

- **SUMMARY OF THE MEETING OF ALMSHOUSES AND CHARITIES COMMITTEE**

- **Ladies' Committee:** Mrs Nicky Smallbone had been invited to attend the Committee meeting but had been unable to be present. The President very much hoped that the Ladies' Committee might be minded to raise funds not only for Watermen's Hall Preservation Trust but also for items that might be for the benefit of the Company.
- The President requested that the Ladies' Committee be asked to set the dates for their meetings for the next Company year (July to June).
- **Review of professional advisers:** The Clerk reported that this was being spearheaded by Junior Warden Reid and in the first instance the investment advisers were to be reviewed. Craft Owing Freeman Vardey suggested that it might be prudent to write to three potential brokers asking them to quote for the business as this would give an indication of the current market place. It was agreed to pass these suggestions onto Junior Warden Reid.
- **Budgets for the year to 30<sup>th</sup> June 2017 and grant funding:** The first draft budgets for the year to 30<sup>th</sup> June 2017 were tabled. The grant applications from the Training and Educational, River and Rowing and the Library and Heritage Committees had not been approved by the relevant Committees and might be subject to some changes
- **Hastings-** The Committee wished to acknowledge the most generous donation from Craft Owing Freeman Stephen Bernhard of 14 trees and other various shrubs.
- **The report from Crowther Overton-Hart** on the properties at Hastings had just been received and was tabled. The President suggested that this should be studied outside of the meeting and would therefore be dealt with in some depth at the next meeting.
- **Ditchling-** Whilst the site had been submitted for the Ditchling, Streat and Westmeston Neighbourhood Plan, Strutt and Parker had been informed that the Neighbourhood Plan Group had decided to follow the relevant guidelines relating to the countryside development and to look to allocate sites closely adjacent to the Village boundary development. It had therefore been decided that the Charity's site fell outside of this. Strutt and Parker had advised that if the Charity were minded to push this matter forward it might be an idea to have a landscape appraisal carried out but this would need to be undertaken before the 16<sup>th</sup> March. It was agreed to ask Strutt and Parker to supply a quotation for this.
- **Report from the Charity Fundraiser:** A Freeman's St Georges' day Luncheon. Olympic Celebrations; Court Assistant Powell and the Clerk would be meeting with Past Master Chris Livett to discuss using one of boats for the celebrations.

