

The Society of Master Mariners South Africa

CAPE TOWN BRANCH

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MINUTES OF THE 76TH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE CAPE TOWN BRANCH OF THE SOCIETY OF MASTER MARINERS OF SOUTH AFRICA WHICH WAS HELD IN THE MARITIME ROOM AT THE SURVIVAL TRAINING CENTRE OF THE CAPE TOWN PENINSULA UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY, GRANGER BAY CAMPUS AT 17:00 ON TUESDAY 02 MAY 2017.

1. OPENING

The Master opened the meeting at 1710 with all upstanding for the reading of the Creed. A moment's silence was observed for the passing of Captain Dai Davies.

2. PRESENT

R Whitehead, C Flockhart, L Merriman, B Ingpen, B Bunton, D Henwood, K Burchell, S Pearson.

3. APOLOGIES

I Fishley, C Kingon, N Lawson, N Sloane, J Clarke, L Lawson, P Baxter, L Crole. The Committee was pleased to hear that Louis Crole was recovering from his recent operation and scheduled to go home tomorrow.

4. NOTICE OF MEETING

Notice of the meeting had been duly circulated.

5. CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES OF THE 75TH AGM

The Minutes of the 75th AGM were tabled, and adopted. Proposed by D Henwood and seconded by L Merriman.

5.1 Matters arising from previous Minutes

Nil

6. ANNUAL REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE TO THE CAPE TOWN BRANCH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2017

In the year since our last Branch AGM your committee has met in open session every month except for January this year.

The committee would like to thank all members who have attended meetings. Even though we typically have only a very small percentage of our membership attending, these meetings are always informative and offer a great opportunity to catch up with news of members and maritime issues. Our quorum stands at three, but this is usually comfortably exceeded.

Given the similar make-up of the Branch committee and the Executive committee, much of the Society's business is covered at the Branch meetings so as to avoid unnecessary duplication of effort.

One of the continuing issues that have occupied debate within the monthly meetings has been the future direction of maritime education and training in South Africa. A recent development

has been the introduction of a basic SI/S2 SAMSA recognised OOW course at private institution SSTG. Our early experience of this will be reported under 10.2.

The Branch has also kept close to developments at CPUT, DUT, SAMSA, Lawhill, the NSRI, the Cape Town Mission and other maritime organisations.

Through EXCO we have been keeping a close watch on the progress SAMSA is making with issuance of new “Manila” COC’s. The latest issue we have flagged as a Branch has been possible changes to taxation of seafarers.

Socially we have continued to enjoy joint-lunches with the GBOBA in the RCYC and we would like to thank the speakers who have provided the occasional talks at these functions.

The annual cricket match against the Marine Engineers has not taken place for a few years. SAIMENA have proposed an action- cricket fixture, the Secretary will provide anyone interested in taking this forward with a copy of the proposal.

Our annual wreath laying and memorial service for the Merchant Seamen who died during the wars has continued, but there is a notable decline in attendance numbers.

In conclusion then, we would once again thank those members who have continued to actively support the Branch and our particular thanks to Sue Whitehead for organising drinks and snacks at meetings.

7. ADDRESS BY THE SOCIETY PRESIDENT

Thank you in for the opportunity to address you once again.

At last year’s Branch AGMs it was agreed that the Society should commemorate our long term association with the NSRI as part of a legacy commemorating our 75th anniversary. The Society, via 2 of our Saldanha-based members, had initiated the establishment of an NSRI base in Lambert’s Bay – an area notorious for fog and loss of life at sea – particularly among fishermen. I am pleased to report that, largely due the efforts of Lloyd Merriman, we managed to raise R60,000 which was handed over to the NSRI’s CEO, Dr Cleeve Robinson, at the Society’s joint Christmas lunch with the GBOBA in December. We have received written thanks from Cleeve who confirmed the funds would be used to support the Lamberts Bay NSRI Station 24.

The second thing we agreed to do was to introduce a prestigious award recognising exceptional achievement within the marine professional field. This was brought on as a result of members feelings that Nick Sloane was not properly recognised by the South African Government for his achievements in the salvage of the Costa Concordia. Our plan is to introduce a medal and suitably framed citation to be presented on an annual basis – if there is considered to be an exceptional candidate. Draft designs for the medal are currently being developed by a graphic artist for our consideration and Tony Nicholas has done some initial costings for the production of a medal. We still need to decide on a name for the medal as well as the criteria to be used in adjudicating for potential awarding of same. I would welcome some discussion on this at this AGM.

The everyday work of the Society continues however and we need to remind ourselves from time to time of our mission, which is:

- to promote and protect the professional interests of South African Shipmasters, Deck Officers and certificated personnel ashore employed in related marine professions,
- to monitor and support maritime education and training,

- to ensure the South African Government, its associated agencies and the maritime industry generally benefit from the collective expertise of the Society's membership.

The first of these – promote and protect – is a critical one as it is a key reason for members belonging to the Society as it impacts directly on their jobs.

Several issues directly related to this part of our mission are relevant at the moment. Examples of these are:

☒ the issuance of the new CoC's complying with the Manila amendments to the STCW Convention. Exco has stayed close to this issue and despite some early obstacles, the process now seems to be running smoothly. I must thank our SAMSA members who have kept us informed of progress and who have worked hard to ensure the new certificates are issued timeously.

☒ Misinterpretation of the Facilitation of International Maritime Traffic Convention (the FAL Convention) by Home Affairs officials who treat attempted stowaways the same actual stowaways with the resultant pressure on the Master to accept Home Affairs' decision in order to sail on schedule. I have written a letter to the Minister of Home Affairs to put on record our objection to this misuse of authority. I must once again thank Malcolm Hartwell for his legal input into our written submissions.

