

Hurley Owners Association

Chairman's Annual Report 2018

Dear members

Wow, what a year this has been!

From extreme weather conditions with major snow falls here in the South West of England earlier in the year, unheard of (maybe every 20 -30 years) well it is here in Torbay, to near Tropical Heat waves experienced all over the UK. England as a whole had the joint hottest summer temperatures on record for the UK, since records began in 1910. The papers said it was longest lasting summer in 42 years, with above average temps lasting well into the autumn.

And the Storms – Emma – Callum, but to name a few not forgetting all the numerous Gales in between, and since.

All in all - What a year.

Hopefully you all managed to get some very enjoyable sailing in at some time during the year, to make up for all the horrendous weather we have also had to endure.

HOA News

The Southern Region

This year has been very eventful weather wise in comparison to previous years. The Southern Region only managed one rally this season at Hamble Point organised by Mike Carter. Initially 11 boats had signed up for the event, but on the day the F7 Northerlies limited this to just two boats - Mike in Misolite and Dave Edwards in Jolly Womble. The dinner that evening was well attended, swelled by 8 more members arriving by land.

South West Region

The unsettled weather and several gales of 2018 were the possible reasons it prevented anyone from attending the few rallies organised in the South West by Tony Littlewood.

Tony once again held an End of Season Social Evening dinner and award ceremony for the South West Hurley Owners Group held at the Royal Plymouth Corinthian Yacht Club, and a very enjoyable evening was had by all who attended.

A vote of thanks must go to Nick Vass who created the Face book HOA site which has proved to be so popular with 598 members to date. Nick also continues to run and moderate its use and content.

Our ex HOA chairman Tim Sharman, produce a 2nd edition of the excellent History of Hurley Marine Book which was first produced by Tim and Nick Vass, but this new edition included the account of the Bring Your Hurley Home 50th Anniversary Rally and included a lot of photos of the celebrations which were held in Plymouth. An update was produced for members with the 1st Edition of the book, and this was offered free of charge to any member who had purchased the original publication. So a great vote of thanks goes to Tim for that.

I also think a vote of thanks should go to all members World Wide for their continued support and enthusiasm in encouraging new members to meet up and have rallies and form new friendships around the whole of the Hurley community. Well done to all of you.

I am happy to inform you the affairs of the Association continue to be in good shape in regard to finance, membership, and the historical archive. The website continues to be the main source of information for archives and the storehouse of our collective wisdom about owning and sailing Hurley boats, but I have to say that the Face book page has become our main source of web presence.

With regard to Committee, it is with some regret I have to inform you that after many years of being on the committee and running the website, along with producing minutes, Rod Coomber has now decided he can no longer continue to be a member of the committee due to increasing medical conditions. Rod was the resident webmaster not long after the website was built which was first introduced back in 2004 and continued his role up until the autumn of this year, when he found a place on the committee was more than he could physically manage.

We wish him the very best possible outcome with his future health issues and hope he enjoys the rest of his retirement along with his wife Donia.

Very many thanks Rod from all the present and past committee members.

As a result of this situation Mike Carter has taken over the role of Web master with a little help from Rod and we hope Mike will continue in his role for some time to come. Thanks Mike.

Many and ongoing thanks to Ian Sinclair (finance and membership), who has also registered a wish to reduce his workload by advising us of his wish to resign from the post of Membership Secretary after the AGM.

Ian whose has been one of the mainstays of the association for some 9 years, finds that the ever increasing workload of dealing with the new and membership renewals, along with general enquiries, leaves him with drastically reduced amount of sailing time. He does however intend to stay on the committee in the post of the Financial Secretary for the foreseeable future.

On the management front, I am excited to report that in the wake of GDPR and admin tasks encountered this year the committee have come to the realisation that in light of technological advances, it is time to advance into the 21st century cyberspace and embrace its advantages.

With a reduced committee workforce and the increases of administration tasks, it is our proposed intension subject to approval to remove the existing HOA admin issues, and embrace Social Media by making the HOA Face book Based.

In an effort to make the HOA available to all, it will be a completely ' Free Membership '.

Our existing website, along with Yahoo for access to our archive records and articles will also be free access to all.

We hope that members will embrace this new web based Facebook HOA in an effort to progress our aims of being able to further the interest and durability of the Hurley legacy. It has always been our aim to develop and encourage the ownership of Hurley Marine produced and Ian Anderson designed boats, along with a common interest in arranging rallies for like minded people who like to socialise and talk Hurley.

To conclude

We will still have a committed and effective administration, all be it on a reduced scale. We have 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 at present which will enable us to maintain the current website for a period of time, but anybody wishing to contribute to the future existence of the HOA website may donate their usual annual subscription fee. Members who make such a donation will receive a HOA window disc as supplied last year at renewal as a small thank you gift for their donation. This will contribute to the protection of the HOA web sites future, and would be greatly appreciated.

At present 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 are meeting our objectives and providing really helpful support to new sailors and owners. It is our hope that with our existing web site for our archives and the move to facebook for member's announcements about meeting up, communication will become easier and reach more people quicker than our previous methods of communication. At the end of the day we hope to have lots of fun sailing and socialising with a great group of like minded people.

One of the major strengths of the Association apart from the great range of boats we have and what has kept us going over the many years of our existence, is people's willingness to help others. No matter how detailed or technical a question is, someone has some kind of answer or knows someone else who does, and if not there is always the association web site which holds a wealth of information.

I must also add ongoing and additional 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 main HOA or yahoo site.

Our 2019 AGM will be held on Saturday 23rd February 10.00 – 13.00 at the RPCYC Plymouth. Complete details will be sent out prior to the meeting by the usual means prior to the AGM.

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 HOA members hear about the HOA progress 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 2019.

Phil Kirby
HOA Chairman

