

NEW ZEALAND COMPANY OF MASTER MARINERS



MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Held at the Mt Maunganui RSA on Wednesday 5th August 2020

The meeting was convened at 1340 in the Gallipoli Room following lunch in the restaurant.

1. **WELCOME AND LOYAL TOAST**

Captain Barradale, Warden Auckland Branch, proposed the Loyal Toast.

The Master, Captain Ewbank, welcomed the 23 members and one guest, and passed the chair to the General Secretary, Commander Robbins who thanked the Tauranga Branch for hosting the AGM and offered condolences to the Warden, Captain Camp, on the recent loss of his wife, Joy.

The Master presented Captain David Ewings with his membership certificate.

2. **PRESENT:** Captains Barradale, Brown, Camp, Daish, Entwistle, Ewbank, Frankland, Good, Pigneguy, Spencer, Goodwin, Rutherford, Weston, Williams, Magazinovic, Fowler, Roberts, Likos, Dennison, Watson and Ewings, and Commanders Robbins and Wray.

3. **APOLOGIES:** Captains Hunn, Stammer, Ratcliffe, Thompson, Munro, McEwan, Wright, Torgersen, Hawkins, Van Kesteren, Swallow, Payne, Westermeier, Read. The apologies were **received** (Robbins/Barradale)

4. **IN MEMORIAM:** A minute's silence was observed for those members, and long-serving former members who had 'crossed the bar' since the last AGM – Captains Marshall, Keer-Keer, Bedwell, Attwood, Varney, Gibson, Curnow..

5. **MINUTES:** The minutes of the AGM held in Auckland on 7 August 2019 were circulated and **taken as read** (Good/Barradale). The following matters arising were discussed:

5.1 **NZRSA/MNA. NZRSA.** The Master commented on the status of MN personnel as 'veterans' in the UK and noted the difference in NZ. Mt Maunganui RSA appears to be the stand-out exception. We have been affiliated with NZRSA for 2 years; we are endeavouring to get Service Member status and the Company Executive have approved that the Master attend the RNZRSA council meeting in October to speak to a remit we have submitted proposing that Merchant Navy personnel should be afforded 'Service member' status at the RSA. A copy of the remit was also circulated.

The Wellington Branch of the Merchant Navy Association changed its name to the NZMNA at the end of 2018. The Master suggested that it would be worth encouraging our members to join the NZMNA and application forms were circulated.

5.2 **Chartered Master Mariner Scheme.** Captain Daish provided an updated and noted that it was no-longer necessary to incur the expense of travelling to UK as interviews etc could now be undertaken remotely. The General Secretary reported that the Master and himself had attended the Wellington Branch meeting at which member Captain John Mansell - who is believed to be the first

non-UK citizen to achieve the distinction - had received the certificate and insignia of Chartered Master Mariner.

6. **CORRESPONDENCE:** General Secretary reported that he receives almost no postal mail. Most inwards communications are by email all of which have been routine administrivia this year.

7. **WARDENS' REPORTS:**

7.1 **Auckland.** Membership matters were noted with several new members including from the Indian sub-continent. The Warden has taken up the matter regarding the omission of the Red Ensign at Auckland Anzac Day commemorative services and the differences between observances in the various cities was noted in the subsequent discussions in the meeting. The various organisations and agencies appear to have differing views over who is responsible for the observances but RSA have been given the stewardship of the cenotaph. It appears to be a problem in Auckland due to the views of a particular RSA Officer. Finances are sound. Thanks expressed to Branch Officers.

7.2 **Christchurch.** This is the 61st annual report presented by the Warden. Numbers are steady but the dispersed nature of the membership is a difficulty. Apart from committee meetings, 1 social meeting at Christmas etc has been held and enjoyed. Branch meetings as such are not held. Thanks expressed to office holders. Remit proposed and will be tabled.

7.3 **Wellington.** 18-20 members regularly attend monthly lunch meetings. Good speakers are a drawcard and the venue is an asset though costs for lunches have risen slightly recently.. The annual SS OTAKI Remembrance Ceremony was attended at Otaki College. Merchant Navy Day this year will present a challenge as the War Memorial Hall of Memories/carillon is deemed an earthquake risk and is currently closed. The Branch's wreath is currently in the Hall of Memories¹

7.4 **Tauranga.** An eventful year. A combination of Covid, members' health problems and loss of loved ones has led to reduced number of meetings. Delighted to have been able to welcome new members Commander Wray and Captain Ewings. Thanks expressed to Secretary Gordon and Treasurer Peter for their hard work and also Guy who produces the excellent branch Newsletter.

8. **MASTER'S REPORT:** The Master presented a detailed report, copies of which were circulated to those attending. This has been his 5th year as Master.

Master has devoted his efforts to raising the status of the Merchant Navy including with NZRSA and NZMNA. Efforts to have MN personnel recognised as Service Personnel continue and he will attend the NZRSA Council in October to present a remit.

He has represented the company at various events and was represented at the Anniversary of Passchendale commemoration by Captain Frankland and the Waitangi Day Garden Party in Wellington, by Captain and Mrs Watt. He was pleased to be able to attend the installation of Captain Mansell as a Chartered Master Mariner in Wellington in July.

Master has attended most of the funerals of Auckland Branch members this year.

Master noted the annual Maritime Associations Dinner which he organises in Auckland each December and commented that the Company was well represented at the 2019 dinner. This year's event to be held 4 December and all members will be very welcome.

Congratulations and thanks extended to Gavin Dennison (Tauranga) and Gerry Wright (Auckland) who produce the Branch newsletters which are widely circulated.

The Master thanked the Wardens and Committees of our four branches for their efforts in keeping the Company afloat.

9. **TREASURER'S REPORT:** Presented by General Secretary. Modest surplus of \$726 for the year. The Consolidated Financial Report for the Company and Branches has been accepted by the Executive Council and will be lodged with Registrar of Incorporated Societies shortly.

Operating authority for Company Accounts confirmed and remain unchanged.

The Executive Council have decided that the capitation levy shall be retained at \$25pp for the year commencing 1 July 2021.

Resolution: To receive and adopt the Annual Reports and Financial Statements for the year ending 31 March 2020. (Robbins/Pigneguy). **Passed**

10. **OFFICERS:** The following appointments were advised/confirmed:

Master – Captain E Ewbank

General Secretary/Treasurer – Commander Larry Robbins

Warden Auckland Branch – Captain Chris Barradale

Warden Christchurch Branch – Captain Darrell Daish

Warden Tauranga Branch – Captain Ken Camp

Warden Wellington Branch – Captain Eric Good (Master Designate)

11. **GENERAL BUSINESS:**

11.1 **QUORA. Resolution:** That Rule 16 be amended to read: “The following are the minimum numbers required to form a quorum at the various meetings: Company General 10 Members” (Good/Camp) **Passed.**

11.2 **Remit from the Christchurch Branch – Institution of the position of Deputy Warden.** The chairman advised that the Executive Council had decided, by a split vote, to pass this remit to the General Meeting for deliberation and decision. Captain Daish spoke to the motion. Following discussion, questions and answers, Captain Daish, on behalf of the Christchurch Branch, moved “That the position of Deputy Master is reinstated into the Rules of the Company”. The motion **lapsed** for want of a seconder.

11.3 **Book on the Arctic Convoys.** The meeting chairman advised that a book on the Arctic Convoys is being researched and the author is seeking personal reminiscences. Details were provided.

11.4 **Next Meeting.** The next AGM will be held in Wellington on 11 August 2021.

The Tauranga Branch were again thanked for their hospitality, members were thanked for their attendance, and the Master closed the meeting at 1446.