

THE LIVERPOOL NAUTICAL RESEARCH SOCIETY  
MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING  
HELD BY ZOOM VIDEOCONFERENCE  
ON 20 MAY 2021

1 Jun 21

Present: The President of the Society and 20 Members

ITEM 1 – WELCOME AND APOLOGIES

1. The Chairman welcomed Members to the meeting. Apologies for absence had been received from Captain Hugh Daghish, Commander Tom Cunningham, Mr Ian Duckett, Mr John Duckett, and Mr Mike Feltham. A quorum of members being present, the meeting was duly constituted and called to order.

ITEM 2 – ACCEPTANCE OF THE MINUTES OF THE 2020 AGM

2. The 2020 Annual General Meeting had been delayed by Covid-related restrictions. The minutes of the meeting, held in November 2020, had been published in the March 2021 edition of *The Bulletin* and in the members' area of the website, and additional copies had been circulated with the 2021 agenda. All the statutory motions had been carried without dissent and there were no matters arising. The minutes were accepted as a true record. *Proposer*: Chairman. *Seconder*: Secretary. **Accepted**: *Nem Con*.

ITEM 3 – ANNUAL REPORT

3. The Chairman presented his Annual Report, which is attached. Although the past year had been one of uncertainty caused by the ongoing and continually changing Covid-related restrictions, the overall impact on the Society had not been entirely negative. Despite the suspension of the Athenaeum-based talks programme in March 2020, *The Bulletin* had continued to be published as normal, while the introduction of video recordings and, more recently, the Oral History Project, both of which had become permanent features, meant that most of the Society's activities were available to the whole membership, irrespective of location. The Society had actively cooperated with the Liverpool History Society and Maritime History North over joint video productions and had recently accepted an invitation to be represented on the committee of the Centre for Port and Maritime History, under the chairmanship of Professor Nick White.

4. Membership was bearing up well and currently stood at 194 (from 206 in May 2020). The meeting was invited to remember those members who had sadly died during the past year, whose names are listed at Annex A.

5. The Chairman thanked members of Council for meeting the challenges of the last year and the wider membership for displaying continued confidence in the Society.

#### ITEM 4 – FINANCIAL REPORT AND APPROVAL OF 2020-2021 ACCOUNTS

6. The Treasurer presented the independently examined 2020-2021 accounts which are attached. Income for the year had increased slightly overall from £3.5k (2019/20) to £3.6k (2020/21). This was largely due to the increases in subscription rates which had offset the small reduction in membership levels, and reduced income from donations. Due to the suspension of live talks, income from merchandise and book sales had been negligible. Expenditure had also been reduced from £2.8k (2019/20) to £2.3k (2020/21), mostly through reduced *Bulletin* printing costs which, after a full year with our new supplier, were £1.4k per annum less than 2018/19. There had also been a very substantial reduction in room hire fees because of the suspended talks programme, although this had been offset by the investment in equipment to enable video recordings.

7. The overall impact had been to consolidate the reserves, which had increased from £6.7k to £8k while providing the opportunity for long-term investment in recordings, thereby making the talks programme available to the whole membership. The Society was judged to be in a strong and stable financial position at the start of the new financial year. The 2020-2021 accounts were approved.

*Proposer:* Chairman. *Seconder:* Secretary. **Approved:** *Nem Con.*

#### ITEM 5 – TALKS PROGRAMME FOR 2021-2022

*[Secretary's Note: The Talks Secretary had presented apologies for absence and his report was delivered by the Secretary]*

8. The live talks programme had been suspended since March 2020 because of Covid-related restrictions. Through the good offices of our speakers and with mutual support from the Liverpool History Society and Maritime History North, a video talk had been released each month from September 2020 onwards, although there had inevitably been changes to the advertised titles and sequence. It was anticipated that the live talks programme would resume at The Athenaeum on Thursday 16 September and would then continue monthly as normal. A new feature would be that all future talks would be recorded live and made available to members through the website. Members who wished to present a talk to the Society on any maritime subject were encouraged to contact the Talks Secretary.

#### ITEM 6 – CONFIRMATION OF THE CHAIR OF COUNCIL

9. Mr William Williamson was confirmed as Chair of Council in succession to Mr Elfyn Hughes on completion of his tenure. *Proposer:* Chairman. *Seconder:* Secretary. **Agreed:** *Nem Con.*

#### ITEM 7 – ELECTION OF COUNCIL MEMBERS

10. Mr Ian Duckett, Mr Bill Ogle, Mr Tony Melling and Mr Ted Scaplehorn were re-elected to the Council. *Proposer:* Chairman. *Seconder:* Vice-Chairman. **Agreed:** *Nem Con.*

## ITEM 8 – ANY OTHER BUSINESS

11. Society Merchandise. Members were reminded that Society ties and lapel badges were available for sale via the website and would also be available at The Athenaeum following the resumption of live talks.

