



# THE SOCIETY OF MASTER MARINERS SOUTH AFRICA

## Minutes of the 73<sup>rd</sup> Annual General Meeting of the Society held at the Lawhill Maritime Centre, Simons Town on the 18<sup>th</sup> August 2017

### 1. Welcome

- 1.1. Following a brief welcome to the Lawhill Maritime Centre by Debbie Owen, the President read the Creed and welcomed all present to the National AGM.

The following members who passed over the side were remembered:

- Bill Damerrell
- Emilo De Souza
- Gerry Ryan
- Cliff Bragg

Alastair Struthers, though not a member, had done good work for Lawhill in the early days.

- 1.2. The attendance register was circulated, the following were present:

MEMBERS: Rob Whitehead, Charles Kingon, Colin Flockhart, Ian Fishley, Lloyd Merriman, Tony Nicholas, Keith Burchell, Louis Crole, Derek Wood, Kevin Tate.

ASSOCIATE MEMBER:.

STUDENT MEMBERS:

AFFILIATE MEMBERS:

HONORARY: Brian Ingpen. Debbie Owen.

Noted that the branches were represented as follows:

CPT – R. Whitehead.

PLZ – Nil

RCB – D. Wood.

### 2. Apologies

- 2.1. The following apologies were received and tabled:

Chris Savage, Sean Minogue, Lauren Lawson, Keith Pletschke, Ann Pletschke, Paul Baxter, Dennis Henwood, Guy Barker, Hugo Schuitemaker ; Tiaan. Rabie; Richard Terhorst; Simon Pearson, Antoinette Keller, Chris Kortum, Andy MacLennan. Neil Lawson, Okkie Grapouw, Johan Swart; Peter Coetzer; Stephen Bayman, Lance Tiedt, Rob. Young, Ivor Little, Eric Bismeyer, Mandy Maquire, Robin Row, Nick Sloane, Winston Lobo, Mike Meyer, Nigel Campbell, Bernard Bunton, Justin Barrett, Msekeli Jobela, Alan Reid, Peter Potgieter, Anne Myers, Nick Hagan, Tony Fussell, Ian Harvey..

### 3. Additional items for the Agenda

3.1. Dennis Henwood raised a concern over cargo securing in West African ports, to be included under item 17.5 – Other Matters.

#### **4. Minutes of the 71st AGM**

4.1. No Errors and/or omissions in the minutes were tabled

4.2. The minutes were confirmed on a proposal by Keith Burchell and seconded by Lloyd Merriman.

#### **5. Matters arising from the 72<sup>nd</sup> AGM not listed as Agenda Items**

5.1. NIL.

#### **6. President's Report**

*"Thank you for providing me with an opportunity to update you with the work of the Society over the last 12 months.*

*Almost exactly 1 year ago we launched our new website. This has been my main avenue of maintaining communications with our members. The website is managed by myself and allows me to distribute relevant information daily if so required.*

*Given the difficulty in finding an editor for a regular newsletter, this is the only real alternative. I would appreciate feedback from members as to whether they find the webmails useful and sufficient for the basis of our communications.*

*Also, we need members to contribute more material for our website. Many of you are working in very interesting environments around the world and must have occasions when your experiences would be useful to other members. Issues such as piracy protection, bribery demands from port officials, crew issues and technical challenges involving your vessel operations – all these invaluable experiences should be shared with our membership (anonymously if preferred). I will happily post them on our website to share with your fellow seafarers.*

*Over the last 2 years we have been working on the Society's decision to introduce a "Society Medal" recognizing exceptional professional achievement by a Master Mariner. The medal design has been finalised and the costs identified.*

*To remind you – the original motivation for this award was the Society's concern that the salvage of the Costa Concordia which was led by a South African Master Mariner whose achievement brought international recognition to the quality of South Africa marine expertise yet was ignored by the South African Government when the same individual was nominated for national honours.*

*During the last year, there has been much debate about the criteria to be used for making the award. Some members hold the view that it should only be awarded to a serving shipmaster for actions while in command of a vessel while the other view is that it could also be awarded to a Master Mariner while employed ashore – such as in the Costa Concordia case.*

*Several questions concerning this award need to be decided by this National AGM today. These are:*

