



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 31st March 2011 – At the Society's Headquarters

In Attendance

Chris Jones (Chairman)	John Banister
Mike Eckles	Norman Finlay
Paul Owen (Secretary)	

Apologies

Charles Bevis	Charles Bliault	Ian Green
Paul Johnson	Jim Lauder	Dave Spence
Chris Spencer	John Wallace	David Walker

In the absence of the President, Chris Jones, Vice President chaired the meeting.

Minutes

1. Confirmation of Minutes to Last Meeting - 24th September 2010

The minutes to last meeting were agreed as being a true record.

2. Matters Arising

Nothing to report that is not covered below.

3. MCA

Norman Finlay reported that he had just completed a two day meeting at MCA on the Harmonised Code, when it is redrafted it will be sent out for consultation and then to the appropriate Government Section for final approval with a target date for implementation of 1st October 2011. He continued that he did not believe they could make this date so the next available implementation date would be 1st April 2012.

Crew towing endorsements were being introduced this year, organised by the National Workboat Association with full support from the MCA. These are being introduced to fill an agreed need for such training. The certificates would be valid for 5 years, costs are not yet available, and their employer must bring candidates forward.

The Secretary advised that the MCA is reviewing Professional Indemnity Insurance carried by the CAs. It is possible that this will increase from our present Euros 3m to 5m for death and 2.5m for damage to property. This will

likely be implemented when our MCA CA Agreement is renewed which is linked to the implementation of the new Harmonised Code and will mean a significant increase in premiums from £3,500 to £10,000 per annum. The Secretary added that this increase should not present any difficulties considering our current surplus.

The Secretary reported on the number of vessel currently registered with the Society and for which certificates of compliance are issued. The number continues to increase with 34 additions since September, this represents an increase in income of around £8,000, it is expected to continue to increase, particularly from Workboats.

The Secretary reported that we had received information following a recent MCA visit to the Falklands, regarding possible candidates to become MCA Code Examiners, it was agreed that no special concessions would be offered to prospective candidates regarding membership of the Society.

The Secretary announced that our next MCA Certifying Authority Audit is scheduled for 18th April.

4. Technical

Nothing new to report on this occasion.

5. Membership & 9. Professional Standards

The Secretary reported that since the last meeting there had been a welcome increase in membership numbers from 316 to 329 since the last Council meeting in September. He attributed this partly to the new website. Around half the new members were from overseas. The professional standards used by our Membership Committee continue to be maintained at the highest level.

6. Budget Manager

The Secretary presented the end of year Budget position which showed for 2010 an income of £136,015 and expenditure at £113,841. With our savings accounts holding in reserve £155,468. The current value of the Benevolent Fund investments and bank account was £156,074.

Our Accountants "Target" had completed checking the accounts and their report was presented for agreement.

The Accounts were unanimously agreed by those present and duly signed by Chris Jones and John Banister.

The Secretary raised the subject of Corporation Tax, Target had advised that we were liable for CT as our Memorandum of Association declared that, upon winding up of the Society, any proceeds are not distributed to members. To avoid paying CT in future the Memorandum of Association would have to be amended. Council considered this carefully and agreed to accept Target's offer to organise this for us at a maximum estimated cost of £1,750. It was also agreed that we should change the quorum for a Council meeting from 6 to 4 due to difficulties

obtaining sufficient members to attend Council Meetings and that the opportunity should also be taken to generally update the Memorandum of Association and Articles for compliance with the latest Companies Act. One concern was raised - how will mutuality affect members liability which is currently £1. The Secretary agreed to progress this updating exercise. It was noted that any proposed changes would need to be approved by the Membership at the next AGM.

The suggestion by Targets that the Society takes out insurance to cover the costs of unscheduled HMRC inspection of our accounts was agreed at a cost of approximately £310 per annum.

The further offer by Targets to obtain dispensation for P11D, concerning reporting of staff expenses, was not agreed.

7. Marketing

Chris Jones Reported that, regrettably, the planned Seminar for next month had been cancelled due to difficulty in finding speakers for the chosen subjects. He suggested that the subject chosen "**Merchant Ships use in a time of War,**" was the difficulty and a rethink would be necessary for the future.

Seawork Exhibition – see later.

8. Recruitment

As motioned above it is suspected that the new Website was having a positive effect on recruitment. The Seawork exhibition would also assist with recruitment.

9. See item 5 above

10. Publications

Regarding the Society's surveying book, the Secretary reported that no progress had been made, it was agreed that we should be doing something. The Secretary agreed to obtain a copy of Mike Wall's book.

11. Future Planning for Society

Various matters covered above.

12. Presidential Activities

There were no known presidential activities since the last meeting, an invitation from the Average Adjusters was anticipated.

13. Arrangements for Annual Dinner

The Secretary asked if we should use HMS President again this year due to the increased costs. There was support for this proposal. It was further agreed that we would offer a concession to members booking a table – buy 7 tickets get 10.

The meeting then discussed who might be invited as speakers – Chris Jones agreed that we should invite Sir Alan Massey, MCA Chief Executive and also Lord Sterling was suggested.

14. Any Other Business

14.1 Seawork Stand

The Secretary reported that a larger stand had now been booked for the exhibition and that he planned to order two free standing Display Stands (0.8m x 2.5m) with roller fabric with suitable pictures and words, £79 each. These will be reusable for future events.

14.2 Letter from US dept of Labour

The request to provide a letter of introduction/support was not agreed. The Secretary agreed to send them a copy of our List of Members.

14.3 Benevolent Fund, Charitable Status

It was noted that the Benevolent fund may lose Charitable Status depending on the outcome of the Charities Tribunal deliberations, it was agreed that all we could do at present was to keep a watching brief.

14.4 Seminar

Discussed above under item 7.

14.5 Linked-in Network

The Secretary reported that the Society was now connected to the Linked-In Network and that we were slowly building up our links within the industry.

15. Date of Next Meeting

The next Council meeting and AGM is scheduled for Wednesday 29th June.

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 14:15.