

# ***Hurley Owners Association***

## ***Chairman's Annual Report 2016***

Our extended and rather pleasant autumn has now finally receded and the first frosts of winter have come, and as I write, Storm Angus has just given the South Coast a battering. I expect that most of you have hauled or lifted out, or at least snugged the boat up for the winter. For those hardy few who keep open the option of winter sailing – jolly good luck! Do let us hear about your cold weather cruises on Facebook and Yahoo!

I do hope you have all had a fair season. Mine was very good – principally because of the great joy of participating in the biggest HOA event in living memory – the BYHH. More of this later.

I am pleased to report that the affairs of the Association continue in good shape on the key fronts of finance, membership, rallies and the historical archive. The website continues to be the backbone of our web presence and repository of our collective wisdom about owning and sailing Hurley boats. Many and ongoing thanks to Ian Sinclair – finance and membership; Rod Coomber (website) and Bruce Carter (physical archive).

In addition, the virtual HOA community who use social media to share their experiences (Facebook and Yahoo) is demonstrating lots of activity; people buying and selling boats, refitting them, sailing them (obviously!), and altogether enjoying them. What I always find so pleasing is the degree to which members help and encourage one another in every possible way. 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 specialist technical advice.

A key Association event this year were the Hurley presence at the Southampton Boat Show. In both cases HOA members cooperated with the initiative from Practical Boat Owner magazine, which was aimed at getting people sailing, and using modest but well designed and well built boats such as Hurleys. Many congratulations to Nick Vass, Roger Powell and Phil Brook.

The big event this year was clearly Bring Your Hurley Home 2016. First mooted about 4 years ago and at least 18 months in the detailed planning, this was the biggest and most ambitious HOA event ever. Many of you will have already seen the report and photo gallery on the web site and at least 40 of you took part! There were many highlights for me but one I remember clearly – the euphoria and elation of completing the photo call in Plymouth Sound and the Sail Past of the Royal Plymouth Corinthian Yacht Club – in near perfect formation! I know that one or two of us felt a strong emotional reaction as we waved to our friends and well wishers on the balcony of RPCYC.

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A big vote of thanks is especially due to Steve Dart for his imaginative and dynamic leadership is bringing this event to a fantastic and successful conclusion. Obviously others were also involved in the planning and execution – do see the report on the web site for the full list.

I was particularly gratified that we were able to involve Mrs Marion Hurley and her family in our celebration. I know she was thrilled with the whole event – and in particular took the unveiling of the blue plaque to George totally in her stride, even in the face of the press and TV. Also hugely gratifying was the participation of ex-Hurley Marine employees – some from the earliest days of the Company. There were some moving scenes at the plaque unveiling on the Sunday morning where people were meeting again after many, many years.

Probably the biggest question following BYHH is “how do we follow that?”!

Our AGM in will be held on Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> February. Once again it seemed appropriate to hold this at the Royal Plymouth Corinthian Yacht Club, most especially in the wake of BYHH. 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.

On the management front, I am very pleased to report that Phil Kirby has agreed to join the Committee. This is excellent news as an Association like ours 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 future events.

Finally, a personal note. I joined the Committee in something like 2004 (hazy memory!) and found myself as Chairman in early 2006. The upcoming AGM will therefore be my 12<sup>th</sup>. I have had a great time in this role and the HOA has, I feel, come on a long way. We have a mature and effective administration, an excellent web site, a published history and a treasure-trove of archive material and technical information. Our finances are sound without being excessive and have we have maintained a good-sized membership – despite 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/owners – plus lots of fun sailing with and socialising with a great group of people.

However, it is important in an organisation like ours that we have a succession of people at the helm, otherwise what may seem to be a vibrant and active Association life could just be the product of an enthusiastic one or two. So I have decided to make February’s AGM my last as Chairman and stand down from the Committee. This will make room for new people to get a slice of the fun and bring a fresh and energetic input to our affairs. The Committee is looking for one or two additional members to share the ‘helming’

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of the HOA so please consider whether you may be in a position to do this. I assure you that that role is not burdensome, one meeting a year plus the occasional email traffic.

I still intend to be sailing my 22 for many years to come and hope to keep meeting HOA members each season.

Best wishes for your winter lay-ups and for 2017.

Tim Sharman



Yours truly on left, with Mrs Marion Hurley and family, about to unveil the plaque to George Hurley

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