

SOLENT AREA SAFETY ADVISORY COMMITTEE (SASAC)

**Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 25th November 2021 at 1400
Via Zoom**

Present:

Chairman SASAC & SCRA President
Chairman SCRA
Assistant Harbour Master ABP
Harbour Master Cowes Harbour Commission
Deputy Harbour Master Cowes
PSCO QHM Portsmouth
QHM Portsmouth
ABP Southampton Pilot
Secretary SCRA
SWSA
RYA South
SCRA Assistant Secretary

1. Chairman's opening remarks and welcome

The chairman opened the meeting by welcoming those in attendance and thanked everyone for coming.

2. Apologies

Harbour Master Hamble
Harbour Master ABP Southampton
Harbour Master Lymington
Harbour Master Portsmouth Commercial Port

3. Minutes of the meeting held on 26 November 2020

The minutes were approved.

4. 2021 Review, including incidents between shipping and yachts in the Solent

QHM Portsmouth reported that QHM has commenced, and is in the early stages of, a review of the dock yard port of Portsmouth order 2005, prior to completing a dockyard order revision. As part of that process we will also be reviewing our general directions. QHM reported that Jet Ski's require a licence to operate in the Portsmouth area, since Covid there was a significant increase in licence applications. However this also increased the fines issued due inconsiderate and dangerous speeds/driving behaviour. 42 reported incidents up from 32 the previous year, 11 of these were close quarter situations. There was an increase in groundings and floundering in the area.

ABP reported there were fewer reported incident in 2021 with only 7 reported with shipping compared to 11 in 2020

ABP have taken delivery of a new RIB to support the existing on water resources and Southampton Patrol. Named 'Swift' she will be used in conjunction with the Southampton Patrol to support control around shipping and support on water events. The cable link charts are now updated and show the correct coordinates. The Royal Southern buoy was relocated due to the cabling.

The reported anchoring off the race mark which ABP intervened was due to the cabling company using the AES location and the anchoring was directly over the top of the cables. ABP will no longer be intervening with this and it is considered good seamanship to not anchor over cables, however the cables are buried 5m under the seabed.

ABP reported that there were several incidents with Jet skis and ribs with some crossing in front of Britannia. A yacht sunk off Calshot which ABP managed to retrieve to avoid any dangers to other mariners. The MAIB report regarding the rib ride related death with company Seadogz is nearing completion. ABP are working on the speed restrictions and general directions in the harbour. 40knots is the current speed restriction up to Hythe.

Calshot now has a dedicated water sports area which has assisted with pleasure crafts.

CHC noted the vast majority of incidents caused are by small pleasure crafts.

On behalf of Cowes Harbour Commission, the Harbour Master reported that 2021 was much busy recreationally and commercially. There were a few incidents with Red Funnel throughout the season. A memo was issued re. Tuesday night racing and close quarters to commercial vessels.

The 2020 incident between a rib and Red Funnel was taken to court and successfully charged and fined.

On behalf of the RYA Southern it was reported that the MCA DFT have started a consultation of personal watercrafts to be seen as vessels. The MCA DFT is also consulting on the usage of flares for vessels. SCRA commented that White Group boats are not required to hold flairs on-board during Cowes Week racing. CHC hosted a flair amnesty which received 2500 flares for disposal; it was a worthy service but was logistically difficult.

Lymington Harbour reported prior to the meeting - A better year than last year on the safety management front with fewer cases of poor navigation. One prosecution going forward for a serious speeding incident.

In relation to organised events, had a couple of avoidable close quarters incidents with the ferries earlier in the season due to a lack of anticipation and timely intervention, and poor decision making by safety boat helms. This resulted in follow up with club officers who acknowledged that the pandemic had adversely affected training and were taking actions to resolve.

Also a better year on the ASB front but still had our fair share of incidents with the local Police response through 101 being non-existent. Subsequently had meeting with local officers on the neighbourhood team who explained that they had been drafted into other areas to cover shortages, so for much of the time there was no local police presence.

5. Special Events 2022

RYS – Fife Regatta – 12-14 July, Round the Island – 25 June, Cowes Classic Week – 25 June -1 July, Cowes Week – 30 July – 5 August, Cowes Torquay Powerboat – 26th August, Etchells World Championship – 19-25 September.

6. Seasonal Racing Buoys

The Chairman reported that CHC kindly supported the racing marks financially in 2021. There is still not enough funding for the four additional race marks for Ryde Bank. CWL/SCRA is currently looking at a new funding model for replacing the race marks to plastic. There has been good interest for 2022 with sponsorship with many signing up for multiple year deals.

Mike Samuelson commented that this summer SVYC had successfully used a number of semi-permanent large inflatable buoys with coloured sleeves rather than replacing the unusable metal spherical ones with plastic buoys.

7. Online system for notifying events and their locations.

It was noted that there were several issues with clubs not submitting critical information within the time frame provided.

SCRA reported that the online notification system will be undergoing some improvements which will include email reminders to clubs to submit risk assessments etc.

8. Issued raised by clubs, SCRA, RYA or other attendees.

CHC commented that mariners are encouraged to utilise the incident reporting system via the CHC website.

The president

7. Any Other Business including Matters Arising from last year's Minutes if not already dealt with

It was suggested publishing the SASAC minutes on the website.

The SASAC previously discussed hosting a safety webinar or seminar at the ABP offices. This was agreed by the committee to host a webinar on 21 February 2022.

ABP noted the groundings of Bramble Bank this year which a helpful website link can be provided to SCRA.

9. Next Meeting Date

24th November 2022