

## **Cachalots Annual General Meeting - Minutes**

Date of meeting: Thursday 11 January 2024, at the RBL Club room and by Zoom

Chaired by Club Captain - Noel Becket

Attendees (Room): N. Becket, D. Carter, M. Phipps, A. Moll, N. Jeffery, T. Clark, I. Odd, J. Noble, L. Morris, M. Oakley, J. Mileusnic, C.

Phelan, J. Whorwood, K. Dagnall, F. Pedersen, R. Plumley, J. Shepherd (17) (Zoom): D. Gates, L. Odd, B. Peck, T. Hughes, M. Plumley, A. Tynsley (6)

# **Minutes**

ID	Description	Comment	Action
		The AGM is held in accordance with Rule 11.  All attendees by Zoom were in place for a start by 1845.  Captain Noel Becket opened the meeting as Chair at 1858.  Documents described below were displayed for the benefit of all on the Smart TV, thus reducing use of paper.	
24/01/01	Apologies received	R. Kelso, P. Grant, M. Grant, I. Thomson, J. Smart	
24/01/02	Gone Aloft	A minute's silence was held to remember Cachalots Gone Aloft in 2023.  A.M. Northover (25/4/23), Stephen Taylor RN (21/5/23), K.T.V. Edwards (24/7/23), Rev'd 'Bill' McCrea MNM (31/10/23), B.E. Simpson (10/12/23), I.W. Stirling (22/12/23)	

24/01/03	Minutes of last meeting dated 13 January 2023	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 2023. Accepted as a fair record of the meeting of 13 January 2023.  Proposed by N. Becket, seconded by D. Carter.	
24/01/04	Matters arising	There were no issues arising.	
24/01/05	Management Committee Changes	Election of Harpooners. David Carter will take over as Club Captain from Noel Becket at the Sea Pie Supper.  Captain Nick Jeffery MNM has been accepted as Staff Captain.  Club Officers as Boatsteerer and Storekeeper continue in their present term until 2025.  Four Harpooner's were due for re-election – T. Clark, D. Gates, L. Morris and M. Oakley. All four were keen to continue in post and were elected unopposed for 2 years.  J. Whorwood has stood down as Harpooner and Functions Officer. M. Oakley has volunteered to become Functions Officer. All attendees thanked Julia for her contribution in the role.  Post Captain M. Phipps was invited to continue as a Harpooner and was unanimously accepted.  James Shepherd, Red Funnel, and a member of the Southampton Wardroom put himself forward as a Harpooner. Proposed by N. Becket and seconded by R. Plumley. Unanimously accepted by the attending members.  With eight Harpooners, this still meets the requirement of Rule 3 (b) which requires 'at least six'.  John Mileusnic kindly agreed to continue in his role as Co-opted member as Bursary Awards Officer.  Four Trustee's, R. Kelso, T. Clark, B. Peck and J. Smart continue in their role.	
24/01/06	Boatsteerers Report	A 'hybrid' AGM was held on 13 <sup>th</sup> January 2023 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.  **Gone Aloft* – sadly, the following members reported 'Gone Aloft' since our last AGM.  **A.M. Northover (25/4/23),**	

Stephen Taylor RN (21/5/23), K.T.V. Edwards (24/7/23), Rev'd 'Bill' McCrea MNM (31/10/23), B.E. Simpson (10/12/23), I.W. Stirling (22/12/23)

**Meeting's at RBL** – our meetings at the RBL Club room on a Friday have not 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.

**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 11<sup>th</sup> 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.

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

**Sea Pie Supper** – post Covid, we have seen improving numbers at the event with 375 in 2022 and 386 in 2023.

We are currently at 199 paid with 147 pending and 26 distinguished guests. I am pleased to advise we will be installing Admiral Sir Alan Massey CVO CBE as Stowaway at the Sea Pie Supper where he is the Guest Speaker.

#### **Functions**

Julia has decided to step down as Functions Officer and as a Harpooner at the AGM and we thank her for her work in planning for a number of functions throughout the year.

I am pleased to say that our Harpooner, Mark Oakley has volunteered to take on the role and a helpful handover between Julia and Mark has been completed. I understand Mark will not be alone in his role.

Mark is your point of contact as Functions Officer and he 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 2023, I have started planning to celebrate the **Shipping Festival Service** at St. Michael's Church on Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> June 2024.