- 1. Only to be made to a certificated Master Mariner and/or Watchkeeping Deck Officer?*
- 2. Must hold a South African CoC?*
- 3. Must hold a valid CoC?*
- 4. Must be South African citizen or Permanent Resident?*
- 5. Must be a member of the Society?*
- 6. Must only be for activities while in command of a vessel or also for someone employed ashore?*
- 7. Who makes the decision to award a medal?*
- 8. Can be awarded posthumously?*

9. Define criteria for consideration of an award.

10. Name of the medal?

*These issues will be debated and finalise later under item 17 of today's AGM and I look forward to your contributions in this regard.*

*My feelings are that the award should be made to a certificated Master Mariner who, by an exceptional action, has brought the highest honour to our profession by him or her exercising the pinnacle of marine skills acquired as a result of their Master Mariner's qualifications and experience – but I will go with the majority opinion as expressed by our delegates today.*

*Once again, today, we will vote in a new Executive Committee who will manage the business of the Society for the next year. This year the President is up for election for a 2-year term as provided for in the constitution. All other Exco members are elected for a 12-month period.*

*A concern of mine and of some outgoing Exco members is the fact that we do not have a separate National Treasurer – myself having to take this responsibility along with the Presidency. This is not a healthy situation for any organisation but has been dictated by the lack of any volunteers to take up this important position. In today's internet-based world, the National Treasurer does not have to be resident in Cape Town but could perform the task from anywhere in the country.*

*Once again I appeal to our membership to contribute to the Society's proper functioning by offering their services to the Executive Committee – particularly the position of National Treasurer.*

*In conclusion then I would like to thank all those members who continue to give me moral and physical support in the work of our Society. Most of these individuals already have positions in several other marine-related organisations and are thereby already fully committed. Most of our members are however in a position to offer more support and it is to these members I look to for more involvement.*

*Each one of you is the Society – we are the people who make it what it is. Every member's contribution forms part of the whole of what we are. No member can ever blame "the Society" for perceived failings or lack of action – we can only blame ourselves individually for not doing something that would contribute to our collective success.*

*I look forward exploring ways in which we can continue to ensure we are good for our claimed objective as "the authoritative voice of South Africa's Marine Professionals".*

*Thank You."*

## **7. National Treasurer's Report**

- 7.1. The President tabled the draft audited accounts for the year ending February 2017. See **Addendum 1**.
- 7.2. The audited accounts were unanimously confirmed by all. To be signed off by EXCO.
- 7.3. The auditors for the past financial year, APBCO Auditors Inc, were confirmed to be retained for the present financial year.
- 7.4. The President tabled the budget for the 2017/2018 financial year:

CENTRAL FUND BUDGET				
	2017/2018 BUDGET	2017/2018 ACTUAL JUL YTD	COMMENT ON ACTUAL YTD	2018/2019 BUDGET
<b>INCOME</b>	<b>R 94 575,00</b>	<b>R 46 475,44</b>		<b>R 94 575,00</b>
Membership fees	R 92 575,00	R 45 275,00		R 92 575,00
Interest	R 2 000,00	R 1 200,44		R 2 000,00
<b>EXPENSES</b>	<b>R 46 450,00</b>	<b>R 19 177,66</b>		<b>R 57 950,00</b>
National AGM airfares & shuttle	R 7 000,00			R 7 000,00
National AGM accommodation	R 6 500,00	R 9 000,00		R 10 000,00
National AGM catering	R 2 500,00			R 3 000,00
Branch AGM airfares	R 6 000,00			R 7 000,00
Branch AGM car hire	R 2 000,00			R 2 000,00
Branch AGM accommodation	R -			R 2 000,00
Branch AGM catering DBN	R 1 500,00			R 1 500,00
Branch AGM catering CTN	R 1 500,00	R 1 682,93		R 2 000,00
Branch AGM catering PLZ	R 1 200,00	R 1 200,00		R 1 200,00
Branch AGM catering RCB	R 1 200,00	R 1 639,00		R 1 200,00
Catering Branch functions	R 1 000,00	R 1 225,00		R 1 000,00
Catering CT Branch Memorial Service	R 1 000,00			R 1 000,00
Wreaths	R 800,00	R 400,00		R 800,00
Lawhill book prize	R 1 500,00			R 1 500,00
Website & Internet costs	R 3 000,00			R 3 000,00
IFSMA fees	R -			R 800,00
SAMSA Syllabus Committee	R -	R 3 124,38		R 3 200,00
General expenses	R 1 500,00			R 1 500,00
Auditors	R 4 750,00			R 4 750,00
Bookkeeping	R 500,00			R 500,00
Donations	R 1 500,00			R 1 500,00
Bank charges	R 1 500,00	R 906,35		R 1 500,00
Income tax	R -			R -
<b>SURPLUS/DEFICIT</b>	<b>R 48 125,00</b>	<b>R 27 297,78</b>		<b>R 36 625,00</b>
MEMBERS	160	R475,00	R76 000,00	R475,00
ASSOCIATE MEMBERS	27	R425,00	R11 475,00	R425,00
AFFILIATE MEMBERS	12	R425,00	R5 100,00	R425,00
STUDENT	18	R0,00	R0,00	R0,00
			R92 575,00	

