

IBM RETIREES CLUB [MIDLANDS]  
AGM  
MONDAY 18<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2013  
ROYAL BRITISH LEGION  
WARWICK ROAD  
KNOWLE

Present: Alan Bridgman [Chair]  
Phil Dalton [Treasurer]  
Dave Compton [Membership]  
Mike Fabianski [Editor]  
Tony Mancell  
Simon Barratt  
Dave Dagley  
Brian Wilson  
Barrie Wiggins  
Peter Barnes  
Carole Robertson [Sec]

Apologies: Bill Rome  
Dick Smith  
Gordon/Sue Jones  
Mike Wood  
Roy Bancroft  
Terry King  
Roger Hawkins  
Adrian/Janet Mills  
Jean Eysenck  
Harry/Maggie Covington  
Alan Palmer  
Heskett/Joan Dawson

Alan B welcomed all 64 members and guests to our 2013 AGM. Some members had travelled some distance to be with us in Knowle and for that we thank them. Alan extended a particular warm welcome to our Oversight Manager Fiona Clements and Brian Chilver our speaker.

Our Secretary asked for approval of our 2012 minutes and Hugh Gallagher proposed with John Milton seconding. These minutes, with a copy of the Officers reports, will now be passed to Pensions with a copy to Fiona Clements our Oversight Manager.

PD continued and gave us the Treasurers report, sadly PD had to make mention of our loss of funds on the Cardiff trip, due to a misunderstanding on dates between a member/organiser and Johnson Coaches. Johnson Coaches kindly gave us a refund but the loss was made on the hotel booking that had been made for our group. Phil continued to give us a comprehensive Treasurers report with attendance percentages across events held in the last year. A detailed copy of this report will be sent out to all committee members and passed next year to Pensions and our Oversight Manger.

Our 2012 Accounts were approved by Simon Barratt and seconded by Ken Hope

DC ran through the Membership Secretary report - a copy of which is attached to these minutes. The highlight of DC's report was the 482 members for IBM Retiree Club [Midlands] with 360 of those members on our email address list which we use for urgent communication only, relying on our Newsletter for monthly communication with the membership. DC was able to confirm that the increase was due to deferred pensioners being made aware of their right to join this Retiree Club.

AB did ask for us all to show our appreciation for the enormous amount of work DC had put in on trawling through an employee list of no less than five and a half thousand. At this point John Howe and Hugh Gallagher asked if they might have sight of this listing, as they were confident, like DC, they would recognise IBM former colleagues and would be prepared to contact them via email. DC did mention at this point that such information would be strictly monitored and on a "formal request" by a member only basis.

At this point Fiona Clements was able to confirm that only DB [defined benefits] pensioners would be shown on such a list and N Plan pensioners could not be tracked on any IBM system.

Our Chairman AB gave his report next and a copy of this is attached.

At this point Ken Hope asked for a vote of thanks for all the work Alan Bridgman has put into our Club thus far. This was applauded with enthusiasm by the membership present.

Brian Chilver then gave the audience a superb presentation on how he is enjoying his retirement after many years, many moves and many miles travelled with IBM. His observations and recollections on his long awaited trip to Alaska were detailed, and Brian was able in his normal "dry" style able to inject some comedy. This no doubt made one or two envious of his determination to participate in so many strenuous activities, particularly on viewing the superb photographs Brian made available. Brian concluded by saying he hopes now that some other members might be tempted to share with us their many varied and remarkable achievements in retirement. Not only travel but charitable work many IBM Retirees have been involved with.

Fiona Clements our new Oversight Manager then addressed the meeting. The first question from the floor, not unsurprisingly was "Why IBM has introduced Oversight Managers. To explain this, the following stats have to be understood:

29 Clubs [both employee and retiree] in the UK  
Hursley operates with its own Oversight Mgr  
16,000 total membership of clubs  
Out of 28 Clubs 6 are Retiree Clubs  
7500 employees in Employee clubs  
6 Retiree Clubs = 8500 retirees

Fiona went on to explain that IBM Corporate wanted to put in place financial controls on the funds supplying IBM Employee and Retiree Clubs

All clubs have separate constitutions - because they are all so very different

AB asked for a show of hands in appreciation for Fiona Clements who has taken on this demanding role as Oversight Manager and for her effort in travelling from North Harbour to be with us today.

#### Election of Committee for 2013

CR as Secretary asked for a nomination for our Chairman Alan Bridgman - Ken Hope proposed and Brian Chilver seconded.

