



HARBOUR DUES

Harbour Dues are payable by all vessels in Poole Harbour and I would like to advise all users that the public right of navigation in the harbour is dependent upon payment of the appropriate dues. The Harbour Authority is empowered to take action to recover harbour dues, which may result in the arrest and sale of vessels which unfortunately happens from time to time.

The requirements of the Port Marine Safety Code must be met and as a responsible Harbour Authority we are obliged to follow best practice. The resources required come at a cost.

You may find it useful to know why harbour dues are charged, and how the money is spent. Commercial vessels like the Cotentin pay a "boomage" charge, which is the equivalent of harbour dues, and together these charges fund the "conservancy" of the harbour, i.e. surveying, dredging to keep the channels clear, marking of navigational channels, the maintenance of navigational aids (all buoys, markers beacons, lights, stakes, notice boards etc), traffic management to keep the harbour safe (harbour control, radar, CCTV, Automatic Identification System (AIS), VHF) responding to and handling emergencies such as oil pollution incidents, patrolling and enforcing the byelaws. The regular training and refresher courses that are required. There is a huge variety of tasks which must be undertaken and the recreational sector must pay its fair share of the cost.

Vessels not displaying an annual Harbour Dues decal will be stopped by one of our harbour patrol vessels in order to check whether Harbour Dues have been paid. Patrol Officers regularly sight vessels on pontoons in all clubs and marinas in the harbour. Other Harbour users kindly pass on information. Annual Harbour Dues are valid from 1st April to 31st March and can be paid at the Harbour Office or most clubs and marinas. Alternatively you can use our online service which is available via the website – www.phc.co.uk.

Please display your annual harbour dues disc in a prominent position on the port side of your craft. Action will be taken by the Harbour Authority to recover unpaid dues. Unfortunately vessels have been arrested and sold as previously mentioned. This is carried out under section 44 of the Harbour, Docks and Piers clauses Act 1847.

Poole Harbour has an excellent reputation for marine safety, navigation aid management and liaison with stakeholders and your harbour dues payments will help to maintain or improve that reputation going forward.

Thank you for your contribution and I wish you a safe and enjoyable time in Poole Harbour.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'B. Murphy', written over a faint, illegible stamp or background.

CAPTAIN BRIAN MURPHY
HARBOUR MASTER