

The Trusts: March 2024 -

I discovered on the 15th March 2024, that I was no longer able to log into a website that had addressed the needs of two trusts for a good while. It was *nemaritimetrust.co.uk* and was created by me about the time when members of NEMT began to populate NFHT which was about ten years ago and some information about it was posted on the website which at that time was hosted by *daily.co.uk*.

Daily.co.uk were taken over by TSOHost and the change was so seamless that it would not be noticed by anyone except the person who had to administer the website, me again, and it took place before the two Trusts were forced apart by unequal division of Gordon's legacy in late 2019.

While I was no longer in control, I could still view the site and discovered by reading its last post, which was more suited to social media than a sensible website, that I had been replaced by the Chairman of the North East Maritime Trust, Mr Alec Renwick.

I also noticed that he had removed much of the history of the two trusts from 2005 to late 2019 and it was replaced almost exclusively, by the history of the restoration of the life boats, Bedford, Tyne and Henry Frederick Swan.

TSOHost could have easily reversed the switch of the editor of *nemaritimetrust.co.uk* back to me in April but told me that the argument about who owned the domain name should be resolved, between Mr Renwick and myself, before they would act and I decided that the only thing to do to preserve the integrity of *nemaritimetrust.co.uk* was to switch service providers.

March 15th, a Coincidence

I was copied into an email from Mr Renwick, which happened to be the same day that I found that I could not log into *nemaritimetrust.co.uk*, attacking both the Chairman of NFHT and I of serious misdemeanours. In his words:-

1 Mr Weightman, It is apparent that you, presumably acting for (NFHT), have sent an unauthorised personal letter to NEMT members which contravenes data protection laws and your previous position as Secretary of this Trust.

2. I also notice that Mick Dawson (NFHT) has conspired to scam our website with similar unauthorised data, blocking any input from NEMT.

Peter Weightman had not sent any such letter(s) and the website was not Mr Renwick's, nor any other member of NEMT's, it was mine and parts of it had been overwritten by Mr Renwick, not I. His two accusations were therefore false. He did however provide me with an opportunity to point this out to Peter and I took the opportunity to copy it to Mr Renwick's new email address based on the site *@nemaritimetrust.org.uk* to see he would say:-

Hi Peter,

*It looks as if though Mr Renwick has lost the plot. Please remind him that I have owned the domain name *nemaritimetrust.co.uk* since we first set up the trust and that he must have been lying to the provider Tsohost, to convince them to remove its editorship from me, some time this morning.*

Please also remind him, if you take time to respond to his false accusations, that it not the sort of conduct one expects from the Chairman of a Trust.

*All the best,
Mick*

Peter had refuted charges made by Mr Renwick saying: “I utterly refute any suggestion that my actions have been improper”, and notice that Mr K Lund is also using the @nemaritimetrust.org.uk email address but it was neither Mr Renwick nor Mr Lund who responded to Peter’s email. It was Mr K Barnard who delivered the next personal attack on Peter:-

Once more I find your attitude towards NEMT and it’s board together with your statement of how far you are willing to go to attain your own ambitions unacceptable.

It was becoming clear that the NEMT board, presumably under the direction of its Chair, for some reason had mounted a collective attack of the Chair of the NFHT and I leapt to his defence:-

Dear Peter,

I think I can answer to the question, posed in your response to the email from Alec Renwick, NEMT Chairperson, what has gone wrong in the last two years?

The answer is the elevation of Mr Barnard to be the director of the Charity.

I conclude my email to Mr Weightman with:-

It has never been his or their website. Nemaritimetrust.co.uk has been in my name from the time that NEMT became a charity and there is nothing Messrs Renwick and Barnard can do about it, that is, if they desire to keep the North East Maritime Trust as a charity.

Strong words and I had clearly rattled the cages of the members of NEMT who were Trustees but not those of who were also the Trustees of NFHT. Indeed, I received a comment from a very long standing member of the North East Maritime Trust, Mr P Nicholson, when he agreed with me in his reply on the subject of NEMT Latest, 3 hours later:-

Now having read Barnard’s response, presumably with the agreement of Renwick, it must be abundantly clear who is actually manipulating the NEMT board.

