

Moody Owners Association - South West Branch

Minutes of the 2023 Annual General Meeting

held at 17:00 on Saturday, January 27th, 2024

at The Holiday Inn, Cardiff Central, Cardiff

Meeting was opened at 17:20 by the South West Branch Treasurer – Paul Kennedy

Paul Kennedy, acting as branch secretary in the absence of Rob Barnfield, opened the meeting with the formal notices and Neil welcomed everyone to the branch AGM.

Attendees:

Kevin Morgan & Mary Allen	Brett & Susan Whitby-Smith
Neil & Maxine Ewins	Geoff and Wendy Trebilcock
John & Lesley Oldham	Bob and Penny Dow
Ruth & Bob Keys	Nigel & Karen Ellis
Mel & Sue Bush	Peter Satchel and Kirstie Riddick
Ken Falcon	John Owen
Barry and Ruth Cundy	Bob Smith
Paul & Ann Kennedy	David and Jane Lucas

Apologies have been received from:

Margaret Wildig	Simon and Pat Brody
Eric and Pat Lowe	Francis Foster
Hillary & Kim Corney	Graham & Annie Sterry
Chris and Sheila Alcock	Douglas & Alison Field

Approval of the Minutes of the 2023 AGM

The minutes of the previous (2022) Annual General Meeting, held in Salisbury in the 4th of February 2023, were available online and copies were also available at the meeting.

There being no proposed amendments to the minutes, acceptance of the minutes was proposed, seconded and approved by the meeting as correct. They were then signed by the Branch Captain.

Matters Arising

The acting secretary reported on the membership - the membership has been steady over the year, with a membership at December 2023 of 311. The number used to determine the subvention is the paid up South West Branch membership on the 31st March 2023, which was 318. In addition, the

branch has 69 friends; that is members from other branches who ask for the South West Branch to be their second branch and are kept informed of our events.

There were no other matters arising.

South West Branch Captain's Report

This was delivered by Neil Ewins with the assistance of a PowerPoint presentation slides showing a small library of photographs taken at the events and rallies.

"The branch had held 6 events during 2023, one as a weekend event that included the 2022 AGM, and five rallies to South West Ports.

- Away Weekend and AGM – this was held in Salisbury over the weekend of the 4th February 2023. It was arranged by Paul Kennedy, and it was a great event. I [Neil] have received many notes of appreciation from the members who attended, and I thank Paul for his hard work in making it a success.
- Dartmouth – this is always a popular rally and 2023 was no exception. We had a good turnout and a nice meal to top it off.
- Fowey – this rally was arranged by Brett and Susan Whitby-Smith and was enjoyed by all. Brett and Sue did a great job in arranging the event and the super pontoon party.
- Falmouth – this rally was arranged by Alex Whatley, our Falmouth Port officer. Alex graced the Pontoon Party with genuine scones with the cream and jam in the right order. The rally dinner was held at the Pandora Inn and was a great event.
- Plymouth Fireworks – this rally is a classic in our annual programme and staged to coincide with the Plymouth National Fireworks competition. The rally is based at The Plymouth Yacht Haven and was organised by Paul Kennedy, with invaluable assistance from Peter Roberts, Brett and Sue Whitby-Smith, Alex Whatley and John Oldham. Brett and Sue put on a superb pontoon party and Alex Whatley arranged and conducted a tour of the Plymouth University Marine building, including its wave tank and two ship navigation simulators. The rally dinner was held at The Ocean View Restaurant at the Dome on the waterfront and is the best view in town to view the fireworks. It was a most successful couple of days, and we are most grateful to those who made it so. On a sad note, this was the final contribution that Peter Roberts was able to make as he very sadly died a few weeks after and he will be sorely missed.
- Brixham; 22 people attended, and the rally began with a pontoon party in a local hall and a rendition of Shakespeare by a local theatre group. The rally dinner was held on Saturday evening at the Berry Head Hotel. I [Neil Ewins] organised the rally with the invaluable support of the treasurer. It was a successful event and one that will remain in the calendar. It was, perhaps, a little late in the season as some owners had already put their boats ashore for the winter, so next year it will be held a few weeks earlier."

Treasurer's report and Branch accounts for FY 2023

The Treasurer, Paul Kennedy, presented the branch accounts and report, showing comparison between Financial Years (FY) 2022 and 2023. The branch no longer has any sponsors, but there was a small contribution by members who declined reimbursement of any overpayment of mooring fees.

Paul advised the meeting that a growing trend is for hotels, restaurants and marinas to ask for a deposit when booking, and this usually will exceed the budget for the particular rally. Although these deposits will usually be largely recovered from members when they pay for their meals and

berths, this will be closer to the rally and booking must be made months in advance if they are to be secured. Where possible we attempt to avoid paying deposits, but in some cases it is unavoidable. The type of bank account that we have does not allow use to go into debt, and neither should we, so it may be a problem as the year develops and could mean that it would not be possible to pre-book berths or meal venues.

John Oldham, the National MOA Treasurer, reminded the meeting that the branch could borrow money from the centre, but would need to be repaid.

The financial report was then offered to the meeting for comment and acceptance. There being no comment, it was proposed, seconded and approved by the meeting.

