

Captain's Briefing – December 2009

Apart from those members who leave for warmer places, most of us have now put our boats away until the spring and will be enjoying the British winter weather. However, despite being winter we can now look forward to our AGM and haul out supper, which is to be held on Saturday 23rd January at the Battleborough Grange Hotel located near Burnham-on-Sea and just off the M5. You will all have received the call notice that included the meal selection form and directions. When I sent these out I promised to forward outline details of our summer programme, and the agenda before the end of the year so that we can discuss it at the AGM. I will, therefore, use this news letter to meet this commitment. I also promised to provide feedback on the questionnaire that I sent out to all South West and Wales fleet members in the summer. This summary is in preparation and I will send it out in time for discussion at the AGM.

Branch AGM – 23rd January 2010 – There is still time to join us

You will recall that in an earlier News Letter I explained that following responses to my questionnaire there was a strong view that October was too early for our AGM as many people would not have returned from their cruising and that mid to late January would be more preferable. We have, therefore, moved the AGM to January 2010, although I know that this will mean that some of those who spend the winter abroad will have left the UK. I apologise to those who will be away but the overwhelming majority wanted the event later. Following the issue of the call notice for the AGM I am receiving completed menu forms and many of those attending have also booked into the hotel for the evening of the 23rd. Last year we held the AGM in the conservatory which had a capacity of some 35-40 people, but this year we have the main meeting room which can hold many more. All MOA members are invited to this fun event, including crew, friends of members that sail with you, so if you have yet to book please do so soon as I need to send initial the numbers for the hotel two weeks before the event.

The agenda - The agenda for the AGM is attached and you will see that the plan is to begin to gather between 1700 and 1730, when tea, coffee, soft drinks and sparkling wine will be available. The AGM will start at 1800, followed by the haul out supper at 1930. For those wishing to stay there is a bar available where we can gather after the meal, but for those travelling home we plan to finish the meal and entertainment by 2200-2230.

Branch Officers - This year all the posts for branch officers are eligible for election and nominations must be with me by the 10th January so that I may distribute the details to members. If you have any nominations, please e-mail or post them to me as soon as possible. The election of branch officers will be held at the AGM.

South West Branch Summer Programme - An item on our agenda will be the confirmation of our summer programme. As you will be aware 2010 is the 25th Anniversary of the MOA and all branches of the MOA intend to celebrate this in one way or another. The South West and Wales fleets are, geographically, widely dispersed so we need to make sure that access to whatever we do is available to all members. Last year we held sailing events

on both the South Coast of England and Wales and I propose that we follow this scheme for 2010. However, we need to make sure that each event celebrates our 25th year, and one suggestion is to have a relay where a special pennant or token is carried from port to port, either as part of an organised event or by a single yacht that is sailing in the right direction. We need to discuss the feasibility of this at the AGM, but it would ensure that we covered as many of the SW and Wales ports as possible. There should also be a 25th Anniversary token, perhaps a pennant or engraved glass, for each member joining one of our events in 2010 so that the year is formally marked.

Following the plan that we used for 2009, I suggest that for our first two sailing events we once again join the Mylor Yacht Club in its Cruise to the Scilly Isles (17th to 25th July) and to the Plymouth National Fireworks Competition (10th to 15th August). However, for the weekend (14th and 15th) I suggest that we make this a 25th Anniversary weekend with special events to celebrate the MOA 25th Jubilee.

In 2009 the Cardiff Rally was held in September, but for 2010 it is suggested that this event is held in early July. Cardiff Marina is holding a special promotional event on the 3rd July and it has invited the MOA to be involved, so we could also make this our Jubilee event for the South Wales and Bristol Channel members. There is also the annual Bristol Regatta, and we will hear more of this at the AGM.

Finally, there is the Captain's Rally. The 2009 rally was held in St. Malo, typically a 25 hour cruise from the South Coast of England. Since many people prefer a daylight cruise for this year we are suggesting either St. Peter Port or St. Helier. These ports are not only equidistant from most of the larger South Coast Ports but also on the route back from Southern Brittany and Spain. Late August appears to be a good time for most people, so provisionally I am suggesting 27th to the 31st August.

I am conscious of views expressed last year that we must not have too many events and that with a widely dispersed community some local events might be more attractive. I hope to hold an ad-hoc "Moody Meet" in Weymouth during the season, and perhaps other members might consider doing the same in their local ports. However, if any member intends to arrange a local event please let the Branch Secretary know so he may distribute this to other branch members who might be "sailing-by"

Based on comments from the questionnaire, with these four events, and the possible relay of the Pennant around the coast, we should have a programme that suits most people and I look forward to your comments at the AGM. Members are also invited to send in advance any new matters for the agenda so that they can be taken at this meeting.

London Boat Show

The MOA, once again, has a stand at the London Boat show. This year the MOA stand is located in the main concourse and all members are encouraged to drop by.

Closing Remarks

May I take this opportunity to wish all members a happy and prosperous New Year and I hope that the weather makes for a good and enjoyable sailing season.

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