With the exception of Brian Wilson [Editor] and Carole Robertson [Secretary] who are both standing down from their positions - voting is as follows:

#### Committee

Phil Dalton [Treasurer]

Dave Compton [Membership]

Dave Dagley

Tony Mancell

Simon Barratt

Mike Fabianski [Editor]

Peter Barnes

Barrie Wiggins

Carole Robertson

Gary Wooding

Sheila Wooding

Fred Noble - Proposed

Brian Long - Seconded

AB as Chairman then proposed AOB - however, everyone present felt their concerns had been addressed in the body of the meeting and concluded by inviting everyone to join us for a buffet luncheon.

YOUR RETIREE CLUB NEEDS YOUR SUPPORT NOW MORE THAN EVER  
IF YOU VALUE YOUR CLUB THEN COME ALONG AND SUPPORT US.....

OUR AGM IS TO BE HELD ON MONDAY 18<sup>TH</sup> MARCH AT 10.30

THE BRITISH LEGION  
1611, WARWICK ROAD, KNOWLE, SOLIHULL B93 9LF

Agenda

10.30 Refreshments  
11.00 Welcome by Chairman  
Review and approve 2012 minutes  
Treasurer's Report  
Membership Sec Report  
Chairman's Report  
Matters arising  
"Enjoying Retirement" - Brian Chilver  
Fiona Clements - IBM Oversight Manager  
Election of Committee members  
AOB

Buffet luncheon

PLEASE NOTE - THERE IS ADDITIONAL PARKING AT THE REAR OF  
THE BRITISH LEGION CLUB - ACCESS VIA THE RIGHT HAND SIDE  
OF THE BUILDING

Please let Carole Robertson on [carole.robertson@talktalk.net](mailto:carole.robertson@talktalk.net) know you  
are attending - so that refreshments can be ordered.

## 2013 AGM ATTENDANCE

MARTIN FERRIER	1.
CAROLE ROBERTSON	2.
CLIVE RAYBOULD	3.
ALAN BRIDGMAN	4.
GILL BRIDGMAN	5.
PHIL DALTON	6.
BRIAN CHILVER	7.
TONY MANCELL	8.
KATH MANCELL	9.
DAVE DAGLEY	10.
MOLLY DAGLEY	11.
DAVE COMPTON	12.
MIKE FABIANSKI	13.
PAM FABIANSKI	14.
BRIAN WILSON	15.
MARGARET WILSON	16.
SANDRA HASSELL	17.
RICHARD WILLIAMS	18.
MARIE WILLIAMS	19.
JEAN GALLAGHER	20.
HUGH GALLAGHER	21.
SHEILA WOODING	22.
GARY WOODING	23.
JANICE KIRKWOOD	24.
NOEL KIRKWOOD	25.
SANDRA HOLME	26.
DAVID WILLIAMS	27.
GILLIAN WILLIAMS	28.
FRED EDGAR	29.
PAT EDGAR	30.
FIONA CLEMENTS	31.
ALAN POWER	32.
VIV POWER	33.
MARLISE COHEN	34.
SIMON BARRATT	35.
SHEILA BARRATT	36.
NICK WRIGHT	37.
ANDY LOCKYER	38.
JOHN CALLADENE	39.

BRIAN LONG	40
PETER BARNES	41
DICK HODGES	42
DIANE HODGES	43
DON SHERIDAN	44
MARGARET SHERIDAN	45
JOHN HOWES	46
HESKETT DAWSON	47 N/S
JOAN DAWSON	48 N/S
PETE WOOD	49
ALAN PALMER	50 N/S
JOHN HURST	51
KEN HOPE	52
ANNE HOPE	53
ANDY BOTHERWAY	54
HARRY COVINGTON	55 N/S
MAGGIE COVINGTON	56 N/S
RON TAYLOR	57
JANET TAYLOR	58
JOHN HOWELLS	59
ROLAND MERRICK	60
RICHARD SHORT	61
BILL COOK	62
VICTORIA WHITEHOUSE	63
BARRIE WIGGINS	64

### **IBM Retirees Club (Midlands)**

#### **Chairman's Report to the AGM - Monday 18<sup>th</sup> March 2013**

I would like to welcome you to the 2013 Annual General Meeting of the Midlands IBM Retirees Club. As I failed to introduce myself at last year's Christmas lunch, I had better do so at this meeting. I am Alan Bridgman, Chairman of the IBM Midlands Retirees Club and I thank you all for making the effort to attend this meeting today.

As I said last year, there has been a slow and steady decline in attendance over recent years. One possible reason was our move away from our local IBM Location, so last year we came back to IBM Warwick to see if it would make a difference. We had slightly more people than the previous year, but the effect was very slight.

So this year we have moved back to Knowle again and, lo and behold, we have the highest attendance for many years. Anyway, the food here is better!

