

Minutes of the Coleraine Probus Club AGM

Held in Portstewart Golf Club on Tuesday 27th January 2015

Attendance: 41 members were present.

Apologies: Norman Austin, Leslie Brennan, Noel Finlay, Jim Foote, Jack Henderson, Des Johnston, John McGlade, Tony Smyth. (8)

The President, Gordon Ward welcomed guest, Peter FitzGerald our Rotary Club Liaison Officer, and Probus members to the 2015 Annual General Meeting.

Minutes: The minutes of the meeting of the AGM of 28th January 2014 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. Nigel wanted to thank Graham Kane 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, but said this may not be possible to maintain unless we actively encouraged an increase in membership.

Secretary's Report: The Secretary, Mike Turner read his report on Club activities and membership for 2014 / 15 - a copy of which is attached to the minutes.

Questions: There were no questions to either the Treasurer or Secretary as such, but several members wanted to congratulate Nigel and Graham for their careful handling of the accounts during the Rally year. Some members also thought the club web site was very good.

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 Cecil Spotten. The proposal was carried unanimously.

Outgoing President: Gordon Ward 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 a particularly busy year. Gordon said that it seemed a lifetime ago from when he first faced the members from the President's chair. Gordon then went on to review the year, which was a momentous one in the club's history. The outstanding success of the rally was not without it's ups and downs. The lowest spot was learning just a few weeks from the Rally that we would not be able to use the 'Bann Gallery' in the Council Offices - although that did end up as a bonus, with the Mayor and Council paying for the reception in the Lodge Hotel. The undoubted highlight was James Nesbitt's talk at the rally (James junior, that is!). The Club 'outing' to Bushmills Distillery was also a highlight for Gordon, as it seemed a good way for the club to say 'thank you' to the distillery for all their help with the Rally. 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 2015 Probus year.

Elections: Our Rotary Liaison Officer, Peter FitzGerald took the chair and thanked the club for the opportunity to conduct the club elections once again. Peter also said that he was delighted at the success of the rally, and hoped that the club would have a substantial presence at the 2015 Ennis rally. Peter then proceeded with the elections:

Results of Election of Club Office Bearers and Committee

| Position: | | Proposed by: | Seconded by: |
|-----------------------------------|------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| President | John Graham | Gordon Ward | John McHenry |
| Vice President | Mike Turner | John Graham | Cecil Spotten |
| 2 nd Vice President | Jim Archer | Mike Turner | Norman Maxwell |
| Hon Secretary | Graham MacDonald | John McHenry | Jim Gordon |
| Hon Treasurer | Nigel Semple | Graham Kane | Eric Fulton |
| Elected Committee Members: | | | |
| Speaker Secretary | Jim Archer | Nigel Semple | Norman Maxwell |
| Events / Catering | Joe Alcorn | John Dobson | Nigel Semple |
| Welfare | Cecil Spotten | Gordon Ward | Jim Nesbitt |
| Press Officer | John Dobson | Joe Alcorn | Reggie Patterson |
| Accounts Examiner | Graham Kane | Ken Parkes | Cecil Leitch |

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 John on becoming President and thanked Gordon for asking him to preside over the elections. New President John Graham thanked Peter FitzGerald for conducting the elections and the members for electing him as President.

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

Presidents Address: New President John Graham wanted to begin as he meant to carry on, by keeping things brief. He wanted to thank Norman Irwin for inviting him to Proboscis 14 years earlier and to the members for electing him President now. The past year had been a momentous one, and he wanted to thank Gordon for being President at the Rally, Jim Gordon for keeping the committee together and chairing the Rally and everyone else for their hard work.

Any other business: None

Next AGM: Will be the AGM on 26th January 2016 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 11.58am.

SIGNED: _____

DATE: _____

Coleraine Probus Club AGM January 2015

Treasurer's Report

Gentlemen,

I have much pleasure in presenting my report on our accounts for the past year.

I hope you have had a look at the figures on the screen.

