

# The Society of Master Mariners South Africa



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## **RICHARDS BAY BRANCH**

MINUTES OF THE 32<sup>nd</sup> ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING (COMBINED WITH THE MONTHLY BRANCH MEETING) HELD IN THE LIBRARY OF THE RICHARDS BAY COMBINED SEAFARERS' CLUB ON 17 MAY 2018.

1. **OPENING:**

The meeting commenced at 16h40 when the Branch Master Captain Winston Lobo welcomed all to the meeting and everybody stood for the reading of the creed.

2. **PRESENT:**

Winston Lobo, Derek Wood, Simon Aggett, Mike Patterson, Dave Teague, Keith Marks, Mark Classen, Hannes Pretorius and Allan Heydorn.

3. **APOLOGIES:**

Jerald Rabie and Rob Farren-Hanford.

4. **NOTICE OF MEETING:**

The notice of the meeting had been duly circulated.

5. **CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES OF THE 31<sup>st</sup> AGM:**

The minutes of the 31<sup>st</sup> AGM were tabled and adopted. (Proposed by Derek Wood and seconded by Mike Classen).

6. **NATIONAL TREASURER'S REPORT:**

This will be covered at the National AGM.

7. **ANNUAL REPORT OF THE BRANCH COMMITTEE:**

The branch has held 9 meetings since the last Annual General Meeting.

The Christmas dinner was held in January 2018 due to the absence of many members during December 2017. The venue was the Outpost Restaurant at the Richards Bay Country Club and was enjoyed by all.

8. **PRESIDENT'S REPORT:**

This was read out at the meeting and is attached hereto.

9. **ELECTION OF BRANCH COMMITTEE:**

A new Branch Master, namely Simon Aggett has been appointed. The Deputy Branch Master Derek Wood and Secretary Allan Heydorn were re-elected to serve a further term.

10. **MEMBERSHIP:**

Discussions around the revival of SAMPA (South African Maritime Professional Association) were held. Such organisation enjoys an extremely wide membership which some felt was not necessarily beneficial as conflict of interest could arise.

Keith Marks advised that there was a big drive in the United Kingdom aimed at the younger generation to revive interest in becoming seafarers.

Discussions followed regarding President Ramapoza's State of the Nation Address in which the importance of Operation Phakisa was stressed which has the purpose of unlocking the economic potential of the oceans which could give rise to new maritime career possibilities.

Current Members:

Winston Lobo, Rob Farren-Hanford, Dave Teague, Derek Wood and Keith Marks.

Affiliate Members:

Allan Heydorn and Gerald Rabie.

Honourary Members:

Mark Classen. Johannes Pretorius and Mike Patterson.

11. **NATIONAL AGM 2018 MATTERS:**

Winston Lobo will furnish details of the forthcoming National AGM.

12. **GENERAL:**

Keith Marks referred to his subscription to a magazine published in the United Kingdom and specifically to an article he had recently read on the subject: *"How do you make a seaman"?*

Keith posed the question whether a young seafarer who would eventually move up the ranks to become a qualified officer would acquire the skills of basic seamanship given the amount of electronic equipment (ECDIS, radar etc) available to modern vessels.

Discussions followed on the essence of seamanship which besides managing the electronic equipment would include running and organizing the crew, skills such as anchoring etc. Derek Wood pointed out that anchoring should be the master's responsibility.

Consensus was reached that notwithstanding advanced technological systems, it is essential to develop the skills of basic seamanship.

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13. **CLOSURE:**

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting closed at 18h15.

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**Winston Lobo**  
**(Master)**  
**Richards Bay Branch**

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**A J Heydorn**  
**(Secretary)**