On the agenda today we have the usual AGM essential elements – the Club Officers’ reports. Then we have two speakers – one Retiree speaker, Brian Chilver, and one IBM speaker, Fiona Clements. Fiona is the latest IBM Club Oversight Manager and has only just taken over the job, so I am very grateful that she has made the effort to join us in this neck of the woods, coming as she does from North Harbour

So let us press on with the mandatory part of the AGM and then you can enjoy our two guest speakers. And your free lunch!

----- Approval of last Year’s Minutes -----  
----- Treasurer’s Report – Phil Dalton -----  
Membership Secretary’s Report  
----- Dave Compton -----

**Chairman’s address.**

As you have heard our membership since last year has actually increased, despite our unfortunate losses “from natural causes”. The reason for this is the considerable amount of work done by Dave Compton to identify retirees who are not affiliated to ANY club. Whether Dave has a secret “slush fund” from which to offer these people an incentive, we have never enquired.

Very sadly this year we have had to say “goodbye” to Brian Wilson as Newsletter Editor, and Carole Robertson as Club Secretary. Michael Fabianski has taken over the Newsletter from Brian, and even seems to be able to compose and publish the Newsletter while racing down ski slopes! (This should overcome the illusion that man can’t multi-task!) We haven’t yet got a replacement for Carole although two of our colleagues, Gary and Sheila Wooding have agreed to join the Committee on a trial basis.

I would like to offer my sincerest thanks to Brian and Carole for their long contributions to the Midlands Retirees Club.

I must also thank the whole Committee who have worked very hard to give you an impressive programme of events in 2013. My

particular thanks to Phil Dalton, who, as you have heard, had to cope with a reduction in our grant part-way through last year and the unfortunate cancellation of a major event. As a consequence of the latter we have taken the decision to temporarily co-opt a non-Committee event organiser on to the Committee for the duration of the event. The reduction in the IBM grant is continuing this year – how far this will go in the future we don't know.

As I said last year, there has been a trend over the last 2 or 3 years for a slight decrease in event attendance, and this trend seems to be continuing. As most of you know, we have a meeting in August every year to plan the next year's programme of events. To give us a wider perspective of what members would like to see, we often co-opt a few non-Committee members. Last year we also invited John and Ann Johnson to come and tell us what events Johnson's Coaches find to be the most popular.

I am pleased to report that the relationship between the IBM Employee Clubs and the IBM Retiree Clubs seems to continue on a fairly even course these days. There was one representative from the Retirees Clubs at every National Club Committee meeting. But the National Club Committee has been stopped from holding regular physical meetings – a cost saving decision by HR apparently. So they now have to rely on conference calls!! Rather than me!

The latest hot topic from HR is the appointment of an Oversight Manager for each IBM Club, whether employee or retiree club. This apparently has come down as a dictate from Global HQ. Our present Oversight Manager, Fiona Clements, is here to tell you more about what her remit is and what she is trying to achieve.

This year all members of the Committee, with the exception of Brian Wilson, are prepared to stand again. And we have two new prospective candidates – Gary and Sheila Wooding.

My thanks to you, our members, for attending the AGM. You are the Club and, without you, this Committee would cease to exist.

----- Matters Arising -----

Introduce Brian Chilver "Enjoying Retirement"

## Introduce Fiona Clements, IBM UK Clubs Oversight Manager

----- Re-Election of Committee members -----

----- Election of Gary & Sheila Wooding-----

AOB

Lunch

### Membership

Last year I reported that we had 468 members of which 326 were on the Newsletter mailing list.

I am delighted to report that we now have 482 of which 360 are on the newsletter mailing list.

Regrettably we have lost some members in the last year, but the new increase is due to a number of factors, not least deferred members joining.

I mentioned last year that IBMers who have, for one reason or another, deferred their pension when they left IBM could take up membership of the Retiree Club but that it is not automatic. IBM does not make this very clear – only mentioning Club membership buried deep in the literature and/or the web site. **[How many of you have visited the IBM club website?]**. Fortunately, IBM revised the format of the report they send me and, at least for a while, I received details of IBMers who were eligible to join a club but who, for some reason, had not taken up membership – more than 5500 people. Simply by scanning through the list and contacting ex-colleagues more than 20 new members were recruited. Unfortunately, IBM has (I hope temporarily) stopped providing details of those 5500 people.

I would also like to remind members that when a member dies, the surviving partner might be eligible for continued membership of the Retiree Club. However, this is not automatic and the partner must specifically ask IBM HR to verify eligibility if they wish to remain in contact. It is only then that IBM informs me and we are able to stay in touch.

If members know of anybody who may not be aware that they could be eligible to join us, please give them my contact details and I will put them in touch with the appropriate people in IBM.

It is important that members inform us if their e-mail addresses changes so that we can stay in contact. I would ask that when informing us of a change of address you tell us the old as well as the new so that we can be sure of getting it right.

Dave Compton