

DART HARBOUR COMMERCIAL USERS GROUP

Minutes of Meeting held at Dartmouth Yacht Club on Monday 23rd September 2019

Present: John Holman (Chair), Melanie Holman (secretary/scribe), Mark Cooper HM, Julian Distin DH, Stephen Norvill, Scott Harris, Lee Freeman, Barry Hollis, Andy Osman, Richie Swinglehurst, Peter Stenner, Paul Jenkins and Qiao Feng, Caleb Brown, Paul Singer, Cdr Will Peters BRNC, David Distin, and Graham Bush.

1. **Apologies** Becky Fry, Beshlie Pool, Charlie Horton, Ben Morris, Mark Strudwick, Perry Smith, Julian Carnell, Robert Green, Steve Kilpatrick, Tom Morris, Mark Sharman, Hal Gillmore and Simon Rendle.

2. **Brief Intro by JH.** Welcome to Cdr Will Peters from BRNC

3. Minutes of the Meeting Monday 3rd June 2019

Proposed by Barry Hollis and seconded by Steven Norvill and agreed by all.

4. Matters Arising

Nothing to discuss.

5. Chairman's Report

Another Summer seems to have flown by with variable but pretty good weather. June was chilly and breezy and the boating season started slowly. July was much better and for Darthaven many more visiting boats – from Holland, Germany, France, Belgium and Sweden – no complaints about costs (no doubt due to the weak pound) and they all loved the river and the environment here.

First 2 weeks in August were damp and windy so numbers went down and didn't go up again.

It was good to see some superyachts using the river and supporting the fuel barge. Cruise ships added interest though The World stayed outside.

Regatta – the quietest ever known but those racers taking part were very happy with the organisation and the wind! It will coincide with the Bank Holiday w/e next year so numbers might increase.

Plenty of varied activities took place eg. rowing, paddle boarding etc and no problems – a lot to do with successful and helpful management by Dart Harbour and many unsung helpers.

Sponsors of the Sailing Regatta were treated to a day of sailing on Lulotte (Ben Morris's 55'Swan) and it was most enjoyable – some of the guests had never sailed before and were quite 'wowed' by it all. Many thanks, Ben. The weather was wonderful as was the picnic lunch prepared by RDYC chef Hayden, and common dolphins joined us, too! Start Bay was at its best – a jewel to be enjoyed and looked after.

Overview of Marine Industry

At **Southampton Boat Show** it would appear that buyers are waiting to see what happens before committing to purchases. British Marine keeps sending out news of their 'best guesses' as to what might happen in the industry. There could be changes with respect to VAT status and goods regulation.

The issue of **Red Diesel** has yet to be decided.

Fortunately, the weather was good for the Show and sales were ok in the larger boat sector – not as good as hoped for Sunseeker and Princess. Marina owners agreed that there is now less demand for mid-size berths.

'**Borrow-a-Boat**' sponsored the Show – ideas like this might be the way for the industry to expand. One marina group has set up a **Boat Club**. The Club buys boats and the members have access to these boats.

BEDS on Board is another idea – spreading the cost of owning a boat.

Zero Emissions Travel Strategy – government planning leading to developments by various manufacturers. **Volvo Penta** have produced an electric sail-drive on a catamaran and a Hydrogen engine powered concept boat. There is an electric ferry already operating around a lake in Sweden – this has a fast charge stops from overhead cables.

Lighthouses at Start and Berry head now have new LED bulbs – rotating lenses now gone!

6. Harbour Master's Report

- Visitor figures –up 8-12%. Regatta quiet but the week counting the Bank Holiday was good.
- A good year so far and looking like numbers up on the last 3 years. (2015 was comparable).
- DH has submitted to the consultation on Red Diesel – promoting the fuel barge.
- Consultation needed with the fishermen over their requirements for a new KP. There might be new funding available next year.
- DA pontoons will need replacing this Winter but no action until plan comes clear for the slipway and RNLI.
- Possible Projects for 2020;

Improved access for the less able bodied - landings from small craft

(Dart Sailability involved in the specs)

Alternative to TJ for trip boats in case TJ out of use in the Summer

Use of 100K offered from Premier (23 months left)

New **website** seems ok - all in all a good year so far.

There was a chaotic **Raft Race** but no accidents!

The rowing races had a few tide issues last weekend.

