



Club Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, 7th December 2021

The President opened the meeting at the Christchurch Harbour Hotel at 10:45 a.m.

In Memoriam

Past-President & Life Member Alan Deakin passed away on 1st December at the age of 96. Also remembered is associate member Sue Abercrombie who passed away earlier this month. Sue was in her 90's and living in a care home. There will be a private family funeral.

A Minute's Silence was held in memory of both Alan and Sue

1. Welcome

The President welcomed members to the meeting.

2. Resignation of Keith Puttick

Members were advised that, following the resignation of Keith Puttick for health reasons, and in accordance with Rule 7c, Richard Porter was appointed President of the club at the Committee Meeting held on 17th November. Richard will continue in the role until the AGM in March, when he will be re-appointed President for his official year in office.

3. Induction of David Avenell & Tom Mulligan

David Avenell & Tom Mulligan were inducted into the club having applied to join following their attendance as guests in November. The club now has 46 members.

4. Increase in Monthly Fee

Two emails have been received querying the committee's decision to increase the monthly fee paid by members. As a result, the committee decided to hold a special meeting to review the decision, which was due to take effect in January.

During the meeting:

It was highlighted that the club is currently subsidising meetings on a regular basis, as the monthly fee paid by members only covers the costs incurred if more than 34 members are in attendance: This is rarely the case.

The committee believed that the current policy of ensuring that, wherever possible, all events and meetings should be self-financing, making neither a profit nor a loss, is a prudent approach and should continue. It was noted that such a policy effectively determines the price to be charged for each event or meeting.

It was felt that there was little room for reducing costs without adversely affecting the quality of the club's offering to members and hence its attractiveness to new recruits. It was not considered possible (based on previous experience) to find an alternative, cheaper venue in the locale offering similar quality and value for money.



Consequently, the committee concluded that it was correct to proceed with the proposed increase. As previously, if, due to an increase in membership numbers, or an increase in attendance levels, a surplus (over and above the recommended contingency levels) arises money will be refunded to members via a reduction in the annual subs, thus benefiting all members.

David Marshall asked if the committee had looked at reducing costs, for example by doing away with the bread rolls at lunch and stopping the coffee both before and after the meal. Richard Porter responded by saying that such matters had been considered but that it was thought that a reduction in the quality of what was being offered by the club would be a mistake. The club is comprised of ex-businessmen and professionals who have certain expectations and if the club is to be successful it is important for us to try and maintain our standards.

David Marshall pointed out that we were already paying £3:00 more than most clubs. Richard Porter replied that most of the clubs David was comparing us to were based at the South Lawns Hotel, which was a venue that our members had previously decided they did not wish to go to. That aside, the South Lawn had notified the clubs meeting there that their costs would soon increase by £3:00 per person. Richard reminded the meeting that 3 years ago the committee had struggled to find a suitable alternative venue when we left the East Close Hotel and that the Christchurch Harbour Hotel provided the best mix of location, layout, quality and price.

John Batchelor suggested that members should seek to enjoy the comradeship and surroundings currently offered by the club as their importance should not be underestimated, particularly in the current climate.

5. Welfare Report

Maurice Dowling updated the meeting on the health & welfare of several absent members.

6. Social Secretaries Reports

a) Skittles

Planned for January 27th, 2022 @ the Conservative Club, New Milton. This will be an afternoon event, commencing at 12:00 and include a “basket” meal. Twenty-five attendees are required for the event, which will cost £12:00 per person. Flyers will be distributed shortly.

b) Christmas Lunch

To be held on Friday 17th December at the Miramar Hotel, Bournemouth. Sixty-two people are due to attend.

c) President’s Lunch

To be held on February 15th, 2022, at the Dudson Golf Club, Hotel & Spa. Flyers to be issued shortly.



7. Dining Secretary's Report

There are 36 attendees at today's lunch. Seating will be according to the last character of Christian names.

Today's Menu Choices:

Mains	Chicken Breast with potatoes and vegetables Roast or poached fillet of white fish with potatoes and vegetables Turkey, stuffing, roast potatoes & vegetables Vegetarian option
Desserts	Christmas Pudding with custard Fruit Salad (No Grapefruit) Ice Cream

8. Any Other Business

- a) The Press & Media Secretary, James Robertson, advised that the "new member" leaflet, put together with help from Roy Townshend, was now available for members to pass on to individuals who may be interested in joining the club.
- b) During the meeting, Barry Johnson enquired whether those members who had not had covid vaccinations should be excluded from meetings. Richard Porter responded that he believed people should opt for the vaccinations, as they were proven to reduce the chances of catching a Covid virus and substantially lowered the risk of serious illness following infection. The risk of catching the virus from an infected person is the same, however, whether they have been vaccinated, or not. Vaccinations are not compulsory, and it is not thought appropriate for the club to check members' medical records to see if they have been vaccinated or not. Of course, the fact that an individual has been vaccinated does not necessarily mean that they are virus-free.

9. Next Meeting

Location: Christchurch Harbour Hotel

Date: Tuesday, 4th January 2022

Today's Speaker

Name:	Brian Freeland
Topic:	Literary Paris
Steward:	Les Denmead
Vote of Thanks:	Chris Mosley