

THE CONWAY CLUB 100th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
HELD AT THE DE VERE ST DAVID'S HOTEL
EWLOE, AT 1500 hrs. ON SATURDAY 8th OCTOBER 2011

Present:	Tom Mason	President
	John McCaughrean	Vice-President
	Alfie Windsor	Vice-President
	Chris B Smith	Hon. Treasurer

And 48 other Members.

The President welcomed all members to the meeting and ensured that all present had received copies of the Agenda and accompanying papers.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

C. Blakey ,J. Glass, G. Haskins, S. Burnett, C. Plummer, I. Minchin, G. Burnham, J. Heath, M. Bonney, D. Mathews ,J. Hardy and P. Hayman.

2. MINUTES OF THE 99th AGM HELD AT WALTHAM ABBEY ON 9TH October 2010

The minutes having been circulated to those present, the President asked if they could be signed as a true record of the meeting. This was proposed by Terry Powell and seconded by, D. Hilton and duly adopted.

3. MATTERS ARISING

There were no Matters Arising.

4. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Ladies & gentlemen, it's my pleasure to formally welcome you all to The St David's Hotel on the occasion of the 100th AGM and Annual re union.

It's been a busy year for the Club since we all last met in Waltham Abbey. There have been three successful and well attended reunions around the world, one in Tasmania, one in Singapore and the most recent, just down the coast at Deganwy. I congratulate the organisers of each one on their success in helping to foster the maintenance of close fraternal links between Conways around the world.

Another major event of the year was the Lyme Regis Gig club Day, when the Calcutta Cup was handed into the custody of the L.R.G.C. to serve as a trophy to be competed for annually by youth teams rowing pilot gigs .The highlight of the day was a re-enactment gig race between a Conway and a Worcester team. You will all have seen the reports on the day in the Cadet. I'm sure the day was thoroughly enjoyed by all who attended.

The loan of the cup to the L.R.G.C. has proved to be the first of a number of similar arrangements being implemented, to put Conway silverware to use, encouraging a wide range of activities amongst the young. The Committee believe it will, most

importantly, help to commemorate Conway traditions and preserve the memory of H.M.S. Conway.

At the recent meeting, the committee considered four applications for such agreements. In view of the number of applications, a sub committee was formed to evaluate each application and to establish and apply suitable criteria to ensure the suitability of each application. Under consideration was a loan to Kelly College, the South Liverpool Sea cadets and Sailability.

You will recall at last year's AGM, I reported on the on-going support of The Presidents' Appeal, launched by Archie Smith and myself, to secure the funding of the Cadet.

You will see in the 2010 Accounts that this appeal raised the amazing sum of £15,582.00. I want to express the Club's appreciation to all those members who contributed so generously. As a result of this generosity, the future of the Cadet, in its current form and frequency, is secured for some four years.

However, there is still the matter of a shortfall in revenue after the exhaustion of the funds donated to the President's Appeal. To address this we launched the Teaser 100 Club almost exactly one year ago. I have to say, early subscription levels have been rather low and so we've have introduced a number of measures to make subscribing easier. The purpose of the Teaser Club is to provide on-going support for the Cadet, in the much longer term. It is important that as many people as possible join to ensure it provides the revenue required to secure the Club's financial health and the continuance of the Cadet as we know it.

Whilst on the subject of the Cadet, I would like to express the Club's sincere thanks to Matt Burrow. Matt, as Editor of the Cadet, has developed it to the form and quality we all enjoy today and for that Matt, we are very grateful. Over the past few months, he has successfully handed over the reins to his successor, Nick Hambleton who I know will continue to provide the standard of Editorial content and format that Matt has laid down.

Another feature of the Club which has been undergoing development is the Web site. You will have noticed the arrival of the Members secure Area, protected by Username and password.

This area of the web site is used to post the Annual Account, minutes of the AGM. This provides some helpful relief to the Cadet, as it enables more space in the magazine to be given over to news and articles etc. from members.

I want to thank Alfie Windsor for his work on the maintenance and development of the site.

I also want to thank all the members of the Committee for their enthusiasm and help during the year and particularly to those who aren't standing for re-election, I say thank you for your contribution to the Club's continued good health. In addition, I must thank the Officers of the Club for their commitment and support during the year.

I want to take this opportunity to make an appeal to younger members of the Club to get more involved in the direction and administration of the Club. Today we have nominations for three new members of the Committee, but we still need more, so if you have some time and some ideas to give please do come forward.

As a matter of order under the Club Rules, I must report the joining of a new Affiliate member to the Club.

