



WORLD SHIP SOCIETY BRANCH SECRETARIES BRIEFING October 2023

In 2022, The Society's Council decided to communicate feedback from Council meetings to Branch Secretaries to increase transparency and communication.

Branch Secretaries are requested to ensure that all members of their Branch are made aware of the content of this briefing.

Key points arising from the Council meeting held on 21 October 2023 were:

1. Branch Information

Branches are reminded to ensure that any changes to Branch Officers, or meeting frequency and venue, are notified to Jimmy Poole, General Secretary, and James Knowles, Webmaster, promptly, for inclusion in Marine News and on the Society's website.

2. Annual General Meetings

A reduced attendance at this year's AGM, held in Portsmouth, led to a financial loss, particularly on the harbour cruise where participation was down to 30 attendees.

Potential venues and arrangements for the 2024 AGM are currently being considered and the details will be published in Marine News.

3. Website

Our Webmaster, James Knowles, continues to develop the website, with priority currently focused on making online enrolment and payment available to new members, in addition to the online renewal option available to existing members. Members are encouraged to visit the Members' Only area that contains online resources, Society information and the *Marine News* and *Marine News Supplement* archives.

4. ZOOM

We hope to trial the concept of a 'Zoom Master' by acquiring, initially, a single short-term ZOOM licence to allow suitably equipped Branches to make their lectures/talks available to the wider membership should they wish. Iain McCall, our Director of Marketing, will coordinate the activity.

5. eBay Sales

Our ambition to test the sale of second-hand books from the Chatham Archive and Library remains but is paused until a volunteer to manage the activity can be found. If you feel that you could take on this task, please contact Roy Fenton.

6. Volunteers

Volunteers remain urgently required to support many of the Society's activities, in particular the Library and Archive at Chatham, the WSPL and the Publications Committee. If you feel that you could contribute, please contact the appropriate Society officer, or any member of Council.

7. Membership Renewals

Members who don't renew their membership through their local Branch should make use of the online renewal facility available in the Members' Only area of the Society's website.

8. Social Media

The WSS Facebook page now has over 300 members and is increasingly active. Members who use Facebook, or other platforms such as Instagram, are encouraged to view the Society's presence, and to encourage others who have an interest in ships to do likewise.