

HORLEY & DISTRICT PROBUS CLUB COMMITTEE
Annual General Meeting
Minutes of Meeting 12th March 2019 at Copthorne Hotel

1. Welcome and Apologies

The President, Martin Forde (MF), welcomed everybody to the Annual General Meeting. Apologies had been received from Roy Page, David Yates, Piers De Legh and David Wheatley.

2. Minutes of AGM 13th March 2018

The minutes had been distributed by the Secretary, Derek Hanks. Acceptance was proposed by Mike Livesey and seconded by Alan Mathers. A copy was signed by MF.

3. Matters Arising

None

4. Secretary's Report (Derek Hanks)

I joined Probus three years ago, was elected to the Committee as an Ordinary Member in 2017 and elected as Secretary last year. Although I have acted as Secretary on committees before, this is my first AGM as secretary, so if anything goes awry I hope that you will forgive me. Arthur Meaton and Bill Chapman left big boots to fill!

We held seven committee meetings this year, all at Copthorne Social Club. I believe that our monthly meetings at the Copthorne Hotel have got better in terms of meals and service over the past year. Our thanks go to David Ross for liaising with the hotel on this, as well as organising the monthly lunches.

The Hotel has provided a good venue for Ladies' Lunches and I thank Mike Livesey for organising them. The Christmas lunch and President's lunch went off very well, with enjoyable entertainment and good food. Of course, there is always room for improvement and we will take back any constructive comments to the hotel.

We have been very fortunate in co-opting Steve Challis as Speaker secretary. Steve has already organised the speaker for one meeting, in February, and looking at the coming year's diary, he has been diligent in arranging future ones. Please take a look at the website. I am pleased that Steve is prepared to stand again this year. I hope that everybody enjoyed the quiz in April. I'm pleased to say that I did not succumb to offers of bribery, largely because there weren't any.

David and Ena Sharratt kindly hosted the BBQ last July and our thanks go to all those involved in the cooking, salads and desserts.

Unfortunately, we were unable to proceed with our planned holiday in May this year, due to insufficient numbers. I hope that we will have another opportunity for a Probus holiday soon.

Thank you gentlemen for your support.

5. Treasurer's Report and Adoption of Accounts

Unfortunately, David Wheatley was unable to attend the AGM due to ill health. The accounts, certified by Chris Phillips as Examiner, had been distributed before the

meeting. Accounts show a surplus of £510 this year. Total held in cash and the bank account is Cash held is £2,589. Adoption of Accounts was proposed by Derek Hanks, seconded by John De Lang and adopted unanimously.

6. Other Reports

No other reports.

7. Appointment of Examiner

Chris Phillips fulfilled this role for 2018/2019 and has agreed to continue for a further year. Accepted unanimously by the members present.

8. President's Address

Firstly, now that my year is over I would like to thank you for electing me to the grand position of President. I can thank you now because I have enjoyed it very much. You never know, do you? I could not have enjoyed it as much without the support of such a strong committee to back me up.

Your present Vice President has been a massive help. He took over the reins of the holiday when Ray was too ill to continue. Sadly the take up was too low to continue with you further organisation. Further research is necessary to examine the viability of a holiday. Thank you, Mike. The present secretary has also been a tower of strength by keeping me on the straight and narrow as far as our meetings are concerned. Plus he has backed up the Vice President in many of his duties. Thank you, Derek. David Ross has continued to liaise with the Copthorne Hotel and ensure that our lunches have been up to standard. Thank you, David. Our ordinary committee member has done a terrific job of bringing our handbook up to date and making it into a living document that is regularly updated. Thank you, John.

We were at the nadir of despair, wondering where we would find a speaker secretary. When suddenly over the horizon, the seventh cavalry, in the form of Steve Challis arrived. Steve immediately set to work and has got speakers available at least up-to April next year. Well done, and thank you, Steve.

David Wheatley, our treasurer is ill at the moment and is waiting to go into hospital for an operation. He has sent in a financial report in his absence. He is going to continue to do the book keeping at home but will be assisted by the Mike Livesey with the banking. Thank you, David for helping us out in this way.

