

Minutes of the 19th Annual General Meeting  
18th April 2023 at 1300  
Conference room 344/32, National Oceanographic Centre,  
Southampton (Ocean Business 23).



## 1. Attendance, Apologies for absence and Welcome

### 1.1 Attendance:

Svertlana Klockova  
Paul Edge  
Mike Postle-Hawn  
Mike Sebbage  
Dick New  
Martin Webb (PD Ports)  
Jeff Pangbourne  
Liam Flynn (A-2 Sea Solutions)  
Matt Lock (A-2 Sea Solutions)  
Derrick Peyton (Canadian Hydrographic Association)  
John Fraser (Norbit)  
John Pinder  
Robert Taylor  
Hilary Morgan  
Duncan Allen  
Tom Broomfield (Norbit)  
Kevin Gaffney  
Layla Rami  
Joseph Park  
Simon Canning  
Iain Slade  
Laurence Smith  
Mike Trannah  
Phoebe Bailey  
Gordon Johnston  
David Parker (UKHO)  
William Heaps (Marico Marine)  
Trish Buxton (Chair & Teledyne Geospatial)  
Becky Conway (CEO & Oceanwise)

### 1.2 Welcome

Trish Buxton, Chair of THS:UKI, welcomed everyone to the 2022 Annual General Meeting, thanked all for taking some time to join today.

### 1.3 Apologies for absence were received from:

John Dillon-Leetch

2. Consideration and acceptance of the Minutes of the 18th AGM held on 17<sup>th</sup> March 2022 (to be taken as read)

The Minutes were accepted without amendment.

Proposed by: Simon Canning Seconded by: William Heaps

3. Consideration and acceptance of the Report of the Management Committee and Financial Statement for the year ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 2022

Proposed by: Mike Trannah Seconded by: William Heaps

4. Appointment of Auditors to audit the Society's accounts for the year ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 2023 and authorisation of the Board to fix their remuneration

The Board recommended that the current accountants, Simpkins Edwards LLP of Michael House, Castle Street, Exeter, EX4 3LQ should, once again, be appointed as the Society's auditors and financial advisers.

Question: William Heaps - It would be useful to get some benchmark pricing. Noted that this was an exercise that would need addressing

Question: Paul Edge – do we still have to do an audit? Yes – we are obligated to do so every year – we checked with the auditors.

Proposed by: William Heaps

Seconded by: Becky Conway

5. Consideration of the Reports from:

Chief Executive – Becky Conwy

### **Chief Executive Report to AGM 2023**

Good Afternoon all, I'm Becky Conway and was appointed as Chief Executive of the Hydrographic Society UK & Ireland in July 2022. Before I begin my report, I would like to take this opportunity to once again thank David Parker as the previous Chief Executive and Dave Buxton as Operations Manager for all their hard work over the previous years. I hope to continue this effort and take the Society forward. During my report I will run through the events and activity of the Society over the year since the last AGM, highlighting some important hurdles we have overcome and some which remain as future challenges.

### **Membership and Society Operation**

Let's start with an overview of our membership. Following the sharp drop in numbers experienced around 3 years ago and its subsequent stabilisation reported at the last AGM, since then we have seen a steady increase in individual and corporate membership. However, we are still not at a level where membership income is sustainable for the Society and remain in a rocky period. A significant reason for why we have not been able to expand membership numbers as much as we had hoped for in the last year is due to the gap in post of the Operations Manager which was vacant for 5 months. Unfortunately, this gap also coincided with the follow up period for annual renewals and subsequently resulted in some income loss, particularly from the Corporate Membership side, where invoice payments were not chased. As we are currently at the start of the 2023 membership year, I wanted to take this opportunity to ask you all to please try and encourage

your colleagues and organisations to join our community or renew their membership if they haven't done so already.

One of my first objectives as Chief Executive was to find a suitable candidate to fill the role of Operations Manager which we have renamed Operations and Engagement Manager (OEM for short) due to the vast range of tasks the individual would be responsible for and to also highlight the importance of engagement with our members and the wider hydrographic community. The recruitment process went well, with a good level of interest and through shortlisting we were able to interview 7 candidates.

