

# **IBM Retirees (Midlands) Club AGM - 4 March 2019**

Held at The Royal British Legion Club, Knowle

## **Present:**

Committee:

John Rickman (chair)  
Paul Gover (treasurer)  
Ray Bradshaw  
Michael Fabianski  
Gary Wooding  
Richard Short

In total there were 23 club members and 17 guests.

**Apologies** received from 29 members including committee members Dave Compton, Terry King and Christine Bradshaw who were unable to attend.

## **Welcome**

John welcomed everyone to the club's AGM and showed the agenda for this meeting.

The minutes of the 2018 AGM were approved.

## **Secretary/Membership Report**

As Dave could not be at the meeting John read out Dave's prepared report. The full report is included at the end of the minutes. This was Dave's last report as he is retiring from the committee after 11 years service.

Highlights are:

- Membership now 448 up 2 from last year.
- Changes in membership eligibility
- Membership databases being rationalized and updated

## **Treasurer's Report**

Paul gave a presentation on the club's finances. Highlights of this presentation were:

- Balance sheet shows end of year 2018 balance of £3,126.41
- Balance is £766.86 less than last year's end of year
- Biggest events funded were the IoW trip and Christmas lunch
- IBM grant is being reduced each year meaning smaller event subsidies
- Ongoing discussions with local club regarding subsidies for their events

Paul's full presentation is in a separate document.

*TreasurersReport2019.pdf*

## **Rambling Club Report**

This was presented by Ray as Terry was unable to attend due to moving house.

The full rambling Club report is shown after the end of the minutes.

Last year 9 local rambles were undertaken and four coastal rambles were held on the IoW during the combined sightseers and ramblers 4 day holiday.

Ten rambles are planned for 2019.

## **Chairman's Report**

John presented the chairman's report which is shown in full after the end of these minutes.

During the past year we have had a lot of contact with IBM regarding:

- EU GDPR regulations to protect data
- Reductions in grant money
- Changes to the club constitution
- Annual self certification
- New club logos

Last year the club run 8 successful events.

John then thanked members of the committee for their work , with special thanks due to Dave Compton for 11 years service in various roles but especially as membership secretary.

## **Election of Officers**

The existing Chairman, John Rickman, and Treasurer, Paul Gover, were re-elected and Ray Bradshaw was elected as club secretary to succeed Dave Compton who is retiring from the committee.

## **2019 Events Open for Booking**

Three events are currently open for booking:

Ray Bradshaw gave a short overview of the Northampton gardens and hall visit planned for June.

Gary Wooding gave details of the Spring Lunch in March.

Michael Fabianski outlined the Rioja trip to Spain in September.

**Formal Meeting closed at 11.50+**

## Secretary/Membership Report

Firstly, let me apologise for being unable to present this report in person, especially as this will be my last report having been on the committee for 11 years. Unfortunately I have to attend a family funeral in Essex today.

I stayed on the Committee through the changes of last year and took on the role as Secretary in order to provide some continuity between the old and the new, particularly as all the Officers changed and several new members came on board.

At the same time, IBM was making significant changes to the structure and management of the IBM Club nationally, with GDPR; a new Constitution; and changes in eligibility of membership. Paul will, no doubt, mention the hoops he had to jump through with the changes in financial reporting.

However, whilst taking considerable time and effort getting to grips with these changes, not everything was bad.

The changes in membership eligibility have resulted, for the first time in several years, in a net increase in our numbers. Total membership has gone up from 446 last year to 448 in spite of having, sadly, lost several members over the intervening period. This increase has been achieved by new members joining as a result of retirement from IBM (one of whom is with us today for the first time), and one transferring from the Warwick Local club to ourselves. I will not go into the detail of the eligibility changes as this is adequately described in the new Constitution, but suffice it to say that the result should be to bring in new younger members in coming years and stabilise our numbers.

Keeping track of changes in contact details of members has been an on-going problem for many years, resulting in us losing contact with many.

One of the changes, partly brought about by GDPR, is that IBM now provides us on a monthly basis with a much more accurate and detailed list of our members together with contact details, especially email addresses, so that we can stay in touch. We now have email addresses for just over 400 of our members and up to date postal addresses for everybody.

One benefit of this has enabled us to understand better where our members actually live so that we can offer events that are more accessible. For example, we now know that approximately 25% of our members have moved away from the Warwick area to other parts of the country and some abroad.

Another benefit has been accurate contact information which has enabled me to reach more members successfully than ever before. I sent around 400 emails and 50 printed letters with notification of this AGM and am confident that I reached 99.9% of our members. Several members have responded to say that they had heard nothing from us for some time, the reasons usually being that they have moved or changed email and not informed us. These members have been added to the Newsletter list which we are now sending to over 300 people, an increase of 25 over last year. This includes some current employees who are also interested in hearing about our activities.

I am currently doing some work with Gary Wooding (who is taking over the role of membership) to see how we can best rationalise the data we hold instead of juggling the three databases we have had to use until now. Even though I am standing down, I will continue to help Gary with this in the weeks ahead. Another change that has taken place is the dissolution of the TheatrePlus sub-section as a separate sub-section of the Warwick Local Club. A revised agreement is being finalised between us for events, including those which would previously have been considered as TheatrePlus events. I understand Paul will be mentioning this in his report and details of the changes will be published in the newsletter. This should also make it more appropriate for some people to join us.

