

BRIGHTON SPREAD EAGLES

Barclays Group Pensioners' Club

MINUTES OF THE 44TH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING, HELD AT TOTTINGTON MANOR HOTEL, EDBURTON, ON THURSDAY 10TH MARCH 2022

PRESENT: David Stedman in the Chair
68 Members (a list is attached)

1. Apologies for Absence were received from Roger and Ruth Francis, John and Annabel Vallance, Val and John Figg, Yvonne Bashall, Buster Ashdown, Ian and Gillian Massbery, Ann and Jonathan Aldridge and Nigel and Jane Parsons.

2. Minutes of the 43rd AGM had been circulated and were taken as read. That they be taken as a true record was proposed by Viv Hill and seconded by Colin Mockford. This was carried.

3. Matters Arising. There were none.

4. Chairman's Report: In my inaugural year as Chairman, I am pleased to report that the Club is in good shape and continues to flourish as we learn to live with Covid. As at today we have 243 PENSIONERS of which 169 are active and have attended an event. There are 237 MEMBERS who have also attended an event. 38 members have attended our Spring and Autumn golf meetings. During the year since our last AGM held late on 22nd July 2021 (due to the pandemic), Jill and I have attended all the events including coffee mornings at Café Quench in Hove. It has been a chance for us to get to know some members we had not previously come across and have found this both useful and rewarding. Good attendances at the events have been observed with an increase in numbers for the coffee mornings very apparent. The presence of free biscuits adds to the occasion. I welcome any new participants on 1st Thursday of every month.

As always, our Social Secretary, Don, has made sure that we have many opportunities to enjoy outings and all feedback to me has been in the main very supportive and positive. Thank you, Don. There was some negative feedback received in respect of the Xmas lunch and I can assure you that the hotel has been made fully aware of certain shortcomings but in their defence, this was the first time in 18 years any shortcomings had occurred and also was the first large function undertaken by them after coming out of the pandemic. I am confident the forthcoming Xmas meal will be fine.

It was pleasing to note and take part in events organised by other members – I refer to the rambles, an idea raised by former Chairman, Graham Clark. Thanks to Nigel and Jayne Parsons for a ramble around Henfield and to Gill and Roger Hill for a ramble around Arlington reservoir. Both well organised and both ending with a splendid lunch on both occasions. My thanks to them all for their efforts. More rambles to come by other volunteer members. About 30 members is about the maximum number for the rambles.

I would now like to thank the entire Committee for their help and support during the year. Cyn Fleetwood has settled well into her role as secretary with some support and well done for taking on the role. Grateful thanks to my Vice Chairman, Bridget for allowing use of her home for our committee meetings and refreshments. Colin Mockford is a new addition to our committee this last year along with Jean Clarke, Yes, Jean accepted our invitation, our meetings would not be the same without her. These Committee members also being in their inaugural year. Finally to Don for his unstinting support for the club.

In my Xmas message to you all I focused on the theme of “Togetherness”, aimed at those members who had little contact with the club with the view of me making contact with as many as I could over the winter months. I managed to make 68 phone calls with mixed success and those I did manage to speak to were pleased to receive a call and I believe they felt they were not forgotten. I

would have liked to have done more this year but restricted due to time constraints but will similarly make more calls later in the year, assuming I am re-elected as Chairman.

I have managed to speak to our former Chairman, Roger Francis, and he and Ruth are not in the best of health and are at home with in house carers looking after them. Despite this he seemed reasonably upbeat and managed to inspect the accounts of the club this year. I am sure you will join me in wishing them both the very best for the future.

During the year we were sorry to learn of an accident at home to our Welfare Officer, Tony Comber which resulted in him attending hospital. I am pleased to say that he is here today having spoken to him following his discharge from hospital a few months ago. Rumour has it that he will be avoiding trees in the future at all costs.

Finally, as a committee it was agreed that we would revise the club's constitution. I was charged along with Graham and Robin to do so and I am pleased to say that this has now been approved. The main changes are to allow for those who worked for the bank and not in receipt of a Barclays pension to be permitted to join as honorary members if they so wish at the discretion of the committee; making provision for our Social Secretary to make payment for our trips and events by Company Barclaycard where cheques are no longer accepted as a means of payment and a paragraph added on Data Protection so that this is in line with the current law to protect personal information held by the club relating to members and their spouses together with widows and widowers. The only time information would be released if it is a requirement for the operation of the law.

It has been a pleasure to be your Chairman since last July.

This concludes my report.

5. Treasurer's Report and adoption of Accounts for the year ending 31st December 2021.

Copies of the Income & Expenditure Account and Report for the year to 31st December 2021 had been sent out by email and there were some distributed among the tables. They were also available on the web site. The main item to mention was that the Bank had paid us the full grant, that is normally based on 'Active Members' from the year before, had been paid based on 2019 numbers. He was pleased to report that the Bank had used the same method for our 2022 grant. He hoped that these had been studied by the members and asked if any members had any queries. The events that we did hold, including the Old Tollgate Offer, had been more heavily subsidised than normal. It was proposed by Rosemary Singyard and seconded by Justine Hamilton that they be adopted. This was carried.

6. Social Secretary's Report: In his other hat as Social Secretary Don said that our activities in 2021 had necessarily been limited because of the pandemic. Several of the planned events had to be cancelled and some of the events that went ahead had reduced numbers of participants. This was completely understandable.

Those events that took place later in the year were well supported, especially the two theatre trips and the Christmas Lunch that had 117 attendees.

Thanks to an idea from our former Chairman, Graham Clark, we had formed a 'rambling club' and the 3 rambles held so far had been well attended. These were being organised by 'volunteers' and so thanks go to Graham, Jayne & Nigel Parsons and Roger & Gill Hill for their efforts.

As far as this year goes, we have got off to a good start with the first four events being well supported, including this AGM where we have 68 members attending. A copy of the itinerary is printed on the accounts pages and is also available on the web site. For the forthcoming trips to Denbies and Leonardslee, we have had 36 and 42 applications respectively.

A ramble has been organised by Peter & Jackie Elliot at Slinfold for which we have 33 participants and Dave Titcomb was in the process of organising one at Shoreham. Don asked if there were any volunteers to arrange other rambles near to them during the year.

Don also asked that members do use the web site as it contains all the information on past events and many other pages of interest.

7. Welfare Officer's Report. Tony once again reported that he had not received any calls for assistance but with the challenging financial times ahead, this could well change. He also pointed out that members can approach any member of the committee if they or another member have a matter they wish to discuss.

8. Election of Officers and Committee for 2022-2023. As there had been no new nominations or notices of resignation, Dave suggested that we had one vote for the re- election of the present Officers and Committee Members. This was proposed by Bridget Westerman and seconded by Jean Clarke. This was carried.

For the record, the committee is as follows:

Chairman:	David Stedman
Deputy Chairman:	Bridget Westerman
Secretary:	Cyn Fleetwood
Treasurer:	Don Semmons
Social Secretary:	Don Semmons
Chief Welfare Officer:	Tony Comber
Committee Member:	Graham Clark
Committee Member:	Jean Clarke
Committee Member:	Robin Frost
Committee Member:	Gill Hill
Committee Member:	Colin Mockford
Committee Member:	Rosemary Singyard

9. Vote of thanks to Accounts Inspector and Election of Inspector for 2022: Roger was thanked for his work in the past year and he has kindly agreed to continue this year.

10. Any other Business; There was no other business, so Dave declared the meeting closed at 11.40am. He thanked everybody for coming and wished them a safe journey home.

Prior to the meeting, we held a minutes silence for those members that we had lost during the year and for the people of Ukraine.