

**ST MARYS HARBOUR**  
**HARBOUR USERS GROUP**

**21<sup>st</sup> OCTOBER 2022**

**LYONESSE BAR – SCILLONIAN CLUB**

Attending:

CHAIR Dale Clark – Harbour Master  
Alan Hartwell – Deputy Harbour Master  
John Peacock – St Agnes Boating  
Joe Pender – St Mary’s Boatmens Association  
Jeremy Phillips – Pilots  
Phillip Woodcock – RNLI  
Ben Jenkins – Isles of Scilly Steamship Company – Lyonesse Lady Skipper  
James Squires – Isles of Scilly Steamship Company – St Mary’s Quay Manager

1. Apologies

Apologies were received from Tom Wiess (ISSG), Tresco Estate, Peter Hicks (RNLI), Sam Mallon (Taxi), Tom Jackman (Ships Agent).

2. Matters Arising

There has been no movement on the renewal of the navigation mark at the end of Lower Town Slip, despite reminders from the Harbour Office.

DC wrote to CIOS re off island waste, they responded saying that the local residents are primarily responsible for this. JS says the waste removal contract is currently out for tender and that changes are being made which includes the manner in which waste is retrieved from the off islands.

Minutes of previous meeting approved.

3. Health and Safety and Incident Reporting

There have thankfully been very few reportable incidents since the last HUG meeting with just one here on the quay where a fork truck made contact with a hauliers van. There were no injuries.

The Harbour provided oil spill equipment, free of charge, to COIS for an oil spill of unknown origin at the duck pond near Porthloo.

4. MCA Updates

It is noted that the MCA no longer accept TEP’s at their offices around the UK but companies such as ‘Ocean Safety’ will accept them.

Edition 3 of the Workboat Code is due for publication in Spring 2023 after Edition 2 failed to meet expectations. There is an open consultation period which closes 29<sup>th</sup> December 2022 and HUG member are urged to get involved. John P mentions that one particular point of note of the new Code is that annual inspections will be undertaken by the MCA instead of

periodic self-certification. He also says many aspects of the new code will be included in a review of the Small Commercial Vessel Code (which applies to most 12 pax vessels within the Islands) within 3 years.

John P mentions that through his attendance at the Domestic Passenger Safety Steering Group he has information that MCA surveyors have been asking for proof that confined spaces have been tested prior to entry and although he does not know if this has become policy or not, thought it was worth mentioning and suggests having testing kit available in the harbour office. Several HUG members agree that if this is a personal choice for the surveyor, and not policy, then the surveyor should be expected to provide his own testing kit.

#### 5. ISSG Update

BJ described the current schedule changes as both the GRY MARITHA and LYONESSE LADY are currently undergoing their annual maintenance regimes .

John P says that the freight handling operation at St Agnes has improved. DC says he has sent correspondence to Tim Robbins about general off Island freight handlers but has yet to receive a response. JS says that PPE items have been ordered.

BJ says that LUF is still progressing but the ISSG are looking into private sources of funding. DC asks if Jack Glasson is still within the company as he started his PEC program but seems to have stopped his progression. BJ says yes, he is still in the company but does not know why his training has ceased.

#### 6. PMSC and General Harbour Update

To continue a previous discussion, there will be no changes to the structure of passenger dues next year, but there will be an inflationary increase in the charge. That being said, we will continue to investigate whether the current method of charging represents the fairest method of doing so.

We saw 45 cruise ships visit in the recently ended season, and in the region of 10000 passengers visiting all Island except Tresco, and 6000 to Tresco. There are 70 ships proposed for next year.

Gerald Thompson, through the St Mary's Boatmen's Association, has now finished as Ships Agent, handing the reigns to Tom Jackman of Scillonian Maritime Consultants.

Seawide Services will be here in the coming weeks to provide mid-term servicing on some of our moorings and before next season all of our moorings which use individual ground gear i.e those not on chain grids, will be marked with red buoys.

The terms and conditions of all of our moorings will be reviewed over the winter period.

The Levelling Up Fund is still progressing and the Council have been given an extended time frame to respond to the letter from Government however, as mentioned earlier, the potential future moves are not palatable to the ISSG and they are looking at other options.

The CIOS sea defence project is underway but with shipping movements paused until spring. Some 6500 ton of rock has been landed at Porthloo beach and 350 ton landed at Porthmellon. When deliveries commence, they will be to Bryher and St Agnes.

We have had discussions with National Grid about the possibility of laying two new cables, one from the mainland into St Mary's and one from Bryher to St Agnes but these discussions are very much in their infant stages and delivery is years away.

We have also scheduled meetings with Celtic Sea Power regarding local offshore windfarms, but these have not come to fruition and the contacts have proved somewhat bogus.

We are investigating the ability to use a small electric outboard on one of the harbour vessels. At this time we are looking at an Italian company called Mitek and are gaining information about servicing and warranties.

We will looking to replace our wooden ladder fenders over this winter, and also fitting a ladder between steps three and four.

All electric and water bollards are working at Porthloo boat park. Joe P asks if there are plans for further areas of concrete. DC says yes, but very much in the future at this stage.

It is unfortunate that we have been unable to open steps five this season due to the worn wooden fenders fitted in error during the quay extension project. The company providing the quote have yet to provide such and we have now cancelled this and have asked TMS to quote for the works.

The fibregid trial at the bottom of steps four and five has been successful. We will increase this trial to the whole of steps two for the winter period with a vision to provide this nonslip covering to all steps if successful.

One of the pontoon mounting RSJ beams is showing signs of wear. We may look to changing the mounting method to a drop down chain running through the eye of the pontoon block eliminating the need for a heavy metal bracket and curing the problem of worn blocks. John P comments that the pontoon was rather congested after parts were removed for the last winter period.

PEGASUS will be delivered to Cockwells yard in Falmouth this winter for a paint. Other works will include works to the engine and tubes so getting Finning CAT and Tilley inflatables all in line with the boatyard is proving a challenge at this point.

## 8. Off Island Quays

SMHA are in talks with the Maritime Security and Resilience Division to discuss the requirement for cruise ship security on off Island quays. We will provide updates at subsequent HUG sessions.

We have a newly designed staple to fit on Bar Quay, Bryher, which will not require any concrete works to fit. This should be fitted in the coming weeks.

John P says he has received comments on St Agnes that the use of our pressure washer has damaged the quay surface in parts. Will we investigate.

John P says there is a small hole to a void in the surface of St Agnes quay also. We will investigate.

## 9. AOB

None

Meeting concluded at 2030. Next meeting to be arranged in December.

