



Registered as a charity in England & Wales under charity number 1135661

ANNUAL REPORT & ACCOUNTS

1st September 2020 to 31st August 2021



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Report of the Trustees

GOVERNANCE

Charity name:	The Merchant Navy Association
Registered Number:	1135661
Charity's principal address:	49 The Park Yeovil BA20 1DF
Phone	01935 414765
Email	secretary@mna.org.uk
Website	www.mna.org.uk

Trustees who manage the Association – the National Councillors:

Executive Committee:

Capt. M Mathison MNM FEI MNI	Chairman (former Vice Chairman until 7 th October 2020)
Capt. J Sail MNM*	Chairman (Resigned 7 th October 2020)
Capt I Hodge CMarTech FIMarEST	Vice Chairman (Elected by Council 6 th February 2021)
Capt. C Woodward AFNI	Deputy Vice Chairman (Elected by Council 6 th February 2021)
Capt. D Parsons MNM	Secretary
D Cornes MSc, FCMA (retd)	Treasurer (Elected by Council 24 th October 2020)
T Brant MNM FEI	Events & Welfare Officer (and Acting Hon. Treasurer until 24 th October 2021)
R Glencross MNM	Membership Secretary

The Executive Committee is responsible for the day-to-day administration of the Association.

* On 7th October 2020, Capt John Sail MNM announced his resignation both as chairman and from the Council, in order to concentrate on his business interests. This followed a period of 21 years in the chair, during which time he made tireless efforts to guide and support the organisation. The Association wishes to formally record its huge debt of gratitude and wish him well for the future.

Other Councillors

C Edwards	MN Association Boat Club Commodore
H Harding	Councillor (Bristol Branch) (Retired 16 th September 2021)
A Hilder	Councillor (Appointed by Council 6 th February 2021)
Capt T Hughes FRIN FNI	Webmaster
N Kelly	Councillor (Appointed by Council 6 th February 2021)
Capt D Knight	Councillor (Appointed by Council 6 th February 2021)
A Murphy	Councillor (Dumfries Branch)
G Peaston	Councillor (Weymouth, Portland & District Branch)
P Rogers	Councillor (Blackpool Branch)
A Speight BSc IEng IMarEng	Councillor (Newport Branch)
J Turner	Councillor (Midlands Branch)
M Wootton	Councillor (Tamworth Branch) (Appointed by Council 24 th April 2021)

Executive Committee members (who are also trustees) and all other trustees are elected, or re-elected, every five years and are called National Councillors. The Association does not employ any staff. All trustees may claim reasonable expenses for travel and disbursements.

Appointment of additional Councillors

Due to the Covid restrictions there was no Annual General Meeting in 2020 and therefore no election of councillors. There had been a vacancy for a National Treasurer for some time and this role had been carried out by Mr Tim Brant on an interim basis. The MNA membership was approached and Mr David Cornes MSc, FCMA, a qualified and experienced accountant (and former seafarer), kindly agreed to take on this role and was elected, by the Council, on 24th October 2020. The Council would like to record it thanks to Tim Brant for maintaining the accounts since the previous National Treasurer passed away in 2019. The appointment of Capt. Mathison to the position of chairman left a vacancy for a vice-chairman and there was no one among the existing council able and willing to take on this role. A decision was taken to approach the full membership to seek a suitable person. The response was extremely positive with five members

expressing an interest. The Council agreed that, in such circumstances, each should be invited to be elected by the Council as a trustee, until an election could be arranged and all accepted. Capt. Ian Hodge, was elected, by Council, as the Vice Chairman and Capt Charles Woodward as Deputy Vice Chairman.

Meetings

The Council endeavours to meet four times annually. Due to the Covid 19 restrictions, meetings throughout this financial year took place via internet conferencing. Once the restrictions are lifted at least two meetings, annually, will continue in this format to reduce travel and costs.

