

THE CACHALOTS

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

THURSDAY 17th JANUARY 2008. 18:30HRS

Those present

G. Angas, (Hon Secretary) G.Cartwright, T.Clark, S.Daniels, I.Downer, G.Draysey, D.Dunn, D.Gates, P.Grant, A.Gravestock, S.Harwood, L.Hall, A.Hunt, R.Kelso, P.Leece, P.Marriott, (Chairman) J.Miluesnic, L.Morris, P.Northway, I.Odd, R.Olden, B.Peck, F.Pedersen, E.Plowman, H.Roberts, J.Smart, I.Thomson, T.Winsborough.

Apologies

J.Bowden, S.Collins, K.Dagnell, R.Dunn, P.Fost, D.Gibbons, D.Healy, A.McDowall, F.Murphy, B.O'Connor, F.O'Grady, K.Owen, A.Pheby, R.Pretty, E.Smart, A.Tinsley, J.Whorwood, G.Wright.

Gone Aloft (Since the AGM 11th January 2007)

A.Blackler, A.J.Chalmers, R.Denning, C.A.Dowding, K.Grant, A.S.Hand, J.Q.Lees, I.H.Owen.

Minutes of the Meeting (11/01/07)

Several corrections to the minutes of the last AGM were made as follows: -

- Members Present – Vice Captain changed to Staff Captain.
- Apologies – R.Hayward changed to S.Harwood. I. Thompson changed to I.Thomson.
- Boatsteerer's Report – T.Winsborough added to Church Committee Members.
- Reports from Chairmen of Sub-Committees – 'vice John Lloyd' changed to 'succeeding John Lloyd'

With these corrections made, the minutes were accepted as a true record of that meeting. **Proposed, G.Draysey. Seconded, R.Kelso.**

Matters Arising

In response to R.Kelso's query as to the maximum number of people that were allowed in the Clubroom by the fire regulations, G.Angas confirmed that this was sixty. R. Kelso reiterated his concern that, in the event of a fire, he was of the opinion that sixty people would not be able to evacuate the premise quickly enough and suggested that we ought to have the means available to break open the discontinued fire door leading to the old and discontinued emergency fire escape. G.Angas confirmed that he had carried out a Risk Assessment (fire) on the Clubrooms as required by the relevant regulation, that the Hampshire Fire and Rescue Service surveyor was of the opinion that the interior stairway does meet the regulatory requirements for this building for a maximum of sixty people on the 1st floor and that evacuation notices were in position within the Clubroom and the adjacent passageway. G.Angas also reported that the old external fire escape was no longer being maintained and that the route from the doorway to the metal steps was considered unsafe by the Hampshire Fire and Rescue Service. It was also suggested

that emergency evacuation ropes attached to the balcony in front of Clubroom windows could be considered. Given the level of concern G.Angas agreed to seek re-confirmation from the HF & RS that the internal passageways do meet the appropriate fire regulations. **Action: G.Angas.**

It was agreed that all other matters arising from the last minutes were covered as agenda items.

Report of the General Committee meeting of Thursday 1st November 2007.

Copies of the minutes of this meeting were available to members and were provided as a supporting document for some of this agenda. G.Draysey pointed out that he had in deed presented his apologies for his non-attendance at that meeting. G. Angas also reported that as a consequence of and pending the discussion of agenda item 11 of this meeting, the GC meeting scheduled for Thursday 10th January had been postponed.

Storekeeper's Report

Copies of the Club accounts for 2006/07 were available to members as Appendix I to the agenda.

B.Peck presented his report using the Club accounts for 2006/7. The main points for discussion were: -

- The Clubs assets have increased by £2,652.00 during this year.
- The new format of the Club accounts provides greater clarity of income and expenditure, e.g. the cachalot publication and distribution costs are now itemised.
- Difficulties continue with trying to ascertain the price of bar stock from the SSC. Whilst there were still issues to resolve with the landlord, it was felt that given the relatively low volume of consumption at the bar, it would never provide a profit to the Club and should be considered more as a social facility that we have to subsidise. **Action: B.Peck and G.Angas.**
- No comparison with last year's figures due to the incomplete record available at the end of last year.
- Whilst these accounts were up to date there is still an un-reconciled negative expense of (+£729.00). This has meant that the Auditor has been unable to reconcile the Income/Expenditure account. However the balance sheet is accurate reconciled and B.Peck did not want to establish a new account for this apparent surplus but agreed that this would not be written off and will be kept on the books within next year's accounts. **Action: B. Peck.**

After some considerable discussion the Committee accepted the E & F Committee's recommendation to accept these as a true record of the Club's accounts. **Proposed R.Kelso. Seconded D.Dunn.** I Thomson commended all those concerned for such a good set of results.

Boatsteerer's Report

Copies of the Boatsteerer's Report were available to members at Appendix II.

G. Angas introduced his report by presenting a review of the developments that had taken place during the course of the year. Achievements during the year include: -

- Increased computerisation of Club business.
- Stabilisation of Club accounts and increased asset value
- Ahead of our financial target forecast for 2011.
- Sale of Portakabin.

- Purchase of Office chairs, new photocopier, new projector
- Settling down in Clubrooms and better working relationship with landlord.
- Members of Business Southampton.
- Member of Port and City Futures Board, within BS.
- SCC approved another year's discretionary rate relief.

Objectives for next year include: -

- Decoration of entrance hall and 1st floor passageway adjacent to the Clubrooms.
- Develop relationship with Skill Quest.
- Develop a calendar of Technical Seminars.
- Increased social events during the 80th Anniversary.

The committee thanked all concerned and approved the report. **Proposed S.Harwood. Seconded L. Hall.**

Membership Matters

Copies of the Membership report for 2007/8 were available for members at Appendix III.