In conclusion, I have enjoyed my time on the Committee but a very welcomed change in family life means that I will not be able to devote the attention to the Club in the future that it deserves.

I would like to thank everybody for the support they have given me during my time on the Committee and hope to see the Club continue to serve the members over the coming years.

## **Rambling Club Report**

The rambling club remains a sub-section of the IBM Retirees (Midlands) Club and has it's own grant from the retirees club. The chairman is John Rickman, Terry King is the secretary and Brian Dunston the treasurer.

Last year 9 rambles were planned but the March ramble was cancelled due to heavy snow! Rambles usually started at pubs where we would return for lunch. The localities covered: Knowle, Bubbenhall, Napton, Fenny Compton, Meridan, Lowsonford and Barston. There was a combined sightseeing and rambling trip to the Isle of Wight for four nights in June. Four coastal rambles were undertaken there.

In December the Rambling Club AGM was held followed by a meal at the Catalan Restaurant in Warwick.

The monthly walks normally attract around 12 to 16 walkers plus a few more who join us at lunch. The annual subscription is £5 which entitles the member to a £4 subsidy on the lunches so is good value for money. New members are most welcome. Current membership is around 30. Walks are normally around 7 miles and take approximately 2.5 hours and shorter walks of around 3 or 5 miles are usually alternatives. Walks are usually held on Sundays but some walks are on mid week days.

An annual evening meal was held at the Saffron Gold restaurant in Warwick in February. This was a combined Rambling and Retirees Club event.

The first walk this year in February was organized by Gordon and based around Market Bosworth. 16 walkers took part and 2 guests also joined us for lunch.

The March walk this month is organized by Alan Palmer and based around Leek Wooton.

## Chairman's Report

### IBM Renews Interest in Retiree Clubs

For a long while IBM UK showed little interest in IBM Clubs. Consider how difficult it was to get a speaker for our AGM.

However, I suspect that somebody high up discovered the company was paying out a lot of money to clubs and worried it did not have enough control over how it was spent.

Now there is a spate of activity with a deluge of communication on the European Union GDPR regulations; reduction in grant money; changes to the club constitution; annual self-certification; and a set of new logos. It is almost like being back at work in IBM.

"We have to confirm that each Club has reviewed and updated its Separation of Duties matrix. This document is important, because in it, you confirm that you have appropriate controls in place."

The GDPR regulations have had a impact on how we run the club. Specifically on what information we are allowed to keep about members. Dave Compton's report goes into more detail about this but at times it has been close to the surreal, "I could tell you that but then I would have to kill you".

IBM UK could be described as bureaucratic but they are amateurs compared with the NatWest bank. As a new committee we were obliged to apply for a change of signatories on the club bank account. The ensuing process was too painful to recount in detail. It took best part of 6 months but is now successfully concluded. We can spend money without asking the previous chairman and treasurer for approval.

### The New Logos

New official IBM logos are to be used by January 2019.

Dull, insipid, boring, ugly, I won't say what I really think for fear of upsetting the designer.

The club is not allowed to use any other logos, but fortunately is not obliged to use a logo at all.

The committee chose the blue on white logo should we need it.

### 2018 Events

May	Pete's Place	Gary Wooding
Jun	Isle of Wight 5 days	John Rickman
Jul	River trip with meal	Paul Gover
Aug	World of Wedgewood	Ray Bradshaw
Sep	Ragley Hall Fireworks	Michael Fabianski
Oct	BMW Factory Tour	Dave Compton
Nov	Skittles Evening	Paul Gover
Dec	Christmas Lunch	Ray Bradshaw

Did anyone go on all the events?

## Thanks

A Chairman's report has two elements, a look back at the year since the last AGM, and a formal expression of thanks to all who have made contributions to the club's activities in that period. So here goes for the second part.

I wish to thank the committee without whom there would be neither events nor club. In no particular order:

Terry King, Richard Short, Ray Bradshaw, Christine Bradshaw, Paul Gover, Michael Fabianski, Gary Wooding, Dave Compton.

Thanks to Christine Bradshaw who is retiring from the committee. She has supplied an element of diversity to our otherwise old, white, middle-class, alpha-male, ex-engineers who make up the remainder of the committee.

Special thanks to Dave Compton retiring after eleven years service on the committee in various roles but especially as membership secretary. We will miss his dedication and knowledge. Thanks also to who has Gary has been helping Dave with the membership and has agreed to take on the responsibility of it.

Our main channel of communication and source of all knowledge about the club is provided by the Newsletter and the Website. We owe Mike Fabianski a lot for the dedicated work he puts into keeping these up to date and useful.

Thanks to Paul Gover our treasurer, who has put in the hours to master the intricacies of our accounting practices and the arcane IBM interfaces.

Thanks to all of you who have given up time to attend this AGM. Only a special sort of person can endure such proceedings.

Lastly, I wish to thank club members and their partners who have supported our events during the last year and wish you good health in the coming year and that you be able to continue to support us.