

Minutes of the Conway Club Committee Meeting
13.30hrs Tuesday 2nd December 2025
At the offices of Verdantix Ltd, London

Present

Paul Heaver – PH	President
Matt Burrow – MB	Vice President
David Fawcitt – DF	Vice President
Rob Tubb – RT	Honorary Treasurer
Steve Barnet – SB	Honorary Secretary
Dai Davies – DD	
Tony Minns – TM	
David Pye – DP	
Alfie Windsor – AW	
Simon Douglas Lane – SDL	Honorary Padre
Mim Smith – MS	Dinner Secretary

1. Apologies for absence

Apologies had been received from:

John Noble – IPP
Mike Wild

2. 2026 Dinner Update

The Dinner Secretary, Mim Smith indicated that she had been unable to attend the June 2025 meeting and that the Padre had delivered the necessary information regarding the 2025 Bedford dinner and AGM was disappointed not to have had any feedback from the Committee other than negative points which were not helpful.

Next year we have elected to go to Telford and the hotel is booked. The arrangements for booking this year will change in that you will book individually with the hotel. The Friday night dinner is £25 if you book it with the hotel at the time of booking the Saturday night without dinner which will be booked separately via MS. Bookings for the hotel must be made by 24th July but

payment will not be taken until two weeks prior to the AGM – because booking must be made by 24/7, we will only be able to publish this in one issue of the Cadet, i.e. in January. MS raised a concern that the Saturday night dinner was of a lesser standard than we would perhaps like and suggested that the Club subsidise it to get a better menu and it was agreed to do this to the amount of £10/head. There will be various activities available including the Severn Valley Steam Railway that SDL is organizing, the Blists Hill Victorian Town for which transport can be arranged and also RAF Cosford for which entry is free on Sunday if people are interested.

It was agreed that the raffle would continue solely as a means to assist in the funding of The Cadet. It was further suggested that a "tap & pay" card reader be used and at least two were offered for use and they can be linked to the Club account – the M&S shopping vouchers to be continued.

Proceeding to the 2027 dinner and MS was looking for suggestions for location for a 'southern' venue. She put forward Chatham, Dover and Greenwich or Bristol as suggestions. DD suggested Cardiff and that we go for a 4 or 5 star establishment spending the money on those who come. Following discussion, it was agreed to look at Bristol and Cardiff for 2027.

3. Minutes of the Committee Meeting, 17th June 2025

These had been forwarded to all Committee members for prior review and were approved.

4. Matters arising from Item 3

There were no matters arising however the use of Club funds for social activities and Rule 22 to be discussed elsewhere.

The matter of the Llanedwen memorial window was brought up. The dedication weekend is the 17th to 19th April 2026 and there are two choices. You can either come for the day or you can make a weekend of it, the weekend will be residential at the Conway Centre. SDL is kindly producing an Order of Service and it is planned to lay up a 'Colour' at the same time as the dedication. Donations are now up to over £5k. On the Saturday after the dedication, there will be a reception at the Conway Centre with drinks and a finger buffet for 130 people which will cost £18/head, total cost about £2.3k. After some discussion where it was pointed out that this was to be a 'social event' and a meeting of

like-minded Old Conways, it was agreed that the Club would contribute £1,000 towards the cost of the reception.

5. Hon Sec's Report and GDPR

There are currently 18 Crossed the Bar notifications to go in the next issue of The Cadet. When the ensign was returned from Tony Churcher's funeral, his widow included a cheque for £300.

SB had approached Mike Reeves and Mike has addressed the distribution of The Cadet as follows:

There have been printer difficulties in the recent past, most recently with the issue of the printer for #89 going into administration. We think it's best to remain as is for issue #91 and again monitor mailing. Then if there are further difficulties with mail receipt, find another printer. Most printers, including the present 'Pages of Norwich', have in house wrapping & mailing. We have to consider the overall cost aspect on one hand and the mailing on the other. There are some countries that over the years have given difficulties in receipt notably the RSA & Philippines whilst on the other hand some countries seem to be particularly good – NZ & Malta – with issue #90 received in line with the UK. The editor will keep an eye on receipt but with issue #90 the UK does seem have given problems. Some years ago Committee members suggested that mailing & printing should go to Hong Kong. Personally, he thinks this method is a non-starter as there will be even less oversight. So, remain as at present with feedback on receipt.

