



**Minutes of the Medway and Swale Boating Association Annual General Meeting
Tuesday 6th December 2016 at 19.00 at Medway Cruising Club**

Present: John Gore (Chairman), Brian Corbett (Vice-Chairman), Gavin Parson (Secretary/ Hoverclub UK), Morris Tolhurst (Treasurer/ Beacon Boatyard), Tony Lavelle (Webmaster, Membership Secretary, PR Officer), Peter Norris (Exec Committee/ Clarke & Carter) Bob Telford (Exec Committee/ Faversham Creek Trust), Steve Bailey (KBSC), Don Cuckow (KBSC), David Lavender (Kent Police), Tony Kingswood (Hundred of Hoo SC), Lynn Wilkinson (Upnor SC), Stuart Hurst (Upnor SC), Wil Pretty (SEGAS SC), Chas Hessey (Hoo Ness YC), Syd Platt (TSBT), Brian Cameron (REYC/RCC), John Webb (Hollowshore CC), Bill Shepherd (RYA), Derek Zobel (Wilsonian SC/ HHSC/SYC), Martin Vinton (Wilsonian SC), Simon Hanmore (REYC), Royce Watchorn (Strood YC), Gary Smith (Medway CC), Trevor Peen (Medway CC/ Medway Watersports Trust), Hayley Taylor (Medway Council), Clinton Lyon (Gillingham Marina/ Mariners Farm), Clifford Mickleburgh (Cruising Association), David Metcalfe (Lower Halstow YC), Liz McVeigh (Medway Towns Rowing Club), Christine Godber (Wilsonian SC), Lawrence McVeigh (RNSA), John Puplett (SE Tug Society).

Apologies for absence: Kelly Tolhurst (Patron), Colin Weston and Catherine Gore (Medway YC), Stuart Bradley (Queenborough Harbour Trust), Derek Chalk (Hoo Ness YC), Ian Clarke & Dave Newbury (Peel Ports), Bob Pettit (Strood YC).

Minutes of the AGM held 2nd December 2015 and matters arising: Accepted and no matters arising.

Chairman's Report: John reported the death of Stuart Cox who revived the Medway Yachting Association in the 1970s. There is an obituary on the MSBA website.

Thanks to Ken Waller who has stood down from the MSBA and who used to be chairman of the MYA and then audited the accounts for the MYA from 1996 to 2001.

Vice Chairman's Report: Brian stated that regarding the Battle of Chatham event next year, the Dutch are well organized, have been to the Medway and chartered a boat, then taken a video to show people back in Holland. One of the visitors was a direct descendant of Admiral De Ruyter.

The Rhoda Mary project has been going on for two years. The wreck is still near Hoo but there are plans to dismantle it and take it by road to Truro. Truro Council have given the project some land and a building to create a boatyard for the restoration.

Secretary's Report: Gavin reported that some flyers for the 2017 conference have been produced and are here for members to take away and distribute. Car stickers are also available and more can be forwarded by post if required.



**Minutes of the Medway and Swale Boating Association Annual General Meeting
Tuesday 6th December 2016 at 19.00 at Medway Cruising Club**

Treasurers Report: Morris reported that the MSBA's financial year runs from 1st October to 30th September.

Total expenditure for the year was £590.43. Significant items were....

Window stickers	£314.38
Trophy engraving	£76.60
Web hosting	£74.10
Total income for the year	£1,371.80
Sale of mugs	£20.00
Surplus for the year	£801.37
Cash at bank 30 th September 2016	£16,050.73

Membership Secretary's Report: Membership is fairly static since the big recruitment campaign in 2013/14. It would be good to recruit the 3 marinas on the west bank above Rochester Bridge: Port Medway, Cuxton and Elmhaven. Not sure if Cambria Trust is joining or not.

Our membership database is very primitive and not worthy of the name. I'm sure the Committee would welcome anyone with the skills to organize this better.

Tony is stepping down from this role which overlaps with the Treasurer and Secretary.

