

**Minutes of the Annual General Meeting
held on Sunday 13th May
at the Royal Hotel, Hull**

Tony Paul welcomed everyone to the Meeting.

Apologies were received from ten members.

The Minutes of the AGM held on Sunday 21st May 2017 were signed.

Matters arising if not on the Agenda

Wendy - in order that Country Link can move forward, changes need to be made so she said she would not be voting for the longest standing Vice President, and urged others to do the same.

Chairman's Report

Tony began by asking members to remember Hector who had recently passed away, and there was a few moments silence.

Tony welcomed everyone to Hull, thanked Derbyshire Country Link for making the weekend happen, and thanked the hotel.

Tony explained that he was hoping to put together a sub committee to help to bring the Constitution up to date and asked for volunteers to help with this. He explained how Vicky was able to help with advertising costs and wording etc. He finished by explaining that we would be discussing GDPR later in the meeting.

Treasurer's Report

2015 - 476 members; 2016 - 482 members; 2017 - 485 members.

The majority of members are in the south west. The numbers are static and the membership needs to be increased.

Expenses: club advertising - £735 claimed by six clubs; Somerset, Dorset and South Wiltshire work together - this spreads the word wider and there are shared experiences

Public Liability Insurance

Website - the domain name, the website administrator - the website is an important method of communication

Publicity - posters, postcards, banners etc

Meeting expenses - tea/coffee/cake etc

Lesley asked for suggestions on how to spend the money, and she had previously asked for suggestions for advertising but none had been made.

Lesley thanked Kate for auditing the accounts, and Kate has agreed to do them in 2019.

Lesley proposed the adoption of the accounts, Valda seconded, carried.

Lesley proposed the subs for 2019 remain at £10.00, Wendy seconded, carried.

Lesley proposed the advertising budget for 2019 remain at £300.00, Andrew B seconded, carried.

Lesley suggested that if advertising is cheap, then drip feed it.

Secretary's report

Liz G talked about communication within Country Link, and how edited versions of the Minutes of the 2017 AGM and Members Meeting had been added to the website, together with the Agendas for Meetings, and the nomination forms for the National Committee. This paperwork had also been emailed to the group organisers, and Liz suggested that if members had not seen the paperwork, they should talk to their organiser.

She asked if any groups had a new organiser, and requested contact information if there had been a change. With the new regulations, members will need to become more pro-active and let the National Committee know of any changes in contact information.

She finished by asking members to check that they had added their names to the attendance register.

President's comments

Nigel had recently received an email with 15 email addresses on it and said members need to think about email security.

Elections

Position	Nominee	Nominated by	Carried
Chairman	Tony	Karen L/Pat B Charles H/Wendy S	Yes
Vice Chairman	Charles H	Alan C/Barbara C Edward H/Helen H	Yes
Secretary	Liz G	Henrietta I/Jerry W	Yes
Treasurer	Lesley S	David P/Gill T (from the floor)	Yes

Election of President/Vice Presidents

It was explained that these are non-voting members of the National Committee, and they are there to give help and give advice.

The Vice Presidents in the room introduced themselves to the members.

Position	Nominee	Nominated by	Seconded by	Carried
President	Nigel S	Maria G	Pat B	Yes
Vice President	Valda G	Tony P	Chris A	Yes
	Peter H	Tony P	Peter H	Yes
	Jerry W	Tony P	Mary D	Yes
	George G	Tony P	David P	No

There were 18 votes for George, 20 against and 17 abstentions

Phil C	Tony P	Sarah T	Yes
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Tony asked for members to volunteer to manage the website; at the moment it is shared between Maria and Pat, and Lesley explained that this job share arrangement can continue.

GDPR

Tony explained about GDPR, and how data is going to be closely controlled: the forms will only have the name of the members; the form needs to be completed and handed to the group organiser, and then the hard copy sent to the National Secretary; the form will be available on the website in the Documents section. There are different levels within the organisation whose details are needed - group level, National Committee, weekend organiser - and each needs to be covered.

Tony reminded members not to include full names or addresses on the paperwork sent to the website, and all members need to give permission for photos to be put on the website. In answer to a question, he thought the information could be confirmed once and then it stands for a period of time.

Tony suggested that each group uses a generic email address, and then this can be used by the new organiser.

Forthcoming weekends

Autumn 2018 Jenny M explained how this would be held at The Wensum Valley Hotel in Taverham, Norwich on the weekend on Friday 19th October- Monday 22nd October. The cost is £185.00pp, with a single room supplement of £15.00pp per night.

Tony asked for members to think about organising a weekend for 2019, and into 2020.

Wendy asked about the handbook and the guidelines for organising a weekend; Liz explained that the handbook would be on the website as soon as possible after this weekend.

Any other business

John, Warwickshire had Country Link hats for sale (£2.00) from their weekend.

Vicky, National member requested that a microphone be used by the Committee members; Tony agreed that this could be looked into.

Claire, Northamptonshire showed the different Country Link logo they had on their clothing.

Lesley explained that Country Link would not fund the purchase of clothing for members, but would pay for the logo to be changed so that it included the website address.

John, National member asked if clothing could be sold at weekends; Claire suggested that clothing could be pre-ordered.

Andy, Worcestershire asked who would replace George. Wendy explained that this was the chance to bring new members onto the National Committee. Tony asked the members to let members of the National Committee know of anyone they thought would be suitable for the role.

Valda, Cornwall reminded members of vacancies at the regional rep level

Jane, South Wiltshire asked what the term of office was for Vice Presidents/President, and it was confirmed that it is one year.

Nigel, Somerset explained that the problem with the Constitution is that it does not provide for Vice Presidents/President, and that this will be considered when rewriting the Constitution.

President's Cup, donated by Jerry White, for the group which has increased its membership by the biggest percentage - Nigel presented the Cup to Cumbria Country Link, and Gill collected it on their behalf.

Maria went through the reminders for Sunday night/Monday morning, she thanked Phil for all his hard work and thought Derbyshire Country Link had coped with being out of their own county. She handed the key to Jenny. Valda thanked Derbyshire Country Link for organising the weekend.

Date of the next AGM - at the Spring 2109 weekend