Patron

Admiral Lord West of Spithead GCB, DSC, PC

Presidents & Vice Presidents

Vivian Foster OBE	President
Revd P Auden DL	Vice President (passed away in February 2021)
D Hunter	Vice President
M Wootton	Vice President (retired to resume role as a Councillor 24 th April 2021)

Bank:

National Westminster Bank
119 High Street
Scunthorpe
DN15 6LT

Accountants:

Forrester Boyd Chartered Accountants
26 South St Mary's Gate
Grimsby
DN31 1L

REPORT OF TRUSTEES

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE & MANAGEMENT

Governing Document:	The Constitution, adopted 11 th June 2009, was amended on 24 th October 2020 and again on 24 th April 2021 (see below).
Constitution:	The National Merchant Navy Association is an unincorporated association*.
Trustees' appointments	The Trustees, by rotation, are elected for a five-year term of office at the Annual General Meeting. An Executive Committee consisting of; <i>Chairman; Vice Chairman; Deputy Vice Chairman; Secretary; Treasurer; Events & Welfare Officer; and Membership Secretary</i>
Annual General Meeting 2020	Due to the inability to hold meetings during the Covid 19 crises, the 2020 AGM was cancelled and all trustee elections deferred to 2021.
Policies	The Association has relevant policies in place which include election rules, safeguarding, grievances, data protection, privacy and intellectual rights. Each of these was reviewed and updated to comply with current requirements and best practice on 24 th April 2021.
Related parties' relationships	The Association is a constituent member of the Merchant Navy Welfare Board and works closely with other maritime charities and veterans' organisations.
Risk Assessment	A Risk Assessment Policy is in place and regularly reviewed.

* Constitution

The Council recognised that there was a need to update the Association's Constitution to take account of changes in charity legislation and best practice. These were carried out in two tranches:

- ❖ On 24th October 2020 amendments, agreed by Council, in summary included:
 - A revision of the wording and prioritisation of a number of objectives. Some no longer appropriate were removed.
 - Revision of election and ballot provisions; Better clarification of the responsibilities of Executive Committee members and other Councillors.
 - Clarification that branches are autonomous.
 - Clearer clarification membership arrangements and categories.

- Allowance for greater flexibility of the timings of AGMs and Council meetings. Provision for on-line meetings. Reduction in numbers for quoracy requirements. Revision of notice and agenda distribution timings.
- Allowance for greater usage of electronic communications.
- Revision election and ballot provisions.

❖ On 24th April further amendments were agreed by Council , for Part II only, which in summary included:

- Councillors would be elected for five years (previously three year).
- There would be provision for up to 21 Councillors.
- Each MNA National member would be given the opportunity to vote, but branches would no longer be able to submit a block vote.
- The Chairman and other Executive Committee positions would be elected, from among the Councillors, by the Council.
- In the event of a tie, the Chairman would have the casting vote.
- All retiring Councillors would remain in post until the conclusion of the AGM at which they were due to retire.
- More logical sequencing of some the paragraphs.

Each amendment was then forwarded to the Charity Commissioners for England & Wales and both were acknowledged and approved. The Association would like to record its thanks to David Parsons, Secretary, for managing these amendments.

Membership:

Membership is open to individuals over the age of 18 who are resident in the United Kingdom, have UK nationality, or reside in a country where an international branch exists, and are serving, or have served;

- on a merchant ship
- on a fishing vessel
- as an employed crew member aboard a yacht
- as member of a lifeboat crew
- as employee of the Maritime & Coastguard Agency or its equivalent.

All members pay an annual subscription.

Membership as at 31st August 2021. During the year 104 new members were welcomed. Very sadly, 37 passed away and the Association would like to convey its deepest sympathy to the families of those members.

Branches:

The Association has branches in the United Kingdom in the following locations:

Aberystwyth	Immingham	Ribble Valley
Axe Vale	Ipswich	Salford
Belfast	Kent	Scarborough
Blackpool	Liverpool	Solent
Boston & South Lincs	London & Greater London	Tamworth
Bristol	Mansfield & Ashfield	Taunton
Caithness	Medway	Tilbury
Dormanstown & Redcar	Midlands	Torbay
Dumfries	Morecombe Bay	Weymouth & Portland
East Lothian	Newport	Walton & District
Exeter	North Wales*	West Norfolk
Felixstowe	Pill & North Somerset	Western Isles
Harrogate	Plymouth & Southwest	Wirral

Overseas: Singapore

* A new branch in North Wales was established in August 2021.

Branches are affiliated to and uphold the principles set out by the National Association. All operate autonomously and are responsible for their own governance and finances.