I'd like to thank those involved with the interviewing process for your help, which as anyone who has run a recruitment process knows, it can be lengthy and time consuming. It was ultimately worth it though as in October 2022 we welcomed Derek Rae into the OEM post. Derek hit the ground running, working through the significant backlog of membership correspondence, financial reporting and our key communication channels, LinkedIn and of course the publication of Soundings. However, unfortunately as many of you will be aware Derek's health took an unexpected turn for the worse (to say the least) in February and he currently remains off on sick leave. The Society is supporting him through this where we can and hope that Derek will be able to return in the not-too-distant future and we will continue to support him through phased return to work at the appropriate time. I would like to extend my thanks to the Board and wider membership for their support in keeping the Society's operations going during this time, particularly focusing to ensure Derek's hard work to date doesn't go to waste. I would especially like to thank Dave Buxton who facilitated a smooth handover with Derek initially but has also stepped up to assist with the ongoing 2023 membership renewal process.

### **Website and Membership Platform**

This brings me on to progress with our membership platform on the website. You should now all have received emails with links to your personal and/or corporate log in areas and have been able to renew your membership for the coming year. This is a big step forward for the Society as it will allow us to manage membership more efficiently and have a better oversight of our ongoing status which we will in due course be able to feed back to the membership body. Please can I urge you all to interact through the website, as well feedback to us any ideas of resources you would like to see. We are compiling an ongoing 'wish-list' of development requirements to further improve the website and its user experience, so please let me know your thoughts.

### **The Hydrographic Professional Accreditation Scheme (HPAS)**

At the last AGM, David reported that we submitted an application to the IBSC for formal recognition of HPAS on behalf of the IHO and I am extremely pleased to report that the application was successful. Since the development and handover of HPAS to IFHS there has been some challenges in coordinating and administering the scheme. However we are currently undergoing a recruitment campaign for the role of HPAS Coordinator and IFHS Secretariat. This role will be managed by THS:UKI for the support and administration of HPAS intakes and ongoing administrative tasks set by IFHS and other national societies as required. If you or anyone you know of may be interested in this role, then please come and talk to me to find out more information.

### **Branches and Committees**

Our Branches committees continue to do a sterling job at putting on some fantastic events for our members and assisting in raising awareness of the Society and Hydrographic profession. I won't steal their thunder by going into details of what they have been up to, I'll let them update you shortly. Instead, I wanted to thank the Branch committees for their continued hard work and encourage all members to support these events wherever you can, in particular a call to Corporate members to host or sponsor events where possible is always appreciated.

Over the last few months we've also stepped up the activity of some of the Society's Committees such as the Soundings Editorial Committee and Education Committee. I'd like to thank the members of these for bringing their ideas and enthusiasm to the meetings and look forward to seeing and reporting on the outputs of these committees over the coming months.

### **Future Strategy**

This leads me on to looking forward and the Society must now execute its plan for the future. So, what can you expect to see over the coming year. A key focus for the Society over the coming year is Education following the re-invigoration of the Education Committee with a great response and establishment of sub working groups focusing on main areas which include Schools Outreach, Universities and Industry, Continued Professional Development and Women in Hydrography. A strategic goal of the Society for the coming year is to significantly grow our student membership body, as these individuals are the future of the industry and ultimately the Society.

You will hopefully have all noticed that we are back on track with Soundings publication as well as the fortnightly e-bulletins. It is a high priority to maintain these schedules, but also to evaluate the content and mechanisms for their production.

Finally, as you know in order to sustain the Society we need to run large events to boost finances as well as providing opportunities for knowledge sharing, networking and of course a good reason to all get together! I am therefore please to say that plans are afoot for another Remote Hydrography conference, more details to follow in the coming weeks so please keep an eye out for these.

On that exciting note I will leave it there by saying thank you for all your continued support and urge you all the spread the word of the Society, ultimately with more members we can invest and do more as a Society across the industry.

### Honorary Finance Director – Rick Read

*Added following AGM:* financial summary is as follows: The net surplus for the year was £3,077 (2021: £47,418 deficit). After adding this to the accumulated funds brought forward of £162,694 (£139,915 unrestricted funds and £22,779 restricted funds), there is a balance of reserves of £165,771 to carry forward within the Society. This consists of £145,798 unrestricted funds and £19,973 restricted funds.

Taken from: THS UK 2022 Final - ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS YE March 2022.pdf

### The Regions

#### East Anglia – Trish Buxton, Regional Director

In February THS UK East Anglia Branch held an evening meeting held at Next Geosolutions' offices in Norwich. The offices were a great location for the meeting and Next Geosolutions provided tea, coffee, soft drinks and sandwiches and went out of their way to make us all feel welcome.

