

THE CONWAY CLUB 105th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING  
HELD AT The High Cliff Marriott Hotel, Bournemouth  
AT 1615 hrs. ON SATURDAY 15<sup>th</sup> October 2016

Present:	Chris Smith	President
	Tom mason	Hon Secretary
	Matthew Burrow	Hon. Treasurer

Plus 31 other Members.

The President welcomed all members to the meeting and ensured that all present had copies of the Agenda and the accompanying papers.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

D. Fletcher Rogers, G. R. Tubb, B. Bissell, J Southwood, N. Smith, B. McAree, C. Plummer, A Braithwaite, S. Barnett, G Topp, B. Kenny

2. MINUTES OF THE 104<sup>rd</sup> AGM Held at the Victoria & Albert Marriott Hotel, Manchester, on 10<sup>th</sup> October 2015.

The members accepted the minutes as a true record of the meeting by a show of hands.

3. MATTERS ARISING

The Hon Secretary reported there were no matters arising not covered by the agenda.

4. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

The President reported that the Club committee had met twice during the year, both being very productive meetings, dealing with the day-to-day business of the Club.

One of the highlights of the year was the rededication of the 5-Training Ships Memorial at the National Arboretum. This took place, before a combined audience of the alumni of the training ships, after the Memorial had undergone a major refurbishment. It commemorates members of the 5 training ships, Conway, Worcester, Pangbourne, Mercury and General Botha who gave their lives in the two world-wars and subsequent conflicts. Despite inclement weather, there was a good turnout and the subsequent reception provided an ideal opportunity to meet old friends from the other training ships.

The President went on to report there have been a very successful International Conway Worcester and Pangbourne Reunion held in Sydney during the year and he congratulated the organising committee in New South Wales on it's success. The event drew substantial representation from each of the training ships from around the world.

He also complimented the Club branches on a full program of branch meetings, both in the UK, Canada and Australia.

Finally the President welcomed the number of new faces to the AGM weekend and reminded the younger members that the future of the Club lay in their hands, urging them to come forward to play an active role in the Club's activities.

## 5 & 6. 2015 AUDITED ACCOUNTS & HON TREASURER'S REPORT.

Copies of the 2015 Annual Accounts had been circulated to those present and the Hon Treasurer explained they have been prepared by the new bookkeeper, an honorary non-Conway, and audited by Clive Plummer.

He went on to point out that his own financial report formed at page 1 of the accounts.

The accounts had been adopted by the Club Committee at their last meeting.

To give members an up-to-date position, Matt announced the club currently held £4,100 in the deposit account: some £7,000 pounds in the current account and that the value of the investment portfolio stood at around £56K.

The Hon Treasurer reported that the introduction of a bookkeeper made day-to-day management of the accounts much easier. He also reported the financial position of the club as stable but rising costs meant it is vital the income stream from the Teaser Club grows to meet these rising costs. To that end he encouraged all members to actively support the Teaser Club.

Archie Smith asked that a vote of thanks to the Hon Treasurer be recorded for his excellent work on the accounts. This was greeted with applause by the members.

## 7. HON SECRETARY'S REPORT

The Hon Sec opened his statement by advising members that the year had been fairly typical in terms of club membership, in that some 46 members had crossed the bar since the last AGM. Happily, during that period, the Club had welcomed 3 new full members. He went on to ask members to help maintain accurate membership records by advising him of the death of members. Timely notification of a death to the Hon Sec enables a condolence card to be sent to the widow and family and funeral arrangements to be posted on the Club Chat Line.

The Hon Secretary went on to report to the meeting the sad news that the Club's senior hand, Rod Knight (25-27) have crossed the bar. Regrettably the news was only received some 15 months after the event. Rod was 103 and living in Sidney, Vancouver Island, Canada at the time of his death.

His passing led to a search of the club membership List by Penny Reeves and the Hon Secretary to identify the new senior hand. After considerable research this proved to be, Dr Yves Dias (35-37). Yves, a highly decorated Second World War veteran recently received the Ushakov Medal, an honour presented to Arctic Convoy veterans by the Russian Government, at a presentation in Edinburgh. He is currently living in Gateshead and greeted the news of his elevation to senior hand with the response 'I never expected this honour'. It is hoped to include an article on Dr. Yves Dias in the next issue of the Cadet.

