

Minutes of the Conway Club Committee Meeting

13.30hrs Tuesday 11th June 2024

The In & Out Club, London

Present

John Noble - JN	President
Matt Burrow - MB	Vice President
Paul Heaver - PH	Vice President
Rob Tubb - RT	Honorary Treasurer
Steve Barnet - SB	Honorary Secretary
John McCaughrean - JMcC	
David Pye - DP	
Neil Smith - NS	Immediate Past President
Mike Wild - MW	
Alfie Windsor - AW	
Mim Smith - MS	Dinner Secretary

John Noble, President, chairing, opened the meeting and expressed appreciation and thanks to Mim for arranging the venue.

1. Apologies fo absence

Apologies had been received from:

Dai Davies, David Fawcitt, Nick Hambleton, Tony Minns and Simon Douglas Lane. Arrangements had been put in place for Zoom attendance for those absent however that failed despite numerous efforts.

2. Minutes of the Committee Meeting 5th December 2023

The HonSec had circulated the minutes of the December meeting to all Committee members prior to the meeting. No points were raised and the HonSec asked that they be accepted, they were proposed by Mike Wild and seconded by David Pye.

3. Hon Secretary's Report

The HonSec reported that he had had limited contact from Bangor City Council regarding their proposed 1,500th anniversary celebration. The impression received is that this will be a "jolly" for OCs, however we shall await further developments. It is doubtful if there will be hotel accommodation available for a sizeable Conway presence due to the possible scale of the event.

The Cadet editor had declined to publish an obituary forwarded for an OC as he had not been a member of the Club. It was put forward that this seemed to be unreasonable and it was unanimously agreed that any obituary for an OC, whether a Club member or not, is worthy of inclusion in The Cadet.

4. GDPR Report

Nothing to report.

5. Dinner Secretary's Report

Mim Smith joined the meeting to give dinner updates. There were currently 64 members signed up for Blackpool and spaces were still available on the tram. She anticipated that more Members would come forward following the issue of the summer Cadet.

No provision had been put in place for entertainment and this was discussed. It was agreed that a budget of £1,500 be allowed for this.

It was further agreed that we should continue as in 2023 and have vouchers for prizes in the raffle.

Committee members are requested to man the welcome Desk.

No decision had been taken on the 2025 dinner, however the possibility of Southampton was mooted.

6. Hon Treasurer's Report

Bank accounts (as of 7th June 2024)

Current:	£ 27,340.30 (includes £766.50 Port Fund)
Savings:	£ 1.00
Cash	£ <u>0.00</u>
Total Financial Assets	£ 27,341.30

Investment Portfolio: £72,811.13 Fiske market valuation as Q4

December 2023 (Investment Sub Committee to advise if any detail required)

Fiske valuation reports are forwarded to Clive Plummer on receipt to assist in streamlining the annual accounts process but to date I don't appear to have received the Q1 report for 2024

Annual Dinner & AGM 2024 Imperial Hotel Blackpool

There have been a steady stream of payments paid into the bank by bank transfer/cheque/website. We have also paid deposits for the hotel and tram. Details below:

Income	
AGM Dinner 2024 – Payments to date	£13,989.00
Total Income to date	£13,989.00
Expenditure	
AGM Dinner 2024 – Hotel Deposit	£1,488.00
AGM Dinner 2024 – Blackpool Tram Deposit	£50.00
Total Expenditure to date	£1,538.00

Plas Newydd Reunion

Approximately 65 Old Conways many with partners attending the Reunion weekend 19-21 July,

Finance breakdown shown below:

Conway Centre Cost	£13,610.80
Income	
PN Reunion 2024 – Payments to date	£16,820.00
Expenditure	
50% Deposit - Paid	£6,860.40
30% Part Balance - Paid	£4,116.24
Final Balance – Due 14 June	£2,634.16
Estimated Surplus	£3,210.00

Teaser Club

There are currently 123 annual subscribers and 12 monthly subscribers to the Teaser Club providing an annual income of circa £7.4k which after prize money contributes £5.4k or approx. 60% of the annual Cadet production costs. See separate report.

Mast Lighting

The situation with regard to the Conway mast lighting remains unchanged and on the back burner for now, Wirral Council are proving to be a challenge in tracking down the responsible department.

HSBC Bank

Running smoothly with no issues. Payments to GoCardless for maintenance of the website have ceased

6. Investment Committee Report

It was reported that as Fiske & Co now have more of a free hand in maintaining the portfolio, investments now stood at £80,055.

7. Teaser Club Report

The Teaser Club report is covered by the Hon Treasurer's report. Nothing further to report on this other than the more members that we have in the Teaser Club, the better. A draw was made and the results were as follows:

	No.	June 2024			
1	130	£500	I Wilson	58-60	E mailed
2	117	£200	N Watkins	64-68	E Mail address not known
3	71	£150	Mrs J Hambleton		E mailed via Nick Hambleton
4	100	£150	C Badger	70-73	E mailed

8. Branch Co-ordinator's Report

A copy of the Branch Co-ordinator's report had been circulated. Notwithstanding the UK branches, MW advised that it is seen that many of the overseas clubs will cease to exist without joining up with General Botha, Worcester and the other marine colleges. Further, very little, if any, response had been received from overseas contacts in request for information.

9. Shop Report

Once again the Shop Manager reported that shop sales continue to just tick over totalling circa £538 during the first five months of this year, from 15 orders. This compared with the same period in 2021 with 20 orders totalling circa £753.

