

FELIXSTOWE MASTER MARINERS CLUB

Minutes of the 2024 Annual General Meeting Held at Felixstowe Ferry Sailing Club at 1100 hrs on 19th March, 2024

1. Apologies for absence were received from Bruno Mennens, Haley Dossor, Keith Derham

The meeting was attended by 12 members of the Club: Timothy MacGuire (chair), David Ingham, Ian Buckle, Malcolm Stafford, Adrian Scheele, Richard Palmer, Geoffrey Hartgrove, John Downie, Peter Ashford, Goff Evans, Ian Scott, Tim Thompson

2. The minutes of the AGM held on 21st March 2023 and having been previously circulated, were accepted and approved unanimously after being *proposed by Ian and seconded by Richard*.
 - 2.1 There were no matters arising from the minutes.

3. Club Captain's report: -

As one of the leading club societies in Felixstowe I am pleased to report that the past year, despite many challenges, has overall been very successful, both socially and financially. As your club captain it has been a pleasure to represent the club at all the luncheons and many outside events where we are represented.

Despite the loss of members through crossing the bar and resignations, we have continued to successfully attract new members so that total membership now fluctuates between 90-100, with 40-50+ members regularly attending the luncheons. Many other local clubs have not been as fortunate with dwindling numbers. Pleasing innovations over the year has been ease of payment with the introduction of contactless and bacs payment systems, both of which are very successful. The change from 3-course to 2-course meals has maintained very low pricing in a high inflation year.

Thanks to our secretary we have continued to attract excellent speakers over the year which add to enjoyment of members.

The Christmas luncheon was also a great success with a full 3-course menu and carol and sea shanty singing.

Finally, our lunch raffles and annual auction have ensured we have sufficient funds to support all our 11 maritime charities at the usual level with no cutbacks.

Finally in summary the club was represented at the many outside events including: -

- a) Merchant Navy Day 2+3 September - Ipswich Waterfront and London Tower Hill Gardens.
- b) Annual National Service for Seafarers 11th October - St. Paul's Cathedral London.
- c) Remembrance Sunday 11th November - Felixstowe Seafront War Memorial.
- d) Lord Mayor's Luncheon with the Honourable Company of Master Mariners 17th November - London Butcher's Hall. *Prop: Malcolm, seconded: Richard*

4. **Staff Captain's report:** Nothing to report other than assisting with the microphone & laptop connections for the speaker.
5. **Treasurer's report:** Malcolm presented copies of the summary of income & expenditure for the last financial year 1/1/2024 to 31/12/2024 showing an excess of payments over receipts of £188.15.
As of 31st December, 2023, the cash at bank balances carried forward to this

financial year were, current account £2088.35, deposit account £1061.67 plus the £100 cash float.

Malcolm added that annual subscriptions brought in around £2000, the raffle makes around £180 per month depending on the level of donations of raffle prizes in lieu of the Club having to make the purchases and the lunch cost of £22 just about breaks even. The treasurer's report was accepted, *Proposed by: Timothy MacGuire, seconded by Ian Buckle*

- 6. Secretary's report** Another good year for the Felixstowe Master Mariners Club. To think 4 years ago we were in Covid lockdown, we came through it and over the last two years have quite speedily got back to our pre-covid attendance figures. We have even managed to donate to the charities and good causes amounts quite close to before then.

Special mention and thanks to Bruno Mennens who does a very dedicated and caring job as dining secretary.

The new caterers have come in and quickly gained general approval for their good quality food they have served.

Engaging speakers is working quite well. In recent months I have had meetings with the speaker finders of the Felixstowe History Society, Eastern Region of the National Trust (who is now a member) and the local Probus club (who is a guest today) exchanging contacts and whilst we try and engage speakers with nautical themed talks, it is not always possible of course, but hope the talks that we do have are interesting.

Sadly, we have several members that have crossed the bar during 2023 and they will be sorely missed.

Membership is holding up with new members coming in and invariably a prospective new member, having accepted an invitation as a guest and experiences the friendly and fun atmosphere, become interested in joining.

And lastly, I have informed the Committee at our last meeting on 1st February and to advise this AGM that I will stand for re-election at this forthcoming AGM and if re-elected will carry on as secretary for a further year, but intend to step down at the AGM next year.

I have been acting as secretary since 2011 and speaker finder since 2016 and feel that I now want to finish.

Secretary's report accepted by Proposer: Ian Buckle and seconded by Malcolm.

- 7. Dining secretary's report:** Bruno reported that numbers attending our luncheons had held up quite well, although we may see a drop off during the summer months. The Club Captain wished to record his thanks on behalf of the Club for the amazing job that Bruno does under, at times, trying circumstances.

- 8. Web Captain's report:** Continued to operate and edit website pages as material becomes available.

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

The Club Captain was duly elected
The Staff Captain post is vacant.

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 Timothy MacGuire & seconded by Geoffrey Hartgrove

10. Independent examiner of the accounts for a period of one year – Club Member David Cattermole 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 18th March 2025

The meeting closed at 1128 hrs.