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# 49th Annual General Meeting Minutes

Location: Waterford Suite, Christchurch Harbour Hotel  
Date: Tuesday, 3rd March, 2026  
Time: Upon completion of the Club Meeting

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## 1.0 Welcome

The President opened the meeting by welcoming all members present.

### Apologies for Absence

There were no apologies.

## 2.0 Minutes of Annual General Meeting Held on 5th March 2024 (*Appendix 1*)

Unanimously agreed without amendment following a proposal by Mike Harrold, seconded by Ken Goodman.

### Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

## 3.0 Finance

### 3.1 Accounts for year ending 31<sup>st</sup> December 2025 (*Appendix 2*)

Copies of the Accounts had been circulated to all members; James Robertson provided a brief overview. There were no questions. Acceptance of the accounts was proposed by Peter Warren, seconded by Cliff Putterford, and carried unanimously.

### 3.2 Treasurer's Report & Independent Examiner's Report (*Appendices 3 & 4*)

The Treasurers Report had been circulated to all members. There were no questions.

The Independent Financial Examiners Report confirmed the accounts accorded with the financial records of the club and with the requirements of the Charities Act 1993.

### 3.3 Appointment of Independent Examiner

The Independent Examiner, Tom Mulligan has agreed to continue in the role for a further year. Tom's reappointment was proposed by James Robertson, seconded by Maurice Dowling, and carried unanimously.



### **3.4 Subscription & Fees for 2026** *(Appendix 5)*

Recommendations for Annual Subscriptions and Monthly Fee had been circulated to all members. There were no questions. Acceptance of the recommendations was proposed by James Robertson, seconded by David Marshall, and carried unanimously.

### **4.0 President's Report for 2025 – 2026** *(Appendix 6)*

The President's report is appended to these minutes. He thanked the committee members for their work through his year and emphasised the need to recruit new members. He particularly thanked James Robertson and Robin Haggett.

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### **5.0 Change of President**

Graham Newton formally passed the Presidents chain of office to David Dunsmore.

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### **6.0 New President's Appointment Remarks** *(Appendix 7)*

As attached.

### **7.0 Election of Officers and Committee for 2026/7** *(Appendix 8)*

The list detailing the incoming committee had been circulated to members. Following a proposal by David Dunsmore the officers were unanimously elected en bloc.

### **8.0 Any Other business**

There was no other business

### **9.0 President's Closing Remarks**

The President closed the meeting and introduced Peter Warren, the speaker for the meeting.

Membership last AGM: 46 Active + 1 Life = 47

Current membership: 41 Active + 1 Life = 42

Associate Members last AGM: 11

Current Associate Members: 11



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Appendix 1

# 48th Annual General Meeting Minutes

Location: Waterford Suite, Christchurch Harbour Hotel  
Date: Tuesday, 4th March, 2025  
Time: Upon completion of the Club Meeting

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**1. Welcome**

The President opened the meeting by welcoming all members present.

**2. Apologies for Absence**

11 Apologies had been received.

**3. Minutes of Annual General Meeting Held on 5th March 2024 (*Appendix 1*)**

Unanimously agreed without amendment following a proposal by Graham Newton; seconded by David Marshall.

**4. Matters Arising**

There were no matters arising.

**5. Accounts for year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2024 (*Appendix 5*)**

Copies of the Treasurer's Report and Annual Accounts for the year ending December 31<sup>st</sup> 2024, are attached. It was unanimously agreed that the accounts should be adopted following a proposal by Brian Hollowell which was seconded by Richard Porter. This was followed by the Treasurers Report for 2025. (*Appendix 5*)

**6. Independent Examiner's Report (*Appendix 5*)**

The Treasurer drew the meeting's attention to the report, which confirmed that the accounts accord with the accounting records of the club and with the requirements of the Charities Act 1993. (The document was compiled by Mr. Tom Mulligan, the Independent Financial Examiner.)

**7. President's Report for 2024 – 2025**

**This is attached.**

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**8. Change of President**

Cliff Putterford thanked the members for their support. Cliff formally handed over the Presidents chain of office with the President's badge to Graham Newton for the start of his year in office. Cliff was presented with a Past President's tie and Past President's lapel badge.



## Appendix 1 (continued)

### 9. Election of Officers and Committee for 2024/25 (*Appendix 9*)

Following a proposal by Graham Newton, seconded by Richard Porter, the officers listed in *appendix 9* were unanimously elected “en bloc”.

Simon Weinberg has kindly agreed to act as Club Steward for the coming year.

Mike Harrold and Ken Goodman are happy to deputise when required.

### 10. Appointment of Independent Examiner

It was confirmed that Tom Mulligan was prepared to serve a further term as Independent Financial Examiner. Tom’s reappointment was proposed by James Robertson, seconded by Harrold Jones, and agreed unanimously.

