



Shrimper Owners Association

Falmouth

Newsletter Spring 2020



Greetings Shrimpers

In normal times, I would be writing to you about a full programme of carefully planned activity to which we could all look forward in the coming months, but as I write this Newsletter we are 5 weeks into lockdown and there is no immediate prospect of getting back out onto the water. But looking on the bright side, the weather is glorious and hopefully we are all keeping reasonably fit and well.



You will know that Falmouth Harbourmaster issued a Port Notice to Mariners on 30 March 2020 announcing restrictions on the use of leisure craft and the closure of pontoons, moorings and slipways until the Covid-19 Measures are lifted., so we are not missing anything. Most Shrimpers will presently still be on hard standing in local boatyards, which sadly are also closed. Of course, those of us who were fortunate enough to have their Shrimpers at home may be energetically pimping their boats to gleaming condition, providing that they can obtain the necessary materials.

But whilst most of us may not be able to work on our Shrimpers, you will be reassured to learn that your Committee have been in regular communication and last week held a virtual meeting for the first time using Zoom. The technology worked very well, despite the accumulated age of your Committee and a number of members had clearly worked very hard on their very impressive backdrops, which as you may know is the sign of a competent Zoom exponent! We discussed this year's programme which you may already have seen outlined in the Spring Edition of the Shrimper Magazine, and you will be unsurprised to learn that we decided to cancel this year's Rally, due to have been held between 10 and 16 July. A number of members have already submitted their entry forms, and Richard Lewis, our Treasurer, will be getting in touch to discuss options either to refund your entry fee, or simply retain it for next year's event.

Although it seems inevitable that there will be a substantial delay before anything like normal activity can be resumed, not least because of the backlog of lifts and launches to be organised once the lockdown is eased, we are nevertheless optimistically hoping to organise a limited number of Shrimper events - possibly a series of Creek Crawls and pub visits in August or September. We are not planning a full blown Rally, but more impromptu events, tide and weather permitting, which are likely to be advertised on the WhatsApp Group - we will of course also be observing any residual social distancing measures that may remain in place.



Communications- . .- - .- -. . .-

We have well over one hundred current members of Falmouth SOA, and our primary means of communication is by email, by which this Newsletter is being distributed.

Information is also posted periodically on the *Shrimper Owners Association* – Falmouth FaceBook page.



More recently, we have also established a WhatsApp Group – *SOA Falmouth* – which currently has 34 members. This has proved to be a very useful means of transmitting information quickly to those interested in reading about Shrimper related news, and also a comforting way of keeping in touch during these extraordinary times, particularly for those of us who are unfortunately having to self-isolate. If you are interested in joining this Group please get in touch with Michael Wilson either by text to 07971 853389 or email to michaelwilson36ft@gmail.com who will be pleased to add you to the Group.

Shrimper Handicaps

Members who attended or subsequently read the Minutes of the AGM in December will recall that there was some discussion about proposals from Mylor Yacht Club and the YTC Handicap

Committee to review the Shrimper 19 Handicap, which is currently set at 1305. We met with the Handicap Committee in February and did agree to do some practical work with them in April to test the validity of the handicap over measured courses in controlled conditions. Unhappily, the lockdown has intervened, and realistically it is unlikely that this work will proceed and there is little prospect of any progress on this topic until much later this year.

Sunday Lunches

On a happier note, it was great to see 34 Shrimper and Crabber owners attend the Cornish Crabbers Factory Tour and the subsequent lunch at Rock Sailing Club on 23 February. It was particularly pleasing to welcome a young couple from Brittany with a Shrimper 17 who had travelled across on the ferry from Roscoff for the day, making this our first International Shrimper Sunday Lunch! The factory visit, kindly hosted by Peter Thomas, Cornish Crabbers MD, revealed that there was still considerable value in refurbishing old Shrimpers and also demonstrated a number of useful developments to improve the handling and performance of Shrimpers including modern jib furlers and lifting bowsprits. The lunch at Rock SC, which was impressively organised, also provided a welcome opportunity to meet other Shrimper sailors and share experiences. We hope to repeat the event in 2 or 3 years.



I know that many members were looking forward to the final lunch at the Meudon Hotel on 29 March, which was sadly cancelled due to the lockdown. You may be pleased to learn that we have now rescheduled this event at what is a very attractive venue on Sunday 25 October.

International Shrimper Week

Members may have seen from the SOA website that ISW, due to be held in and around Felixstowe from 19 to 29 June 2020, has now been cancelled due to Covid-19. The event has been rescheduled for June 2021 again from Felixstowe.

Falmouth Sailing Week

Although decisions have been made to cancel ISW in June and our Rally in July, at present the organisers of Falmouth Sailing Week are still planning to run the event between 8 and 15 August. Those interested in competing can enter online from next month, but importantly, entry fees will not be payable until there is more certainty that the event will proceed. Something for us all to look forward to, without any immediate investment!

Shrimper Open Championship 4 to 6 September

In common with Falmouth Sailing Week organisers, we have agreed with Mylor Yacht Club that it is too soon to cancel the inaugural MYC Shrimper Open Championship – six races scheduled to run over 3 days in early September. So as soon as current restrictions are lifted, we will continue the planning for this event with MYC, and still hope to encourage some visiting Shrimpers to compete, travel restrictions permitting.

Our recent Committee Meeting was so well organised by Michael Wilson, Nigel Heslop and Andy Noble, that we have decided to hold another Zoom meeting later next month. One issue yet to be resolved is how we might enjoy Cookie's cakes remotely, which have been a welcome feature of earlier terrestrial meetings.

Keep safe and well everyone, and we look forward to seeing you on the water in the not too distant future.

Steve Przybylski
Regional Hon Secretary

