

THE CONWAY CLUB 106th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
HELD AT THE St. Georges Hotel, Llandudno
AT 1600 hrs. ON SATURDAY 7th October 2017

Present:	Conrad Blakey	President
	Neil Smith	Vice-President
	David Fawcitt	Vice-President
	Matt Burrow	Hon. Treasurer
	Tom Mason	Hon Secretary

Pus 49 other Members.

In opening the meeting, the President welcomed members to the annual AGM event.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Pippa Nicholas (xx-xx)

2. MINUTES OF THE 105th AGM Held at the High Cliff Marriott Hotel Bournemouth on 15th October 2015

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.

3. MATTERS ARISING

There were no matters arising.

4. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

The President opened by congratulating Capt. Geoff Cowap (54-56) on his receipt of the prestigious Merchant Navy Medal, for meritous service to the careers of young seafarers. The award had been presented at a ceremony by her Royal Highness the Princess Royal.

The meeting applauded the award and the President agreed to write to Capt. Cowap, congratulating him on behalf of the Club.

The President also congratulated Archie Smith (64-66) on his installation as Prime Warden of the Worshipful Company of Shipwrights.

To mark the opening of his term of office, The President then highlighted 4 important initiatives which he wished the Club Committee to pursue. These are: -

- To work actively to increase the membership of the Club
- To make further cost savings (more about those later)
- Improve the take-up of membership of the Teaser club
- Encourage more younger members to accept offices within the Committee.

The President went on to report on his attendance of the Conway Worcester Pangbourne Reunion held on Vancouver Island earlier this year. It had provided an opportunity to meet with senior members of the Worcester's Club who are keen to promote joint activities and events with ourselves due to shrinking membership. The President suggested that closer ties with the Worcester is where to be encouraged.

He went on to tell members two committee meetings have been held during the course of the year, with one under the chairmanship of Chris Smith (58-60) the Immediate Past President and one under his own chairmanship when the initiatives mentioned above were been adopted by the full committee.

The President advised that he would be formally opening the refurbished Conway House at Mount Kelly College, Tavistock the following week. The house, originally a boarding house for the pupils of years 9-11, has been refurbished to act as a House for day pupils in future. He also advised members that a good contingent of Conways will be present at the re-opening, including the majority of the members of the Committee. He went on to explain that the Club is investing considerable effort in establishing closer relationships with Mount Kelly College and to that end is considering making available an additional cup for sporting activities, for which Mount Kelly is well known.

Finally, the President returned to one of the important initiatives, namely cost savings. He explained that the cost of producing and circulating the Cadet magazine around the world is a significant part of the Club's expenditure each year. An investigation by the Publisher has revealed that by changing the format of the magazine from the existing A5 to A4 format a saving of £500 pounds per annum could be made in printing costs. Thus, the edition of the Cadet magazine, due out in early 2018, will be A4 format.

A member did report he had heard that postage costs for periodicals are much more competitive from Netherlands than from the U.K. The President agreed this should be investigated.

5. 2016 AUDITED ACCOUNTS

The President prefaced the Hon. Treasurer's report by explaining that, due to a serious systems hack, the Club's 2016 Annual Accounts had only become available to the committee the previous day. However, the committee have adopted the accounts, which are now to be put before the members present.

6. HON. TREASURER'S REPORT

The Hon Treasurer opened by inviting members to join with him in a vote of thanks to the Club's Hon. Inspector, Clive Plummer (67-72) who had done an excellent job in preparing and inspecting the accounts in such a short time, following the delays cause by the system hack at the Hon treasurer's offices. Members present responded enthusiastically.

The Treasurer went on to report that investment income was up for the year, that there had been a major increase in generous donations to Club funds and that the income from the Teaser Club had very nearly met the cost of producing and circulating the Cadet magazine.

He took the opportunity to encourage those who were not already members of the Teaser Club to join to help boost its income to meet the target of fully funding the cost of the Cadet.

The Treasurer reported that costs over the year had remained relatively flat and this had resulted in a surplus of £7316.00.

In addition, the value of the investment portfolio had risen from £52 K to 60 K.

With these very positive results Hon-Treasurer reported he had no hesitation in recommending the accounts to members present.

The accounts were adopted unanimously.

