



The Society of Consulting Marine Engineers and Ship Surveyors

An M.C.A. Appointed Certifying Authority

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A MEETING OF THE COUNCIL

Monday 23rd March 2009 – At the Society's Headquarters

In Attendance

John Lillie (President)	John Banister
Charles Bevis	Norman Finlay
John Wallace	Paul Owen (Secretary)

Apologies

Charles Bliault	Euan Davidson	Mike Eckles
Ian Green	Paul Johnson	Chris Jones
Ross Hunter	Jim Lauder	Kjell Nilsen-Nygaard
Maurice Perrin	Dave Spence	Chris Spencer
David Walker		

Minutes

1. Confirmation of Minutes to Last Meeting 26th September 2008

No comments had been received concerning the last meeting; the minutes were confirmed as correct on the proposal of John Banister, seconded by John Wallace.

2. Matters Arising

Annual Dinner – Positive feedback had been received following this event, as usual the Society made a small loss on this event. The Secretary reported that, following discussions with John Lawrence (Secretary of IMS), it may be possible to continue with this event even if the society merges with IIMS in the future.

Marine Technical Consultancy – The Secretary reported that Chris Spencer advised him that the revision of the Society's publication is around 50% complete.

3. MCA

Norman Finlay reported that there is much discord in MCA with poor moral. From the Society's point of view, there are insufficient people trying to cope with the workload generated by the Small Commercial Vessels Code of Practice. He continued by stating that the Society, together with the Workboat Association, are trying to organise the regulation of Windfarm Workboats to enable them to carry up to 24 persons (crew). They have come up against the passenger rules and High Speed Craft Code, which were originally drafted almost 100 years and 40 years ago respectively and do not help the current situation. They are making

slow progress and recently invited an MCA representative to visit a builder on Isle of Wight, which helped to keep them on side.

Otherwise Code vessels continue to increase in number. The Secretary provided a table showing the numbers currently registered with the Society (646). We have started preparations for the Seawork Exhibition in Southampton during June, the Society will be exhibiting in cooperation with the National Workboat Association. There will also be a training session for MCA Codes Examiners which is once again being organised in conjunction with the Small Craft Surveyors Forum, this year the theme will be Risk Assessment.

4. Technical

Charles Bevis offered apologies for his absence for one year due to work commitments. He commented that it was good to see progress in many fields. Regarding technical talks in London. First, John Nixon had been booked to speak, however he had to postpone. With David Walker's help, a second event was organised, once again the speaker had pulled out, so eventually the event had been cancelled. He concluded that he found it very disappointing that the first event never came to fruition.

We should be exposing not only members but also the legal profession to survey matters, and the buffet lectures also provide a very useful networking and socialising event. He felt he could not offer the continuity necessary for this management post and suggested a replacement be found, he would be pleased to assist a new person in the post, he added that he believed we are going the right way but need different person in charge. John Banister commented that these are the same problems we have had in the past. President noted that we need to find the right way to do it and added that IIMS may influence way forward if the merger goes ahead. Charles Bevis, said he was willing to hold the post for the moment.

Norman Finlay stated that we need to improve the Society's profile, one recent comment he heard was that the "SCMS only do small vessels", a misunderstanding.

Charles Bevis commented that he had found the Membership List very useful in past for finding overseas surveyors.

5. Membership & 9. Professional Standards

John Wallace reported that he always carefully scrutinised everything that come before him, reminding that applicants need survey experience as well as technical qualifications. Charles Bevis added that it was most important that we maintain this standard otherwise the List of Members would be worthless.

Councillors mentioned those potential members who they expected to apply for membership.

The Secretary provided a table of Membership statistics, these were discussed and it was noted that the total number of members continues to slowly decline.

6. Budget Manager

The Secretary distributed the draft Annual Accounts as provided by Target Winters together with a budget report for the end of year. John Banister remarked that the MCA Codes derived income is now double the income from subscriptions. After discussion the draft accounts were agreed on the proposal of John Wallace and seconded by Norman Finlay, provided the Secretary checked the income for Tonnage Measurement and adjusted the figures accordingly.