7.4.1. There was brief discussion, with a suggestion to increase the subs to R500. There was unanimous approval to leave all subs as is for the following year, viz:

Members: ZAR475.00 per annum

Associate and Affiliates: ZAR425.00 per annum

Students: A nominal ZAR25.00 for 3 year membership.

7.4.2. The 2017/2018 budget proposal was met with unanimous approval.

7.5. Honorariums. Keith Burchell proposed a bouquet of flowers to Sue Whitehead for her assistance, particularly with the membership matters. This was met with unanimous approval.

## **8. Benevolent Fund Report**

8.1. The Chairman tabled his report:

*“The financial situation of the Benevolent Fund is sound albeit that our cash on hand has reduced quite significantly due to support we have been providing to beneficiaries.*

*Our main investment is our Old Mutual “Investors Fund” Unit Trust account which is currently valued at R1,955,129.82. In addition to these Unit Trusts the Fund has R52,270 in cash.*

*In July 2015 the Governing Board of the Benevolent Fund undertook to support Nicole Stohr the widow of Hub Stohr. The Fund committed a significant amount to this and appealed to the general membership for contributions as well. We had an overwhelming response from members as well as from members of the GBOBA and to date have received R200,230.12 in donations (mostly anonymously – making it impossible to thank the individuals concerned personally). Nicole has asked me several times to thank the members of the Society and GBOBA for their support which has given her great peace of mind.*

*In the last few months Nicole sold her house and has bought a smaller house thereby reducing her needs for Fund support. Also, her mother recently died and, once her house is sold, she should be even more secure financially. There is a limited amount of the donated funds still available for Nicole’s support should she need it and we will hold it for emergency support as and when needed. The Fund has supported another long-term member who has had to move into frail care since May this year. This support is for an initial 6 month period and will be reviewed in November 2017. In closing then I would like to thank the members of the Fund’s Governing Board for their support and advice during the year.”*

8.2. There was brief discussion for a 5% mandate but decided to keep the 7.5% mandate as is.

There was unanimous approval from those present for the incoming governing board to work to a maximum of 7.5% of available funds to service any member’s need that may arise.

## **9. Bursary Fund Report**

9.1. The Chairman, Colin Flockhart, tabled his report:

*“1. Members will recall from the discussions appertaining to this subject at the SOMMSA 2016 AGM that in my Annual Report under Para 3 outlined the most important issue which was the proposed incorporation of our Fund into the GBOBA Bursary Fund. As per para 10 of the Minutes of that AGM, the proposal was carried unanimously, but it was agreed that an MOU be drawn up with the GBOBABF to set out the procedure. I attach a copy of this MOU (**Addendum II**). Our Treasurer was recently authorised to transfer the majority balance of our funds to the GBOBABF, leaving a residual balance to cover auditor’s winding-up fees etc.*

*2. Our representation on the GBOBABF is on the Tertiary sub-committee, being primarily to ensure that the SOMMSA wish to continue support of students to Tertiary level at CPUT / DUT / SSTG continues, and I confirm this is in progress.*

*3. Apart from our representation on the Tertiary sub-committee, I would like to encourage the Society as a whole to continue to support the Golf Day and other fund-raising initiatives of the GBOBABF.*

*4. Reverting back to our last report on our residual students, Paras 1-2, I regret to advise that the two candidates we had come to a stuttering halt at CPUT due to failed rewrites, and therefore we suspended further support to them. If they reapply for support we will forward their applications to GBOBABF with / without our recommendations as the case may be. For this reason there are currently no further calls on our funds. I therefore attach a copy of the draft financials to 28<sup>th</sup> February 2017. (**Addendum III**)*

