

FELIXSTOWE MASTER MARINERS CLUB

Minutes of the 2023 Annual General Meeting Held at Felixstowe Ferry Sailing Club at 1100 hrs on 21st March, 2023

1. Apologies for absence were received from Keith Derham, David Ingham, Nigel Palmer

The meeting was attended by 11 members of the Club: Timothy MacGuire (chair), Ian Buckle, Bill Wright, Malcolm Stafford, Adrian Scheele, Bruno Mennens, Geoffrey Hartgrove, Peter Ashford, Goff Evans, Derek Palmer, Tim Thompson

2. The minutes of the AGM held on 15th March 2022 and having been previously circulated, were accepted and approved unanimously after being proposed by Bill and seconded by Malcolm.
 - 2.1 There were no matters arising from the minutes.

3. **Club Captain's report:** -

The club happily reopened after the Covid-19 restrictions of 2021 in March 2022, thanks to continued support from its many members and active committee members keeping up club morale.

Over the course of 2022 our core number of members has shrunk below 100 due to sadly members crossing the bar and some resignations. Despite these challenges, the ethos and spirit of the club continues with new members and old, along with some very lively luncheons and interesting guest speakers and our continued charitable maritime fund raising.

Highlights that stand out in 2022 were our guest speaker from the Red Arrows, the annual Felixstowe Memorial Service at the seafront War Monument and the national seafarer memorial services at both Tower Hill Gardens and S. Paul's Cathedral London. The year ended with a superb Christmas luncheon accompanied by our group carol singing and sea shanties at our much-loved Felixstowe Ferry sailing club on the river Deben.

4. **Staff Captain's report:** Continued to support Club Captain and the Club in general. Attempted to renew microphones but job still pending. Will continue as Staff Captain as long as required (i.e. withdrawal of earlier resignation). Will be available for Club Captain for next electoral period if required/voted in. Assist speakers with their presentation equipment set up as required.
5. **Treasurer's report:** Malcolm presented copies of the summary of income & expenditure 1/1/22-31/12/22 and a summary of the 2022 net lunch income, both issued by the auditor. The balances on 31st December was shown as totalling £4271.97, though three uncashed cheques for £900 should be taken from this figure or accounted for as an accrual, so current account balance at 31st December should read £2225.73. It was pointed out that this figure included annual subscriptions for 2023 that were received in November & December 2022, some £1760. Adrian then presented a paper that he had worked on and proceeded to ask Malcolm questions that were raised on it. Malcolm replied that he would refer the questions and queries to the auditor and then after being pressed, declined to go into any further detail at the meeting. Malcolm said that he had taken on the role of treasurer to help the Club but had no book-keeping experience beforehand. It was generally agreed that we need to appoint a treasurer who has had some form of accounting background. The treasurer's audited report was accepted Prop: Bill, seconded by Ian

6. Secretary's report: It was very pleasing that the Club survived the various lockdowns due to the Covid pandemic and that we were in a good position having also been able to contribute to our various annual charities and good causes. However, the reduced number of attendees at each luncheon is concerning. Our membership now totals 90, so it would obviously be good to recruit new members. Maybe we could engage with the membership to seek their views on the current format of our meetings?

I would especially like to thank Bruno Mennens for the considerable amount of work and thought that he puts into the job of dining secretary and for his all-round support for the Club. His contribution to keeping the Club working has been immeasurable. The secretary's report was proposed for acceptance by Timothy and seconded by Adrian and passed unanimously by the meeting.

7. Dining secretary's report: The Covid epidemic caused us like all other organisations serious problems in maintaining a semblance of normality, however in the latter stages of 2021 and during 2022 we fortunately managed to return to normality.

We currently enjoy the average attendance figures of 52/57 per members luncheon, with A.W.O.L percentage of between 2.5 to 5%, most of which are age or medical related with added Covid after affects.

Presentation, quality, and table service seems to have improved beyond all recognition when compared to our previous caterers.

We have and are still enjoying excellent food, service, and menu diversity at a minimal cost to our members and guests.

Financially I feel we are struggling to cover the costs of our monthly meeting, as our revenue barely covers the catering account plus event room rental, leaving our secretary little room in speaker engagements etc.

Also, I feel a little embarrassed for our club in chasing monies due for no show when we are dealing with genuine medical or age-related problems having manifested itself between cut off and luncheon date.

8. Web Captain's report: Continued to operate and edit website pages as material becomes available. Plan is to have live website tutorial at a lunch sometime in near future.

9. Election of Officers and Committee for the forthcoming year.

The Club Captain was duly elected
The Staff Captain was duly elected

Captain Timothy MacGuire
Captain Ian Buckle

The existing members of the Committee retire at the AGM and are eligible for re-election. They have all indicated their willingness to stand again and as no other nominations had been received, are proposed for re-election en bloc.

The following nominations were presented to the meeting: -

President
Treasurer
Secretary
Dining Secretary
Recruitment & PR
Membership
Web Captain
Committee 1
Committee 2
Committee 3
Committee 4

Captain David Ingham
Malcolm Stafford
Tim Thompson
Bruno Mennens
Malcolm Stafford
Bill Wright
Captain Ian Buckle
Captain Nigel Palmer
Richard Palmer
Adrian Scheele
Captain Geoffrey Hartgrove

The above persons were duly voted and declared as Officers of the Club and Committee members for the forthcoming year.

Prop by Goff Evans & seconded by Derek Palmer. Goff Evans added that he wished on behalf of the membership to thank the officers of the Club for all the work they do to keep the Club running successfully.

10. Independent examiner of the accounts for a period of one year – Club Member David Lambert has kindly agreed to continue as auditor in this capacity for which the meeting wished to record its thanks.

11. Date of the next AGM: Tuesday 19th March 2024

The meeting closed at 1130 hrs.