



AREA 1 SUMMARY REPORT 2019-20

The overall membership in Area 1 has remained at about 1800. Numbers are still falling in some of our more established fleets, but with new fleets and squadrons, there has been a small overall increase. In December, a new Slovenian Coast Squadron was chartered and it will be good to watch it develop. Last year the Cherkassy Ukrainian Fleet was chartered, containing five squadrons and this year two had already grown to become fleets and were to be chartered in April, when the coronavirus struck. So hopefully the Kyiv Rus and Black Sea Ukrainian Fleets will be chartered in September. Two fleets which seemed to be struggling have also now revived and have a new lease of life, the Hellenic Ionian Fleet, in Greece, and the Lake of Constance Fleet, in Germany, which is great news and we wish them well for the future. There are still some potential new fleets which will hopefully soon appear and other areas are growing in numbers and so the membership situation in Area 1 is looking healthy overall, with some areas to be worked at.

In terms of fellowship, there was a very enjoyable Area 1 Meeting in Athens in October. About 90 members, from 17 different countries, attended and, as the main object of these meetings is to bring members together from around the Area to have fun, it can be declared a great success. Visits were made to the Acropolis, with its new museum and also a ferry trip to a neighbouring island of Aegina, to give people a flavour of the history and beauty of the area. Regional meetings have also taken place in some Regions, such as GB&I and Germany and these help members to get to know one another better between different fleets in the Region. Fleets held a mixture of shore-based meetings and meetings afloat, depending on the time of year. The Swiss went to Greece this year for their annual sail away from home waters, while the Serbians held their river-based motor yacht regatta and the Croatians held their annual Zadar sailing regatta. There was a good variety of events throughout the Area, although unfortunately the coronavirus has prevented many going ahead in the latter part of the year.

Many service projects have also been undertaken during the course of the year, taking young people, including students, both able-bodied and disabled, on the water in different forms of sailing. Such projects can make an enormous difference to the lives of these young people and it is very pleasing to see them continue. A number of fleets throughout Area 1 have adopted the 'Plastic Free Waters' initiative and many more intend to participate in the year ahead.

The Area 1 Commodore's Report demonstrates that Area 1 is in good heart and the members are continuing to enjoy the benefits of the Fellowship.

