

“THE CACHALOTS”

THE SOUTHAMPTON MASTER MARINERS’ CLUB

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

THURSDAY 25th JANUARY 2018 at 19-10HRS

Those present (15)

R.C.Plumley (Club Captain), F.Pedersen, K.R.Dagnall, C.R.Kelso, I.Odd, C.Coote, T.E.Clark, J.M.Noble, I.Salter, D.Gates, C.Robinson, P.Leece, P.Grant, L.Odd, R.Dunn

1) Gone Aloft since last AGM.

The meeting stood and observed a one minute silence in memory of the following members:

Joseph Ireland, Tony Davis (Hon. Shantyman), Michael Mounde, Bryan Wynn-Werninck, Colin Oxley, Michael Pugsley, Tom Effeny, Brian O’Connor, Malcolm Phelps, Reg. Chave, Ros. Mortimer, James Cross.

2) Apologies

J C Smart, M A Grant, I. B. Thomson, A R Tinsley, L W Hall, L.Morris, G.Angas, J.Whorewood, S.Harwood, D.Dunn, R.Petty, P.Davies, G.Cartwright, H.Perry, B.Peck, J.Mileusnic

3) Minutes of the Meeting held on 11th January 2017

These were accepted as a true record of the last AGM. Proposed C R Kelso, Seconded P.Leece.

4) Matters Arising

C.R.Kelso requested details of the storage of the memorabilia and artefacts and their future disposal.

The Club Captain advised that a catalogue of the items was ongoing with a view to offering them for sale to our members followed by auction house or a nautical dealer and reduce our storage costs.

A lengthy discussion followed on the pros and cons of the disposal.

5) Management Committee Changes – Election of Harpooners

The following Cachalots Terry Clark, Peter Grant, Gerry Cartwright, Douglas Gates, Jeremy Smart, and Andrew Moll have expressed a wish to serve as Harpooners and as there were no objections they were duly elected and with Harpooner John Noble elected last year makes a total of seven Harpooner Committee members for this year.

6) Boatsteerer’s Report (K.R.Dagnall)

Summary of developments during 2017

Since the last AGM we have settled into the Royal British Legion Club and our Club Room is usually well attended on a Friday but sadly underused on most Thursdays (ideas to rectify this would be appreciated)

The 2017 Sea Pie Supper was again a success with our investing the Lord Lieutenant of Hampshire Nigel Atkinson as a Stowaway, and the Southampton Shipowners Association providing a tombola prize. Our Shantymen have decided to retire and this was their last performance, they will be sorely missed, however we have new shantymen for next week’s S.P.S. ‘The ‘Ansome Cabin Buoys Duo’ who by all accounts are an excellent replacement.

The Shipping Festival Service at Winchester attendance was down from previous years which may be contributed to General Election Day, the weather and our lack of publicity which we hope to rectify this year with the help of the Cathedral who will include it in their publicity. Again my thanks must go to that valiant band of ladies and Cachalots for supporting this occasion. We were heavily involved in the Mayor’s Trafalgar Dinner which was held in St. Marys Stadium to raise funds for the Southampton Sea Cadet Unit’s planned building expansion and was a great success, unfortunately it would appear that this event may have a repercussion on our 2018 Sea Pie Supper attendance.

It gave the Club great pleasure that Cachalots Captain Reg. Kelso and Captain John Hughes were both awarded the Merchant Navy Medal for Meritorious Service by Stowaway Princess Royal at a ceremony at Trinity House and in the New Year Honours List Cachalot Captain Martin Phipps was awarded the MBE and our Hon. Chaplain Reverend Deacon Roger Stone has been awarded the BEM.

Praise must again be given to our Editor of ‘The Cachalot Newsletter’ who quietly works away in producing our Newsletter and Menus etc for our various functions.

I wish to thank Richard and all the other Club Officers Past & Present and not forgetting Liz for their help over the year.

As many of you know on 15th February we celebrate the 90th Anniversary of our Club foundation, our founder members would be amazed at the changes in the maritime world and the strength of our Merchant Navy today.

Finally the Management Committee are always open to suggestions as to improving your Club.

The subject of using 'Facebook' was raised by Robin Plumley and supported by Clive Robinson and a lengthy debate on the merits etc. ensued with investigation to be carried out by both of the above and will be on the agenda for the next Management Committee meeting.

7) Storekeepers Report (I.Odd)

The Storekeeper presented his report for the financial year ending 31st October 2017 and gave a detailed account of the various entries.

