



# 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

Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> April 2012 – At the Society's Headquarters

### *In Attendance*

<b>Chris Jones (Chairman)</b>	<b>John Banister</b>
<b>Bob Barnes</b>	<b>Mike Eckles</b>
<b>Norman Finlay</b>	
<b>Paul Owen (Secretary)</b>	

### *Apologies*

<b>Charles Bevis</b>	<b>Paul Johnson</b>	<b>Jim Lauder</b>
<b>Kjell Nilsen-Nygaard</b>	<b>Maurice Perrin</b>	<b>David Walker</b>
<b>John Wallace</b>		

All expected being present the President opened the meeting at 13:40.

### **Minutes**

#### ***1. Confirmation of Minutes to Last Meeting – 30<sup>th</sup> September 2011***

The minutes to last meeting were agreed as being a true record on the proposal of John Banister, seconded by Norman Finlay.

#### ***2. Matters Arising***

Nothing to report that is not covered below.

#### ***3. MCA***

Norman Finlay reported that the MCA are going backwards with no staff currently looking after the Code section, with David Ralph only on a 3 day week and currently being in hospital, and Mark Towl having been moved to another section. He has made a complaint to MCA concerning staffing, but he believes this has fallen on deaf ears. So we just have to carry on and do our best

The Secretary presented the current number of vessels certified which stood at a total of 972, an increase of 61 since September.

#### ***4. Technical***

##### **Fit For Purpose Scheme (New) - Taking over from British Waterways**

This new work area, FFP Scheme, is now available to the Society (together with MECAL) following withdrawal from the scheme by MCA. Norman has met with British Waterways and they are happy with us (and MECAL), all documentation

must have any ref to MCA removed. He continued that he has teamed up with John Fearnley (MECAL) to develop a uniform standard and documentation; it is proposed that our administration and fees remain similar to our present system.

In the meantime the MCA and PLA have got together to produce a Thames standard document, we are working towards the same end so we should work together to harmonise for the uniformity of standards and acceptance of each others certification. We have agreed to meet to discuss this during Seawork (John Fearnley of MECAL and Alan Cartwright representing PLA). We have not included other CAs as this is a commercial opportunity which we have teamed up with MECAL for.

The Secretary mentioned that, depending on the additional workload generated by this new scheme and the current high workload for existing staff, it might be necessary to recruit another staff member.

For the introduction of the scheme, SCMS Members should register as an FFP Surveyor. It was noted that many FFP vessels will be over 24m.

Norman presented a draft FFP survey/certificate form.

Congratulations were offered to Norman on the excellent work he has done on the FFP scheme.

It was agreed that much work remained to be done to implement this new work area.

The President said he would send out a circular to members when more information is known.

Bob Barnes raised the subject of an appropriate ISO standard (ISO 17020) – the implications of compliance for the Society were discussed, the Secretary voiced concerns on staffing requirements to implement such a system. It was agreed to further discuss this subject at the next meeting and, in the meantime, via email.

Bob Barnes agreed to take over this (Technical) agenda item.

### ***5. Membership & Professional Standards***

The Secretary reported that membership numbers are steady at 328 (an increase of 1 since September). It was noted that the introduction of the new FFP scheme might lead to an influx of new members. Bob Barnes commented that the average age of the membership might be too high.

### ***6. Budget Manager***

The Secretary presented the draft accounts for 2011, which had been received that morning. He advised that as the revised Memorandum and Articles of Association had only been approved on 30 June at the AGM, the Society is liable for 6 months Capital Gains Tax during 2011. This is not shown in the draft accounts but will be added before they are finalised.

Subject to any comments by the Budget Manager, the draft accounts were approved.

The Secretary reported that, in addition to the Budget report showing the end of 2011 position, the current account now held around £62,000. He pointed out that the excellent financial results for 2011 (income £12,000 above budget) were due in large part to the hard work of the office staff and invited Council to consider offering the staff an annual bonus for 2011. A bonus payment of 10% of the respective 2011 annual salaries was agreed unanimously.

Bob Barnes asked about the subscription paid to the Law Society – the Secretary replied that this subscription enables the Society to issue CPD certificates as appropriate.

The Benevolent Fund Accounts were presented by the Secretary and signed by John Banister and Chris Jones. The Benevolent Fund expenditure during 2011 of £6,195 was balanced by a contribution of £6,195 from the General Fund.

### ***7. Recruitment & Marketing***

Chris Jones reported that we are getting closer to FEMAS, which includes joint marketing.

Bob Barnes raised the subject of placing an advertising board on the roof of the office building in the view of railway passengers, the Secretary agreed to investigate to see if this is possible and what permissions would be required.

The Society's Car stickers were thought to be an excellent idea, it was agreed that two stickers should be sent to each member each year.

### ***8. Publications***

There was a brief discussion, no decisions were reached.

### ***9. Presidential Activities***

John Banister represented the President through FEMAS at the IUMI Conference held in Paris last September. This was felt to be important to remind the insurance industry of our existence.

Chris Jones reported that he had represented the Society at the FEMAS Executive Council meeting and AGM held in Greece last October. One of the major talking points being the organisation of a seminar at some time in the future in London after the Olympics. Possible subjects for the Society include FFP and the Coding system.

### ***10. Early Arrangements for Annual Dinner***

The Secretary reported that HMS President had been booked for the Annual Dinner on Friday 28<sup>th</sup> September. It was noted that Barry Pitfield had been replaced by Brian Wells (HMS President). Chris Jones reported that he had invited Sir Allan Massey, CEO of MCA, to be our guest once again, without

speaking this year. He added it was his intention to invite Lord Sterling to be our Principal Guest. It was also agreed to invite **Rev Cannon Bill Christianson** to attend.

#### **11. Proposal to implement new website arrangements to:**

##### **“Search for Active Surveyor” and “Search for Expert Witness”**

Secretary reported that this item had been delayed but would still be implemented.

#### **12. Any Other Business**

##### **12.1 Seawork Stand (May 22-24)**

The Society once again has a stand at this popular small vessel exhibition and would be joining once again with the Small Craft Surveyors Forum to provide a training session for coding surveyors provisionally titled “Innovations in Composites and Lightweight Materials within the marine industry (Implications for Surveyors)”.

Bob Barnes reported that the IMAREST Small Ship Group is giving a presentation on the Tuesday afternoon titled “Propulsion Systems”.

##### **12.2 ID cards for members**

Still under development

##### **12.3 Titanic Memorial**

The Secretary reported that a Society wreath had been purchased (£100) and laid at the Titanic Engineers Memorial in Southampton, in good time for the 100 years anniversary of the Titanic sinking.

##### **12.4 Young Surveyors Course**

Norman Finlay reported a 5-day course taking place for young surveyors in Lowestoft. When he has more details he will pass them on.

#### **13. Society’s Benevolent Fund, Charitable Status**

There had been no activity since the last meeting. The Secretary reported that there was nothing new to report at this time on the future status of Benevolent Funds by the Charity Commission.

#### **15. Date of Next Meeting**

The next Council meeting and AGM is scheduled for ~~Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> June (Venue not available)~~ Friday 29<sup>th</sup> June.

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 16:00.