

Denbigh and District Probus Club – precis of AGM – 6/11/23

by John Barr, Outgoing President

Going through the Agenda, I said:

- 1 *Welcome to members.*
Good to see you all here after lunch.
Today we have 26 Members present out of 41. I don't think there are many organisations that could boast of such a high turnout for their AGM , so give yourselves a pat on the back for being here today.
- 2 *Apologies.*
We have apologies from 11 Members.
- 3 *Approval of the Minutes of the AGM for 2022.*
You were all provided with copies of last year's minutes with Richard's invitation to attend, and there are some copies on the tables. Are there any comments on the minutes?
No? Well done Richard. I, therefore, propose that the Minutes are approved – The show of hands was unanimous in favour, so, last year's minutes are approved.
- 4 *Retiring President's Annual Report.*
Now for the bit you've all been desperately waiting for – so you can have a nice snooze in peace – The Retiring President's Annual Report.
See below for report
- 5 *Finance Officer's Report and **discussion** on implications of Finance Officer's Report.*
Right Gwyn – your turn now.
See below for report
Regarding next year's subscription and meal cost.
The meeting resolved to increase next year's subscription to £25 – due in January. Meal cost increases will be notified by the Committee as they occur.
Thank you Gwyn.
- 6 *Business Officer's Report.*
Richard – if you will.
See below for report
Thank you Richard,
- 7 *Membership Officer's Report.*
Gareth over to you.
See below for report
Thank you Gareth.
- 8 *Luncheon Officer's Report.*
Steve does a huge amount for the Club, and I bet he doesn't tell you about half of it – but let's hear what he has to say ... Steve.

See below for report

Thank you Steve.

9 *Election of Committee and Officers.*

Now then, we've come to the exciting bit – where you, the members, have to exert yourselves physically – yes, you heard ... I'm going to ask you to raise a hand a few times ... don't overdo it. So, I hope everyone is awake? If you're asleep, put your hand up!

You have all been provided with a list of Committee positions and candidates, *{See below for a copy}* some of which require voting on, by a show of hands, and some don't, but we'll take them one at a time as they are listed on the Agenda and sort it as we go.

As your next **President** I propose **Graham Evans** – for ... unanimous...
Graham ... your in!

As **Immediate Past President**, I'm afraid you have to accept yours truly.

As **Vice-President** I propose **Anne Mellor** – for ... unanimous.

Welcome Anne.

As replacement for Gwyn Evans as **Finance Officer** I propose **Gareth Williams** – for ... unanimous.

We're all counting on you now Gareth.

Philip Brelsford has agreed to stay on as **Auditor**, our thanks to him.

Steve Tootell has agreed to stay on as **Luncheon Officer** - thank goodness!

Julia Hughes has agreed to continue as our **Media Officer** ... broadcasting to the world.

Richard Thornton has agreed to continue as **Business Officer**, take special note of that, Richard.

With Gareth taking on the role of Finance Officer we needed a new **Membership Officer** and I propose **Andrew Faulkner** – for ... unanimous.

Good to have you join us on the Committee, Andrew.

To officially recognise **Fay Corfe** (assisted by Michael Corfe) in the role as **Programme Officer**– for ... unanimous.

As programmed, Fay.

Merfyn Roberts has stepped down as **Regalia Officer** so I propose **Bob Jones** as his replacement – for ... unanimous.

You deserve a medal, Bob.

Now, the bright eyed and bushy tailed amongst you will have noticed an error on the Agenda. As **Meeting and Greeting Officer**, Avril Roberts is not proposed, she has, in fact, stepped down and in her place I propose **Gaynor Lowe** – for ... unanimous. Welcome to Gaynor – even though she's not here.

Phew. You can all relax now – I am sure that if you need it, the hotel's spa facilities will help with those overworked arms.

10 *Retiring President retires old regalia and then hands new regalia to incoming President,*

Well folks. This is where I bow out. Usually, the retiring President passes the regalia to the new President – but **WE** have new regalia. So I am going to add this set to the one already in this fine cabinet over here - made – as those of you who have read the history will know – by a Club Member in 2008.

I'll let you into a secret, ladies and gentlemen, that I only became aware of very recently. The medallion in the case is actually a fake – it's made of wood and a photo! That's because until about 2008, there was no regalia for the Chairman to wear, so for the 25th Anniversary of the Club, they bought two ribbons, all the name tags and one medallion – which I am wearing.

And shortly, like magic, I'll produce the wonderful new, pink and diamante, regalia from that box over there and present it to Graham.

Here goes.

Onto the cabinet.....

Out of the box ... well what do you know – it is actually magnificently ordinary (much to Graham's relief!!!!).

!At this point I arranged the ribbon and medallion around Graham's neck and shook his hand while we posed for the paparazzi to take their photos.!

All the best Graham. Over to you.

