

Brighton Marina Berth Holders Association

Annual General Meeting

Notes from the meeting held in the Master Mariner on Saturday 22nd November 2008.

The meeting was attended by the Committee and c40 members.

1. Opening session

The Chair, John Boyce, welcomed those present, introduced the committee members and gave a reminder that only full members may vote. He explained that guidance was taken from the RYA, who the Association are affiliated with, regarding rules and regulations and they recommend a relaxed style which is proven to help retain committee members and encourage membership.

The notes from members meetings and AGM's are uploaded to the Associations website once they have been completed including answers to questions raised at the meetings.

www.bmbha.org.uk

2. Accounts

Treasurer, Barbara Sunshine, has had to resign from the committee due to personal circumstances. The books have yet to be audited and so The Chair was unable to circulate a précis of the Associations finances as planned.

He proposed that the books are passed to a bookkeeper who will prepare them for audit. An extraordinary meeting would then be called with the audited accounts being circulated two weeks prior to the meeting. He assured those present that there are no problems at all with the Associations finances.

This was agreed by the majority of attendees after being proposed by John Price and seconded by Gary Villiers. No objections were raised.

Question's from the floor.

Q: Who says why and when the books have to be audited?

A: The RYA advises that books are audited annually. The committee feel it is best to be transparent where finances are concerned.

3. Subscriptions

The Membership Secretary, Denise Hillier, gave an overview of the period covered by subscriptions. Subscriptions begin to become renewable from January 2009. The fee will remain the same at £10pp. Members will be e-mailed (or posted) a renewal form a month before the payment is due. Payment can be made through the Marina Office (in person or by post). Once received, new membership cards will be issued.

Question's from the floor.

Q: Is the £10 subscription per person or per boat?

A: Membership is per person.

A vote was taken on whether to extend memberships to associates and other groups with similar aims e.g. the residents of the marina, fishermen, divers and the commercial fleet. Given the amount of changes proposed for the area it could be in everyone's best interest to be linked.

This was agreed by the majority of attendees after being proposed by Phil Sheer and seconded by Alan Turnbull. No objections were raised.

4. Appointment of officers (committee)

The Chair gave an overview of how the committee works, how often meetings are held and current roles. The Treasurer and the PR roles have recently become vacant and the Secretary, Social Secretary and the Vice Chair roles will become available in the New Year. Also, for additional support it would be prudent to have some volunteers on a *vin ordinaire* (no specific role) basis.

Interested parties were asked to speak with any committee member for further information.

Question's from the floor.

Q: Could some additional information be available to read?

A: Committee members would be asked to produce a 'job spec' which could be posted onto the website.

A vote was taken on whether members were happy to continue with the committee as it is, recruit more volunteers where possible and to vote them in at the next members meeting.

This was agreed by the majority of attendees after being proposed by Terry Smith and seconded by Meg Graham. No objections were raised.

5. Chairman's Report (By John Boyce)

Brighton marina is the largest marina in the UK and possibly Europe. It has 1,800 available berths for all size boats, a large locked inner lagoon, boatyard etc but one of the last UK marinas to have a berth holders association. This has now been rectified. Just under two years ago, two active marina boating ladies contacted the RYA to find information on how to start one. Enthusiasm abounded, the RYA attended an inaugural meeting, explained the basic operation, founded a committee and just 18 months ago BMBHA started life.

The main aims of the association are:

- to form an interface between the berth holders and the owners of the marina with the main object to improve our marina life
- to address issues that arise, to view these issues on a win-win basis and report back to the members

Apart from this the association has organised many other activities during the year, including practical and safety seminars, boat jumbles, boat show outings, festive parties, monthly

quizzes etc. The 300th member joined halfway through the year and we are now approaching 500 members. We have negotiated discounts for members with many local traders. BMBHA now includes non-voting associate members who have berth holder interests, such as the Brighton Divers Club and the total crew of the Brighton RNLI who were made honorary members earlier this year.

Four newsletters have been produced and circulated giving information on all BMBHA activities and news of interest in and around the marina. Notice boards have been erected on both main jetties to keep members up to date with what is happening.

Three general meetings are held each year to keep the membership updated on ongoing issues. During these meetings an open forum is held to let members voice their views, ask questions, raise issues, etc. A website was created giving all relevant information; this also includes a forum for members to use for any related matters, such as how to fix things, where to find specific items, sales and wants etc. This website is being updated for easier use and access. Members are regularly emailed with all current information.

The RYA to whom the association is affiliated, is informed of all activities and two meetings are held a year, which I attended, of all the berth holders associations to compare notes and activities, to discuss common issues and for the RYA to update us on the services they offer.

Issues undertaken by the association include the creation of a charter by Premier detailing their intentions and services they offer. This can be viewed on the website.

Also many queries and issues that have arisen including pontoon safety, security, mooring, fuel, policing, parking, access etc. have been clarified. I feel that since the creation of the association, issues and difficulties within the marina are now dealt with on a speedier and more attentive basis.

All this does not happen without the enthusiasm and hard work of a committee and band of helpers to which I and all the members own a large vote of thanks.

End.