OBJECTS AND ACTIVITIES

Summary of the objects set out in its Constitution

- To foster comradeship and consideration to all those in the community of the sea.
- To help relieve and assist all serving and retired seafarers and their dependants who are in hardship or distress by reason of poverty, disability, sickness, infirmity or otherwise; to help support the families of seafarers who have lost their lives in service or retirement.
- To inform the wider public on the role, purpose and history of the Merchant Navy and fishing fleets and to signpost those interested in a career at sea.

Public Benefit

The Objects of the Charity are for public benefit, to provide charitable support and services to the Association's members, other connected persons, or associations, societies or other bodies whose objects are similar.

ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE

Summary of the main activities undertaken for the public benefit in relation to the objects

With advent of the Covid national crises, achievements and performance of the Association were seriously constrained from March 2020 and throughout the timing of this annual report, although it continued to support its members. There were no events organised by the MNA National during this financial year.

Merchant Navy Day Commemorative Service (MNDCS)

This is normally an annual event, organised by the Association, at the Merchant Navy War Memorial, Tower Hill, London on the Sunday closest to Merchant Navy Day (3rd September). Due to the on-going uncertainty surrounding the Covid restrictions a decision was taken not to hold this event in 2021.

Remembrance Sunday

The Association attended a small 2020 Merchant Navy Remembrance Sunday event in London on 15th November. Elsewhere wreaths were laid at many memorials. On this occasion total numbers of all veterans permitted to take place the Cenotaph marchpast were limited to 30. Two places were allotted to the MNA and the Association expresses its gratitude to those veteran.

Branch Activities

All branches, whilst remaining autonomous, work closely with the National, which provides them with advice, guidance and support if needed. From March 2020, all branch meetings and activities were suspended due to the Covid 19 restrictions. Some branches held on-line meetings which were well attended. Others continued to keep in regular touch with their members, endeavouring to ensure their wellbeing. From July 2021 restrictions were eased and many branches began to organise face-to-face meetings and events. In each case members recognised the need to keep themselves and their colleagues safe with sensible precautions. They also accepted that some members continued to feel at risk and therefore could not attend. All branches continue to ensure that they are ready to implement any guidelines that are put in place in the future.

Working with related charities and organisations

The Association works with other related parties. It is a Constituent of the Merchant Navy Welfare Board and regularly attends various appropriate meetings of their members. It is also a member of, or works closely with, several veterans' organisations to lobby for and improve entitlements for MN veterans

Veterans

The Association recognises the significance of all MN seafarers and fishers who have worked in support of the armed service in war and peace times. It continues to lobby government and other organisations to ensure that these men and women enjoy the benefits given to ex-military personnel. With the agreement of the MoD, the Association takes responsibility for authenticating and issuing badges for MN veterans.

Full Ahead

The Association produces and distributes, to its members, a quarterly magazine - *Full Ahead* – which includes news about the Association, its branches, events and articles of general interest. Mrs Sandra Turner became the editor in

Autumn 2020 and since that time she has revised the format and increased the content, which has been widely welcomed by the members. The Association would like to record its thanks to both Mrs Turner and to Capt. John Sail, the former editor, for their work in producing this excellent journal.

The Pulse

The Association produces and distributes, to those of its members with internet access, a twice monthly on-line newsletter – *The Pulse*. This is placed on the Association's website and includes articles and news about the Association plus a wide range of maritime affairs. The editor is Chairman, Capt. Malcolm Mathison and the Association would like to record its thanks to him for this excellent newsletter.

Website

The Association maintains a website; www.mna.org.uk. This includes details about its structure, objectives, branches and services. It continued to enjoy around 5,000 visits, from around the world, each month. The webmaster is Capt. Terry Hughes FRIN FNI and the Association would like to record its thanks to him for maintaining this excellent site.

Memorials

The Council agreed that the MNA should become a partner in support of the proposed Battle of the Atlantic Memorial that is planned to be sited at Pier Head, Liverpool. They also agreed to provide a grant of £1,000 to assist in enabling the *St. George's Society of Baltimore, Ma, USA* provide a gravestone each for two MN seamen lost in a fire aboard a ship, in the port, on 27th November 1917 during World War I. This decision takes into account, what to many, is a shameful policy wherein the UK only records the names of those merchant seafarers lost during wartime as a direct result of enemy action. The same policy is not applied to military personnel, all of whom are accorded war graves.

