

## Commodore's Report 2023

It has been very encouraging to see a high level of participation in many events though the year as described in the Racing Secretary's report. The MOCRA Nationals held in the Solent were a particular success with a good variety of races and the two different venues. The support from the Royal Victoria Yacht Club and Bembridge Sailing Club was much appreciated. I am sorry to have missed this, but we were returning from the Azores on the AZAB Race. The committee have been looking at how we can follow up such a successful formula for next year and we would welcome members input at the AGM and dinner or any other time. We would also like to hear which races our members plan to enter, so that we can get more boats together to make the racing interesting.

It was very sad to lose Matthew West, who died in August, without being able to take part in the Nationals after he had finally got Backlash ready to race after an extensive refit and repairs from boatyard damage. Matthew was Publications Secretary until resigning as his health failed, but he had been Secretary of the Association for many years. We will sorely miss him, especially his detailed knowledge of MOCRA's constitution and history.

I would like to once again thank all the Officers, who keep the Association running. Melanie Holder in addition to the key role as Secretary has taken on much of the social arrangements in the absence of a Social Secretary. Andreas Hofmaier has done a great job evaluating and tracking our membership and has agreed to sort out the MOCRA website. Neil Boughton has got to grips with the racing and is also working with the Race Committee to improve the MOCRA rating system regarding flying headsails. Tim Wilson, who has been Honorary Secretary for 30 years, has been persuaded to continue in this role. Simon Forbes sorts out and issues all the Rating certificates as well as providing comparisons with alternative rating systems and continuing in his liaison role with other sailing organisations. We specifically have vacancies for the roles of Publication and Social Secretaries. We would appreciate if some members can come forward to fill these roles and take the load off the other Officers. The Association needs your help to keep running.

I am very pleased to have persuaded Merfyn Owen, of Owen Clarke Design to come and give the after dinner talk at this year's AGM. His talk is provisionally titled: Designing a multihull changed my life: sailing and designing 1985-2023. His designs include Ellen McArthur's Kingfisher and Mike Golding's Ecover among 7 IMOCA 60's, and 14 Class 40's as well as many other boats including high latitude monohulls and catamarans. His sailing experience on multihulls and monohulls is immense including being Skipper of Global Teamwork in the 1997 BT Global Challenge round the world race. We look forward to welcoming him at the dinner.