



Cachalots Annual General Meeting - Minutes

Date of meeting: Thursday 14 January 2021 by Zoom

Chaired by Club Captain – Andrew Moll

Attendees: C.R. Kelso (President), A. Moll (Club Captain), K. Edwards (Staff Captain), K.R. Dagnall (Boatsteerer), I. Odd (Storekeeper), T.E. Clark, F. Quader, P. Grant, M. Grant, L. Odd, J. Noble, D. Gates, P. Leece, M. Phipps, J. Mileusnic, I. Thomson, G. Cartwright, L. Morris, N. Becket, I. Salter, L. Chapman, P. Compton, S. Harwood, F. Pedersen, J. Smart, M. Plumley, M. Cox, R. Jordan, A. Tinsley, D. Fisher, T. Hughes, B. Peck, P. Tambling, D. Brodie, G. Angas, C. Balls, R.C. Plumley

Minutes

<i>ID</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Action</i>
		The AGM is held in accordance with Rule 11. Attendees by Zoom were in place for 1900. After calling to order and explanation of Zoom etiquette, attendees were 'muted' and Captain Andrew Moll opened the meeting as Chair.	
21/01/01	Apologies received	K. Austin, R. Hellyer, D. Lee, M. Oakley, P. Roberts, D. Dunn	
21/01/02	Gone Aloft	A minute's silence was held to remember Cachalots Gone Aloft in 2020. Ivan Downer, Tony Ireland, Alec Miller, Eddie Hunter, Leslie Street, Revd James Atwell	

21/01/03	Minutes of last meeting dated 09 January 2020	Minutes have been available on the Club website since January 2020. Accepted as a fair record of the meeting of 09 January 2020. Approved by L. Morris, seconded by D. Gates.	
21/01/04	Matters arising	In section 11 AOB, a complaint related to Sea Pie Supper tickets for wives being made the same cost as for members. The Management Committee of 12/3/2020 discussed this issue. It was unanimously decided to decline the request. Tickets will remain discounted for paid up members only.	
21/01/05	Management Committee Changes	<p>Election of Harpooners. Martin Phipps MBE was elevated to an Officer of the Club on being appointed Staff Captain and Robin Plumley MBE has taken up the role as Boatsteerer.</p> <p>One Harpooner's position was up for election. John Noble had indicated a desire to continue as Harpooner and was re-elected unopposed. Proposed by L. Morris, seconded by D. Gates. This brings the total elected Harpooners to seven. This satisfies the requirement of Rule 3(b).</p>	
21/01/06	Boatsteerers Report	<p>My report for the year 2020 is very short as with the onset of coronavirus the activities of the Club have been non-existent except for the LinkedIn site and Friday morning Zoom meetings inaugurated by Past Captain Robin Plumley who will take over the role of Boatsteerer.</p> <p>Past Captain Peter Grant your Functions Officer and myself are both stepping down from our positions in the Club and we wish our successors Past Captains John Noble and Robin Plumley every success and I am sure like Peter and myself they will enjoy their terms in office.</p> <p>Due to the virus, the Royal British Legion and our Club Room was closed down and both the Sea Pie Supper and Shipping Festival Service had to be cancelled as well as our Skittles Evening, Trafalgar Dinner, Harpooners Dinner and Christmas Lunch. We can only hope that 2021 will be better than 2020 and we can resume the opening of our Club Room and activities.</p> <p>It does not seem very long ago but was in fact 4th September 2014 that I was appointed Boatsteerer to succeed our President Reg Kelso who has to retire due to health reasons.</p> <p>Finally, with much of the day to day administration in the very capable hands of Richard James and our finances in the hands of Past Captain Ian Odd, both of whom deserve a big thanks as well as Liz behind the Bar. I must not forget my thanks to my fellow Officers and Harpooners and those Cachalots who helped out at the Sea Pie Supper and Shipping Festival.</p> <p>As 'Finish With Engines' on the telegraph has now been rung I shall don my boiler suit and return to the Engine Room clutching my bottle of brown sauce.</p>	

