

Hurley Owner Association

Chairman's Annual Report 2017

Hello everybody I feel I would like to introduce myself to those of you who do not know me, and as this is the first opportunity for me to do so, I will give you a few details.

My name is Philip Kirby and I am one of the present Hurley Owners Association committee members. At the last Committee meeting 2nd December 2017 held in Poole, I was elected by the committee as the new Hurley Owners Association Chairman. Having stepped into a role which has been so admirably held by the previous chairman Tim Sharman, I hope I may continue to fulfil the aims of the association and to continue Tim's legacy which he strived to achieve for the Associations benefit and wellbeing.

My history:

I have been boating since my first encounter at the age of 11 with a Gull Sailing Dinghy which my brother purchased at the age of 17, and I sailed on the lawn in the back garden of my mother and fathers house in 1963, (in full sail I might add). From this I progressed to a Hurley Marine ' Tigress ' Speed boat at the age of 13. This was purchased with all my bank account savings, and 12months weekend wages earned at the local golf club. This boat was purchased without an engine, and it was two years before a 1959 18hp Evenrude outboard engine could be purchased. With a borrowed trailer we headed for Torbay on several occasions for holidays to see my brother who lived there. Having moved to South Devon in 1970 halfway through an apprenticeship as a Cabinet Maker/Joiner/Shopfitter, in 1971 I became a part time ' long Shore Shell Fisherman ' which I continued for 10 years alongside my normal work, (apart for my break while sailing down to and sailing around in the Mediterranean).

In 1974 with a longing to sail, I was lucky enough to be able to become the 5th member of the crew on a brand new 60' Yongert designed, Trewes Privateer Yacht, which was actually ' The Boat of the Show ' at Dusseldorf 1974. She was bound for Australia the owner's native country, but would visit the Mediterranean and many other places to show his wife on the way back home. On reaching Australia she was to be used for chartering visits to the Barrier Reef.

The boat was to spend 12 months cruising the Mediterranean, then passage to the Canaries, onto Martinique then Panama out to the Galapagos Islands – Hawaii – Haiti – Solomon's - Fiji - Sydney. A young man's dream !!

Alas it wasn't to be, and we only made it to Palma Majorca as the owner's wife didn't like Biscay, and thereafter our trip to Palma was limited to day sails, although we did take in a short trip to North Africa.

When we reached Palma, the boat was put up for sale - 1 Million Dutch Guilders. – ' Dream Ended '

Three months to get there, a month in Palma – 1hr 55minutes to fly home to UK !!

On returning to the UK, I continued to work for my original company in the High Class Shopfitting/Joinery industry, supplying goods and services to Iranian customers and Arab Diplomats all through a London based Group of Architects.

My first actual Sailing Boat which I purchased was my Hurley 22 ' Xeitosa ' in the late summer/autumn of 2001 when the HOA was in its infancy, and my only previous reference to a Hurley Group was one that had been started in Holland. Having watched the UK's Hurley Owners Association development by John Udy, I joined and have been a member of the HOA Yahoo group since early 2004, and also the actual Hurley Owners Association since 2005. Having owned Xeitosa for 10 years cruising South Devon and Cornish waters, and a trip across the channel to Cherbourg, I sold my H22 in the summer of 2009 and she went to the Medway. Needless to say she also received many upgrades during the time in my ownership.



Xeitosa on the quay with finished polish and antifouling 2009

I now have a Hurley 30/90 called Magatha which I have owned since 2009 and spent the first two years totally refurbishing her which has been ongoing ever since, you all must know this is all too apparent with your own boats no doubt.

I was lucky enough to be approached in 2016 by Duncan Kent of Yachting Monthly as he wished to do a six page article on her. He thought that she could possibly have been regarded as, a missed opportunity to possibly own a Classic.

This article did appear in the November 2016 Edition of Yachting Monthly along with some great photo.



Magatha now polished and antifouled on her way to the water May 5th 2012

HOA News

It was with great sadness for all to hear of the Death of Mrs Marion Hurley, wife of the late George Hurley in April this year. She was in her ninety-fifth year, and I can only say we were all so glad that she had the opportunity along with her family to attend and enjoy the BYHH celebrations last year. Although there was no formal HOA representation several members did attend the funeral.

I have to say that in the wake of last year's successful BYHH 50th celebrations that were held in Plymouth, this year has been somewhat uneventful by comparison. There have been some well attended rallies in the South Region, namely the Chichester rally organised by Paul White, and the Bembridge I.O.W Rally organised last minute by Tim Sharman.

The unsettled weather and several gales of 2017 possibly hampered many from attending rallies organised in the South West. Tony Littlewood once again held an End of Season Social Evening at the Royal Plymouth Corinthian Yacht Club, and a very pleasant evening was had by all with loads of boat talk.

I do hope you have all had a fair sailing season. Mine was cut short due to a shoulder operation and subsequent ongoing physiotherapy in an effort to aid my recuperation. The injury was sustained while ashore for the early season refit in May.

Hopefully we will all be able to enjoy great sailing next year, weather permitting.

I am happy to inform you the affairs of the Association continue to be in good shape on the key fronts of finance, membership, and the historical archive. The website continues to be the backbone of our web presence and the storehouse of our collective wisdom about owning and sailing Hurley boats.

Many and ongoing thanks to Ian Sinclair (finance and membership), Rod Coomber (website) and a major thank you to Bruce Carter for his efforts with the physical archive and who will be standing down from the Committee at the AGM.

Bruce has been awarded this year's South West Hurley Owners Group Achievement Award by Tony Littlewood for his work with the Hurley Owners Association Archives.

On the management front, I am very pleased to report that Mike Carter and David Edwards both have agreed to join the Committee. This is excellent news as the Association needs to have a good team of folk available to pool their wisdom in the guidance of our affairs and to bring their energy and imagination to planning possible future events.

In addition, the virtual HOA community who use social media to share their experiences (Facebook and Yahoo) is demonstrating its popularity with 390 Facebook members to date; people buying and selling boats, refitting them, sailing them, and of course everybody enjoying them. What is always nice to see is the eagerness of members to help and encourage one another in every possible way.

To conclude

We have a mature and effective administration, an excellent web site, a published history and a treasure-trove of archive material and technical information contributed by members from their own personal experiences. Our finances are sound without being excessive and we have maintained a good-sized membership which has also increased – despite continuing to have quite a high number of joiners and leavers each year. We have a good web presence and a fair share of publicity in the yachting press. We are meeting our objectives and providing really helpful support to new sailors and owners plus lots of fun sailing with and socialising with a great group of people. It generally seems that no matter how detailed or technical a question is, someone has some kind of answer or knows someone else who does. This is a major strength of the Association.

Many and ongoing thanks to Nick Vass for managing the FB and Yahoo sites and providing additional personal evaluated technical advice to those who cannot find the answers they want on the yahoo site.

Our 2018 AGM will be held on Saturday 17th February 10.00 – 13.00 at the RPCYC.

Once again it seems appropriate to hold the AGM at the Royal Plymouth Corinthian Yacht Club with our continued alliance and history with the club. These meetings have a minimum of formality and are an enjoyable opportunity to meet other members and talk boats. I do hope a good number of members will be able to come.

Best wishes for your winter lay-ups and for a good sailing season in 2018.

Phil Kirby