

## **Minutes of the Civil Engineers' Club Virtual Annual General Meeting held on Wednesday 28 October 2020**

(The Annual General Meeting was originally due to be held in April 2020 but had to be postponed because of the Coronavirus pandemic).

Present:           Tim Broyd (Chair)  
                      Tony Barber  
                      Stephen Bracken  
                      John Brownlie  
                      David Hardcastle  
                      Angus McAvoy  
                      Jim Workman  
                      Peter Richardson (Secretary)

### **1. Apologies for absence**

**2. Minutes of the previous Annual General Meeting** held on 9 April 2019 were proposed to be accepted by Martyn Taylor and seconded by Tony Barber. They were agreed unanimously.

**3. Matters arising** there were none.

### **4. Chair's report**

4.1 Tim Broyd reported that the Club's finances were healthy and that membership numbers had reduced slightly but were still holding up well.

4.2 The Club continues to provide various events in its different Sections.

### **5. Secretary's report**

5.1 Peter Richardson thanked all Committee members for their continuing service to the Civil Engineers' Club. He would be pleased to hear from members about any new activities which the Club could provide.

5.2 The Secretary proposed that the annual membership subscription for the Civil Engineers' Club should remain at £10 for the forthcoming year. This was proposed to be accepted by Tim Broyd and seconded by Tony Barber and was unanimously agreed.

### **6. Treasurer's report**

6.1 Steve Bracken reported on the 2019 accounts as compiled by OGGS. The Club continued to support the Club's continuing activities such as Contract Bridge and Sailing. This year's events were severely curtailed by the Coronavirus pandemic but hopefully next year would be a return to more normal times.

6.2 Martyn Taylor proposed and Tony Barber seconded that the accounts be accepted. This was agreed unanimously by the meeting.

### **7. Election of officers**

7.1. Martyn Taylor proposed and Tony Barber seconded the election of officers as listed below. This was unanimously agreed.

Chair	Tim Broyd
Vice Chair	Angus McAvoy
Secretary	Peter Richardson
Treasurer	Stephen Bracken

### **8. Election of Committee members**

8.1. Tim Broyd proposed and Angus McAvoy seconded that the Committee members be re-elected en bloc. This was unanimously agreed.

Section leaders:	
Contract Bridge	Peter Richardson
Golf	Martyn Taylor
Northern Ireland	Jim Workman
Singing	Tony Barber
Walking	Tony Barber

## **9. Section reports**

9.1 The reports for all sections were given by the Secretary.

### **9.2 Contract Bridge:** (Peter Richardson)

The James Jones Cup competition was held in June 2019 and the Brunel Trophy competition in October 2019. There was an increased number of players for the James Jones Cup and similar numbers at the Brunel Trophy as the previous year. Both events were well attended. Full reports of the events are available on the Club website.

### **9.3 Golf:** (Martyn Taylor)

Northern Ireland Region organised this tournament which was held on Monday 2 September 2019 at The Hilton Templepatrick Hotel and Golf Club, Northern Ireland. The Region is to be congratulated on their very smooth running of the event, in spite of heavy rain. The winners were North East Region and a full report is available on the Club Website.

### **9.4 Northern Ireland:** (Jim Workman)

Two visits were arranged during the year: to the Silent Valley and Ben Crom Reservoirs in April and the Victoria Terminal 2 (VT2) in Belfast Docks in October.

The Silent Valley Dam was built on the Kilkeel river between 1923 and 1933. Water gravitated over many miles to Belfast City. Further demand was provided by building the Ben Crom dam further up the Kilkeel river. Construction work took 3 years and the reservoir was finished in 1957.

The day commenced at 11 am when the members and their guests met in the Visitors Centre conference room for refreshments. Then the historical issues posed by the unforeseen ground conditions were the subject of a briefing by CEC member Dr Phil Donald. This was followed by a short walk to the Silent Valley Dam. After lunch in the adjacent Café the party drove up to the Ben Crom reservoir for the final leg of the tour.

The second visit was to the Victoria Terminal 2 (VT2) in Belfast Docks. The terminal is being upgraded to handle the next generation of modern Ro-Ro ferry vessels. The infrastructure will accommodate the berthing of Stena Line's new E-Flexer ships which are expected to arrive from China in 2020.

