



The Society of Consulting Marine Engineers and Ship Surveyors

An M.C.A. Appointed Certifying Authority

202 Lambeth Road, London SE1 7JW

Tel: +(44) 20 7261 0869 Fax +(44) 20 7261 0871

Email: scms@btinternet.com

Address all correspondence to The Secretary

A MEETING OF THE COUNCIL

Friday 9th October 2009 – At the Society's Headquarters

In Attendance

David Walker (President)	Charles Bliault
Norman Finlay	Jim Lauder
John Lillie	Chris Jones
Mike Eckles	Paul Owen (Secretary)

Apologies

John Banister	Charles Bevis	Ian Green
Ross Hunter	Paul Johnson	Maurice Perrin
Dave Spence	Chris Spencer	John Wallace

Minutes

1. Confirmation of Minutes to Last Meeting 25th June 2009

The minutes to last meeting were agreed as being a true record. Proposed by Jim Lauder seconded by John Lillie.

Regarding the proposal that Charles Bliault be invited to take up the second Vice President post – he advised that he did not wish to take this post.

2. Matters Arising

Nothing to report that is not covered below

3. MCA

The Secretary provided a breakdown for the vessels that the Society currently handles, the total has now increased by approximately 150 vessels during the last year to 745 vessels now. Norman Finlay confirmed that the number of vessels being coded was increasing steadily, we now have agreements with Damen Shipyards to code all their UK vessels and we are now half way through an order for Serco Denholm; also for Southboats on the Isle of Wight we code all their new buildings; we also have a good relationship with a builder in Ireland.

He anticipated another 40 to 50 new vessels this year, Harbour Masters have an obligation to ensure vessels operating in their areas are safe, they will accept a Coded vessel as being 'safe'.

He continued by reporting that the Harmonised Code introduction was as far away as ever, corrections and amendments have not yet been incorporated when

another three-month consultation period will be required. The Society has now ceased use of the draft Harmonised Code as it was considered by the CA Working Group that it has no legal basis.

The introduction of the Inland Waterways Code is taking a back seat at the moment. He mentioned that he had proposed to Peter Cardy (CEO of MCA) that all vessels under 24 m in length be considered by the same code regardless as to whether they go to sea or not.

Finally he advised that next year a towing endorsement for the crews of various types of tugs will be introduced, one for Harbour Tugs and another for coastal towing plus a general endorsement for vessels that do everything.

A vote of thanks was given to Norman and John Wallace for all their hard work.

4. Technical

Charles Bevis – nothing new to report on this occasion

5. Membership & 9. Professional Standards

The Secretary distributed a table showing the trend in membership numbers, this showed that the current membership for all grades stood at 334.

It was noted that we require more members for small boat surveys, in particular for the SW Wales region. In addition our foreign colleagues need to be recruited for MCA CA Work with our increasing number of vessels working overseas.

6. Budget Manager

The Secretary distributed the updated figures to the end of September 2009. These showed a significant increase in the income - predicted to be £122,000 for the year end compared to a budgeted income of £92,500, the predicted expenditure being close to the budgeted amount of £89,500 at £93,700. The Hon Treasurer, John Banister sent his apologies for not being able to attend, the Secretary reported that he had seen the 2010 Budget, included on the same sheet, which he stated looked fine to him.

The Secretary took the meeting through the figures which gave a budgeted income for 2010 of £132,150 and expenditure of £107,250, he explained that this included an allowance for an additional part time staff member and a reduction in monthly hours for Peter Hicks. John Banister had pointed out that there were precedents for supporting a previous secretary from the Benevolent Fund where justified.

Regarding the Benevolent Fund, the Secretary distributed an information sheet that charted the progress of the COIF Charities Investment Fund during the last 10 years. No action on this investment was considered necessary at this time.

The Budget for 2010 was agreed on the proposal of Jim Lauder, seconded by John Lillie.

7. Marketing

Chris Jones announced that he was waiting for developments with the proposed merger, before taking any further action.

8. Recruitment

David Walker reported that he had made contact with the Lloyd's Register Communications Manager who was keen to learn more about the Society – he added that he intended to repeat this recruitment exercise with BV and DNV.

9. See item 5 above

10. Publications

Nothing new to report.

11. Future Planning for Society

No information under this agenda item, see item 13 below.

12. Presidential Activities

The President reported that he had not attended any functions since entering office.

13. Proposed Merger with IIMS

A summary of the Due Diligence visit by John Banister and the Secretary to IIMS on 10th September was tabled. The report suggested that two more meetings with IIMS were required, one concerning their CA operation and another to cover other outstanding matters.

After much discussion it was agreed that a final decision would be made at the next Council meeting, scheduled for March 2010, by which time the two meetings would have taken place and their results known.

It was also noted that we need agreement from the MCA to merge the two CA's, Norman Finlay agreed to contact the MCA to seek their agreement.

14. Arrangements for the Annual Dinner

The Secretary reported that the numbers booked were around the same as last year at 75 persons, the top table would also be full with a good selection of VIPs. The guests speakers for the evening will be Michael Everard and Michael Grey, both very well known and respected in the shipping industry.

Any Other Business

14.1 New Lease for Office Accommodation

The Secretary reported that the new Office Lease had been signed and it will come into effect, with a corresponding increase in rent, when the repair work to the heating system on the ground floor is completed, he was not aware of any

timetable for this work, but added that he was content to wait as we only paid the old rental amount in the meantime.

14.2 Postal Strike and Delivery of Vessel Certificates of Compliance

Ross Hunter had raised this subject regarding the maintenance of continuity of Certificate of Compliance delivery in view of the impending postal strike. He suggested that action needs to be taken to ensure delivery of these certificates, in particular that they either be scanned and emailed to owners or to Examiners for onward delivery, and that any such action should be promulgated to the MCA. This was agreed and the Secretary agreed to carefully monitor the situation.

14.3 Scam Letters

The Secretary reported that he had received notification from several members that a scam letter was being sent to members by mail supposedly from a Solicitor in Spain, it was believed the name and address information was being taken from the Society's website. Some members of Council reported that they had also received such scam letters.

14.4 Risk Assessment Seminar

The Secretary reported that the CA Working Group had decided to organise a Risk Assessment/Management one day seminar to take place next February, the venue will be the ground floor conference room in the main building. FEMAS at their recent AGM the previous week, had agreed to fully support and participate in this event. CPD certificates will be available to attendees.

Speakers suggested included Johan Hoppzak of D. Touw, John Lillie, Marcus Jones of IMarEST. More are required. The intention is to provide the seminar free of charge to members of SCMS and FEMAS, and to also invite Lawyers and P&I Clubs to attend at £50 per head. Lunch to be provided.

15. Date of Next Meeting

It was agreed that the next Council meeting would held in March 2010 when the draft 2009 accounts were ready.

There being no further business the President closed the meeting at 15:30.