From my own personal experience and viewpoint I am very close to vacating my NEMT membership for similar reasons voiced by Graham Bell, former Ch Exec of the Civic Trust.

In response to Mr Nicholson’s message I sent an email to the NFHT Trustees on the 16th March 2024 to include proof to confirm that I had owned the domain name nemaritimetrust.co.uk for some time. I felt that my last quote in my email to the Trustees of both Trusts required some back up which the copy of Nominet notice was sent to them in the afternoon of the 16th March and I finished my message with the over-optimistic note:-

I hope to be in touch with some good news before next weekend.

There was no good news because Mr K Barnard responded by shifting his personal attack from Peter to me in his response to Consider Urgent 5, with Consider Urgent No.7 where he states that I am not a member of NEMT and it appears that Mr Renwick had been using Mr Barnard to deflect attention from himself.

I have added a commentary to Consider Urgent 7 and made it a page with the rather clumsy title, Misinformation/Fraudulent Misrepresentation, as I wished it to be a permanent record of the Messrs Barnard’s and Renwick’s conduct since I lost the domain to Mr Renwick along with its associated website and was forced to recover them by having to change the provider and may I add that Daily

and then TSOHost had served NEMT and myself very well until Mr Renwick thought to exclude the part that NFHT had played in the success of the North East Maritime Trust.

June 2024

Early in June the NEMT Summer Newsletter appeared with the Headline News:-

Headline News – Due to unforeseen circumstances our Website is currently still offline. We apologise if you have been affected by this or for any inconvenience caused. But be assured that we are trying to sort this out, in the meantime please be patient. However, our new Website below will replace and be much better than the original which was very unreliable anyway.
Once this horrible little gremlin has been removed we hope to be back on-line very soon with our new improved Website address as follows – www.nemaritimetrust.org.uk

Incidentally Mr Renwick had been using the address <alec.renwick@nemaritimetrust.org.uk> for about a year when my trouble with him came to a head in March.

Re his Summer Newsletter:-

1. The nemaritimetrust.co.uk website was down while it was being transferred to a new provider but it was back up and running before the end of April.
2. They were not trying to sort it out because they were generating a new website with the intention of using it to replace one that had been running without any trouble for almost ten years.

[The horrible little gremlin responded with the repost of 7th June:](#)

Alec,

Thank you for the sight of the latest Newsletter and this is to let you know that the horrible little gremlin has been removed but he left such a mess behind that it will take me a while to recover nemaritimetrust.co.uk and any help you can give to cover the five years from 2014 to August 2019 would be appreciated.

Cheers

Michael

Think of the *nemaritimetrust.co.uk* as Mr Dawson's property and that he had rented it out to the charity NEMT for a number of years, their treasurer should be able to confirm how many but from May 2015 to November 2019 it was hardly if at all used because social media had taken sway and used to say what was happening with the Trusts, <https://www.facebook.com/henryfrederick.swan>. While this may have been okay for NEMT it was not for NFHT who were never mentioned once in four and a half years of posts.

It appears that some time during 2024, Mr Renwick had persuaded the service provider, TSOHost to hand over Mr Dawson's property and its keys leaving Mr M Dawson with no alternative but to ask Nominet to intercede and the property along with its keys were then returned to its rightful owner with the help of a new service provider IONOS and that should have been the end of this sorry saga.

In response to my comment about the horrible little gremlin he had written, 7th June 2024:-

Thanks for your comment.

The only way to resolve this, is for you to allow transfer to our hosting agency Kualo as previously requested.

No need to do anything else at this point.

Regards

Alec

He could only mean the transfer of nemaritimetrust.co.uk to his hosting agency Kualo where he had been creating a website devoted to the [Henry Frederick Swan](#) and there was no way I could allow him to totally overwrite a website that I had looked after for ten years. I had already copied what I could into a temporary site and was busy attempting the rebuild of the original when TSOHost contacted me about the two site I had maintained with their help for some years.

The sites were [theharbourview.co.uk](#) and [nemaritimetrust.co.uk](#) and they were letting me know that the upgrade of C-panel had been successful for the first but not for the second because it had been transferred to another provider. The main issue being that they had kept a copy of the second site:-

To ensure that your website remains active while you're making these updates to your DNSrecords, we will use a proxy to redirect to your new hosting package.