He is continually looking into other possible items and clothing that may be of interest to our members, but in all honesty, with our ageing group, the interest

is fading rapidly. He is continuing to use up stock and only getting clothing to order.

There has of late been thoughts of enticing sales with discounts or free postage, being funded from club funds (previous Committee meetings), but this had previously been discounted by the Committee.

All being well, stocks and samples will be brought to Blackpool. The AGMs normally boost the annual income considerably, although last year was not so good.

After the Blackpool AGM and dinner, and before January, the Shop Manager is hoping to have time to do a complete review of shop items together with the advertising in The Cadet and on the website and see if that might boost sales.

Suggestions are always welcomed regarding any aspects of the shop.

10. Cadet Editor's Report

The editor of The Cadet, although invited to attend, was not present. He had submitted a report as follows.

Cadet 88 will maintain the same format as previous issues. Nick Hambleton & Penny Reeves, publisher, will be assisting. Nick is sourcing the front cover with a Mersey theme, recent issues have been Menai Straits orientated.

Whilst the Editor is willing to continue the editorship in the near term he is of the opinion that younger OC's should take up the mantle. Perhaps continuance of the Cadet should be tied in with winding down the club?

Alfie Windsor is putting together a short article on OC's at D Day, following on from his extensive article in 2019 for the 75th anniversary. Geoff Haskins will be featured using the upcoming BBC interview.

It is hoped that Mike Robinson's article on Namibia can be used, which has been pending for some issues.

Obituaries, the Editor considers that this matter does require a separate coordinator due to the increasing number of OC's 'crossing the bar'.

Advertising: it was noted that the In & Out Club does not, and has not been, paying for their full back page advertisement that has been in place for some time. The HonSec brought up the matter of the In & Out's advertising and the Dinner Secretary has spoken to them about this and will revert.

11. Website Report

At the previous Committee meeting, Neil Smith asked the departing Web Master if the website was up to date and the Committee was assured that it was. This was not the case and it left AW and Pippa Nicholas with an unnecessary mess to contend with.

The changeover of the website now to be run by Pippa Nicholas's company under the tutelage of Alfie Windsor continues. The transition to operation by her company is complete, saving the Club considerable operating costs. We are now working to bring it up to date and to simplify its appearance and use. We shall continue to be updated on progress.

12. Canadian Coastguard College Report

Paul Heaver, the Club liaison with the CCGC was awaiting confirmation from the college as to the Gold Medal winner and subsequent to the meeting reported as follows.

On Saturday 1st June 2024 the Canadian Coast Guard College in Sydney Nova Scotia held their annual Graduation ceremony including the award of the Conway Gold Medal, formerly the Queen's Gold Medal, now the King's Gold Medal.

In previous years past Conway Club President, Chris Smith (58-60) has on several occasions represented the Conway Club in presenting the Gold Medal and this year current Vice President, Paul Heaver (66-71) had been invited by Commissioner Mario Pelletier to do the same. Unfortunately he had to cancel at the last minute owing to medical reasons. The CCGC has extended an

invitation to Paul and his wife to attend the 2025 ceremony which will be the 60th anniversary of the college's founding.

On the day, the winner of the 2024 Conway Gold Medal was Ashleigh Gaul and the presentation was made by Engineering Instructor Tim Rooney, a past Conway Gold Medal recipient.

13. Funding of Dinners and Branch Events

The Committee had already discussed partial funding of the Blackpool dinner and AGM weekend in Item 5 and had agreed a budget of £1,500 for entertainment. As per Item 5, money will be used for raffle prize vouchers. The Committee is to investigate further as to use of funds and will report further at the AGM.

14. Priory Closing to FOC and implications

The Church of England had previously advised that the Priory required to be closed for renovation and the incumbent minister was stipulating that all Conway material with the exception of wall plaques and boards may no longer be housed at the Priory. The Friends are arranging for many of the Chapel artefacts to be relocated to the Conway Centre where a new, permanent display is being created. The renovation of the Priory is on hold due to funding and there are no plans forthcoming from either the council or the CofE.

15. Committee Members remaining on the Committee

All officers and Committee members indicated that they were willing to continue to serve on the Committee.

16. CMNT Cadets to be become Full Members of the Club

Les Hesketh (64-66) and CMNT Manager had proposed that all CMNT Cadets, once qualified, be allowed to become full members of the Conway Club. This was discussed and it was thought that this would, in effect, leave

young people to deal with the final closure of the Club once all actual OCs had Crossed the Bar. For that reason, it was proposed that they should not be admitted as full members.

17. AOB

The Conway Club Closure Plan

As membership numbers are naturally declining a small working party was formed to consider the Club's future particularly the timing of its closure and the disposal of its finds and assets. A very comprehensive report, "The Conway Club Closure Passage Plan" was produced, circulated to the Committee and discussed at the meeting. The Committee voted to accept the report's recommendations in full and decided to survey the membership's views on the fine detail of closure and disposal arrangements in the next issue of The Cadet.

AW to draft an article and survey for The Cadet for the Committee to approve.

The survey results are to be circulated to the Committee and the Passage Plan revised for presentation to the 2024 AGM.

South Coast Barbecue

PH had previously advised of a South Coast Barbecue arranged by Old Pangbourneans, OWs and Old Bothas, however this had not happened due to the organiser moving house. DP had since offered his house and gardens as an alternative venue, however it was apparently too far for most to travel and had not happened. It is hopeful that arrangements can be made for 2025.

18. Date, Time & Place of Next Meeting

The Next Committee Meeting will be held at a venue to be advised on 3rd December 2024.

S H Barnet (65-68)
HonSec
The Conway Club

18th June 2024