



DUCHY of CORNWALL

HARBOUR OFFICE, ST. MARY'S, ISLES OF SCILLY, TR21 0HU  
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*Harbour Master: Dale Clark*

**ST. MARY'S HARBOUR USERS GROUP**

**25<sup>th</sup> June 2013**

**18:00 SLIP INN**

Invitees	Attended
Jeremy Phillips (JP) – Pilots / SMBA	Y
Steve Hicks (SH) – Pilots / SMBA	Y
Robert Francis (RF)– ISFA	N
Richard Hand (RH)– Hauliers	N
Mike Knapman (MK)– Hauliers	N
Keith Buchanon (KB) – Tennant / sailing	N
Bryher Boats (JS)	Y
St. Agnes Boating (SA)	Y
St. Martins Boating (TP)	N
Pete Hicks – ISSCo / RNLI (PH)	N
Mervyn Bird – ISSCo (MB)	N
Eldred Banfield – ISSCo (EB)	N
Tim Fortey – Independent Boating (TF)	N
Clive Sibley – Tenant / Fuel (CS)	Y
Richard Mills – Sailing Centre (RM)	N
Syd Turner	Y
Barry Bennett	N(met prior to meeting to discuss)

**APOLOGIES**

Apologies were received from Robert Francis, Terry Perkins, Mervyn Bird, Mike Knapman, Keith Buchanon and Richard Hand.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM LAST MEETING**

The minutes from the meeting held on 11th March 2013 were approved. Proposed by JP, seconded by SA.

**MATTERS ARISING**

DC informed all that the Hulman navigational mark was to be painted the following day (26<sup>th</sup> June) with weather, tides and staffing levels hampering this up to this point. DC also mentioned that the after a request for a third ladder in the outer berth much thought had been paid and it was decided this would not be needed. Further to this the ladder on the very end of the quay has been refurbished and is awaiting refit sometime this week.

JP briefly spoke about the use of cruise ship tenders and made all aware of a recent fatal incident in Svalbard in which a cruise ship tender (zodiac) capsized resulting in the death of one person whilst JS spoke about a tender's outboard catching fire some time ago and one of his staff was needed to supply

the vessel with a fire extinguisher. As JS was not working at this point it is not known which ship or when this event happened. DC asks all attendees to get in touch should something similar happen or if there are any further concerns.

## **INCIDENT REPORTS**

DC informed all that there had been 3 incidents since the last meeting. A golf buggy driving off the edge of the quay, the grounding of the Scillonian III and the fatality of a cocaine smuggler in the yacht berths. DC asked if anyone had anything to say about these incidents and offered the reports around for viewing. JS said he was unhappy with being asked to use the steps on the end of the Old Quay during the fatality as he considers these steps unsafe. DC reminded all that the quay closure was at the request of the Police and not the Harbour Authority. DC also mentioned that it was agreed with the Police to let essential and known personnel through and this should indeed be seen as a helpful move from the Police and Harbour Authority and not preferential treatment to some and not others. DC reminded everyone that they should report any incidents to the harbour office no matter how small. He explained that the harbour office keep a record and this assists them in identifying problem areas if certain types of incidents continue to happen.

## **HARBOUR REPORT**

DC gave a brief description of the works and projects undertaken in the previous months as follows:

- New rings currently being fitted in New and Middle steps
- A length of chain has been fitted through the rings in the end steps. AS states that after putting his boat rope through one of the links it became jammed. DC suggested that we may swap the chain for long link if the need arises in the future.
- DC says that we are currently in the process of replacing some of the rings in the Harbours' steps.
- DC says we are hoping to replace some of the wood fendering in the Harbours steps within a month or so.
- DC says that the old bacon buoy is in the process of being refurbished and will be placed on the end of Old Quay as a public bench.
- DC says that the ladder on the end of the quay has been refurbished and will be reinstated by the end of the week.
- DC explains that we have replaced ten of our yachtsman's buoys with green items for ease of use and to minimise damage to visiting yachts.
- DC says that the WIFI system within the Harbour has been upgraded for this year. The improvements have been very effective.
- DC says that we have introduced new brochures for our French customers and also a free Island map for all tourists. DC explains that both have been extremely successful as proved by their use.
- DC asks HUG members if the flag system introduced at the beginning of the season has proved successful. JP states that at times it is difficult to see the white of the flag in the end steps. DC agrees to investigate - ACTION
- DC says that after a survey of the piles of the Harbour wall it was concluded that the steel piles were deteriorating at a speed conducive to normal wear.
- DC speaks about Porthloo Boat Park. The work here is due to start in the first week of November and all vessels needing to use the slip will need to be ashore by this point.
- DC says that funding for the proposed quay extension is looking promising and that a decision will be made by DfT in July. CS asks if works to the Harbourside building is included, DC responds by saying this work will take place regardless and will be funded by the DoC. DC specifies that the work to the quay will include a 23m extension with two extra

sets of steps as well as a 10m widening at the entrance to the working yard. The pillars at the entrance to harbour will regrettably stay the same.

### **QUAY PROCEDURES**

DC reminds HUG members that during periods where we have a lot of visiting yachts, the inner berths must be kept clear DC also briefly mentions the 3kt speed limit afloat but states that at present there are no problems arising from this. DC also mentioned the need for all personnel to wear the correct PPE when in the working area – i.e. high vis, hard hats etc...

### **OFF ISLAND QUAYS**

DC tells HUG members that new signs have been placed on all off-Island quays providing information on swimming as well as a re-issue of letters describing the position of Local Cargo Handlers on such quays. DC reminds HUG members that boatmen are vital in providing information to tourists about how to use the quays.

SA states that the paint applied to some of the railings on St Agnes is an eyesore. DC says he will rectify.

### **YACHT GRID PROJECT**

DC tells attendees that we plan to replace the ground chain on the yacht grid this winter. He says that it is hoped that the work will take ten days and that we are currently in talks with several companies to assess methods. AS asks if there will still be a mooring available for his winter use. MS suggests the pilot mooring, DC agrees.

### **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

AH asks if anyone is aware of the state of Lower Town quay as it belongs to the hotel which is currently closed. MS says that someone is employed for one day each week and quay maintenance is part of his duties. All agree that it is a good workable condition.

With no other business the meeting was closed at 19:30.  
Next meeting to be held end of summer season – HM to advise.