

## ***BRIGHTON SPREAD EAGLES***

Barclays Group Pensioners' Club

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### **MINUTES OF THE 45TH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING, HELD AT TOTTINGTON MANOR HOTEL, EDBURTON, ON THURSDAY 9<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2023**

**PRESENT:** David Stedman in the Chair together with 57 members (A full list will be kept with the minutes)

1. **Apologies for Absence** were received from Roger and Ruth Francis, Joy Huntley, Keith and Jackie Menzies, Colin Mockford, Joyce Comber, and Ian and Gillian Massbery.
2. **Minutes** of the 44<sup>th</sup> 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 Jean Clarke This was carried.
3. **Matters Arising.** There were none.
4. **Chairman's Report:**

Good Morning everyone. May I start by updating you on our membership. We have a total of 248 pensioners on record. Of those 186 are active and this same figure reflects those number of members who have attended at least one event this last year. 32 members have attended our Spring and Autumn golf meetings. We are in the process of dealing with 3 new applications for membership and I have already contacted one and the remaining two will be contacted and invited to attend one of our coffee mornings shortly.

It has been another busy and eventful year for our Club. Jill and I have managed to attend 10 of the 11 coffee mornings and 9 organised events out of 11 (this latter number includes the golf meetings) Attendances varied from 18 for one of our rambles to 120 for the Christmas lunch, therefore remaining as the most popular event of the year.

There continues to be plenty of choice in the type of events that Don carefully organises for us and yet again I cannot praise his efforts enough in ensuring that the schedule of events runs smoothly and within budget. Do please look at the presented accounts for the year end and you will appreciate even more. I am also delighted to state that in addition voluntary organisation of rambles has been undertaken again this year by Graham Clark, Peter Elliott, and David Titcomb and my personal thanks to them for making them extremely enjoyable for those who attended.

As many of you are aware the Committee meets regularly throughout the Year to review the progress of our outings for you and to also consider new offerings for future events. At this juncture I must pay tribute to all of the Committee members for giving up their time to attend and participate in meetings. I also especially wish to thank my Vice chairlady, Bridget Westerman, for making us feel so welcome in her home providing us with tea, coffee and biscuits on these occasions. I also wish to thank Roger Francis for undertaking the Accounts Inspector role once again. At this juncture I would ask that you show your appreciation to all of those I have mentioned by joining me in giving them well deserved applause. Thank you.

As at 1st January 2023 the deadline passed for those members previously contacted who received newsletters by post (64) and who have not contacted or participated in Club events for at least 5 years to reapply to continue to receive them by this method. Only 10 members took the trouble to respond. This means that we can use the savings in postage in excess of £250 to be redistributed for active members subsidy in the future. Having said that should any non active member who

subsequently contacted the Club requested reinstatement of newsletters, it would be reinstated but it is considered this would be few and far between.

Events for the 2023 have already commenced following the introduction of visits to Cineworld at Brighton Marina and so far the response has been encouraging. I will expand on this more in my report for next year (on the assumption that I am re elected!)

I wish you all well and I look forward to seeing many of you during the year and I do hope that you will enjoy the events that have been organised on your behalf.

This ends my report for the year ending 31st December 2022.

## **5. Treasurers Report and adoption of Accounts for the year ending 31<sup>st</sup> December 2022**

Copies of the Income & Expenditure Account and Report for the year to 31st December 2022 were 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 in 2022 that was based on 'Active Members' from 2019. This eliminated the issue of having fewer events in 2021 due to the pandemic. He was pleased to report that the Bank had increased the grant by 10% for 2023, so this year the grant totals just under £9,000. He hoped that these had been studied by the members and asked if any members had any queries. One item to mention was the apparent increase in Administration Costs, but Don explained that the costs for hosting the web site and the associated email accounts are paid for every two and three years and both had to be paid during 2022. It was proposed by Graham Clark and seconded by Rosemary Singyard that they be adopted. This was carried.

## **6. Social Secretaries Report**

This was the first year since 2019 that a full itinerary had been completed and for your information, during 2022 there had been 10 coffee mornings, 3 rambles, 2 golf meetings, 3 lunches, 5 days out and 1 theatre trip. The annual report appears on the web site, but Don asked if anyone wanted a paper copy (without the photographs) to let him know and he will post it to you.

Amongst the days out we went to Denbies Vineyard, had a Wine tasting at Mannings Heath, visited Borde Hill Gardens and Hever Castle, and had a Thames Boat trip. We also now know the secret of who dunnit in the Mousetrap play that we saw at the Theatre Royal in Brighton., but aren't allowed to say!! We didn't manage to arrange a London theatre trip during this year due to the spiralling costs of tickets and coach hire.

The itinerary for this year is on the web site, of course, and Don encouraged members to take a look as there is a lot of information and reports on there that members would find interesting. This itinerary is also on the back of the accounts that had been distributed earlier.

As David mentioned, we have started a new venture this year with visits to the cinema which has proved quite popular. With the rambles continuing, I reckon that we will have over 30 events this year that members can attend, so there should be something for everyone to attend.

There followed a discussion concerning the length of the days out as we are not getting any younger. It was agreed that as we are only getting a few younger members, that perhaps the emphasis should change to shorter trips and maybe more lunches!!! Don also mentioned that there was a possibility that the scheduled trip to Brooklands may have to be cancelled due to lack of support.

## **7. Welfare Officer's Report.**

Tony reported that once again he had not received any requests from Members needing assistance. However, he reiterated that should any member need help, they should not hesitate to contact him.

He also mentioned a private company called Home Instead. They provide support and help to older people to enable them to remain independent and happy in their own home for as long as possible.

## **8. Election of Officers and Committee for 2023-2024.**

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 Terry Webb and seconded by Lesley Forgham. 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 2023:**

Roger was thanked for his work in the past year and has kindly agreed to continue this year.

## **10. Any other Business.**

Don mentioned the need to be aware at all times of scams that are getting more complicated and subtle. Phone calls emails and even by post. Just be careful as it appears that everyone is out to steal your information and then your money....

We then held a minutes silence for those members that we had lost during the year. There was no other business, so Dave declared the meeting closed at 11.40am. He thanked everybody for coming and wished them an enjoyable lunch and a safe journey home.