He is, Lee Bradfield, who has been a recipient of sponsorship, under the Conway Merchant Navy Trust. He has completed his training and is working for Princess Cruises as a 3rd officer.

Finally, I wanted to tell you all that I believe we have identified the Club's Senior Hand. As you will be aware, the membership records can only be as accurate as the members make them. We do have a small, but significant section of "address unknown" in our records. Now Penny Reeves does sterling work, following up on returned copies of the Cadet and following up every lead to regain contact with members who don't keep us up to date with their addresses.

As a part of that work, Penny had identified a number of people on the Address List who might be the senior hand, but from whom we had no contact for some time, so there was always a chance they had crossed the bar.

To cut a long story short her investigations and subsequent contact with Rod Knight (25-26) seem to confirm he is the Club's Senior Hand. Rod lives on Vancouver Island and has just celebrated his 100th Birthday!

5. HON. TREASURER'S REPORT

I will first of all deal with the 2010 accounts which are before you. These were approved by your committee at its meeting on September 6th but I take this opportunity to apologise to members for the fact they were not available earlier in the year. This is almost entirely my responsibility due to a range of circumstances but there is really no excuse! There has been much correspondence on the fact that they are so out of date when presented at AGM's and later in the following Spring "Cadet" and I am pleased to be able to tell you that after discussions with the auditor, we plan to be able to publish the 2011 accounts by early April next year when they will be placed on the members own section of the website.

I will be happy to answer any questions you may have on these accounts or otherwise commend them to you as being approved by your committee.

Archie Smith asked Chris Smith to give a brief review of the background to the 2010 accounts. Chris responded that the year had opened with a surplus of £9700, due almost entirely to the Presidents' Appeal Fund. This surplus had been utilised to pay off two accounts outstanding from the 150th celebrations, namely, the September 2009 edition of the cadet and the cost of the silverware cabinet, procured to house the silverware in the Chapel and also to finance the extra edition of the cadet, circulated early in 2010, to report on the 150th celebrations.

Chris also went on to confirm that 2010 had not been a good year for the club's investment income and that at the end of that year the value had stood at just under £26K.

James Wright (42-44) then enquired what the cost of producing a normal edition of the Cadet was costing.

Chris Smith responded that the budget cost of £4K had to be allowed. Of this, some £1300 to £1400 was postage costs, which could not be reduced. He confirmed that the Publisher had negotiated some reductions in other elements of production; however, for budgeting purposes £4K was still used.

Capt.B.J. McAree (42-44) asked for clarification on the silverware valuation in the accounts.

Chris Smith explained that the assessors valuation of the Club's silverware stood at around £22K, which included allowance of its historic and sentimental value. However, on a sale basis, the valuation would be much lower and a figure of £1000 was in the accounts to reflect this. Chris also explained that the figure of £401 in the accounts covered insurance premiums and valuations.

Capt. D.T. Smith asked if the Club currently benefitted from Gift Aid status and, if not, could the Club register as a charitable organisations so that it did benefit.

Chris Smith responded that the Club did not currently qualify for Gift Aid relief and confirmed that he felt it most unlikely the Club would qualify for charitable status.

Chris Smith then proceeded to report on the Club's current position as follows:-

I am pleased to report that the position is sound. We currently hold close to £13,000 in cash accounts with all known liabilities, including the latest issue of the "Cadet" and tonight's dinner, paid. Unless there are any unforeseen or unbudgeted expenses, I expect we will end the year with a positive cash balance in excess of £15,000.

Our investments had a market value of £31,560 as of October 6th so in total we have current assets of just over £44,560.

Given that the stock market remains volatile we have made no changes to our investment portfolio in 2011 and although the decision to hold cash on deposit might be criticised we have remained cautious until we had a better feel for our ability to meet commitments. As it seems we are likely to end the year with a reasonable amount in our current account it is likely we shall go back to the market for further investment after taking advice from our professional advisor.

I am very pleased to advise that the "Teaser 100" club is gaining strength with already 75 subscribers going into the draw later this evening. I will be available at the end of this meeting to take cash or cheque payments from anyone who has not yet subscribed and wishes to be included tonight. One point I must make is that standing orders or bank transfers must have your name clearly stated. We have received subscriptions from 2 members that simply can't be identified so if you have paid but not received an formal acknowledgement please come and see me afterwards. Please spread the word and encourage others to subscribe as we are not limited to 100 members. Remember a membership of 100 provides nearly enough money for one edition of the "Cadet" so you can do the maths yourselves!

Questions were invited and Lt. Co. David Hilton (56-58) put the following on behalf of Bob Frost:-

Does the Conway Club employ an independent professional investment adviser, if so when was that appointment made?

