



MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Held at the Bolton Hotel, Wellington on Wednesday 11th August 2021

The meeting was convened at 1340 following lunch

1. WELCOME AND LOYAL TOAST

Prior to lunch. Captain Barradale, Warden Auckland Branch, said Grace and Captain Good proposed the Loyal Toast.

In opening the meeting after lunch, the Master, Captain Ewbank, welcomed the 14 members and passed the chair to the Master Designate, Captain Eric Good, who welcomed everyone.

2. PRESENT: Captains Anand, Barradale, Brown, Camp, Date, Ewbank, Good, Kerswill, Mansell, Sweetman, van Kesteren, Watt, Williamson, and Commander Robbins.

APOLOGIES: Captains Daish, Ian Hall, Pryce, Lillico, Irwin. The apologies were **received** (Good/Barradale)

3. CROSSING THE BAR: A minute's silence was observed for those members who had 'crossed the bar' since the last AGM – Captain C. Barry Thompson, Captain W (Bill) Galer, Captain Alister Forbes, Captain Nic Campbell, Captain Peter Wright, and Captain W.Osmand

4. MINUTES:

4.1 The minutes of the AGM held in Mt Maunganui on 5 August 2020 were circulated and **taken as read** (Barradale/Ewbank). The following matters arising were discussed:

4.1.1 **NZRSA.** The Chairman commented that he had attended the Annual meeting of the NZRSA (by Zoom) and felt that the NZRSA has accepted the MN as the 4th Service. He will continue dialogue.

4.1.2 **NZMNA.** The NZMNA have just formalised their existence. Captain Good is working with them to further develop the relationship. Noted that the NZMNA is strong in Nelson and there could be an opportunity for the Company in that area.

4.1.3 **QUORA.** General Secretary advised that the rule change (quorum reduced from 15 to 10) had been lodged with the Registrar of Incorporated Societies and noted that this was a timely change given that only 14 members were in attendance at this meeting!

5. 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. This item will be removed as a standard part of general meetings.

6. **WARDENS' REPORTS:**

6.1 **Auckland.** Captain Christopher Barradale. Reviewing meeting arrangements. Remuera Club venue fee increased from \$150 to \$200 per meeting next year. Enjoyed a very successful lunch time meeting at the Birkenhead RSA in March, so this could be an alternative venue for some of our meetings.

2020 Scholarship Award went to Zak Miers who successfully passed the OOW Deck exam during the year. Zak was a NZ Maritime School Cadet who completed his sea-time with Neptune Pacific Line but is now sailing as Second Mate with Myriad Sea Management Company of Switzerland.

The RSA's removal of the Merchant Navy flag from the Auckland Cenotaph where it had been displayed at every ANZAC Day since 1929, remains under discussion. The War Memorial Museum were unable to get the RSA to restore the flag so will give consideration to flying the Ensign from the Museum building itself. Was not successful in remedying this this for ANZAC Day 2021 but has a promise from Museum Director to revisit the request in time for 2022. However, the Museum did fly the Merchant Navy flag from the museum rooftop for Merchant Navy Day in September 2020.

Captain John Frankland has been Hon. Branch Secretary for 10 years and he has been excellent in that role. He has retired and has been replaced by Commander Mark Longstaff. Thanks expressed to the other officers and the committee, in particular Deputy Warden and Social Events organiser Captain Ben Johnson, our Membership Officer Captain Anup Pillai.

6.2 **Christchurch.** Captain Phillip Sweetman. Numbers are steady but the dispersed nature of the membership is a difficulty. Thanks expressed to office holders. Branch has agreed to proposal to support a trainee on R TUCKER THOMPSON and suggested to other branches and Warsash Association to join them.

This was discussed but it was noted that the Wellington and Auckland Branches had not supported the idea and Warsash Association had yet to decide. The Executive Council had not found favour with the suggestion and it was not put to the meeting for a formal vote.

6.3 **Wellington.** Captain John Mansell. Assumed role at the Branch AGM in April at which Captain Ken Watt retired as Secretary, with Captain Raminder Anand replacing him. Membership holding steady. Noted the loss of 3 members since last AGM with recent loss of Captain Wayne Osmond, Master with Bluebridge Shipping, who drowned swimming at Castlepoint Beach.

The annual SS OTAKI Remembrance Ceremony was attended at Otaki College. Important to maintain presence at this and similar events to maintain profile of the Company.

6.4 **Tauranga.** An eventful year. Pleased to host AGM last year. Membership numbers have remained static overall though lunch numbers are reduced especially in winter. Sad to report some members' wives have crossed the bar. Company represented at Anzac and Merchant Navy Days and Sea Sunday at local church.

RSA at Mt Maunganui now has a 'Merchant Navy Corner'.

7. **MASTER'S REPORT:** The Master presented a detailed report, copies of which were circulated to those attending. This has been his 6th year as Master and he is handing the helm to Captain Eric Good.

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.

He has represented the company at various events including the Waitangi Day Garden Party in Wellington.

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

Master noted the annual Maritime Associations Dinner which he has organised in Auckland each December and commented that the Company was well represented at the 2020 dinner. He has handed responsibility for organising the dinner to IMarEst Auckland.

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

On conclusion of the Master's Report, the incoming Master, Captain Eric Good, proposed a Vote of Thanks to Captain Ted Ewbank. **This was passed with acclamation.**

8. **TREASURER'S REPORT:** Presented by General Secretary. Loss of \$519 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 increased to \$30pp for the year commencing 1 July 2022.

Captain van Kesteren requested that previous year's figures be included for reference in financial reports.

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

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

Master – Captain Eric Good

General Secretary/Treasurer – Commander Larry Robbins

Warden Auckland Branch – Captain Chris Barradale

Warden Christchurch Branch – Captain Phillip Sweetman

Warden Tauranga Branch – Captain Ken Camp

Warden Wellington Branch – Captain John Mansell

10. **GENERAL BUSINESS:**

10.1 Captain Barradale noted that the NZ Maritime School turns out 10-15 students a year but none seem interested in joining the Company. The need to recruit new members including pilots was discussed. Social Media (Facebook/Linkedin) was discussed as a potential aid to encourage recruitment. Captain Anand is reviving the Linkedin page and Facebook will be considered. Mentorship of young officers has been tried but has not been very successful, possibly due to the difficulty of matching personalities, availability etc.

10.2 **Next Meeting.** The next AGM will be held in Christchurch on a date to be advised in August 2022.

Members were thanked for their attendance, and the Master closed the meeting at 1440