

Minutes of the Conway Club Committee Meeting

13.30hrs Tuesday 16th June 2026

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 Barnett – SB	Honorary Secretary
Dai Davies – DD	
Tony Minns – TM	
David Pye – DP	
Ike Reeves – MR	Editor, The Cadet
Mike Butterfield – MBu	Observer
Phil van Bergen – PvB	Re the website

1. Apologies for absence

Apologies had been received from:

Mike Wild
John Noble – IPP
Mim Smith – Dinner Secretary
Simon Douglas Lane – Honorary Padre

2. Minutes of the Committee Meeting, 2nd December 2025

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

3. Matters arising from Item 2

Nothing was brought to light.

4. 2026 Dinner Update

The Dinner Secretary, Mim Smith indicated that she had been unable to attend meeting and had forwarded an update which had been sent to all Committee members as follows.

2026 DINNER

The bookings this year are very slow, and I am very concerned that we may very well have a low turnout. Sad to say, I fear health issues and old age are catching up with some of our regulars. To date only 39 people are booked in for the dinner. Hotel bookings stand at 52. The deadline for booking the hotel is not until July 24 so there is still time for this number to increase. The final date for dinner bookings is September 11th... but I am concerned that people will book the hotel and then forget to make the dinner booking with me. (note discrepancy in hotel and dinner numbers to date). I will of course keep an eye on that as the hotel will be able to tell me who has booked with them.

Blists Hill – 18 booked – bookings can be made with me until September.

Steam Train 4 – the deadline for this is 22nd August.

We agreed at the last meeting we would have a paying raffle – the proceeds would go towards the publication of the Cadet. I need 3 volunteers to sell tickets – it was pointed out by those attending that this is not a problem.

As ever we need volunteers for the welcome desk. In past years we have only needed people for Friday afternoon which can get very busy. The current rooming list only shows only 1 person staying for just Saturday night. The remainder are either for 2 or 3 nights.

As Alfie has resigned and to date no one is dealing with the website, we need to get reminders out for the dinner and AGM somehow.

Action:

1. Volunteers for the welcome desk from 14.00 – 18.30
2. Raffle ticket sellers – 3 names
3. Suggestions as to how we get reminders out in lieu of the website

In regard to getting reminders out, it was said that these could be posted on the Main Group and also the QB Group. It is hoped to have the website operational in the near future.

5. Hon Sec's Report and GDPR

There have been five (now six) Crossed the Bars to go into the #92 issue of the Cadet. I had advised Mike Reeves of a change to Rule 1 of the Club Rules however upon discussion later in the meeting this will not be put in The Cadet.

I can confirm that I have been in contact with Gordonstoun school who have expressed their delight at being offered a cup. Alfie forwarded the Junior Cross Country cup to me and I have arranged for a local silversmith within the village to add a base to it. Conway and Gordonstoun have a relationship dating back to WW2 when Gordonstoun relocated to west Wales. Prince Philip was the 10th pupil to attend Gordonstoun and he opened the New Block at Conway in 1964.

I have one OC returned to the fold having been missing – Peter Blunt 62-66 in Cambodia and also Adrian Jutsum 65-70 in WA who has recently joined the club.

Further to this, I have nothing to report.

5a. GDPR Report

There is nothing to report.

6. Hon Treasurer's Report

Conway Club – Treasurer's Report for 16 June 2026

Bank accounts (as of 10 June 2026)

UNITED TRUST BANK

Easy Access Tracker	£15,000.00
6 Month Bond	<u>£65,000.00</u>
Total UTB	£80,000.00

HSBC

Current:	£ 7,774.59 (includes £540.50 Port Fund)
Savings:	£ 1.00
Cash	£ <u>127.49</u>
Total HSBC	£ 7,903.08

Total Financial Assets £87,903.08

Investment Portfolio:

The settlement value of the Conway Club Fiske portfolio (£80,217.37) was transferred into our HSBC current account on 2 January 2026 and the Fiske account is now closed.

