

The Liverpool Nautical Research Society

Chair's Annual Report 2019 – 2020

Franklin D Roosevelt said “Smooth seas do not make skilful sailors” and the seas faced by your Council in the last few months of the 2019 – 2020 membership year have been far from smooth. However, the members of Council have proved that they are indeed skilful sailors and have met the challenges facing them. Thanks to their individual and combined effort your Society remains in good health as you will see from my report and, more importantly, from the Treasurer's report published elsewhere.

President: Captain M.D.R Jones became President of the Society in July 2019

Membership: The current membership at 1st May stands at 206 and I believe that out of that total about 40 are still to renew but I am fairly confident that they will do so shortly.

I know that renewal of membership this year has been a trifle confusing as several changes happened fairly close together over the last two years; changing the renewal date to 1st April, changing the subscription rates, offering two different rates and the introduction of payment by standing order. The Secretary and Treasurer have been working closely together to ensure that members are paying the right amount for the Bulletin option they have chosen.

Talks Programme: The Athenaeum continues to be a popular venue for our monthly talks and I would like to pay tribute to the staff for their unfailing support and assistance, when asked, for our meetings. The planned 2019-20 programme was as interesting and varied as usual thanks to Ian Duckett.

Unfortunately, as you know, the programme had to be suspended from March onwards due to the Covid 19 outbreak but some of our speakers have generously agreed to present their talks at a future date. This also meant that the AGM that should have been held this month (May) has been postponed.

You will have received the 2020-2021 programme with the June Bulletin that was sent out recently. If the situation improves we are hoping to resume the talks starting on 17th September but should that not be the case your Council is looking at alternative ways of bringing the talks to you and will let you know as soon as possible.

Finance: The Treasurer's report is published elsewhere and you will note that your Society's finances are in a healthy state.

Thanks to an initiative on the part of the Treasurer, Tony Melling, printing of the Bulletin is now with a different company and although the quality of the product is still of the high standard that you are used to, the cost has been reduced. Also reflected in the report is the generous bequest from the will of the late Captain Graeme Cubbin.

Bulletin: The Bulletin continues to go from strength to strength under Bill Ogle's editorship. Every quarter it contains a variety of articles, some are taken from the talks that have been given at the Athenaeum, others from a variety of sources, and all are interesting. Bill welcomes any feedback regarding the Bulletin, good or bad, and would welcome any contribution from you, the members. Those of you who are familiar with the website will know that every Bulletin published since the Society's inception is now available to search and read – back as far as before it was even called The Bulletin.

Website: Under Ted Scapelhorn's stewardship the website continues to improve but is not being utilised as much as it deserves. Some very interesting questions have been asked by users – for example- “How long would it have taken to transport bodies from Liverpool to Edinburgh by sail via the Forth and Clyde Canal?” I encourage members to make as much use of the website as possible, especially during the present circumstances. As if running the website isn't enough, Ted is also the Society's Secretary and, as you can imagine, has been particularly busy recently.

Archive: The Archive at MMM opened briefly but shut again due to refurbishment work on the second floor gallery. Re-opening was scheduled for the end of March 2020; I have no information at the moment as to when this is now likely to happen.

Covid 19: The pandemic that is sweeping the world has cast a shadow over every aspect of everyday life, not least over the activities of your society and we have temporarily had to trim some aspects of our activities to suit the circumstances:

- The monthly talks have been suspended for the time being but we are planning for resumption in September if restrictions are lifted, and we are working on a Plan B if that is not possible.
- The postponed AGM will be held concurrently with the meeting of 19th November at the Athenaeum. It will be held by Video Conference if restrictions still apply.
- Council meetings have also been suspended for the moment but members of Council have been meeting weekly using a video conference link and will continue to do so. A formal Council meeting is planned for May using the same facility. If the lockdown continues into the summer we will continue with our regular programme of council meetings by video link for as long as necessary.
- The Bulletin will continue to be published as usual, certainly in digital format and we anticipate that the September issue will be available in print format as well, and, as mentioned above, Bill will welcome any feedback as well as any articles or snippets that will interest other members
- The website will continue to be updated and I hope to see more questions and answers appearing in it; it is the ideal medium for keeping in touch in the present circumstances.

Before closing I would like to pay tribute to all members of Council who have contributed so much toward making your Society the success that it is. I have mentioned some already but it really is a team effort and I would like to thank them all for the support that I have received during this, my first year, as your Chair.

This is an unprecedented and trying time for all of us and I can only conclude with another nautical quote, this time from that world-famous poet, Anon – You can't control the wind, but you **can** trim the sails.

Elfyn Hughes May 2020

Liverpool Nautical Research Society

Accounts for the Full Year 2019/2020 held at Santander Bank PLC

Full Year: 1st April 2019 to 31st March 2020

Opening Bank Balances: Current Account: 1384 Deposit Account: 4610 Total = 5994

<u>Income</u>	<u>2018/19</u>	<u>2019/20</u>
Subscriptions	3608	2659
Donations	403	546
Refreshments	196	165
Book Sales	166	54
Merchandise Sales	319	48
Deposit Interest	18	24.7
<u>Total</u>	<u>4710</u>	<u>3496.7</u>
<u>Expenditure</u>		
Bulletin Printing	2041	918
Distribution/Stationery	95	93
Room Hire	684	765
Speaker Expenses	456	78
Refreshments	239	141
IT Costs	1108	140
Hon. Treasurer Expenses	158	36
Hon. Secretary Expenses	125	
Merchandise	970	
Donations/Gifts	157	25
Bulletin Postage	565	591
Other Postage	14	
Pastoral	88	13
Bank Charges	10	
<u>Total</u>	<u>6710</u>	<u>2800</u>
Surplus / Deficit during Year	-2000	696.7
Opening Cash Balance	<u>7994</u>	<u>5994</u>
Closing Cash Balance	5994	6695

Closing Bank Balances: Current Account: 3596 Deposit Account: 3099 Total = 6695

Nominated Auditors:

Mr F. Molloy

Mr. J. Olin