



# St Helier Boat Owners Association

Minutes of the continuation 33rd Annual General Meeting held at St Helier Yacht Club  
on 9<sup>th</sup> January 2024 at 18.00 hours  
(adjourned from 12<sup>th</sup> December 2023)

Present	The Officers, Committee members and approximately 60 members.
Introduction	The Chairman opened the meeting by thanking the BOA members for their excellent attendance of this AGM continuation meeting. He stated the purpose of the meeting as per the circulated Agenda and specifically highlighted the matter of fee increases levied by the Ports of Jersey (PoJ), the discussion of which would be attended by the Harbourmaster and the Chief Financial Officer of PoJ.
1. Apologies	Christine Gill, Phil Carter, Charles & Louise Blampied, David Langlois, Robert & Lyn Viney, David Woods.
2. Resignation of Officers and Committee Members	The Chairman stated that the existing committee members had indicated their intention to stand down and had tendered their resignation letters. Following a show of hands the meeting unanimously approved the resignations. Mike Stevens thanked the outgoing committee for their service to the Association on behalf of the members.
3. Election of New Officers and Committee Members	The Chairman confirmed that nomination forms had been received and were duly seconded for the following candidates: Will Simpson (Chairman), Phil James (Vice Chair), Christine Gill (Hon. Secretary), Dave Garland (Hon. Treasurer), Penny Gueno (Membership Secretary), Heather Speller, Paul Tinley, Peter Rose and Vic Walker. Nick Wood agreed to remain on the Committee for as long as necessary to assist with an update to the website. On a show of hands, the meeting unanimously approved the new Committee members.
4. Set Subscriptions	The Chairman proposed, and it was unanimously approved by the meeting, that the subscription rate for 2024 remain unchanged.
5. Donations – RNLI, JLA and CIAS	The Chairman proposed that donations be deferred until the new Committee had considered its objectives and financial priorities before deciding on any donations. This proposal was unanimously approved by the meeting.
6. Constitution – changes to the Rules	The Chairman confirmed that no changes to the Constitution were being proposed at this time.
7. Berthing Fees	The Chairman stated that the Harbourmaster and the Chief Financial Officer of PoJ would join the meeting shortly and would be available to answer questions from members which should be tabled through the Chairman.
a). Action to date	He then handed the floor to Dave Garland who outlined the background to the Fee Increase issue and what had been done by SHBOA and other associations collaboratively in response to PoJ. These included an initial letter to PoJ and, following its response, a letter to the competition regulator JCRA.

<p>b) Questions to the Harbour Master</p>	<p>A discussion ensued amongst the members, each expressing disappointment at the level of the fee increase of 11.2% which was seen as opportunistic against the backdrop of an already falling official inflation rate. Moreover, the meeting felt that there was a lack of consultation with the Association prior to PoJ announcing the increase and that the incorrect inflation rate had been applied.</p> <p>The discussion included the matter of complaints against PoJ and that these were potentially not being accurately conveyed to JCRA. It was pointed out that a formal complaints procedure existed at PoJ and members were encouraged to use this procedure in future. It was suggested that any complaints to PoJ should be copied to the SHBOA in order to keep a record of complaints lodged.</p> <p>At 18h30 the Harbourmaster (HM) and the Chief Financial Officer (CFO) of PoJ joined the meeting. The Chairman welcomed them and thanked them for giving up their time. He invited the HM to address the meeting.</p> <p>The HM provided the background to the fee increase, citing amongst other things that the fee increase was in accordance with the agreement with JCRA; the marine leisure unit had a circa £2 million shortfall; and that further improvements in marine leisure were earmarked and which required funding.</p> <p>Members, through the Chairman, expressed their dissatisfaction with the level of the fee increase, stating inter alia that service levels at PoJ were unacceptable, that there was no prior consultation with the Association before announcing the fee increase and that PoJ had been opportunistic in applying the maximum fee increase permitted under their agreement.</p> <p>An extensive discussion ensued with most of the above points being reiterated. The HM stated that he understood the level of anger and frustration and expressed his wish to work more closely with SHBOA and in a more formal way. He suggested drawing up a Memorandum of Understanding with the Association.</p> <p>After further discussion, the CFO suggested that PoJ and the Association meet as soon as possible to discuss options to the fee increase conundrum and to come to an acceptable conclusion. This was unanimously accepted by the meeting. She also said that, pending resolution of the pricing issue, berth holders would not incur any penalties for late payment.</p>
<p>8. Termination of the Meeting</p>	<p>The Chairman thanked PoJ and the members for their attendance and closed the meeting at 1930 hours.</p>