Subsequently cash transfers were made to the two newly opened United Trust Accounts as follows:

- Business Easy Access Tracker (Current Rate 3.85%) - £15,000
- Business 6 Month Bond (Current Rate 4.114%) – £65,000 – Maturity Date 20 July 2026

Club Funds – Expenditure (Year to Date)

Items other than normal outgoings eg shop stock, Teaser Club prizes etc:

The Cadet -	£5,783.88
Donation to Friends of HMSC	£1,000.00 (Llanedwen Church Window – Drinks Reception)
Silverware Expenses	£ 349.26 *

- Agreed expenditure for trophy repairs prior to handover under the Closure Plan is limited to £100 per trophy, principally to renew the base and or engraving ring where required

Annual Dinner 2026

Payments to date for dinner and coach trip £1,705 (received from 22 members)

Teaser Club

There are currently 121 “live” subscribers who year to date have contributed **£2,265** to the Teaser Club. This projects as an annual Teaser Club gross income of £4.2k which remains a significant, albeit shrinking input to the annual running costs of The Cadet. (circa £10k).

HSBC Bank

Account running smoothly with no issues other than access via devices (phone or iPad) which remains challenging.

6a. Teaser Club Draw

A draw was made for the Teaser Club and the following winners were announced as follows.

1 st Prize, £500	No. 124	A Coates 61-63
2 nd Prize, £200	No. 80	J Poyntz 62-64
3 rd Prize, £150	No. 99	C Pell
4 th Prize, £150	No. 25	M Burrow 72-74

7. Website

Following Alfie Windsor stepping down from the Committee and as the website manager, the Committee had approached several people that they thought might be potentially suitable as 'host' to run the website. Phil van Bergen had subsequently been approached and he forwarded a most comprehensive report and proposal for the website. This was made available to all Committee

members and was discussed at length at the meeting with PvB's valuable input. The Committee was in agreement with what had been put forward but, prior to going any further, PvB advised that he ought to meet with Alfie Windsor and go through the various aspects of the site.

PvB stressed that it is vitally important that no single member have the 'keys' to the site. After discussion it was agreed that MB and SB should also have access to the site.

PvB to meet with Alfie Windsor and shall report back. We are aware, however that the site has stagnated and there is therefore a sense of urgency in the matter.

The Committee thanked Phil for his work and hopefully the website can be up and running in the near future.

8. Branch Co-ordinator's Report

The Branch Co-ordinator advised that given we have no overseas branches currently active, other than a few individuals reporting on maritime related luncheon groups direct to the Cadet editor, there was nothing to report. Those attending advised that, this being the case, the rôle of the Branch Co-ordinator be ceased. Mike Reeves, the Editor of The Cadet is still in touch with various overseas contact and can maintain this for inclusion in The Cadet.

9. Shop Report

Sales continue to decline with just 11 sales up to this month. Not too dissimilar to last year, but the financial total is down.

As agreed by the Committee, the clothing stock as well as a few other items which are currently held, have been reduced by about a third, and all these have been advertised in the January 2026 issue of The Cadet. Unfortunately, only a few items have been sold in this sale. However, it is hoped that the next issue will continue to advertise all that is remaining.

Les Hesketh wished to continue purchasing Alfie's 'HMS Conway & Plas Newydd' booklet for the CMNT Cadets out of his own pocket. As there are still

quite a large number in stock, this matter was discussed with the President and it was agreed that Les's requirements, for this purpose, should be FOC.

The President has once again, on his annual visit to the Canadian Coastguard College (Academy), taken certain shop items as gifts and awards. It was agreed that this should continue. These will obviously show as £0.00 in sales in the accounts.

It is very obvious that as the shop is being run down and more gifts and awards are being donated, that very little profit is now being made, if any.

The shop will continue to be at the AGMs which normally bolster sales, and so it is hoped that by the time the Club folds that very little stock will be left.

10. Cadet Editor's Report

The editor of The Cadet, Mike Reeves, attended the meeting.

He asked about The Cadet's continuance until the Club closes and for how long. This had previously been discussed and it is anticipated that it shall cease in 2030 with Issue No. 100.

The final issue of The Cadet has the potential of being a large issue given the amount of material even currently available. This is obviously a matter to be discussed nearer the time.

The number of pages currently being funded for The Cadet is 48 pages plus end covers and this was confirmed as being satisfactory and may continue. There are plenty of articles to fill the 48 pages, with more pending for future editions.

