



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

Friday 24th September 2010 – At the Society's Headquarters

In Attendance

David Walker (Chairman)	Charles Bevis
Norman Finlay	Jim Lauder
Chris Spencer	Paul Owen (Secretary)

Apologies

John Banister	Charles Bliault	Mike Eckles
Ross Hunter	Paul Johnson	Chris Jones
Maurice Perrin	John Wallace	

Minutes

1. Confirmation of Minutes to Last Meeting - 6th July 2010

The minutes to the last meeting were agreed as being a true record. Proposed by Charles Bevis, seconded by Jim Lauder.

2. Matters Arising

Nothing to report that is not covered below

3. MCA

Norman Finlay reported that we were no further ahead with the Harmonised Code, neither are there likely to be any developments as the new Government has pledged no unnecessary new legislation and the MCA has no money or approval to proceed.

He continued by saying that he has made the point to the MCA that the industry wants the Codes sorted out. There are things in the Harmonised Code (HC) which we do not use as it is not legal, consequently we have problems with new clients over whether a new build should be under old codes or HC. The UK now has over 8,000 coded vessels.

He plans to meet the new Admiral who heads the MCA next time he visits their offices. It has got so bad that the MCA hold meetings in his office due to no money to hold within MCA premises.

The Secretary provided an update on the number of vessel certificated by the Society – the total being 816 vessels.

4. Technical

Charles Bevis suggested that we ought to do something to rejuvenate this area – Buffett lectures have tailed off, the last two efforts failed for various reasons. He added that they did provide useful exposure to the market and enabled young trainees to obtain CPD points.

Alternatives - rather than one or two trying to organise an event, why do we not invite members of the Society to prepare papers, which can then be circulated within the Society to broaden our skill base. These could be incorporated into a seminar in the future we could also present the papers, under the Society's name, to other august bodies. The results would be raising the profile of SCMS and its members, doing something about education, and authors would attract the attention of people in the field needing those skills.

He proposed we write a letter to be circulated around the membership telling them what we are doing and inviting them to participate (Personal views of the author not the Society). We have amongst us some of the best brains in the business.

5. Membership & 9. Professional Standards

The Secretary provided background information to a complaint against Russ Larkin, MCMS. It was noted that the survey was carried out by another surveyor (not a Society member) and that the client had not issued any written instructions. In addition, the survey report clearly stated that the vessels were seen in the water and the type of survey conducted. No further action required from the Society. The Secretary agreed to inform the complainant.

6. Budget Manager

John Banister was unable to attend and sent his apologies. He had seen the proposed budget tabled by the Secretary. The Secretary reported that the repairs/renewals category was over budget for this year due to the purchase of a new postal franking machine (the old one being 9 years old) and the salaries included an allowance for the costs of hiring a student for the summer holiday period as agreed at the last Council meeting.

The Budget for 2011 was approved on the proposal of Chris Spencer, seconded by Charles Bevis.

7. Marketing

See later

8. Recruitment

Jim Lauder reported that the number of new members joining the Society continues. The Secretary reported on the current numbers for members. More progress is desirable.

9. See item 5 above

10. Publications

The Working Committee to take the book project forward, as agreed at the last meeting, David Walker, Chris Jones and John Banister, had all been sent copies of the Society's edited book as provided by Chris Spencer.

Chris Spencer described the difficulties he had experienced trying to edit the old book. He advised that a surveying book might be expected from Hong Kong, published by Witherbys, and suggested we wait for that to appear before proceeding, this was agreed.

The Secretary added that it was still intended to rejuvenate our Newlink publication as soon as possible. **Please send any articles to HQ.**

11. Future Planning for Society

See later.

12. Presidential Activities

The President reported that no significant events occurred since the last meeting. The Secretary reminded that the FEMAS AGM would be taking place on 15th October in Paris.

13. Arrangements for the Annual Dinner

The Secretary reported on the attendance numbers, similar to last year, and VIP guests expected for the Annual Dinner, adding that, with 73 places booked, the event was financially viable. He added that the fees for hiring the venue had increased considerably, from around £300 last year to more than £900 this year. However, he had complained to "Alternative London Venues" who let the venues on behalf of MOD, and we had received a 25% discount, paying £765.

14. Proposal to Seek a Royal Charter

The Secretary distributed a printout from the Royal Charter website which listed the minimum requirements that need to be met before applying. He concluded that such application was not feasible due to our numbers, (>5,000 members required,) amongst other things.

15. Any Other Business

15.1 Lloyd's Register of Ships - access for members

The Secretary reported that his enquiries revealed that this was not financially viable for the Society, full access for all members costing many tens thousands of pounds, with a single Enterprise Licence costing £22,000 with severe restrictions on re-distribution.

15.2 Regs4Ships

The Secretary reported that this proposal was more viable, he had obtained a special rate for members with a 25% discount on the normal price, this makes

the cost of their Regs Guide for a single flag £300 per annum, rising to £874 for all 14 flags that are available.

15.3 Seawork Stand

It was agreed during the last Council meeting that we should use a larger stand next year at this exhibition. Norman Finlay advised that he had been in contact with the organisers and they would provide a price for an extended stand over and above the free stand space already provided for the SCMS/AMC/Workboat Association. It was also agreed that video presentations were not useful and that any display material could also be used during the conference (see 15.4).

The Secretary agreed to progress the procurement of display material for the stand.

15.4 February Conference

The title for this conference is “Merchant Ships in use in a time of War”, it was suggested we also include the subjects of Piracy and Charter Parties to make it more attractive to potential attendees.

15.5 Rules for the Construction of Small Boats

This subject arose from a suggestion by a member during the AGM this year. After brief discussion it was concluded that the Society should not be involved in such a project.

15.6 “George Lugg Snow Drop Memorial Fund”

The Secretary reported that his investigations revealed that the fund was not a charity, nor was the umbrella organisation for such funds. David Walker agreed to contact Hazel Lugg to discuss how best to donate the agreed £2,500 from the Benevolent Fund.

15.7 “Linked-in” Network for Members

The Secretary provided the results of his investigations to Council. It was agreed that we should proceed with an account and then develop a “Group” for members within the Link-in system.

15.8 Request for grant from Benevolent Fund

The Secretary announced that P. Hicks had requested a payment from the Benevolent Fund for the full amount permitted, after some discussion Council agreed to this request with conditions.

16. Date of Next Meeting

April 2011, when the Society Accounts for 2010 are ready, exact date to be advised.