



Moody Owners Association



South West Branch Away Weekend and AGM

Holiday Inn, Cardiff Central 26th -28th January 2024

The 2023 South West Branch annual away weekend and annual general meeting was held at the Holiday Inn, Cardiff Central over the weekend of the 26-28 January 2024. This was brought forward a week as the Wales-Scotland six nations rugby match was being held in early February, which is traditionally our normal time. The committee apologise to those members who had not returned from their winter break or suffering jet lag. For 2025 the event has been booked for the 31st of January to the 2nd of February so please put it in your diary for 2025.

The weekend began with guests arriving on the Friday afternoon. We then met up at 1800 for a social and then had a meal together in the hotel restaurant. This was an excellent opportunity to meet up with old and new friends and to discuss matters of mutual interest.

On Saturday morning we all visited the National Museum of Wales. This is a magnificent museum with a wide range of exhibits ranging from the geological beginnings of Wales through the evolution of man to Welsh art and treasures.



After the museum many guests visited the city centre and at 1700 assembled for the Annual General meeting. This was held in a conference room and over 30 guests attended. Ann Kennedy agreed to take the minutes as we had no secretary. The branch captain reviewed the past year's events which included last year's AGM weekend and five rallies. Special mention was made of the port officers who had done a terrific job in organising the rallies and made them such a success.

The treasurer presented the annual accounts, which were accepted. Neil Ewins and Paul Kennedy were elected for a further year as branch captain and treasurer. A new branch secretary was required, and Peter Satchel volunteered to undertake the post. He was proposed, seconded, and elected unanimously by the members. Thank you, Peter, for filling this essential post. The post of vice captain was not pursued this year as the current incumbent was unable to stand again due to work commitments and no other nominations had been received.

The proposed programme for 2024 was presented to the meeting and was accepted. Five port officers had volunteered for the posts and duly appointed. A Port officer is still required for Plymouth, so if any member would like to volunteer for this post it would be very much welcomed.

It was a pleasure to award the 2023 South West Branch Achievement award to Ken Falcon, for his single-handed voyage from Plymouth to the firth of Clyde (this year going anti-

clockwise) via the East coast of England and Scotland and around the Orkney and Shetland Isles. A magnificent achievement for an octogenarian.

After the formal South West branch proceedings, John Oldham, on behalf of the MOA Executive Committee presented the MOA trophy for the best rebuild of a moody to a South West Branch member, John Owen. John had taken a Moody 33 and completed an impressive rebuild, which was done to the highest standards.



It is traditional at the South West Branch AGM and dinner to invite a special speaker to give a 30-minute talk. The subject can be on anything of interest, and this year we invited Bishop Richard to give us a talk on his experiences as the Bishop of St Helena (including the Ascension Islands). Bishop Richard, now retired, was bishop of St Helena, a diocese of the Anglican Church of South Africa,

from 2011 to 2018 and returned a couple of years later to fill a temporary vacancy (interregnum). His tales of the journey down to the South Atlantic and his time on the Island were fascinating and enjoyed by all.

After the talk we all assembled in the restaurant for the AGM dinner. The hotel welcomed us with bubbly and soft drinks and then we sat down for a most enjoyable meal. The hotel did a superb job and it was a very pleasant evening. This picture shows Bishop Richard and his wife, Jane, at the AGM dinner. After dinner we all retired to the social area to end the evening.



On the Sunday morning 19 of us joined a guided walk of Cardiff. Sarah, our excellent guide, led us from the hotel into a park where she gave us a flavour of the Welsh language. Needless to say, few of us could say more than please and thank you afterwards but it did show how difficult a language it is to learn unless



you start from birth. After leaving the park we toured the city and its old arcades and buildings. We were then escorted back to the hotel in time for those who were leaving to get home. Some of us stayed an extra day and met up again in the evening for a most enjoyable meal.

By bringing the event forward a week we avoided 80,000 rugby fans, and high hotel prices, but unfortunately it meant that some members could not attend. We agreed that for next year we would revert to our traditional window, as stated above. However, it was a great weekend break and attendance was good.