Guernsey Boatowners AGM 23.11.26

Guernsey Ports update provided to members – Kieran Higgs & George Melbourne

Infrastructure & Projects

- **QE2 Marina Gates**: The replacement project is currently out to tender and is live on the States of Guernsey procurement portal.
- **Roustel Beacon**: A contractor has now been appointed. The new structure will be an isolated danger mark monopole, with replacement planned during Q1/Q2 2027.
- **Castle Breakwater Repairs**: Works are progressing well. The project is slightly behind the original programme but continues to make good progress.
- **Pontoon Replacement Programme**: The new U Pontoon and replacement D & E Pontoons in Victoria Marina have now been completed. We intend to continue our rolling pontoon replacement programme through 2027.
- **QE2 Marina Walkways & Drying Pad**: The existing boards have reached the end of their operational life and will be replaced with aluminium alternatives in 2027, improving both longevity and appearance. Progress on the new drying pad remains subject to the resolution of an ongoing legal matter and will move forward once this has concluded. Current drying pads continue to be available by advance booking through either the Marina Office or Marine Services Centre.
- **Berm Outside QE2 Marina**: Guernsey Ports has committed to levelling the berm before next season should silting become an issue again.

Marina Facilities & Services

- **East Arm Facilities**: Local boat owners are welcome to use the East Arm facilities and other visitor facilities. Access codes can be obtained from the Marine Services Centre.
- **Cruise Liner Pontoon**: Power and water services have now been installed. The pontoon can be booked by local vessels outside peak operational periods.
- **Staycation Victoria Marina**: The Victoria marina will again be available over the Christmas period at £20 per night 'Staycation' rate. Booking can be made through the Marina Office.
- **Electrical Supply Issues**: We are aware of intermittent electrical outages affecting several pontoons following recent adverse weather. Our teams are actively investigating and carrying out remedial works.

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Sustainability

Guernsey Ports continues to improve its environmental performance and reduce carbon emissions. As part of this strategy, the Crown Pier visitor shower and toilet facilities have now been converted to run on HVO fuel, with further sustainability initiatives being explored across the organisation.

Fees & Charges

The 2027 fees and charges package reflects the multi-year agreement previously consulted on with stakeholders. Mooring fees will increase by RPI plus 1.5%, with only minor amendments proposed to certain non-statutory charges, including waiting list fees.

Marina Security

Marina security was discussed in detail. Following consideration of historical incident levels and the number of access points across the marina estate, Guernsey Ports concluded that installing security gates on all gangways would not represent good value for money. Instead, investment has been focused on significantly increasing modern CCTV coverage across the marinas, which is monitored by both the Signal Station & the Police Station.

Digital Services & Customer Experience

The Guernsey Marinas website has experienced a very successful first year, recording more than 25,000 visits. The platform allows customers to submit berth enquiries, contact marina staff before arrival, complete waiting list applications, register vessels, cancel berths and pay mooring fees online.

Visiting Boating & Tourism

- Passport Escales continued to perform strongly during 2026.
- The most popular destinations for Guernsey boat owners remained Jersey, Carteret and St Cast.
- Visitors to Guernsey predominantly arrived from Cherbourg, Carteret and Jersey.
- Guernsey boat owners accumulated in excess of 1,000 visiting nights within the Passport Escales network.

Fuel pricing also remains a significant attraction for visiting vessels and continues to feature prominently in our marketing. Local operators Boatworks, have reported another strong season for marine fuel sales.

Visitor Season Statistics

The 2026 visitor season remained strong and broadly in line with recent trends:

- Approximately 7,400 visiting vessels
- Nearly 20,000 visiting crew and passengers
- Average vessel length of 11.5 metres
- Approximately 14,000 visitor berth nights

Organisation Update

Members were advised of several staffing changes within Guernsey Ports:

- Steve Lowe has now left Guernsey Ports.
- George Melbourne has joined as Assistant Harbour Master and is currently familiarising himself with the role, with plans to take on responsibility for the leisure marine sector. A warm welcome to George.
- Kieran Higgs serves as Deputy Harbour Master.
- Ross Coppolo has also left Guernsey Ports and we wish him every success in his future career.
- James Way continues as Harbour Master and Acting Managing Director.

Local Moorings & Harbour Administration

During 2026 Guernsey Ports processed:

- 132 berth allocations
- 168 waiting list applications
- 172 vessel registrations
- 960 insurance submissions

The insurance compliance work formed a significant focus during the year and has substantially improved the accuracy of our records.

Reporting Issues

Members were encouraged to contact Guernsey Ports directly if they observe anything unsafe, damaged or requiring assistance. The Signal Station is manned 24 hours a day, seven days a week, and the Marina Office and Marine Services Centre remain the quickest route for reporting concerns. Whilst social media posts can raise awareness, they do not always reach the appropriate operational teams in a timely manner.

Winter Marina Operations

We also provided an overview of marina staff activities outside the summer season, as this was raised in the previous AGM. These duties include:

- Winter maintenance and pressure washing
- Dory servicing and maintenance
- Support to Sarnia workboat operations and Technical Services
- Replacement of emergency ladders and bollards
- Installation of solar lighting
- Painting and general infrastructure upkeep
- Emergency response exercises and staff training
- Computer-based learning and compliance activities
- Routine security patrols
- Attendance to vessels requiring assistance throughout the winter period

Thanks again to the GBA Committee for the invitation and for the constructive discussion.

Kind regards