### 11. Subscriptions and Fees for April 2024 to March 2025.

Due to the current status of the funds the committee propose the annual subscription to be raised from £28.50. to £34.00.

For new members the current subscription of £34.00 will apply March to August, 50% of this (£17.00) if joining September to December, and a fee of £10.00. if joining January to February.

The monthly meeting fee of £28.50 will raise to £29.00.

The Subscriptions and Fees were proposed by James Robertson and were seconded by Brian Hollowell.

### Members Discussion

Ian Peterkin asked James Robertson if costs could be lowered.

James said the only variable he had was to reduce the number of free lunches budgeted for.

James explained we had to pay two website fees due to a timing issue this year.

Garry Turvey was also concerned with the subscription charge and thought it may affect our membership.

David Sutcliffe was also concerned about the subscription charge

Quoting the subscription of only £5.00 the year before last.

This was explained by James as a way of reducing our bank balance.

David thought the increase might affect membership.

Harrold Jones also raised concerns about the subscription level.

Andrew Harris Proposed the following: -

The subscription should remain the same, i.e. £28.50

At every monthly meeting a raffle should be held.

This would ensure a profit of at least £100.00 a month.

The proposal was seconded by John P. Davies.



## Appendix 1 (continued)

The proposal was put to a vote: -  
4 members in favour, 24 members against.  
The motion was not carried, and the original proposal was  
therefore, taken forward.

### 12. Any Other business - None

### 13. President's Closing Remarks

The new President Graham Newton read his report and this attached.

Membership last AGM: 46 Active + 1 Life = 47  
Current membership: 41 Active + 1 Life = 42

Associate Members last AGM: 11  
Current Associate Members: 11

# THE PROBUS CLUB OF CHRISTCHURCH



## Appendix 2

### Christchurch Probus Club Annual Accounts 2025

	<u>2025</u>	<u>2024</u>
<b><u>Income</u></b>		
Subscriptions	1464	1254
Lunches	8569	11104
Ties & Badges	15	5
Social events*	9439	8233
Raffles	498	-
Club Weekend	8936	9637
In advance following year Lunches	347	513
In advance following year social events donations	350	0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b><u>29617</u></b>	<b><u>32309</u></b>

<b><u>Expenditure</u></b>		
Ties & badges	72	82
Administration	468	471
Bank charges	48	-
Website	230	332
Lunches	9040	12165
Insurance	94	91
Social Events	10747	8004
Presidents discretionary fund	40	110
Club Weekend	8935	9638
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b><u>29675</u></b>	<b><u>30893</u></b>

Deficit/Surplus for the year	-58	1416
Balance B/F from previous year	4963	3547
Balance C/F to following year	<b><u>4905</u></b>	<b><u>4963</u></b>
Deficit/Surplus for the year		

### **Represented by**

Lloyd's Bank Account	905	31.12.25
Lloyd's Savings Account	4000	
<b>Total</b>	<b><u>4905</u></b>	

### **Notes to the accounts**

1. These accounts have been prepared on the receipts and payments basis, and so include only amounts and received during the year
  2. The deficit on lunches (£471) adjusted for income in advance and free lunches, gives a surplus of £94
  3. The deficit on social events (£1308), adjusted for 2024 income, gives a surplus of £279
  4. Combined adjustments give a surplus of £1673
  5. Interest on the Lloyds Savings Account is £23.33, not included in the accounts.
  6. Our reserve, excluding raffle income, is £4060.
- This exceeds recommended 10% of turnover by £1093 J M Robertson Hon.Treasurer



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Appendix 3

**Treasurer's Report to the 2026 AGM**

I am pleased to report that the Club's finances are in good shape, despite prevailing economic pressures generally. A combination of factors has contributed to a surplus on the account, and more than enough reserve in our bank account. A number of our activities and admin costs have come in under budget, and we have received one or two generous donations, for which we can be very grateful. All this means that we are able to keep increases to the subscription and fees to a minimum. The purpose of this is to avoid the shock of large increases in future years, while enabling members to benefit from a healthy current surplus.

This year saw the re-introduction of a raffle at a few of the social events, raising almost £500. Your committee has decided that raffle proceeds should be set aside to help towards funding celebrations in our 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary year, 2027, planning for which will be done this year.

While the membership number has not grown during the year as we would all have wished, this has not adversely affected subscription income. The committee is working hard to encourage new members to join the club, and a healthy influx of members will of course help to keep the subscription fee down.

We are grateful to the Hotel for holding their monthly charge for the previous two years, now increased by £1.00, or 4%.

I would like to thank Graham Newton for his help in keeping the accounting spreadsheet in order, despite the best efforts of the treasurer to mess it up! Thanks too to both Graham and Maurice Dowling for their help approving payments. I am also grateful to Tom Mulligan for his prompt and efficient attention to our final account as our Independent Financial Examiner.

