

Minutes of the Coleraine Probus Club AGM

Held in Portstewart Golf Club on Tuesday 28th January 2014

Attendance: 38 members were present.

Apologies: Arnold Carson, Ronnie Gray, Hamilton Houston, Dermot Jennings, Aubrey McElhinney, Gareth Parry, Robin Semple, Tony Smyth, Cecil Spotten, Ross Torrens and Joe Wishart. (11)

The President, Graham Kane welcomed guest, Peter FitzGerald our temporary Rotary Club Liaison Officer, and Probus members to the 2014 Annual General Meeting.

Minutes: The minutes of the meeting of the AGM of 29th January 2013 were read, agreed and signed.

Matters arising: None not covered by the agenda

Treasurer's Report: The Treasurer, Nigel Semple talked through the audited accounts for the members. A copy of the summary had been distributed to members before the meeting began - a further copy is attached to these minutes. Nigel noted that most items in the accounts were similar to previous years, but one had changed. This was 'Bank Charges'. This was because the bank now imposed a charge on our account, even though it was always in credit. However, Nigel could report that he had managed to get a 50% discount for this year (and hopefully for the future?). Nigel wanted to thank Graham for checking the accounts and his support during the year. In view of the careful expenditure over the year, Nigel was not proposing an increase in club subs of £25 for the coming year.

Secretary's Report: The Secretary, Mike Turner read his report on Club activities and membership for 2013 / 14 - a copy of which is attached to the minutes.

Questions: As a point of information, Ken Parkes mentioned that the accounts did not have an item for 'P.A. System running costs' - this was because he had managed to get a replacement battery and other items from his own store of spares or from friends. Ken was thanked for this help to the club. Cecil Leitch thought it should also be mentioned that Ken is thankfully, carrying on the pioneering and much valued help for the club, started by Ian Murray. The members showed their appreciation.

Adoption: Members were asked if the club should adopt both the Treasurer's and Secretary's reports. Norman Maxwell proposed the acceptance, and this was seconded by Reggie Patterson. The proposal was carried unanimously.

Outgoing President: Graham Kane took the opportunity of this, the last time he would be chairing a club meeting, to thank committee and all the members for their support during the year. He had thought this was going to be a difficult job, but the club members made it both easy and a real pleasure. The two highlights from the year for Graham were the 25th Anniversary Meal and the Athlone Rally. Both of these were notable for their splendid fellowship and great 'Craic'. Graham wanted to give special thanks to John McHenry and John Dobson for the splendid speakers and press coverage, as well as Nigel as treasurer and the support received from Gordon as Vice President. The President then formally declared all the current officer and committee posts vacant, and asked Peter FitzGerald to conduct the elections for the new club post holders in the new 2014 Probus year.

Elections: Our temporary Rotary Liaison Officer, Peter FitzGerald took the chair and said that the Coleraine Rotary Club were actively looking for a replacement Liaison Officer, hopefully this would be arranged fairly shortly. Peter then proceeded with the elections:

Results of Election of Club Office Bearers and Committee

Position:		Proposed by:	Secinded by:
President	Gordon Ward	Graham Kane	Mervyn Patterson
Vice President	John Graham	Gordon Ward	Jim Gordon
2 nd Vice President	Mike Turner	John Graham	Graham Kane
Hon Secretary	Mike Turner	Jim Gordon	Nigel Semple
Assistant Secretary	Graham McDonald	John McHenry	Cecil Leitch
Hon Treasurer	Nigel Semple	Graham Kane	Norman Maxwell
Accounts Examiner	Graham Kane	Nigel Semple	Jim Gordon

Elected Committee Members:

Speaker Secretary	John McHenry	Nigel Semple	Reggie Patterson
Events / Catering	Jim Gordon	John Dobson	Bob McIvor
Welfare	Cecil Spotten	Jim Gordon	John Ludlow
	Tony Smyth		
Press Officer	John Dobson	Mike Turner	Nigel Semple

The immediate past President automatically becomes an ex-officio member of committee
The Club Committee has powers to co-opt members to the committee for special events and / or additional Club Sub-Committees.

Presentation: Peter FitzGerald congratulated Gordon on becoming President and thanked Graham for asking him to preside over the elections.
New President Gordon Ward thanked Peter FitzGerald for conducting the elections and the members for electing him as president.

Investiture: Graham Kane invested the incoming president Gordon with the chain of office. Gordon then went on to present Graham Kane with a 'Past President's Plaque' and badge.

Presidents Address: New President Gordon Ward said that it was good to see the members in front of him, and said that he must give a big thank you to Graham and all the members for the appointment of President. Gordon said that this was going to be another special year in the club's history, which has its roots in our 25th Anniversary year, and that is the All Ireland Rally. This special one off event reminded Gordon of the London Olympics. Like the Olympics, the Rally is not just about the delegates attending, it's also about the people that make it possible - the volunteers that do the welcoming, the making people feel 'at home' and all the 'behind the scenes' work. 2014 is going to be a year when we need to call upon the members to be those volunteers, and he was sure the club would meet that challenge with honours.

Any other business: None

Next AGM: Will be the AGM on 27th January 2015 at the Portstewart Golf Club.
10.30 for 11.00

The new President thanked members and Peter FitzGerald for attending, then closed the meeting at 12.00 midday.

SIGNED: John Graham

DATE: 27th January 2015