



MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

28 September 2013, Château du Four de Vaux

Present: - Ludwig Heuse (Chairman) Jetse Reijenga (Editor; Webmaster) Ineke Reijenga (Treasurer) Lawrie Brewer (Home Secretary) Sue Napier (Membership Secretary); John Roberts; John Forester; Erik Abbenhuis, Marlieke de Vos, Claudia von Mengersen, Odile Roberts, Dirk Scholten, Nicolas Grigorellis, Caroline Mongeau, Ken Napier and Serge Aillery.

The Chairman welcomed members to the meeting, particularly Serge Aillery from the Société des Ecrivains de la Mer and Nicolas Grigorellis originator of the Belgian specialist website. He outlined the programme for the day and recalled previous AGMs.

The Minutes for the Meeting dated 28 September 2012 had been circulated and were approved.

Lawrie regretted the rather low UK attendance. He observed however that the 16 attendants came from 8 countries. He reported on *The Pursued* now being published in paperback in UK, and in German, Greek and Spanish (and a scheduled BBC radio dramatization).

Sue Napier reported that during the year membership had grown to 230, with 30 new members.

Jetse reported on the 3 'Reflections' having been issued during the year. The website had peaked at 100 visitors per week; Wikipedia was a frequent lead among 2500 visitors via search engines. There ensued a discussion as to how to handle John Mahon's new alternative ending to 'Crisis' – Jamaican Affair of 1805.

A financial report was circulated and approved. Members applauded Bob Smith for his completion of 'Hornblower and the Crisis' proceeds from whose sales (270 eBooks to date) continued to help fund the Society's events.

John Forester recalled the origins of the Society in Berkeley at his father's former home. He offered to examine his collection of Kitty/ CSF first editions which had been damaged in a fire, and to present them to the Society.

John Roberts spoke with appreciation of the endeavours of the Officers and it was unanimously agreed that Ludwig Heuse as Chairman, Jetse Reijenga Editor and Webmaster, Sue Napier Membership Secretary, Ineke Reijenga Treasurer and Lawrie Brewer Home Secretary continue in office for a further year. Ludwig indicated his intention to retire with effect from the 2014 AGM.

The Chairman led a discussion which resulted in the choice of *The Commodore* as our new Book of the Year. The location for the next meeting will be Rügen Island on the Baltic, or onboard a sailing vessel based in St. Malo. Date: 14 September 2014.

The meeting adjourned for general discussions and for excellent presentations on *The Ship* (Lawrie, Jetse and John F), CSF's choice of locations in France and the identity of Graçay (Ludwig), and a French view of maritime literature (Serge).