



RHBOA Annual Report - Spring 2001



ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
of the
Rye Harbour Boat Owners Association



held at
Rye Harbour Village Hall
on
Sunday 25th February 2001

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Outgoing Chairman's Report

The committee carries out the wishes of members within the framework of our constitution. Here is what has been done on your behalf over the past four years.

Liabilities

In 1996, at an Extraordinary General Meeting, an Interim Committee was appointed by members for a 3-month period to ensure the legality of the Association, and to prepare and call an AGM. This was successfully achieved. During this time a review of 'RHBOA' liabilities was carried out. The Doc Thompson Memorial Bench which had been destroyed by vandals was replaced, in a better site, to a massively strong design. I worked with Mike Roud and Stuart Pope on this. We started moves to save and refurbish the Flagmast, and at the same time disassociate 'RHBOA' from any ownership liabilities.

Environment Agency

As the Interim Committee members had enjoyed working together for 3 months and as new problems were emerging, eg the Rye Bypass river crossing, we all decided to stand for re-election and we were duly elected by members at the AGM. I sought a positive relationship with the 'Environment Agency' and tried to stop unnecessary criticism of them. We must not blind ourselves to the fact that Harbour Management may privately sympathise with our objectives. After all, we all want a successful Harbour. During the ensuing years of debate and action the Agency confirmed that a Tunnel is the only acceptable type of river crossing.

Rye Committees

We examined the 'RHBOA Rules' updating them with John Collard's help.
We joined the 'Rye Partnership' and obtained a Committee position
Representative - Peter Davison and now David Cade.
We joined the 'Rye Police Consultative Group'
Representative - Charles Bronsdon.
We renewed membership of the 'Rye Conservation Society'.
Representative - David Cade.
We continued membership of the 'Range Committee'.
Representative - Colin Marsh and then David Cade.
We saved the Flagmast and became members of the 'Flagmast Trust'.
Representative - Clive Wall and now Mike Berry.

Harbour of Rye Advisory Committee

We engaged in all these activities not to collect memberships, but to be an effective harbour pressure group we needed to be well informed and have a say. In addition I represented 'RHBOA' and leisure boating interests as an 'RYA' nominee on 'HORAC' during these 4 years and will continue to do so for a little while.



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Outgoing Chairman's Report



HORAC (continued)

On 'HORAC' Ken Steele has done an enormous amount of work preparing papers. On some I worked with him. There has also been work to do with the 'RYA' on general harbour matters and we need to continue to play our part.

Planning

We drew up a Wreck Plan with the Harbour Master and Colin Marsh and Clive Wall did the work.

We drew up a Millennium Plan for the refurbishment of Rock Channel and with the 'Agency' sought funding through the 'Rye Partnership'. We only just missed out. Mike Roud, Colin Marsh and others helped.

We commissioned a giant 'RHBOA' flag beautifully made by Anne Wall and kindly donated to us by Sylvia Emuss and we elected two new life members, Mrs Morren-Wilkins and Pat Gawn.

We went from an excellent but simple newsletter - John Sivier, to a small magazine - Mike Berry, to a third-generation professional magazine - Peter Etherden. We carried out two independent harbour inspections, the 'Agency' helping with 'Rother III'. Peter Jobling and I prepared the reports, copies going to the 'Agency'.

Social Programme

We carried out a full and successful Social Programme of two annual suppers and a barbeque, which without the selfless work of Stuart and Judy Pope, Martin Carter and John Belsey and others would not have been possible. Cross-Channel Ferries were busy bringing in the wine under supervision of John Belsey, Colin Marsh and David Cade et al.

We organised sailing rallies to Eastbourne and Boulogne, but bad weather often confounded us. We even did a recce to Gravelines to check on harbour facilities but found the bars much the same as elsewhere.