The editor asked for how long and in what format is The Cadet to continue. This was discussed and it was agreed, subject to the editor and printers being willing and able, that the final print issue of The Cadet should be No. 100 in July 2030.

5a. GDPR Report

There is nothing to report.

6. Hon Treasurer's Report

Conway Club – Treasurer's Report for 2 December 2025

Bank accounts (as of 28 November 2025)

Current:	£ 11,754.40 (includes £540.50 Port Fund)
Savings:	£ 1.00
Cash	£ <u>16.55</u>
Total Financial Assets	£ 11,771.95

Current account total includes a £10k drawdown from the investment portfolio in October 2025

Use of Club Funds for Social Events – Member objection to be discussed at meeting

Annual Dinner & AGM 2025 Mercure Hotel Bedford

Balance sheet as of 28 November 2025:-

Income		Expenditure		Comment
Ticket Sales	£22,190.50	Ticket Refund	£352.00	
		Hotel Costs	£19,267.00	Includes deposit of £500 paid 8/11/24
		Hotel Gratuity	£200.00	P Heaver & R Tubb
		Bletchley Park Admission	£1,716.00	
		Coach Hire	£795.00	Subsidised by Club
		Coach Driver Gratuity	£20.00	Dinner Sec Expenses
		Raffle Gift Vouchers	£350.00	S Barnet
		Printing	£374.13	Dinner Sec Expenses
		Port	£128.00	Unused due to corkage charges & stored for 2026
Total Income	£22,190.50	Total Expenditure	£23,202.13	
		Overall Event Deficit	-£1,011.63	(-£261.63 after agreed Club subsidy)

6a. Teaser Club

As stated at the AGM in October there are currently 141 "live" subscribers to the Teaser Club providing a net income of £4.8k after prize money (£6.8k gross) which equates to approx. 50% of The Cadet production costs.

It has been suggested that to generate more subscribers we should consider increasing the number of prize winners per draw from 4 to 6 e.g. a top prize of £250 and 5 x £150 prizes and it was agreed that this would be done and will be notified in The Cadet.

There are two unclaimed prizes from the June Draw namely Tony Braithwaite (£200) and K Rankin (£150) and, to date, three from the AGM Draw, C Kelso (£500), P Griffin (£150) and R Williams (£150) The usual contact attempts of email and chat sites have drawn a blank so the next step is to write to them individually and forward details to Mike Reeves for publication in the next Cadet if possible.

6b. HSBC Bank

Running smoothly with no issues other than increased access security to the HSBC app which can be challenging at times.

7. Investment Committee Report

Investment Portfolio: £ 77,848.42 Fiske market valuation including a cash element of £1,925.36 as of Q3 10 October 2025

We are in the process of closing down the Club's Investment portfolio and transferring the settlement value into our HSBC current account initially.

Prior to the receipt of funds of £78488.45 (ie the total value of the Contract Notes issued by Fiske) due on 18 December we will be opening the following United Trust Bank Accounts and transferring from HSBC::

- Business Easy Access Tracker (3.95% Gross/AER) – £10,000
- Business 1 Year Bond (4.04% Gross/AER) – remaining funds £68,488

We will be opening these accounts week commencing 8 December assuming the Fiske planned transfer date remains as 18 December.

8. Branch Co-ordinator's Report

There was no report.

9. Shop Report

After getting the go ahead for certain stock items – mainly clothing, to be sold off at sale prices, this was put in place at the AGM in Bedford. All clothing held was marked down by about 30% and resulted in quite a lot being sold.

It is hoped that the next issue of The Cadet will list the remaining items at sale price.

As there is a fair number of large Blazer Buttons in stock but no more of the small Cuff Buttons, a small order for these has been put in as buttons are usually sold as sets 4 large and 8 small. This does go against the 'No more purchases' but is felt to be essential.

The prospect of free postage has also been brought up previously but it was agreed that these costs should not be covered by the Club.

