

# **The Society of Master Mariners South Africa**

## **CAPE TOWN BRANCH**

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### **MINUTES OF THE 68<sup>th</sup> 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 TECHNICAL UNIVERSITY, GRANGER BAY CAMPUS AT 16:30 ON TUESDAY 5 MAY 2009**

#### **1. OPENING**

The Master opened the meeting with all upstanding for the reading of the Mission Statement.

A moment's silence was observed for A Burgers and M Fowkes who had passed away during the last year.

#### **2. PRESENT**

CD Flockhart, B Ingpen, M Schooling, T Wilson, A Nicholas, B Greenwood, R Martin, R Whitehead, A Fussell, K Tate, J Clarke, S Pearson.

#### **3. APOLOGIES**

R Sullivan, I Little, D. Powell, L Crole, A Maclennan, B Cullen, GGH Jefferys, L Tiedt, R Meierhans, D Henwood, Dai Davies, J Richardson, P Potgieter, M Meyer, M Barnes, R Walker, H Toxopeus, F Nunes, E Snyder, P Coetzer, C Kingon.

#### **4. NOTICE OF MEETING**

The Master confirmed that the Notice of the Meeting had been distributed.

#### **5. CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES OF THE 67th AGM**

The Minutes of the 67th AGM were tabled, and were adopted, proposed by B Greenwood seconded by A Nicholas.

## 5.1 Matters arising from the previous minutes

- 8.1 The Master confirmed he had looked into why the President had not been circulated with notice of last AGM, it transpired that somehow he and one other had slipped off the e-mail list, for which he apologized and which had been rectified.
- 10.3 NQF Rating for Master Mariner Qualification. The Master read out latest advice from E Snyders. S Pearson further commented that, historically Master Mariner qualifications were recognized by HSRC as M+4 or Matric (Grade 12) +4 years post Matric study ("B" degree). Our national qualifications framework has tried to place all education into bands 1 – 8 (8 being the highest as a Doctorate degree). These bands / levels require certain credits and credits are also limited to periods of study. Currently to get the academic requirements for a Master / Ch. Eng you need only four semesters, or two years, of study. However add to this the sea-time component and this adds considerable time. The debate is not only on time but also credits or educational achievements. Should officers, like cadets, have credits of learning signed off at sea this would give credit(s) to this time. If no formal assessments are made of time / achievements at sea this could be "waste of time educationally". We all would be horrified at this suggestion / thought. How do we give sea-time a credit? How do we convince educationalists that a qualification is college time and experiential time (with value)? If you can motivate this correctly, I believe that Master Mariner / Ch. Eng qualification will revert to its proper standing as a "B" degree with honour(s). The question of research was discussed, but it was confirmed that this requirement only appertained to M+6.
- It was resolved to continue to push for the rating to be increased from the present N+3 to N+4. S Pearson undertook to investigate how this could be actioned.
- 10.4 Updating of Marine Courts of Enquiry regulations. The Master confirmed that Cape Town Branch proposals had been sent in time to N Campbell at SAMSA, R Martin had added a few further points which had also been sent. R Martin pointed out that the proposals should also have been sent to Pretoria, he undertook to send a combined SOMMSA national submission.
- 12.2 NSRI. B Greenwood apologized that he had not followed this up, but would do so in the near future.

## **6. ANNUAL STATEMENT OF INCOME AND EXPENDITURE AND BALANCE SHEET**

The audited Annual Financial Statement to 31 March 2009 was tabled by the Hon. Treasurer who, with the Master, took the meeting through the main aspects. Net cash in bank totalled R 19,775.00. This included a recent repayment of the R 2,500 loan from Port Elizabeth Branch. The Financial Statement was signed off by the Master and Hon. Treasurer.

### **6.1 Matters arising from the Statement**

R Whitehead questioned why there was no subs income, he was advised that due to branches holding large cash reserves it was resolved at last Congress that all sub income would be retained in Central Fund, and Branches would have to motivate the need for a contribution. The Master pointed out that there was only a net of R 4,924 in the Current Account and consideration would have to be given to drawing down some money from the investment account in the not too distant future. It was pointed out that the matter of the fixed assets had been mentioned in the last AGM. B Greenwood undertook to look into this.

### **6.2 Honorariums**

No honorariums were proposed or requested.

### **6.3 AGM Expenses**

R 1,101.87 for refreshments and snacks was approved.