The Secretary raised the subject of the spare funds, noting that the Society had in the region of £120,000 in savings accounts. He made one suggestion that a donation be made to the benevolent Fund. It was agreed that no action was necessary at this time; however, the situation should be closely monitored. The Secretary added that, after consulting the President and Budget Manager, he opened a new account with HSBC and moved half the Society's spare funds into the new savings account.

It was agreed that we use some of the spare funds for production of a Newsletter, the Secretary agreed to progress this task asking members for articles and requesting assistance from Denzil Stuart with the production.

7. Marketing

Chris Jones was unable to attend and had sent his apologies.

8. Recruitment

Nothing to report, David Walker had sent his apologies.

9. See item 5 above

10. Publications

The Secretary reported that Chris Spencer had advised that the revision of the Society's Marine Consultancy Handbook was now around 50% complete.

11. Future Planning for Society

No information under this agenda item.

12. Presidential Activities

The President continued by advising he had received an invitation from Average Adjusters for their Annual Dinner. So far he had not heard from the Worshipful Company of Shipwrights, LMA and RINA.

President further reported that he is making good progress with his studies for an MSc.

13. Future of the Society

The President reported that following the last Council meeting, he and the Secretary had a brief meeting with Allan Brink (President of IIMS) and John

Lawrence (IIMS Secretary). Bottom line is we keep MCA Survey administration in the London Office and membership administration moves to IIMS southern office. It was agreed that a due diligence exercise of the Society could take place, and various figures have been provided to IIMS's nominated inspectors – John Noble and Chris Spencer.

Councillors Paul Johnson and Ross Hunter had both submitted letters to Council clearly indicating their feelings on this matter. Copies of the two letters are appended to these minutes.

Following a question from John Banister, it was acknowledged that a due diligence exercise by the Society on IIMS should also take place, if we decide to proceed, to ensure that we are not placing the Society's members and councillors at undue risk in future if the merger goes ahead. The merger should be considered a meeting of equals, rather than a takeover.

We now await the response of IIMS so we can decide what to do next.

14. Forward Planning for AGM

It was agreed that David Walker would take over as President and Chris Jones would become Vice President(1). It was proposed that Charles Bliault be nominated as Vice President(2).

15. AOB

16.1 Roadshow

Norman Finlay suggested a Road Show to promote the Society, John Banister queried where to direct this effort. Norman Finlay replied that he felt the NE district was an appropriate area. The President asked how to organise such an event and how to attract people to attend. Norman Finlay suggested a meeting where all relevant types come together, and gave the example of the Inland Waterways surveys coming in soon. Charles Bevis agreed to speak with David Fenner and Ray Luukas on this subject to see what could be organised.

16.2 Contact from Mike Wall

The President reported that Mike Wall had contacted the Society asking for clarification on his case, it was noted that he is no longer a member and no correspondence was entered into.

16.3 Office Lease

The Secretary distributed a draft lease that had just been received from the Marine Society and Sea Cadets. Further information provided was that the rent would not be increased until such time as the water supply was fully restored to the office building. The information not clear from the draft included, the office space being specified, the length of the proposed lease and the rental and service charge costs. It was not clear at this time if the lease included the ability for the Society to assign the lease if the merger with IIMS took place. The Secretary

agreed to follow up on these points. He added that the landlord had been informed of the possible merger with IIMS.

Those present agreed to read the draft lease and report back to the Secretary with any queries.

17. Date of Next Meeting

It was agreed the date of the next meeting and AGM would be Thursday 25th June 2009.

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Mr John Lillie, President
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Our Ref: SCMS-09032201

Your Ref:

22 March, 2009

Dear John

RE: Council Meeting 23 March 2003, Agenda Item 13

First, may I present my apologies for not being able attend my first Council meeting since election as I have two appointments which I cannot alter.

In my absence I would be grateful if you could present my opinions in respect of agenda item 13 by tabling this letter on my behalf.

