

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the Globetrotters Club 5 November 2016 at 1pm

Present: Francesca Jaggs (FJ) Chair; Gavin Fernades, Paul Roberts, John Pannell, Kevin Brackley, Jacqui Trotter, Kevin Brackley, Lindy Pyrah, and over 20 members attended.

Apologies: Simon Bank, Joan McConn, Barbara Brooks, Morphy Richards, Ewa Les, Paul Woodward

Agenda:

- Apologies for absence.
- Minutes of the last AGM ([AGM-2015-minutes](#)).
- Chair's Report.
- Membership report.
- Treasurer's report.
- Publications.
- Publicity report.
- Election of Committee Members.
- Election of Honorary Members.
- London Meetings.
- Any other business.

1. Welcome and Introduction (FJ)

FJ welcomed everyone to the meeting, she went through the agenda and introduced the committee to the audience. The minutes from last year's AGM were signed off as a true and correct record, no-one raised any objections.

2. Chairs' report (FJ)

Key events throughout 2015/6:

- Long standing member Irene Morphy given honorary membership
- The new treasurer, John Pannell, was introduced and welcomed to the group
- There are a stable numbers of members
- Facebook/calendar/Globe/business cards etc. GF took over the Globe magazine, the Committee thanked Chloe for her services as editor in the past, the e-newsletter is on hold
- New Year Party
- Travel Adventure Show, this will need further discussion as to the club's future participation due to the unfortunate death of Dick Curtis who was the key liaison and organiser.
- Related organisations attended – the Foreign Office, Australia House and other travel clubs
- Sister branches

Aims for future:

- Grow our membership
- More branches
- Increase facebook profile and participation, Ewa is helping from Poland
- Continue calendar as this is proving to be a big success, the calendars will be produced earlier this year so everyone will have a chance to purchase extra copies as Christmas presents.

3. Membership report (KB)

The membership numbers remain very steady, KB talked through benefits of early bird membership to the audience and explained that there was a bit of change on the origin of membership due to members moving. We could do with more members of the younger demographic. The membership had peaked at 500, we would like more members but have to be mindful of the admin of running the club.

Membership @ 31st August 2016 stood at 214 compared to 227 in 2015, 2014 figure of 220, 2013 figure of 194 members and 208 in 2012

- 30 new members joined the club in the last year, compared to 40, 42 & 28 in the previous 3 years. Of these new members 25 are UK, 3 USA & 2 Other countries.
- 52 lapsed members rejoined the club in the last year, compared to 40, 57 & 45 in the previous 3 years.
- As well as Lapsed members renewing, 38 members took up the early bird renewal offer, 51 members renewed early in 2015

The makeup of the membership has again slightly changed. Previous years figure in brackets.

- 82% are now from the UK (82%, 85%, 83% & 84%).
- 10% USA/Canada (9%, 8%, 10% & 12%)
- 8% Other countries (9%, 7%, 7% & 4%)

The age profile of the membership has hardly changed.

- A Under 25: 0.1% (0.5%, 0.5% & 1%)
- B 25-35: 4% (5%, 6%, 4% & 5%)
- C 36-45: 10% (7%, 9%, 9% & 13%)
- D 46-55: 18% (16%, 16%, 15% & 15%)
- E 56-65: 21% (21%, 33% & 34%)
- F Over 65: 29% (30%, 27.5%, 21% & 17%)

With 18% again this year (20%, 20% 10% & 17.5) not wishing to divulge the information!

4. Treasurers Report (JP)

- The bank balance is healthy and have made a profit this year after a few years of making a loss. We made a small profit of £83.57 compared to a loss last year of £232.09
- Globe magazine is now mainly online and so we are still managing to keep our printing costs down in comparison to previous years
- Membership income has increased slightly due to the greater uptake on online 2- and 3-year membership payment options
- Internet costs have increased slightly as we move to a more online organisation
- Our reserve bank account is still very healthy thanks to good income 2004-2009
- Comparing our Year-on-Year P&L we are in recovery mode and in good shape.

Accounts are monitored on a regular basis by the management committee.

Payments made on behalf of the club are approved by the committee and must be authorised by 2 signatories.

- All committee posts are carried out on a voluntary basis.
- The Directors do not receive a salary.

Accounts are produced using recognised accounting software.

Under the Companies Act 2006 there is no requirement for an audit of the accounts. The committee have agreed that the accounts be presented without a formal audit. This represents a saving on professional fees. The committee may, however, request an audit of the accounts at any time for any reason.

The treasurer will answer questions on the accounts from any member by email via the website or any committee member.

Members agree that the Directors be authorised to present the accounts, as presented to the AGM, to Companies House and HMRC without an audit under Section 476 of the Companies Act 2006.

The vote was unanimous

5. Publications (GF)

Former editor Chloe brought her last edition (Winter) out in Jan 2016 after which GF took over. There was a bit of delay with producing the magazine due to getting familiar with the new software, although used this opportunity to use more colour and make it bigger since there are no restrictions on printing costs so try to feature more destinations and longer stories.

We do need more contributors. We are including more competitions but are receiving only a few entries, it would be nice to get more. It is also important to know why people aren't downloading it. Hopefully receiving the Globe magazine makes the membership worth the cost.