The figures in blue show net income and those in red show regular annual payments. The figures in black are monies paid in and out again and indicate some of our activities throughout the year.

Our closing balance is shown and is a small increase on last year's balance. This is a very satisfactory result considering our extra bank charges, which are more than balanced by a generous contribution from the All Ireland Rally Committee for the use of these premises and any other extra expenditure related to the Rally.

As a result of these figures, the Committee have agreed that no increase is required on our present sub of £25. .

My thanks are due to our President, Gordon and all the other members of committee for their support and encouragement. Special thanks to our Accounts Examiner, Graham, for checking these accounts and setting up the system for next year. He really makes my job much easier because of his advice and support. Thank you also for your prompt payment of your subs.

That concludes my report.

Nigel Semple

27/01/2015

Coleraine Probus Club
Receipts & Payments Account
for Year Ending 31st January 2015

| <u>Receipts</u> | 2014 | 2013 | <u>Payments</u> | 2014 | 2013 |
|--|-------------------|-------------------|-----------------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Membership Subscriptions | £ 1,425.00 | £ 1,325.00 | Speakers Expenses | £ - | £ 20.00 |
| | £ - | £ - | Equipment | £ - | £ - |
| Rally Comm. for use of premises | £ 150.00 | | Book Tokens | £ 440.00 | £ 400.00 |
| | £ - | £ - | CL Caterers -Coffee mince pies | £ - | £ 72.00 |
| Christmas Lunch | £ 912.00 | £ 1,360.00 | All Ireland Rally A/C(Subs) | £ 1,368.00 | £ 900.00 |
| Outings(Distillery) | £ 173.00 | £ - | Probus Directories | £ 24.00 | £ 12.00 |
| | £ - | £ - | Outings (Distillery 21 members) | £ 173.00 | £ - |
| All Ireland Rally 2014 | £ - | £ 900.00 | Portstewart Golf Club | £ 455.00 | £ 405.00 |
| Rally Subs | £ 1,176.00 | £ - | Probus Rally Support | £ - | £ 384.00 |
| Charity Collections(Cancer ResearchUK) | £ 332.00 | £ 285.00 | Charities(Cancer ResearchUK) | £ 332.00 | £ 285.00 |
| Inter-Club Events | £ - | £ - | Christmas Lunch(Inc guests,tips) | £ 912.00 | £ 1,400.00 |
| Badges/Shields etc | £ - | £ - | Christmas Entertainment | £ 100.00 | £ - |
| Ties | £ - | £ 190.00 | President Plaques & Engraving | £ 179.67 | £ - |
| | £ - | £ 60.00 | Badges,Ties | £ - | £ 190.00 |
| | | | Insurance & Bank | £ 111.68 | £ 70.79 |
| | | | Stationery, Postage etc | £ - | £ 10.00 |
| | | | Membership Cards | £ 60.00 | £ 60.00 |
| | | | | <u>£ 4,155.35</u> | <u>£ 4,208.79</u> |
| Total Income | <u>£ 4,168.00</u> | <u>£ 4,120.00</u> | | | |
| Opening Balance | £ 303.28 | £ 392.07 | Income less than Payments | £ - | £ 88.79 |
| Payments less than Income | £ 12.65 | £ - | Closing Balance | <u>£ 315.93</u> | <u>£ 303.28</u> |
| | | | | | |
| | | | Bank balance | £ 206.67 | £ 238.02 |
| | | | Cash | £ 109.26 | £ 65.26 |
| | | | Total | £ 315.93 | £ 303.28 |

Hon Treasurer *GNSample*
 27/01/15

Accounts Examiner _____

Coleraine Probus Club

Annual General Meeting, Tuesday 27th January 2015

Secretary's Report

Mr. President, Members and Guests, I have pleasure in presenting my report for the 2014 - 2015 Probus year.