12. Merseyside Maritime Museum. The museum had reopened on 18 May and the Maritime Archives and Library had also reopened (Wednesday to Friday) on an appointment-only basis. Members were encouraged to resume research activities where appropriate.

13. Postal Address. It was noted that reopening the Maritime Archives and Library would enable the Society to resume advertising its postal address as a means of communication.

## ITEM 9 – DATE OF NEXT ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

14. The next Annual General Meeting of the Liverpool Nautical Research Society will be held in May 2022 at a time and venue to be notified.



E J SCAPLEHORN  
Secretary

Annex:

A. LNRS Members Who Have Died Between May 2020 and May 2021.

Attachments:

- A. Chairman's Annual Report – May 2021
- B. Accounts for the Full Year 2020-2021

ANNEX A TO  
MINUTES OF THE 2021  
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING  
DATED 1 JUN 21

LNRS MEMBERS WHO HAVE DIED BETWEEN MAY 2020 AND MAY 2021

Mr Vin Finn  
Professor Eric Grove  
Mr Gerald Hayes  
Mr John Huxley  
Mr Sean Kennedy  
Mr Alan McClelland  
Ms Angela Oates  
Mr Jack Olin  
Mr Brian Pierpoint  
Mr William Walsh  
Mr Gordon Wright

# The Liverpool Nautical Research Society

## Chair's Annual Report 2020 – 2021

A little over three years ago I was invited by Council to become Vice Chair, and eventually, Chair of the Society. I was, of course, flattered and, I must admit, a trifle overwhelmed but having been a member for some time, regular attendee at the monthly talks and having seen how smoothly everything was run, I was looking forward to being a part of the organisation.

The last fifteen months have been anything but smooth running – to quote that well know authority, the average British seaman – I didn't sign on for this!

Little did we know that when we “temporarily” suspended the programme of talks in March last year that we would still be in the same position now as we were then. We thought we would be able to resume the programme before May 2020 and hold the AGM as usual; that wasn't possible, then we were confident that the programme would resume in September – that hope was postponed until after Christmas but that wasn't possible either and the restrictions and lockdowns seemed to go on forever, although now there is light at the end of the tunnel.

As a result of the restrictions placed on us all we have been unable to meet in the Athenaeum since February 2020 although we were able to conduct some activity there during the brief spell in the summer when some restrictions were lifted. However, despite, or maybe because of the pandemic situation, the Society has taken some significant steps forward to providing you, the members, with a better service and a wider choice. I would like to briefly cover the activities of the last few months.

Membership currently stands at 194, although that number does include five honorary members: so, despite the problems of the last year membership is bearing up well. Sadly, we have lost 7 good friends since the AGM last November: John Huxley, Sean Kennedy, Alan McClelland, Angela Oates, William Walker, Gordon Wright and Eric Grove. Some will be known to you personally and some you will have only heard of – they will all be missed by families and friends.

The Treasurer, Tony Melling, will be presenting the annual financial report shortly and I am glad to say that thanks to his prudent management the society's financial position is healthy. I would like to thank Tony for the way he manages the role of treasurer and for the very clear and succinct manner in which income, expenditure and the budget is presented to Council.

The programme of monthly talks had to be suspended from March 2020 until now but the hope is that the programme will re-start in September this year. The programme for 2021/22 will be presented shortly. The Talks Secretary, Ian Duckett, has done a tremendous job over the last year in contacting speakers, finding new ones, rearranging the programme and generally tearing his hair out. He was heard to mis-quote Eric Morecambe at one point “the talks are all there but not necessarily in the same order”.

Thanks to the editor, Bill Ogle, the Bulletin has been published regularly, and as usual has been full of material of interest to all of us. The Bulletin is, and will remain to be, our publication of record; not only is it of interest as a quarterly publication but is also a vast repository of research material because all the Bulletins produced by the Society are available on the Website – all the way back to Volume 1, No 1 of the Transactions of the Liverpool Nautical Research Society, a paper on *Liverpool Ships and Trade* presented by Mr. Arthur C. Wardle on 11<sup>th</sup> May 1938.

