

## Sea Pie Supper – Friday 3rd February 2023

Following last year's successful return of the Sea Pie Supper, we returned to St. Mary's Stadium. Sadly, we lost two of our distinguished guests ahead of the evening, as well as our M/C, Richard Wilson OBE, due to illness, hence twenty-one on the top table. The main hall accounted for the rest of the 386 members and guests on thirty-six tables, an increase of 27 from last year. Sixty-seven Cachalots attended. It should be noted that our Cachalot Member, Imogen Smart, did a fantastic job as stand-in M/C for the evening.



In all things ready ...

This year the Boatsteerer made contact with Jamie Cayzer-Colvin, Head of Funds at Caledonia Investments. Jamie has strong connections with shipping and the Sea Pie Supper. One of his antecedents was Admiral of the Fleet Earl Jellicoe of Scapa, who attended the first Annual Luncheon in 1929 as the guest of honour. Jamie is responsible for the archives of the Union-Castle Line at Cayzer House in London.

Our group of *Meeter's and Greeter's*, armed with their list of mugshots, the younger Cachalot's with them ready on their phones, did a grand job in meeting the distinguished guest at the entrance, and guiding them up to the VIP Reception in the Press Room. A photo opportunity of the VIP group was achieved by Terry.



### Our Distinguished Guests

Standing, L -R:

Prof Anthony Hill CBE (Director NOC), Mr Alastair Welch DL (Port Director, ABP So'ton), Rev'd Reg Sweet RN, Cdre David Eagles (RFA), Capt Robin Batt (Master HCMM), Cdre John Voyce OBE (Naval Base Commander Portsmouth), Lt Col Verity Crompton (CO 17 Port & Maritime Reg Marchwood), Capt Ian McNaught CVO MNM FNI Stowaway, Capt John Lloyd MBA FNI RD (CEO Nautical Institute), Rear Admiral John Lang FNI FRIN DL (President Winchester Sea Cadets)

Seated, L - R:

Mrs Muriel Potter, Mr Marcus Rayment, Clr Jacqui Rayment (Lord Mayor Southampton), Mrs Penelope Jarvis, Surgeon Rear Admiral Lionel Jarvis CBE (Deputy Lieutenant of Hampshire), Capt Martin Phipps MBE, Capt Elect Noel Becket, Mr Jamie Cayzer-Colvin, Lady Mary Fagan LG DCVO Stowaway, Captain Christopher Fagan DL.

The evening commenced with a superb and topical Grace delivered by the Rev'd Reg Sweet, and all settled down to the Sea Pie Supper.

The Loyal Toast was provided by Captain Phipps MBE while the Boatsteerer gave the toast for Absent Cachalots. The room was reminded of the marked envelope on each table and asked to put their place card, with a decent amount of money, preferably of the note variety, into them for later collection.





With the meal complete, Captain Phipps handed over the Club Captain's Collar to Captain Noel Becket and Noel handed Martin his 'Past Captains' badge and ribbon. Following Noel's speech, a toast to the Guests was completed following which Noel introduced the Principal Guest and Speaker.

Jamie Cayzer-Colvin's speech was both well delivered and interesting. On completion, the guest speaker proposed the toast to the Cachalot's.

Following a short break, and before the appearance of the '*Ansome Cabin Buys*', opportunity was taken to complete the Prize Draw with an Apple Smart Watch device generously donated by the Southampton Shipowners Association. One of Whitaker's young lady's drew the place card which belonged to Susan Simmonite Congratulations, Susan.



Nathalie Freeman, from Exxon Mobil and who was a guest on the Whitaker table, drew the place card of a fellow guest on the same table, Susan Simmonite, from ABP

The generosity of those attending was confirmed by a count of £3,721.65 plus a €5 euro note! Included in this was £55 resulting from a sweepstake on the MCA table to guess the length of the main speech. This was won by Mark & Janet Watkins of the RAF Yacht Club. They donated the prize to the overall collection. During the meal, Jamie Cayzer-Colvin told the captain he would match whatever amount was raised!! Hence we will have **£7,443.30** to divide equally between the three seafarers' charities, the Mission to Seafarer's, Stella Maris and the Sailor's Society.



The assembly was then entertained and joined in the singing of the Sea Shanties led by the '*Ansome Cabin Buys*.

A-Rovin, Blow the Man Down, South Australia, Drunken Sailor and Spanish Ladies were well sung, even two extra verses, clean, for Drunken Sailor not shown on the song sheet! This year, Shep Woolley brought along a fiddle player who entertained us and clearly struck a chord with a female Cachalot and her guest who got up to dance a jig in the middle of the room. Needless to say, the fiddling and dancing were well received.



In the party mood and up for an impromptu dance, a Cachalot member and her guest

With a resounding rendition by all of Land of Hope and Glory followed by the National Anthem, time was then taken to complete networking and catching up with friends and acquaintances before heading home.

The feedback from the distinguished guests and others in the hall has been very positive and highlighting a very successful Sea Pie Supper. We look forward to carrying the success forward to Friday 2nd February 2024. A date for your diaries!



Captain Elect and his wife, Birthday Girl Debbie

Last but by no means least, I wish to thank all the distinguished guests, VIP's, corporate entities and their guests, Cachalots, Club Officers and Harpooners who were able to attend and those who were able to provide assistance by whatever means.

Compiled by Robin Plumley, Boatsteerer