Phillip Brown of Grahams was accompanied by Tommy Craven, Contracts Manager and the Site Manager Ryan Hill. Ryan briefed the party of 26 before taking the party on a tour of the very busy site. The visit was appreciated by all.

### **9.5 Sailing:** (David Hardcastle)

Activities for the CEC Sailing Section are limited to the award of various trophies for yacht races organised by others, such as the Round Island Race held in June each year and the Little Britain Regatta for the Construction Industry, held annually in September.

The RIR took place on the hottest day of 2019, devoid of wind and turned into a classic drifter. Few of the total fleet of some 1700 entrants managed to finish the race. There were five entrants for the Telford Trophy (which is awarded to ICE crewed boats racing in the IRC classes). Only two managed to finish the race, which was an achievement in itself and the winner was Knight Build. The single entry for the CEC Smeaton Trophy, (awarded for non-IRC classes) retired at Ventnor, having calculated that they could not reach the finish (in Cowes) by the 10pm cut-off time.

The next CEC sailing event in 2019 was the Little Britain Challenge Cup regatta and CEC now awards the Sir John Coode trophy for the first placed 'civil engineering' Boat. There were six entrants and the trophy was won by Knight Build.

The final award for 2019 was the Elvera Trophy for the most entertaining record (log) of a voyage conducted by a CEC member during the year. This was won by Chris Jones for his saga of searching for a suitable cruising yacht, purchasing White Knight (a Contessa 32) and an initial cruise of Western Scotland and Mull.

### **9.6 Singing:** (Tony Barber)

The traditional joint ICE/RICS Carol Service at St Margaret's, Westminster took place on Monday 9th December. Several members of CEC and ICE staff joined the choir for this popular event which was well attended. The service was followed by a mince pie and mulled wine reception at RICS.

The choir also sang at the annual Chartered Surveyors Livery Company's carol service at St Lawrence Jewry in the City of London on Tuesday 17th December.

#### **9.7 Walking:** (Tony Barber)

Last year there were five well attended Saturday walks and a successful Walking Weekend in the Gower Peninsular.

The first walk was in January 2019 and started from Canary Wharf Tube Station and briefly visited the Museum of London in Docklands before heading south to the Greenwich Foot Tunnel. After lunch it followed the path to the Emirates Airline Cable Car across the river. A total of 52 people took part.

In April 2019 the walk started from West Malling Railway Station and the route went into the market town of West Malling, before continuing over the M20. After lunch it went back via Addington to West Malling. A total of 28 people took part.

In May 2019 the walk was the second of four planned walks along the Thames Towpath. The walk started from Putney Bridge and passed by Battersea Park. Lunch was at The Nine Elms. After lunch it continued to the Royal Festival Hall. A total of 19 people participated.

In August 2019 there was a repeat of the previous Thames Towpath walk of May.

In September 2019 the walk started from Limehouse DLR Station and went via the Limehouse Basin and alongside the Regents Canal to Victoria Park on the way to the Olympic Park. After lunch it retraced its steps to the beginning, a distance of approximately nine miles. 40 people joined the walk

In November 2019 the circular walk started from Chatham station and the route went via the 'Lines and Maritime Monument' and continued to the old Royal Naval Barracks (HMS Pembroke), the dockyard and the historic dockyard area. After lunch, the group returned via the grounds of the Maritime Museum. A total of 29 people joined the walk.

Walking Weekend in Gower Peninsular was in June 2019. On Friday evening we met for a guided walk and the route included places of engineering interest and some of Dylan Thomas's haunts.

On Saturday we drove to the National Trust car park at Rhossili by the Worms Head Hotel. We walked down to the beach and along various paths to Rhossili Down.

On Sunday we went by bus from Swansea to Parkmill for the start of the walk. We passed Pennard Castle and Three Cliffs Bay before joining the Coastal Path to Mumbles. After lunch there was a journey back to Swansea.

The walks were attended by 12 people.

### **10. Any other business**

10.1 Items for this were requested to be sent to the Secretary by 25 October. However, John Brownlie sent an email yesterday (27 October) which was not received until today. The Secretary would reply by email within a week. Tim Broyd believed there were no topics of any substance to the way the CEC Committee conducts its business.

### **11. Date of next Annual General Meeting, 2021**

11.1 Two possible dates are Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> or Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> April 2021. The date will be finalised by the Civil Engineers' Club Committee in due course.