11 *Incoming President's address.*

Graham then gave his address - *See below*

12 *Vote on Frequency and timing of Invitation Lunches. Proposal is to keep as is – i.e., three per year April, August and December.*

The vote was unanimously in favour.

Graham handed back to me for the next item.

13 *Discussion, voting and finalisation of proposed change to Constitution and Rules -*

The proposal is:-

Delete current Rule 4)e): At the first meeting attended, the New Member will address the Membership introducing himself or herself.

Add to Rule 3)c): At this lunch the Prospective Member will be invited to address the Membership introducing himself or herself.

This is a minor change to the Constitution and Rules that were agreed to last year. What it means is that when the Prospective Member is enjoying a free lunch, they introduce themselves to the Members present ... rather than the current rule which is that they introduce themselves after they've been voted in. The idea is to give Members more information upon which to form their

judgement as to suitability for Membership. To me it is the logical way to do it and is, in fact, what we've been doing for much of the year.

So:

Are there any questions/comments/observations?

Can we have a vote then? Raise you hand (assuming it has recovered) – for ... unanimous.

So far so good, but at this point Andrew Faulkner pointed out that the Rule number mentioned for the addition - 3)e), should, in fact, be 4)e)!

A quick check showed that he was absolutely correct - many thanks Andrew for being so diligent - at least one Member reads this stuff!

A quick vote was unanimously in favour of approving the correct Rule Change.

Thank you. The Constitution and Rules will be amended accordingly and loaded to the website.

Back to Graham.

14 *Any Other Business.*

Graham asked if there was any other business.

Dewi Owens stood up to suggest that the Club consider having a Master at Arms.

This suggestion caused much confusion and Dewi explained that this is a post held in many Rotary clubs, and that the function of the Master-at-Arms is to help maintain an orderly, dignified, and effective club meeting!

Graham undertook to bring this suggestion to the Committee for consideration.

15 *Next AGM.*

The next AGM will be on November 4th 2024

16 *Close.*

Graham closed the meeting with a toast to the Denbigh and District Probus Club.

Retiring President's Annual Report.

I've been looking forward to this for a whole year now.

A year ago I stood before you for the first time as your President and told you I was looking forward to the programme of speakers that Keith had put together.

And how right I was.

Having been transported by Zara Fleming to the Kingdom of the Thunder Dragon in Bhutan at December's meeting, January saw us off up into our own hills with Rod Waterfield as he described the amazing work he does at the Woodland Skills Centre which some of us enjoyed visiting later on in the year.

Still moving around, but at a faster pace, in February, our own Ian Glass amused us with tales from his long association with Classic Cars and moving vehicles of various kinds in numerous places.

In March we were sobered up a bit by being made aware - by Mark Wilson of the Principality Building Society - of just how easy it is for us to fall prey to those who seem to consider they have more right to our money than we do. Vigilance being the watch word. April saw us off on our imaginary travels again, this time to the Island of Guernsey, from whence, as described by Mary Steel, a group of girls were evacuated during World War 2 to, after a few false starts, our own town of Denbigh.

More history came our way in May, when Jane Moore told us about the National Garden Scheme and then in June more events of World War 2 were brought into focus by Vicky Macdonald's description of Conwy's association with the Mulberry Harbour.

Due to my experience of the Conwy Tunnel construction, I was particularly sorry to miss this event whilst away and two meetings were covered by Graham Evans, Vice President – getting some practice in.

In July, Michael Corfe regaled us with his description of how he and Fay constructed a new garden at their home on the Wirral – making me, for one, exhausted just watching!

August saw us hold our first raffle in a while to raise funds for the new Presidents Regalia – which will be unveiled later on.

September and October brought us news of Denbighshire County Council operations – firstly, from Meirick Lloyd Davies describing his own association with the Council and its convoluted machinations; then, Gwenno Jones described how keeping us in the dark is highly beneficial not just to us but to the rest of the natural world too.

During these last twelve months, as well as laying on entertainment, the Club has been busy in the background– you'll be hearing:-

about our finances from outgoing Treasurer (sorry – Finance Officer!) Gwyn Evans and we'll discuss the implications for our individual contributions.

Richard Thornton will report on whatever it is that a Business Officer does (I think it amounts to providing the oil without which the administrative machinery of the Club would quickly grind to a halt).

Gareth Williams will be telling us about how our membership has evolved and then, the star of the show Steve Tootell will give his report on the lunches and, I hope, on some of the many other activities he has undertaken on our behalf.

You won't be hearing directly from Fay Corfe, our Programme Officer, or even from Michael, because our new President will be telling us something of next year's programme and I'll be handing out copies of it for you to read up on.

Nor will you be hearing from Julia Hughes, because, quite frankly, she has had enough to do. Each month, she has produced a write up of the talk we have heard and had considerable success in having that published, not just within the Club, but also in a lot of the local printed media.

