



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

Wednesday 29th June 2011 – At the Society's Headquarters

In Attendance

David Walker (Chairman)	John Banister
Norman Finlay	Chris Jones
Jim Lauder	Chris Spencer
Paul Owen (Secretary)	

Apologies

Charles Bliault	Mike Eckles	Ian Green
Ross Hunter	Paul Johnson	Maurice Perrin
Dave Spence	John Wallace	

The President opened the meeting at 11:00 hours.

It was noted that David Spence and Charles Bliault had both withdrawn from Council.

Minutes

1. Confirmation of Minutes to Last Meeting – 31st March 2011

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

2. Matters Arising

Nothing to report that is not covered below.

3. MCA

Norman Finlay reported that we were back in a familiar situation being not sure who is in charge of the MCA Code section (Mark Towl/David Ralph) which reflects on the situation with the Harmonised Code. The MCA is going backwards with the Code Section being reduced to two persons. Norman, together with Mark Meade, and hoping to see the MCA CEO to discuss the Codes – there are some 20,000 boats working worldwide. The harmonised code is still in the offing, has not yet gone out to consultation, cannot see it being introduced until April 2012.

On connected matters he reported that the Inland Waterways Code previously mentioned at Council, is now defunct. The new ILO Maritime Labour Convention will affect small boats, we are approaching the MC to say it will not work on small vessels, while it may work in the UK it will not work overseas.

The Secretary reported that we now have 875 vessels on our books. Norman added that he knew of 15 new vessels ordered at the recent Seawork Exhibition.

Norman and the Secretary reported on the success of our stand at this years attendance at the Seawork Exhibition, it was agreed that we should attend again next year. A successful training session for Examiners was held during the exhibition.

The Secretary reported that he had re-engaged the temporary staff member used last summer, on a part-time basis, to cope with the increasing workload. This engagement was supported by Council.

4. Technical

Jim Lauder reported that he is now assisting with the Scrutiny of Stability Books.

In view of Bob Barnes increasing involvement with the Society, and his technical background, it was agreed to invite him to be Co-opted to Council.

David Walker reported that he continued to represent the Society on the Lloyds Technical Committee.

5. Membership & 9. Professional Standards

It was agreed that David Fenner, David Whitby and David Jeffery should be invited to apply for Fellowship of the Society. It was noted that there had been several successful applications for membership since the last Council meeting who all met the high standard required for membership.

6. Budget Manager

The Secretary reminded that the Annual Accounts for 2010 had been agreed at the last Council meeting and since then extracts had been distributed to the Membership ready for the AGM in the afternoon, the full Society accounts were available for the AGM.

He reported that income for the first six months of the year for subscriptions was £24,500 (budget £27,000) and for MCA work £59,000 (budget £100,000).

7. Marketing

Chris Jones reported that, he was considering the compilation of a separate list of members who wished to be included in an 'Experts Witness' list. The list could include details of previous experience such as whether the member had previously appear as an expert witness for: Arbitration, UK High Court or High Court elsewhere, for example. These would not be tested by the Society and it would be made clear that the Society would not accept any liability.

There followed a discussion on the merits of such a scheme and if and how to charge for inclusion on the list.

Agreed that we would implement Search for Active Surveyor, Search for Expert Witness function on the website.

8. Recruitment

As mentioned above, several new members had been recruited since the last meeting.

9. See item 5 above

10. Publications

Chris Spencer reported that he had been recruited by the Nautical Institute to project manage the “Work of the Nautical Surveyor”. He further reported that he would be inviting members to make contributions to this book.

11. Future Planning for Society

Covered above, agreed to remove this agenda item in the future.

12. Presidential Activities

Chris Jones reported that he had to give his apologies for being unable to attend the Average Adjusters dinner at the last minute.

13. Arrangements for Annual Dinner

The Secretary reported that HMS President had been booked for the Annual Dinner on Friday 30th September. Chris Jones reported that he had secured the agreement of Sir Allan Massey, CEO of MCA, to be our principal guest. There was a discussion on the invitees for the Top Table, it was agreed to invite Andrew Bardot International Group of P&I Clubs in lieu of the individual P&I Clubs.

14. Any Other Business

14.1 Benevolent Fund, Charitable Status

The Secretary reported that there was nothing new to report at this time. Norman Finlay suggested that we might look for recipients for grants rather than wait for the members or relatives to contact us.

14.2 Revised Statutes and Be-Laws

It was agreed that Council fully supported the proposed amendments and would recommend that the AGM accept them on the proposal of Chris Jones seconded by Chris Spencer.

15. Date of Next Meeting

The next Council meeting is scheduled for Friday 30th September, the same day as the Annual Dinner.

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 13:00.