## APPRENTICESHIP AND TRAINING COMMITTEE

### Summary - 15<sup>th</sup> March 2016.

- The Training Officer Freeman Mr. Alex Hickman reported that 17 apprentices and trainees had gained their BMLs in 2015 and 6 so far in 2016. The revision courses held at the Hall had been well received with 12 to 16 apprentices and trainees attending each of the 6 courses offered. Alex Hickman has received his PTTLS certificate as a certified trainer. The review of apprentices and trainees to check progress has started with identifying those that need to be seen.
- The Training Officer Freeman Mr. Alex Hickman asked that consideration be given to recognizing those with specialist skills, like ship mooring, workboats, patrol launch work and dive vessels as having the equivalent of an endorsement to qualify for applying for the Freedom. Candidates would still need a generic BML and an LKE Endorsement but in lieu of a towing and pushing or passenger operators' endorsement, their specialist skill would be certified by their employer. Subject to careful wording the Committee agreed.
- Following the discussion at Court, work has started on a Strategy for the Company's Training looking forward beyond the duration of the Tideway project. The strategy would be a living document and anticipate the success of the Thames Skills Academy. The Training Officer Freeman Mr. Alex Hickman suggested a small working group considered a draft.
- The Committee made an application for a grant towards Education and Training from the Almshouses and Charities Committee
- The Watermen's Company Lighterage Committee continued to organise River Training Days up-stream and downstream and sail training experience deep sea and in the estuary aboard the Cambria Sailing barge.
- Craft-Owning Freeman Robert Constant and the Clerk met Alex Veitch, Head of the Freight Transport Association's Global Policy to discuss the idea of a Thames Freight Conference later in the year. Freight by Water has agreed to take and develop a strategy paper prepared by Robert Constant.
- The Company been a member for many years of the Livery Schools Link at a cost of £150. This organisation has recently proposed to seek further volunteer support to extend the services it provides. This may result in an increased cost but the Committee felt that the Company should continue to support this organisation.
- The Committee was joined by Acting TSA Chief Executive, Julian Parkes, Jean Duprez a group training organisation consultant and the Harbourmaster Upper, Mark Towens. Julian Parkes explained the Board would comprise an independent chairman, Richard Everett, the 4 founding members, Tideway, PLA, TfL and Watermen's Company together with 5 employer members representing large and also small passenger operators, large and also small freight operators and someone from other marine support services. Julian Parkes had been seconded from the PLA as acting CEO until the summer. The Board will be advertising for a new permanent Chief Executive, a Training Officer and administrative support. The TSA vision is to become a first stop for marine employers active on the tidal Thames as a resource for advice, quality training, updates on legislation, sharing best practice, networking, and a forum for discussion. TSA would be driven by its employer members who would pay a discounted membership fee in the first year ranging from £2,500 to £50 dependent on turnover. The Committee gave its broad approval offering thoughts as to a legacy after Tideway's project was completed in 5 years' time.
- The PLA Harbourmaster Upper referred to the LKE re-validation. There were estimated to be about 300+ BML Holders to be revalidated this year. These re-assessments will be conducted every Wednesday and will be conducted by PLA official and a Watermen's Company Organised Freeman practitioner at PLA offices, Watermans' Hall or an operating company offices if there are enough candidates. Booking were via [lke@pla.co.uk](mailto:lke@pla.co.uk) or 01474 562505.
- Concern was expresses that taking the revalidation before the expiry date might mean losing the endorsement if the exam was failed. The Harbourmaster Upper agreed this could act as a deterrent from taking the revalidation early and he would examine what might be done.
- The consultation on the PLA's Thames Vision had closed with some valuable responses many seeking to the PLA to be more ambitious. The final Vision would be published in April.
- The Harbourmaster Upper referred to a consultation on a revised Passenger Operators Code which he hoped would be more user friendly.

KITCHEN COMMITTEE SUMMARY  
On Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2016

- The Committee noted the Management Accounts from July 2015 until Jan 2016 giving a comparison against previous year. The summary recorded that Corporate Hire and related income was **£17,392 below expectations. For the trading year of the contract – this being February 2015 to January 2016 there was a current shortfall of £16,000 against the** guarantee from Bartlett Mitchell of £50,000.
- The Chairmen reported from this meeting that Sean Ritson had given news that the person they had in mind to take up the sale position for Salters' and Watermen's Hall had fallen through Sean Ritson was confident that this position would be taken up soon and the candidate would be in place ready for the new opening day at Salter's Hall planned for 7th April with Salters first meeting/event booked for 11th May.
- It was a matter of some concern that given that it was almost in March, this would not leave the new sales person sufficient time to convert enquiries taken in May and June into sales before the business in the City slowed down toward mid-July and August.
- The Chairman was concerned that the turn round on quotes was still taking far too long and too much in-depth information on costs were being submitted to Clients. There was recent evidence of this on email exchanges between clients known to the Hall, who were asking for the assistance of the general office in chasing the sales team at Inn or Out for costs.
- Immediate Past Master Jeremy Randall asked that for the short term, we keep the contract as it currently stands so at least the current guarantee from Bartlett Mitchell of £50,000 would be secured income to the Hall. The Clerk had met with Bartlett Mitchell owner, Wendy Bartlett and she confirmed the same guarantee would remain for a further year.
- New Interim General Manager of Inn-or-Out Events, Polly Perkins, Executive Head Chef Bartlett Mitchell, Pete Redman and Zuzana Lipovcova from sales and marketing joined the Meeting and were introduced to the Committee. Together they review recent events.
- The Committee agreed with Pete Redman menus for forthcoming events up to 1<sup>st</sup> June Knollys Rose Luncheon