Front cover – the theme will continue of Commonwealth countries with OC connection. This edition (92) Malaysia with Malaysian cadet article, next edition (93) will probably feature SW South Island NZ with HMNZS Lachlan (Geoff Haskins onboard) with article, followed by British Columbia, Canada.

In regard to the shop, the Editor advised that there is a need to organise what goes in and DP, conceded this and will act.

The AGM & Dinner will probably go in centre pages.

11. Rule 1

Prior to the meeting, an alteration to Rule 1 had been submitted to the Committee for their perusal. At the meeting it was considered that the proposed addition/alteration to the rule may act as a hinderance rather than a benefit and it was decided not to alter the rule.

It will, however, be pointed out at the AGM that 'social activities' certainly, and most importantly, include the publication of The Cadet which is the lifeblood of the Club.

12. Update on the Silverware dispersal plan

SB advised that work was ongoing with the Cross Country Cup to go the Gordonstoun.

Mike Butterfield is in receipt of the Simms cup going to the under 18s at the Southport 24hr race and had requested a 2nd cup to go to West Kirby Yacht Club as part of their Wilson Trophy. He has also agreed to take on the rôle of silverware administrator.

13. Canadian Coastguard Academy Report

It was advised and noted that the Canadian CG had changed from being a College to an Academy. The President informed the meeting of his visit to Sydney, NS in early June and again how well he had been received. The Conway Queen's Gold Medal had been awarded as the last and most looked forward to and anticipated of the prizes. It was pointed out, that upon the ascension of King Charles following the passing of Queen Elizabeth, we had reverted to calling it the King's Gold Medal. The Queen's Gold Medal, however, is named after Queen Victoria who had originally presented it and it shall remain as the QGM.

There will be a full report in the January edition of The Cadet.

14. HMS Conway Trust – Committee Member

Mike Butterfield agreed to be the future Committee member attending HMSCT meetings if he is appointed as a Committee member at the AGM.

TM agreed to be the liaison between the Committee and the Friends of Conway.

15. Committee Members joining and continuance of others

Following Alfie Windsor stepping down from the Committee, no one else had indicated their wish to step down and Mike Butterfield put his name forward to join the Committee. He will therefore be proposed at the AGM.

16. National Arboretum

Stuart Johnston (62-66) had forwarded an article to Paul Heaver that was in the recent General Botha magazine regarding the upkeep of the training ships memorial at the National Arboretum, as follows

*"The main issue is what will happen to it once we've all slipped our anchors, leaving no one to tend and care for it [the memorial] in the future. This was discussed at our most recent zoom meeting...Ted has done some research and learned that **we could contract the Arboretum to care for it in perpetuity for only £7,500.** Naturally, no one has this sort of money to hose around, especially now. With the agreement of Mother Ship in Cape Town, we have decided to "Crowdfund" for a sum to enable such a long term solution to be put in place, and of course we're going to ask OBs to give what they can."*

Talking to Tony Nicholas about this, he confirmed that little had been done within GBOBA to further the idea of crowdfunding a payment to keep the memorial cared for in perpetuity.

In a bid to keep the relationship between the The Conway Club and The General Botha Old Boys Association alive, SJ would like to propose that we grant access to the OC site - and thus electronic copies of The Cadet - to Tony Nicholas in his capacity as Chairman so that he is able to keep abreast of what we are up to, in particular with respect to our Passage Plan. He would

also be able to give wider publicity to OC gatherings and other happenings in the quarterly Newsletter that goes out to the Bothies' diaspora, in case they are of interest to, or have a bearing on, what GBOBA members are up to in the geographical areas concerned. You will note that the GBOBA website is open to all comers.

SJ emphasised that this is his suggestion and not a request from Tony, although I know he would welcome and feel honoured by it. SJ has taken the liberty to share with him the proposed OC Passage Plan and passed on one or two electronic copies of The Cadet that had articles of relevance to GBOBA.

Although a proportion of the money needed from the Arboretum, £7.5k would be needed from each of the 'ships', this is probably a matter to be discussed with the Friends as it is not in our constitution to 'donate' for such a purpose, however well-meaning it may be.

17. AOB

There was no other business and the meeting closed at 16.00.

18. Date, Time & Place of Next Meeting

The Next Committee Meeting will be held at the offices of Verdantix on 1st December 2026.

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

26th June 2026