

THE CONWAY CLUB 102st ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
HELD AT THE Marriott Hotel Edinburgh
AT 1600 hrs. ON SATURDAY 12th October 2013

Present:	Chris Smith	President
	Matt Burrow	Vice-President
	Brendan Kenny	Hon. Treasurer

Pus 45 other Members.

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

Prior to commencing the meeting, The President asked all to be upstanding to remember in silence ,the passing since the last AGM of both of the Club`s Hon Patrons along with all Conways and their families who had been bereaved.

The President then advised the meeting that apologies had been received from David Stocks, the Hon Sec., and that in his absence, the minutes would be taken by Tom mason (56-59)

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

R. Martin, J. Southwood, D. Matthews, D. Edwards, B.A.S. Matthews, D. Stocks, J. McCaughrean, G. Haskins

2. MINUTES OF THE 101st AGM Held at the Marriott Hotel Bristol 29th September 2012

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 accepted by the members, by a show of hands, subject to the correction of the date shown on the minutes as the date of the meeting to Saturday 28th September

3. MATTERS ARISING

There were no matters arising.

4. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

It`s my first year as your President and I want to thank my predecessor`s for their advice and help in taking up my role. It has been a very interesting year to date.

The 60th anniversary of the loss of the ship, held in Beaumaris in mid-April was an enormous success and thanks for that must go to Alfie Windsor for his impeccable organisation. The event was well attended and provided an ideal opportunity to visit the Conway Centre. Both the Conway Centre and the National Trust site at Plas Newydd now have extensive displays of Conway memorabilia and are well worth a visit, particularly if you haven`t made the trip since you were at school there!

The weather over the weekend was difficult and sadly forced the cancellation of the planned boat trip on the straits. However, Revd. Simon Douglas Lane and I did manage to lay a wreath in the straits.

There was also a fascinating presentation of the sad events surrounding the loss of the ship by Alfie Windsor, followed by a contribution from the grandson of the Straits Pilot on the diving activities which have taken place on the wreck site. The culmination of the event was a reception at the Royal Anglesey Yacht Club and lunch in the Bulkeley Arms hotel,

That event was closely followed by the B.O.A. 70 weekend in Liverpool, when thousands gathered in the city to commemorate the sacrifice made by the Merchant and Royal Navies, in what was the longest campaign of World War 2.

It was very moving to follow the service in the Cathedral and the march past afterwards, with the Princess Royal taking the salute, was very impressive. I have to say, the Conway Ensign, paraded in true Conway style by David Holbert really stood out.

The next event was the Kelly College luncheon; when the headmaster of the college hosts a luncheon for the South West Branch of the Conway Club and their ladies. The headmaster, Dr. Hawley, is a great supporter of all things Conway and it was a most enjoyable occasion.

This year, the Club has lost both its Hon. Patrons. Your committee will be considering the invitation of a new Patron, but this requires further deliberations before any decision is taken.

We are also considering the appointment of additional Honorary Vice Presidents. The Club currently has one Hon. Vice President, Haydn Lockwood, and will be considering the appointment of others, from amongst the membership, who have given dedicated service to the Club and the furthering of its aims. However, more about that at a future date.

Finally, a view has been growing amongst members, endorsed by me, that the days of annual events in the form of our current annual dinner and dance, may be coming to an end. Members tell me they find it expensive and as time passes more find the travel difficult. Your committee will be reviewing the format of the AGM Dinner over the next 12 months.

5. 2012 AUDITED ACCOUNTS

The 2012 Audited Accounts had been accepted by the Club Committee at their meeting on Aug 6th and copies had been issued to members arriving at the AGM.

The President explained that the reasonable surplus for the year and net asset value in excess of £60K were the result of improving market conditions for our investments along with the re investment of the balance of the Presidents Appeal Fund. The balance of this fund is now ring fenced to safeguard the financing of future editions of the cadet.

