

Minutes of the Country Link Annual General Meeting  
2017  
*Abbreviated version*

Tony welcomed everyone to the Meeting, and thanked the 'Cornish Crew' for organising the weekend.

Apologies were received from a number of members.

Minutes of the AGM held on 1<sup>st</sup> May 2016 - the Minutes were signed.

Matters arising if not on the Agenda - Maria promoted the website and explained the link from Facebook to the website, and explained potential members could email her directly or their local organiser.

Maria showed members the new promotional items.

Dorothy thanked everyone who had gone to the Autumn weekend and reported how £1500 had been given to the Eden Hospice.

Chairman's Report - Tony told members of the deaths of members Helen and Trevor, and there was a few moments silence. He welcomed everyone to the AGM, and thanked the Cornish crew for all their hard work in organising the weekend. He reported that membership had increased, celebrated the success of the website and reminded members that Country Link has a Facebook page. Tony explained how the Constitution was in the process of being altered, and he finished by thanking the membership for their support and encouragement, the Committee for their help and advice, and hoped to be able to steer Country Link into the future.

Treasurer's Report - Lesley has received 493 subs, which is an increase on 2016.

She explained the accounts: the bank balance is high because there is no national advertising, and as the numbers going to weekends has increased then there is an increase in the surplus from the weekends. Lesley proposed the accounts; seconded by Jackie; adopted.

Lesley proposed the National subscription remain at £10.00; seconded by Wendy; adopted.

Lesley proposed the club advertising be £300 per group for 2018, and reminded members that it is not to be used to buy promotional clothing for members; seconded by Maria; adopted.

Lesley questioned whether to begin national advertising again as the Committee have not had any suggestions from the members regarding local advertising. She asked for ideas from members. Martin seconded the proposal.

Elizabeth-Joy is proposing to start a group in South Devon.

Jackie asked if everyone has the advertising material. Tony explained that it can be used by the groups as and when, and will be given out then.

Lesley suggested keeping £10,000 in the account, but wants to spend the money appropriately. The majority were in favour, but Ros pointed out that it should not be spent for the sake of spending it.

Lesley thanked Kate for auditing the accounts, and thanked the Committee for their continued support.

Jackie thanked Lesley.

Secretary's report - Liz began by talking about the levels of communication within Country Link, and she thanked those who responded to her emails/kept her up to date. She asked who had seen the Agenda for this Meeting, the Minutes of the previous AGM and the nomination forms; she explained that all

were sent to the group organisers to be cascaded down to the members. She finished by requesting up to date contact information for the groups.

President's report - Nigel commented how the website was looking good and requested reports from the clubs; he encouraged clubs to spend the £300. 'Everyone gets the club they deserve, and the future lies in your hands'.

Election of officers - Nigel explained that the officers are elected for a period of 12 months, and the Chairman, Vice Chairman, Treasurer and Secretary were elected.

President and Vice Presidents - Tony explained that the President and Vice Presidents are approached as to whether they want to continue in office for another 12 months; the President and five Vice-Presidents were proposed individually and elected.

Proposal from Wendy - Wendy put forward her proposal regarding a time limit for the period of office the President and Vice Presidents remain in post. This was followed by a question and answer session, discussion and various points were clarified. Tony gave the response on behalf of the Committee. Results of the voting: 44 against, 36 for, 8 abstentions.

Forthcoming weekends - Jackie promoted the Autumn weekend in Warwickshire, and Valda handed over the key.

Any other business - As this meeting had been longer than normal, Emma suggested that the AGM start earlier.

    Maria reminded members of the promotional materials, told members to be loud and positive about Country Link, but was saddened that the discussion of the proposal had tarnished the Meeting.

    Valda thanked everyone for coming to the weekend, and said the Committee would help people to move forward.

    Jerry announced the Jerry White Cup for the highest increase in membership had been won by Staffordshire; Nigel presented the cup to Phil. Jerry thanked Valda and Martin for organising the weekend.

Date of the next weekend - this will be decided as and when the Spring Weekend 2018 is planned.