

Isle of Wight Record Office

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COWES FERRY COMMITTEE DOCUMENTS.

COWES FERRY COMMITTEE DOCUMENTS - REF: C.F.C.

History:-

Up to 1859 the ferry rights were leased by the Crown to Mr John L. Robertson, who died aged 38 and was described as of East Cowes in 1895 (see I.W. Observer for that year). In 1859 these rights were sold to a Ferry Company. According to W. White's Commercial Directory 1859, it had a capital of £3000 'for the purpose of connecting East and West Cowes by a Floating Bridge'. In 1863 the right of ferry was leased to 'Southampton, I.W. and South of England Royal Steam Packet Company'. According to the 'I.W. Observer' 1900 public meetings were held in both East and West Cowes in December. They both ratified with acclamation the decision of the 2 District Councils of these towns to promote a Bill in Parliament for acquiring the Ferry rights at Cowes on the Expiration of the lease of the Southampton, I.W. and South of England Royal Steam Packet Co. The Joint Committees of the two Councils ran the ferry from October 1901 - 1933 when the 2 Councils amalgamated. The new authority ran it till 1971/2, when it was taken over by I.W.C.C.

Documents:- This Collection represents the archives of the Cowes Ferry Committee Managers. The actual Minutes would be preserved at Northwood House and the Clerk's papers mainly with Damant & Son. The Collection was deposited in 3 sections, which accounts for the peculiarities of the listing. The first section with no letter references were deposited by Mr Purdy of Clerk's Department, County Hall. Sections C.F.C./A/- were collected from the Managers office and Section C.F.C./ were later deposited by him. Some documents especially of a recent date have been retained at the Managers office on the West Cowes side.

As the Floating Bridge is a very rare institution, virtually no weeding has been done by the Record Office. The Boiler and Engine Certificates are of especial interest to the historian of Technology. The correspondence about and inspections of the Diesel Electric Bridge of 1936 are of exceptional importance. The advertisements of firms wishing to deal with Cowes Ferry Committee are useful. The day to day running by the Manager of the Ferry can be traced in the Rough Minute Books, letter files and account ledgers.

Managers of Cowes Ferry Committee:-

Oct 1901 - Aug/Oct 1909	W.A. Rogers
Aug/Oct 1909 - Sept 1937	R.D. Newman
Sept 1937 - Sept 1943	J.M. Jones
Sept 1943 - c.1945	R.D. Newman again (Jones at War)
c.1945 - 196	J.M. Jones again
196 -	Green.

Floating Bridges. Steam:-

Earliest one known about 1881 - 1908/9. Built by Napier & Sons of Southampton. 1902 new boiler in her.

1896 - 1925. Built by W. White & Sons of Cowes.

1909 - 1938. Built by W. White & Sons of Cowes.

1925 - Built by W. White & Sons of Cowes.

Photographs of 1890, 1896 (two of probably same Bridge) and 1900 survive. Unfortunately it is impossible to decide which individual Bridge is depicted.

Diesel Electric. Built 1936 by J.S. White of Cowes.

SECTION A

C.F.C./1 (1890) Photograph
of Floating Bridge on East Cowes side of Medina River.
Haycart about to disembark.

C.F.C./2 (c.1900) Photograph
of Floating Bridge at West Cowes side of Medina River -
good view of Thetis Tower (now of course substantially
altered).

(see also two photographs dated 1896 in the Frith Collection)

SECTION B - LETTERS AND REPORTS RELATING TO THE REPAIR AND MAKING UP OF BEACH AT EAST COWES.

C.F.C./3 1905 Dec 8 Report
on proposed Quay extension at East Cowes by Cowes Ferry
Committee. (including rough Plan)

C.F.C./4 1907 Dec 20 Report
re. condition of beach at East Cowes used by Cowes Ferry
Committee. (made by W.A. Roger, Manager)

C.F.C./5 1908 Apl 14 Printed Invitation to Tender
for making up beach at West and East Cowes,
issued by Cowes Ferry Committee.

W.A. Rogers, Manager of Thetis Tower, Cowes.

C.F.C./6 1912 Sept 10) Three Estimates
(a - c) 1915 Nov 26) for work on Bridge Landing (mainly at East Cowes end).
1917 Mar 2) (last one mentions concrete causeways for first time).
Made by W.H. Brading & Son, Builders and Contractors of
East Cowes for Cowes Ferry Committee.

C.F.C./7 1917 Mar 2 Letter
to accompany C.F.C./6c
re. making up of 'Ferry Beaches' at East and West
Cowes - suggests concrete causeways.
1) H.W. Brading of W.H. Brading & Son, Contractors
and Undertakers of East Cowes.
2) R. Newman, Manager of Cowes Ferry (for the Committee).

SECTION C - LETTERS AND REPORTS RELATING TO THE FLOATING BRIDGES THEMSELVES
Subsection I - Reports on their structure

C.F.C./8 1905 Dec 8 Report
on 'Old Bridge' (belonging to Cowes Ferry Committee
and stresses difficulties of raising Prows higher
because of rotten condition of uprights). Report
made by Matthews and Manager.

C.F.C./9 1906 Oct 19 Report
on lighting arrangements on 'Old Bridge' (belonging
to Cowes Ferry Committee).
(W.A. Rogers, Manager, Thetis Tower, Cowes)

C.F.C./10 (c1907)
Undated Comparison
between Old and New Bridges - size of furnaces
(belonging to Cowes Ferry Committee).

C.F.C./11 1907 Apl 23 Progress Report
on building of New Bridge (for Cowes Ferry Committee)
being made by Messrs. White and Sons.
(W.A. Rogers Manager for Cowes Ferry Committee).

C.F.C./12 1907 Aug 29 Report
on condition of Old Bridge (belonging to Cowes Ferry
Committee). Mentions great depreciation everywhere
with the possibility of her being removed from
service in 1908. She was built by Napier & Sons
of Southampton 1881. 1902 new Boiler put in her.
Report made by W.A. Rogers, Manager.

C.F.C./13 1903 Jan 27 Report
on plans submitted by Day and Summers for building a
new pontoon bridge for Cowes Ferry Committee. Made
by W.A. Rogers, Manager.

