

AGM weekend, 23-24 February 2019, Bristol

Our Branch Annual General Meeting this year was held in conjunction with the main MOA AGM in the beautiful city of Bristol. We, the South West Branch, hosted the event, selecting the Doubletree Hilton Hotel as our base with guided visits to the SS Great Britain (and its associated museum and Brunel Exhibit), and walking tours of Bristol. Overall, the weekend was a great success, albeit aided and abetted by the best February weather within living memory!

Some 120 members and partners attended the dinner and the AGMs, and circa 100 the Saturday tours. The tour members were divided into 4 Groups so that we could alternate

visits, with the SS Great Britain itself only able to accommodate some 25 of us at any one time. Brunel's genius is evident throughout the ship and the museums. The most advanced ship of its time (1843), its amazing performance under steam and under sail, revolutionised travel.

The guided walking tours of Bristol also went well. Liz and Angela guided us around the vibrant streets of Bristol explaining the old and the new, my favourite in the end being the quiet grandeur of the best Parish Church in the country (according to Elizabeth !!) – St Mary Redcliffe, right next door to the hotel.

The SW Branch had 4 tables at the event dinner on Saturday evening. After an excellent meal, Mike Rowland amused us with his brilliant stories of Maritime Bristol (seen from the view-point of an ex-Police Inspector). I'll be keeping a closer watch for CCTV cameras when sight-seeing in future!

Our AGM took place from 10:00 to 11:00 am on Sunday. It was a light-hearted event to set the tone for the day. Thirty-seven members attended, much on a par with previous years. The formalities saw the existing committee re-confirmed for the coming year, and Mary Allen elected to the new position (for the SW Branch) of Vice-Captain.

Review of 2018 activities: Contrary to the previous year, the weather blessed most of our programme in 2018. The response from the members was excellent with a number of previously 'silent' members joining our rallies. We as a committee are trying to encourage more of our members to participate in our rallies. At present only some 15% of our near 300 members in the SW do participate (a similar level to the MOA as a whole) so there is plenty of room for improvement PLEASE! I have reported in detail on the 2018 rallies in previous issues of Compass and on the website. Here I would like to emphasise that they are fun events based on the meeting of like-minded people who enjoy each other's company on boats, on the water and in places of mutual interest. Last year's visits included National Trust properties, areas of outstanding natural beauty, Princess Yachts (where many of our boats were moulded), the Waterworks Museum (Hereford), the Mappa Mundi (Hereford Cathedral) and the National Fireworks Competition (Plymouth). We also wined and dined together in Inns, Hotels, Cafes, on boats – and on pontoons!



I also presented outline plans for 2019:

Date	Event	Contact
3 – 6 May	Salcombe (dinner SYC)	Tony Wildig
24 – 27 May	Fowey (Eden project, Dinghy trip)	Peter Roberts
28 – 30 June	Falmouth (plus possible Scillies Cruise)	Len Cheshire
13 – 18 July	Cherbourg/Guernsey with Solent Branch	Mike Neave (Solent) (Tony Wildig)
13 – 16 August	Pantaenius Plymouth Rally for the National Fireworks Competition	Mary Allen
13 – 15 September	Torquay	Tony Wildig
tba October	Minehead 'boat-less' rally	Keith Bunker
15 February 20	SW AGM. Worcester	SW Committee

More details on these events will be published in due course on the web-site and will be sent out by email to SW members.

Finally, we awarded three trophies at our AGM:



The Achievement Trophy went to Rob Barnfield for his unstinting support of the SW Branch and its members. Please note the photograph of Rob on duty behind the helm of Maui 4 (luckily 'George' was in control!).

The Manoeuvre Trophy (a chrome-plated shoe-horn!) was awarded to Peter Roberts for his almost inch-perfect manoeuvres in his home marina when berthing Kasuku under some stress.

The Confessional Trophy (a rather large plinth-

mounted, nearly broken, two-bladed prop!) went to Eric Lowe (and, yes, it was originally Eric's prop!). Eric was assisting getting Oronsay into a berth in Ardglass Marina in Northern Ireland when his elegant leap with a mooring line became more of a hop, skip and jump into the harbour. His 'confession' was beautifully illustrated with its own PowerPoint show!

And – as they say – Much Fun was had by All!

Tony Wildig

