

UNITED TOWING AND SALVAGE SOCIETY. MINUTES OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Held at Kingston Hotel, Hull.

26th March, 2018.

PRESENT; Mike Hussey (Chairman); Eddie Barker (Treasurer); Ray Scott (Membership); Pete Bass (Archivist); Nev Gray (Asst. Archivist); Marlene Whitlam (Secretary); Members:- Mike Lacey; Mike Murphy; Sheila Gray; K. Stark.

APOLOGIES; Pete Elsom.

WELCOME; The Chairman opened the meeting at 1305 hrs. by welcoming the members and thanking them for their attendance.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT;

Mike announced that 2017 had been an extremely successful year for the Society and reported on the various achievements.

The year had started off with a three month exhibition at the Maritime Museum with stories, photographs etc. of the company, tugs and crews.

In May we had inclusion in the Falklands Service held at the Hull Minster.

We began seriously pursuing the Blue Heritage Plaque and following months of bureaucracy dealing with the Council, we received acceptance of our design and location - 11/12 Nelson Street, United's old headquarters. This was funded by both sponsorship and Society funds. The Blue Plaque is to be erected during the next month with an official unveiling a little later possibly with the attendance of the Lord Mayor.

In July we achieved an excellent 8-page supplement in the Hull Daily Mail as a 'Flashback' feature.

Charlie Noble's book was published and became an immediate success being sold at first in the Hull Memorial shop and then Waterstones.

At the end of July we exhibited once again at the Veteran's Weekend held in the East Park. We had fantastic attendance with a good demand for our merchandise. It really does create a lot of interest and we look forward to doing it again this year.

The Society will be putting on a new exhibition in April at the Maritime Museum to run for three months. This will be set up by Pete Bass and Nev Gray on the Tuesday 3rd April.

Pete Elsom has integrated all back Bollard Pull additions onto the Members section of the Society website giving a good historical record.

We recently held a Memorial Service in the Hull Minster for the Englishman and her crew, also remembering other tug losses. It was a well-attended and moving service and included all the Ryan family (and the George Cross Medal). Unfortunately, due to a technical problem, some photos were lost. At this point Sheila Gray commended Mike on the speech he had given at the event.

A brief discussion took place regarding the future Falklands Service and display to be held at the Minster on the 21st April, 2018. Some points need finalizing - Salvageman model and the Battle Honours. As soon as the Maritime Museum is set up on the 3rd April, Pete and Nev will concentrate on this and be in touch with Neal Barnes to make final arrangements. Mike Lacey doing what he can to get duplicates of the Battle Honours.

The recent Diary of Englishman sent to us by Dave Proud in Falmouth is to be published for members only and some museums. Eddie is waiting for a price.

The Chairman came to the end of his update and sincerely thanked the committee and members for their support and continued effort to promote the UTSS - Eddie and Pete for turning out the Bollard Pull which is interesting and informative, in fact, one of the best., Eddie for chasing the cash and keeping it in immaculate order when he gets it. Pete and Nev for doing the exhibitions so well, Ray does a great job with the membership and Marlene for trying to keep up with what goes on in between official meetings! (she doesn't attend the sick club). A great year due to good support.

SPONSORSHIP AND FUNDRAISING

In July we received £641.00 from The Insurance Partnership for sponsorship of the first print run of 100 copies of Capt. Nobles book. Their generosity covered the full cost of the first order.

In August we received a generous donation of £100 from one of our members. The committee decided to allocate that, with the member's agreement, towards the cost of the blue plaque.

In September we received £200 from MMS Ship-repair, specifically towards the blue plaque.

We also had a sum of £40 already in the account donated for the plaque from Juliet Brittain and her cousin Mr. Cuthbert.

That gave us a total of £340.00 already allocated so the committee decided to move forward with the purchase, making up the balance of £257.60 from the general fund. The plaque was duly purchased at a cost of £597.60 on 29th November, 2017.

TREASURER'S REPORT

At the time of the 2018 AGM the society is in good financial health.

Lloyds Bank	£1939.62
Paypal	£378.45
Total funds available	£2318.07

Additionally £349.65 is still owed by Waterstones.

No money is allocated for specific use.

The society has no outstanding debts.

Capt. Noble's memoirs 'From Galley Boy to Tugmaster' have been a resounding success having sold a total of 216 copies to date. 119 of those were sold through third party outlets, namely The Hull People's Memorial shop, Ships in Focus and Waterstones.

The cost to the society for printing so far has been £1,694.70, but that was offset by the sponsorship of £641.00. Income from sales was £2,216, giving a gross profit for the society of £1,162. We still have 44 books in stock worth between £440.00 and £615.00 depending on who buys them.

This year we increased the membership fee from £10 to £15, but included in that was a calendar for each member. The cost to the society of providing the calendars was approximately £320.00.

At the beginning of the year we had a sum of £1090 carried forward for the Viola Trust. At the 2017 AGM we collected another £110, making the total raised exactly £1200, far exceeding the £500 target originally set. We presented that amount to Paul Escreet, one of the trustees on 8th March, 2017.

Eddie thanked the committee, especially Mike, for all his hard work.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

Ray reported that we had reached 105 members but sadly, a few deaths and 17 not renewed we had 82 active members. Mike then outlined the proposed raffle.

EXHIBITIONS

Pete reported that they had plenty of documents and pictures but lacking in models for the Maritime exhibition next month. Pete already had two large paintings and it was suggested that Paul Escreet's model of Yorkshireman could possibly be used. The Frenchman's bell, once thought to be able to borrow and display is not now viable due to red tape.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Mick Murphy reported that he was going up to Campbeltown to see the museums and heritage centre. The Red Ensign of the Englishman is reported to be up at Campbeltown and Pete asked if Mick could verify this fact.

Mick had in his possession, diaries that his father had kept dating from 1937. He is presently writing them up and would eventually like to have them printed. The society are more than willing to help him on this.

Meeting closed 1420 hrs.