Julian Distin is involved in the renewal of the Moorings Policy – the draft for consultation is being put together to be agreed in house – ready for viewing in the Winter.

7. Commander William Peters BRNC

The Commander has had experience on many ships – recently HMS Tyne and been very important in Fishery Protection – The Codfather!

Good news for Dartmouth – its future is seeming secure for officer training.

The college has a new gym which will be completed by Kier in March.

Areas of the older section of the building are crumbling and investment is awaited – always a battle for funds.

Sand Quay also needs investment – the pontoons are very worn.

The Picket Boats will be going – to be replaced with 8 15m twin engine catamarans capable of 40 knots.

The new workboat is already on the river.

When night-time exercises have taken place it has been noticeable that some small craft fail to have the required lights.

HM Comment – More 2-way communication – more use of VHF to be encouraged and the monitoring of the safety channel. Hopefully college boats to be involved.

8. Member Comments;

Darthaven – Good year for servicing and lifting – v.good year for commercial parts and engine sales.

Snark Ltd – Paul Jenkins and Qiao Feng – now a bit ‘flat’ on the learning curve – persevering.

Shellfishermen – Crabs arrived late. Prices remain high – most sent to Asia – difficult for small domestic processors to compete.

There is a tagging process taking place by DSIFCA on the reappearing stocks of crawfish in local waters – the stock needs protecting until after it has reached breeding age.

The EMFFund remains open – applications not presently funded might be considered from a UK fund with the same criteria in a post EU exit.

Thanks to the Regatta Committee for enabling parking for the fleet in Coronation Park.

DSRRB – a good season which benefited from the fine weather days...on a par with 2018. Bay not so busy. Investment going ahead with another ferry for easy access.

TMS- TMS has plenty of work nationally. The quay in Oxon Cove is finished and it is being used – already 40 tons being landed per day. Will be working at Noss. Very quiet in the Ch. Isles – berths empty.

Noss-on Dart - Quietish now as demolition complete. Issues with moving the large old MTB. The Environment Agency not satisfied. All dredged material will be coming ashore to be removed.

Other areas in the river will have benefited with limited berths available at Noss.

Castle Ferry – Very poor start but good July and later in August. A good season.

Dittisham Ferries- Like the Castle ferries – July good and later in August. Overall down on last year.

Dolphin Quay – 2 Apprentices – marina full. Now has an engineering section for commercial work.

Still ongoing issues with planning and conditions laid down by the MMO.

Rigging Solutions – earlier very busy with plenty of work for later

River Dart Moorings –Customers appearing – 7 new ones and enquiries still coming in.

Dave Distin – All moorings are in use.

Fuel Barge Good Easter then average until August – very busy Bank Holiday. Regatta not as busy as it used to be.

Superyachts were a bonus and provided some other services. Very appreciative of the River in general and DHNA and Darthaven for the Chandlery.

There is now a new Stainless Steel Fast Pump on the barge which can deliver 190.litres per minute – great for the fishing fleet and passing Naval vessels...

WINTER SCHEDULE BEGINS 1ST OCTOBER.

MON, WED, FRI and SAT 12.00-17.00 – ring after 16.00.

Totnes Kayaks Good season overall – too windy early August but better towards the bank Holiday.

Blackness A good Summer with good bookings for the Winter.

Dartmouth Boat Hire – weather affected trade but a good August and September.

Dittisham Boat Hire – Eastertime was good but not so busy after that.

SDC- Paul Singer. Lots of changes as departments are amalgamated. All very busy. New Hi Tech Centre.

Enrolment 2% ahead of planned

Princess V40 hull arrived on site – a model mimicking a factory for students. Core skills training and upskilling Princess Apprentices.

New Standards in the Marine Electrical area – Hybrids in demand for superyacht owners.

Strong links with French(Jeaneau)/South Koreans ongoing.

BMSW AGM etc in Feb/March 2020.

There is interest in courses linked to the Marine Industry which might be developed.

9. Financial Report –sent by the Hon Treasurer Robert Green.

Group Funds - £2,434.65 in total.

10. A.O.B

Comment from HM – there seem to be lots of fishing pots left about.

The Chairman thanked everyone for their attendance.

11. Date of next AGM/Meeting Monday January 27th 2020 at DYC 19.00 confirmed

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 20.30

Chair Date.....

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