*5. The previous SOMMSABF Board of four persons remained in place after the last NAGM, but comes up for re-election under 7.3 of the Constitution. As there are a few formalities still to be concluded, not least SARS approval, I ask that the Board as-is be re-approved with the addition of T Rabie to finalise matters, but at the next SOMMSA NAGM the Fund will have ceased existence and the requirement be reduced to our representation on the GBOBABF Fund Tertiary Committee.*

6. *At this stage I would like to mention that the GBOBABF is doing a massive amount of work, much of their resources going into their project, more than we can ever do. Keith Burchell is in a much better position to give us a rundown on these activities, which he may if time permits.*

7. *Before I finish, it is with some concern that the job opportunities from the number of students graduating are few and far between, especially considering the current shipping market. There is not too much we can do about this, but if any members have contacts in the shipping industry their influence would be appreciated.”*

9.2. Agreed that the auditors would be progressing the wind up of the fund with SARS. The account is to be closed with remaining funds transferred to the GBOBA BF. Any final auditors fees to be covered by the GBOBABF.

9.3. Keith Burchell gave a brief run down of the challenges for cadets to go to sea. Improving their practical abilities with NSRI, sea cadets camp and possibly STC for Able Seaman training. Students with practical training achieve more at the college and are more employable to shipping companies.

9.4. 2 x SOMMSA members to the GBOBABF Tertiary sub-Committee, Colin Flockhart and Tiaan Rabe, were confirmed to continue as such.

## **10. Reports from the Branches**

10.1. Cape Town Branch report tabled by Rob Whitehead:

*“In the year since our last Branch AGM our committee has met in open session every month except for January and August 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 as it progresses.*

*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.*

*It is with great sadness that we learnt of the passing of Captain Bill Damerell, Cape Town member and Past President of the Society*

*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 and assisting behind the scenes."*

Keith Burchell suggested that Nautical Institute members attend SOMMSA meetings. Rob Whitehead suggested more guest speakers on technical subjects

10.2. Port Elizabeth branch report by Siegfried Duwe, read by Rob Whitehead:

*"Greetings to our fellow Master Mariners.*

*I have taken the liberty of using most of Graham Emberson's report at our AGM*

*The branch now comprises 12 members, 2 of whom live abroad or out of town. Of the 10 members who reside locally 7 attended at least one meeting during the past 12 months and 5 of these attend meetings regularly. Fifty percent of the "regulars" are over 70.*

*I will read out the current list of members in alphabetical order.*

*Bob Brindle  
Daron Burgess  
Nigel Campbell  
Rodney Chalk  
John Davies  
Ziggy Duwe  
Graham Emberson  
Hans Frahm  
Harry Freaker  
Charles Leerah  
Neville Noble  
John White*

*We recently lost Captain Cliff Bragg who passed away on 13<sup>th</sup> May*

*Until 2014 we had 10 ordinary meetings per year plus the AGM and Congress*

*In 2015 we had 9 ordinary meetings per year plus the AGM and Congress*

*In 2016 we had 8 ordinary meetings per year plus the AGM and Congress*

*This year (since the last AGM) we had 7 ordinary meetings with an average of 3.6 members attending each meeting. The prognosis is these numbers will dwindle as our membership is whittled away by natural attrition. We are required to hold a minimum of 6 ordinary meetings per year to maintain our branch status. Meetings attended by less than 3 members are not countable.*

*Forecasting the future of the branch is like forecasting when we will sail into Advective Fog. There are 2 graph lines, one for Sea Temperature and one for Dew Point Temperature and where they meet there is Fog.*

*Our achievements this year include representation at the AGM by John Davies.*

*And representation by members at Grey High School Cadet Corps ceremonies, Trooping the Colour and Beating the Retreat*

*Sea Sunday at St. Mary's cathedral.*

*Naval Officers Association of Southern Africa, Quarterly luncheons*

*Naval Officers Association of Southern Africa, Trafalgar Day dinner*

*However our most enjoyable achievement is the continuing friendship of our members and their exchange of information, nautical, non nautical and personal. The master, an ex fisherman, is happily led astray by shoals of red herrings at every meeting.*

*At a meeting on Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> August 2016 I made the following statement:-*

*“Looking to the future I see no profit in continuing the branch in its present form. Most of us are too old and too long from the sea to contribute practically to Society business. For my own part I was last at sea during February 2016 and already feel out of touch.*

*My recommendations are this branch is closed and replaced with two young Port Representatives, one each for Coega and Port Elizabeth and the existing memberships transferred to branches of members choice”*

*My suggestion was rejected, three of the members present said they enjoyed the meetings and did not want the branch closed, consequently we continued for another year.*

