

South West Branch, Minutes of the 2012 Annual General Meeting

The 2012 Annual General Meeting of the MOA South West Branch was held at 1800 on 26th January 2013 at the Mercure Holland House Hotel, Bristol.

Present

<i>Charles</i> Barker-Dodds	<i>Chris</i> Horsley
<i>Sally</i> Barker-Dodds Compass editor	<i>Christine</i> Horsley
<i>Keith</i> Bater Branch Webmaster	<i>Ann</i> Kennedy
<i>Keith</i> Bunker	<i>Paul</i> Kennedy Branch Captain
<i>Nicky</i> Bunker	<i>David</i> Lakin
<i>Jean</i> Clark	<i>Eric</i> Lowe
<i>Mark</i> Cornish Branch Treasurer and Port Officer, Burnham-on-Sea	<i>Pat</i> Lowe
<i>Karen</i> Cuming	<i>Annette</i> Maddison
<i>Jackie</i> Dare	<i>Jacky</i> Neild Port Officer, Dartmouth
<i>Roderick</i> Dare	<i>John</i> Oldham
<i>Cynthia</i> Griffiths	<i>Lesley</i> Oldham
<i>Peter</i> Griffiths Port Officer, Plymouth	<i>John</i> Ormsbey-Rymer
<i>David</i> Harris	<i>Clarissa</i> Ormsby-Rymer
<i>Judith</i> Harris	<i>Robert</i> Prunty
	<i>Jeff</i> Williams Port Officer, River Exe

Apologies

47 apologies for absence have been received. These are recorded but will not be listed here. The names are available on request from the secretary.

Appointment of Branch Secretary

Since Richard Hodder was unable to attend the meeting, the appointment of a new branch secretary was brought forward in the agenda. There was one nomination, Mr. John Oldham. He was proposed by Paul Kennedy and seconded by Chris Horsley. The appointment was approved unanimously.

Minutes of the 2011 AGM

Keith Bater proposed and Mark Cornish seconded the approval of the minutes of the 2011 AGM that was held in Wells, Somerset on the 14th January 2012. A show of hands confirmed the approval.

Captain's report

The South West Branch Captain, Paul Kennedy, began his report by stating that he felt that once again the South West Branch has seen a successful year despite the awful weather that many had experienced. The branch membership was holding up well with now up to 289. There is always a steady flow of people joining and leaving the Association as people sell their boats and new owners join. Overall, the trend is for membership to increase as owners recognise and appreciate the help that the MOA can give in maintaining their boats and provide an invaluable source of experience. Also as the MOA membership registrar Paul said that he was in a good position to see these comings and goings and that he was encouraged by the enthusiasm of members. He said that, as reported last year, the MOA had continued to build its technical data base, although this has slowed a little as the information provided by Princess Yachts had been absorbed and some detective work was now needed to complete the task. This work is being done by volunteers who are busy with their jobs and also trying to get in the odd week of sailing – between squalls. The project is now being co-ordinated by John Johnston.

For 2012 the plan was to hold five events: a joint Solent and South West rally to Poole, and rallies to The Exe, Cardiff, Plymouth to coincide with the National Fireworks Competition and a Captain's rally to Cherbourg and St Vaast. All these rallies went ahead although the rally to the River Exe was not well attended as the river was in flood due to the exceptionally heavy summer rains. A few people collected in the Exe (Paul said that he went by road, as did Mark). The success of the rallies was in no small part due to the generous sponsorship of £1,000 from Mr John McCurdy of Pantaenius Marine Insurance, which the branch used to provide a subsidy for all the activities.

Once again Paul reminded members that, unlike some other branches, the SW Branch had a coastline of some 3,000 miles and, as such, our events were focussed on having rallies where the actual sailing was often "getting there", and members could then enjoy socialising with other like minded participants.

