



Cachalots Annual General Meeting - Minutes

Date of meeting: Friday 13 January 2023, at the RBL Club room and by Zoom

Chaired by Club Captain – Martin Phipps

Attendees (Room): M. Phipps, N. Becket, A. Moll, T. Clark, J. Noble, L. Morris, C. Phelan, J. Whorwood, R. Plumley, L. Hall, J. Mileusnic, D. Gates, K. Dagnall, D. Dunn, J. Smart (15)

(Zoom): I. Odd, L. Odd, B. Peck, I. Thomson (4)

Minutes

ID	Description	Comment	Action
		The AGM is held in accordance with Rule 11. All attendees by Zoom were in place for a start at 1830. After calling to order and explanation of Zoom etiquette, attendees were 'muted' and Captain Martin Phipps opened the meeting as Chair at 1830. Documents described below were displayed for the benefit of all on the Smart TV, thus reducing use of paper.	
21/01/01	Apologies received	R. Kelso, D. Carter, A. Tinsley, S. Daniels, P. Leece, P. Grant, K. Owen, M. Oakley, M. Plumley	
21/01/02	Gone Aloft	A minute's silence was held to remember Cachalots Gone Aloft in 2022. Cameron Smith (29/3/22), Norman Alford (11/5/22), Bryan Chipperfield (17/6/22), Anthony Melia (29/6/22), Michael Cox (1/8/22), Chris Coote (15/8/22), Jim Barriball (27/9/22), Paul Compton (27/11/22)	

21/01/03	Minutes of last meeting dated 13 January 2022	<p>Minutes have been posted on the Club room noticeboard and available on the Club website http://www.cachalots.org.uk/cachalots-deck/records since January 2022. Accepted as a fair record of the meeting of 13 January 2022.</p> <p>Proposed by J. Noble, seconded by L. Hall.</p>	
21/01/04	Matters arising	There were no issues arising.	
21/01/05	Management Committee Changes	<p>Election of Harpooners. Noel Becket will take over as Club Captain from Martin Phipps MBE at the Sea Pie Supper.</p> <p>Lt.Cdr. David Carter RNR has been approved as Staff Captain.</p> <p>Club Officers as Boatsteerer and Storekeeper were due re-election and both agreed to continue in post for another two years.</p> <p>One Harpooner was due for re-election – J. Noble. Proposed by L. Hall and seconded by J. Smart.</p> <p>Past Captain Andrew Moll had been approached by the Boatsteerer and Editor and asked if he wished to remain active with the committee as a Harpooner. As a positive reply was received, he was proposed by J. Noble and seconded by J. Smart.</p> <p>With seven Harpooners, this still meets the requirement of Rule 3 (b) which requires 'at least six'.</p> <p>John Mileusnic kindly agreed to continue in his role as Co-opted member as Bursary Awards Officer.</p> <p>Four Trustee's, R. Kelso, T. Clark, B. Peck and J. Smart continue in their role.</p>	
21/01/06	Boatsteerers Report	<p>As Covid controls rescinded early in the year we managed to open up the Club room and enjoy some events through the year.</p> <p>A 'hybrid' AGM was held on 13th January with an option for members to join us using a Zoom link. This worked quite well with a good number of members joining those of us who appeared in person at the Club room. We are doing this again for this AGM.</p> <p>After missing the Sea Pie Supper in 2021, we managed to achieve a very pleasant and well received evening on Friday 4th February 2022.</p> <p>Meeting's at RBL – our meetings at the RBL Club room on a Friday have generally been busy. We eventually decided to close the Club room on a Thursday due to very limited numbers and we now concentrate on a Friday opening of the bar from 1200 to about 1430.</p>	

Zoom gatherings – I am continuing where possible to maintain a Zoom gathering on a Thursday morning, opening from 1045. This has not been so easy across the festive period but I have restarted from Thursday 5th January. It has been good to see some new faces, and regular ones. For the most part I am free on a Thursday so not too onerous and happy to continue hosting this for members. Where I have something else on, usually golf, I will set the Zoom call up for people to join any time after 1045 but I have had issues with the system timing out. You may find yourself on your own and looking at a blank bulkhead!

