

## HOA CHAIRMAN'S REPORT 2011

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 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.

I am bound to say that I think that 2010 has been the best year for HOA, certainly since I was first involved in 2003. In addition to meeting all the objectives above, there has been a general increase in the levels of membership and activity and this seems set to continue into 2011. In addition, there are number of interesting things on the plot.

The first significant event of the year is the AGM and I was delighted with the turn out of 23 members at the Royal Plymouth Corinthian Yacht Club. There is a clear historic link with Plymouth and the RPCYC and I know that, subsequent to the AGM, the Tamar Valley group have used it themselves as a social venue.

Regarding the Rules and the formal business of the Association, the principal issue which arose during the year was that of liability at rallies. We have to recognise that we live in a litigious society and that corporate responsibility and health and safety are issues that no one can afford to ignore. At the same time, it seems to me that governmental and institutional reaction to this is to button-up people's actions so tightly in rules and procedures that the fun can go out of it and a 'tick box' mentality to risk and precautions is taking the place of properly directed common sense and experience. This was raised at the last AGM and the Committee worked on the issue in the early part of the year. The result was that we have chosen not to spend £300 - £400 on insurance, which may not have been very effective in the event but we have clearly placed the onus for responsible behaviour and any liability resulting from any possible incidents during rallies, with those participating and organising. This is a pragmatic and practical approach which is in line with RYA guidelines. The Rule 10 has been added to the rules and a notice placed on the website home page.

It has been another good year for rallies and other informal meetings – both ashore and afloat. As has become the norm – the South West members lead the way in this with a whole programme of events – as you can see on the website. The South area managed probably it's best rally so far by mustering 8 boats and 13 crew at Lymington, impeccably organised by Rod and Donia Coomber. It is clearly more difficult to arrange events elsewhere in the country where the density of Hurley owners is much less – nonetheless it was great to read of the plans for an East Coast Rally at Bradwell Marina, even if in the event, the weather killed it off. Well done anyway to the organisers.

The website continues to give excellent service, thanks to Rod's careful attention. The Newsletters have been good too, although Mike has found himself a bit short of material for the Winter edition. With so many members, who must be doing interesting things to and with their Hurley boats, there is scope for lots of interesting articles. So do please take pictures of your particular renovation project or maintenance, or day sail or rally – and let Mike have a few words. The Yahoo newsgroup continues to fulfil the role of HOA discussion group. As always though, there are many participants in the Yahoo group who are not actually members of HOA, which is a shame. Please do encourage non-members to join – the life and future of HOA is so much more secure when the membership is reinforced in this way.

I would like to pay a big tribute to Mike Sheridan who, in his capacities as Newsletter editor, Membership Secretary and Treasurer, plus advisor to the Chairman (!), has continued to manage all the crucial functions which keeps HOA going. His energy, attention to detail and efficiency have been exemplary and we have all benefited as a result. Despite suffering and subsequently recovering from a minor stroke earlier in the year, Mike has maintained HOA business and an accurate picture of the membership and finances. He has also exercised enormous patience with members who either forget to renew their membership or just don't, or some who sell their boats and don't let us know. In order to relieve Mike of a deal of this pressure I am delighted to report that Ian Sinclair (H22 Lalep-La) has agreed to take over the roles of Treasurer and Membership Secretary with effect from 1<sup>st</sup> January 2011. Mike will retain the role of Newsletter Editor and will probably remain as a co-opted/ex-officio member of the Committee for the Newsletter.

On membership it is great news that we have just breached the 300 mark. This is an excellent indicator and shows that Hurley boats are still going strong. That said, we generally have a turnover of some 50 – 70 in year, with the associated problem of failure to renew membership. The approach to renewal is going to become a little firmer in 2011, as I shall report at the AGM.

On the historical front there has been interesting activity. As was reported at the 2010 AGM the Committee decided that it was appropriate to write a history of Hurley Marine as a means of capturing a lot of important information in a permanent form and also to reduce our financial reserves. As I had the good fortune to retire from full-time work in February I have taken on this task myself in conjunction with Nick Vass. Consequently a lot of boxes of archive information are occupying my spare room and I have spent many interesting hours poring over it to build up a picture of the Company and its history. I have also had the very great pleasure of meeting both Ian Anderson and the Hurley family – Mrs Marion Hurley and her daughters Margret and Linda. The work is going well and it is hoped that we should be able to go into production in the Spring with a view to launching the book in the late Spring or early summer. One of the aims of this project is to give members value for their money by using some reserves to underpin the finances and to enable us to offer the book at a discounted price to members. So watch the newsletter for details. Once the book is complete a permanent home will be found for the archive and, in a staged manner, selected items will be placed on the web site.

I would encourage you to try to attend the AGM on the 5<sup>th</sup> March in Plymouth. I intend to hire a bigger room this year in anticipation!

All best wishes for your winter refits and for a great 2011 season.

Tim Sharman

Chairman, HOA Committee