**D&C Joint Branch Annual General Meeting 2024**

**NI/RINA/IMarEST meeting to follow (hybrid)**

**Thursday 17 October at 19:00**

**City College Oceansgate, Units 6-12 Discovery Court, Vivid Approach, Plymouth PL1 4RW**

***Zoom****:* https://plymouth.zoom.us/j/3216324487?pwd=QTZxL1NRZzNpd2lkd2xRVkhnd2xVQT09

**Forensic Naval Architecture – Recreating Waterbird, the world’s oldest seaplane**

A Presentation by Jack Gifford, Naval Architect

**Talk:** The Wright brothers first flew a land plane in December 1904. Due to the high mortality rate in these early days, the idea of a water plane was conceived as safer. The first successful flight in the world of a craft with a “stepped hull” was made by *Waterbird* on Lake Windermere in November 1911.

 Waterbird replica in flight CC BY-SA 4.0

 Working on available historical information, a replica was built involving re-design from first principles of everything affecting stability in the water while satisfying the constraints of modern regulations yet remaining authentic and of matching weight. It flew for the first time on 13 June 2022. This presentation will examine the problems that were faced in the design stages of both the original and replica.

**Speaker:** Jack Gifford’s early interest in Naval Architecture was triggered by growing up around classic yachts on the rivers of East Anglia, fostering a life of long-distance sailing and yacht racing. The Waterbird project presented the opportunity to combine knowledge in the heritage sector with fast craft design and a passion for flying boats. Jack is employed as a Marine Surveyor for the Maritime Coastal Agency in Falmouth.

**Car Parking**: Free parking at front of building.

**Further details if required:** Branch Secretary NI SW or Devon & Cornwall RINA/IMarEST.