



The Society of Master Mariners of South Africa

Port Elizabeth Branch

Minutes of the 63rd Annual General Meeting of the Port Elizabeth branch of the Society of Master Mariners, South Africa, held at Algoa Bay Yacht Club, Port Elizabeth on Wednesday 6th May 2009.

PRESENT

Roy Martin, Rodney Chalk, John Davies, Nigel Campbell, Irwin de Graaf, Daron Burgess, John White, Harry Freaker, Paddy Ramsden, and Graham Emberson.

APPOLOGIES

Cliff Bragg, Hans Frahm, Bob Brindle.

Rodney Chalk, welcomed all present, introduced the president Roy Martin and read The Creed.

MINUTES

The minutes of the 62nd annual general meeting were circulated for comment and approved.

Proposed, John Davies

Seconded, John White

MATTERS ARISING

Nil

FINANCIAL REPORT

By Irwin De Graaf,

Bank balance, opening R13, 369

Bank balance, closing R10, 800

No funds yet received from the central committee

MATTERS ARISING

Roy Martin stated that funds required from central committee have to be motivated and enquired how much we would require. Honorary Treasurer replied that we must maintain a minimum of R10, 000 in our account to qualify for preferential bank charges.

SECRETARY'S REPORT

Graham Emberson said the correspondence and circulation of minutes was up to date.



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MATTERS ARISING

Rodney Chalk said that (apart from Cape Town) there had been little correspondence from the branches and HGS.

Roy Martin said he would arrange for emails to be copied to all PE branch office bearers.

MASTERS ANNUAL REPORT

Gentlemen,

It is a great pleasure to have our President Roy Martin with us today.

We appreciate the time and effort it takes to attend the various Branch AGMs

Last year our AGM was in July and thus this term of office has been less than the usual 12 months. I have recently been overseas for ten weeks and consequently out of touch with recent events. My thanks to John Davies who ran the Branch during my absence.

You may remember at the last AGM we struggled to get Office bearers. As a consequence I agreed to serve another term and hold the reins in the interim.

The Branch has not been very active regarding matters maritime .Communication with the EXCO has been patchy: our Hon Secretary has been at sea for lengthy periods, and I have been absent.

However we still manage meet on a regular basis and our social life is healthy.

The German Club has made us welcome for our monthly Meetings as has the ABYC where we are gathering this afternoon. The Maritime Club in Central has fallen out of favour mainly because of its location and the lack of secure parking.

The annual braai was well attended and I trust the Ladies Night will be hopefully within the next week or two. It was my intention to incorporate dinner with the ladies after the AGM, but all is not lost as I propose this function be held in the near future – the new committee willing.

We continue to have a good relationship with the Port Elizabeth Branch of NOASA. We are recently in receipt of yet another donation of R1000 from them.

We are always invited to Trafalgar night, the monthly wardroom function, and their quarterly luncheons .Some of us attend more regularly than others but I would remind you that you all are welcome.



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I am pleased to report that we have managed, at last, to repay the R2, 500 which the Cape Town Branch loaned us so that we could escape paying bank charges. Currently we have about R10 000 in the account and must consider reimbursing the Durban Branch their R2500 as soon as practicable.

I would ask the incoming Hon Treasurer to ascertain exactly how much we need in our account to avoid monthly penalties.

Membership continues to be a cause for concern

There is a certain resistance to inviting potential members with inferior qualifications. Much of the prejudice results from certain parastatal policies.

I fear these prejudices will not be easily overcome and the choice seems to be either keep the Branch stalwarts or invite new people who may or may not be an asset to the Society. Seemingly a Catch 22 situation

In conclusion I wish to thank the office bearers for their support and efforts to keep the Branch afloat, John Davies, Irwin De Graaf, and Graham Emberson.

I wish the incoming Committee well.

Rodney Chalk

Master

PRESIDENTS REPORT

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 1st January to the 5th 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



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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 2nd 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 benefitted 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.

We presented Capt Derrick Kemp with an Honorary Membership to the Society earlier this year; in acknowledgment of 50 years unbroken service at sea, a rare feat indeed.

The annual cricket match in Durban on the 16th 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 Port Elizabeth branch and it's 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.

Fraternally yours

Roy Martin



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MATTERS ARISING FROM THE REPORTS

Discussion on membership. Roy Martin said Safmarine had been approached and was considering signing on their deck officer cadets at a special rate payable by Safmarine, he added that NPA could also be approached.

There was an enquiry regarding the status of our certificates on the International White List at IMO.

Roy Martin said that there was a problem getting master mariners to lecture at training colleges because the salaries were insufficient. An associated problem was an 85% failure at first attempt in deck officer examinations. This decline had started some 10 years ago.

Nigel Campbell said that SAMSA would rather close down a sub standard college than risk South Africa's White List status.

It was stated there were insufficient deck officers under training and there would soon be a significant shortage of senior deck officers in the industry. One of the reasons being that many deck officers consider a short career at sea as being a bridge to something better ashore. Apparently, on average, European officers remain in the industry for 12 years and Asian officers remain in it for 8 years.

GENERAL

Discussions on the following:-

- Possibility of joint meetings with SAIMENA who are reported to be strong in Durban
- Meetings by email as opposed to ordinary meetings. Rodney Chalk and Roy Martin both expressed strongly in favour of ordinary meetings with special regard to the interaction and social aspects.

ELECTION OF OFFICE BEARERS

Master – Daron Burgess superseded Rodney Chalk, who has served on our committee for many years.

The following officers were re-elected in their 2008/9 offices

Deputy Master – John Davies

Honorary Treasurer – Irwin De Graaf

Honorary Secretary – Graham Emberson

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We thank all office bearers for making themselves available during this coming year, to ensure the Society of Master Mariners continues to function as a true Merchant Navy society.



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Rodney Chalk thanked Roy Martin for his past 3 years service

NEXT MEETING

The next monthly meeting will be at The German Club, Lorraine on Tuesday 9th June at 1700 for 1730.

Daron Burgess, Master
John Davies, Deputy Master
Irwin De Graaf, Hon Treasurer
Graham Emberson, Hon Secretary