Shipping Festival Service 2022

Following our successful MN Day service in September 2021, with strong support from the Mayor of Southampton, we planned to celebrate the **Shipping Festival Service** at St. Michael's Church in Southampton. With great assistance and support from the church wardens we were able to hold the service at the church on Thursday 9th June followed by a reception in St. James's Hall nearby, with great support from the Southampton Stella Maris team. A good turnout of congregation and flag bearers from Warsash and Southampton Sea Cadets provided a great evening in pleasant weather.

250 Club – Remember, you have to be in it to win it!!!

Sea Pie Supper – Friday 3rd February 2023

With a contract signed and planning moving forward, we look forward to another Sea Pie Supper in February. Tickets went on sale on Friday 4th November and we have passed 276 sold with 74 pending, another 10 possible and 27 free tickets for distinguished guests. 56 tickets have been taken by Cachalots. Please remember to contact Richard James if you wish to reserve a place and purchase a ticket(s) for the Sea Pie Supper. Members £57 and guests £69. The costs from Saints Events had been increased and with other costs we incur to run this event we decided to increase the ticket cost by £4 for both Cachalots and Guests.

Functions

After a disappointing Curry Lunch at Kuti's in February, a change of venue was requested and we have enjoyed Curry Lunches at Everest Cuisine, a Nepalese restaurant through the year.

Julia Whorwood is your point of contact as Functions Officer and she will be delighted to receive any suggestions and ideas for events and locations through the coming year.

Shipping Festival Service 2023

Following the excellent feedback from attendees in 2022, I have started planning to celebrate the **Shipping Festival Service** at St. Michael's Church on Thursday 8th June 2023.

Civic dignitaries including the Lord Lieutenant of Hampshire, High Sheriff of Hampshire, the Lord Mayor and Sheriff of Southampton will be invited along

		<p>with representatives from organisations associated with the port of Southampton. The service will commence at 1900 and there will be a parade of flags.</p> <p>Port Chaplains</p> <p>In June we learnt that our Honorary Club Chaplain, Rev John Attenborough was being relocated to Cyprus as the lead Chaplain for the Mission to Seafarers in the Middle East region. It was not until September that we learnt of his successor but here are the names of the current Port Chaplains in serving the Port of Southampton</p> <p>Fr. James Mosher – Mission to Seafarers Frans Sahetapy – Sailor’s Society Gregory Hogan and Charles Stuart – Stella Maris</p> <p>The Boatsteerer will be writing a letter to each Chaplain inviting them to become an Honorary Chaplain of the Cachalots.</p>	
21/01/07	Storekeepers Report	<p>Ian Odd provided a verbal overview of the accounts which were displayed on screen. They have been finalised and certified by the accountants, Yates & Co, dated 12-Jan-22.</p> <p>A quick overview of our 2021-22 financial year and an estimation of how things stand for the coming year.</p> <p>2020-21 Income Totalled £10,614 against £7,728 the previous year. Membership subs was up £537 on previous year Shop trading made a loss because I am slowly writing off old unsaleable stocks mainly in the form of books and pamphlets. Donations was considerably up on previous financial year as there was no SPS 2020 hence no money from prize draw. Bar loss is wages for Liz which Investment income is from interest on our Reserve bank account which is showing a better return recently. 250 Club surplus down as less people contribute to it. Grant income refers to furlough payments. None of which was received in this financial year</p> <p>Functions There was a deficit shown this year due a loss for the Trafalgar Dinner. ABP had agreed to pay for a table which was not taken up but they still paid £550 which was not received until December 2022.</p>	

