

The Clipper - 'Cutty Sark'

Minutes of First Meeting of the Committee held on 19th May, 1950  
at the County Hall in Room 142.

PRESENT:-

Mr. J. Rawlinson, Chief Engineer, I.C.C. Chairman.  
Mr. F.G.G. Carr, Director, National Maritime Museum.  
Capt. M.B. Glasier, C.B.E., Marine Superintendent, Blue Funnel Line.  
Mr. A.T. Jemmon, Chief Constructor, Dockyard Dept. Admiralty.  
Mr. C.K. Maddox, Shipyard Manager, Messers Green and Silley Weir.  
Mr. J.H. Robertson, Ship Surveyor.  
Mr. K.H. Lambert, Chief Engineer's Dept. I.C.C.  
Mr. R.G. Harris -do- Secretary.

Apologies for absence were received from Commander Coleman, P.L.A.  
and Captain Steele, Captain-Superintendent of the Worcester.

Terms of reference and procedure

In opening the meeting Mr. Rawlinson welcomed the members of the Committee and thanked them for giving their services. He reminded the Committee of its terms of reference and said that he felt that at this stage the Committee should not concern itself with the question of finance. He suggested that the best approach to the problem might be to divide it into three parts -

- (1) The possibility of preserving the ship
- (2) The possible use of a temporary berth
- (3) The provision of a permanent berth

The Committee agreed that the investigation might be pursued on these lines.

Present condition of the ship

The present condition of the Cutty Sark was described by Capt. Glasier and the Committee also had before them Mr. Robertson's report on the preliminary survey of the ship which he made on 9th March 1950. The question was raised as to whether it would be necessary to examine the ship in dry dock (estimates for the time required for this operation varied from 4 to 14 days) and it was agreed that it would be desirable for this to be done before coming to any decision as to the future life of the ship. After further discussion it was agreed that the next step would be to inspect the Cutty Sark at Greenhithe. The Chairman informed the Committee that Commander Coleman had undertaken to provide transport from London to Greenhithe and it was decided to accept his kind offer.

Temporary and Permanent berths

The possibility of mooring the Cutty Sark in one of the P.L.A. docks was considered. Capt. Glasier pointed out, however, that these docks are very different from the Admiralty dockyard at Portsmouth where the 'Victory' is and that difficulties regarding access would be almost certain to arise. The Chairman said that a permanent berth of the type considered for the 'Implacable' would cost about £200,000.

Possible strengthening of ship

Mr. Robertson's suggestion that the ship might be strengthened with concrete was discussed but it was decided to defer consideration of this proposal until after the Committee's visit.

Documents circulated

- C.S.1. Report by Mr. Robertson on a survey of Cutty Sark made on March 9th 1950.
- C.S.2. Extract from report of survey of Cutty Sark in 1937 by Mr. J.L. Scott.

Next Meeting

It was agreed that the visit to the Cutty Sark should take place on Wednesday, 31st May.

