

NAUTICAL INSTITUTE - CYPRUS BRANCH

FIRST ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 10.05.94

BRANCH CHAIRMANS REPORT

First of all good evening and welcome to everyone. You have my sincere apologies for my absence, this is due to work commitments.

It is exactly a year to the day that the Branch had its Exploratory Meeting. At that meeting there was a good deal of enthusiasm and many good ideas for future Branch Meetings.

During the year following the Exploratory Meeting there have been four formal Branch Meetings and one social meeting, these being;

- i > Visit to RAF Akrotiri - Search and Rescue*
- ii > Cymepa House - Activities of CYMEPA*
- iii > Elias Beach - NI Deputy Secretary*
- iv > Social Weekend - Platres*
- v > Cymepa House - SBA Administration and Maritime Affairs.*

The support for the formation of the Cyprus Branch was unanimous and the number of members on the island has grown as a result of the Branch being formed. That in itself is a good achievement.

Support at Branch meetings has been reasonable, on average around 50% attendance. This is good considering that many members have extensive travel commitments and a few members are serving at sea or abroad. There are a few members who have yet to attend a Branch Meeting and I hope they will find the time to do so in the coming year. The meetings to date have been most enjoyable and enlightening and those not in attendance are really missing out.

I accepted the position as Branch Chairman for the past year, this being placed upon the person instigating an exploratory meeting as per NI Branch Guidance notes, however I feel that I am unable to continue in this position due to my increasing travel commitments. This in itself is a good sign for the Company I work for but due to this fact I feel it is improper for me to continue as Branch Chairman.

I am not used to making such reports but wish to keep this reasonably short as I believe the meeting has more important business to conduct. It is my pleasure however to give words of thanks to a few people. Firstly thanks must go to all the Committee members who behind the scenes have put in quite a number of hours attending Committee meetings in order to keep the Branch on its tracks. The position of Branch Honorary Secretary is probably the most onerous one and we were fortunate to initially have the services of Peter Stapley. He has now left the island and was ably replaced by Ian MacLean.

Special thanks must go to Dr. Ierides and Mr. Voskresensky for giving permission to the Branch to use CYMEPA House as its HQ. Having such facilities is greatly appreciated and I am sure I speak for all of the Members in giving these words of thanks.

It is most likely that the Cyprus Branch will never be a great Branch in terms of numbers of Members but nevertheless there is no reason why it should not be an active Branch now and in the future and I look forward to many Branch meetings to come.

Although I have stepped down as Branch Chairman I am still keen to take an active part in Branch proceedings and do not mind being a Branch Committee member. If necessary I will fulfil the role of Branch Treasurer, a role I have to date been doing, in the absence of anyone else standing for the position.

I believe the Social Weekend at Platres was a great success and it may be worthwhile considering a similar repeat next year. The alternative is to hold a Christmas Social event and we all know how busy the month of December is in Cyprus. Whatever is decided you have my vote anyway.

My best regards to everyone.

P. Bond.