

HURLEY OWNERS ASSOCIATION

Chairman's Annual Report 2014

I begin the draft of this year's report having just passed that psychological point of being mentally ready to stop sailing and to start de-rigging the boat for the winter. Although Autumn still presents the odd day which looks fine for sailing, I know that my mind is now on the list of jobs which need to be done to get ready for next season. 2014 seems to have been a pretty good season for sailing conditions, although not always ideal. Now that the season is closing and you reflect on what you have or have not achieved, perhaps give a thought to sharing your experiences with other members.

The Association's affairs have continued routinely and without, as far as I know, any exceptional or unusual events. Most importantly I believe that we have continued to meet our aims of providing help, information and a communications network for members. The website remains the mainstay of our public presence and an ever-improving, living archive of historic and current technical information on just about every aspect of Hurley boats. The Yahoo forum remains lively and is the hub of lots of useful information flowing between both members and non-Association members. If we could just persuade more of the 1000 or so Yahoo group members to actually join the Association!!

Last year I reported on the difficulties of producing a regular newsletter. Sadly, after producing a March edition – newly-styled '*Hurley Burley*', with the help of a couple of others – Ian Lowe found that his health was not going to allow him to continue in the role. So I want to record my thanks to Ian for standing up to the task and giving it a try and wish him improving health to enjoy his boat. Consequently, there has been no newsletter since then. The Committee discussed this at our recent meeting and have decided to take a new approach. This idea is to dispense with the concept of a periodic, discrete, newsletter and to develop the present 'Events' page of the website into a 'News and Events' page. This would contain articles from members, with a bare minimum of editing, in an interesting and attractive format and would be maintained and updated on a continuous basis as articles flow in. Tony Littlewood has kindly agreed to undertake the development of a suitable graphic format and webmaster Rod Coomber will then implement and populate it with all the articles that will come flooding-in from members – hence my remark in the first paragraph about sharing your experiences. I need to emphasise the 'minimum of editing' as Rod's role as webmaster is time-consuming enough and it is not the intention to turn him into a de facto editor. So it will be down to us, the members, to produce interesting and entertaining copy, of manageable size and self-edited, ready to be uploaded to the new page. That said, don't worry if you are not very au fait with word processing documents, we will be able to do some editing and formatting on a case by case basis. So watch out for announcements about progress with this. Finally, the Committee decided to keep the new page on the public area of the website as a means of encouraging new members.

This year's photo competition has recently concluded and produced an excellent group of photos – so thanks and well done to all concerned – photographers and voters. Special thanks to Ian Sinclair who worked out the web-based voting

system which was much easier to manage than lots of separate emails. It is still a puzzle to the committee that out of 250 or so members, only about 60 voted, given that voting takes about 90 seconds (!) but we think it still provides value to the Association and pleasure to those who participate.

Planning for the AGM has begun and please take this as notice of the time and venue (although there will be further information in due course including agenda and access details). You may record reading in the minutes of the 2014 AGM the intention to try a new area of the country to make the AGM accessible to a different group of members to attend (but I should here commend the stalwart South West contingent for their strong support of recent AGMs at Plymouth). Accordingly we will be holding the AGM at the Poole Yacht Club at 1000 on Saturday 28th February 2015. Please watch out in the New Year for an ‘all stations’ email with all necessary details.

Finally, I want to give you a heads-up about an exciting future event which is slowly taking form. 2016 will be the 50th anniversary of the introduction of the principal ‘Hurley Line’ of GRP boats which began with the Hurley 22 and Hurley 18. Bruce Carter had the vision for this a couple of years ago and it is now taking real shape. Under the headline of “*Bring your Hurley home*” we will be holding a rally weekend in Plymouth, probably in July 2016, at which we hope to get as many Hurley boats together as we can, plus any Hurley-owners who would not be able to get there by boat but would still like to participate. To increase the interest we hope to time this to coincide with other major boating and maritime events in the City and we will be holding social meetings, a commemorative sail-past and a number of other features. We also hope to involve ex-employees of Hurley Marine and to provide cockpit space for those who travelled other than by sea. I am delighted to tell you that Steve Dart (Hurley 22 ‘Boots’) is enthusiastically heading this up under the guidance of the Committee and will in due course be producing a regular update on the plans. So please do make a note of the date and – again – watch this space.

Best wishes for your winter lay-up,

Tim Sharman



At Bembridge (*Strider* and *Lalep-La*), September 2014. Photo – Ian Sinclair