RYA Review

However it became clear midway through that 'RHBOA' members' concerns over harbour management and lack of dredging were growing. We tried for change through 'HORAC', then with face-to-face meetings, and then by correspondence. It was an uncomfortable time for me in the front line, particularly as we were failing to make progress in some areas. We then instigated a formal review which the 'Agency' arranged with the 'RYA'. This work is what 'RHBOA' is all about. The 'RYA Review Report' made many comments and recommendations, many of which the 'Agency' took note of or to their credit carried out. There are notable exceptions, i.e. Strand Quay dredging.



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Outgoing Chairman's Report



The Transition

As I came to the end of 48 months in office as Chairman I advised the committee I would step down. After another 3 months I did so and Mike Berry was elected as Acting Chairman. Four years is enough, and I have other work. I hope that the new committee you elect today will give strong representation to your wishes in line with our constitution. Obviously Strand Quay, Rock Channel and Harbour fabric are important. To this I would add a fair return to leisure boaters for their financial contribution, the biggest in the harbour, if estates revenue from leisure boating is included. A watch on a Rye by-pass. Finally a new approach to the 'Agency'.

The Challenge

We have failed to get Strand Quay dredged and other work done because the 'Agency' can in effect ignore us. Just think of it from their viewpoint.

- ◆ *Rye Harbour Sailing Club* do not support us.
- ◆ *Rye Town* shows no interest and does nothing.
- ◆ *Rye Partnership* is not concerned.
- ◆ *Rye Conservation* representative advises all is well.

I believe the new committee plan to do their best in getting all interested parties behind them to present a united front. I fully support such a policy.

May I end by thanking all those who have worked with me on the committees. We have done a lot, we have had some fun, and you have reason to be proud of your achievements. To the incoming chairman may I say 'Good Luck.' It can be a lonely road, but you have my support and that of a great association.

Members Without Boats

Michael Alford	Stuart Hester	Frank Pelham
Winifred Beaufreere	John Holbrook	T.W. Preston
Vic Betts	Margaret Holbrook	John Riekie
Ted Bird	Andrew Howe	Henk Ruysch
John Bradley	Gillian Howe	John Shearn
Mrs. J. Bradley	Charles James	Judith Shearn
John Collard	Colin Marsh	T.L. Smart
George Colsell	Yvonne Marsh	Pamela Smart
Ros Culver	Christopher Melchers	Andre Van't Hoff
Peter Davison	Sybil Melchers	Alison Van't Hoff
Sue Davison	Richard Mockett	John Ward
Mr. Dukes	Joy Mockett	Gordon West
Gordon Dunford	John Morgan	Guy Willson
Pat Gawn	Barbara Morren-Wilkins	Marijke Willson
Steve Grenville	H. Payne	

Proposed as members by the Secretary, seconded by the Treasurer and elected unanimously by the new committee on Monday 2nd April 2001.



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Members With Boats in Rye

Admiralty Jetty

Carl Bagwell *Rother III*
Alison Cade *Storm*
David Cade *Storm*
Stuart Farquhar *Seaquest*
John Thomson
Briony Thomson

Up River

Mike Berry *Dannie Lee*
Valerie Berry *Dannie Lee*

Strand Quay

River Haven Hotel

Kate Drawbridge *Winifred May*
Albert Moore *Winifred May*
Martin Carter *Hadajar*

Fishmarket

Paula Adams *Princess*
Robert Haste *Wayward Lad*
Brian Stent *Princess*

Jempsons Moorings

Josie Maynard *Algy-Non*
Tony Maynard *Algy-Non*

Lochin Marine

Spencer Avery *Laura Ann*
Les Jones *Bobcat*
Chris Steward *Expression*
Monica Steward *Expression*

Rye Bay Brokers

Steve Kemp *Kalimbra*
Pat Richey *Kalimbra*
John Pierce *Vege*

Derek Phillips Yard

Mike Bone *Eau de Vie*
John Curtis *Fulmar*
Dave Bryan *Petrel*
Francis Bryan *Petrel*
Max Logan *Alyosha*
Peter Marsh *Zakuski*
Roger Monday *Barbaree IV*
Derek Phillips
Jean Phillips
Robert Turner *Harvest Moon*
P. Winter *Half-a-Sixpence*
Jan Weston *Bon Ami*