The Hon Sec also commented that the search for the Senior Hand in the membership list had revealed that a number of members on the list were sadly already deceased. This has to indicate that the current membership maybe considerably less than originally estimated from the membership list.

## 8. REVISION TO CLUB RULE 8.

The President explained that John McCaughrean had published, in issue 72 of The Cadet, a notice of intension to amend Rule 8 of the Club Rules. The existing wording of Rule 8 does not make clear the status of Honorary Vice Presidents with regard to voting. The intention of the amendment is that only Committee Members elected by the Full and Affiliate members at the Annual General Meeting should be responsible for the conduct and decisions of the committee.

The revised wording, as listed in issue 72 of The Cadet, was proposed for adoption by Archie Smith, seconded by John McCaughrean and approved by a show of hands.

Rule eight will now read :-

*8. The **COMMITTEE** shall comprise of the **OFFICERS** and a maximum of ten elected **COMMITTEE MEMBERS**, chosen from among **FULL** and **AFFILIATE** Members and elected at the Annual General Meeting. This number does not include any persons who have been either co-opted to the committee for a specific purpose or invited by the **COMMITTEE** to attend meetings. They shall make no proposals nor have a vote at the **COMMITTEE MEETINGS**. The **COMMITTEE** shall meet at least twice each year on dates which the **COMMITTEE** shall agree. A quorum for the conduct of business shall be seven elected **COMMITTEE** members of whom two shall be **OFFICERS**.*

## 9. ELECTION OF COMMITTEE MEMBERS

The Hon. Secretary informed the meeting that there was a single nomination for the vacancy of President of the Club. The nomination, for Conrad Blakey (56-59), seconded by Mike Reeves (56-59) and accompanied by a notice of agreement to serve from Conrad. This nomination had been adopted by the committee at their last meeting.

In the absence of any other nominations, the President invited members to approve the election of Conrad by a show of hands. Members gave their approval accordingly and Chris Smith congratulated Conrad on his election.

Conrad thanked members for the confidence they had shown in him.

The Hon. Secretary explain that Conrad's election left a vacancy for a Vice-President. A single nomination had been received for this position, in the name of David Fawcitt (67-69), duly seconded and which had been adopted by the committee at their last meeting.

In the absence of any other nominations, the President invited members to show their approval of the election at David which they duly did by a show of hands.

The Hon. secretary confirmed that the other elected members of the committee had expressed their willingness to serve again. The Members present approved the re-election of the these Committee Members by a show of hands.

Archie Smith asked that any members interested in standing for posts on the committee should not hesitate to come forward, as a number of members of the committee had served over long periods and may wish to stand down in favour of younger members.

John McCaughrean asked that the committee consider holding their meetings at venues more convenient for access than Central London. The President suggested this be considered at the future Committee meeting.

## 9. 2017 AGM & DINNER ARRANGEMENTS

The President invited Mrs. Mim Smith to update members on the arrangements for the 2017 AGM dinner.

Mim confirmed that the 2017 AGM and Dinner will be held at the St Georges Hotel in Llandudno. Details are not yet finalised but the intention is to have various packages available covering both Friday Night and Saturday, Much in line with this year's event. It is proposed to feature a pig roast for the Friday evening, with the AGM and formal dinner on Saturday.

Mim explained that the trip organised to the Mary Rose this year had ended up undersubscribed and this left an unfortunate shortfall in funding. In view of this shortfall Mim asked any members who had opinions or thoughts on the future of trips at future AGM weekends, speak to her during the course of this weekend. One obvious option for next year will be to visit Plas Newydd, but any decision will be taken later.

The reservation of rooms for next years events will be strictly on a first come first served basis and no reservations will be accepted until the notice of the event appears in the Cadet.

At this point David Burdett (54-56) proposed a vote off thanks, on behalf on the club, to Mim Smith for all her hard work over the years. This proposal was greeted with applause from the members.

Archie Smith (64-66) went on to propose a similar vote of thanks to committee members and offices of the club and Their work during the past year.