## SUMMARY OF THE MEETING OF THE MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

### • 1<sup>st</sup> March 2016

- **Recruitment Leaflet:** The Committee were delighted with the finished product and Immediate Past Master Randall very much hoped it would encourage an increase in membership. It was suggested that the Master might wish to make reference to the leaflet at the next Freeman's lunch. A copy would be made available to all Court Members.
  - **Honorary Freeman:** The suggestion put forward by Past Master Emeritus Woods to grant Mr Mark Edwards of the Richmond Boat Yard the Honorary Freedom of the Company was discussed. It **was agreed to recommend to the General Purposes Committee that Mr Edwards should be made a Craft Owning Freeman of the Company with all Fines, Fees and Subscriptions as per Standing Order 66.1 (3) (d). remitted.**
  - **Application package:** The Assistant Clerk tabled the revised Application Package which would be printed on a cream coloured good quality paper and despatched in a cream folder with the Company crest on it. The Committee approved this and Immediate Past Master Randall felt that this was a vast improvement of what had been used in the past. It was suggested that the folders could also be used to the presentation of other Company documents when appropriate.
  
  - **Interviews with Candidates:**
  - The following candidates were interviewed by the Committee. Immediate Past Master Randall explained about the Company's charities and the expectation of all Craft Owning Freeman to make a financial contribution to the charities.
  - **Michael John Dewar (Aged 69)**
  - Sponsored by The Master and Craft Owning Freeman David Hurley.
  - **Alan James Taylor (Aged 67)**
  - Sponsored by Past Masters Robert Prentice and Paul Ludwig.
  - **Martin Edwin Thacker of Fetternear (Aged 49)**
  - Sponsored by Immediate Past Master Randall and Craft Owning Freeman Brian Williamson.
  - **Michael George Goodwin (Aged 64)**
  - Sponsored by Past Master Christopher Livett and Craft Owning Freeman David Pullen.
  - **Ian Davies (72)**
  - Sponsored by Junior Warden Iain Read and Craft Owning Freeman Cliff Blakeway.
  - **Craig Edward Walton (Aged 58)**
  - Sponsored by the Master and Immediate Past Master Randall.
  
  - ***The Committee were happy to recommend the above to the General Purposes Committee and then to the Court.***
  
  - **The Ladies' Committee:** The Assistant Clerk explained that the Ladies' Committee had compiled, over the years, a database of ladies who attended their luncheon and were keen to extend this to the wives/partners of as many Craft Owning Freeman as possible, to this end it was hoped to email all the COF on the Company's database requesting this information. Whilst the Committee were most supportive of the splendid works done by the Ladies' Committee it had to be recognised that some Freeman might not wish their wives/partners to be involved directly in the Company. It was agreed that the Assistant Clerk could send out an email using the COF database using the following wording-
- Dear Freeman,
- AS you might know we have events purely for partners of Members of the Company, these are organised by the Watermen's Hall Preservation Trust Ladies' Committee/ If your partner would like to receive information about these events please ask them to email [carol@watermenshall.org](mailto:carol@watermenshall.org) for inclusion on the database.
- **Company website:** It was agreed that the names of newly admitted Craft Owning Freeman should be put on the Company's web site.