		A vote of thanks was proposed by L. Morris and supported by R. Kelso. We all thanked Ken for his excellent support for the Cachalot's in his role as Boatsteerer. See section for Club Officers.	
21/01/07	Storekeepers Report	<p>The End of Financial Year Account is still required to be finalised by the Accountant (Colin Yates). Submission for assessment and approval and agreement by the Storekeeper and the Accountant is in hand. Ian Odd indicated, subject to confirmation, that a reasonable amount for subscriptions and 250 Club had been received. The Club was costing approximately £750/month with little additional income from events and activities to supplement the finances at the moment. However, he indicated the Club was in a reasonably healthy position to weather the current and future storms with an overall balance of £42,000 in the account. Losses in the year were less than the £1,000 expected.</p> <p>The issue of the Club Administrator and Bar Person was highlighted in terms of payment/furlough. J. Smart is going to provide a background from his experience with his local tennis club. The subject will be included at the next Management Committee meeting in March.</p> <p>Ian was thanked for his excellent contribution in looking after the accounts.</p>	Management Committee
21/01/08	Membership Matters	<p>D. Gates confirmed the Club has 275 members of which 250 are paying and 10 who are unpaid. In the past year from 1/1/20:</p> <p>Gone Aloft – 5, Resigned – 3, New members – 6, Rejoined – 1, Elected but not paid – 1, Pending applications – 2.</p>	
21/01/09	Editor / Webmaster Report	<p><i>Newsletter</i></p> <p>The monthly digital edition of The Cachalot was started in an effort to keep members advised of our current situation during the pandemic. The last printed edition (#75, March) had to be reduced from 16 to 12 pages and I did not think that I would get enough 'copy' to produce a full monthly digital edition but have managed to do so.</p> <p>The latest edition went to the 219 members now on the email list and to 19 other interested parties.</p> <p>These now include the Australian, Belfast, Canadian, Liverpool, New Zealand and South African Master Mariner Clubs, the Seven Seas Club and the HCMM but true to say that only 3 of them have acknowledged receipt.</p>	

		<p>This leaves some 53 members who we do not have email addresses for and who will have received nothing from the club since March, other than a letter in July asking for email addresses and a further one pre-Christmas regarding renewals.</p> <p>The newsletter is also distributed in a printer friendly format for those who prefer not to read it on a screen. This adds considerably to the workload as I have to reset all the text and graphics. It is not produced to the same quality as the previously printed editions and I have no idea how many members might actually go to the bother of printing it off to read.</p> <p>The new format seems to be well received and I have received many appreciative messages by email. I think one of the reasons is that much of the content, particularly from Michael Grey, is more topical and not up to three months out of date.</p> <p>Now that it goes out more frequently the need to send out Cachalite bulletins has decreased.</p> <p><i>Website</i></p> <p>I have attempted to keep the website up to date but have made no other changes.</p> <p>A Google analytics program reveals that in the 12 months to Dec 31st there were 2328 visits to the site compared with 2418 over the same period last year. However, over the past four months there were just 382 visits compared to 1229 the previous year. Each of the past 4 months totals (average 95) are less than in any month over the past two years (average 198). Something has changed but I do not know. What I suspect is Mr. Google's calculator.</p> <p>31 members have visited the members' only section in the same 12 months and 8 in the past 3 months. They may have visited multiple times, only the last visit is recorded. They may have visited the open section without logging in and will then be included in the overall figures above.</p> <p>There was a short discussion on the merits of producing a printer friendly copy of the digital Cachalot. Terry confirmed that generally, the additional work to produce this was not onerous and he would continue as there had been sufficient feedback from some members to have this facility.</p> <p>It was agreed the digital newsletter was an excellent way forward.</p> <p>Reg Kelso proposed a vote of thanks for the excellent work done by Terry for the newsletter and the website, seconded by R. Plumley.</p>	
21/01/10	Peter Marriott Bursary	<p>John Mileusnic presented the following report.</p> <p>Due to COVID-19 there were no bursary awards made during 2020. Now that the roll out of various vaccinations is on the horizon some form of normality should start to return at some stage during 2021. At this time of the year, it is</p>	

