

Notes from a meeting held at Cowes Harbour Office on Thursday 10th September 2020 at
14:00 hours

Present: Stuart Macintosh - Cowes Harbour Master
 Ed Walker - Deputy Cowes Harbour Master
 Tony Cole - President ECSC
 David Nixon - Commodore ECSC
 David Tebay - Deputy Rear Commodore – Sailing

Stuart welcomed the members of ECSC and opened the meeting by raising the points made by the MMO, in answer to concerns expressed by ECSC members, regarding the narrow channel to the East of D pontoon and the lack of manoeuvring room if D Pontoon was linked to ECSC Hammerhead. He carried on by saying this meeting was called to address concerns regarding the safety of the North passage out of the Club.

He went on to reiterate that the whole concept of modifying the present pontoon arrangement was brought about by an approach from ECSC and stated that it was not his nor CHC's intention to railroad any changes through, but he saw it as a partnership between CHC and ECSC. He finished by asking us to express our concerns.

Tony replied by saying that not only was the so called North passage very narrow in fact virtually non-existent at low water springs, the exit/entrance to the river adjacent to the floating bridge could be difficult during spring tide ebbs and flows.

David Tebay went on to say that he had navigated both the channel and the exit and felt that, although a single craft could, with a lot of care and attention, contend with the conditions he felt that if several craft were trying to navigate in or out at the same time as the Floating bridge was in the vicinity, joining in with other craft waiting to proceed could be extremely hazardous. He then suggested that if a space was left on the East side of the North end of the pontoons where a boat in difficulty could lie alongside it would help to reduce the hazard but that he was of the opinion the North end should be closed to traffic and that there should be an opening further back. He produced several plans showing various options all with the North end closed which the Harbour Master looked at but did not agree it should be closed. He pointed out that the way their proposed plan was drawn there would be very little traffic down that route from ECSC so he was of the view that the navigational issues were a CHC problem not one for ECSC.

Stuart agreed to take a look at the problem then tabled the bones of a proposition which would alleviate the majority of members concerns.

The outlined proposition was discussed and it was agreed that Ed would put some meat on the bones including costings, timescales etc and submit it to ECSC to allow us to digest the contents and get back to him with any queries and possible changes.

David Tebay stated that he was still concerned about the North end opening and said he hoped he was wrong and it would not cause a problem further down the line. .

Post meeting Note.

Once I have the details of the proposition I will call a meeting of the Quorum to discuss it.

Following on from that discussion and once the Quorum is satisfied that all issues have been answered then it will be put to the committee and with their approval put to the membership

A D (Tony) Cole President ECSC