Please note: this proxy will be **removed after 30 days**. If the server IP address hasn't been updated within this time, your website will **NOT** be accessible.

By 7th June my temporary site had attracted nearly two hundred views and the 'new' NE Maritime Trust many more my and I had no wish to overwrite it with the remnants of the 'old' one which only contained the remnants had been left by Mr Renwick.

When Mr Renwick realised the full implication the removal of nemaritimetrust.co.uk from TSOHost, he first of all complained to Nominet about it and when they did not respond he [broadcast a lie that it had been stolen](#):-

Dear All

As you will be aware the previously transferred to NEMT, owned and paid for nemaritimetrust.co.uk Website has been stolen by Mick Dawson who appears to have taken advantage of its unlocked status.

I had not been transferred to them. It may have been paid for by NEMT but as I have said before and will repeat, it was not owned by them but by myself and until the reappearance of Mr Renwick in 2019 the situation had been fine for both parties i.e. for both NEMT and Mr M Dawson for some years but in March 2024, things changed when control of the website was switched from Mr Dawson to Mr Renwick. In technical terms he became the thief when he persuaded TSOHost's agent to switch the administrator from the owner of the domain to one who was not the owner.

The former was no position to take advantage at all from a website from which he had been excluded, and the latter was lying when he said that that the former appeared "*to have taken advantage of its unlocked status*".

Read down his email and you will find that he has resorted to blackmail:-

I simply ask all at NFHT to make Mick Dawson see sense and transfer our nemaritimetrust.co.uk website back to NEMT where it belongs.

As ever, I'm always available to talk in an attempt to end with a satisfactory conclusion.

Unfortunat(e)ly until that happens NEMT will not be in a position to discuss any future NFHT collaboration or plan vessel repairs on these premises.

The premises are the Fisherman's Workshop, 2-3 Wapping Street, South Shields are they have the only suitable slipway between Hartlepool and the border with Scotland for the repair and he is

denying access to it for all the vessels in the care of the NFHT and I say the domain called *nemaritimetrust.co.uk* will remain in my name until it expires in 2027.

I do not respond the blackmail and he then resorts to the Dispute Resolution Service claiming numerous falsehoods.

Dear Mr Michael Dawson,

A Dispute Resolution Service complaint has been made about nemaritimetrust.co.uk

This email/letter is to let you know that North East Maritime Trust is using Nominet's Dispute Resolution Service (DRS) to complain about your registration or use of nemaritimetrust.co.uk.

Naturally I respond and while my response has the date of Mr A Renwick's submission I actually sent it in on the 8th August saying, Please treat this letter as my response, and my point being:-

Please note he is the sole complainant, there are no legal proceedings in connection with the domain name and more importantly, he has provided no evidence to back his claim that that I have been making 'personal defamatory attacks include malicious and incorrect information' against him. He cannot provide any evidence because there is none.

I also promised to hold the peace until the deadline of the 19th and right on queue I get a copy Mr Renwick's repost and an offer from Nominet of a Mediation service which is Private and Confidential and I will respect this. Instead I will produce a Commentary on Mr A Renwick's repost to my observations about his use of the Dispute Resolution Service.

At the height of my dispute about the ownership of the domain name *nemaritimetrust.co.uk* in April 2024, he claimed to have written to Nominet on April 12th that I had stolen the domain name *nemaritimetrust.co.uk* from them:

For the attention of Nominet. After some considerable investigation it is now apparent that our nemaritimetrust.co.uk website has been stolen and transferred to Nominet from our hosting company

If Nominet had responded to the Mr Renwick's email they would have told him that the domain name, *nemaritimetrust.co.uk*, did not belong to him but to a Mr M Dawson of Amble and what he did with it was entirely up to him and not anyone else.

A day later, the 13th, he forwarded the email with the claim that I had stolen the domain from NEMT, to the Trustees of NFHT of which I was one, and it was then that I was asked to stand down as one of their Trustees, which I did willingly on the 17th April. I was also asked to remove any links from NEMT to NFHT, not a realistic request, given the circumstances.

The Chairman of NEMT appeared to have dropped the line the website had been stolen in his newsletter of June 5th and replaced it with the lie that the website was offline.

