

South West Branch, Minutes of the 2013 Annual General Meeting

The 2013 Annual General Meeting of the MOA South West Branch was held at 1800 on 18th January 2014 at the Hatherley Manor Hotel, Gloucester.

Present

Keith Bater	David Hynam
Helen Bater	David Hynam
John Bray	Paul Kennedy
Jill Bray	Ann Kennedy
Simon Brody	Bob Keys
Pat Brody	Ruth Keys
Keith Bunker	Eric Lowe
Nicky Bunker	<i>Branch Captain</i>
Len Cheshire	Pat Lowe
<i>Port Officer Falmouth</i>	Jacky Neild
Pauline Cheshire	<i>Port Officer - Dartmouth</i>
Jean Clark	John Oldham
Keith Copus	<i>Branch Secretary and Branch</i>
Heather Copus	<i>Webmaster</i>
Mark Cornish	Lesley Oldham
<i>Branch Treasurer and Port</i>	Bob Prunty
<i>Officer Burnham on Sea</i>	Dennis Royle
Dee Cornish	Gwen Royle
Ieuan Cornish	David Rymer
Robert Cowley	Clarissa Rymer
Teresa Cowley	Peter Satchel
Jennifer Crew	<i>Port Officer - Cardiff</i>
David Harris	Ed Tuijl
Judith Harris	Rhona Hope
Betty Haynes	Tony Wildig
	Margaret Wildig

Apologies

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

Minutes of the 2011 AGM

Paul Kennedy proposed and Keith Copus seconded the approval of the minutes of the 2012 AGM that was held in Bristol, 26th January 2013. There was no dissent to the unanimous approval of the minutes.

Matters Arising and Correspondence

The secretary reported that there were no matters arising and only one item of correspondence from Peter Griffiths, who stated that he was trying to find someone to take over the organisation of the Plymouth rally should we wish to hold one this year.

Captain's Report

The Captain entertained the meeting with an illustrated report of the year's events, with his formal report below.

In my first year as your Captain I have had the dedicated support of the Port Officers, secretary and treasurer making it look easy and enjoyable. Our catchment area notionally extends from Aberystwyth to Weymouth. Actually, we welcome any member who is interested in activities in our area and according to current listing our branch has boats moored in Greenock, Baltimore, La Roche Bernard, the Algarve and Turkey. Membership this year has increased slightly and is now at 288.

The year did not start well for our first rally in Cardiff. The Port Officer, Peter Satchel, had only recently changed his boat, and he spent a lot of time working on it before bringing it back to his home port. This programme of work took him rather longer than he expected, and as the date of the rally approached it became increasingly uncertain that he would be able to attend. The weather was not on his side and he finally had to admit defeat. I was there to see members as they arrived, but we had to shelter from the rain under a small gazebo as the rain was incessant. By early afternoon the rain had stopped and a large crowd on the embankment watched the arrival of "Libra Lass" as she was safely moored in a tight berth against a strong cross-wind. The Marina was celebrating an open day and put on a barbeque for everyone to enjoy, including us. In the evening, branch members assembled at the Café Rouge for dinner. So we're sorry you missed it, Peter, but thank you for all the groundwork you did, organising it for us!

Our second rally, in Plymouth, included the ever popular National Firework Competition. Peter and Cynthia Griffiths did a splendid job in organising all the activities, including moorings in Mayflower marina. The rally attracted 17 boats, including one from the East Coast Branch! Two of the visiting boats took advantage of the special terms for a quick haul-out and a D-I-Y scrub-off between events. Apart from the dinner and a firework viewing from the Royal Plymouth Corinthian Yacht Club a number of other events had been organized for the rally. These included visits to Mount Edgcumbe, where our captain and others took advantage of trying out a Segway. (Pictures of his exploits have been published in Compass and on the web.) The barbeque was held in a partitioned-off area of the car park and was a very successful social evening, enjoyed by everyone. The tour around the Plymouth Gin Works was very informative, and the historical information was fascinating. Afterwards, some of the party took the opportunity to sample the product.

The weather was again against us for the Dartmouth rally, but it was very well attended even though only one boat attended, mine! We had a leisurely walk to the castle on Friday evening, followed by a meal, once we had found an establishment that was prepared to accept us. Our Port Officer Jacky Neild had been able to arrange a private tour of the Britannia Royal Naval College on the Saturday. The 24 members who attended felt very privileged at being able to see the inner workings of the foremost naval officer training establishment. As well as being given a detailed history, we had a tour of the principal rooms within the college.

In the evening we went by passenger ferry across to Kingswear for an excellent meal at the Royal Dart Yacht Club.

Our last rally took us to Falmouth, where our new Port Officer Len Cheshire organised a tour of the National Maritime Museum for us. There was an amazing range of exhibits including a rescue helicopter, the living quarters of a lighthouse and a replica of Tony Bullimore's refuge in his capsized yacht. One of the first things to be seen on entering the museum was Sir Ben Ainslie's dinghy in which he won a gold medal at the 2012 Olympics. On the upper floors were interactive exhibits on weather, navigation and hull shapes. The rally dinner was held in the Royal Cornwall Yacht Club, with views over the estuary. On the following day we went to the National Trust garden at Trelissick. We were very fortunate in that it was Apple Weekend, and on display were examples of over 300 varieties of apples. In the orchard two apple presses were at work and we were able to sample some delicious fresh apple juice. Although it was October, the gardens were still attractive, and a small group walked around the perimeter, which gave us superb views down the Carrick Roads from an elevated position.

Treasurer's Report

Copies of the Branch accounts had been circulated in advance. Mark summarised the year, mentioning that we would finish the year with a working balance, thanks in no small measure to the generous support of Pantaenius Yacht Insurance whose MD is a SW branch member. It was moved to accept the accounts and this was proposed by Keith Bunker and seconded by Len Cheshire. Again these were accepted unanimously.

Election of Treasurer

Having completed two years in post, the treasurer was eligible for re-election. There were no nominations and Mark Cornish was happy to take on the role for a further year, Mark was confirmed as the treasurer for the coming year. Mark did, however, state that he was only prepared to carry on with the role for one further year.

Venue for next year's AGM and Events for 2014

It was clear from the increase in attendance at the AGM in this format, that it was proving a popular and viable way of getting attendance at the AGM. John pointed out it was particularly encouraging when considering the geographical spread of membership.

There was a short discussion on the potential venues for next year. Cardiff, though suggested, was seen as a significantly long way for the bulk of the membership and was ruled out. Other suggestions included Exeter, Salisbury, Bath, Yeovil (with the Fleet Air Arm Museum as focus) and a return to Wells. The meeting was happy to let the committee develop this into a firm plan for the next AGM.

With the aid of a map, John identified the main harbours/destinations appropriate to us. Eric pointed out that the fireworks competition provided a great focus for an event in Plymouth and it was agreed to include this. Fowey during Regatta Week was also suggested as a potential as there would be a good range of activities and John also pointed out the proximity of the Eden project for a visit.

The idea of a potential rally to Portland, jointly with Solent branch was put forward and Eric agreed to sound out the Solent Branch on the enthusiasm for this.

John also stated that although many were happy with crossing the Channel, in discussion with several owners, it was clear that a cruise in company with a Channel Island destination might prove popular. John will canvas opinion from the membership on this.

The members were happy for the committee to work up a balanced programme for the year.

Any other business

Eric presented the Manoeuvre Trophy to Bob Cowley for his excellent boat handling skills demonstrated at the Cardiff rally. There being no other business, the meeting was closed at 18:40, and members then adjourned to the lounge.

John Oldham,
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