I have enjoyed my two years as your treasurer, and thank you for your help in making this job as easy as possible.

James Robertson  
Hon.Treasurer  
February 2026



## Appendix 4

### **Report of the Independent Financial Examiner to the Members of the Probus Club of Christchurch relating to the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2025**

I have examined the Income and Expenditure for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2025. My examination did not amount to an audit although I did conduct random spot checks on both income and expenditure entries. As such, my Examination was carried out in accordance with the general directions issued by the Charity Commissioners for the independent examination of accounts for smaller charities.

I am satisfied that the accounting records have been kept in very good order, and nothing has come to my attention during my examination, which gives me reason to believe otherwise than that the Accounts as submitted accord with the accounting records of the Club and as such fulfil the requirements of the Charities Act 1993.

Regarding the individual financial reimbursement for Theatre Trips, may I suggest that it might be prudent to use a Probus Debit Card, to avoid large personal payments by the Organiser and large reimbursement amounts.

Thomas Mulligan ACIB  
39 Bure Haven Drive  
Christchurch  
BH23 4BT

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tom Mulligan', is written over the printed name.

10<sup>th</sup> January 2026



Appendix 5

**Subscription & Fees the AGM 2026 – March 2027**

**Existing Member Annual Subscription**

The Committee continues to believe that the fairest way to finance the club is to have meetings and events individually self-financing, and use our annual subscription for other items of expenditure and to maintain a healthy but not excessive reserve. However, last year’s account surplus and increase in reserve enable some subsidy of fees in 2026. This follows the previous year’s subsidy from a donation.

- 1 Our reserves at the beginning of 2026 stand at £4558 which is 14.5% of annual income (See notes to the annual accounts). The percentage recommended by a previous Independent Financial Examiner is 10% of our annual income.
- 2 The predictive budget for items which are funded by the annual subscription is set out below. It is intended that some of our reserve is used to subsidise the subscription fee and meeting fee for this year.

Item	2025 budget	2026 budget
<i>Purchases – badges, ties etc, less sales.</i>	57 (60)	60
<i>Administration</i>	468 (520)	500
<i>Website</i>	230(230)	250
<i>Insurance</i>	94 (100)	100
<i>Bank charges</i>	48(51)	51
<i>President’s Discretionary fund</i>	40 (150)	150
<i>6 free meals for prospective members, and 2 for honoured guests.</i>	52(226)	232
<i>contingency</i>	0 (9)	10
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>989 (1,346)</b>	<b>1353</b>

- 3 The annual subscription must usually be set to cover the above items. With 39 members the annual subscription to achieve this would be £34.70 per member. However:  
*Current Fee = £28.50 (includes £6.25 subsidy by donation). The Committee proposes for 2026/7 that the annual subscription rises to £30.00.*



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Appendix 5 (continued)

**New Member Annual Subscription**

*New members are asked to pay either the full annual subscription, or a proportion of it, depending when they join. The proportions are as follows:*

<i>March - August</i>	<i>full fee</i>
<i>September - December</i>	<i>50% of current full fee (£15)</i>
<i>January &amp; February</i>	<i>£10.00.</i>

*No change proposed*

**Monthly meeting fee**

**Hotel Charge**

The charge from April 2024 was £24.50.

The hotel has increased this to £25.50 from 1.1.26.

*The Committee proposes for 2026/7 that the hotel element of the fee increases to £25.50.*

**Staff Gratuity**

We last increased this in 2022.

*Currently £1.50. No change proposed*

**Speaker Costs**

Monthly meetings made a small surplus of £94 last year, after adjustments. The cost of speakers in 2025, including lunches for some, averaged £81 per meeting (Speaker fee + hotel charge + gratuity). Lunch is a courtesy offered by most other Probud Clubs. Our average attendance in 2025 was 30.

*Currently £3.00. No change proposed.*

*Total Current Fee: £29.00 The Committee proposes for 2026/7, as outlined above, that the fee from April 2026 will be £30.00 per member.*

**Attendance at Meeting without lunch**

*Current Fee = £5.00 No change proposed.*



Appendix 6

**Final Presidential Report**

It has been a joy and a privilege to serve as your president for a second term. It began inauspiciously with a bout of illness, but once that was under control I hope I have served the club as you would have hoped and expected. I am grateful to my colleagues on the committee for their commitment to their roles in the workings of the Club. Once again, your committee has served us very well.

I joined the club in 2012 and the committee in 2013. Since then, I have only had 6 months without a role on the Committee (This despite proclaiming to the churches congregations that I was leaving on retirement that after almost 50 years in church leadership that I would never sit on another committee!!) I know that I have one more year to go on the committee here, in the ex-officio role as Immediate Past President and then I can retire to “the back benches” – or here the back row – making room for fresh ideas. It is for that reason that sometimes it is as important to stand down as it is to continue to serve.