## 10. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

a) Presentation by Matt Burrow (xx-xx), Hon Sec. of the Conway Merchant Navy Trust :-

Matt opened his report by reminding members that the Conway Merchant Navy Trust embodies the funds remaining on the closure of HMS Conway. The trust's remit is, broadly, for educational purposes and to commemorate the name of HMS Conway wherever possible. For the last 18 years the trust has been employing those funds to train future merchant navy Officers, sponsoring them to go to university, college and then on to sea with British shipping companies large and small. Throughout, the Trusts policy is to provide these future offers with the best possible grounding in their chosen career, by sending them to university rather than to college and encouraging them to obtain a degree rather than an HND. This is now showing results and there are Trust sponsored officers coming ashore from their seagoing career and coming into important roles in the maritime industry in the U.K.

Some time ago the question was raised amongst members of the Trustees as to whether or not the Trust should stop training cadets and employ the funds in other ways and Matt reported this position to the AGM last year.

He explained that the outcome of the Trusts considerations was that it should continue its training of officers for seagoing careers.

We should be extremely proud that, at a ceremony last week, held at Trinity house, a CMNT sponsored Cadet, by the name of Matthew Evans was awarded the MCA's prestigious "Best Trainee Officer of the Year" award. The recipient was recommended by his tutors and received the award from the Minister of Transport for Shipping before an assembled company of dignitaries from Trinity House, the MCA and the MSSC. This trainee really has a glittering career ahead.

At the end of Matt's presentation, the President suggested a vote of thanks be proposed to Matt, his fellow Trustees and particularly to, Mike Reeves, for their hard work and dedication in moving the CMNT forward so successfully.

In answer to a question from John McCaughrean, Matt explained that CMNT trainees serve in all manner of ships, not necessarily British flagged, but with companies having a British connection. These range from liners to tankers, dredgers and an Antarctic survey vessel.

Mike Reeves then went on to outline, briefly, the Trusts relationships with other bodies who are able to place trainees in suitable ships

Archie Smith(64–66) advised the meeting that Matt Burrow had recently been enrolled as both a Freeman and Liveryman in The Worshipful Company of Shipwrights, largely in recognition of his work with the Conway Merchant Navy Trust. Matt was congratulated on this honour.

b) A presentation by Mark Semmance MA,MBA PGCE Headmaster, Mount Kelly College

The President welcomed Mark and introduced him to members.

Mark opened by explaining that two years ago, Kelly College and Mount House, previously a stand alone prep school amalgamated to form Mount Kelly. For 30 years or so Kelly College had been an age 11-18 school and Mount House a 3-13 school.

Thus the amalgamation required a solution to 11-13 age group and this has been transferred out of the school and into the prep.

Those who are familiar with the school will know that 'Conway House' was an 11-13 age boarding house and it has been closed and empty since the merger. Fortunately, pupil numbers across the board are increasing and the decision to reopen Conway house next September has been taken.

The precise form it will take, will it be boys or mixed and what age group it will accommodate are still to be decided and will probably be announced to parents at the beginning of 2017.

As for the school itself, it is in excellent heart with Pupil numbers growing. A new school will be opening in Hong Kong next September and there will probably be boarding house named Conway house.

The school has recently open, on time and on budget, a 50-metre Olympic sized swimming pool and so far the school has trained 30 Olympic swimmers. At the Rio Olympics Kelly trained athletes were awarded 2 Gold, 4 Silver and 2 bronze medals.

At this point Archie Smith(64–66) enquired if the school had pupils who would be interested in a maritime career. The Headmaster replied that the geographical proximity to Plymouth of the school ensures that a number of their pupils are the offspring of serving naval officers. When asked about Merchant Navy careers he readily accepted that careers and advice would be most welcome from the Conway Merchant Navy Trust Members.

John McCaughrean enquired if the John Masefield literary prize is was still awarded. The Headmaster assured him that it was and that it forms part of the end of term prize-giving.

Matt Burrow advised Mark that the Conway merchant Navy trust were actively involved, with partners, in promoting a maritime studies BTEC course. The aim is that this should be piloted next year and rolled out to education providers thereafter. The Headmaster expressed interest in such a project, particularly suitable he explained for six formers who were more technically motivated, and in view of the increasing difficulty of A-level subject curricula.

#### 10.DATE & VENUE OF NEXT MEETING.

St Georges Hotel, Llandudno

Saturday October 7th 2016 at 1500 hrs.