He reported that for the end of the year we had cash assets of £35,269.08 against last year's £35,739.00.

The Sea Pie Supper account showed a surplus of £6,703.00 against last year's £7,043.00 despite a small increase in guests tickets.

The Shipping Festival Service 2016 account was not received from the Cathedral until November '16 and the surplus amount of £563.58 was divided between the Cathedral and local seafarer's organisations, the Service 2017 and would therefore appear in next year's accounts.

This year's Captain's Charity 'Solent Dolphins' raised £523 approx.

250 Club Lottery – A total surplus of £745 was achieved against £910 from last year.

Our final audited balance sheet for 2016/2017 shows a deficit of £915 which was better than expected but we can expect this to increase year on year.

The Storekeeper was thanked for his hard work in preparing his report.

The Storekeeper's accounts and report approval was proposed Clive Robinson, seconded Douglas Gates and agreed nem con.

8) Membership Matters (Douglas Gates)

The changes in the membership during 2017 being from a written report as follows:-

Total Members 289, Paying Members 268, Gone Aloft 10, Resigned or Deleted 19, New Members 5.

The Chair thanked Douglas Gates for his report and detailed explanation.

9) Reports from Functions and Bursary Officers.

Functions Officer Peter Grant reported that the functions for the year showed a surplus of £707 details of which were explained. The attendance at the Xmas Lunch, Dinner and Burns Supper were down on previous years and the entertainments committee hope to discuss a solution at their next meeting. It was considered that the room charges at the 'Kings Court' venue were too high and alternative venues will be explored. The future programme was briefly outlined.

The Functions Officer and his committee were thanked for their hard work and report.

'The Captain Peter Marriott Bursary Award' (John Mileusnic)

The Captain Peter Marriot bursary in its present form has been operating for the last four years, exclusively aimed at the two Sea Cadet units which assist the Master Mariners' Club at various functions. The bursary is only applicable to off-shore training on board the brig TS 'Royalist' and the motor vessels TS 'Jack Petchey' and 'John Jerwood'.

The recommendations of the two Commanding Officers are reviewed by the Club Captain, Boatsteerer, Storekeeper and Bursary Officer before submitting for approval by the Management Committee.

The 2017 Bursary was fully utilised by both Sea Cadet Units.

In November Winchester Cadets James Gallimore and Mitchell Browne had a successful voyage onboard TS 'Royalist' sailing from Gosport to Weymouth via Cowes, Torbay and Portland and their voyage report is awaited.

The offshore vessels are very popular nationwide and booking six to eight months in advance is becoming the norm.

The Southampton Sea Cadets have used their Bursary to have bookings for the 2018 Training Season.

A full cost award has been made to one Cadet (due to family circumstances) and a partial cost to another for voyages onboard TS 'Royalist'. A third Cadet has been awarded part cost towards a voyage onboard TS 'Jack Petchey'.

The members present thanked John for his report and voiced their agreement that the Bursary was a well deserved cause.

10) Introduction to the Club Officers for 2018

The Chairman reported that the Past Captains had elected Flemming Pedersen as Club Captain and Rachel Dunn as Staff Captain for 2018.

The appointment of Officers for 2018 is as follows:

CAPTAIN	F. N. Pedersen
STAFF CAPTAIN	R. Dunn
POST CAPTAIN	R. C. Plumley MBE

BOATSTEERER (*Hon. Secretary*) K.R. Dagnall MBE

STOREKEEPER (*Hon. Treasurer*) I. P. Odd

HARPOONERS T E Clark, D F Gates, P Grant, G. Cartwright, Jeremy Smart , Andrew Moll, J M Noble.
(It may be noted that Harpooner J.M.Noble is due to retire at the 2019 AGM in accordance with the Rules)

All the above appointments were unanimously agreed by those present.

It was decided previously that Captain Reg. Kelso be invited to be the Honorary President during 2018 our 90th Anniversary Year for that year only and his installation will be at the Sea Pie Supper.

The position will not in any way interfere with the Club Captain's normal office and duties or running of the Club.

11) Any Other Business

An offer has been received to use the tender/tug 'Calshot' as our Club premises, however this offer has now been withdrawn. It was suggested that to attract other mariners in the area to become members our name should be changed to The Solent Master Mariners Club, however this suggestion received little support. The Editor of the Newsletter would appreciate fellow Cachalots submitting a brief article about their career as at present he must resort to copying articles from other publications to fill the Newsletter.

12) Date of the Next Meeting

Thursday 10th January 2019 in the RBL Club Room at 18-30 hrs. (TBC)