

The Followers of Rupert

36th AGM – 24th August 2019

This is a record of the 36th Annual General Meeting of the Followers of Rupert at the Pavilion, Warwick School at 12.00 noon.

Present: John Swan (Chairman), John Beck (Secretary and Newsletter Editor), Phil Toze (Treasurer), Tony Griffin (Sales Officer and Annual Meeting Organiser), Alan Murray (Publications Officer), Pamela Stones (Assistant Newsletter Editor), Michael Ward and Louise Hopkins (Committee Members), Mike Williams (Minutes Secretary).

There were approximately 60 members and guests in attendance.

MEETING BUSINESS

The Chairman, John Swan, welcomed all attending members and guests to the AGM.

19/1 Apologies – Tony Stanford.

19/2 The minutes of the 2018 AGM were presented and **AGREED** as a true record. There were no matters arising.

19/3 The Chairman gave a report on the activities of the Society over the past year. He stated that the Nutwood Newsletter had maintained its high standard and thanked John Beck and Pamela Stones. John Beck mentioned John Kobylecky who had sponsored the colouring of Bestall Specials.

The Chairman said that although the number attending the AGM and Fun Day was down, there had been an increase in the number attending the Gala Dinner. He reported that sales were thriving and thanked Tony Griffin. The latter mentioned new sales items such as a t-shirt, Rupert 'coins' and a sheet of Rupert stickers.

19/4 The Treasurer, Phil Toze presented the audited accounts for the year ending 31 March 2019. He stated that there was a deficit of around £2000 due to increased costs but there was about £29000 in the bank. He said that the position was good and that Tony Stanford (Membership Secretary) chased up subscriptions. Adoption of the accounts was proposed by Michael Ward and seconded by Roger Coombes. The accounts were unanimously **AGREED** as a true record of the Society's affairs.

19/5 John Beck introduced the Committee's recommendation for a new Committee structure. He said that this would more accurately reflect the current position. Louise Hopkins who had stood down as Librarian at the 2018 AGM was remaining on the Committee and her replacement as Librarian was Lizzie Hackney. There were no other nominations for any of the positions on the Committee which was re-elected en-bloc. The Committee for the following year is as follows:

Chairman	John Swan	Membership Secretary	Tony Stanford
Secretary	John Beck	Publications Editor	John Beck
Treasurer	Phil Toze	Assistant Publications Editor	Pamela Stones
Website Manager	Tony Stanford	Annual Meeting Organiser	Tony Griffin
Website Editor	Pamela Stones	Minutes Secretary	Mike Williams
Sales Officer	Tony Griffin	Librarian	Lizzie Hackney
General Committee Members	Louise Hopkins, Alan Murray, Michael Ward		

19/6 It was **AGREED** that Watson Associates be appointed as auditors of the Followers' accounts for the period 1st April 2019 to 31st March 2020.

19/7 The Chairman announced that the 2020 AGM would be on Saturday 29th August at Warwick School. He said that the registration form for the AGM would be sent out with the next Nutwood Newsletter and that there would be a reduced fee for those who register at an early date. He then led a discussion about Followers' plans to celebrate Rupert's 100th birthday in 2020.

Pamela Stones announced that in conjunction with Tony Stanford, they would keep the website updated with developments for 2020.

The Rupert balloon was intended for 2020. It would only be inflated and would not be flying. It had been unable to be present at the current Annual Fun Day as the pilot was unavailable.

There were many Rupert items such as models that would be available for sale after the 2020 AGM. Those that remained would probably be auctioned at the *Elephant Rooms* in Leamington Spa.

It was hoped that Egmont would produce a special Rupert Annual in 2020 which would be No 85. They had been sent suggestions such as a 1973 Rupert 'brown face' Reproduction Annual to celebrate the Centenary. Another suggestion was a compilation of non-PC Rupert stories which had never appeared in Rupert facsimiles.

John Beck showed perfect-bound and ring-bound versions of his *Rupert Index* which would be published in 2020. These versions were blank inside but drew considerable interest. When Alan Murray asked for a display of interest, the perfect-bound version was particularly popular.

John Beck also showed a rough draft of a Nutwood Map which John Harrold would be producing. It would be on A3 paper and would be the definitive version and Phil Toze would be liaising with the artist to make it as accurate as possible. There would be comments about the map in a future Nutwood Newsletter.

Other suggestions were as follows:

- A commemorative group photo of all attendees at the 2020 celebrations which could appear in a future Nutwood Newsletter.
- A compilation of videos of previous Annual Meetings could be shown at the 2020 Annual Meeting.
- The Royal Mint and Royal Mail should be approached concerning the possibility of special Rupert issues of coins and stamps. The meeting was informed that both bodies had been contacted but it would probably be beneficial if members contacted them as well.
- Googol should be contacted to put a Rupert logo on their page on November 8th, 2020.
- The media, both print and television/radio, should be made aware of the Centenary.
- Roger Bemrose informed the meeting of special events in Norfolk. He mentioned the value of informing local National Trust properties.
- John Swan mentioned the *Bears!* Exhibition and when it was appearing at Henley and Whitehaven. However, he stated that it had little Rupert content.
- Alan Murray mentioned a Rupert exhibition at Newby Hall in North Yorkshire.
- John Beck said that he hoped the *Daily Express* would be actively involved in publicising the Centenary. He reminded the meeting that Trinity Mirror now owned the Express Group, but he had been informed that the Rupert archive was safely stored.

19/8 The Chairman reminded the meeting that the next AGM would be on Saturday 29th August 2020 at Warwick School. Roger Coombes proposed a vote of thanks to the Committee. This concluded the formal business of the 2019 AGM and the Chairman ended the meeting by hoping that everyone would continue to enjoy the 36th Annual Meeting weekend.