

Minutes of the AGM 14th February 2017 @ 12.30 pm

Apologies: Margaret Wright Jackie Abbott Diana Martin Rosita Burton Katherine Buckridge Sue Walsh Jenny Turner Barbara Halliwell Claire Cooper Kris Barnett Paddy Harrison

Chairman: Pam opened the official AGM by welcoming 53 members of the club, Andy Jones, Manager of the Leisure Centre and Clare Whitlock, Publicity Officer for Places for People Leisure.

Chairman's report:

Pam thanked both members and teachers for the success of the past year due to everyone's efforts. Special thanks to Stephanie Wilson who, after resigning as Chairman last year, now wished to step down from all her duties on the committee for personal reasons. She would be much missed and Pam presented Steph with flowers, she will continue to teach. We welcome two new teachers, Freya and Teresa Barnham. Promotional events at the Haywards Heath Spring Festival and Town Day. Thanks to Jackie Cooper for organising these. We need the members to boost the viability of the club.

Andy Jones then spoke about the long association of the club (almost 40 years) with the leisure centre and his continuing support to help keep our numbers up and to assist where they can with our finances by giving us free use of the halls for our committee meetings and the AGM. We have had several publicity days by setting up advertising in the entrance lobby. He mentioned his publicity officer, Clare Whitlock, who will ensure that our club is mentioned in their website newsletter and Facebook page. Any further ideas that we may have should be given to Clare who will assist in any way she can.

Andy also touched on the promised refurbishments which had been approved and will hopefully be implemented soon. (Ladies toilets dry side) He is always willing to listen to our requests.

Election of Officers: All were willing to stand again with the exception of Stephanie Wilson, Health & Safety Officer. Chairman, Membership Secretary, Treasurer, Secretary and Newsletter Editor were re-elected with a show of hands. The rest of the committee were re-elected en bloc. Lorna Towner and Lynne Adams were additional committee members elected. A former committee member, Yvonne Ray, has agreed to become Health and Safety officer for the upkeep of the Health Forms only. Stephanie's other duties will be divided amongst committee members.

Reports from Committee members and Ardingly are filed separately with this report. Jackie Cooper added to her report: - "We didn't issue a cheque after the last AGM so we 'owe' Tear Fund £200 leaving us with a deficit for last year not a small profit."

Chairman then proposed a change to the wording of the constitution under 'Powers of the Club' Rule two line 2 to now read, 'with a sub committee of teaching and non-teaching members' (instead of 'with a sub-committee of four teachers and two non-teaching club members'). This was carried unanimously.

She spoke of the need to encourage more members to consider training to teach, the club pays half the fees upon a guarantee that qualified teachers commit to staying with the club for at least a year. The club will be losing several teachers who become 75 years of age in the next 2/3 years - insurance cover is only provided for teachers up to this age.

There has been a proposal that we celebrate 40 years of the club @ the Dolphin Leisure Centre by organising a morning of challenges, on Tuesday 25th April, for all classes to include 40 sets or activities chosen by the class and their teacher. A celebration cake(s) will be on poolside for all including centre staff who have given friendly and proactive support to our club over the years. Ardingly members are welcome to come and join in. Margaret Carter will make a main cake but other teachers will contribute cup-cakes.

Due to the falling membership and rising costs it will be necessary to raise the fees from £40 to £43 next term and then a further £2 in September to £45.

Ardingly will celebrate their 25 years on 25th May at the end of the Summer term, when parking will be easier and extra pool time will be available, with a Celebration Gala. Tuesday ladies are welcome and refreshments will be on hand. A free swim is available afterwards.

Sue Coppinger had organised a quiz which was greatly enjoyed during the coffee morning pre AGM and gave prizes to the worthy winners. Thanks to Sue for this excellent entertainment.

The raffle was then drawn and remaining cakes were sold off at cut prices.

The charities to benefit from the sale of raffle tickets and cakes were 'Harambee for Kenya'; our treasurer's chosen charity which she supports in a practical way by staying in Kenya and helping Kenyan Street Boys. Also the committee chose the new Patchwork Farm @ Chailey Heritage.

The raffle made £288 and Coffee & cake £163.90, a grand total of £451.90 - half to each charity.

The meeting closed @ 1.10 pm