*Now here we are again almost a year later. Nothing has changed except we are a little bit older and smaller in numbers.*

*The “sailing into advective fog” scenario can be postponed a little longer if the members who do not regularly attend meetings put in an appearance now and again, they will always be made very welcome.*

*I cannot ask more of our regular members, their loyalty to this branch and their friends is irreproachable - an example to us all.*

*I want to talk about item 10 on the agenda “The election of Office Bearers” As Master I will be stepping down today after 24 months service and I will not be available again for re-election as Master.*

*Before signing off I wish to thank Neville Noble for his secretarial work and Rob Whitehead, our President, who has been my guiding light throughout.*

*Graham Emberson,  
Master*

*Siegfried Duwe has taken up the “command” again with Neville Noble as the secretary. From my side the fellowship and yarns from yonder keeps the nautical spirit alive and is really enjoyed. We also share the recent developments of those still having a hand in the marine field. The NSRI kindly took Cliffs ashes out to the Bell Buoy recently (July)*

*Kind regards and wishes for a successful AGM.  
Ziggy.”*

#### 10.3. Richards Bay Branch report by Derek Wood:

*“The Mr. President, Gentlemen,*

*Kindly note my apologies (Winston Lobo) for not being able to attend this AGM, Capt. Derek Wood is representing the Richards Bay branch.*

*We had 7 meetings held since the last AGM with average of 3 members attending the meetings.*

*We have 5 members in the branch, Bob Brindle, a member of the PE branch attends our monthly meetings when possible, he is on a contract with TNPA as a pilot.*



*We have two Honourary members, Mark Classen and Johannes Pretorius from the Seafarers mission, we would like to extend honorary membership to Mr. Mike Patterson of the NSRI, he is a dedicated volunteer for over 40 years.*

*At the branch AGM, There being no new nominations, the existing committee was re-elected.*

*The Christmas dinner was held in December at the Outpost Restaurant at the Richards Bay Country Club and was enjoyed by all.*

*The branch meetings are very informative with many discussions relating to seafarers, shipping industry, port, held during the meeting and informally over beer at the bar.*

*Special thanks to the branch members for making time to attend the meetings and their active participation.*

*I would like to thank our president Rob Whitehead and members of EXCO for your time and continued dedication to the society.*

*Thank you.”*

10.4. Durban Port Representative report. None available.

10.5. Mossel Bay Port representative Guy Barker tabled this report:

*“As I sit here on the TENACITY discharging 52,000 m3 of Condensate loaded in Malabo, Equatorial Guinea we can reflect on the past year which has progressed very quickly. The Tenacity was formerly known as the British Tenacity a BP tanker sold recently en bloc with a number of other BP tankers including the British Envoy which traded on the SA and Namibian coast for the account of BP. The discharge operation will take about 4 days all told.*

*Once again we have had a busy year in Mossel Bay with 120 tanker port calls to load and discharge PetroSA product at the SPM and CBM. The number of tankers calling at the CBM have dropped quite substantially sine PetroSA stopped exporting Industrial Alcohol which has been a by product of the Gas to Liquid refining process.*

*In addition my colleagues and I have been occupied with a few STS operations in Cape Town and the recent start up of the LPG project in Saldanha Bay where bulk LPG is discharged from a Multiple Buoy Mooring into the Sunrise Energy terminal.*

*We have two offshore supply vessels operating out of Mossel Bay servicing the FA Platform and the Orca which is still at anchor off Great Brak awaiting PetroSA's decision in regard to future employment.*

*Our Buoy Tender Vessel drydocked in Cape Town in July as the Mossel Bay slipway was unavailable due to lack on ongoing maintenance thereto.*

*The SPM will be drydocked at Quay 4 in October. This should effectively extend the lifetime of the SPM for another 5 years noting that the Buoy was built in 1991 by Elgin Brown and Hammer in Durban. Coastal shipping activities will be serviced via the CBM during this period.*

*As members are aware the Mossel Bay Yacht Club is involved in litigation with TNPA regarding the lease of the MBYC. This was reported recently in the Sunday Times.*

*The gas supply from the FA Platform is decreasing steadily and PetroSA are currently maintains refinery production by way of importing Condensate and Light Crude Oil.*

*Insofar as membership is concerned we do have a few members resident in the Garden Route. We had a recent GBOBA gettogether organized by Stuart McAllister. Hope to see more of Stuart in the future.  
If anyone is passing through give me a call.*