Webmaster's Report:

The website is our main channel of communication with members and others. It continues to be updated with news and the last four years of content is searchable. Anyone can subscribe to receive an email whenever a news item is added. The site automatically updates a Facebook page which is very popular. Many clubs are now using closed Facebook groups for communication among their members. Though I'm not a great fan of Facebook, like any technology it's about what you use it for.

Some highlights of the year on the website were:

- In May, an empty drifting dinghy clearly labelled Picaro and MCC triggered a search by the RNLI. When the information was put on our website the owner was traced in half an hour. We hope the RNLI, Police and Port Authority will use our local knowledge and network of contacts more in future.
- In August, we published the Peel Ports notice of the demolition of the Grain Power Station chimney. This got 4,300 likes, half of which were in the first two hours, and many comments. Nowadays websites need to be interactive to engage users.



Minutes of the Medway and Swale Boating Association Annual General Meeting Tuesday 6th December 2016 at 19.00 at Medway Cruising Club

- In November, some great photos of dolphins in the Medway were taken by former MYA Chairman Ken Waller, from his boat called Dolphin. [We should acknowledge Ken's long service with the MYA as he has now stepped down from his role as Trophy Secretary]

As a first step towards closer cooperation with our partners, we now have a reciprocal agreement with Medway Council for pages on each others' websites. Our site has a Medway Council page and we understand that the Council will soon have a page with information for recreational boaters.

Each member has a page on the MSBA website. Please check that your club or organisation is there and let me know if any information is wrong or contact details have changed. We know from Google analytics that these pages are often searched for so don't miss out on potential new members.

Likewise, the website has a calendar of events. Please let me know of any open events that should be on there. You should also be notifying Medway VTS of events on the river and we republish their diary along with any other Notices to Mariners of relevance to boaters. When planning events please consider whether they may clash with other major events such as regattas. This year we had three major events on the same day!

We are grateful to the partners and members who sponsor our website. Most of these have agreed to renew for another year. Please make a point of clicking on these links to visit our sponsors' websites.

Publicity: Apart from the website, we have burgees, mugs and car stickers, though I can't take credit for the last two. Today we are offering two MSBA mugs for the price of one, £4 and the burgees are half price, only £5. The car stickers are free so please take some away for sharing at your club. If your boat has windows, they work there too.

The Conference on 4 March will be our third. It raises the profile of the MSBA in the boating community and expresses our partnership with the Council, the Port Authority and other organizations. As before, Medway Council and Peel ports have pledged generous sponsorship of the event so we can keep the ticket price down to £15, or £12 for early booking. Please take some flyers and check the Conference page on our website for further information.

Constitutional Matters: It has been proposed to accept individual members as well as companies and clubs. The reason being is that there are a number of recreational boaters, e.g. in marinas, who are not members of any boat club but who want to have a voice on the MSBA.

Following a debate on the subject, it was proposed to allow individual membership for the sum of £5 for 3 years. The individual member will have no voting rights and the duty is on them to renew their membership at the end of the 3 years.

Proposed by: John Gore seconded by: Christine Godber. For: 17 Against: 5- Motion carried.



**Minutes of the Medway and Swale Boating Association Annual General Meeting
Tuesday 6th December 2016 at 19.00 at Medway Cruising Club**

Length of time Executive Committee officers may serve: John Gore proposed a maximum of 3 years. Unanimously accepted- Motion carried.

Election of officers: John Gore (Chairman), Brian Corbett (Vice-Chairman), Morris Tolhurst (Treasurer), Tony Lavelle (Webmaster, Membership Secretary, PR Officer), Peter Norris (Exec Committee) Bob Telford are all willing to be re-elected. Gavin Parson wishes to stand down as Secretary but is willing to remain on the Executive Committee.

All those standing for re-election were re-elected.

Nominations were requested for a new secretary. None received. Liz McVeigh offered to take business meeting minutes which was gratefully accepted. A secretary is still required to take Executive Committee meeting minutes.

Brian Corbett has volunteered to be the MSBA rep to the RYA London and South East region.

Date for next AGM: 28th November 2017 at Kent Boat and Ski Club.

The meeting concluded at 20.01.