Civic dignitaries including the Lord Lieutenant of Hampshire, High Sheriff of Hampshire, the Lord Mayor and Sheriff of Southampton will be invited along with representatives from organisations associated with the port of Southampton.

The service will commence at 1900 and there will be a guard of honour with flags. The Southampton (Albion) Band are booked.

		Port Chaplains  The names of the current Port Chaplains in serving the Port of Southampton Fr. James Mosher – Mission to Seafarers Frans Sahetapy – Sailor's Society Gregory Hogan and Charles Stuart – Stella Maris. They will be attending the Sea Pie Supper.  Club Officers and Harpooners  The record of such will be updated following the AGM. As indicate in the agenda, we have some changes to consider.		
24/01/07	Storekeepers Report	screen. These have not Yates & Co. The accourt the management comm  Account 31Oct2023 Petty cash  NatWest Current NatWest Reserve Total cash assets  Account 31Oct 2022 Petty cash  NatWest Current NatWest Current NatWest Reserve Total cash assets	£ 51.19  2,758.95 35,025.93 37,836.07  25.36  2,470.90 32,597.24 35,093.50  re following debtors and creditors:.	

Creditors:

£ 630.00 Harpooners Dinner members payments

£ 0.00 November Curry lunch members payments

£ 630.00

Adding the difference between debtors and creditors to the 31Oct2023 total we come to a total of £40,542.87 .

For 31Oct2022 there were following debtors and creditors:.

Debtors

£2947.82 2022 SPS deposit

 $\underline{\pounds} 400.00$  Advanced deposit for Harpooners and Christmas lunch to Star Hotel  $\underline{\pounds} 3347.82$ 

Creditors:

£ 540.00 Harpooners Dinner members payments

£ 425.50 November Curry lunch members payments

£ 965.50

Adding the difference between debtors and creditors to the 31Oct2022 total we come to a total of £37,391.82.

These are the unaudited figures and do not take into account Club assets etc that will be in the final audited account.

I submitted the 2022-23 accounts to our accountant, Colin Yates, on the 22nd.November. Hopefully these will all be finalised in time for the AGM.

## **ADDITIONAL ITEMS**

Sea Pie Supper – A deposit for next year amounting to £3,336.80 has been paid. To date (24Nov) some 58 tickets have been sold. At the same time in 2022 we had sold 83 tickets. The total tickets sold last SPS(2023) was 357 against 343 in 2022.

Shipping Festival Service – The service was at held St.Michael's in Southampton. The surplus including the collection amounted to £ 142.92. This amount was divided amongst the 3 seafarer charities we support

Bursary – £600 was paid out this financial year

### **NOTES**

#### **SUBSCRIPTIONS**

Total income from paid-up members for our financial year = £8,338 compared with £8,837 for the previous financial year. This total will differ from the figures submitted by Barry as his covers the year from  $1^{st}$ .Jan to  $31^{st}$ .Dec.

## **FUNCTIONS**

Functions for the year showed a surplus of £462.72. Trafalgar night showed a surplus of £154.50.

#### GENERAL EXPENDITURE

Total to 31Oct23 was £13,553.88. This compares with £14,468.28 for previous year. The budget was £16,220 for 2022-23.

Current monthly outgoings(approx.)

Rent £325 per month to RBL

Liz £162.50 (£150.00 every 4 weeks)

Richard £200 per month

Storage £184.54 (paid as £170.35 every 4 weeks)

Telecoms £56 (includes £15.59 for Zoom)

IT and website £52 General expenses £50

Newsletter £74 (basis 4 newsletters a year posted)

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Total £1,104.04

### **ANNUAL FEES**

Insurance at £698.39 was paid on 1st.November (this was some £39 up on last year). Accountancy fees of £300 will be paid in January.