Moon Marine

No Members

Rock Channel

Simon Dunford *Jay Three*
Helmut Freitag *Mon Vieux*
Alan Goodman *Trig*
Audrey Warley *Marianne*
Jeffrey Warley *Marianne*

Sea Cruisers

Geoffrey Dale *Alone at Last*
Susan Artini *Kachka*
Robert Devereux *Kachka*
Connie Hills *Kim II*
Gilbert White *Kim II*
John Sivier *Sandpiper*
Marian Sivier *Sandpiper*
Peter South *Selina*
Shirley South *Selina*
Noel Varley *Scarab*

Chain Moorings

Colin Brown *Layne II*
Constance Owen *Daygirl*

River Brede Moorings

Katie Barden *Grey Lady*
John Gurney *Grey Lady*
Charles Bronsdon *Pucelle*
Sue Bronsdon *Pucelle*
William Clark *Breakaway 2*
Richard Cooper *HubbleBubble*
Dennis Davies *Blithe Spirit*
Peter Etherden *Vemara*
Connie Lindqvist *Vemara*
Jacqui Kent *Close Encounters*
Nick Kent *Close Encounters*
A M Kerr *Blue Dawn*
M R Kerr *Blue Dawn*
Delia Pemble *Pembles*
Peter Pemble *Pembles*
Fred Robertson *Gallant Maid*
Sheila Watts *Gallant Maid*
Kris Roud *Duty*
Mike Roud *Duty*
Brian Stokes *Dark Lady*
Anne Wall *Goblin*
Claire Wallace *Marjory Gaw*

Bridge Point

Amy Breeds
Roger Breeds
Pat Collinson *Innes*
Tom Collinson *Innes*
Graham King *Enigma Blue*
June King *Enigma Blue*
John Rook *On Sight*
Pat Rook *On Sight*
Ron Warburton *Wake*

Members Berthing Outside Rye

Derek Barwick *Escapade*
Geoff Bensusan *Mister Brown*
Val Bensusan *Mister Brown*
Paul Bridger *Maria*
Luc Carlier *Nelly Mathilde*
Inga Chapman *Calidris Alba*
John Chapman *Calidris Alba*

Anthony Eves *Corsair*
Christine Hudson *Letty*
Paul Hudson *Letty*
Liz Jobling *INXS*
Peter Jobling *INXS*
Jane Richardson *Rovella*
Nigel Richardson *Rovella*

Bill Slack *Tangaroo*
Mary Slack *Tangaroo*
Ken Steele *Sotileza*
Elizabeth Steele *Sotileza*
Nick Waite *Half Sovereign*

Proposed as members by the Secretary, seconded by the Treasurer and elected unanimously by the new committee on Monday 2nd April 2001.



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RHBOA Accounts 1999

BALANCE SHEET - 1 January 2000 (up to 31.12.1999)		(£ UK)	
HSBC (31/12-1998)	297.99	HSBC (31/12-1999)	1288.41
<i>plus</i> uncleared items	143.86	<i>less</i> uncleared items (<i>see note 1</i>)	(817.30)
Opening Balance (1/1-1999)	441.85	Closing Balance (31/12-1999)	471.11
Woolwich (1/1-1999)	824.57	Woolwich	830.86
	1266.42		1301.97
<i>plus</i> Income	1942.02		
<i>less</i> Expenditure	(1906.47)		
BALANCE	1301.97		1301.97

PROFIT STATEMENT - 1 January 1999 to 31 December 1999		(£ UK)	
EXPENDITURE		INCOME	
AGM Buffet	70.98	Membership Subs	545.00
Fitting-out Supper	507.39	Fitting-out Supper	730.00
Barbeque	175.00	Barbeque	195.00
Laying-up Supper	561.20	Laying-up Supper	439.50
Newsletters	401.20	Sale of Burgees etc.	23.50
Stamps & Stationery	40.00	Interest	4.02
Secretary's Expenses	43.70		
Inland Waterways	50.00		
RYA	57.00		
TOTALS	1906.47		1942.02