Once again some 15% of the South West membership attended one or more of the 2012 rallies, which is higher than the other branches. Each of the rallies has been reported in Compass so to save time Paul did not go into any detail on the events. However, he formally thanked Mark and Dee Cornish, who set up this [AGM 2013] event, Jeff Williams and Karen Cuming for the Exe Rally, Peter Satchel for the Cardiff Rally, Peter and Cynthia Griffiths for the Plymouth Rally and John and Kerry McCurdy (Pantaenius Marine Insurance) for their hard work and strong support to the branch in organising a super set of events. Without them we would not have a programme. The Captains Rally to Cherbourg and St Vaast was a successful mix of social events and sailing, which a 4 hour cruise from Cherbourg to St Vaast. This proved a good end to a season of good and bad weather. However, a characteristic that we once again observed is that the wind is always from the direction of intended travel, so flexibility is the name of the game. In addition to the five rallies, there was also an ad-hoc meet in Dartmouth just before the Plymouth rally, where the Port Offices from the Exe and Dartmouth met up with the Captain while on his way to Plymouth.

The MOA, like all similar associations, is entirely dependent of volunteers, and to maintain our house magazine, Compass as the best in the business Sally needs your contributions. I was amazed, and surprised, to receive the trophy at the annual National AGM for the best article in Compass, and I am sure that it was not deserved but simply to stop me inundating Sally with articles on rudder seals and holding tanks. "Your Sally needs you". He, therefore, encouraged all members to consider writing an article for Compass on topics such as sailing

experiences, technical articles on “how- to” and he mentioned the readers page “Signal Pad” where members can send in short alerts and warning on any issue or comment on articles. He mentioned that membership of MOA now represents owners of about half the number of all Moody boats built that are still in service.

Finally, Paul stated that this would definitely be his last meeting as Captain of the South West Branch as he is standing down at the end of the AGM. However, he said that he was leaving the branch in very capable hands and had very much enjoyed his 6 years as Captain. He thanks the wholehearted support of the branch members and the officers of the branch, without whom he could not have done his job.

Secretary’s Report

Richard Hodder, who was unable to attend due to a family commitment, stated by e-mail that there was nothing he could add to Paul’s comprehensive report.

Treasurer’s Report

Copies of the Branch accounts had been circulated in advance. Mark Cornish echoed Paul’s gratitude to Pantaenius Marine Insurance for its generous support to the branch, and said that this support is vital to making the South West events a success. Mark summarised the year, mentioning that we would finish the year with a small working balance. This would ensure we received our full subvention next year. There was some discussion of the impact of the sponsorship from Pantaenius, and Paul had confirmation from the national committee that such sponsorship would not impact the subvention from the centre.

Events for 2013

Paul led the discussion by suggesting that the principle of 4-5 events including the Captain’s rally seemed to meet the needs of the geographically widespread group. Whilst branches such as Solent could expect a reasonably large group for a short sailing event, because of the long coastline served, just getting to an event was a cruise by itself and as a result, the events focussed much more on the social side. Even so, a greater proportion of the membership attended at least one of the rallies than other branches. He recommended following a similar programme in 2013 and that the new captain quickly set up discussions with the port officers as they had proved invaluable in helping the events programme.

There followed some discussion of a possible event in Dartmouth and the port officer commented that the venue was not at its best during the regatta week, nor was it easy to find a mooring.

Election of Officers

Following the election of the new secretary earlier in the meeting, the post of Captain was also up for reselection and members had been invited to submit nominations. Paul had declared that they wished to stand down this year as he had been in post for 6 years and it was time for new blood. Only one nomination for Captain had been received; Eric Lowe had indicated that he would be prepared to stand. Chris Horsley proposed and Peter Griffiths seconded the nomination. Eric was elected unanimously.

Date and Venue for next year's AGM.

A short discussion confirmed that the format of a winter break with a theme which may go beyond sailing but included the South West Branch AGM had again been very successful given that it encouraged more members to join than would be the case with just an AGM. As to location, Paul commented that the area of North Somerset was a reasonable approximation to the geographical centre of the branch's members homes. It was also agreed that a timing of early January to wipe away the Christmas "blues" was found to be sound but that it should avoid the dates of the London boat show.

John suggested Exeter, with a theme of weather might be a location for next year, but encouraged the membership to pitch in over the next few weeks with alternate suggestions before the next year's location is chosen.

Any other business

John asked the meeting to thank Paul for all his hard work in the last six years in reinvigorating the SW branch. This was done wholeheartedly. David Harris expressed his thanks to all for their help to him, a new member. There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned to the reception.

John Oldham,
Secretary, SW Branch, Moody Owners Association
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