

THE CONWAY CLUB 101st ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
HELD AT THE Marriott Hotel Bristol
AT 1500 hrs. ON SATURDAY 25th September 2012

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

And 40 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

J Dickie, H. Lockwood, A. Burns, I. Minchin D Mathews, L Heath, D Harford, B. Bissell, R. Martin, D. Hewett, J. Heath, G. Haskins, R. Feather, M. Fraser. N. Saddington,

2. MINUTES OF THE 100th AGM Held At The St David's Hotel 8th October 2011

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 Archie Smith and seconded by Nick Hambleton and duly adopted.

3. MATTERS ARISING

There were no Matters Arising.

4. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

The President opened his report by explaining that it had been three years since he was elected to office and that his period of office was now at an end, the President announced that he would be handing over to his successor later in the proceedings. The President then thanked everyone for their support and help over the past three years, especially the officers and committee members of the club.

He appealed to the membership to try and encourage new blood into the club so as to ensure continuity for the future. Looking back over the past three years several initiatives had been put forward and completed in order to enhance both the club and its finances, the Cadet magazine had evolved into a vital link between members throughout the world, following on from the President's appeal the Teaser 100 club was now ensuring sufficient returns to support the production of the Cadet into the foreseeable future thanks must also go to the Treasurer for his vigilance in ensuring the budget was adhered to and generally looking after the money.

The President noted a vote of thanks to Alfie Windsor who was at the end of his term as Vice President and would be stepping down this year, Alfie had helped in many ways, from web master to Chairman of the Archives committee and more besides.

The Silver loans initiative would conclude this evening when a presentation is made to Kelly College of a piece of silverware this follows from two other such loans the first to the Lyme Regis Gig Club and the second to the South Liverpool Sea Cadets. The cups are to be known as the Conway Cup and presented to those showing outstanding achievement in sport. In this way it is hoped the memory of Conway will live on.

The President reflected on his visits to the branches of the Conway Club and how he was made welcome at all events and how the branch activity helped to keep the club going.

A recent invitation had been to the 150th anniversary of the Old Worcester's in Portsmouth, remarking that although an enjoyable event they were some 200 members short on the Conway's 150th gathering.

The other two members of the Conway family were the H.M.S. Conway Trust and the Friends of Conway, both doing sterling work to preserve the name of this club.

The President concluded by thanking everyone for making both Anne and the President welcome wherever they went.

5. HON. TREASURER'S REPORT

Chris Smith began by stating that the committee had approved the annual accounts in March 2012 and further they were now published on the web site for everyone to view. The report gives a clear account of the financial activities during 2012 David Holbert asked about the charges for Mizzen Mast electricity, the treasurer explained that when the mast was erected it had been agreed that the club would pay for the electricity illumination at a rate of £150 GBP although this was subsidised by Wirral county council.

The accounts had been previously approved and were adopted by the meeting proposed by Brendan Kenny and seconded by Chris Smith all were in favour.

The treasurer then reported on the year to date with a cash balance of £22, 4255.00

Investment £28313 as of yesterday recently having sold some poor performing shares investment committee intends to invest a further £15000 a large amount being new money from the remainder of the President's appeal as a defence against not having money to publish the Cadet.

The strategy for future investment was to dispose of the at risk element of the portfolio and to invest in future for the growth of the fund against income. At this moment we are generating enough cash to run the club and therefore growth is thought to be the way forward.

A positive balance in excess of £5000 is projected by the end of this year giving enough to keep the Cadet and the running of the club from cash flow.

The money being generated by savings made on publishing the Cadet and by a good return from the Teaser 100 club. Postage costs etc. will be monitored and reduced where possible and the Teaser100 club promoted as best it can so please join if you haven't already done so.

6) HON SECRETARY'S REPORT

The Secretary made reference to this being his first year in office and having learnt quite a lot in the process as with most members being just a member didn't necessarily mean you knew about the workings of the club.

DS reported that the sad part of the job was being notified of Old Conway's and members who had "crossed the bar" particularly as forty two old Conway's had been reported as Crossing the bar since the 2011 AGM. On a brighter note it was reported that six new members had joined the club namely: Edward Harrison 56-58, Michael D Omissi 60-62, Andrew Hines 2008-2012 an affiliate member and ex sponsored cadet, John Maldwyn Hughes 54-56, John Gardner 56-58 and finally Stephen Copeland 60-62.