*Enjoy the Congress*

*Aye Yours  
Guy Barker*

10.6. Saldanha Bay Port Representative's report submitted by Lance Tiedt, read by Rob Whitehead:

*"Progress is slow on all fronts.*

***Aquaculture** – fish farming plan for the Langebaan lagoon, part of – a government led initiative under threat by "Save Our Lagoon" -a Local anti any development in any part of the Bay lobby. It is very difficult to progress any form of development in the Langebaan Lagoon without some body of concerned citizens finding reasons why it should not take place.*

*LPG gas imports have commenced to **Sunrise Energy** via a MBM ( Multi Buoy Mooring) which is been managed by AMSOL.*

*Avedia – other LPG storage facility is in operation and importing product to this facility, by loading road tankers directly from the ship – and then from the road tankers into the shore storage facility? Second Bulk Crude Oil Storage facility been built under the MOGS brand, is going ahead, with a proposed completion date end 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter 2018, I am unsure if the issue of the tie in to the existing pipe line has been resolved. That is so that the new tank farm would be able to make use of the existing loading arms on the Oil Jetty.*

*Socially we continue to have two braais' a year, which have all been held at the Langebaan yacht club, these are not exclusive events but inclusive of all Maritime related persons in the Port, i.e.*

*Harbour Master and Pilots are invited as well as GBOBA's.*

*Next braai will be towards the end of November 2017, and probably a lunch time affair – as some participants have indicated that they are not wanting to drive at night. !*

*Regards*

*Lance Tiedt."*

## **11. Marine Education and Training Reports**

### 11.1. Lawhill Maritime Centre

Debbie Owen gave us an extensive run down of recent activities in and around the LMC. Too much to include here, if not already on her newsletter distribution list, do contact her to be included. Highlights of the year: Building works completed and official opening in March 2017 by Premier Helen Zille. The yacht donation, Homero, official launch April. 24 grade 10 students with many coming in the top 10 of the grade. Total of 62 students this year, 66 planned for next year. Mentoring is being pushed harder this year with assistance from the GBOBA BF. Also assistance from industry with AMSOL and Safmarine helping to prepare the grade 12s for tertiary education. Looking to encourage entrepreneurial endeavours amongst students, not only maritime matters.

11.2. Cape Peninsula University of Technology ( A. Myers) No report at present.

11.3. Durban University of Technology. No representation since Colin Johnsen left. Rob Whitehead is looking to work with Hugo Schuitemaker to re-establish contact with DUT.

11.4. SAMTRA Report. The SAMTRA CEO, Ivan Heesom-Green gave a presentation of the history, structure, achievements and future plans for SAMTRA. This was very interesting, the meeting was left feeling that our maritime training was in good hands.

11.5. SAMSA "Panel of Experts" report – Simon Pearson. No meeting for 3 years.

11.6. SAMSA Syllabus Working Committee – Simon.Pearson submitted the following:

*“Re: Summary of the 24<sup>th</sup>. Syllabus Working Committee in Durban (10 May 2017)*

*The Committee, chaired by the Chief Examiner SAMSA, was well attended by representatives of SAMSA, the training institutions and the various associations.*

*A number of reports were tabled including the Senior Examiners (Deck and Engineering) Annual Report 2016-2017.*

*The committee was generally supportive of the Report on the examinations results for the previous year but the format needed addressing and some of the results (e.g. the Chief Mates in RoR) were alarming. A suggestion was tabled to have a sub-committee look into investigating these poor results and their findings to be tabled at the October meeting.*

*For those Society members wanting to read this examiners' report in more detail can contact the Hon Sec who is has a copy for distribution.*

*Ms Azola Nkota (SAMSA) tabled a report and used a PP presentation to explain new requirements esp on the format of certification from an accredited institution so that there is uniformity and clarity on all certification. SAMSA reminded all attendees that Certificates of Proficiency (COP's) and Certificates of Competency (COC's) are only issued by SAMSA under the STCW<sub>78</sub> requirements. Certificates from colleges are not to be used to demonstrate compliance with Port State audits of officer/rating training evidence.*

*Ms. Yvette De Klerk(SAIMI) gave an interesting feedback talk on her attendance to the Transas Conference in Malta.*

*Of particular interest was the future of ships and the management thereof using high tech computers. Technology is advancing at a great rate and the syllabus as taught today by our higher learning institutions needs reviewing.*