		<p>The Shipping Festival account shows 0 as all surplus was paid to the 3 Seafarer organisations we support. Approx £81.39 to each.</p> <p>Expenditure This was down to £10,107 compared to £6,000 the previous year. The main difference here is the donations which include Captains charity and SPS draw payments made against zero in 2020/2021</p> <p>Net surplus This amounted to £413 against a loss of £1,170 the previous year.</p> <p>Current assets Shop stock and silver collection (this includes all club valuables) £3,654 Cash at bank totals £35,068 Deposits paid in advance amount to £3,348 (SPS, Christmas and Harpooners) Cash on hand £25 Creditors £1,266 (advanced function payments and uncashed cheques)</p> <p>Total £40,829 against £40,416 the previous year.</p> <p>2022-23 Financial year No rent increase is currently anticipated. It remains at £325 PM. Storage costs have increased to approx. £155 every 4 weeks Our finances remain healthy for the present time but we do need a good result from the SPS to help keep them that way. Ticket prices were increased to £57 (members) and £69 (guests). This will help to offset rising costs and reducing numbers of attendees.</p> <p>Observations arising- B. Peck noted that as a former Storekeeper, the Club showed assets of about £35k whereas now they are showing £40k. It is therefore of note that our Storekeeper is doing a good job in managing the account. Overall it was considered the Club was remaining healthy financially.</p> <p>Ian was thanked by all present for his contribution in managing the accounts.</p> <p>The overall report was proposed by D. Gates, seconded by L. Morris.</p>	
21/01/08	Membership Matters	<p>D. Gates and B. Peck confirmed the Club has 271 members of which 247 are paying. We will not know full data until the renewal subscription process is completed, hopefully by end of February.</p> <p>In the past year from 1/1/21:</p>	

		<p>Gone Aloft – 9, Resigned – 0, New members – 11, Rejoined – 0, Elected but not paid – 1, Pending applications – 2.</p> <p>Observations arising-A. Moll asked about age profile of members. We do not assess this information at the present time.</p> <p>Douglas and Barry were thanked by all present for their contribution in handling membership matters.</p> <p>Proposed by A. Moll, seconded by L. Morris.</p>	
21/01/09	Editor / Webmaster Report	<p>Terry Clark provided a verbal overview of his report.</p> <p>Newsletter</p> <p>As from March '22 we have reverted to a quarterly newsletter, both printed and digital, the latter being the pdf version of the printed one. Printing costs have increased sharply, the December issue costing £191.96 compared to £144.44 for the previous one, an increase of 32%. 75 copies are printed and 61 were posted out to those not on the email distribution list and other members who prefer the printed copy. The envelope and stamp add another £1.20 to the £2.56 cost per printed copy, making a total of just £15 per annum. Many members receive nothing else from the Club in return for their subscription fee. Currently, of our 262 members, the 221 who are on the distribution list receive it by email, plus another 27 extras (other clubs, widows etc.).</p> <p>I have no idea how many members actually read <i>The Cachalot</i> and suspect that many copies may languish unread at the bottom of busy in-trays, rapidly overwhelmed by the sheer volume of incoming stuff. I confess to such a failing with regard to other publications that I subscribe to.</p> <p><i>Cachalite</i> bulletins continue to be sent out as necessary to keep members informed between newsletters, 28 in 2022, the same number as last year.</p> <p>Website</p>	

