

IBM Retirees (Midlands) AGM Monday 19th March 2018
The Royal British Legion Club
Warwick Road, Knowle

Present:

29 members; 12 guests

Apologies:

15 apologies.

The meeting was opened by the Acting Chairman (John Rickman) at 10.35, welcoming the members and thanking them for their attendance. The 2017 Minutes, which had been previously circulated to all attendees, were approved. There were no matters arising out of the minutes

Retiring Chairman's Report:

Alan Bridgman gave the meeting the sad news of the recent death of his wife, Gill. The funeral will be at 11:00 on Wed 28th March at Oakley Wood Crematorium, Bishops Tachbrook, Leamington Spa, CV33 9QP

(Family flowers only, Donations to Shakespeare Hospice)

2017 saw the Midlands Club have an EGM, the only club ever to have one. The result of the EGM was more positive than expected with new members coming forward to join the committee. Alan covered the events run by the club last year. He said that it had been a privilege to be Chairman for the past seven years and thanked those members who had served on the committee and supported him during his time as Chairman. He wished the new committee the best for the future.

[Alan's full report](#) accompanies the minutes.

Retiring Treasurer's Report:

Phil Dalton gave a report on the tenth year that he had been Treasurer. The highlights of the report were.

- 17 events were planned and 11 were held, the highest ever cancellation rate.
- The IBM Grant was reduced by a further 9.8%
- The overall state of the finances is healthy.
- The total number of attendances at events continues to fall.
- The number of members participating in events also continues to fall.
- The way that IBM calculates and distributes the Grant will change based on the results of the project IBM has run to review Employee and Retirees clubs. (see next item)

[Phil's full report](#) accompanies the minutes.

Review of IBM Clubs Structure (Dave Compton)

IBM has been running a project to review the structure of IBM Employee and Retirees Clubs. The Project Manager (Gwenyth Moore) was planning to attend the AGM, however Dave had had an email on the morning of the AGM from Gwenyth to say that with regret she had made the difficult decision not to travel to Knowle because of the icy road conditions. She apologised for not attending as she wanted to communicate the key changes taking effect from April 2018. She had sent a [presentation](#) and [text](#) which Dave gave to the meeting. Copies of these accompany the minutes.

Two points were raised.

How will former IBM employees now receiving AT&T pensions be informed of the changes?
Brian Long suggested we talk to the Trustees of the AT&T pension scheme.

What are the implications on membership of the IBM Warwick Employee Theatre+ group? This is currently unclear.

Dave gave some feedback from the IBM Club National Committee Meeting held on 16th February 2018.

- The IBM Grant has often been late and now IBM has promised to pay it promptly by the end of January and the end of July.
- There is a new IBM system called SLACK where clubs can post events. Anyone can register for access to SLACK via the Warwick Local Club.
- IBM anticipates a continued reduction in the Grant of 10% per annum. The details are still being worked out as there are inconsistencies in the current system between clubs, and a new system should be in place for 2020. Meanwhile, we have taken a one-time hit of 22% reduction for 2018.
- There are new EU data protection regulations which come into force in May 2018 which will have implications for the club.
 - No new registration will be required.
 - All previous membership lists will have to be destroyed.
 - IBM used to provide a list of all retirees but will now only provide a list of Midlands retirees.

Membership Report:

During 2017 the membership was stable. Last year we had 446 members including 2 Associate members. We have lost two members and gained one new member, so the total is now 445. The monthly Newsletter goes to 275 email addresses, a drop from 283 as we have lost track of some members e-mail addresses. [Dave's full report](#) accompanies the minutes.

Rambling Section:

Terry King gave a brief history of the Rambling Club in Warwick starting in the 1980s as family trips out by coach at weekends to the present day where it is primarily retired adults and week days (with a pub lunch!). There are monthly walks from February to November, an annual meal in February, this year at Sabai Sabai Thai restaurant in Leamington Spa, and a joint trip with the Retirees club, which will be to the Isle of White.

The club has 28 members, with a £5 per year subscription, and also three Life Members, Rose Wiggins, and John and Elsa Calledene.

Election of Committee Members:

Brian Long (retiring Secretary) conducted the election of both the Officers and Committee.

Officers:

Chairman – John Rickman - Proposed: Gary Wooding, Seconded: Ken Hope

Treasurer – Paul Gover - Proposed: Alan Palmer, Seconded: John Milton

Secretary – Dave Compton - Proposed: Alan Bridgman, Seconded: Ken Hope

Newsletter – Michael Fabianski - Proposed: Gary Wooding, Seconded: Fred Edgar

Committee Members: Gary Wooding, Terry King (Rambling Section), Ray Bradshaw, Chris Bradshaw, Richard Short.

Matters Arising/AOB:

Gifts were presented to Alan Bridgman and Phil Dalton in recognition and thanks for their work on the Committee over a number of years, and to Brian Dunston for auditing the accounts.

Thanks were given to John Milton, Dave Dagley, and Brian Long, who have resigned from the committee.

John Rickman explained that we have fewer events this year as we had a smaller committee and all events had to be run by a committee member. There will be no 'Summer Lunch' however there will be a river trip which includes a meal. The balance of payment for the Isle of White trip will be required in the next four weeks. Payment by cheque takes longer to clear as it requires the Chairman and Treasurer to visit the bank. There was not enough interest shown in a proposed visit to Eastern Europe. An alternate suggestion was a wine trip to Spain or France; however a show of hands did not provide much interest in this proposal.

Ken Hope asked if the minutes could be put on the website. These should already be there, John Rickman will check. As the website is open some of the minutes may have to be edited for confidentiality reasons.

Brian Chilver asked about proposing new events. This could be done by anyone to the Committee, by responding to the email address used to distribute the newsletter.

Paul Gover added some points on the current treasurer position.

- The club has a rising balance at the bank and IBM may start looking closer at the balance, and possibly recovering some of it.
- The current decrease in Grant of 22% may change.
- The subsidy can no longer be applied to Overnight accommodation.
- A single event can be subsidised to more than 50%, but the overall annual subsidy must be less than 50%
- The committee need more ideas. Please can ideas be sent to the committee. The organisation of an event can be delegated to a non-committee member, but the overall responsibility to ensure all relevant controls will still have to be a committee member.

Formal Meeting closed 12.05