

THE PROBUS CLUB OF CHRISTCHURCH (FOUNDED 1977)



NEWSLETTER April 2014

President's Remarks

I was asked recently 'What is a Probust club?'

The internet provided me with this answer:

'Probust clubs worldwide work to provide regular gatherings to those retired or semi-retired business or professional men who, in retirement, appreciate and value opportunities to meet others in similar circumstances and of a similar interest'.

I have been a member of the club for eleven years and proud to now be President of a club which fulfils the above criteria. We are definitely a friendly club and enjoy an excellent venue with interesting speakers and good dining. It is interesting to note that virtually everyone who came to a meeting during the past few months to see what we were like has actually joined. I think this speaks for itself.

My committee this year is a mix of old hands and new members and I feel confident that we can look forward to an interesting year. I trust that all members will continue to support the club in all its activities.

Don Warren

Annual General Meeting

The 37th AGM, held on the 4th March 2014 at the East Close Hotel, was attended by 32 members, with 13 apologies for absence.

The new committee for 2014 was elected 'en bloc' as follows :-

Vice President	Les Denmead
Hon. Secretary	Robin Haggett
Hon. Treasurer	Mike Fay
Programme Secretary	Graham Newton
Dining Secretary	Mike Harrold
Social Secretaries	Colin Dobson David Sutcliffe
Webmaster Liaison	Tony Garland
Steward	Tony Garland

Website

Just by way of reminder, our website address is www.probuschristchurch.com

Subscriptions and Fees

It was agreed that the joining fee of £15 and the annual subscription of £20 should remain unchanged, but the monthly meeting charge is being increased from £18 to £20.

Also the charge for members who attend a meeting but do not stay for lunch is being increased from £3 to £4 to cover the cost of coffee and the speaker.

Members are reminded that the annual subscription is reduced on a pro rata basis for those joining the Club during the year, as follows :-

From 1st June - £15

From 1st September - £10

From 1st December - £5

Please note that your annual subscriptions are now due. The Treasurer will be pleased to receive your cheque for £20, made payable to Christchurch Probust.

Life Membership – Malcolm Burton-Smith

Under a 'special item' at the AGM, the President referred to the situation of Malcolm Burton-Smith, who is shortly moving with his wife to Switzerland, to be near their sons. Malcolm had mentioned that he would therefore need to resign from the club, although this was something that he was very reluctant to do. The President indicated that he was equally reluctant to accept Malcolm's resignation!

Malcolm has served the club loyally for many years, is a Past President and a former Secretary, where his technical expertise set up the systems which we are still relying on and using to this day. The President thus proposed on behalf of the committee that Malcolm be granted honorary Life Membership of the club, and this was agreed unanimously by those members present.

Club Rules and Membership lists

Copies are available from the Secretary

Meeting Procedures

Committee meetings will be held at 9.30am, with the General meetings starting at 10.45am, and coffee being served from 10.15am.

Recent Speakers

We have once again been greatly entertained at the monthly meetings by some very interesting talks - Peter Tilsley 'A photographic holiday of Burma', and Arthur Fairchild 'Flat bottomed boats' (tank landing craft).

Then in February the speaker who had been booked withdrew at a very late stage due to family illness. Too late to book anyone else - what could we do?

Step forward Geoff Wilson! - who gave a most fascinating presentation entitled 'Around the World in 80 Months' - his early travels with Thomas Cook. And then in March, following the AGM, Graham Newton's very humorous 'A funny thing happened to me on the way to the Vicarage' will live long in the memory.

Membership

It is with great regret that we have to record the passing in December of Life Member **Harry Sharland**, aged 94. As many members will be aware, Harry was a prisoner of war forced to help in the building of the bridge on the River Kwai, but was subsequently awarded the MBE for his bravery in saving other prisoner's lives by running medicines 'through the lines'. Harry's mobility problems had prevented him attending meetings for some time, but we had been delighted to welcome him to our October and then our November meeting, when the subject of the talk had been 'The real story of the Bridge over the River Kwai'.

We have however been very pleased to welcome two new members since our last Newsletter was issued:

Les James was a fighter command instructor in the RAF, but has since run a fishing tackle shop in Poole, and with his own boat has been involved in salvage work out of Poole - amongst many other things! Les lists his hobbies as shooting, art, and (of course!) fishing.

Ken Heap was a senior police officer, Head of Intelligence at B.P., and is currently MD of Seckura Ltd., his own company. Ken plays golf (Harold - please note!), is a former player and member of Leicester Tigers Rugby Club, and is now a season ticket holder with AFC Bournemouth

Reminder of the Attendance Rules

Members unable to attend any of these meetings must inform the Dining Secretary (Mike Harrold - 01425-271860 or mike_harrold@btinternet.com) **at the latest by the Friday preceding the meeting.**

Additionally, if any member is unhappy with the meal specified, please speak to Mike (again, by the preceding Friday) about a possible alternative being provided.

Future Speakers and Menus in 2014

6th May (with our Ladies) - Keith Puttick - 'Musicals of the 50s and 60s'.

VoT - John Bexon

Roasted Leg of Lamb, Chateau Potatoes, Parsnip, Beets and Minted Jus

Mango & Passion Fruit Panacotta Coconut Ice-Cream

3rd June - Derek Fones - 'What you don't know about Dorset'.

VoT - Graham Smith

Pan Fried Calves Liver and Bacon, Bubble and Squeak, Thyme Jus

Glazed Passion Fruit Tart, Mango Sorbet, and Mint Syrup

1st July - Hugh Burnard CBE - 'Modern Smuggling and Counter Smuggling Techniques' Smoked Haddock and Salmon Fish Cakes, Parsley Sauce and Green Salad
Sticky Toffee Pudding with Clotted Cream Ice Cream

5th August - Ray Cox - 'Royal Navy Survey Ships 1960/70'

Breast of Chicken, Chestnut Mushroom and Pancetta Jus, Fondant Potato

Dark Chocolate and Hazelnut Torte, Honeycomb Ice Cream

2nd September - Ron Taylor - 'Spice up your Life'

VoT - Ken Goodman

Grilled Plaice Fillets, Crushed Crab and Parsley Potato, Caper Butter

Strawberry and Raspberry Eton Mess, Mint Syrup, and Clotted Cream Ice Cream

7th October - Speaker t.b.a.

Pork, Apricot and Leek Casserole, Mash Potato

Warm Sticky Fig and Whisky Pudding, Vanilla Ice Cream

4th November - Trevor Sapey - 'The Marie Rose'

Steak and Mushroom Suet Pudding, Herb Potato, and Crushed Peas

Rhubarb and Apple Crumble Tart, Cinnamon Crème Anglaise

2nd December (with our Ladies) - Phil Holt

'Concorde' (the aeroplane)

Menu to be advised nearer the time

Robin Haggett
Honorary Secretary