

The IBM Retired Employee Club (South Hants)
Minutes of the AGM held at The Langstone Hotel, Hayling Island
Thursday March 6th 2014

The meeting opened at 3.00pm (approx.)

Dave Smith opened the meeting and welcomed the members.

The Minutes of the last AGM were accepted with no points arising. Proposed by Sue Clark seconded by Charles Joyce

The Chairman (Barbara Clark) made the following points in her report:

Barbara welcomed Laura Buckley from IBM.

Barbara explained that it had been a full year with a lot of work from the committee supporting 1,700 members. The committee had appealed for new committee members and a good number of members had applied. 5 new members have been appointed; Keith Wright, Sue Clark, Geoff Maidment Richard Munday (who sends his apologies as he is on holiday) and Ron Bunce who is taking over from Chris Marshall as the Treasurer.

Barbara said that Chris is standing down from the committee and he will be sorely missed. Chris had done considerable work in introducing comprehensive accounting records which has been useful in providing IBM with some of their demanding requirements.

Barbara said we ran 36 events last year which was 2 more than the previous year. So far 2 trips have been cancelled (John Bishop and the Lion King) this year due to insufficient member interest. Last year the numbers for the Christmas lunch had also decreased.

The IBM subsidy this year has been reduced by 9.2% and is now £19.50. The original subsidy was £25. Barbara and Chris had worked very closely with IBM this past year and their representative Laura is attending the meeting today.

The subject of Hard copies of the Newsletter was raised. It was mentioned that it is very expensive (£1 per copy) and time consuming to send out the Newsletter in Hardcopy form. If you don't need hardcopy please let us know. Members should use the Internet as it is kept up-to-date.

The club Constitution was discussed, the general IBM constitution covers all clubs and says families and children can attend trips. Barbara mentioned that our trips are geared towards pensioners and their guests, who have to be 18 years or more. The meeting was asked if would like children included in our trips. The meeting unanimously voted for children to be excluded from our trips.

Barbara said we had been happy with the Coach service Coliseum provided and we would continue to use them.

The recent Albert Hall visit was discussed, a member had complained the seat they were given was high up behind the choir. Barbara explained that initially 52 tickets were purchased but we had 135 applications. The committee decided to purchase another 52 tickets, however the new tickets would be all over the auditorium at a cheaper price and

not with the original tickets. It was agreed that whilst these seats would be scattered, it was better than no additional seating, so the extra tickets were purchased. Some people complained the extra seats were not suitable, therefore the meeting was asked if in the future, the same situation happened, should more tickets be purchased ? The meeting voted unanimously to buy extra tickets, there were no votes against. It was agreed that if a lot of steps are involved a note in the description will say this.

Barbara said that unfortunately Chris Marshall was leaving the committee after nearly 9 years of excellent work. He will be missed by the committee. Barbara made a presentation to Chris. She added that Dave Smith and herself will be staying for the next year. Ron Bunce has joined the committee and has agreed to take over Chris role as the Treasurer.

Questions

Irene Raines asked if to help club funds we could introduce a membership of say £10. Barbara said we felt we could contain the shortfall by some price increases; The London Day out initially is going to be £6 now and £7 in November. In general some trips may be a little more than before. Barbara mentioned that some local shows, such as the Lion King at the Mayflower, were charging £65 a ticket, this is more expensive than some London shows.

Sheila Hawes asked how much is it for a coach to London, this is now £650

Len Davis, a past Treasurer, said we should congratulate the committee, he asked why has IBM reduced the subsidy ? Laura Buckley (IBM) said IBM Finances have been cut. The IBM Discretionary spend is being reduced. It was mentioned that the clubs are getting less members. The existing IBM employees are DC members who don't qualify for the club when they retire. Laura said this is going to be discussed in IBM and it may be possible to allow DC pensioners to join as associate members. It was mentioned that the records our club keep (due to Chris Marshall) are one of the best in the country.

Charles Joyce asked how long has the subsidy been £25, Laura (IBM) said a very long time, it has never gone up. It was mentioned a lot of companies have stopped their retiree clubs. IBM still keeps it's clubs going.

The Treasurer (Chris Marshall) made the following points in his report :

The year end balance 2013 (£5,166.92) is lower than 2012 (£13,450.87) this reflects more trips in 2013 (36) compared to 2012 (32) and a reduced subsidy from IBM.

The IBM grant was reduced by 10% last year and a further 9.2% for 2014.

We also booked 36 coaches in 2013 and 28 in 2012.

Chris emphasized that we don't run trips at a loss, if we can't get sufficient numbers then we cancel the trip. We do try to run as many trips as we can.

Overall we spent £76K in 2012 and £77K in 2013.

The Financial Report was accepted by the meeting - proposed by John Hadley and seconded by Len Davis.

The Auditors David Jones and Graham Churchill were appointed for a further year
Proposed by Gerry Hutson and seconded by Harry Biden

Election of the Committee Dave Smith suggested as there were 5 existing committee up for re-election and 5 new members it would be easier to separate the election.

The existing committee members; Barbara Clark, Ann Reid, Shirley Cail, Dave Smith and Dave Whitbourne were re-elected unanimously by the meeting. Proposed by Alan Reynolds and seconded by Julie Coates.

The new members; Ron Bunce, Keith Wright, Sue Clark, Geoff Maidment and Richard Munday were elected to the committee unanimously by the meeting. Proposed by Alan Reynolds and seconded by Richard Phillips.

Any Other Business.

Barbara said Chris Marshall was leaving the committee, she said he will be missed by all, especially by her. She made presentation to Chris from the club and some flowers for his wife Helen. Chris thanked Barbara and said he had enjoyed his time on the committee and decided it was time for a break.

A presentation of flowers was made to Barbara, recognising all the work she does for the club.

The meeting ended at 4.10pm (approx)