



The Merchant Navy Association
from ship to shore, from past to present



ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
TYSELEY WORKING MAN'S CLUB, 573, WARWICK ROAD, BIRMINGHAM B11 2EX
SATURDAY 30th OCTOBER 2021

Present:

National Councillors:

Chair:	M Mathison	Chairman (Immingham Branch)
	I Hodge	Vice Chairman (North Wales Branch)
	C Woodward	Deputy Vice Chairman (National)
	D Parsons	Secretary (Weymouth, Portland & District Branch)
	T Brant	Events & Welfare Officer (Boston & S Lincs Branch)
	D Cornes	Treasurer (Weymouth, Portland & District Branch)
	C Edwards	MNABC Commodore (Weymouth, Portland & District Branch)
	N Kelly	Councillor (National)
	D Knight	Councillor (Weymouth, Portland & District Branch - Chair)
	D May	Councillor (Bristol Branch)
	G Peaston	Councillor (Weymouth, Portland & District Branch)
	A Speight	Councillor (Newport Branch)

President: Mrs V Foster

Officers: Mrs S Broom Supply Officer (Midlands Branch)
Mrs S Turner Full Ahead Editor (Midlands Branch)

Members: R Round (Boston & S Lincs – Branch – Secretary)
Mrs B Brown (Immingham Branch – Chair)
Mr Gayner Styles (Bristol Branch - Vice Chair)
Mrs Linda May (Bristol Branch - Secretary)
P Vickers (Newport Branch)
N Price (Tamworth Branch)
E Brown (Midlands Branch)
J Parkinson (Ipswich Branch)
I Wedge (National)
P Broom (Midlands Branch)
P Compton (Weymouth, Portland & District Branch - Secretary)

Apologies: These were received from 29 members including:

J Sail	Past Chainman
R Glencross (RG)	Membership Secretary (Boston & S Lincs Branch – Chair)
H Harding (HH)	Councillor (Bristol Branch)
A Murphy (AM)	Councillor (Dumfries Branch)
T Hughes (TH)	Webmaster (National)
P Rogers (PR)	Councillor (Blackpool Branch)
M Wootton	Councillor (Tamworth Branch)
A Hilder	Councillor (National)

1. Introduction

The Meeting opened at 11.40am with T. Brant advising attendees of the venue safety procedures and general information.

The Chairman welcomed all those attending, adding that ten branches were represented. Whilst the small numbers were rather disappointing, it was believed that this was due to on-going nervousness and problems associated with the pandemic. It was noted that the agenda had been sent to all members, in advance of the AGM, along with a voting slip covering four proposals.

He went on to read the following message from the former Chairman, Captain John Sail:

Dear All

As you enter into discussions on updates, honours, memorials and more, I would very much like to offer you my full support for the tasks and endeavours that lay ahead. Your commitment and kindness in seeking to progress our amazing Association is exceptional and valued.

It was an honour and a privilege to work with so many of you here today and may I send my best wishes to all those unable to attend.

Throughout the years I was mindful of a quote from the wartime leader, Sir Winston Churchill, who said “All great things are simple and many can be expressed in single words – freedom; justice; honour; duty; mercy; and hope”. That quote encompasses much of what our founder members were seeking to achieve for the Merchant Navy – greater respect; recognition; and remembrance – all of which remain at the core of who we are as an organisation today.

You are now underway and making way and I wish you every success.

Capt J M R Sail MNM MNI MIOs, Former Chairman

2. Homage

Tim Brant read the homage.

3. Minutes of the last Annual General Meeting – 26th October 2019

The minutes of the 2019 AGM, held on 26th October 2019, were proposed by the Chairman seconded by Tim Brant and unanimously approved.

4. Matters arising from the Minutes of the last Annual General Meeting

There were none.

5. Amendments to the Constitution

The Secretary spoke about the two amendments to the Constitution that had taken place since the last AGM. He advised that it was good practice to regularly review a charity’s governing document to ensure that it remained relevant and that it complied with current regulations and best practice.

The first review had included wider use of electronic communications and allow for on-line meetings. It had, where necessary, also included the addition, removal, or changes of order to some of the priorities. This had been agreed, following consultation, among the Council on 24th October 2020.

The second review had amended the election arrangements for Council members. In summary, each Council member would be elected for a five-year term of office, the numbers increased to a maximum of 21 and elections staggered to allow continuity. This had been agreed, following consultation, by the Council on 24th April 2021.

Both amendments had subsequently been approved by the Charity Commissioners. The members present at this AGM endorsed these amendments.

The Chairman thanked the Secretary, David Parsons, for all his work in undertaking the reviews, drafting the updates to the Constitution and submitting these amendments.

6. Annual Report and Accounts for year 1st September 2020 to 31st August 2021

The National Secretary shared this document with all those attending, adding that they had been provisionally agreed by the Council and the accounts confirmed as a true record by the auditors. He reminded members that the Annual Report covered the Association's details, governance, administration and activities throughout its financial year. Once agreed these would be submitted to the Charity Commission.

The Chairman proposed acceptance of the Annual Report and Accounts for the year ending 31st August 2021. This was seconded by the Vice Chairman and unanimously approved.

The Chairman thanked the Treasurer, David Cornes and the Secretary, David Parsons, for all their work in compiling this document.

7. Elections

The Chairman referred those present to the proposal covering the election of Council members. On this occasion these were members who had been appointed by the Council since the last AGM in 2019. Unfortunately, for understandable reasons, three of those names submitted had not been able to attend the AGM. In such circumstances it was felt that they could not be elected for a five-year term of office, before having a chance to meet members in person. Notwithstanding, if agreed by the Council, they could be "elected by Council" until the 2022 AGM.

The Secretary advised that the Association had received by post or email 108 votes. Of these 107 were in favour and one was against. By a large majority the following were elected to Council for a five-year period:

Ian Hodge
Francis Kelly
David Knight
Douglas May
Charles Woodward

The Chairman thanked all five for their willingness to serve as Councillors.

8. Annual Subscriptions

The proposals to increase the annual subscriptions to £12, for UK resident members, with effect from 1st January 2023 had been supported 103 members, with five members against. By a large majority the proposal was supported.

9. Appointment of Accountants

The re-appointment of Forrester Boyd, Chartered Accountants was supported by 105 members, with two members against and one abstention. By a large majority the proposal was supported.

10. Appointment of a new Vice President

The proposal to appoint Captain John Sail, the former chairman, as a lifelong Vice President was supported by 107 members with one vote against. By a large majority the proposal was supported.

11. Any Other Business

There was no further business.

12. Date of the next Annual General Meeting

11.30am, Saturday 24th October 2020 - Birmingham.

13. Meeting closure

The meeting closed at 12.30pm.