C.F.C./14 1903 Jan 27 Report
on plans submitted by Messrs. White and Sons for new
bridge for Cowes Ferry Committee. Made by
W.A. Rogers, Manager.

- C.F.C./15 1908 Jan 27 Report
on plans submitted by Messrs. Napier & Sons for
new bridge for Cowes Ferry Committee. Made by
W.A. Rogers, Manager.
- C.F.C./16 1908 Jan 31 Sub Committee Report
on plans submitted them for New Bridge for Cowes Ferry
Committee. Made by W.A. ROgers, Manager.
- C.F.C./17a 1908 July 24 Rough Jottings
- 1909 Jan 15 re new Bridge for Cowes Ferry Committee - on
14 August 1908 - 10' (increase)
- /17b 1908 Dec 4 Letter
re alterations. (1 sheet)
- C.F.C./18 Undated (1908) Typed Certificate for Payment (2 copies)
by Cowes and East Cowes Joint Ferry Committee to
W. White & Sons (for contract for making Bridge for
Committee) Contract £2695. Extra Tender £77.
(Not filled in or signed.)
- C.F.C./19 1909 July 10 Typed Draft
for Tenders for building Ferry Dingy for Cowes
Ferry Committee. (Very detailed specifications).
- C.F.C./20 (1915 Sept 3) Report
Undated Main wheel is loose on Summer Bridge belonging to
Cowes Ferry Committee.
- C.F.C./21 (1917) July 28 Report
- Aug 9 on refitting of Bridge belonging to Cowes Ferry
Committee.

Subsection II - Letters and Reports relating to Routine Maintenance

- C.F.C./22 1905 Dec 18 Letter
requesting boat work -
"built 7 motor launches this year and several rowing
boats".
1) Henry Cutts of Clarence Road, East Cowes.
2) Chairman(of Cowes Ferry Committee).
- C.F.C./23 a & b
1906 Jan 8 Two Letters
& 22 refusing work for Cowes Ferry Committee because of
pressure of other work.
1) J. Samuel White & Co.
2) W.A. Rogers, Manager of Cowes Ferry Committee.

- C.F.C./24 1906 Sept 1 Letter
requesting Clock on Bridge (of Cowes Ferry Committee)
to be set back 4".
- 1) Simpson Benzie, Jeweller (by Special Appointment)
of 61 High Street, Cowes.
 - 2) 'East and West Cowes Ferry Committee'. (sic)
- C.F.C./25 1906 Oct 12 Letter
re. Masthead Lamps for Floating Bridge (for Cowes
Ferry Committee).
- 1) S. Groves for Groves, Guttridge & Co. of
Clarence Road, East Cowes.
 - 2) Rogers - (Manager of Cowes Ferry Committee).
- C.F.C./26 1908 Apl. 1 Letter
requesting to tender for general repairs for
Cowes Ferry Committee.
- 1) H.S. Hansen of Minerva Yard, East Cowes.
 - 2) Mr. Rogers, Manager of Cowes Floating Bridge.
- C.F.C./27 1911 June 14 Letter
refusing extra work.
- 1) Joe White, Yacht Launch and Boat Builder of
Cornubia Yard, East Cowes, I.W.
 - 2) Manager, Cowes Ferry Committee, Thetis Tower,
Cowes.
- C.F.C./28 1911 June 27 Letter
refusing extra work.
- 1) Mitcham Motor Co. of Cowes and Mitcham, Surrey.
 - 2) Manager, Cowes Ferry Committee.
- C.F.C./29 1913 Jan 21 Letter
re. deck covering for floating bridges. Mentions
motors do not skid on it.
- 1) R.E. McDonald, Traffic Superintendent for
Southampton and Itchen Bridge Company, of
19 Floating Bridge Road, Southampton.
 - 2) Mr Newman for Cowes Ferry Committee.
- C.F.C./30 1913 Feb 21 Letter
re delay of chippings on "Asphodel". Mentions
A.H. Drover as their Cowes Agent (for Cowes Ferry
Committee).
- 1) Rowe & Mitchell, Contractors, Granite Merchants
and Quarry Owners, 1 Denman Street, London Bridge S.E.
 - 2) Messrs. Brading & Son, East Cowes, I.W.

- C.F.C./31 1913 Apl. 15 Letter
refusing to quote for Ferry Chain because refused
so many times before.
1) Ansell, Jones & Co. of Kensington Street,
Birmingham.
2) R.D. Newman, Cowes Ferry Committee, Thetis Tower,
Cowes.
- C.F.C./32 1915 Nov 15 Letter
quoting £13.9s.0d. as price for painting Bridge.
1) H. Edney, 1 Artic Road, Cowes.
2) Cowes Ferry Committee.
- C.F.C./33 1916 Aug 28 Letter
advertising Oilskin Coats etc. for sale to
Cowes Ferry Committee.
1) William Rowe & Co., Tailors and Yacht Outfitters,
63 High Street, Cowes. (Also at 78 High Street,
Gosport).
2) R. Newman Esq.
- C.F.C./34 1916 Dec 14 Letter
allowing supply of boiler for Cowes Ferry Committee
to be supplied to Whites of Cowes by Messrs. Stewarts
and Lloyds of Nite Street, Birmingham.
1) Engineer Captain J.A. Richards R.N., Ministry of
Munitions.
2) Cowes Ferry.
- C.F.C./35 1925 Dec Terms of Contract
painted No. 3 Floating Bridge. Property of Cowes
Ferry Committee.
- C.F.C./36 1941 June 6 Account
of work carried out by maintenance staff, employed
by Cowes Ferry Committee.
- C.F.C./37 1940 Sept - Account
1941 Feb of Wages and Material expended on No. 3 Bridge
during 'last' haul up. (Cowes Ferry Committee).
- C.F.C./38 Undated Account of Work
(c.1940/3?) to be done on No. 3 Bridge. (Cowes Ferry Committee
Property).
- C.F.C./39 1942 Jan 17 Formal Application
to do work on repairing to Beaches used by Cowes
Ferry Committee.

C.F.C./40 1947 Dec -
Jan 1948 Letter and Plans
re. Pinions on Bridge 3. (Property of Cowes Ferry
Committee) 5 sheets.

C.F.C./41 1943 Dec 3 Letter
re leak in bottom of Bridge 3.
1) R.D. Newman
2) Councillor, A.J. Johnson, 4 Oakfield Road,
East Cowes.