**Library and Heritage Committee  
Summary - 08/03/2016**

- The Committee reviewed its progress on Objectives for 2015-2016. The booklet on backboards was progressing; the Clerk advised he had prepared an application for a grant and initial indications are that the Charity would look favourably on such an application; the Clerk had contacted various museums seeking help on a policy on Digitisation of the Company. The Immediate Past Master Randall advised that there was a new government programme on digitalisation; the Assistant Clerk had mentioned to the Chairman that a book/booklet on the Company History which could be sold at Hall Tours for a nominal amount would be most useful.
- Craft Owing Freeman Simon Goodey and Hon. Court Assistant Richard G Turk were to meet with two West End book dealers at the Hall on Friday, 18<sup>th</sup> March to discuss volumes already identified for disposal. It was felt that the book collection catalogue could be rationalised as the current cataloguing system is quite complicated.
- There was some discussion regarding the £500 donation that Craft Owing Freeman Roger Pincham had donated for a book to be repaired in memory of his father Sam Pincham. The Clerk had proposed that a Fund be established for the repair and purchase of relevant books which others may wish to contribute. Craft-Owing Freeman Goodey felt that he could identify one book that would be suitable.
- Journeyman Freeman Capt. John Barrett had agreed to look after the servicing of the Hall clocks and the Chairman expressed her thanks.
- It was noted that a number of the Freeman's Room dining chairs needed attention to the webbing under the seats.
- The naive painting of Henry George "Dubber" Follett c. 1880 has been lined and is now back with the restorer, who has confirmed that it is now considerably more stable.
- It was agreed to ask Craft Owing Freeman Telfer to follow up with his connections at Bonhams to gain a valuation for the sale of "Venus at the Forge of Vulcan".
- Past Master Emeritus Crouch and Hon. Court Assistant Richard G Turk have inspected the current displays with a view to revitalising them. Volunteers from the Committee stayed after the meeting to start work on cleaning the silver in the Freeman's Room display cases. The Chairman felt that it would be useful for the Committee to inspect the entire collection, either at the next meeting or on a specially designated day. Immediate Past Master Randall suggested that items of interest should be labelled.
- Mr. Denis Pizzey had, on reflection, decided to fund the repair/conservation of the 1897 Watermen's Apprentices Coat and Badge won by James William Pizzey, which was currently on permanent loan. It was now Mr. Pizzey's intention that, upon his death, if no member of his family wishes to take on the coat, it would be gifted to the Company.
- The Company has been offered the 1867 Doggett's Coat (no badge) won by Henry William Maxwell by two of his great-grandchildren, Mrs. Walling and Mr. Ray Maxwell. The Committee agreed to accept the offer and arrangements would need to be made to collect it from Walthamstow.
- The book "Unto the Tideway Born" was now sold out. The Committee thanked Hon. Court Assistant Richard G Turk for being instrumental in an exceptional review of "Unto the Tideway Born" in the Times Literary Supplement on 26<sup>th</sup> February 2016.
- The flag pole at the front of Watermen's Hall had been refurbished and a new pulley system installed.
- The Committee agreed to recommend to the Court the following gifts: Craft Owing Freeman Paul Coxon has offered the Company two coach lamps to be used outside the Community Centre at the Almshouses in Hastings; Henley Royal Regatta Records 2010-2014 given by Craft Owing Freeman Daniel Grist on 6<sup>th</sup> January 2016; 70 young trees and shrubs to the value of £1,250 given by Craft Owing Freeman Stephen Bernhard to the Company Charity to be planted at the Almshouses in Hastings; A photograph of the RAFT Founding Committee given by Past Master David Gordon; The offer of a Jeremy King print by Diane Way via Junior Warden Dr Iain Reid – it is proposed that this will be used as a raffle prize or auction lot at a Company event; A book "They Were Singing And what they sang about" by Christopher Pulling, published 1952, given by Pat Doyle via Past Master Richard Goddard. The book is about music hall but Ch 3 "The Gay River" features the Thames and the lyrics of some River songs, etc.
- Hall Security was discussed at length. It was felt that the Hall was well covered in the event of a break in. However, security during the day, doors being left open, and the possibility of pilfering of items not screwed down was a concern. It was agreed to seek advice from the Livery Mutual insurance company.

- The Clerk has written a letter of moral support for the Turk's Head Charity who are seeking lottery funding to restore the historic Watermen's river stairs in Wapping – for information only.
- The Clerk was following up on a plan for the Past Master Alan Woods/Craft Owing Freeman John Metcalf research project.