In addition to this various Conway's had sent interesting anecdotes and material for the Cadet one of which was a collection of letters home from a Cadet which DS reported he could relate to although quite a number of years had passed between these letters and his time on the Conway.

The President confirmed, as required by the Club Rules, the enrolment of a new Affiliate member, Andrew Hines

.Andrew is a cadet sponsored by the Merchant Navy Conway Trust, who has completed his training and therefore eligible for affiliate membership of the Conway Club

A question was put forward concerning the Canadian Coast Guard Conway Gold Medal winner and as to his eligibility for honorary membership. The President confirmed that this had not been the case in recent years at least not within his memory, it was agreed to discuss this at the next committee meeting. In addition research would be done and the event highlighted in the Cadet.

7) 2013 AGM AND ANNUAL DINNER

The AGM and Dinner will be on Saturday the 12th October 2013 at the Edinburgh Marriott Hotel, the Treasurer reported that the team had vetted the Hotel and it was provided with good transport links both to and from the airport and the centre of Edinburgh for ladies who do shopping.

8) ELECTION OF OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE MEMBERS.

The President informed those present of the following: At the end of the year the current president stands down and the committee has recommended that Chris Smith be President from the beginning of 2013 this was approved by all members present and therefore officially adopted. Chris said what a great honour it was for him to take on the role of the Conway Club President and that he would do his utmost to uphold the spirit of Conway during his three-year term of office.

The Vice Presidents are also at the end of their 3-year term of office. However, as covered by rule 7, a Vice President may serve a further year if that is considered appropriate by the Committee. In this instance it is considered appropriate in order to avoid a complete change of Officers. Alfie Windsor will stand down and John McCaughrean will remain for a further year.

The committee recommends that Matt Burrow is elected Vice President, the members present were asked to vote on this recommendation and this was approved by all making the election of Matt Burrow as Vice President official we wish Matt well for the future. A vote of thanks was proposed to Alfie Windsor for all his help both as VP and in other capacities within the club.

John Heath a member of the committee has resigned as of today and does not wish to stand for re-election, the remaining committee members are willing to stand for re-election. Those present were asked once more to approve. All present voted in favour. It was proposed that the President write to John Heath giving the members appreciation of all his hard work whilst a member of the committee.

Archie Smith, having reached the end of his term as Immediate Past President, volunteered to stand down from the Committee. However, the committee recommended that he remain a member, to continue his valuable work as Chairman of the Investments Committee. This was formally approved by a majority vote of those present and Archie was duly elected as a member.

Archie Smith proposed a vote of thanks to the President and the Vice President standing down for their work in leading the club over the past three years, this was approved and applauded by all members.

Finally Brendan Kenny had agreed to fill the new vacancy for Hon treasurer this was accepted and approved by the committee, well done Brendan.

9) AOB.

George Brown made the meeting aware of the plight of George Donaldson who living on Merseyside was taken to hospital and had no immediate family to help and the local Conway's were not made aware of his plight. George asked if perhaps local branches should look out for their members and asked that this be noted.

Brian McAree proposed that instead of an annual dinner an annual luncheon or tea dance is held. Chris Smith noted that at sometime in the future an alternative might have to be considered and asked for a vote on the continuation of the event as it stands today. The majority voted in favour of the status quo. The point was debated by various members making alternative suggestions and Terry Powell stating that his wife told him that since they moved to Canada they had seen more of the UK than ever they did when they lived here.

Simon Douglas Lane welcomed the completion of refurbishments to the Five Training Ships Memorial at the National Arboretum in Staffordshire. The Five Ships being Conway, Worcester, Pangbourne, Mercury and General Botha.

Clive Plummer asked the meeting if he could destroy secret voting papers and other documents after six years. This was agreed.

Mike Reeves asked that all present take time to look at the missing Conway's list to see if they know of the whereabouts of anyone listed.

10) Date and venue of next meeting

The next AGM to be held at the Edinburgh Marriott Hotel on Saturday 12th October 2013.

There being no other business, the meeting was closed