



## **Minutes of the East Coast Branch of the Moody Owners Association 2014**

Held at the Bull, Great Totham, on Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup>.February at 14.45 and attended by 44 members and officers.

### **1: Apologies for Absence.**

The branch secretary reported that there had been 19 apologies for absence and he did not intend to read them out but there was a list on display at the entrance.

### **2: Branch Captains Report.**

#### **Events**

Our 2013 season started with the AGM right here in this same room back in February. As I recall the weather was very cold, and just a day or two later we had a heavy snowfall. Rather different this year!

In March we had what has become our customary meet-up at the Ferry Boat Inn at Fambridge. A good crowd turned up once again and enjoyed a good natter and Sunday lunch. The following month, our Fitting-Out Supper was at the Shipwreck, at Shotley Marina. The attendance for this was surprisingly low, and I don't think we ever really found out why. The place did get some bad press on the ybw.com website a while before, which may have had a bearing on it, but in the event the venue and the meal were both very good.

Another regular event, the rally to the Rochester Sweeps Festival, was once again badly affected by the weather – I don't think anyone actually sailed there – but a good crowd turned up by road, including some all the way from West Mersea, and everyone enjoyed the evening at Gillingham Marina.

Seven boats and quite a few cars made it to the June Barbecue rally at Levington, in fine but very chilly weather. The barbecue came in very useful for keeping people warm as well as for cooking food! But a month later, early in July, the Heybridge Rally was nicely timed to coincide with the beginning of a long spell of glorious weather, and the weekend was much enjoyed by a big crowd - 13 boats arrived and some didn't tear themselves away until the Monday.

In late August we had a rally at Ramsgate which went surprisingly well despite the fact that no Ramsgate-based members at all were able to get to it. Boats did travel from far and wide, including one from Cherbourg ... well; they were on their way home to Chatham.

Our last rally was another regular event, Burnham Carnival, but with attendance down on previous years the organisers wonder if it's had its time.

For our Laying-Up Supper we went back to Heybridge and the Ship inn where we had excellent attendance and a very good evening. And last of all, the Winter Get-Together took place again at Chatham In November with a small group of hardy folk attending.

Those who organised one or some of these events were Roger Price, Robin Harris, Paul Goodrick, Paul Yate, Nick Raven, and Chris Hennah, together with their respective partners, and by way of a 'thank you' we should give them all a big hand.

This year's programme is still somewhat in the melting pot so we haven't sent it out yet, but a draft of it will be on the website next week, and when we've padded it out a bit more we will post a copy to every member. One thing that is holding us up, though, is a lack of folk to run the rallies – at present we have rallies set for early June, at Levington, and Heybridge again in July, but right now we have nothing definite for May, August or September. If anyone would be able to help out we'd all be grateful – obviously each is a commitment but in all honesty it is not hard work! If any of you think you might be able help, chat to me after lunch or get in touch later on when you've had a think about it.

In the meantime we have the Ferry Boat visit at Fambridge on Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> March to look forward to, and emails have already gone out about this to everyone. The date is also set for the Fitting-Out Supper, April 12<sup>th</sup> at Bradwell.

## **Members and Mailing**

Having said we've emailed you about Fambridge, can I remind you that aside from the full events list which we will eventually post to every member, the only communications you will get from the Branch are by email. Do please make sure you let the MOA know if you change your address.

## **Membership**

Branch membership is up 8% on a year ago, now standing at 241.

Membership has kept its centre of gravity very much in Essex and Suffolk, and I am very conscious that there are quite a few members based further north for whom our events are far far away and perhaps only feasible to attend on a summer cruise. I would love to see some events being organized further north but in the end it can only be down to locals to organize events in their own area, with financial support always available from the committee.

## **Committee Changes**

We have run with the same committee throughout the year – Robin Harris in his umpteenth year as Treasurer, Colin Shead in his umpteenth year as webmaster, and new boys Roger Price as Secretary and me as Branch Captain. But Colin has decided that he must stand down and I'm pleased that Mike Ballinger has kindly offered to step in and take over the webmaster job.

I remain geographically challenged living in East Kent, it's a heck of a long way to anywhere even just to East Anglia and I do think that someone living or sailing more locally could get involved more and do a much better job. So if anyone here would like to be Branch Captain, I shall be delighted to nominate you when we get to item 5 on the Agenda!

## **Accounts**

The 2012 accounts for the Branch were completed and sent to the MOA Treasurer on time.

Finally I would like to thank committee members Robin Harris, Roger Price and Colin Shead for their commitment and hard work during 2013.

There were no questions.

## **3: Treasurer's Report**

The Treasurer, Robin Harris, presented the accounts to the members (see separate document) and having explained them to the members; there being no questions he requested a proposer and seconder to accept the accounts.

Acceptance of the accounts were proposed by Chris Henna and seconded by James Littlewood and carried unanimously.

## **4: Presentation of Trophies.**

The Branch Captain, Dick, explained that this year all three trophies were going to be presented.

The Branch Trophy was presented to Colin Shead for his outstanding contribution to the Branch as Web Master over many years.

The Clark & Carter Plate was presented to James & Carol Littlewood to mark their outstanding long distant cruises in Paddington iv. The Captain remarked that he was very pleased that although they had sold their Moody they had decided to remain in touch with the Branch.

Finally the Captain presented the Paddington Cup. Although originally for "outstanding seamanship", the committee has decided that this year it was to be presented to the member who had attended most events. This proved to be

not as easy as first thought as a number of members/vessels tied. So after a draw from a hat it was presented to Mike & Jill Ballinger of Raindance.

#### **5: Election of Branch Officers/Committee.**

Although the Branch Captain had pleaded for volunteers to boost the Committee, both via the Emailed AGM notification and to the members present there had been a negative response. Colin Shead, the Web Master, had decided to step down but fortunately an unpressurised volunteer had come forward to take his place.

Therefore as there were no other nominations the following were elected unanimously.

Branch Captain	Dick Holness.
Branch Treasurer	Robin Harris.
Branch Secretary	Roger Price.
Web Master	Mike Ballinger.

Following the election Dick Holness announced intention to stand down as Branch Captain at the next AGM. This was greeted with mass disagreement from those present.

#### **6: A O B**

Chris Hennah announced that he had the usual selection of burgees, glasses, cook books etc for sale if any members required them.

The Meeting ended at 15.30.

Roger Price, Branch Secretary.