There being no questions on the accounts, the President invited members to accept them and this was duly done by a show of hands

6. HON. TREASURER'S REPORT

Whilst the formal Treasurer's Report for the 2012 year had been prepared by Chris Smith, the Hon Treasurer for the period, as part of the Audited accounts, the new Hon Treasurer, Brendan Kenny introduced himself to the meeting with an encouragement to all to approach him with any questions they may have on the Club's accounts. He went on to announce that the Club's finances are in reasonably good shape, thanks in large part to continuing support of the Teaser Club. He did make a request that members remember to convert their

original stake into an annual standing order, particularly as income from the Teaser club was slightly down this year. He also reported a number of requests to enable the £50 stake to be paid monthly, at a rate of £5 per month. Finally he drew member's attention to the increase in the value of the Club's investment portfolio to £49,400 at this time

7. HON SECRETARY'S REPORT

In the absence of the Hon Secretary, there was no report.

8. REVISIONS TO CLUB RULES

Vice President John McCaughrean has undertaken an exercise to revise the Club rules. Essentially, the purpose was to amend the rules as necessary to more carefully reflect the process of the election of the club's officers and also to reduce the size of the committee to suit the diminishing number of members of the club.

The amendments proposed by John were approved by the committee and published in the last issue of the Cadet. The proposals, as published in the Cadet, did not draw any comment from the membership.

The proposals were circulated to the AGM in a document entitled "Agenda Item 8 Amendments to Rules."

At this point, the President invited V.P. Matt Burrow to present the matter to the meetings and take any questions

The first question, put by M.Bloy (71-74), focused on the amendments to Rule 23 and to clarify the effect of requiring any matter, which required an AGM decision, being put to the membership at least six weeks before the meeting.

Matt burrow explained that this was an effort to enfranchise those members who are not able to attend the meeting, by giving them the opportunity to put their points to the debate.

The point was further emphasised by Alfie Windsor (64-68) who pointed out that any matter brought up during an AGM, which required a formal decision would have to be dealt with at the next AGM, having been duly published in the Cadet beforehand.

The discussion was continued by Dennis Hewitt (52-54), who agreed the proposal re Rule 28 would broaden the franchise. In response to his question as to whether any representations had been made to the AGM under the amendment, Matt replied in the negative.

Nick Goodwin (68-70) raised the issue of postal voting for the AGM, to which Matt burrow explained that earlier investigations into the viability of postal voting had revealed it was far too expensive and time consuming to use. Nick also enquired as to whether proxy voting could be used. Matt responded that it was not accepted under the current club rules.

Brian McAree (42-44) enquired if voting might be undertaken via Email. The President responded that Email addresses are notoriously changeable and that the Club does not seek to maintain up to date Email addresses for members.

Clive Plummer (67-72) rounded off the discussion by welcoming the improved franchise for the wider membership that the proposals would bring.

The President put the amendments to the meeting for approval.

It was seconded by Mike Sanders (58-61)

The meeting approved the amendments by a unanimous show of hands.

9. ELECTION OF OFFICERS & COMMITTEE MEMBERS

The President explained to the members that, amongst the officers of the club, he, along with one Vice President, Matt Burrow and the Hon Treasurer, Brendan Kenny were prepared to continue to serve in office.

One Vice president, John McCaughrean had completed four years in post and wished to stand down.

There was one proposal to replace John McCaughrean as Vice president and that is Michael Reeves.

In the case of the Hon Secretary, David Stocks had tendered his resignation and Tom mason had volunteered to take on the post.

The president asked the meeting to approve the two changes and this was done by a show of hands.

The President then explained that the recently approved rule changes had reduced the number of committee members to 10.

Of those 10, 8 existing members, Alan Burns, Geoff Cowap, Ken Huggins, Archie Smith, Rob Tubb, Nick Hambleton, David Pye and Alfie Windsor were willing to continue in post.

Thus two vacancies exist. Two proposals had been received, one for Neil Smith to become a new member of the committee and one for John McCaughrean to be returned to the committee.

The President asked for approval of these two changes and this was given by a show of hands.

The President then announced that the search to find a person to take responsibility for the preparation of obituaries for inclusion in the Cadet had finally produced an eminently suitable candidate in the person of Revd. Simon Douglas lane, our Hon. Chaplain.

As Simon is an Honorary Conway he is not entitled to full membership of the committee, but in view of the responsibility he will be shouldering, the President proposed he be co-opted onto the committee.