## **7. ANNUAL REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE**

During the last working year the Committee met eight times, plus the AGM.

According to the Constitution the Committee sets its own minimum quorum. We recommend that the minimum quorum be continued at three.

Office Bearers will be elected by the incoming Committee. The positions of Deputy Master and Hon. Secretary still remain vacant, and once again reiterate that it is time for a change of Master. In effect the Master has lately been filling both positions, the former in an acting capacity. This is not healthy and we need volunteers. We are actually well represented by seagoing members, but the nature of those positions is that they have to be filled by shore-based members.

The membership of the Branch currently stands as follows :-

	2006	2007	2008	2009
Full	72	73	68	67
Associate	4	5	4	4
Affiliate	2	3	3	3
Retired Life	21	19	18	20
Honorary	5	5	4	4
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>104</b>	<b>105</b>	<b>97</b>	<b>98</b>

The Honorary Members are : B Ingpen  
 G G Jefferys  
 C G Lange  
 Mrs M N Schooling

At this point we would like to thank two of our Honorary members, Brian Ingpen and Michelle Schooling, for their loyal attendances at meetings.

Last year we reported in some detail on the membership situation. In our view the main object of the Society should be a membership drive, but this must be a national effort, aimed at mainly at seagoing personnel.

The Branch continues to support Simonstown School Maritime Studies Department, and again presented a prize at their last prizegiving. It is pleasing to note the new developments there, and we wish them continuing success.

The Branch continues to liaise with GBOBA in holding joint lunch presentations, one of which was held during the year, plus the Christmas lunch. We expect these functions to continue. We also continue to draw closer to our brother organization SAIMENA.

Last, but not least, there is from time to time worrying news filtering through as to the state of nautical education, and the administration of our regulatory bodies, and the potential for this to impact on South Africa's status on the "White List" at IMO. If we were to "slip-off" the White List the implications for hundreds of seagoing personnel would be disastrous, as their qualifications would not be recognized by the various flag states under which they sail. We wonder how aware they are of this. Apart from local shipowners, this Society, and SAIMENA, are the only organizations with the potential to push against such a development. Of course we should be careful not to ring alarm bells too early, and perhaps draw unwelcome attention.

The meeting further discussed the White List issue, it was resolved that we should get together with SAIMENA on this. It was also resolved that the President would invite the head of SAMSA to Congress to discuss this and any other issues.

## 8. ADDRESS BY THE PRESIDENT

Branch Master, Honored Guests, Gentlemen,

Thank you for this opportunity to address you at your AGM.

In the past 12 months the society has been represented at various government arranged conferences and maritime clusters and in the drafting of the constitution for the Maritime Industry Promotion Council together with representatives of the MLA. We have worked particularly closely with the Maritime Industry Development department of the Department of Transport, having hosted their Director at the KZN Maritime Dinner in Durban last year. One of my objectives upon taking office, was to raise our profile with the various maritime sections of the government, so that we are consulted by them on maritime matters. I believe that we have achieved that over the past 3 years.

Whilst drafting this report and perusing last year's report, I noted that last year at this time I had sent or received some 102 e-mails from 1<sup>st</sup> January to the 5<sup>th</sup> May 2008, for the same period this year that figure has more than doubled, with more than 650 e-mails handled annually over the past 4 years. One of the reasons for the high number of e-mails is that most of the business of the society has been conducted via the internet, as the Durban Branch has been mainly dysfunctional since George Franklin took over in Durban. Only one meeting in the past 12 months was called and that after numerous written request to do so, resulted in EXCO also only meeting once in the last 12 months.

In October last year we again met with the 2<sup>nd</sup> year students at DUT, as part of the mentoring scheme. Although the day went well, the students spent most of their time trying to secure employment and not a single mentor has been called since that meeting. This was raised with the DUT lecturers and they have suggested that we try meeting with all the students, including first year students. We have agreed to try this, although the whole concept of mentoring appears to be lost on the students.

A further training scheme was conducted in Richards Bay, where Rob Farren-Hanford and Gordon Oxley took 4 students from the DUT up to Richards Bay for a week. They were placed with different shipping companies for a half day experiential training, culminating in a work-shop on the Friday before going back to Durban. By all accounts, the students benefited tremendously from the exercise and it is a programme that we hope to repeat and extend to other ports.