The positives for this presidential year are that we have had good meetings with interesting speakers and good food and also a rich variety of social events. We have continued to be well supported by you, the members, so thanks go to all of you. I believe that we sometimes under-sell ourselves, so I would like to affirm here that Christchurch Probus Club offers us a good way to meet and make friends and at least twice a month an entertaining day out sometimes just us men, and sometimes with our wives/partners. We have a good story to tell, though at the moment, maybe, we are not so good at telling it. So, thank you to all of you for making our Club something worth selling to our friends, family and neighbours.

But – and isn't there always a but in life?? – I regret that we remain in a vulnerable position. Once or twice this year we have got near to dropping below the minimum number of members attending the meeting (this is the agreement we have with the hotel for the minimum number of meals we will pay for each month). With the recent and sad demise of our friend Don, our membership stands at 39. We do have a couple of new members hopefully joining us next month, but to be in a comfortable and safe position our membership needs to be in the high forties or low fifties.

It is a disappointment to me that, in my presidential year, and despite banging on about it over the year, between us all we have only invited 3 or 4 guests to experience our Club. I hope, in David's year a President we can do far more to encourage new members. To that end, in the pack given to you this morning you have 2 copies of a new glossy leaflet for us to give to someone while sharing our enthusiasm for the club.

# THE PROBUS CLUB OF CHRISTCHURCH



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## Appendix 6 (continued)

This year we have dipped our toes into the controversial pool of raffles. I do not think these have proved to be as controversial as we had feared. They provide a bit of amusement for those who participate without putting pressure on those who would rather not and they have enabled us to start a pot of money to subsidise our celebration in 2027 of the 50<sup>th</sup> year since our inaugural meeting in April 1977. The Club was the joint initiative of the Christ Church Rotary and New Forest Rotary Clubs.

The President in April 2027 and for the rest of that year will be our friend Maurice, who will be rejoining the Committee this year as Vice-President, but the plans will be largely laid this year under David's presidency. I am sure we will hear more in the coming months as plans and preparations are made to make 2027 a big year for us all.

Earlier I paid tribute to the Committee as a whole, but I want to give particular mention to the contribution made in committee and to the club by our friend Robin. He was secretary when I joined in 2012 and has been a member all that time. I could make a bad joke about that, but I leave bad jokes to the master!!! Robin, we do thank you for the great contribution you have made and hope we will be able to enjoy your company – and, yes, your jokes!! – for many years to come.

It only remains for me to thank you all for your support for the Club, for the Committee, and for me personally; and to wish David every success in his presidency. I am sure we all hope that you will enjoy it as much as I have – both times.



Appendix 7

**Incoming President's Remarks**

I should start by thanking you all for entrusting me with the Presidency for the next twelve months. It is a privilege, especially as we head towards our 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in April, next year.

I joined Christchurch Probus in February 2016, just as Graham Newton became President for the first time. Now, eleven years later, as Graham retires from his second term as President, I find myself trying to fill his shoes. (Heaven knows where we'll all be if he waits another ten years before taking on the Presidency again.)

Christchurch Probus has been a vibrant and successful club since its inception and, with the help of the committee members, I will endeavour to ensure that it remains so.

Graham and his team did an excellent job last year and are a hard act to follow. Fortunately for me, Graham, James W, Cliff, Richard, Peter and Roy have all volunteered to stay on for another year, subject to your approval. While Ian Peterkin and Bill Dempsey have kindly agreed to join us.

I'm also pleased to be able to say that Simon Weinberg has agreed to be club steward and will be ably supported by Mike Harrold and Ken Goodman, where necessary. My thanks to all of them.

Sadly though, that means that Robin Haggett, James Robertson & Graeme Gibson are standing down. I would like to acknowledge the outstanding contributions they have made to the committee over the years and to thank them for their work on behalf of the club. Particular mention should be made of Robin, of course, who served on the committee for 14 years in a variety of roles, including Club Secretary, Programme Secretary and President.

Any is only as good as its members. And while the committee will seek to ensure that everything runs smoothly, to be successful and to thrive, the club needs every member to actively participate by regularly attending monthly meetings, supporting social events, recruiting new members, and assisting with the work of the committee. We can all do our bit. It is your club after all. And your input, your enthusiasm, your commitment will ensure that the club is here in another fifty years. So, if you have any new ideas, suggested improvements, or wish to arrange a specific social event, please don't hesitate to talk to me or any of the committee members.

First and foremost, though we have to enjoy ourselves because that has to be the main reason we are all members of this wonderful club.

David Dunsmore

3<sup>rd</sup> March 2026