C.F.C./42 (1945 July 6) Inventory of Anti Gas Protective Clothing.
(Cowes Ferry Committee).

Subsection III - re. fuelling

C.F.C./43 1909 - 1911 Account
(June - Oct 14 of fuel used for Floating Bridge belonging to
only) Cowes Ferry Committee.

C.F.C./44 1912 May 14 Letter
re supply of 40 tons of Coke for Cowes Ferry
Committee's Bridge.
1) W. Halliday, Secretary to Cowes U.D.C.
Gas Department.
2) R.D. Newman, Ferry Committee, Medina Road, Cowes.

C.F.C./45 1914 Aug 3 & Letter
(a & b) Aug 27 explaining Contract for coal cannot be made because
of Admiralty order. Will supply different type.
1) Read Bros. Coal Merchants to Town Quay, Cowes.
2) R.D. Newman, Manager of Cowes Ferry.

Subsection M - re Bridge Storage

C.F.C./46a 1915 Jan 14 Letter
re storing Floating Bridges. (Cowes)
1) George Marvin, Yacht, Steam Launch and Boat
Builder of Cowes.
2) Manager of Cowes Ferry Committee.

C.F.C./46 1917 Dec 14 Two letters
(b & c) & 17 re request to store Ferry Bridges at Point Yard
premises (Y.M.C.A. wish to set up Coffee Stall in
Bridge Square).
1) Managing Director of J. Samuel White & Co.
2) R.D. Newman of Cowes Ferry Committee,
Thetis Tower, Cowes.

Subsection V - re Passenger Damage to Bridges etc. and Incidents involving Passengers.

- C.F.C./47 1929 Mar 5 Two letters
(a & b) May 23 re Store and Mud Berth.
1) W.R. Adams, Secretary of Gas Department of Cowes
U.D.C. of 9 Birmingham Road, Cowes.
2) R.D. Newman, Manager, Cowes Ferry, Medina Road,
Cowes.
- C.F.C./48 1906 April 18 Letter
re damage done by firms vans on Bridge, owing to
the timidity of the horses.
1) Curtiss & Sons Ltd., Railway, Shipping, Passenger
and Forwarding Agents etc. of Esplanade, Ryde.
2) R.D. Newman Esq., Cowes Ferry Committee,
Thetis Tower, Cowes.
- C.F.C./49 1910 Feb 12 Report
re damage caused by Cave of East Cowes and Stoker of
H.M.S. Racey to Gas Bracket in West Cowes Waiting
Room. (Property of Cowes Ferry Committee).
Note of W.A. Rogers as Manager.
- C.F.C./50 1912 Apl. 24 Letter
re damages done to Causeway. (Property of Cowes
Ferry Committee)
1) H. Cole for Pickfords Ltd.
2) The Manager, Cowes Ferry, West Cowes.
(N.B. Fine headed notepaper - includes No Liability
clause 'arising from lock-outs, combinations of
workmen - '.
- C.F.C./51 1918 Dec 17 - Report
Jan 2 of incidents of pushing on Bridge. (Property of
Cowes Ferry Committee).
- C.F.C./52 1925 Feb 26 Report
re incident of abusive language on Cowes Floating
Bridge and Cover Note of witnesses of 6 March.
2 sheets.

Subsection VI - re Collisions

- C.F.C./53 (1905) Aug 8 Report
re collision between 'Seahorse', property of Admiralty
and the Floating Bridge at East Cowes.
- C.F.C./54 1907 July 3 Report
re collision between 'Huntsman', a barge belonging to
Croucher and the Floating Bridge, Cowes.
(rough diagram on dorse)

C.F.C./55 1907 Aug 11 Report
re collision 'Wych' (containing Admiral Bridgeman
and 2 ladies) and the Floating Bridge, Cowes.

C.F.C./56 1907 Nov 9 Report
re collision between Shepard's 'Iona' and the
Floating Bridge, Cowes (made by G. Jeffery in
control of Bridge at the time of collision)

C.F.C./57 1908 Feb 14 Report
re collision involving the Floating Bridge, Cowes;
barge Emerald of Portsmouth; barge 'Despatch' and
Tug 'Firefly' of Pickfords.

C.F.C./58 1909 Oct 16 & Two Reports
Nov 15
a) re bending of S.W. Prop-stay helping Pickfords
Horse Boat.
b) re breaking of cab spring while loading on
to Bridge at West Cowes (Mr Fletcher cab-
proprietor of East Cowes). No. of
Witnesses signatures.

C.F.C./59 1911 Dec 14 Report
in form of a letter re near collision between
H.M. Torpedo Boat No. 027 and Floating Bridge,
Cowes.
1) Basil Owen Lt. and Commander of Torpedo Boat.
2) Capt. Hon. H.L.A. Hood C.B., D.S.O., M.V.O.,
for R.N. College, Osborne.
Covering note of 17 Dec 1) Hood
2) Chairman of Cowes
Harbour Board.

C.F.C./60 1913 Feb 14 Letter
re use of motor boat when barge Ceres fouled
the Floating Bridge.
1) J. Smith of J. Samuel White & Co. Ltd.
2) Cowes Ferry Committee.

C.F.C./61 1915 Letter
re damage to craft 'Gazelle' by Ferry Boat
(Floating Bridge)
1) James Thomas & Co. Ltd. of Newport, I.W.
2) Manager Cowes Ferry Committee, Ferry House,
West Cowes.

C.F.C./62 1914 Mar 15 Report
re damage to main chain swivel on Floating Bridge
caused by collision with sailing barge "Will Everard".