*The Registrar of Shipping tabled his report on the current state in SAMSA of the issuing of Manila (2010) certification. It would seem that the issuing of certification is under control with the extension allowed by the IMO.*

*The quality and font size of the new certificates was again raised and generally it was felt that improvements could be made to enhance the S. African CoC.*

*An ongoing matter is that of the training and certification of personnel working on MODU's (Mobile Offshore Drilling Unit) inline with a proposal from the IMO. Safety training as currently delivered would need to be reviewed to incorporate the training required specifically for MODU's. Sea-time on MODU's is currently not recognised for advancing to a higher level of certification. This decision could be reviewed in line with what other administrations allow so that SA is not isolated.*

*A full report of the proceedings of the 24<sup>th</sup>. Syllabus Working Committee is available from the Hon Secretary.*

*Simon Pearson “*

## **12. Prizes and Awards for 2017**

- 12.1. Lawhill Maritime Centre: Best Learner in Nautical Science. Agreed that SOMMSA would again award a suitable book prize this year.
- 12.2. CPUT prize – no prize has been awarded for several years.
- 12.3. DUT – there is an existing floating trophy to be awarded.

## **13. IFSMA report**

As SOMMSA is no longer a member of IFSMA, there is no report. SOMMSA sponsors the President's membership fees so he receives all the reports from IFSMA and posts them on the website as necessary.

## 14. Membership Report

14.1. The President tabled the report:

<b>MEMBER-SHIP TYPE</b>	<b>CTN</b>	<b>DBN</b>	<b>PLZ</b>	<b>RCB</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>
MEMBER	103 (101)	44 (44)	8 (9)	6 (6)	<b>161</b> <b>(160)</b>
LIFE MEMBER	0 (0)	1 (1)	0 (0)	0 (0)	<b>1 (1)</b>
MEMBER RETIRED	18 (18)	13 (14)	6 (6)	0 (0)	<b>37 (38)</b>
ASSOCIATE MEMBER	23 (23)	4 (4)	0 (0)	0 (0)	<b>27 (27)</b>
STUDENT MEMBER	3 (17)	1 (1)	0 (0)	0 (0)	<b>4 (18)</b>
AFFILIATE MEMBER	6 (5)	5 (5)	0 (0)	1 (2)	<b>12 (12)</b>
HONORARY MEMBER	6 (6)	2 (2)	0 (0)	1 (1)	<b>9 (9)</b>
<b>TOTAL MEMBERS</b>	<b>159</b> <b>(170)</b>	<b>70</b> <b>(71)</b>	<b>14</b> <b>(15)</b>	<b>8 (9)</b>	<b>251</b> <b>(265)</b>

14.2. The President reviewed the current Honorary memberships:

CPT: John Hare; Brian Ingpen; Debbie Owen, Sue Whitehead.

DUR: Sean Minogue. Shane Dwyer.

RCB: Padre Mark Classen.

There was agreement that Rev Ashley Petersen from the Cape Town Mission to Seafarers; Johan Pretorius from the Richards Bay Mission; Mike Patterson from NSRI RCB, be added.

Agreed that Sean Minogue and Shane Dwyer be removed from the Honorary membership.

## 15. Liason with other organisations

15.1. SAMSA. Noted request for attending their funding model workshop.

15.2. SAIMI – South African International Maritime Institute. Starting to become more active and intends holding bi-monthly workshops. Most recently a MLC themed one, the next one expected to be on Education & Training.

15.3. Department of Transport. Still to follow up and establish a contact.

15.4. SAIMENA. Little contact with them recently.

15.5. The Nautical Institute (RSA Branch) Has not met frequently, is developing a website.

15.6. Maritime Law Association. No recent contact.

15.7. Institute of Chartered Shipbrokers. No recent contact.

15.8. NSRI. Keith Burchell was approached by the NSRI as they wish to become involved with the local communities more and so are establishing training at all their bases in water safety. They also wish to give back to the community by sponsoring bursaries at Lawhill and also

train students in NSRI crewing duties, ultimately up to coxswain level. This will also broaden their base for future volunteers.

15.9. Missions to Seafarers. Are still pushing for relief from TNPA over the rental that is being required in each port. The high rentals coupled with the reduced income, from lack of requirement for phone cards and internet access by seamen, means that the Missions are struggling to keep their heads above water.

