

## ***Hurley Owners Association***

### ***Chairman's Annual Report 2015***

Dear members. As I write this year's report we are anticipating the fourth of the Met Office's new named storms, *Desmond*, which will shortly be raging across the country, letting us know that we are well and truly into winter. I hope you had a decent sailing season although I think it may have been less than inspiring for some. The highlight of my sailing year was two weeks in the Western Isles onboard a luxurious Malo 34, courtesy of James Hester. The scenery was stunning, the wildlife plentiful and the company and catering were superb. The only thing lacking was – wind! Rain was not lacking!

The focus of the Committee this year has naturally been the planning for the Bring Your Hurley Home event in July next year – more of this later. However, the routine activities of the HOA have continued smoothly.

Membership is following its normal pattern of losing and gaining somewhere between 70 and 90 members, with the total remaining about the same – currently around 275.

Rod Coomber continues his superb job of maintaining the website which has become a treasure trove of useful and important information.

We had a very good photo competition this year, after a slow start we received 29 entries, a record, and about 60 odd votes. For those of you who did not vote – it takes only a few moments – please think about doing so next year.

There were some good rallies and, of course, the sailing highlight must have been the thrill of seeing some of our members compete in the Jester challenge to Baltimore.

The absence of a dedicated Newsletter is probably the single greatest challenge for us as an Association. Our idea of using the News/Events page of the website to substitute for a newsletter has not really worked. Without a tenacious editor to go after 'copy' and chivvy members for their sailing stories, this area is going to remain dormant, which is a shame and a distinct loss to our sense of community. We will be discussing this at the AGM but in the meantime, if there is a member who feels they may have the time and skills to pick up the Newsletter, please get in touch.

Our AGM next year is planned for Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> February, back at the Royal Plymouth Corinthian Yacht Club. Our tactic of changing the venue this year paid off and we had a good meeting at Poole Yacht club in February (courtesy of Mike Carter) and it was refreshing to see many new faces. In 2016 however, because of the BYHH event in July, the Committee felt that holding

the AGM in Plymouth was appropriate to build interest in the event and encourage the small local team of volunteers who are handling the detail.

I was pleased to be able to arrange the supply of HOA-branded merchandise with CMP Embroidery of Gosport, so that we can all get ourselves 'in rig' for BYHH, as well as meeting the general and ongoing demand for merchandise. It is a flexible arrangement between CMP and individual members, with no middle man (i.e. me!). Full details on the web site.

So to the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary event itself. At this point – all the essential elements of BYHH are in place:

- We have confirmed berthing for boats at King Point Marina
- The Fleet Sail Past is fixed in the Plymouth events programme and has been agreed by the Queen's Harbour Master
- We have a confirmed venue for the Presentation Evening & Supper – the RPCYC.

Most encouraging has been the response of members to our seeking 'Expressions of Interest' in attending. Current figures show that some 36 owners intend to bring their boats and we are expecting somewhere between 50 and 80 at the evening event.

We will be inviting a number of official guests, including representatives of supporting local organisations and Companies, the Navy and – most importantly, members of George Hurley's and Ian Anderson's families.

Planning continues apace and I must mention the sterling efforts of Steve Dart who is the real powerhouse behind the event. Steve is supported locally by James Green and Adam Husband, who are covering specific key aspects.

The formal booking system will be launched early in 2016 – possibly shortly after the AGM, so please watch this space and book early.

Finally, on BYHH, this event is certainly the largest and most significant in living memory of HOA and quite probably will be the biggest ever! I would like to encourage members to participate if at all possible. In addition to the commemoration of 50 years of sailing Hurleys and the recognition of all that George Hurley, his Hurley Marine team, Ian Anderson and the companies that followed Hurley Marine, achieved for us, this event will give an enormous boost to the HOA going forward.

I am much looking forward to meeting many of you next July. In the meantime, best wishes for a peaceful Christmas and a New Year with just the right amount of sun and wind.

Tim Sharman  
Chairman



In the Crinan canal aboard 'Eliza', Malo 34.