



Moody Owners Association (East Coast Branch)

Minutes of the 2015 AGM

Held at the Bull Great Totham on Saturday 31st January 2015 at 14.30 and attended by 45 officers and members.

1: Apologies for Absence.

The branch secretary reported that he had received nine apologies and a list was on display at the entrance.

2: Branch Captains Report.

Dick Holness, the Branch Captain, gave his report:-

Where have the last 12 months gone? Is it really a year since we were last here? Our 2014 indeed started here, with our AGM and lunch, and I think this is now the third time we have held the event here. It's tricky choosing a suitable venue that's reasonably accessible for the majority and I guess the committee has felt this one is as good as any. Of course it's nothing to do with the fact that the Branch Secretary lives just up the road.

Once again, too, we held the 'Noggin & Natter' at the Ferry Boat Inn at North Fambridge in March and it was well attended as usual. Not sure if Robin or Roger organised that, so thank you to both of them just in case.

We then had a crisis – our Fitting-Out Supper was booked at Bradwell Quay YC, but very unfortunately the club had an elf'n'safety crisis shortly before the due date.

Robin Harris did a sterling job of finding an alternative venue, and the event became a lunch instead of a supper, held jointly with the Westerly Class Association upriver at Blackwater Sailing Club. Unfortunately the change of date and venue and time of day didn't suit everyone and the numbers were down, but at least the event was held, well done Robin.

Then we had another crisis, we reluctantly decided to cancel the Rally to Burnham in May because of a lack of takers, very disappointing for Colin Brewer who kindly offered to organise it – perhaps it was just too early in the season and caught too many members still tinkering with their boats and not ready to sail them.

However, the next event at the end of May, a Rally at Suffolk Yacht Harbour, went ahead with a good crowd who braved chilly winds at the barbecue. They all looked pretty happy in the photos, so it must have gone well. Thank you very much to Peter and Penny Brown for organising it

Then the chilly winds went away and we started one of the best stretches of fine summer weather that we've had for years, just in time for an excellent Rally at Heybridge Basin. A big crowd of boats, lots of smiley faces, a smashing weekend and thank you to Mike Ballinger and his team for arranging it all. It's booked again for this July!

We had planned the next event to be at Tollesbury, but we got cold feet about the facilities there after some bad reports, so switched it to Burnham for another re-run of the Carnival Rally, blessed for once with decent weather. Chris Hennah couldn't be here today but a big thank-you to him for what proved to be another successful weekend.

In October, our thanks were due to Alan and Jane Giles who organised an excellent Laying-Up Supper at Bradwell Quay YC, with the addition of a speaker, my pal Roger Gaspar who is author of 'Crossing the Thames Estuary'. The meal and beverages must have gone well, because Roger told me he wasn't able to start his talk until nearly 11 o'clock so it really did turn into a late night.

And finally, at the end of November, Paul and Elaine Goodrick ran their popular soiree at the Ship and Trades pub at Chatham Marina, to round off the year.

So, what's to come this year?

The committee has been busy these past few months working on ideas for the 2015 branch events calendar. I'm pleased to report that the whole year's events list is already pretty much organized, including something very special. The events list is already on the website, and as we now reckon that every East Coast member uses email, we won't be sending out a printed copy this time.

Many of you will know from 'Compass' magazine that this year is the 30th Anniversary of the MOA. The 25th was marked with events round the country, and on the East Coast we had a special Rally to Burnham and a fine dinner at the Royal Corinthian. This time, something completely different. We have booked a lunch, on a Saturday in October, on a historic ship called the 'Wellington', moored in London along the Embankment near Charing Cross. The MOA has helped quite a lot with the cost of this, and the ticket price is extremely reasonable for what I am sure will be great event. We have also booked one of the most knowledgeable maritime speakers in London to entertain us. Mike Ballinger is master-minding this whole thing and it looks un-missable. There is a limit on the number of tickets, so it will be first-come first-served and MOA members only, unless it becomes clear we won't fill the spaces. There's a flyer available here with the outline details.

I'm standing down as Branch Captain this year to give someone else a bash at it – I did say a year ago that I would struggle to appear at many events in 2014 and that was indeed the case. I think that it is a job more suited to someone based in East Anglia rather than the extremities of East Kent.

I would like very much to thank Secretary Roger Price, Treasurer Robin Harris, and Webmaster Mike Ballinger, for their sterling efforts and support – most of 2014 happened quite smoothly without me! I must also thank my wife Angela for suffering me owning another responsibility for the last two years.

I do regret that we haven't managed to get anything going in the way of Branch activities outside the Thames Estuary. The Branch, which has 235 members, stretches from Dover to Berwick-on-Tweed, so the distances, particularly sailing, are a challenge. Perhaps the new committee can come up with something.

Thank you very much.

There were no questions.

3: Treasurer's Report.

The Branch Treasurer, Robin Harris, presented the accounts for past year (see separate document). During his explanation of the accounts to those present he said that this year we had managed to "spend well" even producing a slight deficit! Continuing Robin added that even though the majority of the membership was based in the Orwell to Medway area there was still money available to those in the far north or south of the East Coast Branch to subsidise an event if anyone could be persuaded to organise one. There were no questions, so Robin proposed that the accounts be accepted, this was seconded by Chris Hennah and carried unanimously.

4: Presentation of Trophies.

The Branch Captain presented the Paddington Trophy for attending the most Branch functions to Stuart and Debbie Halfhide. Dick remarked that the other two trophies would not be presented this year because of a lack of suitable recipients.

5: A.O.B.

There was no additional business to discuss.

6: Elections of Officers.

With Dick Holness standing down as Branch Captain the Secretary asked if there were any other nominations or volunteers apart from Mike Ballinger. Following an overwhelming hush the Secretary asked for a show of hands to confirm his appointment. Mike was elected unanimously.

The Secretary asked if there were any nominations or volunteers for the posts of Branch Treasurer, Branch Secretary or Web Master, again there was no response so the Secretary asked for a show of hands and Robin Harris, Roger Price along with Mike Ballinger as Web Master were re-elected unanimously.

The Secretary then announced that there had been two volunteers to serve on the Committee, Linda Jessop and Adrian Oliver. This was greeted with pleasant murmur of surprise from the meeting and they were both elected unanimously by the members present.

Mike Ballinger, the new branch Captain then presented the trophy for Service to the Branch to Dick Holness.

The meeting ended at 14.55.

Roger C. Price
Branch Secretary.