Merfyn isn't going to stand up and tell you how he has kept up our stocks of regalia or how he succeeded, in the end, to find new Presidential Regalia in pink and diamante.

Avril Robarts is not going to regale you with anecdotes about all the Prospective and New Members she has greeted over the year and Bob Jones won't be holding forth on the wise words he has given us at the Committee Meetings.

Keith Lester isn't going to be telling you about how hard it's been for him to let go of all the reins he has held in his hands for the last few years.

But Graham Evans, my Vice President, will be telling you about lots of good things to come.

The reason I have mentioned all these people, and what they will or will not be telling us about, is that they are your Committee. Every month – well almost every month – I have stood up here and spouted forth about this and that and some of you may have been deluded into thinking that I have been running the Club. Believe me, ladies and gentlemen, I don't run anything – not even for a bus – it is your Committee that does all the work and I thank each and every one of them very, very much for it.

I think it would be appropriate for all of us to show our appreciation of the Committee Members, so if all of the Committee will stand up, please, we can applaud their work properly. *Applause* Thank you.

Keith, Gwyn, Merfyn – please, remain standing. The rest of you may sit and relax.

I have singled out these three worthies, because they have all been on the Committee for some years and made invaluable contributions to the ongoing success of the Club, but are stepping down this year. So, I think, special thanks is due to them – despite their blushes - *Applause* Thank you, gents, you too may now sit down and you can all relax – except for Gwyn, because, his work isn't quite finished yet, he's up next.

Which just leaves me to say thank you to **you** – our Members – for making this Club and our meetings a pleasant and enjoyable interlude in an increasingly depressing world, and to say thank you for allowing me the privilege of being your President.

Finance Officer's Annual Report.

DENBIGH & DISTRICT PROBUS CLUB

ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDING 30TH SEPTEMBER 2023

September 30 th 2023	RECEIPTS	September 30 th 2022
£		£
7494	Lunches	4599
740	Subscriptions	312
12	Regalia Sales	12
211	Raffle	-
1	Bank Interest	2
-	Loss to General Fund	472
8458	TOTAL	5395
	PAYMENTS	
7648	Lunches	4943
300	Speakers	230
18	Poppy Appeal	-
108	Wix website subscription	-
40	Administration expenses	38
103	Printing	-
16	Badge Holders	-
31	Regalia	184
194	Surplus to General Fund	-
8458	Total	5395
	GENERAL Fund	
525	Balance brought forward 1 st October	997
194	Surplus for Year	-
-	Loss for Year	472
719	Balance carried forward 30 th September	525
	REPRESENTED BY	
551	Barclays Bank Community Fund	158
168	Barclays Bank Business Premium Fund	367
719	TOTAL	525

FINANCIAL STATEMENT 2023

Our accounts have improved from last year

We have a surplus of £194 but this is accounted for the raffle

In our accounts we have £719 , up from £525 last year

Some facts to go with the accounts

Average turnout at meetings

Normal (9) 29 up from 18 in 2022

Guests (3) 46 up from 33 in 2023

Biggest part of the budget is the meals.

We have had 404 meals at a range of prices from 2.95 to 21

Last year we had 267 meals

There were 26 guest meals including the speakers

But the big difference is that last year the gap between receipts for lunch and payments for lunches was £344 and this year is down to £154

Membership is up and the subscriptions have risen from £228 to £740. We increased membership from £12 to £20.

Raffle raised £211

Payments have changed . COSTS have increases due to our online presence and printing to publicise our group. It is certainly money well spent when you look at the increases membership

Thanks to Steve TOOTELL FOR ALL OF HIS HELP , to Gaynor and Merfyn who have helped with the collection of money. To Gareth for his help over membership and may I wish my successor the best of luck in dealing with all of the financial aspects of the future

If we keep meal prices and subs the same for next year we would make a loss of £100 to £200 and this assumes meal prices do not rise (subs £800, meals £400, speakers £400, Admin £100)

Proposals

increase subs to £25

Lift meal price if Hotel puts up cost of meals

Business Officer's Annual Report.

This will be a short report. The Committee met for eight formal meetings during 2023: in January, February, March, June, July, September, October and November.

There is a project in hand to secure the Club's records in the County Archives in Ruthin.

Talking of the Archives – thanks to Keith for the additional minute books from 1977 on that he has given me today so I am taking away more than I brought.

Membership Officer's Annual Report.

FIRSTLY I WOULD LIKE TO THANK EVERYONE FOR THEIR SUPPORT AND THEIR PROMPT REPLIES IN RESPECT OF THE VOTING PROCEDURES.

