

The Institute of Marine Engineers Guild of Benevolence

Minutes of Proceedings of the Annual General Meeting 1983

The Forty-ninth Annual General Meeting of the Guild of Benevolence was held at 76 Mark Lane, London EC3R 7JN on Thursday, 10 March 1983 at 3 p.m.

Mr R. MUNTON was in the Chair.

Minutes of preceding Annual General Meeting

The minutes of the last Annual General Meeting, having been circulated, were taken as read and signed as a true record.

Presentation of Annual Report by the Secretary

Mr J. S. ROBINSON (Secretary) presented the report. He said that during the year the Committee had held four meetings. Mr G. Fox was welcomed as a member of the Committee in December.

Advice and assistance has been given by the Committee to 35 new applications during the year and four new regular grants have been awarded. The continued help from Branch Representatives was very much appreciated by the Committee and also by the many people they had visited.

The smooth running and efficiency of the Guild House had, said Mr ROBINSON, continued under the direction of Mrs Fryer. One of the permanent residents who entered Guild House during the year was Mrs H. Taylor, daughter of Mr James Adamson, first member of the Institute and, of course, its first fully paid up Secretary.

Mr ROBINSON spoke on behalf of the Committee in once again expressing their grateful thanks to the members of the Institute who have donated £1.50 with their annual subscription to the Guild. They would also, he said, like to thank the Branches for their generosity at annual dinner dances and the Trustees of J. S. Frazer, deceased, for their continued support.

The Charity Ball had been organised by the Guild for the first time and has been a huge success, resulting in a surplus of £2545.

Presentation of Annual Financial Statement by the Honorary Treasurer

Mr J. McNAUGHT (Hon. Treasurer) said that the accounts were the first 12 months figures since the change of the financial year-end to 30 September. The revenue account showed a surplus of £6118 after transferring a sum to reserve for Future Aid. The cost of Quoted Securities at 30 September 1982 was £233 438, an increase of £53 776 over the previous year, which had arisen principally as a result of investing monies received from the estate of the late Mr S. Hoole. Mr McNaught said that he thought that Mr Hoole's bequest was the turning-point of the affairs of the Guild, as since his bequest the Guild seemed to have done so much better than previously.

The market value of Quoted Securities at 30 September 1982 was £312 167, which was almost £80 000 above the book value.

The Guild House account, said Mr McNAUGHT, showed an improvement in that only £497 had to be added from general funds to the Charity Ball surplus of £2545 to meet the difference between income and expenditure of £3042. This was quite an advance and reflected highly on the work done by Mrs Webster and the people at the Guild House in attracting others to stay there for short periods on holiday. The income from that had made a difference.

In the details of the accounts it can be seen that the balance sheet figure had increased from £372 000 to almost £416 000. IMEG is shown as £100. That went into liquidation in April and was finally dissolved in November so that, hopefully, this

£100 will be shown as cleared off in the next accounts. The balance sheet also showed cash held for the Future Aid Fund as £30 000. Mr McNAUGHT emphasized that this was cash and not just a book entry.

The rest of the details were well set out. There was an improved income and an improvement in the way Guild House was run, so that the deficit was only £3000, which was a fairly good achievement compared with two or three years ago when the deficit stood at £12 000.

The CHAIRMAN then asked if there were any questions concerning the Secretary's report and the Hon. Treasurer's report.

Mr HOOK asked how it was proposed to use the surplus of £6118.

The CHAIRMAN said that this would be discussed under 'Other Business'. He then proposed that the Secretary's Report and Annual Accounts be agreed. This was seconded by Mr TRENCHARD and the motion was carried.

Election of Members of the Committee for the Session 1983/84

The CHAIRMAN said that Mr J. E. Gander, Mr G. May, Mr S. G. Pratt, Mr S. Speed and Mr L. D. Trenchard were all due to retire but were also all willing to stand again. He then asked for a proposer.

Mr STOKOE proposed that the members nominated be re-elected and Mr BROWN seconded the motion, which was carried.

Other Business

The CHAIRMAN pointed out that the Guild was in surplus. He said that at several meetings the need in the out-ports for something in the way of accommodation for former old members or seagoing people or their dependants had been discussed. He now thought that something could be done about it, because of the Guild's surplus and the profits from the Memorial Building. He hoped that it would be agreed through the Institute that some of these profits should fall in the direction of the Guild of Benevolence, to help those who had helped the Institute become what it is and the dependants of the people concerned.

The CHAIRMAN continued that Guild House in Littlehampton had been a very good idea when it started and was still a good idea, but for the bulk of the people who may need that sort of service it was in the wrong position and something was needed at the out-ports. The aim was sheltered housing in some form, and what was wanted was a building or buildings where this could be obtained, with a local committee to run it, as he did not think a local sheltered protection area could be run from London, apart from such things as the financial support that would be necessary.

He then asked Mr Stokoe if he would be prepared to look around in his area and try and produce a figure of what the cost might be. It would also be helpful, he confirmed, if he could somehow try and get an idea of how many people might want such accommodation. It would then be possible to provide a preliminary costing estimate. The CHAIRMAN said that the suggestion had been raised in the Glasgow area and very enthusiastically supported by people he had spoken to, but he would like to see it happening in the North-East Coast areas as this was where it had originally been proposed and where the original work had been done.

Mr STOKOE replied that he had already contacted a number of estate agents and that there were about 20 houses available, at prices varying between £40 000 and £150 000. Whether they were suitable was something that would have to be investigated.

The CHAIRMAN then asked for Mr Stokoe's views on a local committee running such accommodation.

Mr STOKOE said that in his view only a local committee could run it.

After discussion, it was agreed that Mr Stokoe would go ahead and produce an outline proposal with costs for the North-East Coast area.

In the absence of further comments the CHAIRMAN closed the meeting and thanked those present for attending.