We had 37 people in attendance, so it was great to see so many people and have the opportunity to catch up. As well as holding our branch AGM, we also had two interesting talks about unmanned or uncrewed surface vehicles and unmanned ariel systems by Dr Tom Hiller, Thurn Group and Adam Bonner, XOcean As a result of the AGM, a new committee has been formed and a planning meeting has since happened to scheduling further meetings. We are currently planning a meeting in June with a series of lightning talks from various corporate members in our region

Ireland - Seán Cullen, Chair (unavailable for meeting but notes added below after)

The Ireland Branch held a formal AGM on the 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2023 to elect a new Committee. Sean Cullen returned as Chair/Director for the following year with a full committee elected with a Treasurer, Secretary, Inter Regional Liaison and Education Officer

Planned events for 2023: planning for a proposed 2023/2024 edition of Remote Hydrography conference to be held in Ireland. Due to the success of RH 2022 (raising c. €55K) for the THS:UKI, another event is being considered for hosting by the Ireland Branch. This will depend on other planned HS activities in the UK for 2023.

The challenges of being a relatively small branch were discussed and it was acknowledged that meetings could occur when opportunities arise / members operational calendars permit.

It was agreed by the committee that the next meeting should take place during the summer 2023. This is pending operational availability of the membership, and the offer to host. XOcean may be willing to host this meeting and will confirm.

Scotland – Simon Canning, Chair

The AGM was held online on January 26th, 2022. Our 2022 office bearers and committee were confirmed during the AGM, we are very fortunate to have a strong and varied committee of 22 with some new faces joining to bring lots of fresh ideas. We combined the AGM with two presentations, 'A History of Height in Great Britain' was presented by Mark Greaves of Ordnance Survey followed by 'A Brief Look at the History and Future of VORF' by Paul Marks of the UK Hydrographic Office. A very interesting way to kick off our year.

We had decided to go ahead with our Annual Members Dinner after a 2-year gap. We were unsure if a return to such social gatherings would be well received but went ahead and booked The Chester Hotel in Aberdeen for March 10th and opened up the reservation's hotline. And it appears that the THS:UKI membership and community was very much in favour of getting back together. We quickly booked up 23 tables and many offers of sponsorship for the event. The evening was a huge success, made possible by our amazing committee and support of our sponsoring companies who were Andrews Survey and UTEC Survey as gold sponsors, Oceaneering, STR, Subsea7, Sulmara and Unique Group as silver sponsors and DDK, iSurvey and Sonardyne as bronze sponsors. Our raffle raised £4,480.00 which was split between two charities, MapAction and North Aberdeenshire Food Bank. A great atmosphere and a much needed opportunity to network after the long period of lock downs.

Our first live evening event was held on March 30th at the Palm Court Hotel. Our regular contributor, Walter Jardine put together an IOGP Committee Update for us, starting with 'A (re) Introduction to the IOGP Committee – what the actual earthly do those folk do?' followed by Josh Townsend presenting 'Is your on-line Survey software on-point? – verifying the integrity of spatial applications with GIGS'. It was great to have another live technical event!

Another annual event returned to a live format on April 20th, our Hydrofest Day was held at the Chester Hotel with over 70 attendees including university students from Glasgow, Newcastle, UCL and Dublin along with delegates who are new to the energy industry. Our Hydrofest program is designed to introduce the role of the Hydrographic surveyor in the offshore energy industry through a day of presentations by leading

industry professionals. It was a great day, with super presenters lead by Matt Garrett from bp, focusing on how a large offshore windfarm project would be run from start to finish and how hydrography plays a part in all parts of these projects. Thanks to all those that took part and helped to make this a success.

We were hoping that we could get back in front of our local school pupils in 2022, but unfortunately for a third year our school's lecture day had to take a different form. We distributed our 'Activity Pack' again to the 28 secondary schools within Aberdeen city and Aberdeenshire. The pack contained a PowerPoint presentation of short, fun videos showing what a Hydrographic Surveyor is, what we do and how we become Hydrographic Surveyors. The PPT was accompanied with a Google form quiz with a series of 20 questions based around the video content. The quiz was all for fun, but when schools submit responses, they will get a donation towards their STEM department funds from us. We had a great response from the local schools and letters with the STEM contributions will be sent to the participating schools after the summer break.