SECTION D - RE RUNNING OF SERVICE

Subsection I - re Traffic Volume

- C.F.C./63 1901 Oct 10 Estimate of Traffic
on Cowes Floating Bridge in first year
under Cowes Ferry Committee.
(N.B. Foot-passengers 1,243,628)
- C.F.C./64 1910 Sept 30 Estimate of Traffic
on Cowes Floating Bridge.
- C.F.C./65 Undated (1900s) Rough Estimate of Traffic
on Cowes Floating Bridge.
- C.F.C./66 1927 & 1928 Account
of 1/- and 1½d. Tickets issued on
Cowes Floating Bridge
- C.F.C./67 1927 & 1928 Account of
2/-, 2s. 6d. ½d. Tickets issued on
Cowes Floating Bridge.
- C.F.C./68 1928 & 1929 Account of Takings
Cowes Floating Bridge.
- C.F.C./69 c.1920's Estimates
of Traffic on Cowes Floating Bridge after
11 p.m.
- C.F.C./70 1938 July 24 - Account
Aug 6 & of Tickets sold between 11.20 p.m and
1939 July 29 - midnight on Cowes Floating Bridge.
Aug 7 & 3 sheets
1939 Oct 8 -
Nov 11
- C.F.C./71 1938 Comparison
with 1937 of passengers using Cowes Floating
Bridge on East Cowes Carnival and Cowes Week.
- C.F.C./72 1939 Dec 23 Account
1940 Jan 1 of Tickets sold between 11.20 p.m. and
midnight on Cowes Floating Bridge.

C.F.C./73 Undated Accounts
(c.1930's?) of Tickets sold between 6 and 9 p.m. and 11.30 -
12.30 (night) on Cowes Floating Bridge.
3 sheets

C.F.C./74 1942 Nov Abstract
of Army Traffic using Cowes Ferry Committee's
Floating Bridge.
(+ 1 copy)

C.F.C./75 1944 Mar Abstract of Army Traffic using Cowes Ferry
Committee's Floating Bridge.

Subsection II-re Timetable

C.F.C./76 1907 Dec 20 Traffic Report
re overcrowding on Floating Bridge at 5.30.
Made by W.A. Rogers, Manager of Cowes
Ferry Committee.

C.F.C./77 1912 Sept 20 Draft Order
altering Timetable of Cowes Floating Bridge
at meal-times. (Run by Cowes Ferry Committee)

C.F.C./78 1916 Jan 10 & Three Letters
17 re running of Floating Bridge, Cowes.
+ March 14 1) E.J. Hollands, Secretary of Cowes and East
Cowes Trades and Labour Council of
200 Upper Arctic Road, West Cowes.
2) Mr Newman, Manager, Cowes Ferry.

C.F.C./79 1928 July 11 Two Letters
& 12 re punctuality of 7.55 to East Cowes - affects
time Saunders Roe employees arrive.
1) United Patternmakers Association's Secretary,
W.J. Richardson of Rockcliffe, Bellevue Road,
Cowes.
2) R.D. Newman.

C.F.C./80 1928 Aug 3 Letter
re punctuality of Cowes Floating Bridge.
1) H.S. Woolcock, Secretary to Cowes and District
Trades Council of 5, Ashton Terrace, Gordon Road,
Cowes.
2) Ferry Committee.

Subsection III - Letters re Fares

- C.F.C./81 1906 Nov 9 Letter
requesting cheap fares for Islands Hope Juvenile
Foresters on Cowes Floating Bridge.
1) H. Fellowes, Secretary of I.H.J.F. of
7 Bernard Road, Cowes.
2) Mr Rogers, Manager of Cowes Floating Bridge.
- C.F.C./82 1916 Jan 31 Letter
re free trip for Cadets of E. Company Cowes Cadet
Corps, 3rd Bath Hampshire Regiment (on Cowes
Floating Bridge)
1) John C. Pugh, Hon. Secretary of above, of
'Corrib', Mill Hill Road, Cowes.
2) Cowes Ferry Committee.
- C.F.C./83 1907 April 22 Instructions
for payment of charges crossing Cowes Floating
Bridge issued by House Governor, Osborne.
Mentions Atherstone Damant, Clerk to Cowes Ferry
Committee.
- C.F.C./84 1917 Aug 16 Two letters
& 21 re Duty Passes for staff of Osborne at Cowes
Floating Bridge.
1) House Governor of Osborne.
2) Secretary of Cowes Ferry Committee.
- C.F.C./85 Letter
Request for late Bridge + fare concessions
on Cowes Floating Bridge.
1) C.E. Haxthausen, 36 York Street, West Cowes.
Secretary Cowes and East Cowes Trades and
Labour Council.
2) R.D. Newman.
- C.F.C./86 1923 Nov 13 Letter
re Season Tickets on Cowes Ferry Committee's
Floating Bridge.
1) Various people.
2) R. Newman.
- C.F.C./87 1924 Aug 20 - Letter
22 re rate van charged on Cowes Floating Bridge.
1) A. Hill, Proprietor of J. Leftwich, Cook and
Confectioner of High Street, Cowes. Private
address Hafoo, Queens Road, Ryde.
2) R. Newman.

C.F.C./88 1927 & 1928 List
of Classes of People entitled to use ferry free.
Loss to Cowes Ferry Committee £162 4s. 8d.

C.F.C./89 1932 Feb 27 Letter
thanking Committee for concessions granted to
motor users.
1) W.R. Watts of Moorings, Cambridge Terrace,
East Cowes.
2) Manager of Cowes Ferry.

C.F.C./90 (1949) Aug 13 Letter
re failure to produce weekly ticket on Cowes
Floating Bridge.
1) Edgar J. Luter of 20 Trelis Road, Cowes.
2) Mr Jones, Cowes Ferry, Manager.
In letters to Cowes Ferry Manager.

Subsection IV - Letters re complaints and malfunction of Service

C.F.C./91 (1906) Mar 23 Report
re passengers getting feet wet on Floating
Bridge, Cowes.

C.F.C./92 (Undated)
c.1901 - 18 Copy of letter
re difficulties experienced by horses pulling
carts on loose shingle at approach to Cowes
Floating Bridge.
1) A Horse Lover
(2) Manager Cowes Ferry Committee.)

C.F.C./93 1915 Jan 23 Letter
re damage to car battery case on leaving
Floating Bridge, Cowes.
1) Edward Carter of East Upton, Ryde.
2) Cowes Floating Bridge, Manager of,

C.F.C./94 1915 Nov 29 Letter
re safety of Floating Bridge, Cowes - worried
about gap between landing ramp and landing
stage.
1) G.J. Ellis of Cottage, Gurnard.
2) Manager of Cowes Ferry Committee.

SECTION E - RE WAGES, HOURS AND STAFF.

Subsection I - Accounts of Hours and Wages

C.F.C./95 1901/2 Comparison
of Hours and Wages between conditions under old
Company and those under Ferry Committee (Cowes
Floating Bridge) (details no. of men employed with
their weekly and monthly wages).

