

# IBM Hursley Retirees Club

## Minutes of AGM 19 March 2019

---

### Opening and Apologies

The meeting was opened by the chair, Beth Roberts. Having welcomed the 100 + members who were attending the AGM, Beth introduced the first speaker, Paul Kettley, to give the Laboratory update. Those sending apologies were: Joy Matthews, Dave Barr, Alan Gordon and Douglas Shiell.

### Paul Kettley - Hursley Laboratory & UK Lab Campus Locations Manager

Paul opened his presentation outlining the successful 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary events which had been held during 2018 and that these coincided with the first year in his present job. The events had covered a mixture of employee celebrations and others which included retirees and family members. During 2019 events, which include retirees, will continue to be held and Paul encouraged retirees to check the Clubhouse website through the year. Slides were shown of the Sunken Garden which had been improved recently with the help of employee volunteers. The Hursley site continues to be improved with the emphasis recently on the Hursley House roof. We were shown before and after photos and the difference was stunning and Paul was pleased to confirm that the scaffolding will be removed shortly. The site continues to keep busy and CICS messaging and cloud technology remain the hub of the Laboratory activities. The Extreme Blue Expo for graduates continues, Festival of Innovation another project across all UK sites and a huge Xforce Command Truck arrived on site during the year to inform on the latest developments in cyber security. Infrastructure improvements continue and \$36M has been spent and further plans continue to 2024 which will cover the Cafeteria, office space and green recycling. Electric car charging is also on the agenda for action. Paul finished by again encouraging retirees to keep in touch with events on site open to all of us and these are available on [www.ibmhursleyclub.org.uk](http://www.ibmhursleyclub.org.uk)

### Pensions News

Beth Roberts thanked Paul for his update on the Hursley site and then introduced Mark Griffiths, IBM Pension Trust Manager & Company Secretary. Mark began by outlining his 36-year career with IBM and that he had been in this role for nine months. He continued by showing the 9 trustees made up of 5 company, 3 member nominated and 1 independent. The next Member Nominated Director (MND) elections will be in May 2020. The chart also showed the in-house management team and there are 60 pensions staff in total in NH. Mark was pleased to inform the retirees that both an internal audit and KPMG external review in the past year had concluded that all procedures were being successfully followed. The presentation continued with the Pensions Increases for 2019. The majority of retirees will be C plan pre-1997 and the rate for 2019 will be 1.27% of RPI for January. Full details will be sent, along with the booklet 'Information for our Retirees', at the beginning of April. Increases at 50% of RPI have been agreed with IBM up to and including April 2020 increases.

Mark continued by showing how work is now continuing to seek agreement to future guaranteed increases related to pre-1997 service. Should the Trustee and IBM be unable to agree to this, such increases revert to being discretionary in nature. However, a Valuation Working Group has been formed and are representing the Trustees in the negotiations with the Company. The VWG is made up of: Robert Tickell, Doug Moody, David Fielder, Evaristus Mainsah and this is a dedicated team with the expertise to pursue this important next stage. The plan is to reach an agreement with the Company by 31<sup>st</sup> May 2019. The increases could have a timed arrangement but the generous previous commitment

from 2006 – 2020 would be very unlikely. Assets and Liabilities for both the Main and I Plan were well funded with the Main plan showing 104% on a technical provisions basis. A further chart showing active membership and pensioner changes for both the Main and I Plan was shown with interesting statistics and all these charts will be posted on the Hursley Retirees website for further reference. Finally, with regard to Member engagement a detailed team plan is to be prepared to cover contributions, investments and retirement. Further details can be found on the Pension's website: [www.smartpensionsuk.co.uk](http://www.smartpensionsuk.co.uk) and Mark encouraged retirees to keep up to date with the latest information as it is posted in the coming year.

## **Chairman's Report**

Beth thanked Mark for his informative presentation and commenced with the formal task of asking for last year's minutes to be approved. Eric Bodger approved, seconded by Richard Wright. Beth then continued to report that 2018 had been another successful year with an increase in the number of trips run. The committee are always looking for new ideas and retirees are encouraged to get in touch with members of the committee. There is a continuing need for new people to join the committee and retirees or their spouses would be welcome. A chart was then shown of those Hursley retirees who had passed away during the previous year. This list is also available on the Hurrec website and regularly updated. Beth reported that following recommendations from North Harbour there had been a change to the Hursley Retiree Constitution recently and this is on the website and an email had been sent to retirees giving a link to this document.

## **Treasurers Report:**

Richard Walker was pleased to say that our financial report no longer requires an external audit. A Financial Steering Committee FSC is set up in Basingstoke and our accounts are now examined by this method and were subsequently approved. The number of trips run in 2018 was 24 and the final subsidy was £17.05K. We are still looking at ways to decrease our current account and although more trips were organised this only went down by £2.5K. BACS payments are now 'business as usual' although processing retiree payments using BACS still present a challenge and is not planned in the near future. The most popular trips were Bath Christmas Market (104) Cotswold Mystery Tour (104) and Motown (96). The least popular was Bovington and Monkey World (34 with 7 no shows = 27). Most expensive: Motown £2,012/£21pp, Kempton (£1,437/27pp) Bovington and Monkey World £540/£20pp. Least expensive: (for the treasurer) RAF Museum (£307/£6pp) and Hursley Lunches: £120/5pp). Plans for 2019: Subsidy already agreed £18.33K, 21 events planned including 4 already past and 3 more additions possible. Future cuts in subsidy will result in fewer trips or higher subsidy.

## **Constitution:**

Beth outlined the changes to the Constitution. The main change covers any ex-IBM employee with 10 years of service who has attained minimum pension age for their plan, regardless of Pension Plan or whether they are in receipt of their Pension, is now eligible to join as full members. Section 14: Liability: Guests attend or participate in meetings and activities organised by the Club do so at their own risk. The Constitution is available on the website. The motion was proposed by Eric Bodger and seconded by Roger Marlow, carried unanimously by those present.

## **Election of Officers and Committee**

Mark Griffiths was invited to take the meeting momentarily to appoint the officers and committee members for 2019. There are no changes and the committee is confirmed as follows:

Chair and Trips: Beth Roberts, Treasurer: Richard Walker, Secretary: Pauline Bell  
Committee: Merv Quick, eBusiness, Perspective, Ron Wilks, Webmaster  
Joy Matthews, Theatre Visits, Eric Bodger, Ingrid Bond, Ron Bowater,  
John Jones, Roger Marlow, Alan Stubbs,

## **Photographic Competition**

Merv was pleased to announce that 28 entries had been received this past year. The committee passed on their thanks to Brynja Maugham for her time taken in judging the entries. This year there was an extra category of highly commended. The results were as follows:

**1<sup>st</sup> Mike Wenman (Bluebell Express)**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Martin Healey (Henley)**

**3<sup>rd</sup> Alan Gordon (Bath)**

**Highly commended: Rafe Pascual (RAF Museum)**

## **2019 Trips**

Beth presented the list of trips for 2019. Hardcopy trip booking forms will be mailed within the next couple of days and emailed to those on the email distribution list shortly. Further information on the trips will also be available on the Hurrec website.

## **AOB**

Beth thanked Ruth Scorey for her assistance in setting up the arrangements for our AGM and all that it entails from the Hursley Lab point of view. The meeting closed at 8:25pm