		<p>normal for the management committee to decide whether the following year's bursary should proceed. If and when the Sea Cadet offshore training vessels are reactivated and taking into account the financial restraints COVID-19 has caused a decision is required for 2021.</p> <p>In line with the agreed parameters the 2020 Bursary ended on the 31st October with no roll-over to 2021. Normally invitation letters to apply are sent to the CO's of Southampton and Winchester Sea Cadets following the AGM in January with the bursary of £1000 equally divided between the two units. Since 2014 when Captain Peter Marriot made the first awards the Cachalots have assisted individually 19 cadets and in 2016 contributed to 12 cadets for a unit voyage onboard TS Jack Petchey. Many of those cadets, particularly the individually assisted ones, would not have been able train offshore without the financial assistance of the club. COVID-19 may have caused an even greater financial problem for some of the cadet families. Therefore, if the club is in a position to provide funding my personal opinion is to proceed with the bursary for 2021. This was agreed at the Management meeting of 8/12/20 with the agreement, as outlined by John, that if activities by the Sea Cadets were curtailed again this year, we would present the bursary as a one off donation for 2021.</p>	
21/01/11	Functions Report	<p>Peter Grant signed off with the sad facts that the programme of events for 2020 had been decimated by the effect of Covid-19. Peter gave notice at the AGM 2020 that he would be standing down after providing a great service as Functions Officer for a significant period of time, with John Noble offering to take over. There is a (very) provisional timetable of events which will be made available on the website in due course. If and when restrictions are moderated, John will be approaching Kuti's in the first instance with a view to getting the Curry lunch gatherings going again at the soonest opportunity.</p>	
21/01/12	Club Officers	<p>Introduction of the Club Officers for 2021.</p> <p>Captain Moll made a heartfelt thankyou to Ken Dagnall MBE and Peter Grant for their outstanding contribution to their roles. The Club saw fit to procure a memento for each of them and these were shown on camera. A sword cut whisky tumbler for Peter and a wave cut red wine glass for Ken. Robin will get these delivered at the soonest opportunity and when allowed.</p> <p>Captain Ken Edwards reluctantly decided to stand down as Staff Captain due to medical restrictions with his wife. Captain Martin Phipps MBE was nominated as a replacement and was approved by unanimous vote at the meeting of Past Captains in early January. The Bursary Officer is Co-opted.</p>	

		<p>The appointment of Club Officers for 2021 is shown below:</p> <p>Captain Andrew Moll Staff Captain Martin Phipps MBE Post Captain Rachel Dunn Boatsteerer Robin Plumley MBE Storekeeper Ian Odd</p> <p><i>Hon. Editor</i> Terry Clark <i>Hon. Membership Officer</i> Douglas Gates <i>Hon. Functions Officer</i> John Noble <i>Hon. Bursary Officer</i> John Mileusnic</p> <p>Harpooners Terry Clark Douglas Gates John Noble Noel Beckett Peter Gould Leslie Morris Mark Oakley</p>	
21/01/13	Any Other Business	<p>Storage costs – a question was raised about reducing or eliminating these costs. The flags and stands etc plus unsold items along with boxes of archive material are stored at Lok n Stor near Millbrook. The unit was downsized at the end of 2019 to reduce costs. Benefits in using the facility include security, the controlled environment and location. A suggestion from a member to keep the flags in a home garage was discussed but rejected due to risk of flags degrading in a damp environment and potential lack of cover by home insurance. Another suggestion for dealing with the paper archives was to link up with SS Shieldhall or Southampton City Council and the Maritime Museum. This subject will be taken forward by the Management Committee.</p>	

20/12/14	Date of next Meeting	Thursday 13th January 2022	
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