Due to unforeseen circumstances our Website is currently still offline. We apologise if you have been affected by this or for any inconvenience caused. But be assured that we are trying to sort this out, in the meantime please be patient. However, our new Website below will replace and be much better than the original which was very unreliable anyway.

Once this horrible little gremlin has been removed we hope to be back on-line very soon with our new improved Website address as follows – www.nemaritimetrust.org.uk Please also note our new email – info@nemaritimetrust.org.uk will soon be available on the website and we hope it will also be much more reliable than before.

When he claimed in his newsletter that 'our' website was currently offline he was lying because parts of it had been rescued from the detail found on other sites and been stored in a temporary location, <https://theharbourview.co.uk/nemaritmetrust-co-uk/> while the main site was being reconstructed in its new home. By the time that the NEMT newsletter was published in June, nemaritimetrust.co.uk had become established [in its new home with IONOS](#).

Once this horrible little gremlin has been removed is open to interpretation and did not bode well for me as I had already been falsely accused of stealing the domain *nemaritimetrust.co.uk*. and I could not resist chiding Mr Renwick and wrote on 7th June knowing full well that he had removed most of the history of the two charities from the website for the five years from 2014:

Alec,

Thank you for the sight of the latest Newsletter and this is to let you know that the horrible little gremlin has been removed but he left such a mess behind that it will take me a while to recover nemaritimetrust.co.uk and any help you can give to cover the five years from 2014 to August 2019 would be appreciated.

Cheers

Michael

I had simply removed *the horrible little gremlin* by transferring the site to IONOS where he was not in charge but he still did not realise that in calling me for the theft of the website he was hiding the fact that he had gained control of the old site by lying to someone in TSOHost and I thought that would be the end of the row and I could progress peacefully with reconstruction of *nemaritimetrust.co.uk* but I was wrong.

In email from Mr Renwick on the 18th June to the [Trustees of the NFHT and some members of NEMT](#), including myself he had reverted to calling me a thief:-

As you will be aware the previously transferred to NEMT, owned and paid for nemaritimetrust.co.uk Website has been stolen by Mick Dawson who appears to have taken advantage of its unlocked status. damage both NFHT and NEMT organisations. I have tried to speak to Mick recently, only to be told "I should know why"

Well, I don't!

He had been told by me, when he interrupted my conversation about the damaged slipway with one of the NEMT members to say he wanted a word and I simply told him to put what he wanted to say in writing. The reason I asked him to put it in writing was in order to elevate any slander to libel but what is most disturbing is that he concludes his email with a threat:-

I simply ask all at NFHT to make Mick Dawson see sense and transfer our nemaritimetrust.co.uk website back to NEMT where it belongs.

As ever, I'm always available to talk in an attempt to end with a satisfactory conclusion. Unfortunatly until that happens NEMT will not be in a position to discuss any future NFHT collaboration or plan vessel repairs on these premises.

What Mr Renwick did not know was that I had resigned my trusteeship of NFHT in April, and it had been accepted, expressly to dissociate the NFHT from any argument about the ownership of the domain name *nemaritimetrust.co.uk*. and also he would not have known that TSOHost had written to me, on the 13th June 2024, advising me about an upgrade of two websites of mine for which they

had been providing service and support for many years and they were theharbourview.co.uk and nemaritimetrust.co.uk.

With regard to the latter of the two domains, TSOHost said:

To ensure that your website remains active while you're making these updates to your DNS records, we will use a proxy to redirect to your new hosting package.

While I was negotiating with TSOHost about the safest way to view nemaritimetrust.co.uk as it was at the beginning of March 2024, I suggested that the Chairman of NEMT climbed down off his high horse, gave up his quest to steal the domain nemaritimetrust.co.uk from me and talk sensibly to the trustees of the Northumbrian Fisheries Heritage Trust about the best way to keep the fleet of vessels lovingly restored by members of both Trusts afloat.

He did not climb down, he wrote to the Dispute Resolution Service, DRS, in late July falsely claiming that that I had removed his rights to the domain, nemaritimetrust.co.uk when in fact, all I had done was to put a stop to him deleting all the references to NFHT from that site.

M Dawson

24-Jun-24

Revised 26-Sep-24, to include of the referral to the DRS.