Stock (gifts) for the Canadian Coastguard must be considered and kept in reserve or say 'X' number of years supply to be sent out for the College to keep. After discussion it was decided to lay aside 5 plaques, 15 ties and 15 crest style lapel pins.

General sales over the last six months have ticked over but this can only be expected.

10. Cadet Editor's Report

The editor of The Cadet, Mike Reeves, did not attend the meeting and the Hon Sec had earlier given a brief on the editor's concerns. Once again, it was agreed that the editor having recently taken over the task from Nick Hambleton, was doing a sterling job which was appreciated by all.

11. Rule 22

The issue of Rule 22, which has been in place for some considerable time, was brought up at the AGM at Bedford. The Committee was minded to change the wording referring to where an residual monies go when the Club closes. A member had queried the phrase "social activities" and its meaning. Noted that Rule 1 states that the object of the Conway Club is to maintain and foster social relationship between [the] former Cadets of HMS Conway.

It was opined that a 'Social activity is a gathering of like-minded souls at an occasion/event of their mutual interest and enjoyment'. The gathering at Llanedwen Church, branch gatherings, AGM dinners and the London barbecue all fall into this definition/category.

When we as a Committee go back to the AGM in 2026, we shall have an item on the Agenda and we shall say that for complete and utter clarification, a social activity as defined by the Conway Club is a gathering of like-minded souls as above.

In Rule 22, we shall also remove "an appropriate charitable trust such as the HMS" and insert Merchant Navy between Conway and Trust.

The HonSec had tried to simplify the Rules some three years ago but any alterations were rejected. DD pointed out that we as the Committee can reset the Rules and should not be bound by archaic Rules that were perhaps once required. i.e. we should not be constrained by any past Rules if they no longer make sense over the next five years.

12. Update on the Silverware dispersal plan

The information had been forwarded to the Committee prior to the meeting and AW stated that this year's allocation of cups was all but completed barring two which have fallen by the wayside. One that was due to go to the NW Mountain Rescue which was declined as they do not have any competition for which to award it and it will go back to the mix for 2026. The other recipient was to be Kelly College however only one cup is to go to each recipient and Kelly College was gifted a cup in 1974 and it has yet to be awarded. They also have a second cup that has yet to be awarded. We should look to reclaim one of these cups and encourage them to find an event for which the remaining cup may be

awarded annually. Another cup that is yet to be transferred was to go to the Kolkata Port Trust, the pilots and although they were initially enthusiastic, we have since struggled to get any response from them. It has now been offered to the Indian Maritime University and they appear to be interested.

The plan was to award circa 22 cups on 2026 however this was thought to be too much work and it may be reduced to 10 or 12 cups.

There was some talk in regard to the work needed to be carried out on the various cups prior to handing over, new bases and any slight repairs etc. Some cups need more done to them and although some Committee members have graciously agreed to cover this cost it was agreed that the Club will cover the cost of up to £100/cup.

13. Canadian Coastguard College Report

That had already been briefly spoken about and there will be an article in The Cadet.

14. HMS Conway Trust – Treasurer/Committee Member

There is no need for any additional members.

15. Distribution of The Cadet

This had already been reviewed within the HonSec's report.

16. Committee Members joining and continuance of others

No one indicated their wish to step down and no-one had put themselves forward to join the Committee.

17. AOB

Putting aside the matter of 'social activities' we have two things that we need to do for the Passage Plan, we need to decide what social events are we going to support and how we are going to support them. Given this, we need to have a financial outturn plan in order that we can last for five years. It was agreed that The Cadet is paramount and where those who make the effort to come to

the dinners and events, they should be supported. RT advised that for The Cadet to continue over the next five years, our contribution will be in the manner of £35k and that is a basic cost as costs, as with everything, are rising. It was suggested that we email all Members and invite them to, say a Christmas (or other) lunch, at a cost of £1 with the balance being paid for by the Club.

18. Date, Time & Place of Next Meeting

The Next Committee Meeting will be at venue to be decided on 16th June 2026.

Steve Barnet (65-68)
Hon Secretary
The Conway Club

12th December 2025