

ASSOCIATION OF DART RIVER USER CLUBS

MINUTES OF MEETING, 13.4.2023.

Held at Dartmouth Yacht Club.

Present:

Chair: Anne Davis

Mike Brown, Dartmouth Yacht Club; Ian Wakeling, Dart Sailability.

In attendance: HM Paul Britton; Vice Chair of DHNA Board and Board Representative for ADRUC John Milsom.

Apologies: Norman Doige, RDYC; Steven Black, Dittisham SC; Ian Adams, TBA.

1. Welcome and Introductions. AD welcomed Paul Britton and John Milsom and thanked them for their attendance.

2. Minutes of Previous Meetings. In view of ADRUC's long period of inactivity over the past 3 years, minutes from the last previous live meeting in November 2019, together with notes from e-communications during the pandemic years were circulated and agreed.

3. Matters Arising. To be discussed under items below.

4. Chair's report by AD. Glad to get ADRUC going "live" again. Intends to continue with the model of 2 live meetings a year, one in Dartmouth and one elsewhere on the river. As it is often difficult to get all members together, absent members will be involved by email as much as possible as their input is core to the group.

5. HM's Update.

- New pontoons at refurbished Double Steps. The plan is now finalised (attachment 1). New pontoons will be secured with anchors to avoid intrusive piles. Hardware is ordered and should arrive mid-May with the hope that the new layout is complete by end May 2023.

The small dinghy section will be short stay with a limit of 6 hours, but there may be some limited overnighting allowed later on.

- Harbour Dues. The new schedule of charges has been readjusted to be more equitable. Increases have been inevitable but mooring holders have in general accepted the need for this. Boat stickers are now issued permanently rather than annually and represent a boat "numberplate" for identification by river staff (replacements can be obtained if sticker wears out). Boats under 4m overall length and under 40HP are exempt from fees. HM emphasised the need for boats to cover their propellers on the moorings.
- River Staffing. As there are no longer any river based volunteers, regular staff

on the river have been increased from 4 to 5 per watch. Generally at least 3 patrol boats are out on the water and the longterm plan for these is under development. Part of this is for there to be an assistant HM on duty everyday.

- The Yacht Taxis will take credit cards this season and cash is being minimised although it will still be accepted.
- The river survey took place as usual this winter and HM reviewed results for the last 10 years. Overall there has been no evidence of the harbour getting shallower although there are a couple of very local points where the depth is shallower or the main line of the stream has changed. The "Hole in the Wall" on the West bank above Fleet Mill Reach has increase in width by 40cm (not a lot) in 10 years ; HM believes that this has now stabilised as it is caused by freshwater flow into the river which is now amply accommodated.
- The Dart will be seeing a lively selection of events and rallies this season. A deposit is being charged for these 1 week in advance. The period 14 - 18 June will be exceptionally busy, with 3 cruise ships arriving, 3 superyachts mooring and also the Richard Mille Cup event for Classic yachts; about 12 yachts of LOA 20 - 40 m will spend 2 nights on the moorings off the town.
- HM is looking at the possibility of resiting cruise ship moorings to a new position off Warfleet Creek. Vessels would not be moored here at times of local yacht racing and, at least initially, would only be moored here during daylight hours. See full details in Attachment 2. DHNA is working with commercial firms to develop a river activity simulator to test the feasibility of this plan.
- Holding Tanks and Pumpout sites. The DHNA is considering a gradual requirement for local boats to use holding tanks while on the river. Pumpout systems will be available at Noss on Dart and Dartmouth marinas. The Harbour is aiming to install a further 2, site as yet undecided but possibly on a barge midstream.

6. DHNA Representation for ADRUC (John Milsom DHNA Vice Chair and Board Member). John has replaced John Ellwood in this role. AD to send note of appreciation to John Ellwood. The role is largely one of communication and also representation at the board. JM will be keeping AD informed on issues of significance to ADRUC.

7. Disabled access. IW and the HM have worked together on this and are satisfied with the disabled access to the water on the Dartmouth side; this is a low level point on the town pontoon. On the Kingswear side, a satisfactory arrangement at Dartmouth is available from IW's perspective but there are difficulties with getting this insured and work is in progress.

8. Representation at the DHNA for non-club berthholders and other leisure users. Since the demise of the Dart Leisure Boat Owners Association from lack of support,

this has been an unresolved issue. Individuals occasionally approach the Harbour Office direct but this group do not have more formal representation. HM is proposing a group which related to but is distinct from other stakeholder groups and might take the form of a forum with informal meetings once or twice a year. Ideally this group would have an independent Chair, and a some secretarial hours covered in the Harbour Office. Further discussion will take place at Board level.

9. Noss on Dart marina. AD reported on brief meeting with General Manager Mike Smith. The pontoon layout has only minor changes still to be made and the external limits of the layout are now permanent. Development on shore continues; a wide range on maritime businesses are just opening, together with a café, a new multistorey car park and a dry stack facility. A Noss to Dart water taxi service has been established at peak hours and weekends.

10. AOB. Ian Adams (TBA) by email drew attention to fallen trees and branches being washed down river from higher reaches (above the weir at Totnes). HM commented that this is a natural process and although river users need to watch out for them, no significant damage to moorings or boats has been noted. The SGBA raised the question of water quality. HM drew attention to the Dart Harbour & Estuary Marine Biosecurity Plan available on DHNA's website. HM works as much as possible with South West Water to minimise pollution (see notes above on holding tanks).

11. Date of next meeting. AD to approach TBA for the possibility of holding the Autumn ADRUC meeting there. This will be in October 2023.

Anne Davis
15.4.2023.