- C.F.C./96 1910 June 30 Two Accounts of Wages
(a & b) 1913 Mar 31 paid to men of Cowes Floating Bridge by
Cowes Ferry Committee. (Gives surnames)
- C.F.C./97 Undated Account of Hours
(c1913) worked weekly by Engineers working for Cowes Ferry
Committee (on Floating Bridge).
- C.F.C./98 Undated Account of Hours
(c1913) worked weekly by a Pilot working for Cowes Ferry
Committee. (Cowes Floating Bridge).

Subsection II - Letters re Wages

- C.F.C./99 1911 Nov Letter
asking for increase of wage - not risen since
Committee took over Cowes Floating Bridge in 1901.
Signed by 4 employees
To Cowes Ferry Committee.
- C.F.C./100 1913 Mar 7 Letter
asking for increase of wages for Bridge Pilots of
Cowes Floating Bridge. Daily wage of 3s. 9½d. per
day - 'which is less than any man ought to get'.
Signed by 4 Bridge Pilots.
To Cowes Ferry Committee.
- C.F.C./101 1917 July 18 Letter
re employment of engineers on Cowes Floating Bridge
1) E.W. Damant for Atherstone Damant, Clerk to
Cowes Ferry Committee.
2) R.D. Newman. (Manager of Cowes Ferry Committee).
- C.F.C./102 1917 Aug 10 Two Carbons of Letters
& 19 re seconding of F. Saunders and E. Jeffery to help run
the Cowes Floating Bridge.
1) J. Samuel White & Co.
2) Mr Newman (Manager of Cowes Ferry)
Top copy was sent to Mr Hastie.
- C.F.C./103 Undated Rough Jottings
(c.1918) re salary increases at Cowes Floating Bridge.
- C.F.C./104 1918 Jan 11 Letter
re wages paid and hours worked at Southampton
and Itchen Floating Bridge.
1) L.W. Lankester, Manager of Southampton and Itchen
Floating Bridge and Roads Company, Southampton.
Their Clerk's Office - 125 High Street, Manager's
Office 136 High Street.

C.F.C./105 1939 Dec Typed Copy
of Minutes of Cowes Ferry Committee turns down
attempt by Transport and General Workers Union to
get wages/cost of living link for employees.
3/- a week extra granted because of unfavourable
working conditions as result of lighting restrictions.

Subsection III - re Staff Illness

C.F.C./106 1906/7 Account
of days lost because of leave and illness. (per man)

C.F.C./107 1907/8 Account
of days lost because of leave and illness. (per man)

C.F.C./108 1908/9 Account
of days lost because of leave and illness. (per man)

C.F.C./109 (1910/20
period)
Undated Letter
re leave because of illness.
1) F. Cottell of Iona, Moor Green Road, Cowes.
2) R. Newman.

C.F.C./110 1929 Apl 17 Letter
plea for second chance.
1) E.G. Morey, Shrewsbury, Coronation Road, Cowes.
(2) R.D. Newman)
(RESTRICTED ACCESS)

Subsection IV - Miscellaneous

C.F.C./111 1907 Dec 20 Letter
re Christmas gift to Committee's employees working
on Floating Bridge - thinks may fall under provisions
of the Corruptions Act.
1) James Hunt, Secretary to J.S. White & Co.
2) Chairman of Cowes Ferry Committee.

SECTION F - LEGAL

C.F.C./112 1904 Feb 7
& 8 Two Notices
to attend in case between U.D.C. of Cowes and U.D.C.
of East Cowes v. Southampton, I.W. and South of
England Royal Mail Steam Packet Co. Ltd.

C.F.C./113 1909 Aug 11 Letter
re infringement of Ferry Rights.
1) A. Damant, Clerk to Cowes Ferry Committee.
2) W.A. Rogers, (Manager).

SECTION G - MISCELLANEOUS

- C.F.C./114 Undated
Post 1910 Note
Achille Serre unable to clean sunshade sent to them.
1) E.A. Scovell of 44 High Street, Cowes.
2) Mrs Flux.
- C.F.C./115 1929 Mar 18 Letter
re winch supplied to Cowes Ferry Committee.
1) Bruntons Wire Rope works of Musselburgh, Scotland.
2) Manager, Cowes Ferry Committee, Thetis Tower.
- C.F.C./116 1929 Feb 11
& 15 Letters
re Machine Drills.
1) William Dibben & Sons Ltd. of 80/82 St Mary's Road, Southampton. Builders, Merchants & Wholesale Ironmongers.
2) R.D. Newman Esq. of Cowes Ferry Committee.
- C.F.C./117 c.1929 Catalogue
of R. Harris, 8 Fanshawe Street, Southampton.
Mainly drilling Machines.
- C.F.C./118 1929 Feb 20 Quotation
for supplying blacksmiths anvils and drilling machines.
1) Ralph Harris, Engineers and Wheelwrights Requisites, 8 Fanshawe Street, Southampton.
2) Cowes Ferry Committee.
- C.F.C./119 1929 Feb 21 Letter
re Test of Hauling wire
1) H. Moger & Son, Public Works Contractor, Solent View, Esplanade, East Cowes.
2) R.D. Newman of Cowes Ferry Committee.
- C.F.C./120 1929 Mar 6 Letter
re Anvils, Vice and Acetylene Lamps.
1) Pollock, Brown & Co., American Wharf, Chapel, Southampton.
2) R.D. Newman, Cowes Ferry Committee.
- C.F.C./121 1929 Feb 23 Letter
quoting price for Bullivant Standard.
1) H. Ashcroft of British Ropes Ltd., 32 Cavendish Square, London, W.1.
2) R.D. Newman, Manager for Cowes Ferry Committee.

- C.F.C./122 c.1929 Advertisement
of Bullivant Standard Pattern Reel.
(Previously attached to C.F.C./97)
- C.F.C./123 1929 Apl 11 Letter
re 5 chains for Floating Bridge, Cowes.
1) Jones & Lloyd Ltd. of Scotia Works,
Cradley, Staffs.
2) R.D. Newman for Cowes Ferry Committee.

