

Minutes of the Country Link Members Meeting held on Sunday 20th October 2019
at the Prince Regent Hotel, Weymouth

Charles Humby welcomed everyone to the Meeting.

Apologies - were received from Kate and George Greaves, Peter Hurt, Dorothy and Simon Haskins, Ian Dingle, Drew and Carolyn Kerr, Edward and Helen Houldcroft, Tony Paul, Judy Pace, Nigel Block, John Rowlands, Barbara Dawkins, Tony Paul, John Lawton, Debbie Strake, Andy Eldon, David and Jane Salmon, Mary McTurk

Charles introduced himself; members of the National Committee (MG, LS, PH, LG), Regional Reps (AS, GT, PB, ST), and President (NS)/Vice Presidents (PC, JW) introduced themselves

Minutes of the Members Meeting held on Sunday 21st October 2018 were signed as being correct.

Matters arising - none.

Chairman's report - Charles thanked everyone for attending the meeting, and said it was good to see new faces, as we need new blood and ideas for furthering our organisation. The last weekend, held in Cheshire, had been very successful, and he thanked Sue H and her team. Charles reminded members about the questionnaire in the welcome pack and asked everyone to complete it as the Committee need to know what the members think as they are aware that not all information is passed onto members from the Organisers. He requested articles and photos for the website; it is important that it is kept up to date, as it is a useful tool for prospective members. 2020 is the 35th anniversary of Country Link, and celebratory hoodies and zoodies will be available for members to purchase. Charles finished by thanking Lynda, Wendy and Nigel for organising a successful and enjoyable weekend.

Secretary's report - Liz thanked Lynda, Wendy and Nigel for photocopying the Agenda for this Meeting and the Minutes from the previous Members Meeting. She explained that the Agenda and Minutes had been circulated to the Organisers prior to this Meeting so those not attending had had the opportunity to raise any issues - none had. She asked if all Organisers were still the same as in June because it is important that information can be cascaded to as many members as possible. She said the nomination papers would be out in January/February; the Organisers would be sent them, and they would be on the website too. She finished by asking members to complete the signing in sheet.

Treasurer's report - Lesley has received subscriptions from 340 members; there were 459 members in 2018. Lesley asked the organisers to look at their membership and payments made, and to remind members that their membership includes their insurance; the insurance is for public liability - members have to have personal and accident insurance.

Advertising - she asked members to think about the advertising funds available.

Website - the money spent on the website is money well spent.

Clothing - between 60 and 70 people have ordered hoodies/zoodies. The National Committee will not be contributing to the 35th anniversary clothing; the Liberty Workwear Clothing website will be live next week.

Surplus from the Spring Weekend - this is between £40 and £50.

Deposits - £3100 for the weekend in Derbyshire in May 2020, and for the hotel in Corby in Autumn 2020.

The National Committee had hoped clubs would use the funds in the bank account for local advertising, but this did not happen, so the Committee have decided to use it for national advertising: NFU 'Countryside' magazine is £2000 per annum for 12 months and four weeks on the website per ad; the

Committee are also looking at the 'Farmers Guardian'. Lorraine suggested 'Yours' magazine. Lesley asked for ideas and words.

Charles thanked Lesley for her hard work.

Web Editor's report - Maria reported the programmes are coming in regularly; 22 groups are represented on the website; new contributors are beginning to send in reports. The advertising is leading to increased footfall to the website, and local organisers need to be aware.

GDPR - Charles reminded members to use 'bcc' when sending emails to members; only paid up members should receive the programme.

Passing of the Weekend Baton - the Baton was passed to Derbyshire, and Maria explained the Derbyshire Weekend would be the start of the 35th anniversary celebrations for Country Link. The weekend will be held at the Buxton Palace Hotel, Buxton on the weekend of 22nd-25th May 2020. The cost for the weekend will be £210, plus a single supplement of £15 per night.

Charles explained that the Constitution is being revamped; it is close to being finished. Jerry explained that the Constitution dated back to 1985 and had been written in 1990. Phil C, Tony P and Jerry are working on the Constitution, and will bring it to the AGM in 2020.

Any other business - Pat B has received two enquiries, for Northamptonshire and Cornwall.

Lorraine C thanked Warwickshire Country Link; she had raised £150 after 'Braving the Shave' for MacMillan Nurses.

John W commented that it had been a great weekend, and that there was no need to try to drive down the cost of the weekend; Lorraine commented that she had been fine with her restricted diet.

Date of the next Members Meeting - to be confirmed

The Meeting finished at 5.05pm, and Charles thanked everyone for attending.