Our annual Student Awards Program had been launched with Aberdeen and Glasgow Universities in September 2021. However, with the students still largely working remotely, we unfortunately did not receive any submissions this year. We will work closely with both universities once the 2023 students are in place to ensure our program is made available to them and fits in with their study program.

Our summer break flew by and before we knew it, the Annual Team Golf Outing was upon us, the sporting highlight of the year for many. On Thursday 15th September, 9 teams took to the fairways of Kemnay Golf Course, Aberdeenshire. Would defending champions Unique Systems retain the trophy for best team? Would The best individual score again be someone from Unique Systems? Are Unique Systems too good for this competition?! To say the weather was "changeable" was an understatement! Jacket on, jacket off, jacket on, jacket off, broly up, broly down, broly up, broly down – it was almost like a weird training montage from a direct-to-video sequel of the Karate Kid. At least it gave ample opportunities for photos of rainbows!

Once again, we invited companies to sponsor the golf outing. And what a difference it does make. UTEC sponsored our bacons rolls and coffee to start. Seatronics sponsored the nearest-the-pin and Unique Systems sponsored the longest drive. Norbit did us the honour of sponsoring the bar at the end of the day. All profits from the event will go towards funding the societies activities such as the schools initiative, education awards and Hydrofest, etc. So many thanks to UTEC, Seatronics, Unique System and Norbit for making a great day even better.

We'd like also to acknowledge the very generous donations of prizes by all the teams that entered. This year's prize donation box was so crammed, we were able to have prizes for the top six individual players and a prize for each team that competed.

In the end it was the Unique Systems Team who won and maintained their position as the best team, so congratulations to Norman Rawling, Brook Roger and Thomas Croll. We hope to see you back in 2023 to defend your title, but please consider giving the rest of us a chance to win.

The individual winners prize went to 2021's winner Thomas Croll from the Unique Systems team with a total of 45 points. Runner up individual was Edd Moller from Sonardyne with a score of 40 points who pipped Norman Rawling from Unique on countback. Fourth place, with 38 points, went to Barry Cairns from Sonardyne who beat Patrick Folan from UTEC on countback. Sixth place (on countback) went to Phil Middleton who scored 37 points playing for the Norbit team.

Nearest-the-pin prize on the 6th hole went to John Fraser who was playing in the Norbit team. Longest drive prize on the 15th hole was awarded to Gordon Nicholl from the Pangeo team. Huge thanks to our committee member Alan MacDonald (Sonardyne) for organising another great event. Alan makes this event look easy to organise, but we know it's not!

On 4th October, we held a live evening event at the Palm Court Hotel, Aberdeen. 'Technologies Enabling Remote' attracted a good audience, with two presenters. First was Sean Wilkinson from ITC Global who presented 'Connecting Remote Operations' followed by Andy Freeman with 'The Journey to Remote Operations'. It was great to get members out of their offices and networking again. Many thanks to Karel Zuidweg for organising the evening and to Matt Garrett for hosting.

A change of gear for the following week as we all got very competitive at the Quiz Night on 13th October. After a two-year break, the tacky trophies were up for grabs again to the winning team of quizzers. A new location this year at the Ashvale Restaurant, with a fish supper served to everyone before we got stuck in. 14 teams battled it out, scores were 'varied' but the winner had to be decided by sudden death, all very tense! The winning team was MacArtney, with Sonardyne taking the wooden spoon.

Thanks again to Alan MacDonald for organising a really good night out

On November 10th, we were delighted to co-host the planned joint industry event with the SUT and IMCA. Held at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Aberdeen, the one-day event titled 'The Energy Field of the Future' brought together society members to hear from 12 presenters focused on Visualisation, Robotics, Communication and Alternative Energy. After having to cancel the event last year, it was great to welcome 60 delegates to the event and collaborate with the other societies again. We look forward to the next event and thank the SUT and IMCA for working with us on this initiative.

To finish off a busy end of the year, we had another evening event on November 23rd in Aberdeen at the Palm Court. The event will be focused on Environmental Survey techniques, developments, and challenges with guest speakers from Benthic Solutions. Our thanks to Andy Irving and Stuart Murray for organising this event for our members.

THS:UKI Scotland Branch intend to continue to run with the live events that were held last year, in the same format as last year. THS:UKI Scotland Branch has a dedicated committee of volunteers who's energy and enthusiasm will ensure that 2023 is a great success. We are again living in interesting and challenging times and as ever, we are always better together. I'd like to personally thank all our committee members for their dedication and effort in 2022, and thanks to Nicki Nichols our deputy Chair for her efforts in 2022 and for keeping me heading in the right direction.