Merchant Navy Day and Red Ensign

In collaboration with Seafarers UK, the Association, has succeeded in arranging for local councils and other institutions around the UK to fly Red Ensigns on Merchant Navy Day each year. The numbers continue to increase.

MNA Shop

The MNA shop continues to make sales of various items. Unfortunately, due to the Covid 19 restrictions, there have been no events and this has continued to reduce demand considerably. The income for 2020/21 amounted to £5,143 (2019/20 - £6,085), whilst expenditure amounted to £2,451 (2019/20 - £251).

Members' Benefits

Members benefit from a number of discounted retail services.

MN Association Boat Club (MNABC)

The Boat Club is open to all MNA members. The benefits include:

- Keeping the Association active in local sailing communities both on the coast and on inland waterways.
- Exchange of ideas for members through regional meetings.
- Lobby authorities on matters affecting safety on the water.
- Eligibility to fly MNABC pennant flag, lapel badge and clothing with logos for broader recognition.
- Affiliation to the RYA, other organisations and clubs.
- Partnership with the RNLi allowing members to become MNA-RNLi Volunteer Ambassadors.
- Promotion of the RNLi's *Respect the Water Campaign* on inland waterways.
- Formation of special interest groups, in particular the MNA WaterWatch scheme.
- Publication of the MNA Boat Club's "Boating Basics" guide for newcomers to boating
- Producing regular articles in publications such as Full Ahead, The Pulse, Canals on Line et

The Association would like record its thanks the MNABC Commodore, Clive Edwards for all his work

Merchant Navy National Honours Committee and Merchant Navy Medal for Meritorious Service

The Association is an active member this committee which reviews nominations and when appropriate, recommends them for an award. The Association pays an annual subscription of £100. In early 2021 the Chairman, Capt. Malcolm Mathison was presented with a medal by HRH The Princess Royal in recognition for all his voluntary work on behalf of the Association. At the time of this report the Membership Secretary, Mr Roy Glencross has also been announced as a recipient of the 2021 allocation. The Association would like to record its congratulations to both for this well-deserved award.

The Association is supporting the Merchant Navy National Honours Committee in its efforts to lobby to raise medal's position in the Order of Wear. At present it falls with the category *Long Service and Good Conduct*, whereas, in reality, all those who have received a medal have achieved so much more.

Grants

The Association is empowered to award “one-off” grants to help both working age and retired seafarers and their dependent families. Whilst beneficiaries are primarily members, it can also help others who meet the criteria. These grants can be used for the purchase of capital items or towards support. In many cases, it will signpost applicants to other sources of help. Importantly it will also work with other organisations, in some cases, to share the costs and in others to seek help with advice such as obtaining benefits or debt counselling. In 2020/21 the total awarded in grants, for a variety of purposes, amounted to £1,160 (2019/20 - £925)

Archives

The Association’s archivist Ben Stock continues to provide advice and information to the Association and its members in regard to MN History. He has continued to add further information, including *Survivor’s Reports to The Ian Stockbridge Compendium of 20th Century Merchant Navy & Fishing Fleet Wartime Casualties*.

mn100

As reported in 2020, 2019 marked the centenary of His Majesty King George V conferring the name Merchant Navy on the *merchant service* of British & Commonwealth countries in recognition of their efforts and sacrifices in the Great War. The Association organised a celebration dinner, held in the Painted Hall, Greenwich on 19th September. Ultimately, this showed a small surplus of £4,189. At the request of the former chairman, Capt John Sail, £2,000 was donated to the *Not Forgotten Association* in gratitude for their support of Merchant Navy Veterans. The balance, £2,189, was donated to the *Merchant Navy Welfare Board* to be used to support MN seafarers or their families with emergency grants.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

Reserves policy

Funds are held to cover at least 12 months of operational costs.

Cash held

Cash at hand, in the bank on 31st August 2021 was £75,642 (£67,721 – 2019/20) in unrestricted funds. The main financial risk of the charity is a reduction in annual subscriptions.