MINUTE BOOKS

- C.F.C./A/1 1902 Apl 4 - Rough Minute Book
1908 Oct 23 Manager of Cowes Ferry Committee.
- C.F.C./A/2 1908 Nov 6 - Rough Minute Book
1918 Apl 5 Manager of Cowes Ferry Committee.
- C.F.C./A/3 1918 Apl 26 - Rough Minute Book
1929 Sept 13 Manager of Cowes Ferry Committee.
- C.F.C./A/4 1929 Oct 11 - Rough Minute Book
1941 Mar 7 Manager of Cowes Ferry Committee.
- C.F.C./A/5 1941 Apl 4 - Rough Minute Book
1949 Nov 4 Manager of Cowes Ferry Committee.
(From 8 March 1946 fair copy Minute Book).
- C.F.C./A/6 1919 May 5 - Sub Committee Minute Book
1920 Apl 23 of Cowes Ferry Committee. (meets fortnightly)
At back Audited Accounts of money due on
Contract for Slipway 1928/9)

OUT LETTER BOOKS ETC.

- C.F.C./B/1 1901 Oct - Out-letter Book
1907 Aug 18 of Manager of Cowes Ferry Committee. (indexed)
- C.F.C./B/2 1907 - 16 Missing
- C.F.C./B/3 1916 Mar 15 Out-letter Book
1924 Dec 13 of Manager of Cowes Ferry Committee.

C.F.C./B/4 c.1924 - c.1930 Missing

C.F.C./B/5 c.1930 - c.1936 Missing

By 1936 the carbon copy letter books had been replaced by Ring Files. These, despite their recent date, were all heavily rusted and have been destroyed. Each sheet has been numbered consecutively to give exact order of old file.

C.F.C./B/6 1936 Apr 1 Out Correspondence
(1 - 559) 1940 Mar 31 of Manager of Cowes Ferry Committee
(arranged alphabetically)

C.F.C./B/7 1940 April 1- Out Correspondence
1944 Mar 31 of Manager of Cowes Ferry Committee
(arranged alphabetically)

C.F.C./B/8 1944 April 1- Out Correspondence
1947 Mar 31 of Cowes Ferry Committee
(arranged alphabetically) MISSING

C.F.C./B/9 1947 April 1 - Out Correspondence
(1 - 651) 1951 of Cowes Ferry Committee.
(arranged alphabetically)

C.F.C./C/1 - 97
1908 March 10
Half Yearly Reports (Printed) of Cowes Ferry Committee (including Receipts from Tolls and Passenger figures). Missing March 10th 1902, March 10th 1903 (gaps in numbering at these points).
After 1926 MSS inset giving greater details re passenger figures. Report 1941 - 1945 were 'confidential and not for publication because of War'. N.B. a number of these Reports are annotated presumably by then Manager).

Miscellaneous Reports to Committee

C.F.C./C/B/1 1911 Oct 2 Report
to Cowes Ferry Committee (Printed)
re purchase of Wharf at East Cowes belonging to Alfred Floyd (including two cottages); approach from Clarence Road. (to be used for hauling Bridges up and doing own repairs).

C.F.C./C/B/2 1936 June 3 Accountant's Report
re Cowes Ferry Committee's ability to contribute profits to offset Cowes U.D.C.'s rates prepared by T.G. Hale. (Gives statement of expenses of new Diesel Floating Bridge 1936/1938).

C.F.C./D/1 - 40 1905 - 1944 Abstract of Accounts
of Cowes Ferry Committee. (After 1944 these
accounts amalgamate with Series C.F.C./C/
C.F.C./D was discontinued).
N.B. some are audited and others not,
e.g. 1907 has both accounts.
Missing 1920, 1933, 1934.

C.F.C./D/B/1 1906 Mar 31 Financial Statement
Cowes Ferry Committee
issued by A. Damant, Clerk.

C.F.C./E/1 1901 - 1927 Ledger of Accounts due.
Cowes Ferry Committee.
(In form of carbon copies in letter Book format)
Indexed

C.F.C./E/2 1901 - 1955 Ledger of Accounts due
Cowes Ferry Committee.
Special accounts only including J.S. White & Co.
and I.W.C.C. Education Committee and S. Railway.

Bundles and Samples of Accounts - Whites C.F.C./E/2A, I.W.C.C. C.F.C./E/B,
and S. Railway C.F.C./E/2C.

C.F.C./E/3 1939 Apl. 1 - Cash Ledger
1952 Apl. 1 of Cowes Ferry Committee
(details of daily takings from Floating Bridge
Tolls)

C.F.C./E/4 1939 Apl. 1 - Weekly Summary Ledger
1944 Sept 23 receipts from Cowes Floating Bridge by Cowes
Ferry Committee. (Arranged under number of
tickets sold at each price).

C.F.C./E/5 1944 Oct 7 - Weekly Summary Ledger
1950 March 31 receipts from Cowes Floating Bridge by Cowes
Ferry Committee. (Arranged under number of tickets
sold at each price).

C.F.C./F/1 1901/11 Weekly Wage Account Book
Cowes Ferry Committee MISSING

C.F.C./F/2 1911 Apl. 1 - Weekly Wage Account Books
1933 March 31 Cowes Ferry Committee.

C.F.C./F/3) 1913 - 1937 Weekly Wage Account Book,
C.F.C./F/4)
C.F.C./F/5) Cowes Ferry Committee. Both MISSING.

C.F.C./F/6 1937 Apl. 3 - Weekly Wage Account Book,
1939 March 31 Cowes Ferry Committee.

C.F.C./F/7 1939 Apl. 8 - Weekly Wage Account Book
1941 Mar 29 Cowes Ferry Committee.

C.F.C./F/8 1941 Apl. 5 - Weekly Wage Account Book
1944 Aug 19 Cowes Ferry Committee.

C.F.C./F/9 1944 Aug 26 - Weekly Wage Account Book
1948 Feb 21 Cowes Ferry Committee.

C.F.C./F/10 1948 Feb 28 - Weekly Wage Account Book
1952 Apl 5 Cowes Ferry Committee.

C.F.C./G/1 1916 Apl 7 - Wages Account Book
1945 Apl 28 Cowes Ferry Committee.
(This gives summary of totals rather than summary
of individuals earnings which are found in series
C.F.C./F/1 - 10).

