

## SOLENT AREA SAFETY ADVISORY COMMITTEE (SASAC)

### Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> November 2022 at 1000 In person and via Zoom

#### Present:

Charles Hall-Thompson	Chairman SASAC & SCRA President
Laurence Mead	Chairman SCRA
Pippa Moody	Deputy Harbour Master ABP
Caitlin Kempton	Marine Data Coordinator ABP
Ed Walker	Harbour Master Cowes
Jennie Smith	Deputy Harbour Master Cowes
Becky Walford	PSCO KHM Portsmouth
Graham Bishop	Deputy KHM Portsmouth
Bob Gatehouse	Secretary SCRA
Nigel Edwards	Southampton Water Sailing Association
Mike Samuelson	Chair RYA South
Billy Johnson	Harbour Master Langstone Harbour
Mary Scott-Jackson	SCRA Assistant Secretary
Tom Munson	RNLI Water Safety Delivery Support (South East)

#### Via Zoom

Barry Sadler	ABP Southampton Pilots
Guy Addington	RNLI Regional Safety Lead

#### 1. Chairman's opening remarks and welcome

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

#### 2. Apologies

Jason Scott	Harbour Master Hamble
Steven Masters	Harbour Master ABP Southampton
Ryan Willegers	Harbour Master Lymington
Rob Dunford	Deputy Harbour Master Langstone Harbour
Ben McInnes	Harbour Master Portsmouth Commercial Port
Nick Hardesty	Portsmouth Commercial Port
Barry Smith	Wightlink
Alex Bell	Southampton Water Sailing Association
David Barter	KHM Port Conservancy Officer
Tim Adams	Harbour Master Yarmouth
Thomas Cardy	KHM

#### 3. Minutes of the meeting held on 25 November 2021

Mike Samuelson pointed out that the minutes of the last meeting should have stated that it was both an in-person meeting as well as Zoom, not just a Zoom meeting. Duly noted and agreed.

#### 4. 2022 Review, including incidents between shipping and yachts in the Solent

On behalf of **Cowes Harbour Commission**, Ed Walker reported that there was a significant increase in the number of interventions/Stage 1 warnings – double on 2021. There was an influx of new

owners who don't understand how the Harbour works. Incidents slightly up at 50, with main incident being propulsion failure – up by 20 on 2021. This was followed by speeding and creation of wash, also up on 2021. 85% of the incidents are recreational users and are mostly motorboats. There was also an influx of swimmers in the Harbour. PWCs are not a massive issue and the work done in 2020 has worked. Mike Samuelson said that more education is required on PWCs. Ed said that a meeting is planned with the RYA and invitations will go out to Solent based stakeholders. A 'toolbox' will be created so groups can use as much or as little information as required. Charles H-T suggested that this could be added to the SCRA website.)

There are no issues in CHCs Statutory area relating to events.

Pippa Moody, Caitlin Kempton and Barry Sadler on behalf of **ABP** reported that incidents were similar to Cowes Harbour Commission's with a number of P2 infringements and nine re-education letters issued. There were 13 close quarters incidents but no serious injuries. There is a downward trend on PWC incidents and having the new patrol boat Swift helps with increased reporting and interventions with the trend up on 2019. Boat users are given a QR code card from which they can download the Marine Leisure Guide.

Barry then shared his screen showing an incident during Cowes Week where a fleet of Mermaids cut across the bow of a 143m container vessel with a draft of 8.1m. The incident happened at High Water but if this had happened at Low Water it would have been a different situation. Another incident involved a 183m tanker with the subject vessel within the MPZ and 60 seconds from collision. Barry would be happy to give a presentation on these incidents to anyone interested. Laurence Mead suggested running a social media campaign 'Spot the Yacht' to perhaps run late winter/early spring to highlight these issues.

Becky Walford for **KHM** reported that they have a volunteer harbour patrol operating every weekend from Easter to September who hand out the Police leaflet 'Wash & Slow'. Close quarters incidents are down but persons in the water was significantly up. There were five fire and explosion incidents this year – one major one where the new owners didn't check the fire dampers etc. There are lots of new boat owners in new RIBs with no lifejackets or using the Kill-Cord! PWC licensing is down on last year however, there are a number of hover/foiling boards who go down the middle of the main channel and right up to naval ships and they are usually repeat offenders. The safety leaflet is currently being re-written and will be available soon. Guy Addington (RNLI) added that there is a tendency to try to manage everybody rather than the minority so need to be more focused in our approach and tackle bad behaviour. Improve reporting and identification programmes. He said that there is no central point where bad behaviour etc can be reported so it can be shared. Ed Walker responded that there is Coastwatch and he also keeps in touch with other Statutory Harbour Authorities via email to share any incidents/bad behaviour. Becky suggested that Hampshire Police should be invited to attend the meeting next year. Pippa added that the Marine Police have upped their support/patrols to seven days a week.

On behalf of **Langstone Harbour** Billy Johnson said that it was useful to be included in the discussion. They are a small team at Langstone but dealt with 140 incidents over the summer from providing first aid to picking people up out of the water. It's usually SUPs and swimmers getting into trouble. PWCs traditionally cause problems but at Langstone they offer a free licence but they need to have taken a course and prove insurance to hold a licence. This system has worked and is

in line with best practice nationally with fewer jet ski incidents and only one prosecution. A PWC Solent-wide licence would not necessarily work as different rules apply in different areas.

Guy Addington for the **RNLI** (via Zoom) shared his screen to share statistics of RNLI call-outs and incidents. Separate report to follow.

**5. Special Events 2023**

Fifes & Classic Regatta 19 – 23 June  
Round the Island – 1 July  
Cowes Classic Week – 8 – 14 July  
British Classic Week – 15 – 22 July  
Rolex Fastnet Race – 22 July  
Cowes Week – 29 July – 4 August  
Cowes Torquay Cowes Powerboat – 26 - 27 August  
Etchells National Championship – 22 – 24 September  
Cape 31 Regatta 13 – 15 October

**6. Seasonal Racing Buoys**

Mary Scott-Jackson reported that sponsorship of the race marks is going well with most people renewing. There are four remaining buoys needing sponsorship.

**7. Online system for notifying events and their locations.**

LM noted that the problem is getting clubs to provide details of events and supporting critical information within the time frame provided. There have been upgrades to the user side of the website since last year to make things easier. He also said that Cowes Combined Clubs Ltd have taken up the issue of clashes on the racing calendar which needs coordination from the top down.

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

Mike Samuelson that he hasn't seen anything come out about the consultation on PWCs (as detailed in the previous minutes). Also, the time expired flares amnesty is coming to an end soon via the Coastguard (1700 were turned in). The MCA have issued a Marine Info Note (MIN) 687 that from 31 December, 2022 HM Coastguard will stop offering a voluntary, public-facing flare disposal service to private individuals, who have personal flares to dispose of. LM said that the requirement for smoke flares has been put back in the Sailing Instructions for Cowes Week.

Tom Munson raised the anti-social issues that occur at The Hut and MS suggested that the IWC should be part of the meetings although it was pointed out that the IWC have a MMO area that they cover but have no powers as there is no bylaw in force so perhaps the Marine Police need to pick this one up.

MS put in a plea for clubs to use Channel M1 or M2 on low power.

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

CH-T suggested that a pre-season Solent Safety briefing/seminar is arranged for March at the ABP offices. BS and PM to come up with a date for an in-person meeting.

**9. Next Meeting Date**

23 November 2023 at Regatta House, Cowes.