

## South West Branch, Minutes of the 2014 Annual General Meeting

The 2014 Annual General Meeting of the MOA South West Branch was held at 1730 on 7<sup>th</sup> February 2015 at the Mercure Hotel, Exeter.

### Present

David Anderson	Gordon Harvey
Val Kearney	Gordon Harvey
Keith Bater	Diane Harvey
Helen Bater	Paul Kennedy
Norman Behenna	Ann Kennedy
Hilary Behenna	Bob Keys
Martin Bidmead	Ruth Keys
Penny Bidmead	Eric Lowe
Vernon Billett	<i>Branch Captain</i>
Madeline Billett	Pat Lowe
John Bray	Stuart Merrylees
Jill Bray	Elaine Merrylees
Simon Brody	Kevin Morgan
Pat Brody	Mary Allen
Keith Bunker	Jacky Neild
Nicky Bunker	<i>Port Officer - Dartmouth</i>
Sue Bush	John Oldham
Mel Bush	<i>Branch Secretary and Branch Webmaster</i>
Len Cheshire	Lesley Oldham
<i>Port Officer Falmouth</i>	Tony Redshaw
Pauline Cheshire	Eleanor Redshaw
Robert Cowley	Peter Roberts
Teresa Cowley	Jerry Row
Mark Cornish	Miranda Row
<i>Branch Treasurer and Port Officer</i>	Brian Sharp
<i>Burnham on Sea</i>	Pam Sharp
Dee Cornish	David Stephen
Ieuan Cornish	Sue Saunders
Roderick Dare	Andrew Taylor
Jackie Dare	Ed Tuijl
Philip Edwards	Rhona Hope
Joy Edwards	Andrew Wade
Peter Griffiths	Christine Wade
Cynthia Griffiths	Tony Wildig
David Harris	Margaret Wildig
Judith Harris	
Jack Griffiths	
Elizabeth Griffiths	

## **Apologies**

12 apologies for absence have been received, representing 23 members and partners. These are recorded below.

Chris Horsley	Richard Stafford
Christine Horsley	Sally Stafford
Peter Satchel	Daric Jarvis
Ken Scott	Pearl Jarvis
Marcia Scott	Mike Wood
David Lakin	Judy Wood
Annette Madison	Mike Allen
Jo Bower	Vivian Allen
Julian Bower	Steve Adam
Stuart Trought	Sheila Adam
Jane Fraser	David Rymer
	Clarissa Rymer

## **Welcome**

The meeting was opened at 1738 hrs with a welcome from our Captain.

## **Minutes of the 2013 AGM**

Paul Kennedy proposed and Len Cheshire seconded the approval of the minutes of the 2013 AGM that was held in Gloucester, 18<sup>th</sup> January 2014. There was no dissent to the unanimous approval of the minutes.

## **Matters Arising and Correspondence**

There were no matters arising or general correspondence.

## **Captain's Report**

The Captain gave an illustrated view of our 2014 sailing programme, a written summary of which is below.

2014 was a much better year for sailing (some of the time), at least for us, and I hope it was for you as well.

Activities for the branch began historically with the AGM for 2013. Traditionally this was just a minor part of the winter break. Although the hotel, the Hatherley Manor, was a little way out of Gloucester, access was easy. On the Saturday afternoon we had a tour of Gloucester Cathedral with a bonus of the organ playing and a choir practice. The AGM business was over fairly quickly with Mark Cornish reluctantly agreeing to serve another year as our treasurer, and Robert Cowley being presented with the Manoeuvre Trophy. Before dinner Jacky Harris, one of the volunteers in the National Waterways Museum, gave an illustrated talk on the history and development of the Gloucester and Sharpness canals. After dinner many retired to a very comfortable lounge for the inevitable consumption of alcohol and exchange of "yachty" stories.

In May we had the Falmouth Rally. The weather forecast looked favourable for a non-stop passage from Dartmouth, so we left on the afternoon ebb tide. Yes, the weather was suitable

- for motoring, as we did for 9 hours of the 13 hour passage. Len Cheshire, our Port Officer did a splendid job in organising the Harbour Authority moorings at a special price for us. A total of 36 people (branch members and guests) in 16 boats attended the weekend. The demand for places to join the visit to Falmouth MRCC was so great that we were split into two parties, in the information received was both helpful and informative. The rally dinner in the Royal Cornwall Yacht Club maintained its excellent standard and was thoroughly enjoyed by everyone.