STOCKS - 1 January 2000 (up to 31.12.1999)				(£ UK)	
Stickers	251	£ 0.25p	62.75		
Ties	16	£ 7.00p	112.00		
Badges	26	£ 2.50p	65.00		
Burgees	26	£ 5.50p	143.00		
TOTAL			382.75		

Notes to the 1999 Accounts

1. The association has been running a sub-account for social events during the past three years with the Social Secretary effectively providing the association with a five hundred pound interest-free overdraft facility. After analysis of payments between the association and this account over the 3-year period to 31 December 2000 the sub-account was closed.



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RHBOA Accounts 2000

BALANCE SHEET - 1 January 2001 (up to 31.12.2000)		(£ UK)	
HSBC (31/12-1999)	1288.41	HSBC (31/12-2000)	1413.44
<i>less uncleared items (see note 1)</i>	<i>(817.30)</i>	<i>less uncleared items</i>	<i>(299.79)</i>
Opening Balance (1/1-2000)	471.11	Closing Balance (31/12-2000)	1113.65
Woolwich (1/1-2000)	830.86	Woolwich (closed 4/12-2000)	-
	1301.97		1113.65
<i>plus</i> Income	2155.76		
<i>less</i> Expenditure	<i>(2344.08)</i>		
BALANCE	1113.65		1113.65

PROFIT STATEMENT - 1 January 2000 to 31 December 2000		(£ UK)	
EXPENDITURE		INCOME	
AGM Buffet	52.36	Membership Subs	822.00
Fitting-out Supper	534.19	Fitting-out Supper	406.00
Barbeque	148.17	Barbeque	336.00
Laying-up Supper	451.74	Laying-up Supper	452.00
Newsletters	902.95	Sale of Burgees etc.	132.60
Stamps & Stationery	129.00	Interest	7.16
Secretary's Expenses	43.67		
Inland Waterways	25.00		
RYA	57.00		
TOTALS	2344.08		2155.76

STOCKS (see note 2) - 1 January 2001 (up to 31.12.2000)				(£ UK)	
Stickers	240	£ 0.25p	60.00		
Ties	12	£ 7.00p	84.00		
Badges	23	£ 2.00p	46.00		
Burgees	12	£ 5.00p	60.00		
TOTAL			250.00		

Notes to the 2000 Accounts

1. The association has been running a sub-account for social events during the past three years with the Social Secretary effectively providing the association with a five hundred pound interest-free overdraft facility. After analysis of payments between the association and this account over the 3-year period to 31 December 2000 the sub-account was closed.

2. The association's small stock of stickers, ties, badges and burgees were revalued at the end of 2000 following a physical inventory and an analysis of stock sales over the 3-year period to 31 December 2000.



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Minutes of the AGM

Held on 25 February 2001 at Rye Harbour Village Hall

The meeting was opened by the Chairman at 10.30 am

One minute silence was observed in memory of Clive Wall

1. Apologies

Peter & Liz Jobling, Andre Van't Hoff, Gordon West, John Sivier, Colin Marsh, Carl Bagwell, John Thomson.

2. Minutes

Minutes from the previous AGM on 20th February 2000 approved.

3. Matters arising - None

4. Retiring Chairman's Report

see separate report

5. Incoming Chairman's Report

Mike Berry noted that affairs in the harbour had been looking more positive in recent months with two long-awaited projects...a complete rebuild of Admiralty Jetty and the Fishmarket...going ahead. The 5-year plan, with strong representation from 'RHBOA's' membership, was now well under way. Mike Berry stated that under his chairmanship, 'RHBOA' would not be afraid to offer constructive criticism when needed, but would offer every encouragement to the 'Agency' when they echoed the aims of our association of 'protecting and furthering the interests of boating of all kinds in the port and harbour of Rye.'