Primary funding:

The regular sources of annual funding are from:

- Membership subscription which, in 2020/21 amounted to £15,516 (2019/20 - £12,373)
- Donations – the Association receives a number of donations annually. In 2020/21 these amounted to £19,296 (2019/20 - £10,861) including Gift Aid (All donors are asked to add Gift Aid where possible and this money is reclaimed annually.) Legacies are also welcome.

Exceptional Transactions

There were none

Future Plans

The activities of the Association are set to continue largely as above and it will also explore means of trying to increase membership. Much will depend on restrictions on the movement of people caused by the Covid 19 crises are lifted or eased, or indeed new restrictions are imposed.

Declaration

The trustees declare that they have approved the trustee’s annual report above.

Signed on behalf of the trustees

Signature

Full name Captain Malcolm Mathison

Position Chairman

Date 30th October 2021

MERCHANT NAVY ASSOCIATION
INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST AUGUST 2021

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of Merchant Navy Association

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts the charity for the year ended 31st August 2021 which are set out on pages 9 to 11.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity's trustees you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act").

I report in respect of my examination of the charity's accounts carried out under section 145 of the Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the charity as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Kevin Hooper ACA
30th October 2021

MERCHANT NAVY ASSOCIATION
RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST AUGUST 2021

Unrestricted General funds

RECEIPTS	2021	2020
	£	£
Activities for Generating Funds		
Membership Subscriptions	15,516	12,373
Slop Chest	5,143	6,085
Charitable Activities		
Research	400	-
Ministry of Defence – Merchant Seafarers Veteran’s Badge	77	20
MN100 Event	-	49,053
Voluntary Income		
Donations	19,296	10,861
Investment Income - Bank Interest		
	-	2
TOTAL RECEIPTS	<u>40,432</u>	<u>78,394</u>
PAYMENTS		
Costs of Generating Funds		
Telephone	287	371
Postage	1,581	2,760
Stationery and Printing	468	1,095
Advertising and Marketing	1,015	3,802
Website Expenses	36	8
Travel and Accommodation	633	7,625
Meeting Expenses	-	263
Insurance	1,257	843
Slop Chest	2,451	251
Newsletter – Full Ahead	9,644	6,374
Independent Examiner Fees	1,200	1,200
Professional Fees	1,272	-
Costs of Charitable Activities		
Welfare Payments	1,160	925
Research	687	1,522
Merchant Navy Day Commemorative Service	-	191
MN100 Event	-	78,076
Software Support	127	254
Donations	6,289	-
Gala Dinner	-	-
Sundry Expenses	<u>4,404</u>	<u>15,397</u>
	32,511	120,957
SURPLUS / (DEFICIT) FOR YEAR	<u>7,921</u>	<u>(42,563)</u>

MERCHANT NAVY ASSOCIATION

STATEMENT OF FUNDS

AT 31ST AUGUST 2021

	2021	2020
	£	£
Current Assets		
Bank Current Account	64,358	59,147
Bank Fundraising Bonus Saver Account	5,016	1,266
Welfare Support Fund	6,268	7,308
	<u>75,642</u>	<u>67,721</u>
Net Assets	<u>75,642</u>	<u>67,721</u>
REPRESENTED BY:		
Accumulated Surplus brought forward	67,721	110,284
Surplus / (Deficit) for year	7,921	(42,563)
	<u>75,642</u>	<u>67,721</u>

MERCHANT NAVY ASSOCIATION - NATIONAL

STATEMENT OF FUNDS

AT 31ST AUGUST 2021

Notes:

STOCK

Slop Chest Stock as at 01 September 2020	£9,954
Slop Chest Stock as at 31 August 2021	£7,344

TRUSTEE'S EXPENSES

Trustee's expenses incurred in the year to 31 August 2021 by the Merchant Navy Association were £2,352 relation to expenses incurred by; M Mathison, T Brant, R Glencross and D Cornes, D Parsons (2020: £10,348) – of which £368 were unclaimed expenses which were given back to the charity as donations (2020: £8,283).

ASSETS RETAINED FOR THE CHARITY'S OWN USE

Radios and Camera (approximate values)	£0
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Approved by the trustees on 30th October 2021 and signed by

Capt. M.F. Mathison
Chairman)

Mr D Cornes
(Treasurer)