The second of the Society's missions mentioned above, namely, to monitor and support maritime education and training continues with Cape Town Branch particularly participating in the CPUT's Industry Advisory Committee meetings. Lance Tiedt has been our representative at these meetings but, given his employment in Saldanha Bay, found it difficult to make all the meetings. Fortunately Anne Myers has agreed to take over his role as our representative and she will keep us informed of developments. Unfortunately we receive very little feedback from DUT.

In August last year we published our policy document entitled "Maritime Education and Training for Seafarers – the Seafarer's Perspective". The document is available for reading on our website. It has been sent to the CEO's of SAMSA and SAIMI as well as to the Operation Phakisa Working Group.

The third of the Society's missions stated earlier – i.e. to ensure the South African Government, its associated agencies and the maritime industry generally benefit from the collective expertise of the Society's membership – is partly satisfied by our presence on SAMSA's Syllabus Working Committee where we are ably represented by Captain Simon Pearson who attends all these meetings.

Over the last few years, we have discussed the role of the Executive Committee in light of its member's distribution around South Africa and the use of internet communications to keep committee members in touch. Essentially the Society works increasingly within the Branches – in the case of Cape Town and Richards Bay branches particularly. Exco members and the Cape Town Branch are made up of essentially the same members resulting in an unnecessary duplication of meetings and work.

Exco's main responsibility is to look after the financial welfare of the Society and administer its membership. Further it has the responsibility to officially represent the Society in policy matters. It is also tasked with arranging the National AGM each year. All of these responsibilities can be handled electronically – which is the way we currently operate.

In August last year we launched our new website. This site allows us to edit and post information to all members quickly and easily. Our membership list is built into it and so all members are sent a link almost immediately a new post is set up. I am still trying to get companies to advertise on our site which, at only R2500 for a year, should be within every company's budget. I would you all to push your companies to support this.

Once again I would like to thank my committee for their support and assistance during the year as well as our Branch Masters, Port Representatives and those members who take an active role in the work of the Society.

Rob Whitehead
President

8. ELECTION OF BRANCH COMMITTEE

8.1 The Secretary advised no new nominations had been received.

8.2 Election of Committee Members:-

Master – R Whitehead

Deputy Master – L Merriman standing in for I Fishley

Secretary – C Flockhart

L Crole, K Burchell, C Kingon, B Bunton, L Merriman.

CPUT rep – A Myers, S Pearson alternate.

9. MEMBERSHIP

9.1 Membership Report

Currently, the Cape Town Branch comprises 175 members made up as follows:

- MEMBERS 104 (an increase of 3 members over the prior year)
- MEMBERS (RETIRED) 19 (same as prior year)
- ASSOCIATE MEMBERS 23 (a decrease of 1 members over the prior year)
- STUDENT MEMBERS 17 (same as prior year)
- AFFILIATE MEMBERS 6 (an increase of 1 member over the prior year)
- HONORARY MEMBERS 6 (same as prior year)

R Whitehead pointed out that student membership lasted for three years and some of those early members' time must be up by now, hopefully they could become associates or affiliates.

Membership brochures had been circulated.

The Port Authorities, SAMSA and CPUT are also fertile grounds for recruitment, something we must take more advantage of in future.

9.2 Honorary Membership – B Ingpen, M Schooling, J Hare, D Owen, S Whitehead. It was agreed that the membership of those members would be continued. It was agreed that as Rev. C Lange had retired out of town he would be removed from the Honorary Membership List. As the new Chaplain at the Mission to Seafarers was Ashley Peterson the awarding of Honorary Membership to him was discussed.

10. REPORTS ON OUTSIDE ORGANISATIONS

10.1 Membership of IFSMA – R Whitehead reported that he was now a member on behalf of SOMMSA in order to retain a link. He did disseminate their information on the website.

10.2 Bursary Fund – C Flockhart reported that the MOU had been signed off some time ago, and they were awaiting the auditor's accounts and the procedures from the auditors in order to close down the SOMMSA funds and transfer the funds to the GBOBA Fund. The GBOBA Fund had taken the step to send at least two students to the new S1 / S2 OOW course at SSTG. K Burchell advised that they were currently 10 to 11 students on this course. All were writing the Maths and Science modules now. There will be a July camp. C Flockhart advised that he would table what should be a final report at the NAGM.

11. NATIONAL AGM 2017 MATTERS

11.1 Confirmation of date and venue – 18th August 2017. Still discussing whether to try Richards Bay or Port Elizabeth, otherwise probably Cape Town.

11.2 Branch delegates to National AGM – to be advised.

11.3 Mandate for Benevolent and Bursary Fund allocation – to remain at 7%

11.4 Branch Mandate for annual subs – 5% increase

11.5 Taxation of Seafarers (Exco matter) - to be watched closely and monitored for any changes .

11.6 Branch Items for National AGM – Nil received so far

There was a proposal to invite the CEO of SAIMI to the NAGM.

12. GENERAL

S Pearson will be attending the SAMSA Syllabus Working Committee meeting in Durban as the SOMMSA representative. In the doc's bundle, sent prior to this meeting, reference was made to an IMO resolution proposing that the offshore drilling MODU's are incorporated into STCW₇₄ so that their offshore workers are trained in line with STCW standards. Simon will report back after the SWC mtg in D'bn at the branch's next meeting (Tuesday 6th.)

13. CLOSURE

The meeting closed at 1850.

R WHITEHEAD

C FLOCKHART

MASTER

SECRETARY