

Marine Archaeology Special Interest Group

Tuesday 10 December, 12:00 – 13:00

Zoom, online

AGM Minutes

Present: Cara Burton (CB, ClfA), Mark James (Chair), Stephanie Said (SS, Secretary), Alison James (AJ, Treasurer), Hefin Meara (HM, ocm), George Stewart-Phillips (GSP, ocm), Lauren Tidbury (LT, ocm), Terry Newman (TN, ocm), Claudette Day (ocm), Victoria Boothby (advisor); ClfA members

Agenda Point	Action (Initials)
Competition Law Compliance: Competition law statement of compliance v1.1.pdf (archaeologists.net)	All to read prior to meeting
1. Apologies for absence Christian Dalton (CMD, OCM)	
2. Minutes of last AGM Accepted without change from last AGM.	
3. Chair's Welcome and AGM Report <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Thank you all for attending.• Progress against core task, including consultation responses; social media platforms; PWA 50 seminar; targeted MASIG survey; publications available on Knowledge Hub.	
4. Secretary's Report Two further committee meetings held since last AGM; checking through progress against MASIG tasks as Mark mentioned, including member survey and ClfA conference 2025 presentation ideas. To Note: the Toolkit for Selecting archaeological archives now has a section on finds from a marine / tidal context (https://www.archaeologists.net/selection-toolkit/marine-finds). Regarding membership numbers, we have a total of 417 members, largely made up of Member and Practitioner accreditation.	
5. Treasurer's Report <ul style="list-style-type: none">• £20 from member sign up, with no outgoings.	
6. Elections to Group Committee and Advisory Council representative CB – two positions open this year, and the two co-opted members happy to step into these positions: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• George Stewart-Philips (OCM), officially elected.• Mark James (Chair), officially elected. Confirmed the following for the coming year: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Victoria Boothby acting as advisor	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stephanie Said acting as Advisory Council Representative <p>Current committee members:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mark James (Chair) Stephanie Said (Secretary) Alison James (Treasurer) Hefin Maera (OCM) George Stewart-Philips (OCM) Christian Dalton (OCM) Claudette Day (OCM) Lauren Tidbury (OCM) Terry Newman (OCM) Victoria Boothby (advisor) 	
7.	<p>Key group tasks for coming year and 3-Year Plan review</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Results of member survey / next steps <p>AJ (shared screen: see attachment) - ran through the results of the membership survey covering these areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Demographic; Experience; Employment Status & Experience; Expertise; Voluntary Work (does not cover people on committees of diving clubs / covers all archaeology not specifically marine archaeology); Mentoring; What do members want from MASIG; Next Steps (CPS Opportunities / Online Sessions) <p>Very useful exercise that provided the group with some guidance as to what members want from the committee. Call to all members to pass on any ideas for CPD/online sessions/talks.</p> <p>HM – one of the stats that jumped out from comparing with ClfA membership demographics was the overall membership for Affiliate member is 10% and Student is 13.4 % compared to MASIG with 2.9 % Affiliate and 4.4 % Student; lower membership rate at these levels. Shows that there is lots of work we can do to engage with entry level members, including university courses and those graduating.</p> <p>AJ – MASIG is setting up a flyer to be circulated during events. This can be provided to anyone delivery public engagement.</p> <p>Colin Forrestal (CF) – provided an idea to team up with early careers committee to set up a joint workshop. Session for early carriers on ‘How to become an....’. Targeting entry level members.</p> <p>AJ – good idea. CB to connect us with early careers group and set one up.</p> <p>MJ – someone we can support with. Students leaving university have a</p>	<p>MASIG to get in touch with EC</p>

certain vision, which might not reflect what really happens in the industry.

Julie Satchell (MAT) – reflecting on the provided statistics, as they were working on a project looking at Women and Protected Wrecks (as part of PWA 50). The stats reflected on the differences in role and responsibility – senior level gender disparity (male higher representation). Struggle to engage with entry level members – wondering whether we captured this disparity in the survey?

AJ – survey was only issued to ClfA / MASIG members. Does not capture those individuals who are looking at a maritime archaeology career and not ClfA members.

Encourage staff to join an individual group of ClfA (lower cost), rather than the become a ClfA member.

CB – ClfA are setting up a doc. to clearly show what the group membership would cover (benefits of joining a group vs. becoming a ClfA member).

Anthony Firth (AF) – people in subsectors (e.g. geophysics and geotechnical) come through / align with different professional bodies, and therefore not looking at ClfA as a professional body. Might target them for joining group member.

MJ – this is reflected in other subdisciplines, including conservators - ClfA is not the appropriate body for these specialists.

We have a responsibility to make sure these specialists are aware of ClfA, especially if they are providing an archaeological service (requirement to be following standards and guidance set up by ClfA).

AF – pointed out that to reach out to these subsectors, it probably needs a bit of attention through MASIG membership rather than ClfA membership.

- Working Group – S&G Nautical Archaeology recording and reconstruction 2014

MJ – we are looking at this as a committee. However, we would like input from all members on this. Anyone interested in supporting to get in touch.

- ClfA Conference 2025

MJ – VB proposed a session building on from the 2019 MASIG conference session. Currently waiting for this to be approved.

VB – the 2019 session showcased the legacy of marine data, and the current proposal will show how the sector has progressed in the last 5 years. Not an open call for papers, but members can still propose ideas or contribute to these sessions. Full day sessions, looking at:

- profession (data management);
- training (how we get people in profession);

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ palaeolandscapes (industry work); ○ maritime and aviation (industry work); ○ where do we go from here? <p>CB – notification of whether session has been accepted should come through by the end of year.</p>	
8.	<p>AOB</p> <p>Nothing further was raised.</p> <p>AF – flagged the session proposal that Natural England submitted relating to landscapes – integrating cultural heritage with natural environments.</p> <p>‘Our landscapes are not merely a tapestry upon which development activity occurs but an integral part of delivering benefits for the natural environment. Natural capital benefits include recreation, carbon sequestration, flood mitigation and water quality, to name but a few. As heritage professionals, how can we position ourselves to share insights from our past that add value to multi-objective projects? This session aims to look at integration of the historic and natural environment in our work. Whether sharing information about ancient foods to inform future sustainable farming, recreating historic ‘ghost ponds’ that revitalise biodiversity, examining the habitat and ecosystems systems services provided by marine structures, or protecting ancient avenues in the face of new pests and diseases. We will use PechaKucha to showcase short inspirational case studies of what the future for an integrated archaeology profession could look like. This will be followed by a facilitated discussion’</p> <p>If the session does get accepted, they will welcome marine examples, if we wish to contribute to this session.</p> <p>AF – highlighted the need to advocate for heritage more widely – language from government on growth. Making the case that looking after heritage can go hand in hand with this growth. Encourages us engage on this and make this point.</p>	MASIG to keep an eye out
9.	<p>Date of the next committee meeting, and future events.</p> <p>Next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday 25 February 2025 at 11:00 -12:00</p>	SS to issue invite