ as their boats were, mainly, Hurley-built and the Silhouette was the start of the Hurley story (those of you who have a copy of the ‘History’ will, of course, know all about that!).

Talking about the book, sales of ‘A History of Hurley Marine’ dried up to a trickle this year. I shall calculate the precise numbers for the AGM but about 100 have gone to members, which is a bit of a surprise given we have a membership of about 250. Probably over 50 have gone elsewhere, and often are given as presents. One outcome of someone buying his father a copy (following the article in PBO) was contact with the recipient, David Reeves. David was someone I would dearly have liked to have been able to contact whilst writing the book, as he was employed by Hurley Marine from 1964 until the very end in 1975. He began as a draughtsman, then had a number of roles including sales and civil application of GRP, before being manager for the ‘winding up’. However, I won’t steal his thunder as David is going to talk about his experiences in Hurley Marine after the AGM on Saturday 23rd February. Do come if you can – more details will emerge in due course – watch the web site.

One brilliant event which I must note is that, as you are probably aware, Ian Clelland has volunteered to take on the crucial role of newsletter Editor. He will introduce himself in the December edition so I don’t need to say too much here – except a big ‘thank you’ for stepping up to the mark, to the benefit of us all! Do please support Ian in the role – and think about whether you can supply him with articles, snippets,

technical notes – anything in fact, which may be of interest to others. The newsletter is, of course, one way in which we capture good information for the archive – so your contribution will go towards the growing store of collective wisdom which we are maintaining.

The internet forum continues to show lots of people buying, renovating and having fun with their boats. It also shows the high degree of support and help which members give one another. Very unusually, we did have one example of someone who seemed not to get what he wanted from the forum and chose to be very rude about the rest of us and the Association in general. Fortunately Nick's controls over the membership of the forum was able to put an end to that without much ado. As always, membership of the forum (over 900 when I last looked!) far exceeds members of HOA. Where you can please encourage forum members to join HOA – it just strengthens the Association and is a steal at £10!

Best wishes for your winter lay-up and the new season.

Tim Sharman