		MISCELLANEOUS FINANCIAL TRANSACTIONS This includes donations and surplus from raffles, golf surplus as well as members donations. A total of £457 was paid out for Capt.Phipp's chosen charity We are currently holding £1044 for Capt.Beckett's charity Donations for the Club from Club members amounted to £40. Donations for Captain's charities amounted to £1,340.22 Joining fees amounted to £380 The Club was instrumental in raising £3,678 for local Seafarers Charities and over £1300 for the Southampton Sea Cadets during the past financial year.  250 CLUB Total surplus for year amounted to £285 (£300 last year). Of this £40 is still to be paid out for a winner who has yet to give us their bank details!  2022/2023 It would appear we have had a good year financially. The surplus has been helped by a higher return in our savings account, new members joining fees and a reduction in payroll due to reduced Club opening. The SPS continues to be an important contributor to the Clubs finances Barry Peck continues to look after accounts for 250 Club and Membership. RP highlighted the generous donations of electronic devices made at the SPS and Trafalgar events by the Southampton Shipowners Association for the Prize Draws.  Ian was thanked by all present for his contribution in looking after the accounts.	
24/01/08	Membership Matters	D. Gates and B. Peck confirmed the Club has 246 members of which 225 are paying. We will not know full data until the renewal subscription process is completed, hopefully by end of February. In the past year from 1/1/23:  Gone Aloft – 7,  Resigned – 1,  New members – 15,  Rejoined – 0,  Elected but not paid – 1,  Pending applications – 2.	

		Unpaid in 2023 – 10 but some have been further chased and paid!! Unpaid in 2022 and deleted – 30.  Observations arising last year - A. Moll asked about age profile of members. We do not hold this information in a usable format. However, approach was made by RP to Barry Peck and from the membership totals, RP was able to produce a graph showing a historical trend of membership from 2007 to August 2023, which was circulated to members of the management committee. A copy from 2023 is included with these minutes. A similar exercise will be done in 2024 and circulated.  Observations 2024 – James Shepherd, new Harpooner introduced himself and outlined the work of Southampton Wardroom and their desire to hold less formal meetings/gatherings on SS Shieldhall and local hostelries around Southampton. Some of our Cachalots have attended these gatherings and we hope to see more of the Southampton Wardroom at our formal events too.  Douglas and Barry were thanked by all present for their contribution in handling membership matters.	
24/01/09	Editor / Webmaster Report	Terry Clark provided a verbal overview of his report.  Newsletter  The production and distribution of <i>The Cachalot</i> quarterly newsletter continued as normal in 2023, usually 16 pages but with a bumper 20 page edition in June. The last edition was distributed to 245 recipients online, 218 to members and 27 extras to other clubs, other interested parties and a few widows. 75 copies of each edition were printed at a total cost of £626.78, that's £1.95 per 16 page copy and £2.52 for the 20 page one. These printing costs were actually less than in the previous year but postage costs have increased. The postal distribution list has now reduced to around 50, due to natural causes and a thinning out of the membership list (see Membership report), so it may be able to reduce the number of printed copies required. This may not result in any significant saving as cost per unit would probably increase. Members are reminded that they may opt to receive the printed copy rather than have the electronic one languish unread at the bottom of their inbox.  Cachalite bulletins continue to be sent out as necessary to keep members informed between newsletters, 21 in 2023, compared to 28 in each of the two previous years.	

On a personal note I should state that although I am reasonably fit and healthy with no known health or mental issues, I will shortly be an octogenarian. I am very happy to continue editing the newsletter, in fact you will probably have to pry it from my dying fingers, but it may be time for a willing sub-editor to step up to assist in the future course of the good ship *Cachalot*. As our Club motto has it: *In Omnia Paratus*.

#### Website

I have continued to keep the website reasonably up to date but have made few other changes.

There is a dedicated page in the public section giving the necessary information on the Sea Pie Supper in February.

The Google analytics program that I used to gather usage data is no more but has morphed into the juvenile sounding Monster Insights program which is available as a plugin on the Word Press facility that we use for our website. It will, however, only provide data for the past 30 days unless we sign up, and pay for, the Pro version. In all honesty the site is not used enough in its present form to warrant the expenditure.

109 [108] of our 246 [221] members are signed up for access to the members only section and in 2023 [2022] only 26 [33] of them visited it. Last years figures in the brackets.

Last year's suggestion of updating and improving the site to bring it in line with other modern websites was looked at by others but again the extra costs outweighed the advantages.

I can only reiterate what I said last year:

The website 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, few 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 any desired changes. I am, however, willing to help any able volunteer in any way that I can.

A discussion about succession planning, maybe in the form of a sub-Editor although no volunteers were immediately forthcoming.