THE GOOD NEWS IS THAT MEMBERSHIP NUMBERS CONTINUE TO INCREASE – AT THE AGM LAST YEAR WE RECORDED A MEMBERSHIP OF 37 WHICH INCLUDED JOHN KNOWLES AND 2 SUPERNUMERIES [NEVILLE PRATT AND LEN DEVINE]

VERY SADLY NEVILLE PASSED AWAY EARLIER THIS YEAR, AND JOHN KNOWLES DECIDED TO RELINQUISH HIS MEMBERSHIP DUE TO ILL HEALTH REDUCING THE MEMBERSHIP NUMBERS TO 35.

HOWEVER THIS YEAR WE HAVE ACCEPTED AS MEMBERS 6 CANDIDATES TAKING THE TOTAL MEMBERSHIP TO 41.

THE SIX ARE : ANDREW FAULKNER, FAY CORFE, SHAN MORRIS, LESLEY BOTHWELL, ALUN HEDDWYN JONES, AND HUW WILKIE.

WE ALSO HAVE TWO PROSPECTIVE MEMBERS IN THE PIPELINE, ONE OF WHOM YOU SAW TODAY – MAGGIE GRIFFITHS PLUS ROGER ROWETT , BOTH ALL BEING WELL WILL BE ELECTED AS MEMBERS BY THE 31ST DEC TAKING TOTAL MEMBERSHIP TO 43.

YOU WILL RECALL THAT WE SET A CHALLENGE OF REACHING 50 MEMBERS DURING 2024 THE CLUBS 50th YEAR. SO ONWARDS AND UPWARDS.

THANK YOU.

Luncheon Officer's Annual Report.

Denbigh and District Probus Club Luncheon Officer Report October – November 2023

Number of Monthly Luncheons November 22-November 23	Average attendance and meals taken	Problems encountered and resolved
13 Meetings Total members Meals: 360 Total Guests and Speaker meals: 73	Members: 28 Members' Guests and speakers: 6	Slow response to invitations from some members on-going. One particular meal was disappointing but this was quickly reported and resolved and subsequently excellent meals were offered by The Oriel Hotel.

Date	Members' Luncheons	Guest and Speaker luncheons
Nov 22	26	0
Dec 22	32	22
Jan 23	30	4
Feb 23	28	3
March 23	28	1
April 23	29	18
May 23	23	3
June 23	26	3
July 23	26	1
Aug 23	25	13
Sept 23	29	2
Oct 23	29	2
Nove 23	29	1

List of Committee Positions and Candidates

Denbigh & District Probus Club		Information for AGM November 2023	
Proposed Committee succession 2022/3 - 2023/4			
<u>Position</u>	<u>Incumbent</u>	<u>Status</u>	<u>Candidate</u>
	Nov 22-23		Nov 23-24
President	John Barr	Becomes Immediate Past President	Graham Evans
Immediate Past President	Julia Hughes	Superseded by John Barr	John Barr
Vice President	Graham Evans	Becomes President	Anne Mellor
Business Officer	Richard Thornton	Staying on	Richard Thornton
Finance Officer	Gwyn Evans	Standing down	Gareth Williams
Luncheon Officer	Steve Tootell	Staying on	Steve Tootell
Media Officer	Julia Hughes	Staying on	Julia Hughes
Membership Officer	Gareth Williams	Become Finance Officer	Andrew Faulkner
Programme Officer	Keith Lester	Standing down	Fay (& Michael) Corfe
Meet and Greet Officer	Avril Roberts	Standing down	Gaynor Lowe
Regalia Officer	Merfyn Roberts	Standing down	Bob Jones
Member	Bob Jones	Become Regalia Officer	---
(Bold, large type indicates where a vote is required.)			

Incoming President's Address.

Address to Denbigh and District Probus Club by Incoming President , Graham Evans at the AGM on 6th November 2023

Good afternoon Ladies and Gentlemen

I am looking forward to serving you as President of Denbigh and District Probus Club for the next year, following our very enjoyable and successful year being guided by our outgoing President, John Barr. WE should all thank John for a great year and we'll all miss his monthly appeals for a volunteer to replace him as President.

I must mention the diligent work done by the committee in organising our meetings and express our thanks to those who are stepping down from the roles they have undertaken so expertly on our behalf.

I'd then like to congratulate those new committee members who are taking up the reins in a variety of positions and look forward to the support of all the committee old and new.

I am sure that like me, you are looking back fondly on the years programme from the Woodlands Skills centre which Rod Waterfield showed us round later on, to Ian Glass's tale of derring do in a Rover on the Monte Carlo and all the others. I enjoyed them all and we still have December to come when we'll discover something about farming.

Next year will mark 50 years of Denbigh and District Probus Club and Fay and Michael have organised a wonderful selection of speakers to inform and entertain us. We also hope to fit in a suitable celebration of the Golden Anniversary.

In conclusion, I'd like to thank Merfyn for sourcing this new regalia and I shall wear it with pride. Have a safe journey home.