



MINUTES OF THE MOA (EAST COAST BRANCH) HELD 20TH JANUARY 2024 AT THE BULL GREAT TOTHAM

Item 1. apologies

The Secretary announced that there was a list of Member's apologies on the notice board at the entrance, but he added that there were two more to add. Firstly Robin Harris, the Treasurer had fallen sick this morning and would not be attending and secondly, Matt Stibbs, our new Web Master was unable to attend due to a prior engagement.

Item 2. The Branch Captains Report.

The Branch Captain gave his report:- Welcome to all of you and thank you for taking the trouble to come to our AGM in this cold weather. Since we last assembled here in Jan 2023, your Committee have continued arranging events both on and off the water, but at the start of the year, the weather and a lack of event organisers added to our difficulties.

As I guess many of you know by now, in the latter part of last year, your committee was strengthened by co-opting Matt Stibbs, who was already serving the MOA nationally as a member of the web team. Unfortunately, he is not able to be here today so, for those that don't know him, he sails a Moody 27 out of Chatham and importantly, is significantly younger than the rest of us on the committee, which will be good for the Branch's future.

And so to last year's Branch activities. For shorebased events, this AGM, the Medway noggin and natter so ably run by Linda, the fitting out lunch and the well attended laying up lunch at the Royal Corinthian, all went well being organised by Committee members with experience of running events for the Association.

However, the events afloat were under threat at the beginning of the season, both due to a lack of organisers and the weather. We had planned 6 events, but the first, on the Orwell and the last, on the Crouch. Did not attract enough support to be worthwhile and so were canceled.

The four events in the middle of the season at Ramsgate, Heybridge Basin, Burnham and Woodbridge fared better, the last two of these run by new volunteer organisers, John Holliday at Burnham and Steve Hillyard at Woodbridge. Both of these rallies were, by all accounts, very successful, if a bit low on numbers attending and thankfully they have both agreed to run repeats this year which I'm looking forward to. The Burnham event will be extended to include Fambridge with help from Giles Ford-Crush.

For the coming year's program, we are better off for organisers, although we have yet to find someone to organise the rally to Brightlingsea on the weekend of 21/22 September, and I'm hoping the weather will be better for us. We have put together an interesting program, please take a look at it on the MOA website and put the dates in your diaries. It includes a rally to Holland which Linda has offered to organise for us. If you're interested in that please let Linda know as soon as possible.

So, I'd like to thank all the Branch Committee and all our volunteer event organisers for the work they have put in to keeping the Branch active and all the event organisers. If any of you here are based near Brightlingsea, I would ask you to consider offering your services for the September rally.

It's my intention to e-mail a copy of our programme to each of you and you will, of course, get the invite to each of the events as they approach. I hope to meet many more of you at these events in the coming year.

There were no questions.

Item 3 the Treasurer's report.

Robin Harris being absent, the Secretary read out Robin's report:- As you can see from the accounts (*reproduced below*) in front of you,

a) we remain adequately solvent, in fact because of lower expenditure by host boats at our rallies, we seem to have trouble spending as much as we had planned.

b) The Central Committee continues to claw back a proportion of any underspending but I am glad to say that deductions from the 2024 subvention, which I have already received, is only £109.

c) For 2024 the intention is to increase our subsidy for our main lunches and we have here made a good start by keeping the cost to you, in spite of inflationary increases in the charges to us.

The secretary then asked for a seconder for the acceptance of the accounts proposed by Robin. Seconded by David Woolgar the accounts were accepted unanimously by those present.

Item 4. Presentations of Trophies.

The Secretary announced that as there had been no nominations for awarding the trophies there would be no presentations today. It was hoped that some possible candidates would appear in time for the Fitting Out Lunch.

Item 5. Any Other Business.

There was none.

Item 6. Election of Officers.

The Secretary announced that there had been no additional nominations for the Committee, so the members were as shown on the web site with the addition of Matt Stibbs, our new Web Master who to this point had been co-opted.

They are Peter Wright, Branch Captain; Robin Harris, Treasurer; Roger Price, Secretary; Matt Stibbs, Web Master; Alan Giles, Linda Jessop, Adrian Oliver and Colin Shead.

They were all proposed by Jane Giles, seconded by Dave Brooks and elected unanimously.

The meeting ended at 15.25.

Roger Price, Branch Secretary.