



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 6th July 2010 – At the Society's Headquarters

In Attendance

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

Apologies

Charles Bevis	Charles Bliault	Mike Eckles
Ross Hunter	Paul Johnson	Dave Spence
Chris Spencer	John Wallace	

The President called for a minute's silence to commemorate the passing of George Lugg, FCMS and former President Peter Brian Harrison, FCMS.

Minutes

1. Confirmation of Minutes to Last Meeting - 29th April 2010

The minutes to last meeting were agreed as being a true record. Proposed by Jim Lauder, seconded by Chris Jones.

2. Matters Arising

Nothing to report that is not covered below

3. MCA

Norman Finlay reported that not much had changed. The harmonised code was still stuck but there is now a possibility that the Work Boat Code could be retained as a standalone code, however, this had not been finally decided. David Ralph, one of the key people in the MCA for the Codes, had a serious medical condition and it was uncertain when he might return to work.

MCA staff that have retired or resigned are not being replaced, the certification branch are three men down who are not being replaced. The head of Sections is retiring early next month and it can only get worse with all the budget cuts, the MCA have requested a meeting be held at Norman's premises to save on costs.

We have lost a fleet of 35 vessels since the last Council meeting; however, we are well on the way to making up these numbers. Other governments are now starting to accept the Codes, he gave an example of four vessels built in Holland that are coded by us and accepted by the Dutch government. We continue to

have problems with the Windfarm vessels, we have been building these vessels for over three years now but the MCA continue to ignore their earlier ruling on allowing more than 12 persons on board, they need to carry up to 24, other countries have crew boats that carry up to 40 persons. Between 300 and 400 of these vessels are expected within the next 10 years. We continue to pressurise the MCA from both the Workboat Association and the Society.

Our Annual Audit by MCA had been carried out during April; their report was still outstanding. The operational Audit on a vessel had also been completed and the MCA report received.

4. Technical - Nothing new to report on this occasion.

5. Membership & 9. Professional Standards

Jim Lauder reported that the number of new members is improving. The Secretary reported that Bob Barnes had provided a draft standard for new Examiners approval; we had received several applications at once, this was unusual. The Small Working Group (MCA Matters) would consider the approval process at its next meeting.

6. Budget Manager

John Banister reported that the financial worth of the Society and Benevolent Fund together was £361,000 (excluding any office equipment and in-hand supplies,) the Society's finances are excellent. The final audited accounts have been received, and will be made available to the AGM. The usual extracts from the accounts had been distributed to all members with the agenda for the AGM.

The Secretary asked for agreement to employ a student for the holidays to assist with the archiving of closed vessel files, which are now mounting up with storage space starting to become a problem. This was agreed.

7. Marketing

Chris Jones suggested we hold another seminar next year and proposed a title "**Merchant Ships use in a time of War,**" he said that although this used to be called "STUFT" it is now known as "CCS" (Chartered Commercial Shipping), he explained why he thought this was an interesting subject. It was agreed that FEMAS be invited to become involved again. This proposal was supported. (See also AGM minutes)

It was proposed that the Society have its own stand (approximate costs £1,500) at the Seawork exhibition next year. This exhibition continues to grow and flourish despite the recession. It was agreed that we would need to obtain a professional stand for the show and also to have the stand set up by professionals. A minimum of two persons would be required to man the stand at all times. A large number of handouts would be required to give out to visitors. The Secretary mentioned the difficulty in obtaining photographs of surveyors at work; a professional photographer was suggested (W3). A promotional video running in the background would add interest to the stand. It was considered

that the benefits would be “Flying the Flag” for SCMS, and provide a hospitality area (two sofas) for members. Council agreed to consider the costs in more detail at the next meeting, estimated ball park costs £5,000, it was noted that initial costs would be more than subsequent exhibition costs.

8. Recruitment

Recruitment is showing improvement with the number of recent new applicants just less than the number of members lost. The President suggested that the Seawork proposal above would assist with recruitment.

9. See item 5 above

10. Publications

Regarding the Society’s surveying book, Chris Spencer has advised:

“On the matter of the book I am still only half way through it.

It would be helpful if someone else could have a look at it. I suspect we simply need to divide it up between three (?) and get on with it. Alternatively and I have pretty much come to this view, that it might be easier to simply start again as that might be simpler and easier.

I can email the book when required.”

It was agreed the he should be asked to email a copy of what he has now and this would be distributed (to the working group, see below) to review where we are now. It was suggested that we need professional advice. It was suggested that Michael Grey be approached for advice (£2/3,000 to be allocated for this).

It was agreed that a Working Committee to take the book project forward would be formed by David Walker, Chris Jones and John Banister.

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

The Seminar and other matters have been covered above.

12. Presidential Activities

The President reported that there had been few invites. He received one from the IIMS at short notice, which he attended at Trinity House. He met up with their newly installed President, Peter Morgan the next day with a view to clearing the air of what went wrong with the merger. The impression he has is that they are now a completely different type of organisation to the Society and mainly involved with training. They have 1,300 members and are rapidly expanding. They have a lot of people with enthusiasm and gusto. Council had instructed a working group to obtain information from IIMS in order that a merger could go ahead; unfortunately, the Directors of IIMS had put a hold on providing such

information that we required, arguing that they had been audited by the MCA and did not require another from us, in other words they had privacy concerns, so the merger has come to a halt. Peter Morgan also conceded that their accounts had been £40,000 adrift. He understood that a 50/50 merger was no longer an option as they consider themselves to be too big, the only option now being a complete takeover. However, we are still communicating with them, and that he and the IIMS President have agreed to continue to communicate on matters of common interest and 'sing from the same hymn sheet' when the industry needs a voice as a whole. Maurice Perrin observed that the Society is financially and professionally very strong and suggested that further dealings with them could be extremely bad for us.

It was agreed that we should not pursue a merger/takeover at this time.

It was reported that John Lillie, the immediate past president, was now a member of the IIMS Management Board and Chairman of Education and Training. The Secretary added that he had resigned from Council with immediate effect and from the Society at the end of 2010.

13. Future of the Society

Norman Finlay said that we must keep the Society going in such a way that it remains a credit to those who came before us, we have to find ways to keep going and do things that attract members we have and entice new members. It was agreed that such considerations should remain with Council. Maurice Perrin suggested that we should keep members informed, from time to time, what the Society does. The President proposed that we create a members network on the "Linked-in" internet system. The Secretary agreed to look into this.

14. Planning for AGM at 14:00

Agreed to put to AGM that - due to the fact that IIMS has intimated that they are not willing to provide information to complete due diligence, Council have decided not to pursue a merger currently.

15. Any Other Business

15.1 NW District funds

The Secretary reported that the funds, of £707, had now been paid into the Society's accounts and asked how it should be used. It was agreed that it should be used for the Society's book project.

15.2 Society's Investments

After brief discussion it was agreed that we should keep the investments as is.

16. Date of Next Meeting

The next Council meeting is scheduled for the day of the Annual Dinner on Friday 24th September.

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 13:50.