At present we have an active membership of 55 and two additional honorary members. It is with great sadness I have to record that long time active member and good friend to so many here, Sam Barr has passed away since my last report. However, I am pleased to report that John Tan has joined the club in the last few weeks, and we are actively seeking to gain further members in the new Probus year.

During 2014 - 2015 we have held 26 members meetings, five members lunches, a Christmas Concert and meal as well as a club outing to Bushmills Distillery. The highest meeting attendance was 45, and the lowest 28, however average attendance was the same as last year, 39 members per meeting.

At this point in the annual report, I would normally begin a lengthy round of 'Thank you's', all genuinely earned and very sincerely given. However, this year I would ask you to bare with me, as I reflect on club events over the last year or so - and what a time it has been for the club and the Coleraine members!

The story starts back in 2012 when then President Ross Torrens and John McHenry had a chat over the phone, the gist of that chat was 'If ever the club were to host the All Ireland Rally, we would have to think about it now'. This led to the first of many committee meetings, mainly in Johns' house. At that first meeting it was agreed that if we could be the Rally host, it would only be if; One, the members were behind the proposal; and Two, we could get someone to oversee the process, which would take the best part of two years in the completion. The first choice for that was Jim Gordon, and thankfully he agreed.

The next part of the story is one of building a strong Rally Committee under the chairmanship of Jim; the finding out of just what was required; how and who could provide it; what options there were and vitally; can we plan a rally that would be a credit to the club - Oh, and don't forget, we're heading towards the clubs 25th Anniversary! I'm sure you know the rest of the, or at least, most of it.

Let me underline a few points. Yes, we did have a very successful All Ireland Rally. You may remember that we received quite a lot of congratulatory letters, cards and emails from clubs around Ireland. The main one came from the Probus/Rotary co-ordinator, Mary Sinnamon, who said that we had 'significantly raised the bar for all Probus Rallies in the future'. We had more delegates than any of the past three Rallies, the real cost of registration was the lowest for four years, we raised more money for charity than any club ever, we also had more 'extras' and 'freebies' for delegates and guests to enjoy, and finally, we had the courage to alter the traditional rally format, and it worked!

It was tempting to do the list of 'Thank you's' here, but that would include almost everyone in the club. Yes, some members certainly played a larger role, and you all know who they are, but without the support of so many members (and not forgetting volunteers for other local clubs), we could not have managed it at all. So instead, I'll just say 'Thank you' to all those on the club and rally committees and to club members, for letting me be a member of such a great Probus Club.

It is now the time of year when we say a fond farewell to our Club President. I believe that once more we have been very fortunate in having an outstanding President this year in Gordon. Not only did he have a huge (and 'scary') roll as the official 'Rally host', but in addition, he actually got a whole bunch of members to go on a trip out - that's the first in the last 8 or 9 years! No easy task! So from me, a grateful 'Thank you, Mr. President'.

This year we are not only saying a farewell to our President, but as you will see at the elections, we are having some more changes. Our excellent and so well organised 'Speakers Sub-Committee Chair', John McHenry is taking a extremely well deserved rest. So from me, a special big 'Thank you John', and I'm not forgetting Robert and Billy and John and Ken and other speaker helpers, that have made this year yet another great 'speakers year' for all of us to enjoy.

The end of this 2014 Probus year, is also a sort of 'passing of an era' - After 12 years of outstanding service to the club and committee, as Secretary, President, Social and Events Coordinator, and for the last two years chairing the Rally organising committee and the Rally itself, Jim Gordon is now taking a back seat. From me Jim, 'Thank you so much for all you have done, and I hope you can now start to enjoy just being a club member!'

Finally, I too am giving up the Secretary job (and I can already see the smiles at the prospects of shorter minutes and reports!), so that I can try to concentrate on getting all those club web site history pages and other oddments done. I've been putting these off for too long. So from me, 'Thank you all for putting up with me for so long!'

And that, Mr. President concludes my final report for the year.

Mike Turner
Hon Secretary

SIGNED: Gordon Ward (outgoing President)

DATE: 27th January 2015