

## **IBM Retirees (Midlands) Club AGM - 16 March 2022**

This meeting was held online via Zoom starting at 11 a.m.

### **Present:**

#### *Committee:*

John Rickman (chair)  
Paul Gover (treasurer)  
Ray Bradshaw (secretary)  
Gary Wooding  
Richard Short  
Terry King

*Guest Speaker:* Robert Tickell

#### *Retiree Club Members:*

Alan Palmer, Bernard Cadogan, Dave Compton, John Stanley, Geoff Hope,  
Julie Rickman, Brian Chilver, "Jabelman", Derek Dent, Sandra Hassall,  
Roger Hawkins, Cyril Rundles and Steve Jones.

*Apologies* received from : Michael Fabianski, Sheila Short, Brian Long, Tony Mancell, Fred Edgar and Adrian Ditchburn.

### **AGM Agenda**

1. Welcome by Chairman
2. Apologies for Absence
3. Approval of Minutes for the 2021 AGM
4. Matters arising from the 2021 Minutes
5. Treasurer's Report
6. Election of Officers
7. Address by Robert Tickell MND of IBM Pensions Trust
8. 2022 events

## **Welcome by Chairman**

Good morning everyone. Thank you for supporting the club by attending this our second online AGM.

I think many of us expected the Covid pandemic to be over by now and for us to be able to return to meeting in person. Sadly even though the crisis is officially over the number of infections is still high and people continue to die of the disease.

There were other considerations in the committee's decision to hold the AGM online. The last AGM held "in person" cost £440 pounds which in our present circumstances is a significant expense. As you can see from the Treasurer's report the IBM grant was small in 2021 and will be smaller in 2022, if indeed we get one at all. Our members are geographically widely scattered, and for those who are closer, reluctance to drive, the high cost of fuel and impact on the environment were factors leading to a preference to using Zoom.

For the second year running we welcome our guest speaker Robert Tickell who spoke to us at the AGM last year. He will be talking to us about our IBM pensions and updating us on any Pension Plan changes since last year.

## **The Committee**

I would like to add my thanks to the committee:

Ray Bradshaw	secretary
Paul Gover	treasurer
Gary Wooding	membership
Michael Fabianski	newsletters and website
Terry King	rambles
Richard Short	our man in the North

## **Membership**

Our membership continues to decline. As of February 2022 we have a total of 419 members. According to our membership secretary we lost 12 last year, so one a month on average.

## **2021 Events in Earth**

We have run a reduced program of physical events owing to the Corona virus restrictions.

E2101PHO - Photo Competition – Winter Theme  
winner Susan Lees

E2104PHO - Photo Competition – Spring Theme  
winner Suzanne Bradshaw

E2103AGM – Annual General Meeting  
Ramble based on the Foley pub in Napton.  
E2108SLA – Summer Lunch on a Thames Cruise  
E2112XML – Christmas Lunch  
with Covid passport - Hockley House  
E2108PPL – Pete's Place  
E2110BAT – Visit to the Batsford Arboretum

## **2021 Events in Heaven**

*Weekly social Zoom open to all members.*

The Midlands Retirees Committee meets every Monday morning on Zoom. Formally once a month and in between socially, along with other Retirees . Anyone "drop in" to the meetings where you will be made welcome. The Zoom link is the same every week.

*Monthly Newsletter sent to all members*

## ***PC Technology Group***

Meets every month on the third Friday. Meeting are open to all retirees. There is no fee, and no obligation to attend every meeting. Just tune in if you have a technical problem you would like to discuss. We have a number of regular "experts" who are very willing to help.

- Topics covered this year include:
- the new Mac Mini M1 computer
- installed a camera into an IBM Thinkpad
- Programming in Python
- Laptop security and encryption
- Smalltalk programming language
- Electric Cars
- Video transfer from camcorders
- Home wifi
- Infrared technology and cameras

## **2021 AGM Minutes**

The minutes were approved and there were no matters arising.

## **Treasurer's Report - Financial Year Ending 31 December 2021**

As in 2020, the Club's event program was heavily impacted by COVID-19. We managed to restart events in the summer, culminating in a real Christmas Lunch just as the Omicron variant began to predominate.

We received a small grant from IBM late in the year, but as we had a large surplus from 2020, we've ended up with a balance roughly in line with a normal year. Because we ran only about a quarter of the usual events, that balance is higher than IBM would normally expect, but as in 2020, IBM is not going to redistribute the excess. We enter 2022 with a sound bank balance similar in size to most recent years.

We planned our event subsidies to achieve an overall rate of about 45%, a little below the 50% limit to allow for unforeseen expenses. In fact we had unforeseen income – the Hockley House hotel credited us with the £250 deposit for the Spring Lunch we'd lost due to COVID in 2020.

We have no information about IBM grants for 2022. At best, we expect the grant to continue to reduce in per-head value by 10% per annum, which means it's unlikely to exceed £9.5 per head. With inflation reappearing, we may find our ability to subsidise events significantly reducing.

In 2020, the club bought a Zoom licence for the Technology club's meetings, and also used it for the AGM and club committee meetings. It then appeared as an expense for the Technology club subsection. In 2021 we renewed the license and again the Technology club, the committee, and the AGM used Zoom, so it now appears as an AGM expense. The Zoom license is available for any club event.

The Rambling club subsection will disappear as a separate entity from 2022. We will no longer make a grant to the Rambling club for it to subsidise its events separately. If the club organises rambles, they will be normal Retirees Club events.

*The full year account figures are available from a link in the March 2022 newsletter.*

### **Election of Officers**

The existing committee were willing to serve another year and were duly re-elected.

### **Address by Robert Tickell MND of IBM Pensions Trust**

Robert co-chairs the IBM Pensions Trust board. He gave an interesting talk updating us on the recent changes that have been made to the IBM Pension schemes and on what the future is likely to hold.

#### **The agenda for his talk was as follows:**

Funding levels of Main plan and I plan

Pension rises in 2021

Pre 97 service discretionary increases update

DB (Main and I plan) admin outsourcing to XPS

L & G Master Trust option for DB AVCs/DC plans

Russia/Ukraine impact on our plans (note : de-risking/buy-in)

IBM Club – possible changes

MND elections in 1Q23

Q & A session

Robert's address was warmly received and applauded by the audience.

## **Planned 2022 Events**

Ray gave an overview of the planned events for this year.

Rambles

Restaurant Evening Meal – 27 April

Pete's Place – 15 May

Garden's Visit – June

Gloucester Warwickshire Railway – July

Summer Lunch Cruise – August

Week's Holiday – September

Triumph Motorcycle Factory Tour – October

Christmas Lunch - December

**The AGM finished at about 12.15 a.m.**

