

MISSION TO SEAFARERS
SOUTH TEES STATION - COMMITTEE MEETING
MINUTES OF A MEETING
HELD IN THE CENTRE ON
WEDNESDAY 16 NOVEMBER 2022
immediately following the AGM at 1800 hrs

IN ATTENDANCE

Captain J L Drewitt MBE, Chairman
Deacon Peter Barrigan, Stella Maris, Vice Chairman
Christina Cordell, Financial Manager
Captain Colin Pratt
Father Edward Mathias Jones
Ruth Dodds
Pauline Wilkes
Lisa Crocket
Anne Lennon
Liz Love
Alèxe Finlay, Secretary

Apologies – Captain Luke Oldham

2. Minutes of 3 August 2022 - on a proposal by Pauline Wilkes, seconded by Ruth Dodds, these were agreed and signed by the Chairman

3. Matters Arising - none not covered below -

4. Chairman's Report:

(a) Website - Colin is making arrangements for the website to go live as Mission to Seafarers North Tees and Hartlepool has not contributed: we need to ensure the team information and rota set up can be trialled.

(b) DSM visit – John Knight advises -

Trustees of the Tyne Tees Mission to German Seamen with Alexe and Jerry met with Pastorin Verena and Lena from the German Lutheran Synode in the UK. Our meeting took place yesterday at the South Tees Mission.

The Synode is in close discussion with the General Secretary of the Deutsche Seemannsmission (German Mission) about facilitating the necessary Visa requirements post Brexit which is a significant stumbling block to appointing a Chaplain which DSM wish to do.

The Synode and DSM have many years of close cooperation and are exploring together constructively how best to achieve an appointment.

Both Pastorin Verena and Lena have limited experience of seafarers welfare and their visit not only allowed them to gain an insight into the work locally and future plans here but also allowed us to hear of the progress they are making with DSM in solving the thorny issue of Visa requirements before an appointment can be pursued

Whilst there is some way to go, thoughts are crystallising as to how best to put a structure in place in the UK to allow a DSM Chaplain to take up post

(c) Regional Manager visit – Nick Crago visited for a day and met team members as well as Chairman

(d) Constitution IHQ to re issue. South Tees prepared and submitted comments in advance of meeting.

(e) Branches Handbook IHQ to re issue. South Tees prepared and submitted comments in advance of meeting.

(f) New Centre Jerry, Christina and Peter working with IHQ

(g) MNWB PWC meeting – hosted by South Tees on 10 November and Minutes will be circulated.

(h) MNWB as National Seafarers Welfare Board new status and grant funding ability, also new web site to which we have contributed

(i) IHQ response to MNWB questions re resources

The new status of the Merchant Navy Welfare Board and implications for the

Mission to Seafarers

Introduction

The Merchant Navy Welfare Board (MNWB) has recently entered into a Memorandum of Understanding with the Maritime and Coastguard Agency on behalf of the Department for Transport and has been nominated as the National Seafarers' Welfare Board.

This same approach was adopted for the introduction of the Maritime Labour Convention 2006 (MLC) into UK law in 2013.

Devolution

It seems that the MNWB will become custodian of the annual Department for Transport fund for seafarers' welfare. The fine tuning of that is yet to be developed. However it rolls out, it will be administered and audited by a dedicated MNWB staff member to avoid imputation of conflict and it is envisaged that applications will be made in accordance with a strict grant funding auditable and transparent procedure.

MNWB Structure and Purpose

This change of emphasis has given the MNWB the opportunity to review its objectives and is engaging in this through its new CEO, Stuart Rivers, that process having been delayed owing to Stuart's absence through ill health.

MNWB Ambassadors

The MNWB appointed four Ambassadors in 2021 with a varied portfolio, including, latterly, input into the strategic review, *supra*. The four are all longstanding Mission to Seafarers and MNWB volunteers – Captain Martin Phipps, MBE, Neil Atkinson, MNM, Captain Jerry Drewitt, MBE, MNM, and Alèxe Finlay. Jerry and Alèxe currently hold responsibility, as volunteers, for the Mission to Seafarers, for the overall administration and operation of the South Tees Centre. All four have significant expertise as Chair/Vice Chair of their geographical Port Welfare Committee.

Request from the MNWB

The perceived philosophy behind the request from the MNWB to the Mission to Seafarers for information is to give the Board an understanding of the overall needs of the "big players" in the maritime welfare sector as part of the interface with Central Government as manifested in the Department for Transport, for the draw down and allocation of the new funding stream. It is not necessarily a question to individual Centres in the United Kingdom to send in a shopping list of separate, discrete, requirements.

Mission to Seafarers' response

A more focussed and potentially useful way to respond to the request would be for the Mission to Seafarers to set out its current strategy as to the development of its Centres in the UK to respond to the changing needs of seafarers post pandemic. From the seafarers' perspective the following issues have been encountered:

- Lack of shore leave
- Access denied to shore leave
- Resultant lack in basic commodities
- Need for mental health support other than "virtual" or via leaflets
- Personal contact
- Skill fade

Some of these can be rolled up under "Maslow Hygiene factors".

From the perspective of running Centres, the situation is perceived to be:
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- Mission to Seafarers' employees' staff turnover
- Paucity of Chaplains
- Paucity of Centre Managers
- Volunteers not returning post pandemic
- Constraints of achieving positive recruitment
- Time consuming demands regarding health and safety and all aspects of governance

What rôle does the Mission to Seafarers wish to have?