15.10. SAMPA. Maintain a watching brief to decide if membership is beneficial.

## **16. Branch submissions for Consideration by the National AGM**

16.1. NIL received.

## **17. General**

17.1. The Society Medal: A proposed design for the medal was shown which was approved. This to be worn around the neck or displayed in a suitable presentation box.

17.2. Name and Criteria for awarding the medal

17.2.1. Discussion and suggestions regards the name of the medal followed. Options given were: The Society Medal; Master Mariners Medal; The Society of Master Mariners of South Africa Medal. Agreement was eventually found for: "The Society of Master Mariners SA Medal". The belief was that this would naturally progress to being referred to informally as: The SOMMSA Medal.

17.2.2. Agreed that the medal could be awarded to any holder of a COC, valid or expired, ashore or afloat, who does not have to be a member of SOMMSA, or a RSA citizen. Awards could be made posthumously. Awards would be considered by EXCO upon receipt of a written motivation by any member of SOMMSA. The EXCO decision would be by a simple majority. The criteria for the award finally decided upon as: "*Certificated Master Mariner or Deck Officer who, by an exceptional action, has brought the highest honour to our profession by him or her exercising the pinnacle of marine skills acquired as a result of their qualifications and experience*"

17.3. Society Website administration. RW to continue as Administrator. Suggestions for inclusion on the page were made for sections for 'Virtual Honours Boards' for office bearers, past recipients of SOMMSA prizes (Lawhill/DUT/CPUT/Saldanha Military Academy) and the SOMMSA Medal. Comment was also made that the email received whenever there was an upload to the website was not very informative, as the subject line was the same each time.

17.4. Society Facebook page administration. Administrators continue to be Hugo Schuitemaker, Charles Kingon and Rob Whitehead. There was some discussion on whether to change the page to a 'closed' one. Currently there are about 450 'likes' for the page, considerably more than the total membership.

17.5. Other Matters

17.5.1. Tony Nicholas suggested opening a file at the National Archives in Roeland Street to store the Society's data.

17.5.2. Dennis Henwood raised an issue he has come across in West African ports whereby ships are sent to the outer anchorage to complete lashing for sea, in order to free up the berth. A similar issue has arisen in Coega where large container ships are sent to sea with containers unlashd in time of bad weather. Clearly this puts the Master in a difficult position, as his ship is not seaworthy when leaving the berth. General discussion was that this is not a situation to ignore. Agreed that EXCO prepare a suitable letter be sent to IFSMA, the Nautical Institute and SAMSA, requesting them to raise this issue with IMO.

17.5.3. SAMSA is asking for input as to whether the MODU qualifications can be aligned with the STCW qualifications. Kevin Tate has some experience of this as he is required to hold

ancillary courses for both. His feeling that the STCW requirements were, broadly, at a higher level than the MODU requirements, with some exceptions. There are also differing requirements according to which part of the North Sea one is operating in.

## **18. Election of Executive Committee and Office Bearers**

- 18.1. Confirmation of nominations received and call for additional nominations. Existing office bearers all indicated they were prepared to continue. No new nominations have been received.
- 18.2. Election of President for new 2-year term. Rob Whitehead. Approved unanimously.
- 18.3. Election of Vice President. Azwi Mulaudzi. Approved unanimously.
- 18.4. Election of National Secretary. Charles Kingon is still a sea going member and is happy to stand again, but would equally happily stand aside should a shore based member come forward. Approved unanimously.
- 18.5. Election of National Treasurer. With no new volunteers, the President would continue with the Treasurer portfolio too. Rob Whitehead appealed once again for a volunteer to step forward to take up this portfolio. The work is not onerous and can even be done by someone outside Cape Town, as banking is covered via the internet in the main. Keith Burchell also observed that it is not a healthy situation for one man to wear both hats, from a fiduciary perspective.
- 18.6. Election of other Executive committee members. Simon Pearson, Keith Burchell, Dennis Henwood, Tony Nicholas and Lloyd Merriman were all available to stand again. Port Reps Guy Barker(Mossel Bay) Lance Tiedt(Saldanha) Hugo Schuitemaker(Durban). All approved en-bloc.
- 18.7. Election of Benevolent Fund Governing Board. Rob Whitehead, Keith Burchell & Charles Kingon were all available again. With no further nominations, the board was unanimously approved.

## **19. Provisional Date and venue for 74th National AGM**

- 19.1. Proposed for August 2018. Venue to be decided by EXCO in due course.

## **20. Closure**

- 20.1. The President declared the meeting closed at 1610hrs