Also discussed was the use of Facebook and Linkedin by the Southampton Wardroom in staying in touch and highlighting events. The Cachalots are using FB and LI to compliment the website and Cachalite issues. James will discuss

		with RP about linking the various accounts as a mutual benefit in gaining further outreach.  A unanimous vote of thanks was extended to Terry for his contribution in managing the newsletter and website.	
24/01/10	Peter Marriott Bursary	Bursary Report 2024 AGM  The 2023 Peter Marriot Bursary was successfully applied for by one Winchester sea cadet who had an interesting and rewarding voyage onboard 'TS Royalist'. His report will be published in the next issue of the 'Cachalot'. He was originally booked for one of the motor vessels but unfortunately it was laid up for the season due to increased costs. The 'Cachalots'continue to support Southampton and Winchester Sea Cadet units both of which have assisted the club at various functions over many years. The 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'. Some of the cadets we have supported would have been unable to undertake the training without the club's financial assistance. At the December management meeting it was unanimously agreed to continue the bursary for 2024. Following the AGM invitation letters will be sent to the Commanding Officers of Southampton and Winchester Sea Cadets. Applications are checked and approval of the senior officers of the club is required before a bursary is awarded.  John was thanked by all present for his role in managing the Peter Marriott Bursary.	
24/01/11	Functions Report	RP provided an outline of the provisional programme, which has been posted on the Cachalots website.  Julia was thanked for her contribution in the year passed as Functions Officer.  Mark Oakley has volunteered to take on the role and Julia has provided a handover. TC has offered to assist with his vast knowledge and records of functions past.	

Observations included:

MN Day-The local MNA arrange this, but we have had minimal notice about timing. Post Captain, M. Phipps knows the local contact, David Parsons, and T Hughes has provided name and contact as well. Martin will follow this up for 2024. MN Day 2024 is Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> September, but the Holyrood service will probably be held on Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> September but TBC.

Noel becket provided a summary of the outreach activities from the past year with Southampton Wardroom and Solent Branch NI with gatherings aboard Shieldhall, Maritimo Lounge (Ocean Village) and White Star (Oxford Street). David Carter indicated a gathering at HMS Collingwood was planned for this year.

Prior to standing down Julia has placed orders with Everest Cuisine for curry lunches as per the provisional programme.

RP is still content to assist in organising the Sea Pie Supper, Shipping Festival Service and Trafalgar Dinner with Terry and Andrew respectively. Trafalgar Dinner would be held at The Grand, but subject to the venue still trading as there is some doubt. Nick Jeffery flagged the date of the Southampton Shipowners Ball is yet to be confirmed. Cachalots took a table of ten last year.

Steve Collins, Cachalot, has been organising a trip for 1<sup>st</sup> March to Cayzer House to see the shipping archives held there with a lunch locally afterwards.

24/01/12	Club Officers	The appointment of Club Officers and Harpooners for 2024 is shown below:	
		Captain David Carter MNM Staff Captain Nick Jeffery MNM Post Captain Noel Becket Boatsteerer Robin Plumley MBE (to 2025) Storekeeper Ian Odd (to 2025)	
		Hon. Editor Terry Clark Hon. Membership Officer Douglas Gates/Barry Peck Hon. Functions Officer Mark Oakley Hon. Bursary Officer John Mileusnic	
		Harpooners (8) Terry Clark (to 2026) Douglas Gates (to 2026) John Noble (to 2025) Leslie Morris (to 2026) Mark Oakley (to 2026) Andrew Moll (to 2025) Martin Phipps (to 2026) James Shepherd (to 2026)  Trustees (4) Reg Kelso Terry Clark Barry Peck	
		Jeremy Smart	
24/01/13	Any Other Business	RP1. Shipping Festival Service 6 <sup>th</sup> June. 80 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary of D-Day. Ideas for the service? RP2. 100 years of the Cachalots in February 2028. Ideas for what we can do to celebrate, if anything!!!! Suggestions have included an anniversary service in February 2028 at St. Michael's with invite to Princess Royal. Summer cruise out on SS Shieldhall.	RP RP
		DC1. David Carter suggested a trip out to Southwick Park to see the D-Day Map Room. DC to canvas support for trip by minibus or self-drive and confirm any minimum or maximum numbers, accessibility etc.  The meeting closed at 2001.	DC

24/12/14 D	Pate of next Meeting	Friday 10 <sup>th</sup> January 2025 The AGM has usually been held on a Thursday. Last year we had to change due to an event being held by the RBL (Crib League!!). We returned to Thursday this year but the RBL had to open especially and the bar was only open ahead of the AGM. I spoke with the Secretary on Friday and he suggested a Friday would be better as they would be open and a bar would be available all the time, if required!!! Hence, I have amended the date for 2025 to the Friday. Please advise soonest any contented or adverse comments.	
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