

The Followers of Rupert 41st AGM - Minutes

Held at Warwick University, Coventry, 30th August 2025 at 12 noon

1 Chairman's Welcome

Roger welcomed all present and asked for a minute's silence in remembrance of John Beck and Phil Toze. He invited the current committee to introduce themselves.

Roger then highlighted:

- The huge loss of John Beck - he was working on new publications - in the pipeline courtesy of Mel and Pam
- Resignation of Mike Williams (Minutes Secretary) - committee is now light on numbers
 - John Lester offered to take over as minutes secretary
- Need to expand Committee – replacement and identifying skills needed

2 Apologies for Absence

Russell Gilmour, Tony Griffin, Caroline Dobbin, Christine Hayter, Mike and Gill Williams.

3 To receive and agree the Minutes of the 2024 AGM held at Warwick University on 31st August 2024

No matters arising that are not covered in the formal agenda.

Minutes accepted by assent - show of hands.

4 Reports

4.1 Treasurer:

Charles presented the accounts. They were accepted

Proposed – Anita Greenaway

Seconded – Richard Ball

Passed by assent - show of hands.

5 Secretary

Alan outlined the secretary's basic role and the parts of John Beck's wider portfolio that he was also dealing with (liaison with Rupert's "owners").

Alan has spoken to Farshore, who are keen to use Followers' knowledge and enthusiasm to guide new Rupert publications. Rupert is, however, "owned" by Express Newspapers and DreamWorks. It was agreed to continue, for now, to produce items for sale to Followers without poking DreamWorks, but taking discreet, internal legal advice on this strategy.

5.1 Secretary/Membership Secretary

Alan and Chris have concocted a spreadsheet-based "costing model" that allows us to calculate, at any time, what every class of member (Full, Overseas, Associate, Electronic etc) is costing the organisation in terms of printing, postage and all the other items in our expenditure. This will help us to judge when and how subscriptions should be altered to reflect rising costs or savings made. At present, the subscription rates are broadly consistent with what the model produces, indicating that John Beck's gut instinct was good ... this was not a surprise.

5.2 Publications team

- The team has enough material for 3x Newsletters, but is keen to receive new material at any time.
- The first newsletter since John died has been widely praised.
- Pamela and Mike work well together and enjoy doing so.

6 Amendments to the Constitution

- A set of amendments to clarify the classes of membership was presented and approved.
- An amendment to clarify the process for changing subscription rates was withdrawn for further consideration

It was agreed that the constitution has grown organically, is messy and needs tidying up. Alan offered to draft a review version for the 2026 AGM. It will not alter in substance, but operational

issues will be moved to become appendices (“Documents of Practice”), making the constitution *per se* shorter, tighter and more coherent.

7 Election of Officers: to agree the proposed members to be elected to the committee

Post	Proposed
Chairman	Roger Coombes
Secretary	Alan Murray
Minutes Secretary	John Lester
Treasurer	Charles Knape
Annual Meeting Organiser	Charles Knape
Membership Secretary	Chris Hellen
Librarian/Archivist	Lizzie Hackney
Publications Editor	Pamela Stones
Assistant Publications Editor	Mike Ward
Sales Officer	Mark Hackney
Website Manager	Jordy Schaap
Website Editor.....	Pamela Stones

Proposed – John Lester, Seconded – Sandy – agreed by assent (show of hands)

8 Appointment of Accountants

To reappoint Moorlands Accountants as auditors of the accounts of the Followers of Rupert for the period 1st April 2025 to 31st March 2026

Proposed Mike Ward, Seconded Frank Jones – agreed by assent (show of hands)

9 Date and Venue of the 2026 AGM

Warwick, Radcliffe Hall, 29th August, 2026

10 Any Other Business

John Lester proposed a vote of thanks to the committee– agreed by assent (round of applause!)

This concludes the formal business of the 41st Followers AGM