Roy Page goes quietly on his way keeping us up with the state of the membership. Thank you, Roy David Jones, as I'm sure you all know, has moved to Eastbourne and has joined the Eastbourne Probus club. David has been our Web Master for me but Eastbourne need him to do theirs. Thank you, David for all your past work.

John de Lang will be our Web Master pro tem unless we can get a nomination today. All these people deserve my and our collective thanks. I have deliberately shown a little bit of what each person does and it is quite clear that there is a great deal of work involved in making this club operate smoothly. Please think carefully about it, as there are two places vacant.

9. Election of New President

Mike Livesey was elected President, having been proposed by Derek Hanks and seconded by Martin Forde. The meeting agreed his election unanimously.

The Chain of Office and President's badge were presented by Martin Forde to Mike Livesey. Mike Livesey presented Martin Forde with the Past President badge. The Past President tie was not available but will be presented later.

The remainder of the Annual General Meeting was conducted by Mike Livesey.

10. Election of Vice President

John De Lang was elected Vice President, having been proposed by Jim Williamson and seconded from the floor by David Sharratt. Unanimously agreed by the members present.

Mike Livesey presented John De Lang with the Medal of Office. John thanked the members for electing him.

11. Election of Ordinary Member

There were no nominations for this position. We hope that we will be able to co-opt somebody during the forthcoming year.

12. Election of Committee

The following members had been proposed for the positions shown below:

- Secretary: Derek Hanks
- Treasurer: David Wheatley
- Speaker Secretary: Steve Challis
- Dining Secretary: David Ross
- Web Manager: John De Lang, supported by David Jones.
In view of John's election as Vice President, we hope this will be a temporary arrangement.
- Membership Secretary: Roy Page
- Ordinary Member: Remains open

The meeting agreed the above proposals.

13. New President Comments

I am honoured that you have chosen to elect me as your new President and thank you.

I want to thank Martin for his term as President. Leading up to last year's AGM, because of the resignation of the then Vice-President, there was a lot of uncertainty as to who would step forward for the role of President and it was Martin who did so. As he had previously not been even on the committee, I think that was a brave step but he brought all his experience from his long service on committees with the Royal British Legion to the role and took to it like a duck to water (and he didn't sink!). Martin, thank you very much and I look forward to your support in the role of Past-President over the coming year.

Thanks also to all the members of the 2018/19 committee and to those who are continuing (and newly elected committee members). I look forward to your support over the coming year.

If we all wish for our Club to continue and prosper, I believe there are two areas we must concentrate on:

one is, as we are all aware, membership numbers are not where we would want them to be. The proposed holiday this year unfortunately was not able to go ahead because we did not have enough firm interest to make it viable. The same goes for potential day outings. Our membership catchment area is large and we should be able to increase our membership. This would give us so much more scope for trips, outings, holidays, increase our reach into the community with regard to contacts for local speakers as well and give us all the opportunity to meet new neighbours and make new friends;

the other is the reluctance of many members to put themselves forward for committee or support positions. Obviously, those who have served on the committee, especially as President or Vice-President, have “done their bit” in those roles and some members have faithfully served quite a number of years in various other committee and support roles and we would find it difficult to continue without their dedication. However, there is no reason why past Presidents / Vice-Presidents as well as members who have not yet taken on any role should not consider taking on a support role or the ordinary member role just for a year. That would help ensure a constant flow of members and fresh ideas in the running of the Club and be of benefit to us all.

I, therefore, would like to set each and every one of us a challenge:

first – each member to bring at least one guest (with the potential to become a member) to an ordinary meeting during the next 12 months;

second – for those of you who have not served in any role so far to put yourself forward for a role next year and for those who have served before but only for a year or two, to consider taking on a role for only one year. This would ensure there are sufficient candidates at next year’s AGM for all roles. Let’s all make this our joint aim and, fulfilling these two challenges, make the Club a more viable, vibrant and enjoyable one for us all.

I look forward to serving you and working with all of you to achieve those aims.

14. Close of Meeting

The President closed the Annual General Meeting at 11-15 am.