In June our Secretary, John Oldham, organised a rally in Guernsey, the main purpose of which was to encourage those who had been wary of undertaking a channel crossing. A large muster of boats were assembled in the River Dart, and all but one set sail first thing on the morning of the 12<sup>th</sup> of June. Unfortunately I was the one who was delayed have wrapped a mooring line around the prop shaft. We had glorious weather in Guernsey, having a welcome pontoon party before moving to Havlet Bay for an impromptu barbeque. Everyone did “their own thing” during the day on Saturday, re-assembling in Moores Restaurant for the rally dinner. On Sunday we were given exclusive use of the Commodore’s room in the Guernsey Yacht Club, before making our departure. This rally attracted 59 people in 23 boats including some from the Solent branch.

The Plymouth rally, coinciding with the National Firework Competition, has become an established regular event for the South West branch. Although the rally extended from the Tuesday until Saturday, 25 boats and their associated crews attended some if not all of the events of the rally. Everyone came to the Rally dinner in Jolly Jacks, where a representative of each boat was presented with a bag and some “goodies”.

Our final rally of the year in September based in Dartmouth, had a cultural slant taking in visits to Greenway House (once owned by Agatha Christie) and Coletton Fishacre (the one time home of the D'Oyly Carte family). Five boats were moored on the pontoon allocated to us by the Dart Harbour and Navigation Authority. The 17 crew members they contained enjoyed a delicious meal in the Royal Dart Yacht Club on the Saturday evening.

This year, being the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Association, I felt it was important to organise an event in which most of the Branch membership would be available to join. I envisaged a baton, containing a scroll, being taken from harbour (or marina, anchorage etc) to harbour, taking in every location that our members keep their boats (within the UK). At every receiving point the person taking the baton would record a few details on the scroll. At the end of the year copies of the scroll would be distributed to every branch member, as a memento of the anniversary.

### **Treasurer’s Report**

The treasurer gave his report on branch finances. Adoption was proposed by Keith Bater and seconded by Paul Kennedy. They were unanimously adopted and can be found on the branch web pages.

### **Election of Treasurer**

Mark, having served an extra year as treasurer beyond the original two he was elected for wished to stand down. There was only one nomination and that was of Andrew Taylor. He was formally proposed by Eric Lowe and seconded by Gordon Harvey. His position was unanimously approved.

## Election of Captain and Secretary

Both captain and secretary had served for two years and thus their positions were available for election. There had been no nominations and both officers signalled their willingness to continue in role. This was proposed for the Captain by Keith Bunker and seconded by Peter Roberts and for the secretary, proposed by Keith Bunker and seconded by David Harris. Their positions were unanimously approved.

## Venue for next year's AGM and Events for 2015

The Captain outlined the possible programme for this year as shown below.

Date	Day	Venue	Event
8 <sup>th</sup> -10 <sup>th</sup> May	Friday to Sunday	Fowey	Fowey Festival of Words and Music
June		Scillies or Cardiff	
14 <sup>th</sup> to 19 <sup>th</sup> July	Tuesday to Sunday	<i>Cherboug Guernsey</i> St Peter Port	Commodore's 30 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary Rally <i>[National event] Bastille day</i>
18 <sup>th</sup> – 22 <sup>th</sup> August	Tuesday to Saturday	Plymouth	Including Firework competition, with evening meal and rally dinner on Friday 21 <sup>st</sup>
5 <sup>th</sup> September	Saturday	Brixham	Fishstock 2015 , visit Golden Hind

The 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary rally will be a national rather than a branch event. (Post meeting note. The website asks that members mail the commodore to register interest).

There was some discussion of the location and character of next year's AGM. Yeovil, Bath, Taunton and Cardiff were all mooted, subject to finding suitable activities and accommodation for the weekend. The concept of workshops on boat related maintenance was also suggested in addition/instead of what has become our cultural visit programme. These will be considered by the committee in due course.

## Any other business

Len Cheshire thanked the committee for organising the weekend and this was supported by a spontaneous round of applause.

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 1815 hrs

John Oldham,  
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