

The Followers of Rupert

39th AGM – 2nd September 2023

This is a record of the 39th Annual General Meeting of the Followers of Rupert which was held at the Radcliffe Centre, Warwick University at 12:00 noon.

Present: Roger Coombes (Chairman), John Beck (Secretary and Publications Editor), Charles Knape (Treasurer and Annual Meeting Organiser), Pamela Stones (Website Editor and Assistant Publications Editor), Tony Stanford (Membership Secretary and Website Manager), Lizzie Hackney (Librarian), Mike Williams (Minutes Secretary), Mike Ward (General Committee Member). There were 62 members and guests in attendance.

Meeting Business

The Chairman welcomed everyone to Warwick University. He then requested a minute's silence in memory of Barbara Rae.

23/1 Apologies for absence: Stephen and Pamela Franklin, Matthew and Margaret Heaton, David Olliver, Gill Williams, Alan Murray.

23/2 The minutes of the (38th) 2022 AGM were presented and **AGREED** as a true record. There were no matters arising.

23/3 The Chairman in his report commented on the larger attendance than in 2022. He then introduced the Committee so that they could be recognised. This included Tony Stanford who was retiring with immediate effect and Mike Williams who was retiring in 2024. The two prospective new members to replace Tony's Committee positions were Chris Hellen and Jordy Schaap. The Chairman thanked all the Committee, especially those retiring, for their work on behalf of the Society. He also thanked Louise Hopkins who was retiring from her role as Followers of Rupert Facebook administrator at the end of September 2023. Jordy Schaap had agreed to take on this position.

23/4 Charles Knape announced that both the 2021/22 and the 2022/23 accounts had been signed off and audited. The accounts were unanimously **AGREED** as a true record of the Society's affairs. Whereas there had been a deficit of £4542 for the previous year, there was a surplus of £6286 for the current year. There had been a revaluation of the Library stock due to the generous donation of the Jenny Kisler archive.

There was a question about the Alfred Bestall Memorial Fund and whether there could be a higher profile for Rupert and the Followers at Beddgelert. It was decided that progress would be most likely if this topic could be followed up locally.

23/5 The following members were proposed to be elected to the Committee:

Post	Proposed
Chairman	Roger Coombes
Secretary	John Beck
Treasurer	Charles Knape
Membership Secretary	Chris Hellen
Website Editor	Pamela Stones
Website Manager	Jordy Schaap
Librarian	Lizzie Hackney
Sales Officer	Mark Hackney
Annual Meeting Organiser	Charles Knape
Publications Editor	John Beck
Assistant Publications Editor	Pamela Stones
Minutes Secretary	Mike Williams
General Committee Members	Mike Ward, Alan Murray

It was proposed that the Committee was elected en-bloc and this motion was proposed by John Lester and seconded by Richard Ball. The new members on the Committee are Mark Hackney, Chris Hellen and Jordy Schaap.

The Chairman mentioned that the position of Minutes Secretary would be vacant in a year's time. He also said that although it was not a Committee position, the role of Raffle Organiser was now available due to the resignation of Darren Evans. Pamela Stones proposed a vote of thanks to Darren.

23/6 It was **AGREED** that Moorlands Accountants be appointed as auditors of the Followers' accounts for the period 1st April 2023 to 31st March 2024.

23/7 The date and venue of the 2024 AGM are yet to be confirmed but the venue is almost certainly going to be Warwick University.

John Lester gave a vote of thanks for the organisation of the Annual Day and AGM and also for the Nutwood Newsletters and their accompanying supplements.

The Chairman formally closed the meeting.