

27th March 2020

Dear Fellow Members

I am writing to you in the midst of some of the most exceptional circumstances through which most of us have ever lived. At the time of writing this letter (end of March), we are yet to experience the peak of the coronavirus outbreak in the UK but its impact is already being felt in terms of travel restrictions and one of the difficulties in writing to you is that the speed and frequency of developments in the last few weeks make it almost impossible to predict what might happen as the situation unfolds.

Your Committee and the management team began preparations for the impact of the coronavirus back in early March and these stepped up significantly following the Spanish Government declaring a State of Emergency (“Estado de Alarma”) on 14th March. Our approach has been first and foremost to protect the health and safety of our on-site guests and following the Spanish Governments announcement on 17th March that all hotels and short stay accommodation must close by 26th March, our immediate focus was trying to help and support our members and guests onsite who found themselves in an extraordinarily difficult situation. On behalf of the Committee and all the members who have been affected by the recent events I would like to thank our onsite staff, led by Lindsay, for all the help and support that they offered.

Now that our Club has closed its resort doors, our key objective is to preserve the financial stability and viability of the Club, particularly as we have no certainty as to how long the current situation might last. This has meant delivering some difficult messages to owners and guests and we are fully sympathetic to all those members who will not be able to make use of their week(s) for the foreseeable future. At the same time, we are taking whatever actions we can to minimise the on-site costs until this situation is resolved. Our objective in undertaking these actions is to ensure that the Club is in a strong position when we are able to re-commence normal operations.

We are all having to make difficult decisions to navigate these uncharted waters and ensure that our Club is able to continue to offer fantastic holidays when we come through this global emergency.

In terms of the AGM, this had been planned to take place in Market Harborough on Tuesday 9th June, but under the circumstances we have no option but to postpone it. We are required by the terms of our Constitution to hold an AGM meeting at least every 15 months, but clearly any future date will be dictated by how the situation develops over the coming weeks and months.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for your ongoing support of the Club, and I hope that it won't be too long until we can once again be spending some much-loved time at Maritima.

Please all take care and look after each other.

Kind regards

B. W. Clark

Barry Clark, Chairman of the Diamond Club Maritima Owners Association.