At this point, Clive Plummer (67-72) explain to members that following is retirement he was unsure how long the Club could expect his old partnership to inspect the accounts. He went on to explain that at some time the partnership may wish to make a charge this work. He looked forward to discussions with the Club committee on how this should be handled.

7. HON SECRETARY'S REPORT

The Hon. Secretary commenced by asking members to heed the Presidents message about the importance of recruiting new members to the Club. This year six new members have been successfully added to the list. He went on to explain that anyone knowing a Conway who may not be a member of the Club can establish from the Hon Sec. whether they ever did join the Club or have just disappeared from the membership list over the years.

He also reported that, sadly, during the course of last year: 49 members have crossed the bar. This last fact brought to mind the fact that the late Capt. Ian Nash, who crossed the bar immediately after attending the dedication of the commemorative window on Bangor pier I left a bequest in his will of £1000 to the club.

The President confirmed he had written the sister of the late Capt. Ian Nash, expressing the Club's gratitude for the generous bequest.

8. ELECTION OF OFFICERS & COMMITTEE MEMBERS

The President invited the Hon. Sec. to outline the process for the re-election of Officers of the Club and Members of the Committee. The Hon. Sec. reported as follows:-

- The President is in mid-term and therefore eligible for annual re-election. In the absence of any other nominations this may be undertaken by acclamation of those present.
- The two Vice Presidents in mid-term and thus are eligible for annual re-election in the same manner as the President.
- Chris Smith, as Immediate Past President is invited to attend committee meetings for that period of his successors presidency.
- The Hon. Sec. and Hon Treasurer are ex officio members of the committee and have both indicated their willingness to continue to serve in their posts.

The elected members of the committee, namely, Geoff Cowap, Archie Smith, Rob Tubb, Nick Hambleton, David Pye, Alfie Windsor, John McCaughrean Mike Reeves have all indicated their willingness to serve and again and, in the absence of any other nominees, maybe re-elected by acclamation.

The above was undertaken my unanimous acclamation from the floor of the meeting.

There being a vacancy on the committee for one elected member, Neil Grayson (71-74) confirmed his interest in serving as a member and accepted an invitation from the President to attend the next meeting of the committee as an observer.

9. RULE 15 REPORT

The President Opened the matter my explaining the background. It relates to a long running disagreement between the Committee and a Club member for the return of a piece of memorabilia, namely the Calcutta Cup.

Despite lengthy correspondence between the committee and the member, he has not only refused to return the item but also engaged in thoroughly unpleasant tactics.

The Calcutta Cup was originally loaned to the Lyme Regis Gig Club some years ago as a trophy to be competed for by young teams of rowers. Unfortunately, it became known to the committee that the trophy had fallen into disuse and it was therefore decided to recover it.

It was at this stage that the Calcutta Cup came into the hands of this member who has resolutely refused to return it to the Club.

Under Rule 15 of the Club Rules, the Committee has the power to remove from the list of members any person whose conduct, after full investigation, is deemed to have been detrimental to the interest or reputation of the Conway Club. The rule also requires that if such action is taken by the Committee, shall be reported to the next AGM at which meeting there shall be the right of appeal against the Committee's decision.

The President confirmed that the member had been informed in writing(via registered post) of his right to appeal against this action but this letter had not been acknowledged.

A member present enquired the name of the person in question and was informed that he was Capt. Brian L Friend (54-57)

Thus, the President invited the meeting to confirm the Committee's action in removing his name from the list of members. The meeting did this unanimously.

There was some general discussion as to whether the action taken would serve to recover the Calcutta Cup. The President expressed the opinion that it was unlikely in the circumstances.

10. 2018 AGM AND ANNUAL DINNER

The President invited the Hon. Dinner Secretary, Mrs Mim Smith, to give members a preview of the arrangements for next year's AGM and Dinner.

Mim confirmed the event will be held in Newcastle Upon Tyne on Saturday October 13th 2018 at the Gosforth Park Marriott hotel. The Saturday trip will be to the Trinity House facility in Newcastle and final details will be included in the next routine issue of the Cadet.

11. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Archie Smith opposed a vote of thanks to the officers of the club for their work during the year. This word is greeted with applause from those present.

There being no other business the meeting was closed

.12. DATE & VENUE OF NEXT MEETING

The Gosforth Park Marriott Hotel, Newcastle Upon Tyne.

1600 hrs Saturday 13th October 2018