C.F.C./H/1 1910 - 1966 Cowes Ferry Committee Log Book.
Absences from work 1918 - 1966.
Accidents 1910 - 1914. Other miscellaneous
information.

C.F.C./H/2 1937 - 1966 Bundle of Medical Certificates
for employees of Cowes Ferry Committee off work.

C.F.C./I/1 - 363 Bills
c.1939 - 1951 due to be paid by Cowes Ferry Committee,
(arranged alphabetically) formerly in ring file.

C.F.C./J/1 - 184 Advertisements
c.1939 - c.1964 (formerly in one file) of Cowes Ferry Committee
(alphabetical order).

C.F.C./K/1-34 Orders and Acceptances of Tender
1931 - 1934 issued by Manager for Cowes Ferry Committee.
(Alphabetical order - formerly in same file as
C.F.C./J/1 - 184)

C.F.C./L/1 - 10 Specifications for Tenders
1930 July & Oct 1948 for repairing damaged Floating Bridge and engine,
Cowes Ferry Committee. (Including correspondence with
R. Henderson of John W. Jack of 32 Queens Terrace,
Southampton. Insurers of Hopper that did the damage
in 1930).

- C.F.C./M/1 - 3 c.1925 Specifications
for building new Floating Bridge for
Cowes Ferry Comm ttee. As Steam engine
not diesel probably pre 1937.
- C.F.C./M/4 1937 Oct 12 Printed lecture from Vol. XLIX of Proceedings of
Institute of Marine Engineers - "some operating
Results of Diesel Electric Propulsion" by
G.T. Shoosmeth M.A. (proof copy)
N.B. Gives details of P.S. Ryde built by
William Denny & Bros.
- C.F.C./M/5 c.1935 Specification
for building ferry boat to carry 10 passengers
for Cowes Ferry Committee. (2 copies)
(see C.F.C./O/1-53)
- C.F.C./M/6 Specifications
for oil supplied by Alexander Duckham & Co.
to Cowes Ferry Committee.
- C.F.C./N/1 - 3 1929 July, Specifications
Sept 1930, for work to be carried out at the houses
Feb 1934. in Medina Road, Cowes, property of Cowes
Ferry Committee.
- C.F.C./N/4 1930 April Specifications
for cleaning and painting Waiting Rooms at East
and West Cowes, property of Cowes Ferry Committee.
- C.F.C./N/5 1939 June 13 Specifications and Letter
for constructing 5 Bay Urinal for Cowes Ferry
Committee. Issued to H.E. Day & Sons Ltd., of
High Street, Cowes., and Messrs. E. Watts & Sons
of Medina Road, Cowes.
N.B. C.F.C./J/1 - C.F.C./N/5 all were in same file.
- C.F.C./O/1-53 1930-1944 Audited Tenders
of various firms to Cowes Ferry Committee.
Arranged in date order by year, but not by
month or day. The original order has not
been disturbed.

SECTION ON FLOATING BRIDGES THEMSELVES

- C.F.C./P/1 - 7 1918-1924 Reports
on Boiler of 'Old Floating Bridge' (built 1896
by W. White & Sons of Cowes), made by Vulcan Boiler
& General Insurance Co. Ltd. of 7 King Street,
Manchester. Policy 51433.

- C.F.C./P/8 - 106 1910 June 2 - Reports
1938 Apl 29 on Boiler of Floating Bridge alias Bridge 'I'
(built new by W. White & Sons of Cowes in 1909)
made by Vulcan Boiler & General Insurance Co. Ltd.
Policy 51433.
- C.F.C./P/107 - 234 Reports
on Boiler of No '2' Floating Bridge (built by
J.S. White of Cowes in 1925), made by Vulcan
Boiler & General Insurance Co. Ltd.
- C.F.C./Q/1 - 58 1913 - 1959 Test Certificates
issued by Jones & Lloyd, Chain Cable & Anchor
Manufacturers of Cradley Forge and Scotia Works,
Cradley, Staffs.
- C.F.C./Q/59 - 75 1915-1937 Test Certificates
issued by John Green, Proprietor of Crown Chain,
Cable, Anchor and Iron Works, Old Hill, Staffs.
For Chains, property of Cowes Ferry Committee.
- C.F.C./Q/76 - 83 1913-1952 Test Certificates
issued by Lloyd's Public Proving House of
Cradley Heath, for chains, property of
Cowes Ferry Committee.
- C.F.C./Q/84 - 88 1925 May 13 - Test Certificates
1951 July 20 issued by J. Samuel White & Co. of East Cowes
for Ferry chains, property of Cowes Ferry Committee.
- C.F.C./Q/89 - 94 1928 - 1952 Test Certificate
issued by British Ropes Ltd. of 32 Cavendish Sq.,
London W.I., for wire ropes, property of
Cowes Ferry Committee.
- C.F.C./Q/95 1928 Oct 3 Test Certificate
issued by Bruntons Musselburgh of Scotland,
for wire ropes, property of Cowes Ferry Committee.
- C.F.C./Q/96 - 102 1936 Various Test Certificates
relating to Prow lifting gear. (Property of
Cowes Ferry Committee).
- C.F.C./Q/103 - 106 1955 Apl. & Test Certificate
Sept. issued by Barzillai Hingley & Sons, Lion Testing
Works of Cradley Heath, Staffs, (with covernote
from Pascall Atkey & Son Ltd. of 29 & 30 High Street,
Cowes) for chains, property of Cowes Ferry Committee.