6. Secretary's Report

John commented that every committee works in a different way and he has been feeling his way up until now. He promised to always do his best for the members. John reported that Rod Chapman was doing well at 'Rye Wharf' and John Thompson seemed busy with a ship in yesterday and another one due in today. 75 ships came in last year and 13 so far this year with at least 80 expected in this year. This was good news for the harbour which would benefit all harbour users, both through port income and because of the necessity to keep a good deep channel. Carl Bagwell had apologised for his absence, the AGM conflicting with his mother's 80th birthday.

7. Treasurers Report

Peter Etherden reported that the association had £1500 in the bank after breaking even on the £ 4000 spent on social events over the past three years with raffles enabled the Social Secretary to keep down the price of tickets. David Cade congratulated the outgoing committee on their presentation of the results. The financial accounts for 2000 were approved unanimously.



Minutes of the AGM

8. Magazine Editor

Peter Etherden presented a detailed report and was thanked for the improvements he had introduced into the quarterly magazine. Sue Davison congratulated the Magazine Editor on the 'RHBOA' website and encouraged members to take a look

9. Social Secretary

Stuart Pope hoped that more members would attend social events in the future and announced that the Fitting Out Supper would be on Saturday 7th April. In 2001 there will be the usual programme of events with an August Barbecue, an October Laying Up Supper and rallies to Boulogne and Eastbourne. Stuart was thanked for his hard work.

10. Elections

Dennis Davies was re-elected as President, Peter Etherden re-elected as Magazine Editor and Stuart Pope as Social Secretary. Mike Berry was elected as Chairman, John Morgan elected as Secretary and Ted Bird as Treasurer. Charles Bronsdon and Mike Roud were re-elected and John Shearn elected as committee members. Peter Davison was standing down due to pressure of work.

11. Formal Motion

John Sivier had proposed that minutes of committee meetings should be available on the website or by e-mail. Peter Etherden seconded the motion. An amendment was put forward that the headings of minutes should be available to members via the website and the magazine. This amendment was carried unanimously. A complete list of headings will be published from now on after each committee meeting. Members could request further information on specific matter of interest.

12. Any Other Business

John Collard commented on the 'Harbour of Rye Management Plan'. How much is known about the consultants?

Martin Carter requested that withies be replaced on Brede Corner.

David Cade reported that he had attended all meetings of the 'Rye Partnership' and would be briefing the new committee on the current situation.

Thanks were expressed to Michael Alford for use of the hall.

Concluding Remarks

'RHBOA's' President, Dennis Davies, expressed his admiration for the diligent work of the outgoing committee, mentioning in particular the work done by Peter Davison, which had left a clear mandate for Mike Berry. Special mention was also made of Peter Etherden's efforts on the accounts and the magazine. Stuart Pope was thanked for providing the food and drink at the AGM.

The meeting was closed by the Chairman at 12 noon



Accounting & Book-keeping

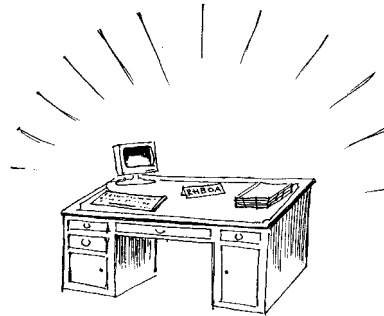
The problem at the last AGM was that the association had rather informally run up an overdraft with its social secretary in anticipation of a subs increase in 2000 from £5 to £8. Unfortunately this increase was struck down on technical grounds at last year's AGM so its effects were delayed by nine months. But there was another problem that several members will have heard about during the course of the year.



But in 1999 this cycle began stretching out over six, nine and eventually twelve months. By then, payables and uncleared items had taken on the character of an overdraft facility. By the end of last year this aberration to RHBOA's accounts had worked its way through the system so that the current end of year figures show the association back once again to a normal level of around 30 days of uncleared items.