Election of Branch Officers

For the branch to operate it is essential to appoint a Captain, Secretary and Treasurer. For the past few years, the branch has also appointed a Vice Captain to assist the captain in their duties and as a potential lead-in to the post of Captain. However, although very useful this is not a post required by the MOA constitution. At the 2023 AGM the Captain was elected to office for two years to ensure continuity after the disruption caused by the Covid years, so this year it is required only to appoint a Treasurer and Secretary and nominations were sought from the membership.

The Nominations were as follows:

Branch Secretary: due to ill health the existing secretary was unable to offer his services for 2024 and no nominations had been received prior to the meeting

Neil Ewins [Branch Captain] suggested Paul Kennedy (the existing treasurer) could be nominated to do both the Secretary and Treasurer posts as the information systems allowed much of the work to be automated. Paul Kennedy responded by saying that the current eHarbour system was not capable of supporting this and he felt that we needed an additional person for the post. It is also a requirement of the MOA constitution.

After a period of discussion, Peter Satchel volunteered for the post of Branch Secretary and was proposed, seconded and elected by the meeting.

Branch Treasurer: Neil Ewins had nominated Paul Kennedy for this post and Paul had accepted the. This was then proposed (Mrs Sue Bush), seconded (Mr John Oldham) by the meeting and supported unanimously.

Vice Captain: no nominations had been received and due to work commitments the existing Vice Captain was unable to devote sufficient time to the work. No appointment was, therefore, made.

The acting Secretary, Paul Kennedy, thanked Peter for volunteering for the important post of Branch Secretary, and this was strongly endorsed by all those present.

Appointment of Port Officers

The South West Branch appoints Port Officers to support members at various locations within the branch, and they have done a superb job during the 2023 season. Without them the number of rallies that could have been arranged would have been fewer. Although not volunteering as Port

Officer for Fowey, Bret and Susan Whitby-Smith found themselves in the role at Fowey and arranged a super event. For 2024 they asked if someone else could be found for 2024, and Steve Clemens agreed to undertake the role.

The South West Branch port officers are:

Brixham -	Volunteer required
Dartmouth -	Tim Rothwell
Salcombe -	Graham Nurser
Plymouth -	Volunteer required
Fowey -	Steve Clemens
Falmouth -	Alex Whatley

South West Branch Trophies and Awards

The South West Branch has traditionally awarded two trophies: one for an outstanding achievement by a branch member, which is the Baton that was made for the South West Branch to celebrate the 30th Anniversary of the MOA; and one called the “Confession Trophy” for the sailor who confessed to an error or getting into an unfortunate predicament. Last year it was decided to no longer award the Confession Trophy and to designate the Achievement Trophy as an award to the branch member who had undertaken the most adventurous cruise.

This year it was proposed that the award should once again be given to Ken Falcon (Moody 376), who at the age of over 80 undertook a single-handed voyage from the South Coast to Scotland, this time going East and around the coast of England and Scotland via the Shetland and Orkney Islands to the Firth of Clyde.

Paul Kennedy will arrange for a plaque with Ken’s name to be inscribed onto the baton base.

It was agreed by all that Ken’s achievement was an inspiration to us all.

Programme for 2024

It was agreed that in 2024 the branch would aim to put on a full programme of events, including a boatless rally in early November. It was thought that mid-October was too late for the Brixham Rally, the last sailing rally of the season, as many people had put their yachts ashore by then so this would be brought forward by a few weeks. If anyone wanted to sail in company to any destination, this would be encouraged as an ad-hoc event, and they should notify the Secretary who can advise other members accordingly.

The programme for 2024/5 will be:

- 26-28 Jan – Away Weekend and 2023 AGM – Cardiff (this one)
- *10/11 May - Dartmouth Rally (Rally dinner booked at the Royal Castle Hotel, Dartmouth 11 May)
- *7/8 June – Fowey Rally
- *19/20 July – Falmouth Rally
- 14-16 August – Plymouth Rally (dinner booked at the Dome. Ocean View)
- *6/7 September - Brixham Rally
- *1-3 November - Boatless Rally at Camelot Castle, Tintagel

31st Jan-2nd Feb 2025 - Away weekend and 2024 AGM

*Dates confirmed after the meeting

Any Other Business

John Oldham reminded the meeting that this year's National AGM this year was being held in Belfast on the 9-11 February 2024. Visits had been arranged to the Titanic Museum and HMS Caroline.


Award of David Moody Award.

The David Moody Award is presented by the MOA General Committee to the person who has undertaken the most impressive restoration of a Moody yacht. For 2023 this was awarded to John Owen, a member of the South West branch who was unable to attend the National AGM but was present at the South West AGM. As John Oldham is the MOA Treasurer and was present, he was invited to present the award to John Owen on behalf of the General Committee.

John Owen had restored a Moody 33 to a very high standard. The work took him over 9 years. He was assisted by Robert Smith, who was also present.

There being no further business the meeting was formally closed at 18:05

Minutes approved by the 2024 AGM and signed:

Neil Ewins,
Captain, MOA South West Branch 

Date: 1st February 2025