Assuming that the Mission to Seafarers wishes to be – in this context – an exemplar in best practice in the UK in the provision of welfare services to seafarers mandated through the ISPS Code 2004 and translated into UK law by the secondary legislation of 2009 – the reply to the Merchant Navy Welfare Board should reflect the changing needs of seafarers by seeking to source:

An integrated Centre in as many ports as possible

Working and positive partnerships with Stella Maris and other welfare associations

A willingness to share services and resources

Chaplains and/or Centre Managers

A cadre of volunteers preferably with understanding of the sector

Appropriate vehicles free of the stricture of D1 DVLA licence endorsements

24/7 access to Centres in some form for seafarers throughout the UK

Availability of phone and internet use preferably free of charge

Less reliance on “quantity” of eg ship visits and more focus on “quality” of encounter

A unity of approach so that when seafarers visit different ports in the UK, they know what to expect – there is a “template”

Multi lingual and timely dissemination of information

Reflecting back to the MNWB

It would seem appropriate at this juncture in the MNWB development to open discussion on the broader picture possibly in the terms couched in this paper. The views expressed are those of the Secretary, a volunteer.

(k)Branches Working Group: European Director Ijeoma Ajibade left and South Tees sent a card and contributed to her leaving present (not using Mission funds. This is what South Tees reported to that meeting -

SOUTH TEES' REPORT

South Tees is conducting a recruitment and induction campaign via the Port Users to increase its team base, sadly depleted. We are open every other evening. We have established a new routine of awareness raising for seafarers –

- MNWB leaflet to all vessels via pilots
- South Tees' leaflet to all vessels via agents
- South Tees' daily information slip to all crew by Stella Maris ship visitors

The Secretary reports to the Port Users re use of the levy and to IHQ by monthly and other required reports, in addition working on the MNWB new website, the MNWB request for strategy information, the Nautilus request for Christmas information. South Tees spent a day with the Regional Operations Manager discussing the Constitution and the Branches Handbook, and this work was prepared and submitted in advance. The Regional Operations Manager requested closure of the 2022 audit non compliances by week three of October 2022 and this deadline has been met. In addition, all 2023 health and safety revisions will be uploaded to the WorkNest Portal three months in advance of the

2023 WorkNest audit. The Chairman and Regional Operations Manager, in conjunction with the Financial Manager and Stella Maris Chaplain, are refining plans for the new Centre and the Chairman is also in dialogue with the German Seamen's Mission. The Mission to Seafarers, North Tees and Hartlepool, will report on the mv Salome, and we have ensured that both they, and Stella Maris, will be recognised and commended for their actions. The actual investigation is sub judice. South Tees responds immediately to all requests and directions from IHQ and keeps the Regional Operations Manager informed of all issues. In addition we are working with Johnny Dowling re the IHQ volunteer register; undertaking speaking engagements; attending a Remembrance Day service. Our team members are contacted daily and we take care of their well being. We are commencing assisting seafarers with their fourth C-19 vaccinations. This is all done by our voluntary team as we have no Mission to Seafarers' Centre Manager nor Chaplain and in addition to our hours of opening, we estimate another 30 hours' per week are expended by the voluntary team. The integration with Stella Maris is superb and we strive constantly to improve. We liaise with North Tees and Hartlepool and serve on the Committee. Our Chairman heads up the MNWB Tees PWC, in common with many other Mission to Seafarers' local chairmen. We have a set of Key Performance Indicators, revised and on the WorkNest portal/hub.

- (j) mv Salome – South Tees opened for a weekend to support the crew. THPUA thanked all the welfare associations in writing.
 - (k) SafeTALK – further two day course now being held in central Middlesbrough so no involvement from this Centre but Deacon Peter Barrigan and his team will be invited.
 - (l) Risk Assessments – reviewed and submitted monthly
 - (m) Manning – still inadequate but recruitment still in progress.
 - (n) Training – Chairman's authority
 - (o) Security – Chairman's authority and up to date
 - (p) Fire Safety – Chairman's lead
 - (q) Emergency welfare procedures – working well
 - (r) Mobile phone – set up
 - (s) iPad - yet to be set up for team use
 - (t) Health and Safety – no incidents to report
 - (u) Grangetown Remembers – Secretary laid wreath on behalf of Chairman and team
5. Club Premises:
- (a) Maintenance – PD and Chairman working on maintenance and with HE Woolley on fire safety.
6. South Tees Team: Health and Safety and Key Performance Indicators/WorkNest Portal – nothing under RIDDOR, no accidents, 2023 audit preparation for IHQ H and S auditor done and Key Performance Indicators logged
7. Renault Trafic - MOT, service, door handle repair all completed, MOT certificate with IHQ, all licences checked and corroborated against IHQ records as well. Brakes to be checked in December. Figures on use sent to IHQ.
8. Financial Manager's report - will be circulated to include use of till and manuals available to assist the team.
9. Ship Visiting/Seafarers' Welfare - A Quiet Day was held at Ampleforth. Deacon Peter Barrigan's report will be circulated.
10. Any Other Business. Deacon Peter and Anne Marie will host a Christmas party in the Centre – with live music - details to be sent via email when finalised.

11. Dates of next meetings – 2023 schedule to be drafted wrt subject to Chairman’s commitments and also those of Bishop Paul.

The first dates is the pre meeting for Jerry, Christina and Peter and the second date is the Committee meeting

JANUARY

10, 18

MARCH

7, 15

MAY

9, 17

JULY

11, 19

SEPTEMBER

12, 20

NOVEMBER to include AGM

7, 15