South West – (report given by David Parker on behalf of Paul Byham)

Our program last March was dealt another blow due to COVID meaning the planned student presentations had to be postponed until the 8th June. It was kindly hosted by the University of Plymouth at the Sherwell Centre. Mike Postle-Hacon provided a summary of this event within the following issues of soundings.

We were lucky enough to be hosted by the UKHO at their new offices in Taunton in April, and by USS and Ultrabeam in Hayle for World Hydrography Day on June 21st. Both are at the outer reaches of our area and it was heartening to see members attending each of these events, as well as visitors from other regions.

The SW Branch Autumn season of talks got off to a good start in October with an opening talk by James Williams and John MacDonald of USS (Unmanned Survey Solutions) titled "The challenges of remote Hydrographic Surveying using Uncrewed Surface Vessels offshore".

In November we were treated to an equally fascinating talk on "Seagrass Mapping using a USV and machine learning" by Peter Holt of HydroSurv. In December we were treated to a talk on "Unexploded Ordnance Risk and Mitigation Methods for Offshore Wind Farm Development" by Vicky Phillips, Director ERW Marine, RPS Energy. The talk was very well attended with a strong student turnout doubling the numbers of attendees.

Unfortunately, I was unable to attend our February event, the inaugural Student Mentor event but I am told it was extremely successful attracting a large student crowd with good attendance and representation from industry, corporate and individual members. A separate article was provided for soundings. Thanks to James Williams for organising this event and all the committee members who helped him on the night, and to all the panel members and industry representatives that helped make this event a success. I am sure all the effort was much appreciated by the large number of students in attendance.

For our March meeting we had 2 talks by the UKHO on "The UK Centre for Seabed Mapping" and "Survey Procurement for a Sustainable World" given by David Parker and Phil Payne. David set out the aims of the Seabed Mapping Centre and how it is trying to provide a central repository for data collected from many disparate sources, initially the many UK government departments involved in Hydrographic data collection and use. I was surprised to find out that this was in excess of 30 separate departments. Phil's presentation was equally fascinating on how surveys can be procured with an aim of reducing the carbon footprint attributed to the work, scoring vendors on the basis of their solutions with a weighting on environmental impact. It is not just about the overall price for the job, or the best solution, but overall 'cost' factoring in price, technical solution and carbon footprint.

The February and March events were held at what we hope to be our new regular venue, The Roundabout Pub opposite Plymouth University. With this change of venue, we will likely have to change our regular day for events from the first Wednesday of the month to the first Thursday. This has nothing to do with the rumour that it is to take advantage of the Happy hour at the pub held on Thursdays. We do hope that we can reinvigorate attendance from society members which has dropped off considerably and since the COVID years. We hope the more social side of holding events in a pub will attract more attendees to events.

On the 29th of March we held have our 8th Student Presentation Evening, again hosted by the University of Plymouth at the Sherwell Centre. More details can be found in soundings.

We have yet to plan our summer season of talks, so if anybody has a presentation they are itching to make please get in touch for our May or June event.

Southern – notes provided by Mark Poole, Chair

The Southern Branch committee have delivered five technical meetings at different venues across our region since the last AGM. Our June 22 meeting was held at Solent University Southampton where we got hands on with the impressive facilities at the Simulation Centre. That was followed by a meeting on a very warm July evening in Brighton for a presentation by the Rampion wind farm operations team at their visitor centre on the beachfront. For our traditional November meeting during MATS week at the NOC in Southampton we successfully trialled a combination of face to face and remote presentations but made a conscious decision to restrict the February 23 joint meeting at the RICS to face to face, Despite the short



lead time it was great to welcome 25 attendees in person, the majority of whom went on to share a drink afterwards at the nearby Westminster Arms. Attendance at our most recent meeting at the University of East London in Stratford in March was lower than we had hoped for despite live streaming the meeting for those who were unable to attend in person. Our planned events for the remainder of 2023 are advertised on the branch page of the society's web site. I'd like to thank the branch committee for their energy and support to the society in organising engaging events free of charge to members and guests. As ever we would be grateful for any suggestions or offers of support for venues or presentations at future events.

### North-West

Trish reported that we have news on the Northwest Branch and invited Phoebe Bailey / Chris Almond to say a few words.