SECTION RELATING TO DIESEL ELECTRIC POWERED FLOATING BRIDGES

- C.F.C./R/1 - 6 1936 Dec Papers
relating to building of Diesel Electric Floating Bridge by J.S. White. Papers sent from Wells & Rickinson Naval Architects of St Stephen's House, Victoria Embankment, Whitehall, London, S.W.1. to J.E. Watkins, Clerk of Cowes Ferry Committee (including attached Report re damage to a Floating Bridge Ref: C.F.C./R/3).
- C.F.C./R/7 1936 Sept 1 Papers and Report
re Insurance of generating plant and motors of Diesel Electric Floating Bridge, property of Cowes Ferry Committee, with County Fire Office.
- C.F.C./R/8 - 104 1936 - 1969 Inspectors Reports
of County Fire Office of National Buildings, St Mary's Parsonage, Manchester 3, (Policy D.18149) re Electrical Plant on Diesel Electric Floating Bridge, property of Cowes Ferry Committee. (Including odd letters relating to it).
- C.F.C./R/105 - 191 1936 - 1961 Inspectors Reports
of County Fire Office of National Buildings, St Mary's Parsonage, Manchester 3, (Policy E. 22804) items include 'Hamworthy Centrifugal Pump' (motor driven). No. 1 and 2 Vertical Twin Cylinder Paxman Ricardo Oil Engines, (Makers No. 693 & 694) alias Davey Paxman Vertical Oil Engine used on Diesel Electric Floating Bridge, property of Cowes Ferry Committee, includes all Technical Reports on oil used issued by Shell Mex and B.P. Co.
- C.F.C./R/192 - 202 1961 - 1969 Inspectors Reports
of County Fire Office of St Mary's Parsonage, Manchester 3, (ref: 101616) re. Prow elevation machinery. Property of Cowes Ferry Committee.
- C.F.C./R/203 - 224 1948/9 Papers
relating to collision-Murius (of Vectis Shipping Co. Ltd.) and Cowes Floating Bridge on 25 October 1948 and insurance claim issuing therefrom. (County Fire Office)
- C.F.C./R/225 - 313 1936 - 1948 Inspectors Reports and Letters
of Chloride Electrical Storage Co. Ltd. of 137 Victoria Street, London, S.W.1., and Exide Works, Clifton Junction, nr Manchester. (Agreement 286) Re Batteries installed in Diesel Electric Ferry, property of Cowes Ferry Committee. (See also C.F.C./M/4)

C.F.C./R/314 Undated Last Part of Report
Post 1937
on modified instructions for maintenance of Batteries
on Diesel Electric Floating Bridge, property of
Cowes Ferry Committee. 2 sheets.

C.F.C./R/315 & 316 1939 Feb 2 Draft
of paper on 'storage Batteries under Modern
Conditions' for Institution of Electrical
Engineers by E.C. McKinnon, Chief Engineer of
Chloride Electrical Storage Co. Ltd., quotes
section dealing with Diesel Electric Floating Bridge,
property of Cowes Ferry Committee.
(N.B. W.S. Lonsdale in Chairman's Address to above
Institution's Hampshire Sub Centre also mentions
ferry (Oct. 1938) ref: I.E.E. Journal
Vol. 84 No. 505 pp.70 and 72) See also C.F.C./M/4.

C.F.C./S/1 - 1949 - 1956 Inspection Certificates
of Fire Fighting Equipment supplied by
Pyrene & Co. Ltd., of Gt. West Road, Brentford,
Middlesex.

MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS

C.F.C./T/1 1916 March 7 Invitation to Tender
for printing tickets for Floating Bridge,
property of Cowes Floating Bridge.

C.F.C./T/2 - 5 1919 June 6 - 18 Three Letters
re Motor Boats crossing bows of Floating Bridge.

C.F.C./T/6 & 7 1922 Dec 14 & 18 Two Letters
re near collision M.V. Chamois and Cowes Floating
Bridge.
1) E.J. Willsteed, secretary of Vectis Shipping
Co. Ltd. of 20 High Street, Newport, I.W.
2) J.C.W. Damant Esq, Clerk to Cowes Ferry
Committee.

C.F.C./T/8 1932 Sept 19 Instruction
re procedure on Steamboat entering Cowes Harbour
insofar as it affects Floating Bridge.
1) R.D. Newman, Manager

C.F.C./T/9 1919 June 17 Letter
re repairs to Cowes 'Old' Floating Bridge.
1) J.S. White & Co.
2) R.D. Newman.

C.F.C./T/10 1919 Sept List of Repairs
done on Cowes 'Old' Floating Bridge.

C.F.C./T/11		Letter owing to suspension of trains, special Floating Bridge for conveyance of mail no longer needed. 1) Postmaster of Cowes 2) R.D. Newman Esq.
C.F.C./T/12	1928 Nov 13	Letter re weighing machine at Ticket Office, West Cowes. 1) Hants and I.W. Games and Amusements (Charles J. Jacobs & Sons) of Mandalay, St Helens, I.W. 2) Secretary of Floating Bridge Committee.
C.F.C./T/13	1931 June 10	Letter requesting information on Floating Bridges as writer wishes to have built a chain ferry for Vizagapatam Port, British S. India. 1) O.R. Rathenbury, Deputy Engineer in Chief of Vizagapatam Harbour Construction. (c/o Midland Bank, Plymouth) 2) Manager of Cowes Ferry, Medina Road, Cowes. (3 sheets)
C.F.C./T/14	1938 Oct	Details of Amended Water Rates of Cowes U.D.C. (2 sheets)
C.F.C./T/15	1942 - 1950	Graph of volume of Passengers Vehicles using Floating Bridge. (Property of Cowes Ferry Committee).
C.F.C./T/16	1949 July 12	Typed Copy of notice of F.W. Hefford, Clerk to Ferry Committee and Cowes U.D.C. giving details of fines for contravention of sections of Cowes Ferry Act 1901.
C.F.C./T/17	1952 June 12	Receipt after repair by Southern Electricity Board of one Direct Current Generator.
C.F.C./T/18	1940/1943	Certificate issued for services to National Savings Movement to J.M. Jones, Manager of Cowes Ferry Committee. N.B. Mottistone Vice President.
C.F.C./U/1	1940 May 3	Agenda of Cowes Ferry Committee.

C.F.C./U/2	1945 June 8	Agenda of Cowes Ferry Committee.
C.F.C./U/3	1934 Aug 1	Note re lowering Rates. (Cowes Ferry Committee)
C.F.C./U/4	1947/9	Capital Expenditure Estimate Cowes Ferry Committee. (N.B. including New Bridge)
C.F.C./U/5	Undated	Odd Jottings of figures. (Cowes Ferry Committee)
C.F.C./U/6	Undated	Certificate for Payment Engineer and Surveyors Office, Cowes U.D.C.
C.F.C./U/7	1949 Apl. 29	List of Members of Standing Committees of Cowes U.D.C.
C.F.C./V/1	1827 - 1901	Book listing Documents belonging to Cowes Ferry Committee. (Legal - probably deposited with Damants of Cowes, Solicitors).