

**MINUTES OF THE 12<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE SOCIETY OF FRIENDS OF THE ROYAL NAVY SUBMARINE MUSEUM HELD IN THE JOHN FIELDHOUSE BUILDING AT THE MUSEUM AT 1800 ON FRIDAY 6<sup>TH</sup> JULY 2007.**

The President, The Lady Fieldhouse, welcomed members and their guests, especially those that had travelled long distances and also David Pulvertaft, who would speak after the meeting, his wife and other guests of the Society.

Present. 166 members and their guests attended the meeting.

Apologies. Apologies were received from Sir Lancelot and Lady Bell-Davies, John Hervey, Steve Jenner and 24 others, whose names were noted at the meeting.

Minutes of the 11<sup>th</sup> Meeting. These were published in Harbour Stations 2007. No comments had been received, nor were there any matters arising from them. Proposed by Tony Whetstone and seconded by Chris Walker, the minutes were accepted.

Chairman's Report. Reviewing the year, the Chairman reported that membership was holding up well with 766 on the list but we always needed more and urged members to encourage their friends to join. The Society had granted £25,000 to the museum in FY 2006/07. £20,000 had been given towards the interpretation of the fifth scale model of *Vanguard*, now on display in its marquee in the car park. Proper interpretation was essential for a model of such size and complexity. A further £5,000 had been given to the conservation of a set of important lithographs. The Society now had a website, run by Tom Herman, ([www.rnsubmusfriends.org.uk](http://www.rnsubmusfriends.org.uk)) which carried information and links to other similar sites. The Chairman said that the *Alliance* refit and other items were high of the museum trustees agenda. Fundraising would be needed, as the matching funding required by a bid to the Heritage Lottery Fund would exceed the funds remaining from the Centenary Appeal. Members would be hearing more on this topic. Turning to the National Museum of the Royal Navy (NMRN), discussed at the 2006 AGM, the Chairman said that proposals had been put forward at the end of 2006. These envisaged start-up costs of £10m and annual maintenance costs of £2 - 3m. Since such sums were currently unavailable from the Defence Budget, the NMRN remained a 'virtual' museum, with a website and a Board of Trustees comprising the Second Sea Lord and the Chairmen of the existing four museums, whose purpose was to provide cohesion and equity in the distribution of grant-in-aid funds. The formation of a single museum to trace the history of the Navy remained a long-term aspiration. Meanwhile the trustees of the Submarine Museum were watching developments very closely. He was able to re-assure members that the status of the Friends would not be affected and that our funds would still go to our museum.

Adoption of Accounts. Presenting the accounts for FY 2006/07, the Treasurer said that the Society's funds were in good health. He pointed out that subscriptions and donations were slightly down, due to a generous legacy and donations in the previous year. He pointed out that of the £22,000 administrative costs, £19,000 was due to the production and postage costs of Harbour Stations and All Round Look. He thanked Mike Stevens for examining the accounts, which eliminated an audit fee and said there would be no bank charges in the current year. Proposed by Keith Spinks and seconded by Les Catlin, the accounts were adopted.

Election of Committee members. The Chairman said that Chris Russell and Doug Bowen had stood down from the committee, leaving two vacancies. Both Chris and Doug had made valuable contributions, in particular Chris had been the editor of Harbour Stations for eleven years, and he thanked them warmly. During the year Fred Hockenhull and Jock McLees had been co-opted onto the committee and now stood for election. Fred Hockenhull, proposed by Lady Fieldhouse, seconded by John Jacobsen and Jock McLees, proposed by Doug Littlejohns, seconded by Michael Pitkeathly were elected.

Appointment of Auditors. The Chairman thanked Mike Stevens for his services, which he gave free. Having been proposed by Giles Fletcher and seconded by John Speller, Mike Stevens was re-appointed.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 1815.