- Looking at members in region and mailing them to organize meetings
- Looking at starting with a curry night
- Will set up a committee

### Education Committee

Report provided by Becky Conway

James Williams has stepped down as Chair. Cassandra Nanlal is appointed as new chair with meetings being set up.

Alan Ingham Award for this year in progress.

### International Federation of Hydrographic Societies

Gordon Johnson

Informal Notes from the Enlarged IFHS Meeting 17th March 2023, Southampton - A number of key topics were discussed:

#### HPAS

The recent poor entry numbers reinforced the need to continue to advertise and recruit the HPAS Coordinator.

Better messaging and promotion was required to remind the members and other related professionals of the HPAS system and its availability.

There was also the suggestion we should develop mentors to facilitate the candidates in developing and submitting their documentation.

Several Societies already had their national schemes and it was suggested that it would be advantageous to bring these into a form of HPAS on a local and "franchised" basis. This could require some liaison with IBSC to ensure the Standards and Recognition remain in place.

#### Funds from Hydro 2014 and HPAS Development

The THS:UK&I and IFHS both had previously discussed resolving the issue of an amount of money sitting being held back from Hydro 2014 and the shared costs for the development of HPAS. A draft agreement was discussed and whilst in part agreeable IFHS requested a breakdown of the HPAS costs to then be able

to make a decision at the next IFHS Board meeting to finalise the situation which had been going on for too long a time.

### Events

The next Hydro event, Hydro 2023 is due in Genoa, Italy in November. Although the Hydro 2024 may be assigned to Germany the THS:UK&I requested that Germany be asked if this was a critical element in maintaining their finances. This is the case for the UK who are keen to have a Hydro event soon to generate much needed income to support the Society.

Discussion / questions from reports

John Pinder suggested we need to better capture feedback from HPAS. William Heaps encouraged that everyone spread the word about HPAS.

Discussion on encouraging corporate involvement for HPAS.

Derrick asked if we provided scholarships – no but the education committee manage the Alan Ingham Award and we look at ways to support education through the branches and events.

### 6. Confirmation of Regional Directors

Confirmation of the following individuals as Regional Directors to take effect from the conclusion of the AGM in accordance with Article 16.4:

East Anglia	Trisha Buxton
Ireland	Seán Cullen
North West	vacant
Scotland	Simon Canning
South West	David Parker
Southern	Mark Poole

### 7. Election of the Honorary Finance Director

Election of the Honorary Finance Director by the Members in accordance with Article 16.13 to take effect from the conclusion of the AGM.

Rick Read has resigned from the board to take effect at the end of this AGM.

I especially want to thank Rick for all his hard work and contributions to the Board and Society. Dealing with the bank is often a painful, laborious process! Rick has been key to ensuring that the financial status, transactions, financial reporting and the audit process have all been executed, monitored and completed.

No nominations have been received.

Rick has agreed to continue temporarily in order that the role and related activities continue until we find a replacement. The Board can co-opt him following the meeting for this purpose. If anyone is interested in the role please let us know.

8. Election of the Honorary Secretary

Election of the Honorary Secretary by the Members in accordance with Article 16.13 to take effect from the conclusion of the AGM.

John Dillon-Leetch is our outgoing Honorary Secretary and has opted to step down from this role in order that someone else can have this opportunity. I would like to thank John for all his hard work and contributions to the Board and Society in this role over the past years.

No nominations received.

If anyone is interested in the role please let us know. In the meantime, board members will distribute the work performed by this role amongst themselves until a replacement can be found.

9. Election of the Student and New Graduate Director

Election of the Student and New Graduate Director by the Members in accordance with Article 16.17 to take effect from the conclusion of the AGM

Layla Rami has been nominated for this role.

Can I please have a show of hands for approval to elect Layla Rami? – Result = Elected.

10. Election of TWO Elected Directors

Election of TWO Elected Directors by the Members in accordance with Article 16.9 to take effect from the conclusion of the AGM.

We are in the wonderful position that we have received four nominations this year but have two posts to elect at this AGM. For that reason, I thought the easiest way to manage this is that everyone will receive a voting slip with all four names on. I will shortly read out a small bio for each nominee and then ask members to tick the two names to be elected at this AGM. We will collect the slips and then quickly count and elect the two.

Nominations have been received for Iain Slade, Tom Broomfield, Svetlana Kločkova and John Dillon-Leetch

BIOS

**Svetlana** is an MSc Hydrography graduate (2019) from the University of Plymouth. Since 2019 she is working as a Hydrographic surveyor. The same year she was offered a position of the Director of the Hydrographic Society UK. Her role as a surveyor mostly included geophysical and geotechnical surveys for offshore wind farms. However, in 2022 Svetlana switched to a construction side of the industry.

