



St Helier Boat Owners Association

St Helier Boatowners Association Newsletter

Issue #5 – Autumn 26

From the Chair

 Welcome to Issue #5 – Autumn 2026 StHBOA Newsletter

From the Chair

I hope you have all enjoyed what has been an exceptional summer, with plenty of sunshine and opportunities to get out on the water and make the most of your boats.

One of the Committee's main concerns has been the rising cost of marina berthing and mooring fees, which we detail below. This has been a key subject of our discussions, and we will be writing separately to **Jersey's States Members, Ports of Jersey and the JCRA** to explain our concerns and seek answers on behalf of boatowners. You will be able to read this correspondence in the News section of our website at www.sthboa.org.

Our Association is here to represent you, and **our strength lies in our membership**. If you have boating neighbours who are not yet members, please encourage them to join us. The more members we represent, the stronger our voice.

Finally, we are looking for new people to join the Committee and help shape the future of the Association. We are particularly seeking a Treasurer, but would welcome anyone willing to contribute their time, ideas and enthusiasm. You do not need previous committee experience—just an interest in boating and a desire to help. If you would like to get involved, please get in touch. We would be delighted to hear from you.

Phil James — Chair, StHBOA

PORTS OF JERSEY: WHO IS LOOKING AFTER THE INTERESTS OF BOAT OWNERS?

Rising berthing charges, affordability and the future of boating in Jersey

Senior Ports of Jersey officials have confirmed that marina berthing and mooring charges are due to increase by **Jersey RPI plus a further 1.8%**.

The final increase will depend on the applicable RPI figure, which has not yet been confirmed. However, the additional 1.8% represents a further increase above inflation, adding to the substantial rises boatowners have already faced.

As your Association, we believe these increases deserve proper scrutiny. Permission to increase charges does not, in itself, explain why the full increase is necessary or whether a lower increase could be justified.

How much have charges increased?

The headline increases reported for recent years are:

- **2024:** 11.1%
- **2025:** 4.8%
- **Forthcoming increase:** RPI plus 1.8%

Using an illustrative RPI figure of 2.8%, the forthcoming increase would be 4.6%. On that assumption, the three increases compounded would amount to approximately **21.8%**.

This is an estimate, not a confirmed final figure for the forthcoming increase, and individual tariffs may differ.

Nevertheless, it illustrates the cumulative effect these increases can have on the cost of keeping a boat in Jersey.

Why is the full increase necessary?

We understand that Ports of Jersey operates within a regulatory framework governing increases to berthing charges. But if the permitted increase is a maximum rather than a compulsory rate, why should boatowners automatically face the full allowance?

Has a lower increase been properly considered? What justification has been provided for applying the additional 1.8% above inflation?

Boatowners are entitled to a clear explanation of why this increase is necessary and what steps have been taken to limit the financial burden on customers.

Are we pricing boats out of Jersey?

The cost of keeping a boat in Jersey is already a concern for many owners. We know that some are reconsidering whether they can afford to continue boating here, while others have already given it up.

There is also a wider concern about Jersey's appeal to visiting yachts.

In conversations with boatowners visiting French marinas, members have heard comments that Jersey is too expensive to visit. These are individual conversations rather than the results of a formal survey, but they raise an important question: **are our charges discouraging visiting boats from coming to Jersey?**

Visiting yachts bring business to local shops, restaurants, pubs, marine suppliers and other services. If the cost of visiting Jersey discourages boatowners from making the trip, the consequences may extend well beyond the marina itself.

Ports of Jersey should consider whether its charging policies support or undermine Jersey's appeal as a destination for visiting boats.

Why should boat owners pay for problems elsewhere in the business?

Ports of Jersey operates several different businesses, including marinas, commercial harbour operations, ferry services and the airport.

Why should Jersey's boatowners face ever-increasing charges if financial pressures arise elsewhere in the business?

Boatowners should not be expected to shoulder costs that are unrelated to their use of marina facilities. Ports of Jersey must be transparent about how marina charges are calculated, how costs are allocated between its different operations, and whether boatowners are contributing towards costs arising elsewhere.

Before imposing further above-inflation increases, Ports of Jersey should demonstrate that the charges levied on boatowners are fair, justified and reflect the actual costs of providing their facilities.

What is StHBOA asking for?

The Association believes boatowners deserve clear answers and a more transparent approach to future charges. We are seeking:

- **A clear justification** for the proposed increase of RPI plus 1.8%.
- **An explanation of why the full permitted increase is being applied**, and whether a lower increase has been considered.
- **Transparency over marina costs**, including how costs are allocated between Ports of Jersey's different activities.
- **Proper consideration of affordability**, including the effect rising charges may have on participation in boating.
- **A review of the impact on visiting yachts**, including whether Jersey's charges are discouraging visitors and affecting the wider local economy.

We also believe it is important that boatowners' concerns are heard collectively. The Association will continue to raise these issues with Ports of Jersey and explore opportunities to work with other boatowner associations where our concerns are shared.

Your Association needs your support

The cost of keeping a boat should not become an ever-increasing burden without a clear explanation of why the increases are necessary.

Boating contributes to Jersey's maritime heritage, its harbours and its wider visitor economy. We want Jersey to remain a place where local people can afford to keep boats and visiting yachts continue to see the Island as an attractive destination.

A permitted increase is not proof that the full increase is necessary. Boatowners deserve transparency, justification and a fair hearing.

The St Helier Boat Owners Association will continue to press for answers on behalf of its members.

St Helier Boat Owners Association Committee