

MIDLANDS MECCANO GUILD : REPORT of 50th AGM 14/10/2017

The following summarises the proceedings of the AGM. The reports by the treasurer and secretary will also be found on the website.

The President opened the meeting and announced his decision to retire and suggested that an ‘Archives officer’ might be appointed to keep future club records. The Chairman thanked him for his support during his 4 years of office and invited members to come forward with suggestions for a new President.

The Chairman summarised the events of the MMG 50th year and thanked all those who had contributed to the successful celebrations. He particularly highlighted the work done by the authors, Paul Brecknell, Mike Cook and Jim Gamble and Roger Marriott (editor), of the “Anniversary Book”, distributed to members at the meeting. He also thanked the secretary for coordinating the events throughout the year and Bob and Paula Thompson for the organization of photographs and the celebration cakes and catering. The chairman announced we needed to wind up the anniversary account and that the subsidy for the club shirts would end on 31/12/2017. The supplier now requires a minimum order of six shirts – anyone wanting shirt should order from the secretary by the end of December.

The secretary gave his report: Main points:

1. After 25 years as meeting reporter Mike Cook has stepped down, in his absence he was thanked for the outstanding quality of the reports.
2. The bulletin: the printing company used for the last 3 years went out of business in July necessitating a rapid search for a new printer. Inevitably the cost of printing the bulletin was much higher. In order to keep the cost at more or less the same level it was announced that three instead of four bulletins will be produced in future, in December, April and August.

The Treasurer gave his report: Main points:

1. The year closed with a deficit on the general fund due to increased printing costs for the bulletin and handover expenses for the position of treasurer. An increase in subscriptions of £1 recommended.
2. The meeting fee had been at £2.50 for six years and now barely covers costs of food and sundries so should be increased to £3.
3. When all the expenditure for the 50th anniversary has been made there will be about £1500 remaining in the Bequest fund. This is felt to be at about the right level for a club reserve fund.

Election of officers

The president asked for nominations for chairman, treasurer and secretary. The present officers agreed to stand again, proposed nem con by Bob Thompson, seconded by John Reid. All were re-elected by the meeting.

Business meeting:

1. The Treasurer proposed the increases noted above: subscriptions (now due) to be £16 for UK members, £19 for Europe and £23 for the rest of the World and the meeting fee of £3. These changes were agreed unanimously.
2. To provide for future publications the secretary proposed that the club purchase a new computer with up-to-date software, including Microsoft publisher, the most cost effective software with the functionality needed. He explained that the bulletin has been prepared on a computer that is over 12 years old with very out of date software including the Windows Vista operating system, which is no longer supported by Microsoft. The proposal was seconded by the treasurer. The membership supported the proposal and agreed expenditure of upto £1000 could be allocated from the publications fund.
3. The chairman called for a volunteer to scrutinize the accounts each year. Following the meeting Eric Wright offered to take this on.
4. Finally the chairman thanked the ladies in the kitchen for the preparation of the lunch and tea, and closed the meeting.