Perhaps as a Council "new boy" I might briefly outline my position within the Society. I am an authorised Commercial Code surveyor, member of the Society's MCA Working Group and one of the Society's scrutineers. I am one of three Society surveyors who, between us, probably have nearly 80% of the total fleet numbers on the Society's Register.

I agree that the membership side of the Society is a concern as the decline in overall numbers is not being balanced by an increase from new applications. I understand that a merger with another recognised institution or learned body is one of the options being considered to safeguard the future of the Society.

Whilst I accept that a merger with the IIMS may be an appropriate course of action in terms of membership I do have concerns over the Certifying Authority aspect of the Society's operation which, year on year, becomes an even greater part of the Society's finances.

Specifically if a merger with the IIMS, or any other organisation, is being considered then the Society must protect the lucrative commercial Certifying Authority status by insisting, without compromise, that all IIMS Certifying Authority activities are transferred to the Society's London Office and administered by the current Secretariat in conjunction with the Society's current MCA Working Group committee with the offer of a number of places to those who serve on the equivalent committee in the IIMS. Once an "in principle" decision of a merger has been made then the fine detail must be worked out with input from those who are currently actively engaged in this field.



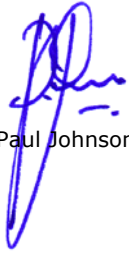
I'm sure that Paul Owen would be the first to agree that a transfer of several hundred vessels to our Register will cause significant administrative problems which might possibly have an effect on how the office is currently operated. This fact must also be given careful consideration during this process.

There are also implications for the Benevolent fund which requires delicate handling particularly if it has charitable status (I'm not sure) will require approval from the Charity Commissioners.

Could I ask if consideration has been given to a merger with any other organisation?

I am available on my mobile during the course of the Council meeting and if you would like me to elaborate on my views please do not hesitate to contact me during the meeting.

Yours sincerely,



Paul Johnson



A ADAMSON & CO
Incorporating E K Wallace & Son



MARINE SURVEYORS, NAVAL ARCHITECTS AND CONSULTING ENGINEERS

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Our Ref:

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Mr John Lillie, President
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22 March 2009

Council Meeting 23 March 2009

Firstly, please accept my apologies for my non-attendance. I am travelling overseas in the afternoon. I would therefore appreciate that this letter be circulated and appropriately minuted.

Having read the agenda and, as one of three significant contributors to the Society's profits in its activity as an MCA Code Certifying Authority, would like to express my views in relation to item 13, which has been a concern for a number of years. There is little doubt that much discussion on this item will surround the possible incorporation of the Society into the IIMS.

1. Fellowship – the view of the Institute is that this grade should be by nomination only and their committee reserves the right to interview prospective candidates. That is appropriate for their membership. However, there is little doubt that Fellows of the Society should be afforded the same status in any combined body.
2. MCA Coding – the Society's proposal is fundamental and must neither be diminished nor modified. As you may or indeed may not appreciate there are three members of the Society, me being one, whose contribution to its profits through MCA Code inspections has been significant, particularly over recent years, with this continuing more or less on a weekly basis. I do not wish to speak for the other two, however if it is the decision of Council to take the matter further by agreeing 'in principal' to the incorporation, then further discussions must include either one or all three of us. Too much time and energy has been expended in creating what we have today for us to be excluded. Of course, it goes without saying that in the event that the Institute does not accept our proposal in full then the matter must fall at this stage.
3. Assuming that the proposal is accepted there is one other concern. I am sure Paul Owen will concede that whilst we pride ourselves in the prompt issuance of vessel certificates, the current administrative situation is still not refined enough to cope with the introduction of probably another 500 vessels. This being the case some further discussion on the way ahead will be required with opinions being sought from the three main contributors aforementioned.

So far as the Society incorporating with IIMS is concerned, I am in favour, as it can only benefit our members, but only from an educational/CPD point of view.

I am sure that this matter will be discussed with due care and attention. Meanwhile, if you would like me to contribute further at any time during the meeting, please do not hesitate to contact me. I will be available on my mobile up until 1500 hours.

Kind regards

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Ross Hunter', written on a light-colored background.

Ross Hunter PP & FCMS