		<p>I have continued to keep the website reasonably up to date but have made no other changes.</p> <p>There is a dedicated page in the public section giving the necessary information on the Sea Pie Supper in February.</p> <p>The Google analytics program threw up two anomalous spikes on the 12th and 28th April of 338 and 659 (our normal daily figures being less than 10) and by adjusting the totals accordingly I estimate that during the year we had around 1680 users (visitors), visiting 2545 times and viewing 6600 pages. These figures are probably slightly less than in previous years.</p> <p>There is a different monitoring system embedded in the WordPress programme on which our website is produced.</p> <p>That indicates that of the 221 members on our email distribution list, 108 are registered to visit the members' only section.</p> <p>During 2022, 33 of them visited it.</p> <p>They may have visited multiple times, only the last visit is recorded. They may also have visited the open section of the site without logging in and will then be included in the Google analytics figures.</p> <p>There has been some suggestions that the website is in need of updating and improvement to bring it in line with other modern websites and to attract new members.</p> <p>It was set up mainly as a source to provide members with all the information they might need about the workings and happenings of the Club. That was in the days before Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, Whatsapp etc, etc, none of which this webmaster has embraced or ever used. Indeed, I find myself developing a growing antipathy to the tyranny of social media and so may not be the person to implement the desired changes. I am, however, willing to help any able volunteer in any way that I can.</p> <p>Observations arising-a number of suggestions to make the website more dynamic were highlighted, including ability to make payment for events online via a secure portal. It was agreed to take this forward by the management committee.</p> <p>Terry was thanked by all present for his contribution in managing the newsletter and website.</p> <p>Proposed by N. Becket, seconded L. Hall.</p>	
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21/01/10	Peter Marriott Bursary	<p>John Mileusnic provided a verbal overview of his report.</p> <p>Bursary 2022 Following Covid the Peter Marriot bursary returned to normal for the 2022 period. As before the 'Cachalots' continue to support Southampton and Winchester Sea Cadet Units both of which continue to or have assisted the club in the past at various functions. Our aim has remained the same in offering the bursary to assist cadets to experience offshore training onboard the brig 'TS Royalist' and the two motor vessels 'TS John Jerwood' and 'Jack Petchey'. Two cadets were awarded the bursary during 2022. One from Southampton trained onboard 'TS John Jerwood' on a South Coast passage including the Isle of Wight. The Winchester cadet also trained on 'TS John Jerwood' earlier in the year on a passage from Aberdeen to Oban via the Caledonian Canal. Due to a number of special reasons one of the cadets received the full cost of the voyage while the other received 85%. Bursary applications are approved by the senior officers of the club and in both cases neither of these cadets would have been able to train offshore without the assistance of the 'Cachalots'. At the December management meeting it was unanimously agreed to continue with the bursary for the 2023. Following the AGM invitation letters will be sent to the Commanding Officers of Southampton and Winchester Sea Cadets.</p> <p>John was thanked by all present for his role in managing the Peter Marriott Bursary.</p> <p>Proposed A. Moll, seconded L. Morris.</p>	
21/01/11	Functions Report	<p>Julia Whorwood provided a verbal overview of the status of events, other than Sea Pie Supper, Shipping Festival Service and Trafalgar Dinner which are handled by the Boatsteerer.</p> <p>Currently, social events are being arranged on a running basis rather than setting programme for the year ahead as it is not so easy to arrange such events so far in advance. Advance notice is being issued by Cachalite and on the board in the Club room.</p> <p>Observations arising-suggestion of holding a Club Supper with a Speaker to celebrate the coronation of King Charles III. Julia to contact Sam@Chef to confirm a date and menu. The first curry lunch at Everest Cuisine is likely to be arranged for some time in March. Discussion about the cost of Christmas lunch and possible other venues to explore. Possibility of offering 2 or 3 courses at relevant cost difference.</p>	

		<p>Julia was thanked by all present for her role as Functions Officer.</p> <p>Proposed by J. Noble, seconded by C. Phelan.</p>	
21/01/12	Club Officers	<p>The appointment of Club Officers for 2023 is shown below:</p> <p>Captain Noel Becket Staff Captain David Carter MNM Post Captain Martin Phipps MBE Boatsteerer Robin Plumley MBE Storekeeper Ian Odd</p> <p><i>Hon. Editor</i> Terry Clark <i>Hon. Membership Office</i> Douglas Gates/Barry Peck <i>Hon. Functions Officer</i> Julia Whorwood <i>Hon. Bursary Officer</i> John Mileusnic</p> <p>Harpooners (7) Terry Clark Douglas Gates John Noble Leslie Morris Mark Oakley Julia Whorwood Andrew Moll</p> <p>Trustees (4) Reg Kelso Terry Clark Barry Peck Jeremy Smart</p>	

21/01/13	Any Other Business	Trafalgar Dinner-A. Moll requested that the Cachalots take the lead role in arranging and managing the Trafalgar Dinner in October 2023. This was agreed provided there was no cost loss to the Club. This was agreed. Monies raised by a Prize Draw would be donated to the Southampton Sea Cadets. The meeting closed at 1930.	
20/12/14	Date of next Meeting	Friday 12th January 2024	