D.Gates presented his report the summary of which was:

Total Joined	25
Total left + Gone Aloft	15
New Members pending	04
<u>Balance</u>	<u>10</u>

The membership of the Club is now 414. This year D.Gates has resolved many membership issues including a long list of 'floating' members both at home and overseas. This means that we are now in a much clearer position as to our membership. The number of new members joining this year has increased and more than kept up with those leaving. The Committee thanked D. Gates for his efforts to achieve a clearer understanding of our membership situation and approved his report. **Proposed S. Daniels. Seconded J.Miluesnic.**

Reports from Chairmen of Sub-Committees

1. Church Committee – S.Harwood reported that: -

- The 2007 service was very successful and S.H. thanked all the ladies for their efforts in the Deanery garden after the service. Julie Hall has indicated a wish to stand down from organising this event in future.
- The attendance at the 2007 SFS was only marginally better than 2006 and requested that all Cachalots try to publicise this year's service when and wherever possible.
- The colour party went well thanks to the Colour Marshall J.Whorwood.
- This year's service will start at 19:30hrs to allow more time for the standard bearers to get to Winchester.
- The preacher this year will be W. Christiansen.
- The committee are already preparing for 2009 and have asked Dr A. Wood (Methodist) to officiate as Preacher.

The committee thanked S. Harwood and his committee for his report and continuing, much appreciated efforts organising this most important event.

2. Entertainments Committee – G.Cartwright, reported that: -

- All last year's functions with the exception of the wine tasting evening had made a contribution to the Club's accounts as well as being enjoyed by all those attending.
- Some members were somewhat tardy in paying for the events that they wished to attend, to the extent that he often found himself asking members for money at and after the actual events. He requested that Cachalots pay promptly.
- The Lieutenancy office had advised us in November that HRH The Princess Royal would not be able to attend the SPS. Mr Adams, Managing Director of Teekay Shipping, Glasgow had kindly agreed to be our guest speaker.
- Arrangements for the Anniversary Ball on Saturday 19th May 2008 at the Warsash Maritime Academy were proceeding well.
- He wished to thank his committee for their support, especially T. Clark for all his preparation and printing of menu's, event programmes and place cards.

The committee thanked G.Cartwright and his committee for their organisation of such a full and enjoyable events calendar.

Introduction to the Club Officers for 2008

Copies of the 'Club Officers for 2008' were available for members at Appendix IV. The Chairman reported that at their meeting on 5th January 2008 the Past Captains' selection for the Captain and Officers of the Club for 2008 were as follows: -

CAPTAIN	<i>L.R.Morris</i>
POST CAPTAIN	<i>P.Marriott</i>
STAFF CAPTAIN	<i>J.Mileusnic</i>
SEA STAFF CAPTAIN	<i>R.Dunn</i>
BOATSTEERER	<i>G.Angas</i>
STOREKEEPER	<i>B.Peck</i>
FUNCTIONS OFFICER	<i>G.Cartwright</i>
MEMBERSHIP OFFICER	<i>D.Gates</i>

Frequency of E & F and General Committee Meetings

Copies of the 'Frequency of E & F and General Committee Meetings' were available for members. The Chairman introduced the above paper explaining that this issue had been discussed at the E & F Committee meeting on 24th October and at the General Committee on the 1st November 2007 (See minutes of those meetings) and that the general consensus was that the frequency of these committee meetings had become cumbersome and excessive to the needs of the administration of the Club. The General Committee therefore was recommending to the AGM a small change to Rule 12 to reduce the number of General Committees from four to two a year.

After some considerable discussion the following change to Rule twelve was put to the vote: -

"The General Committee shall meet at least twice a year to transact necessary business, and can be called together by the Boatsteerer at such times as may be necessary."

The voting for this proposed Rule change was as follows: -

27 In favour

1 Abstention.

0 Against

The Chairman accordingly instructed the Boatsteerer to make the necessary changes to Rule 12.

Other recommendations agreed by the General Committee, not requiring a vote at the AGM, necessary in order to ensure the smooth operation of the Club committee system were:

- GC meeting dates shall be published on the final annual calendar.
- The practice of having a GC meeting one hour before an AGM will stop.
- There will be an interval of at least two weeks between E&F and GC meetings.
- Paperwork presented to GC meetings will communicate the arguments/decisions made by the E&F committee for GC approval where necessary. Any detailed documentation presented to the E&F in assisting the Harpooners to come to those decisions will be available on file for access by all Cachalots but not reproduced in full to the GC committee.
- The E&F committee will meet four times a year unless Club business is sufficiently urgent for the Boatsteerer to call an extraordinary E&F committee meeting.

Any Other Business

L.Morris raised the issue of how the Club lobbies Cachalots to become Harpooners and what criterion the Past Captains use to elect the Captain and Officers. A lively debate ensued which inevitably went to the root of attracting new, professionally active, members to the Club.

L.Hall explained that Past Captains and the Boatsteerer canvassed fellow Harpooners / Cachalots on a more or less continuous basis as to their readiness / willingness to be put forward for appointment as A Staff Captain or Club officers. The Boatsteerer provides the PC's meeting with a list of names of consenting nominees. PC members often supplement this list on the day of the meeting. Whilst the PC meetings are closed without minutes and voting is by secret ballot, the main criterion for coming to a voting decision includes, without being limited to, the interest that individuals show in the Club and their availability to give of their time to involve themselves in the running of the Club. Once the votes are taken, the Boatsteerer communicates the result to the nominated Cachalots / Harpooners, before communicating the results to the rest of the Club members.

The Chairman thanked the Staff Captain and officers for their support during his year in office and wished L. Morris for the forthcoming year.

Date of the Next Meeting

Thursday 22nd January 2009 in the Clubroom at 18:30 hrs.