



## ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION OF THE WINDING UP OF THE “OLD WORCESTERS’ ASSOCIATION”

Following on a comment made recently about the finite life of the Association of Old Worcesters (AOW) I have penned a few thoughts for your consideration; and comment.

Although hopefully the “Association” has still many years to run, it is about time that serious consideration be taken as to what should happen in the foreseeable future. The youngest “Old Worcester” is now; in 2017, aged 65, a nominal retiring age in the UK and Commonwealth countries. So in 20 years, that is in 2037 there will not be too many of the “Old Salts” left to switch off the lights.

Things that have to be considered, include such as documentation, there is a large amount of paperwork involved in the daily running of an organisation covering many years from its first Old Boys Association started in 1887 by the Rev Alfred Wardroper, one of the very first cadets on HMS Worcester I, which then evolved into the Association of Old Worcesters.

At present there is both paper documentation and now electronic data involved, and as time goes by there will be more and more electronic data involved, also whether it is possible, or necessary to convert some of this paper documentation to a data base, and who is going to do it? Where is the history to be finally lodged, in some University for researchers to find and use?

I do not know the current state, nor wish to know the amount held in trust by the Association, but this amount has to be sensibly disbursed while there are sufficient members to vote on this point. More of this below.

There are a number of artefacts at Chatham Historic Dockyard, which are tucked away out of sight, and by 2037 will be a curiosity to the then Curator of this particular organisation, what do we collectively want these items to be legally owned by? There are also other items of memorabilia which need to be assigned a safe location. [HERE](#)

Does the AOW constitution have any directions as to what should happen in the event of a winding up of the organisation?

This problem of ‘winding up’ is not just the AOW of course, but will also apply to other likeminded organisations with maritime training backgrounds.

It has been said frequently that these other maritime training groups should become amalgamated into one organisation covering them. Since in countries, outside the United Kingdom, steps have been taken to arrange, events like annual reunions, with members of other maritime training associations. This would extend the life of some of these associations, and would require a new title, along the lines of British Maritime Training Groups or some such name.

If the above occurs, then any financial considerations may be solved by all collectively amalgamating their fund into one account, but this could also exacerbate further problems down the line.

Legally, if there are no outstanding debts or liabilities and the Association is not involved in any legal proceedings, it possibly only needs a special resolution by the members to dissolve the Association.

Not all ‘Old Worcesters’ are members of the Association, but many still receive their “Dog Watch” twice yearly, so this could well be raised in a future edition, and possibly a survey to be arranged to canvas ‘Old Worcesters’ opinions as what should occur further down the track.

Many “AOW’S” are internet connected, but there are still some who refrain from becoming involved in the three existing websites, but rely on the biannual Dog Watch for information.

I submit these thoughts so that they can encourage all “Old Worcesters” to think about where they want their Association to go in the foreseeable future.



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A few words from our AOW Vice Chairman Bob Lineker.

As most of you should know, I have recently become Vice Chairman of the Association, and expect that I will be confirmed as Chairman in 2018 (in time for the “last Hurrah” celebrations).

It is obvious that with the aging demographic of our membership it is now rapidly approaching the time that the future of our Association needs to be addressed, and one that I fully intend to make one of my priorities during my time as Chairman. The subject will be definitely be raised at the next Council meeting (in September 2017) at which I suspect a working party may well be set up, and they will then be asking for input from the membership as a whole. In the meantime, I would encourage all to think carefully as to possible ways ahead for the Association in the future; input such as already provided by Tony will be very welcome in Council deliberations!

Best regards,

Bob Lineker

AOW Vice Chairman.