

BRIGHTON SPREAD EAGLES

Barclays Group Pensioners' Club

MINUTES OF THE 41st ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING, HELD AT THE SPEN CAMA PAVILION, SUSSEX COUNTY CRICKET GROUND, ON THURSDAY 7th MARCH 2019

PRESENT : Roger Francis followed by Graham Clark in the Chair
58 members

1. Apologies for Absence were received from Doug & Joan Mays

2. Minutes of the 40th AGM held on the 12th April 2018 had been circulated and were taken as read. That they be taken as a true record was proposed by Justine Hamilton, seconded by Dave Stedman, and signed accordingly.

3. Matters Arising. There were none.

4. Chairman's Report. Roger Francis welcomed all members and guests and was delighted to report another year of stability, progress, fellowship and enjoyment, thanks to the support of the Club officials, committee members and our membership. At the year-end our total membership numbered 365, a slight reduction from the previous year, and our eligible membership, on which we received the Social Grant of £32.50 per head from the Bank, stood at 184. This stability, coupled with support for Don Semmons' excursions enabling us to fill, or nearly fill a 49 seater coach, and some events, the Christmas lunch in particular are marginally over-subscribed. Roger also referred to our 9 monthly coffee mornings at Café Quench in George Street, Hove, which provide a useful conduit for members' ideas and suggestions.

Turning to the committee, he welcomed David Stedman who was elected at the 2018 AGM, and gave thanks also to Buster Ashdown, Gill Hill, Rosemary Singyard and Justine Hamilton for their continuing support. He then thanked Graham Clark for his long experience as Deputy chairman and for his administration of the Cricket Club tickets. He further thanked Jean Clarke for her 100% efficiency in all areas and Don Semmons, under both his hats as Social Secretary and Treasurer for his organisation of our successful outings. He further made special mention to Norma Pontin who has retired from the committee having served for a quarter of a century, and presented her with a bouquet of flowers as a token of our appreciation, for which she gave thanks and said it had been a pleasure. His remarks were greeted with applause and Graham Clark proposed a vote of thanks for his report which was seconded by Joy Huntley. Finally Roger asked for a moment of silence in memory of those members, colleagues and loved ones who have passed away during the year. .

5. Treasurer's Report. A copy of the Income & Expenditure Account, with supplements covering specific details and costs of individual outings, had been circulated among the members. Our expenditure had turned out less than for which he had budgeted, for which he could only account that members must have drunk less than usual at the Xmas Lunch. Allowing for the fact that £645 had been paid in advance for events later in the year, the balance left over at the end of the year was £1,486.00. The Itinerary for forthcoming outings was printed on the back of the Income and Expenditure Report and Don made a brief reference to these and the present numbers applying for the next three. There were no questions concerning the Accounts, and Don proposed that they be adopted, seconded by Viv Hill, and carried.

6. Social Secretary's Report. A comprehensive Review of the events of 2018 had been circulated with the last Newsletter, and these were also detailed on the Club website. The Itinerary for the coming year had also been circulated, but Don made special reference to the October outing to Docklands and the 'Don't Panic Vintage Comedy Show which includes a lunch of 'Pie and Mash' and could be even further enjoyed if one had a strong drink beforehand ! He also referred to the

Mid-Summer Lunch in July, for which a singing trio, called the Silhouettes which included Jodi, who had made such an impression at this event last year, had been booked to entertain us. The Lunch will take the form of a buffet barbecue which will be cooked and served under cover outside the hall, but the accompaniments will be inside. This is an expensive event to run, and will need 100 people to make it viable. As encouragement to help with the numbers, Don invited members to bring guests who, as a special concession, will be charged the same amount as members rather than the higher 'guest' rate.

Finally, Don reminded members to look out for scams, by telephone or email, and to be alert for any suspect calls. Dave Stedman mentioned that there is a website you can visit which could be helpful. It is 'www.who-called.co.uk' which can help identify false callers by putting in the telephone number and any previously reported incidents will be shown.

7. Welfare Officer's Report. Following Don's remarks on scams, Tony reported that he had had his credit card statement debited £764 on two occasions for which he was not liable and fortunately reimbursed, but warned how important it was to check your statements. His duties as Welfare Officer had been far from onerous having had no requests for assistance. However, he would like to report that our member, Barbara Major, who has been a very active member of the Club, had lost two sons during the course of the year – a devastating blow.

8. Election of Officers and Committee members for 2019/2020. Roger announced his retirement from the Chair, and proposed that Graham Clark, our Deputy Chairman, should be elected as Chairman. Graham has served 24 years as Deputy, and with his tact and diplomacy and hard work had been a great support to him. After a round of applause, this proposal, seconded by Jean Clarke was carried. There had been a play of words as to whether this office should be referred to as 'vice' or 'deputy' and 'deputy' found favour.

Graham then took over the Chair, and remarked that on this sad occasion it would be difficult to follow in the shoes of such a wonderful Chairman, but with the help of such a good committee he would do his best. It was then his pleasant duty to present Roger with a silver salver which carried the inscription "*Presented to Roger Francis upon his retirement as Chairman of Brighton Spread Eagles on 7th March 2019 with grateful thanks for 11 years of unrivalled enthusiasm and guidance to the Club*" Roger, somewhat taken aback by this unexpected gift, thanked the members and said he had thoroughly enjoyed the fellowship and support he had received, and promised that he and Ruth would continue to support the Club.

Continuing with the election of the officers and committee, that Robin Frost be appointed as Deputy Chairman was proposed by Graham, seconded by Jean and carried. That Bridget Westerman be appointed to serve on the committee was proposed by Jean and seconded by Joy Huntley and carried. That the remainder of the committee, who were prepared to continue, be elected en bloc was proposed by Norma Pontin, seconded by Bridget and carried. This concluded the election of Officers and Committee.

9. Vote of Thanks to Accounts Inspector and election of Inspector for 2019. Robin Frost, who has performed this task for some years, was presented with a token of our appreciation. As he will be unable to continue in this capacity as he is now on the committee, it was proposed by Jean and seconded Graham that Roger should take over this role. With warm applause this proposal was carried.

10. Any other Business. Graham felt he would like to report that our long standing members, Doug and Joan Mays had sent apologies, without fail, for a great number of years, although they were not active members. He felt they warranted a visit, and he was prepared to go and see them. There being no further business, the meeting closed at 11.45 a.m. followed by a buffet lunch served by the Cricket Club caterers.