Chris Viljoen has agreed to attend the IFSMA AGA in Brazil on our behalf this year, so we will again have representation at their next meeting. I have sent him copies of all of our correspondence with IFSMA regarding the 12 month sea time issue as well our comments on the various IFSMA circulars received during the year. I believe that Chris will represent us well and look forward to his report back.

The annual cricket match in Durban on the 16<sup>th</sup> December has now been converted into a golf tournament, as the engineers felt that they had got too old for cricket. The inaugural match last year was won by the engineers, so we will have to find a few golfers before the end of the year.

As Graham Mannall will be taking over the reigns of the society this year, this will be my last visit to your AGM for a while. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Cape Town branch and its committee for all their hard work and co-operation over the past three years.

Thank you again for listening and I wish you every success for the coming year.

## **9. ELECTION OF NEW COMMITTEE**

The following Committee was elected en bloc:

CD Flockhart, L Crole, B Ingpen, P Coetzer, J Clarke, D Powell,  
T Wilson, R Sullivan, M Schooling. C Kingon, S Pearson, K Tate,  
B Greenwood.

Two new nominations were received, M Barnes and R Whitehead, who were duly elected. R Whitehead had indicated he was willing to become an office bearer. The Master welcomed his willingness, and suggested that after working himself back in to the Branch affairs for a few months he could then decide in which capacity he would prefer.

### **9.1 Election of Office Bearers by New Committee**

The Master reiterated that again he felt it was time for a change, and perhaps with R Whitehead back on the scene something could be done in the near future. In the interim the following were re-elected :

CD Flockhart – Master  
Deputy Master - Vacant  
Honorary Secretary – Master acting  
Honorary Treasurer – B Greenwood

### **9.2 Election of Branch Trustees**

Society of Master Mariners – Christof F Lueddeke Bursary Fund  
CD Flockhart re-elected, and gave the meeting a brief run down of the latest situation regarding setting up bank account and PBO application.  
J Clarke proposed that the interest from the Benevolent Fund be put to the Bursary Fund, CD Flockhart said he would bring this up with the Trustees of the Funds.

Society of Master Mariners Benevolent Fund

CD Flockhart re-elected, but he advised that if there had been no progress by the time of Congress towards applying for PBO status for this Fund then he would have tendered his resignation, the President however confirmed that this was underway. CD Flockhart pointed out that once Trustees were elected they had absolute authority as to how a Fund operated, but on the other hand they were personally responsible should they not act for the benefit of the Fund.

**10. CONGRESS 2008 MATTERS**

**10.1 Amendment to Constitution of Society and Benevolent Fund to reflect SARS requirement to enable us to apply for PBO**

The President confirmed that both items were in hand, being handled by Deneys Reitz in Durban, and would be tabled at Congress.

**10.2 Proposal by J Lamberg of a SOMM medal and possible amendment of the Constitution**

The Master pointed out that this had been an individual proposal by J Lamberg at last Congress, and may be brought up again this year once everyone had had more time to study it. He added that J Lamberg had now transferred to Durban, and not sure if this would still be pushed. It was agreed to see what the reaction was at Congress, if any.

**10.3 Astro Navigation**

It was thought that this would be brought up at IFSMA. The Branch position was that the basics should still be kept in the syllabus. Other advice to the meeting was that altering the syllabus in this respect did not appear to be on the SAMSA radar screen.

**11. Congress 2009 Matters**

11.1 Confirmed that the Society should invite the CEO of SAMSA to Congress, and after that any ongoing concerns should be taken up with him.

11.2 Branch delegates to Congress. CD Flockhart confirmed that he should be available, and hopefully this time another member could also go. To finalise nearer the time.

**12. GENERAL**

**12.1 Simon's Town School**

B Ingpen reported that the new hostel building would be complete on approximately 10 December 2009. All the funding had been completed.

**12.2 CPUT**

Following on recent advice from E Snyders and the latter part of the report of the Committee, it was resolved that the Master would enquire with E Snyders whether it would be possible or desirable for the Branch to have representation on the College Board of Governors. The Master undertook to contact him in this regard.

**12.3 SAMTRA**

S Pearson enquired whether the Society still had a representative on this organization. CD Flockhart confirmed he was still the Society member, but the actual running of the institution was by a Board of Directors, which understandably were mainly nominated by the donor.

**13. CLOSURE**

The Master closed the meeting at 1945. There was a vote of thanks to the Chair.

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**CD FLOCKHART  
MASTER**

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**COMMITTEE MEMBER**