

Commodore's Report 2021

After such limited sailing in 2020 it was wonderful to finally get back on the water when restrictions were lifted enough in the UK to allow us to start racing again in late May. In the RWYC Pantaenius Triangle Race we got to see many sailors who we had not seen for 18 months. The Rolex Fastnet Race with its finish in Cherbourg saw a rather reduced British based multihull fleet, in part due to the uncertainty over the arrangements at the finish. Several of the SW based boats had opted for the RWYC Plymouth Fastnet 500 instead, although the threat of some really nasty weather severely reduced the fleet in that race. It was good to see the MOCRA Nationals going ahead so successfully on the East Coast after their cancellation last year. The proposed 2022 MOCRA Nationals to be held in conjunction with the Triangle Race next year should attract more boats. This will also provide a shakedown for the RWYC Round Britain and Ireland Race, for which we hope to see a good-sized multihull fleet.

Cruising also remained rather restricted, such that many of us have not yet tested the post Brexit regulations, but hopefully things will return nearer to normal by next year. For those taking their boats on extended cruises or basing them in the Mediterranean it is frustrating to see the post Brexit introduction of new regulations that will make any UK registered boat liable to pay VAT again if the boat is out of the UK for 3 years.

Matthew West stood down the last AGM as Honorary Secretary after many years of extremely competent service during which time he was very much the mainstay of the organisation. On behalf of all the MOCRA members I would like to thank Matthew for his immense contribution. Matthew is continuing in his role of editing and publishing the review as well as providing advice to new and old committee members.

I would also like to thank the new committee members for stepping forward: James and Melanie Holder as joint Honorary Secretary, and Andreas Hofmaier as Membership Secretary. They and the other committee members, whose contributions are much appreciated, have demonstrated that we can continue to run the Association virtually. However, we do look forward to many of us meeting together in person for the first time in two years at the AGM.

This year Simon Baker has announced his intention to step down as Racing Secretary, citing that it is time for a change after 10 years in the post, during which time he has enthusiastically promoted multihull racing, successfully competing in many of the races himself in Drama Queen and then Hissy Fit. He also chaired the racing committee through, some at times controversial, changes to the MOCRA rating, so that now, we seem to have a very fair rating system that works well through a wide range of boats. Simon has nominated Neil Broughton to take over as Racing Secretary, whom I will be happy to second.

Finally, I would like to pay special tribute to Mike Butterfield, our President and one of the Founders of MOCRA, who sadly passed away in May. Mike had a significant impact on the development of MOCRA and multihull racing. Incredibly he was still racing himself only two years ago in his mid-eighties. MOCRA meetings will never be quite the same without him.