I made brief mention earlier of the activities that have taken place and the initiatives that have been developed during the lockdowns and restrictions. Some of these were already under discussion but had to be brought forward and have enabled the Society to deliver a service that is almost 'as usual' and in some cases better than 'as usual'.

Council have been meeting regularly using the Zoom system, the same system that was used for the 2020 AGM held in November last year.

A programme of talks has been presented on the dates previously announced although they have been in video format on the website. That this was possible is due to a significant effort by members of Council who, in a very short time, developed and instigated a system of recording, editing and uploading the talks on to the website, the technical problems associated with this initiative were overcome by your secretary, Ted Scaplehorn. This will become a permanent feature, making the presentations available to all members of the society, something that was previously only available to those who were able to attend the Athenaeum. I also have to say the staff of the Athenaeum have been unfailingly helpful within the bounds that restrictions placed upon them and has made it possible for some of the video talks to be recorded in the library.

The Treasurer expressed concern at one of the meetings that a great deal of knowledge and experience was in danger of being lost to posterity and to a future generation of researchers; he suggested that an Oral History project be embarked upon to preserve this knowledge. Such a project was not quite as easy as we thought but thanks to advice from Sarah Starkey of Mersey Maritime Museum (a member of Council) and the hard work and determination of Tony, it was quickly under way and has been enthusiastically embraced by Tony and Willie Williamson, your incoming Chair, as well as the other members of Council. The results so far have already been added to the Website and will also in due course be lodged in the archives of MMM for future generations to use.

The website, under the stewardship of the Secretary, has been enhanced and I would once again urge members to make use of it, not only out of interest, but as a valuable research tool. Usage of the site has been gradually increasing but it is still an under-utilised resource. It has a powerful search facility and it is easy to drill down to a particular piece of information.

I am also pleased to inform you that our Vice President, John Stokoe, has been elected to the Board of the Centre for Port and Maritime History.

Presenting this annual report is my last task as Chair of the Society as my term of office comes to an end as soon as I finish! Many people have been introduced as 'someone who needs no introduction' and that is certainly true of your incoming Chair, Willie Williamson. He is well known to you, both as a speaker and as past Chair.

However, before I go, I would like to close by thanking all the members of Council who have responded magnificently to the challenges of the past year. The guiding principle all along has been to provide you, the members, with a service as close as possible to normal. The Bulletin, a series of talks and presentations, the website, these have all continued as usual thanks to the dedication, the ingenuity and sheer hard work of your Council. Most organisations would have considered that to be enough of an achievement but your Council has embarked on new projects such as the Oral History project, the production of video presentations and the development of an approach to appropriate organisations to raise awareness of the Society and its activities.

Finally, I would like to thank you, the members, who have shown your confidence in the Society by continuing your membership – without you, there is no Society, so thank you.

It has been an honour, a privilege, and a pleasure to serve as Chair of the Liverpool Nautical Research Society for the past two years, thank you for giving me the opportunity.

**Liverpool Nautical Research Society**

Accounts for the Full Year 2020/2021 held at Santander Bank PLC

**Full Year: 1st April 2020 to 31st March 2021**

**Opening Bank Balances: Current Account: 3596 Deposit Account: 3099 Total = 6695**

<b><u>Income</u></b>	<b><u>2019/20</u></b>	<b><u>2020/21</u></b>
Subscriptions	2659	<b>3549</b>
Donations	546	<b>20</b>
Refreshments	165	
Book Sales	54	
Merchandise Sales	48	<b>24</b>
Deposit Interest	<u>25</u>	<u>20</u>
<b>Total</b>	3497	<b>3613</b>
<b><u>Expenditure</u></b>		
Bulletin Printing	918	<b>608</b>
Distribution/Stationery	93	<b>80</b>
Room Hire	765	<b>85</b>
Speaker Expenses	78	<b>40</b>
Refreshments	141	<b>39</b>
IT Costs	140	<b>710</b>
Hon. Treasurer Expenses	36	
Hon. Secretary Expenses		
Donations/Gifts	25	<b>195</b>
Bulletin Postage	591	<b>446</b>
Other Postage		<b>62</b>
Pastoral	13	<b>9</b>
Bank Charges		<u>30</u>
<b>Total</b>	2800	<b>2304</b>
Surplus / Deficit during Year	697	<b>1309</b>
Opening Cash Balance	<u>5994</u>	<u>6695</u>
Closing Cash Balance	6695	<b>8004</b>

**Closing Bank Balances: Current Account: 1850 Deposit Account: 6154 Total = 8004**

Treasurer: Mr A Melling

Independent Scrutineer: Mr C Loughran