**John** is Port Hydrographer at Port of London Authority. John has thirty years of experience in the marine industry from operational and project management roles to the development of a profitable and sustainable commercial business at the Port of London. With a focus on the safety of navigation, conservancy, and income generation.

John has an entrepreneurial spirit and enthusiasm for networking, relationship and team building inside and outside the organisation which have led to a world-class reputation for the team placing their services at the centre of their client's operations and in high regard with key stakeholders.

John is keenly involved in the management and delivery of the MSc in Hydrography jointly delivered by the PLA and University College London in addition to being a Board Member and Director for a number of years with active roles as Honorary Secretary and the Education Committee.

**Iain** Slade is Innovation and Product Manager at Valeport. Before joining Valeport, Iain was a Surveyor and Hydrographic Training Programme Manager at Fugro and Fugro Academy.

With over 18 years' experience as an accredited hydrographic professional working within a range of sectors including: civil hydrography, marine renewables, coastal monitoring and offshore oil and gas, Iain has an established international reputation within the hydrographic community.

As a Director of THS UK, Iain also helped manage the development, external accreditation and implementation of a Hydrographic Professional Accreditation Scheme (HPAS), and now sits on the International Federation of Hydrographic Societies (IFHS) HPAS steering committee as one of the UK representatives. Iain holds an MSc in Hydrography (IBSC Cat 'A' recognised Programme), and a BSc in Ocean Science from the University of Plymouth.

**Tom** Broomfield Business Manager for Norbit in the UK. Tom has an extensive hydrographic survey background, initially starting out a hydrographic surveyor at a key UK port. Tom then worked for a sonar manufacturer, installing and training users on a wide variety of sensors and software. The last 5 years were spent at a subsea construction company in the energy industry providing support for ROV based multibeam surveys.

I invite you all now to make your selections and we will collect the slips from you.

**Result – Iain and Svetlana voted in as elected directors**

**Members encouraged that John and Tom were co-opted to the Board following AGM. This was agreed to be done at next Board Meeting Tom has also volunteered to take the role for Finance Director.**

11. Address by the Chair of THS UK

As you will have heard, THS UK remains to be busy either behind the scenes, nationally or within the branches. It has been a rollercoaster these past 3 years managing COVID-19, stabilisation, publications, staff changes and associated recruitment. We have also had great success with developing the HPAS scheme, building a new website and delivering remote hydrography.

I am looking forward to the year ahead and the continued progress we plan including another Remote Hydrography as Becky mentioned.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone that has been involved and for their continued support and contributions. I would especially to thank Becky for taking on much more than just the CEO duties whilst Derek is on medical leave.

12. Open Discussion on topics raised by members

It was asked if there was an archive of all soundings and journals. The British Library receives a copy of each so there is an archive held there. We would also like to see what we can do with the new website as this develops further.

Paul asked about producing the Journal again. The problem we have with this is the time and resources to publish plus the expense. We do not envision this coming back. We do however produce soundings and the bi-weekly newsletter.

A discussion about having soundings available online only. Paul is against this. Under consideration is providing members with a option to select whether they wish for a paper copy or not. This may provide insight into how many needed to be printed.

Paul asked about strategy. Becky re-iterated the strategy outlined previously in soundings.

Paul asked for list of members which was always in the Journal. Becky suggested that we could publish something but we have to be careful with GDPR. Again, perhaps an option for members to select whether to be in membership list or not.

Layla suggested use of more social media like Instagram. We heavily rely on LinkedIn and do not really do anything with Facebook or Twitter anymore. It seems within the community, LinkedIn is the right place.

### 13. Any other business

Today we have Derrick Payton from The Canadian Hydrographic Association joining us as an observer and I would like to welcome Derrick to say a few words.

- Derrick is secretary of CHA as well as chair of the accreditation scheme.
- Financially afloat which allows them to award scholarships
- CHA have dropped social media except for LinkedIn in addition to dropping publications aside from the e-bulletin.
- Also stopped with branches
- Focus is on website and that being the center for all information and sharing

With no further business, I would like to thank everyone for attending the meeting and for the continued support.

The next AGM will be in spring 2024 – hopefully again in person!

Meeting Closed at 1350