- Software to convert - DTP processes to learn
- New, updated design, more colour, more pictures
- Long and short features from contributors and myself
- New picture quiz
 - Spring edition - May 2016
 - Summer edition - Aug 2016
 - Autumn edition - Nov 2016
- Trying to encourage more people to download
- Trying to find out why they don't - can't print / don't get email / don't like screen reading
- Are members aware of it? Do they value it?
- Disappointing number of downloads.
- Slight increase after reminder emails.
- Plans for a questionnaire - Plans for a flyer/insert

Calendar update:

- The second edition of the Globetrotters Club Calendar continued production through the autumn of 2015. It has been well received and we have gotten great feedback
- Similar to the first edition, closing date at the end of summer, voting with an anonymous panel of judges.
- Sent out to paid up members directly from the printers in late November.
- They will be available to buy at the London meeting in December.
- 350 ordered, 20+ sold for cash in London in Dec/Jan, More sold online, 10 sent to Chester, 4 sent to Toronto. Remainder sold at reduced price through the year, given to new members, given to speakers.
- Third edition (2017) entries were closed Aug 2016 and currently being edited to be ready for the pre-Xmas meetings.

6. Website Report (PR)

Website: September 1st, 2015 and August 31st 2016

We had 241 (↑44) membership enquiries of these 36 (↓7) selected to join, 69 (↑43) selected for renewal and 120 (↑7) downloaded a sample of Globe. Of these 141 (↑26) enquiries were from the UK and 25 (↑11) from the USA.

The biggest month for membership enquiries is normally January and February after the Adventure Travel Show.

7. Publicity Report - (GF)

Facebook is the site we are concentrating on to engage with our existing members and hopefully attract new ones, we need more content to get more likes, and will focus on doing that throughout this year.

Facebook activity:

- open fanpage:
445 likes so we are getting more popular (in comparison to 340 likes and 229 in previous years)
Theme of posts: monthly meetings, travel articles, members photos, important announcements and other events, “advertising” Globies as Experienced Travel Advisors
- - closed group: not much activity, constant number of members, proposal of closing this page down

Discounts list:

- new options of cooperation with our partners possible to arise
- exchange of facebook page details alongside with updating the Discount List what gives us better connection with partners
- the list is still in the process of updating, e-mail has been sent, 15 companies has already extended the Discount Deal, most of them awaiting for answer, there are no refusals so far.

Building cooperation with valuable connections through:

- events participation
- visitcards
- fb invitations
- journalist, photographers, travellers, writers contacts
- magazines, travel business, transport business, travel shops
- Strong Cooperation with Adventura Talks

Important - Engagement from members much appreciated!

- If you have any travel blog, story or photos to share we can promote it on our Fb page as long as you are our member – feel free to send it to us!
- Any questions re Facebook and how to use it - please contact Ewa
- gt-publicity@globetrotters.co.uk

8. Chester Report (FJ)

- The meetings still take place at the Museum which provides excellent technical facilities and half time refreshments
- They have 6 meetings each year, each has 2 speakers.
- They have an average attendance of 45 who pay £3 entrance.

Despite the museum recently increasing their rent to £330 from the previous £240 The Chester branch is financially able to now support itself, and has managed to build up a small financial reserve.

- As well as Hanna and Kevin they now have 8 other people helping to organise meetings
- Kevin Jones is running the website www.chesterglobetrotters.co.uk

9 Re-election of Committee Members

The Following members are standing for re-election to the committee and the audience was asked to vote their agreement:

- Committee as at end October 2015:
Kevin Brackley, Paul Roberts, Jacqui Trotter, Francesca Jaggs,
John Pannell, Lindy Pyrah, Gavin Fernandes, Ewa Les
- Editor of Globe newsletter: Gavin Fernandes
- Editor of eNewsletter:

The audience voted an unanimous yes

Any members who would like to join the committee were encouraged to come forward and volunteer.

There was a further vote for Paul Woodward to be elected as Vice President following his past dedication and support to the club as Treasurer

It is proposed to elect the following member(s) to be Honorary members in recognition for their service to the club.

This received an unanimous yes

10. London meetings – (JT)

The London door money gets ploughed back into the meetings and is separate to the main Globetrotter accounts. We try to keep it at the limit of £2k to cover any disasters and it is slightly below this so might have to increase the cost of meetings. Jacqui went through the various travels, there have real variety of speakers. The Committee is looking forward to the next year.

Venue – is small but good value for money as we get storage and a central location for the price.

Places we have been: We started and ended the year with Denise Heywood's wonderful presentations on Jim Thompson & Raffles; visited India with Ashley; walked bottom to top of France; travelled for free with Tomislav; saw the arctic with Brian; crossed america with Barbara and then Nathan Milward; traced DH Lawrence's steps in Sardinia; met camels in the Gobi desert with John Hare; had a brief encounter with Israel; crossed the world with Jeanie on a train and Charlie Walker in a bike; were fascinated by Elizabeth Gowing's Kosovan family story and kayaked down the Amazon; and visited the Nagaland with Alan.

People to thank: Paul for his technical support, all the volunteers who do the teas, the presenters and audiences.

Thanks to the venue and having somewhere warm, dry and convenient to meet and for all the goodwill in Globetrotters

11. AOB

There is to be a solid brass plaque, engraved & embossed in black put on the lectern for Dick Curtis, wording as suggested by Simon:

"In Memory of long standing Member & Friend .. Orator, Photographer, Artist & "Globie" Coordinator Mr. Richard "Dick" Edward Curtis 14.4.1936 - 30.9.2016 who crafted this lectern and many other items for club meetings.... London, Yemen, Crete, Ladakh, Sarawak, Australia, USA, Nepal, China, India...."

Question from David: can a member give a talk every month? JT: Lots of members do talks although it can take a lot of time to organise them, we do have a number of members in reserve who can give talks if there are any last minute pull outs.

Meeting over