The normal payment cycle for any business or society is for an expense to be incurred and then a few weeks later for the invoice to come in. After that, another few weeks elapses before payment is made. Then a few days later the cheque is presented and the money removed from the association's bank account. The elapsed time from beginning to end of the cycle will vary from a few days to a few months.



www.rhboa.co.uk

The RHBOA website went live a year ago and is now linked to a number of other websites. It is well worth a look. Probably no more than one member in 10 has looked at the website. But we expect this ratio to rise to 1 in 3 by the end of this year. When more than 50% of RHBOA members are using the web, the question of proper funding will need to be addressed. At present all RHBOA's web activities are free. This is unlikely to last.



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A Few Words From the Magazine Editor

A very special vote of thanks to Connie Lindqvist who has cheerfully provided 'RHBOA' with a dozen cartoons for each issue as well as access to her pen & ink archives to brighten up the pages of our in-house journal.

Thanks also to David Neame, at 'Neame Designs', for free use of his computer equipment and desktop publishing software. Please patronise his printing, office supplies and art materials shop at 13A Tower Street in Rye.

Thanks also to Carl Bagwell and John Sivier for their columns...and apologies for leaving all their best bits on the editing floor. Peter Jobling has also done a fine job ferreting out interesting material.

In the year ahead I would like to introduce the idea of 'joint issues' or 'shared supplements' with other groups publishing regularly to 'RHBOA's' members or with groups who share 'RHBOA's' political interest in the development of Rye as a 'maritime centre of excellence'.

The principal organisation in the first category is the 'Rye Harbour Sailing Club', while the second group includes such associations of individuals as the friends of the 'Rye Harbour Nature Reserve'.

There are also several groups with elected or nominated members straddling both categories. 'Rye Harbour Advisory Committee' is the obvious one, but the 'Rye Town Council' with their own extensive network of organisations and relationships to local politicians, local government officials...and most importantly of all to the people of Rye...also fit into this category.

We need to make friends and learn where everybody else is coming from and where they want to go if 'RHBOA' is to harbour serious pretensions to being an effective campaigning organisation.

RHBOA Financial Results 2000

During the year, the association's income increased by 11% from £ 1942 in 1999 to £ 2156 in 2000 as the increased £8 sub started coming in. Meanwhile the association's expenditure increased by 23% from £ 1907 to £ 2344 as the annual cost of the quarterly magazine increased from £ 400 to £ 900. This has meant that 'RHBOA's' small surplus of £ 35 in 1999 became a deficit of £ 188 in 2000.

Our balance sheet showed a 15% decrease in net assets from £ 1302 at the start of the year to £ 1114 at year end but after standing orders had been credited in mid-January our bank balance was touching £1500, which is at the top of our target range.



The Environmental Council



In July 2000 the 'Environment Agency' decided to engage 'The Environment Council' (described as a 'voluntary charity') for independent assistance and advice when developing a new harbour management plan. It occurred to several members that some information about the qualifications and terms of employment of 'The Environment Council' should be made known to harbour users. Accordingly one of our members raised a number of questions in our August 2000 magazine and these were further ventilated at the AGMs of the 'Rye Harbour Sailing Club' and the 'Rye Harbour Boat Owners Association'.

Unfortunately little was forthcoming and the members of the 'Harbour of Rye Advisory Committee' were equally unilluminating. So in March of this year these questions were addressed to the 'Environment Agency's' Area (F.E.R.) Manager, not because there was any reason to doubt the integrity of 'The Environment Council' but because the need for employing outside consultants, not to mention the cost, was a matter of public interest in these days of open government.



When our member received a reply it contained a blank refusal to provide any information combined with the suggestion that the motivation for asking such questions was mischief making. Accordingly, after the Area (F.E.R.) Manager had ignored an invitation to think again, our member (who had a long track record of honorary services in the Harbour) referred the correspondence to higher authority in the 'Environment Agency'. He was gratified by a letter from the Kent Area Manager apologising unreservedly for the Area F.E.R. Manager's response and enclosing some details of 'The Environment Council's' work.

Is there any lesson to be drawn from this curious episode? Perhaps it is that nobody should ever allow themselves to be intimidated by the 'hubris' of officialdom. The words of Edmund Burke (1729-1797) are as applicable today as ever they were:

'When good men remain silent, the triumph of evil is assured.'