

MINUTES OF THE THIRTEENTH AGM OF THE SOCIETY OF FRIENDS OF THE ROYAL NAVY SUBMARINE MUSEUM HELD IN SUBMARINE MUSEUM ON FRIDAY 4TH JULY 2008.

The President, The Lady Fieldhouse, opened the meeting by welcoming the members and their guests, particularly those who had travelled a long way to meet their friends. Lady Fieldhouse congratulated the members on their generosity, which allowed the museum to grow. She welcomed the Museum Director and her staff as guests of the Society and on behalf of all the members wished the Director every success in leading the Museum.

Present. 165 members and their guests attended the meeting.

Apologies. Apologies were received from Sir Neville Trotter, Sir Mark Stanhope, Bill Buckoke, Steve Jenner, Nick and Anne Clack, David Pulvertaft and 12 others, whose names were noted at the meeting.

Minutes of the 12th Meeting. These were published in Harbour Stations 2008. No comments had been received, nor were there any matters arising from them. Proposed by Tony Whetstone and seconded by Mike Hutchinson, the minutes were accepted.

Chairman's Report. Reviewing the year, the Chairman reported that the membership was down by 25 on last year's figure, due to deaths, resignations, members losing touch on moving or allowing their subscriptions to lapse. Nevertheless, people were still joining and he asked existing members to encourage their friends to join, emphasising the importance of Gift Aid. During the year the Friends had made grants of £10,000 for schools and education development, £3,000 for further interpretation of the Vanguard model and £6,000 for the improved display of the medal collection. The Museum had received a bequest of £4,000 from the late Lt Cdr Roake for this latter project. Ties with the Submariners Association had been strengthened with David Ottley (an Alliance guide) joining the committee. HRH Prince William, Commodore-in-Chief of the Submarine Service, had opened the Area of Remembrance in June and had been impressed when told of the financial contribution made by the Friends and the Submariners Association. The National Museum of the Royal Navy (NMRN) existed as a 'virtual museum' The Management Committee, comprising the Chairmen of the four naval museums, was recruiting a Director General and looking for areas where a joint approach would benefit all four museums. Charity Law made it clear that the trustees of individual museums must agree that the NMRN offered definite advantages before the organisation could come into being. Tim McClement had agreed to lead the Alliance Appeal, with Prince William as Patron. It was hoped that £3M could be raised next year. The appeal brochure is close to being published. There would be many opportunities for the Friends to become involved.

Adoption of Accounts. Presenting the accounts for FY 2007/08, the Treasurer said that the Society's funds remained in good shape. After giving £19,000 to the Museum the bank balance had increased by £2,000. Subscriptions and donations were up by £2,000, mainly due to some extremely generous back payments from members whose subscriptions had gone astray. He said that he got up to 50 of these cases a year, almost all due to banks sending money to the wrong place. He thanked the members he had had to write to for their patience and forbearance. Administration costs had been reduced to £2,000 of which £1,700 was the costs of All Round Look and Harbour Stations. He thanked Mike Stevens for examining the accounts. This eliminated the audit fee, which together with the distribution of Harbour Stations via the website and the cancellation of bank charges kept administrative costs to a minimum. Proposed by Doug Littlejohns and seconded by Lady Fieldhouse, the accounts were adopted.

Appointment of Auditors. Proposed by Bill Coles and seconded by Keith Spinks, Mike Stevens was re-appointed.

Election of Committee Members. Paul Bolas, Andrew Buchanan, Nicola Cookson, Giles Fletcher, Rob Forsyth, Tom Herman, Jenny Strange and Chris Walker were due for re-election. All were willing to stand again. Proposed by Chris Donnithorne and seconded by Tony Whetstone, they were re-elected for a further three years.

Any Other Business. The Hon. Sec. asked Members to visit the website www.rnsubmusfriends.org.uk to register their email address so that Harbour Stations could be sent to them via the website to save postage. He drew members' attention to the Submariners Association's new DVD 'A Breed Apart - A Band of Brothers'. There being no further business the meeting ended at 1820.