Maurice Cornish asked who was the first point contact to whom members should report the death of a Conway

The Hon Secretary explained the first person to contact is to be himself and that he would then ensure that the following people were informed:-

- The Club members, via the Chat line etc., so that any who wished to attend could be informed of funeral arrangements

- The local Club Branch, who may be requested to make an Ensign available to cover the coffin and will also assist in spreading the word.
- Rob Tubb, so that a condolence card can be sent, provided that the report is not received too late for this to be appropriate.
- The Friends of Conway, so that the bereaved family can be invited to the next Annual Memorial Service in the Conway Chapel. Also that the family may be invited to subscribe to a memorial plaque in the chapel.
- The Hon Chaplain, so that an obituary can be produced, or an existing one used as appropriate, for the next issue of the Cadet
- Penny Reeves, to ensure that the membership list is updated.

Reg Houlder(56-58) did enquire if the Hon Chaplain would enjoy voting rights on the Committee, to which, the president replied, no, as this was not permitted for Honorary Conways.

Under this item, the President said he wished to offer a vote of thanks, on behalf of all the members of the Conway Club to Terry Powell, who was standing down from the committee.

The President paid tribute to Terry's sterling work in travelling great distances and spending so much time in support of the Club Committee.

His remarks drew a round of applause from the members for Terry.

Terry went on to remind members of the dates of the upcoming Conway Reunion to be held in Vancouver in late June 2014. He urged those intending to attend to ensure they completed and submitted the expression of interest forms.

10. 2014 AGM AND ANNUAL DINNER

The President announced that the 2014 AGM and Dinner will be held at the Bournemouth Marriott Hotel over the weekend Friday 10th, Sat 11th and Sunday 12th October 2014.

The weekend rate will include supper on Friday evening in addition to the Dinner on Saturday. He also announced there will not be a band after Dinner on the Saturday, due to the rising costs of suitable bands and the declining popularity of the dance part of the evening amongst members.

11. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

a) It was confirmed that, as a result of the rule changes adopted earlier in the meeting, it was now necessary for the summer edition of the Cadet to be circulated at least 2 months ahead of the AGM.

b) Reg Holder proposed a special vote of thanks to Alfie Windsor for his continuing work on behalf of the Club and the membership.

c) A. Morris (52-54) invited members to consider joining with the existing 52-54 Golf Group, which is seeking extra members. The president suggested an advert in the Cadet.

d) David Tink said he had received two copies of the latest edition of the Cadet. It was concluded, this was because the Friends of Conway had sent out copies to subscribers and David had received one of these in addition to the normal one he received as a member of the Conway Club. The Friends of Conway to be asked not to send additional copies to subscribers who were also Club members

e) Phil Nicholas enquired about the possibility of an electronic version of the cadet for people like him, who moved about frequently away from home. The President explained that the committee were considering options to produce an adjunct to the current H.M.S. Conway website, to be used purely for diary functions and possibly carrying copies of the Cadet. Alfie Windsor reminded the meeting that the website already carries the Cadet magazine.

f) Haydn Lockwood suggested that copies of the cadet magazine should carry a price tag of £3.00, to remind members of the of the cost involved in producing and distributing each copy. Maurice Cornish suggested the tag should read "Cost £3.00"

The President confirmed the committee will consider the proposition.

g) The Hon Secretary passed a message he had received from B.A.S. Matthews, received during his recent visit to the U.K., proposing a vote of thanks to the President, Officers and members of the Committee for their hard work on behalf of the Club.

h) In the same vein, The President read from a message from John McCaughrean, in which John invited all members to enjoy Edinburgh and have a great party. He also thanked the membership for allowing him to serve 4 years as a Vice President of the Club, which he said had been a great honour for him.

i) Steve Barnet (65-68) enquired if it would be possible for the members name tags to carry their Christian names instead of just the initial. Archie Smith confirmed he would pass the request to Mim Smith, the Dinner Secretary.

j) Mike Reeves (56-59) had circulated a list of Club members with whom contact has been lost. He urged those present to study the list and provide any information they could as to the present whereabouts of the people on the list.

12. DATE & VENUE OF NEXT MEETING

The Bournemouth Marriott Hotel, Bournemouth on Saturday 11th October 2014

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 17.01