Chris Smith responded that the Club had always employed one. Originally it had been a member of the Club, but that in 1994, when the Club's investments had been put in the hands of stockbrokers, Fiske & Partners, the role had been taken on by the account executive at Fiske & Partners.

From 1994, until his retirement in 2009, this had been Roger Tansley and since then has been Alex Irvine Fortesque.

Mr Fortesque, who heads a team of investment specialists, telephones Chris Smith on a regular basis and no investments decisions are made without taking his advice.

Following the Hon. Treasurer's remarks on the Teaser 100 Club, G.S .Brown (58-59) asked if the club should consider reducing the annual from its present £50 per annum.

In reply the President explained that the Club Committee had, at its recent meeting, discussed the Teaser Club at length. As a result of this review, a change had been made to the administration of it and early signs were that this change, plus steps taken to simplify payments from members abroad, had begun to show an increase in the numbers subscribing. Accordingly, the President considered that results of the recent changes should be given time to show through and be evaluated before other changes were made.

6. 2012 DINNER ARRANGEMENTS

The president announced that negotiations were advanced on the details for the 2012 Annual dinner and AGM It is to be held on Saturday 29th September 2012 at the Marriott Hotel Bristol.

Members were invited to watch for details and ticket application details in the Spring 2012 edition of the Cadet.

John Hanbridge (55-57) enquired whether the date had been checked for any conflicts with the Jewish calendar. The President said he was not aware that this would have been done as a matter of course, but would check with the Dinner Secretary, Mrs Mim Smith.

8. ELECTION OF OFFICERS & CLUB COMMITTEE (List attached)

The President invited members to view the current list of Officers and Committee members printed on the reverse of the agenda.

He went on to explain that John McCaughrean, who had not intended to stand for re-election, had recently undergone a successful medical procedure, and as a result of the improvement in his health, would be standing for re-election

The President confirmed that Ian Minchin had stood down as Hon Sec in March 2011, due to ill health. He also confirmed the Conrad Blakey was not standing for re-election due to pressure of other business and that Capt. David Owen had recently resigned.

The meeting was then invited to re-elect the Club Officers, namely, John McCaughrean and Alfie Windsor (Vice Presidents), Chris Smith (Hon treasurer) and David Stocks (Hon Secretary) Archie Smith proposed the motion, George Brown seconded it and the meeting adopted it.

The voting then progressed to the Committee members standing for re –election.

The motion was proposed by (name indistinguishable on the recording tape) seconded by Brian Bissell and the meeting adopted it.

Finally, a motion to elect the new members of the Committee, namely, David Pye, Nick Hambleton and Brendan Kenny was proposed by Mike Sanders, seconded by Archie Smith and adopted by the meeting.

The full list of Club Officers and Committee members is circulated with these minutes. The President then presented David Stocks with his badge of office as Hon. Secretary.

Archie Smith proposed a vote of thanks to the Officers of the Club for their work during the year. This was warmly received by those present.

Alfie Windsor asked that the President write to Capt. David Owen, who resigned recently, to thank him for his services to the Club over the years and particularly for his work as Chairman of the archives sub-committee. The President confirmed this would be done.

9. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Capt. BV.G. McAree (42-44) enquired if any further details of the late John Bullock (42-44) had come to light following his obituary in the Cadet. It was confirmed that little more than the information in his obituary was known of him.

Ernest barron (41-43) asked if information on the Club's older members, used recently to identify the Senior Hand was being kept updated for future use. The President confirmed that membership details were kept as up to date as possible, by the Hon. Secretary and Penny Reeves, particularly in connection with the circulation of the Cadet.

Ian Hopkinson (54-56) then briefed the meeting on a project being handled by the Vancouver Club.

This involves the grave of Harold Glyn Williams, a Conway, who lost his life in Vancouver at the end of the 19th century as a result of a fall from the yard of his ship.

The Vancouver club have located his grave, which requires some maintenance and repair. However, so far they have had no success in locating any of William's family to seek their permission for this work to be undertaken. There has been some dissention amongst members in Vancouver as to whether or not, in the absence of any contact with the family, it was appropriate for the Vancouver Club to undertake the works to the grave of this Old Conway.

Ian put the question to the meeting.

The meeting expressed their individual opinions by a show of hands which demonstrated a majority in favour of undertaking the works.

Ian thanked the meeting.

11. DATE & VENUE FOR THE NEXT AGM

The next AGM to be held at the Bristol Marriott Hotel on Saturday 29th September 2012.

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 1602