



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 29th June 2012 – At the Society's Headquarters

In Attendance

Chris Jones (Chairman)	Bob Barnes
Mike Eckles	Norman Finlay
Maurice Perrin	Paul Owen (Secretary)

Apologies

John Banister	Euan Davidson	Ian Green
Ross Hunter	Paul Johnson	Jim Lauder
David Walker	John Wallace	

All expected being present the President opened the meeting at 11:15.

Minutes

1. Confirmation of Minutes to Last Meeting – 26th April 2012

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

2. Matters Arising

Nothing to report that is not covered below.

3. MCA

Norman Finlay reported that there had been no significant changes at the MCA since last meeting. David Ralph is now working a three day week along with some others. We now only go to MCA for a decision or advice as a last resort.

Mark Towl now has no official connection with the Codes, but unofficially he stands in for David Ralph.

There is a new STCW 500ton certificate of competency being introduced, mainly for large multi cats but extending to small cargo vessels. The Workboat Association will soon start to issue their towing endorsements, the Tug Boat Owners Association could not make up their mind and so are not involved at present.

The Society has now commenced surveys and issue FFP (Fit For Purpose Scheme) certificates of compliance, with the first two certificates now issued. The anticipated total number of vessels is around 100. British Waterways have

written to all the owners to advise that SCMS and MECAL are now taking over these surveys.

He added that in principal we have also have agreement from the PLA to survey vessels on the Thames.

The Secretary reported that we currently certify some 1,000 vessels.

4. Technical

Bob Barnes reported that Richard Langman MCMS is on BSI committee for revision of small craft standards RDI (quoted in appendix to MGN280). Amendment put forward for multi-engine vessels. Alternative power sources are also now being considered.

5. Membership & Professional Standards

The Secretary reported that membership numbers are steady at 300. The Secretary further reported that there were no particular problems other than a lack of sufficient recruits who continue to come from both UK and overseas.

6. Budget Manager

The Secretary reminded that the accounts were agreed at the previous Council meeting and reported, in the absence of John Banister, that the annual accounts were all now completed, signed, and ready for the AGM. At present he reported £52,000 in the current account compared to £32,000 at the same time last year, he attributed this good result to the increase in Coding fees at the beginning of the year.

7. Recruitment & Marketing

Chris Jones stated that he still believed the SCMS Stickers were a good idea for promotion of the Society. Regarding numbers of members, the general opinion was that we were holding our own when considering the total number of surveyors world wide and the general decrease in those numbers.

The Secretary confirmed that he would ask our landlords about a marketing sign on the roof of our office building to promote the Society to the passing train passengers.

8. Publications

There was brief discussion, no decisions were reached.

9. Presidential Activities

Chris Jones reported that the late invitation to the Average Adjusters Dinner had to regretfully be declined.

10. Early Arrangements for Annual Dinner

The Secretary reported that there were difficulties obtaining confirmation from - Alternative Venues – the booking agent. Chris Jones agreed to contact Chris Trelawny to try and hurry things along.

Chris Jones confirmed that **Admiral Alan Massey** and **Rev Cannon Bill Christianson** had agreed to attend with the latter being the principal guest and speaker.

11. Proposal to implement new website arrangements to:

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

The Secretary presented a draft notice to members and requested feedback. It is intended to send this out with the new List of Members which is just back from the printers.

12. Any Other Business

12.1 Seawork Stand (May 22-24) - Review

The Society once again had a shared stand at this event, it was considered that it would be better to have our own stand next year.

13. Planning for AGM at 14:00 hours

The Secretary reported that all was ready for the AGM at 14:00 hours.

14. Society’s Benevolent Fund

There had been no activity since the last meeting. The Secretary reported that a request had been received, from Bruce Smith FCMS, for more information on each payment made. As some of these payments can be quite delicate, it was agreed that it should be sufficient to state that each request for a grant was verified as genuine by a Society member.

15. Date of Next Meeting

The next Council meeting and AGM is scheduled for 28th September 2012 to coincide with the Annual Dinner.

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