



## NEWENT & DISTRICT PROBUS CLUB

### AGM 21<sup>st</sup> April 2020

1. **Chairman:** Tony welcomed members to the clubs 43<sup>rd</sup> AGM meeting.
2. **Apologies.** None
3. **Minutes** of the meeting held on 23<sup>th</sup> April 2019 (previously displayed on website) where accepted as a true record and duly signed.
4. **Matters arising.** None

#### 5. **Chairman's report.**

Today is the day when, under normal circumstances, we would have had our AGM at which I would have handed over the chairmanship to Mike Warburton. I am therefore writing to inform you that I handed over to Mike at our on- line committee meeting yesterday and that John Weeden agreed to be vice-chairman; the rest of the committee remains unchanged. This arrangement will, of course, be formalised as soon as we are able to have a proper AGM.

We also discussed the idea of having regular on -line club meetings and talks as a means of keeping the club together until life returns to the new normal. This is clearly not as easy as it might seem so Jim, Fraser and Ray kindly volunteered to investigate the feasibility of the proposal and report back to the committee as soon as they can. We will obviously keep you informed on progress.

Finally, I would like to thank you all for your comradeship and support during my time in office and to wish you and your families a safe journey through the uncertain days and months ahead. It has been an honour and a privilege to have been chairman and I wish Mike all the very best as he takes over at a difficult time.

#### 6. **Treasurer's report.**

Treasurer's report was circulated to all members and accepted.

## 7. **Appointment of New Chairman** – Mike Warburton

May I start by thanking Tony on behalf of all members for his work as chairman over the last year. He would be a hard act to follow at the best of times but sadly these are anything but.

Without wishing to be too dramatic, I suspect that I am taking over the chairmanship under the most difficult circumstances that the club has ever faced. We are required to operate under a national lockdown which currently precludes any club meetings or social events. While we can all hope to return to business as usual later this year, I fear that the timing is out of our hands. My hope is that we will be allowed to resume meetings in October, possibly with an Autumn lunch to set the ball rolling again. However, the lockdown is likely to be eased in stages and there is a suggestion that vulnerable groups will continue to have restrictions imposed for an extended period so the timing is uncertain

That said, the club exists primarily for fellowship and I would argue that it is at times like this it is particularly important that we all be able to access moral support from our club colleagues. That may not be through conventional meetings but we are able to keep in contact using the technology available. Your committee have been meeting on skype on a weekly basis and I intend that this should continue. You will, for example, be aware of the proposal by the committee to make a contribution with your support to the Lord's Larder in Newent, which I understand has been very gratefully received by this deserving organisation. We have decided to retain the website as a means of communication and I would encourage all members to submit material to Paul for inclusion in future editions of the newsletter. He tells me that, while jokes are always welcome, he also needs some serious stuff, so please keep that in mind.

Obviously, I welcome any suggestions for ways in which the club can continue to function and for the committee to serve our members, so please feel free to contact me.

In the meantime, keep safe and we will meet again, hopefully before too long.

## **8. Election of Club Officers:**

**Chairman:** Mike Warburton

**Vice Chairman:** John Weeden

**Secretary:** Fraser Gunn

**Treasurer:** Jim Stewart

### **COMMITTEE:**

**Past Chairman:** Tony Pearson

**Programme Secretary:** Fraser Gunn (Temp)

**Almoner:** John Weeden

**Webmaster:** Ray McCairn

**Theatre Trips:** Andrew Graham

**Outings:** David Clowes

**Pub Lunches:** Tony Pearson

**Christmas/Spring Lunches:** Mike Warburton

## **ASSOCIATED APPOINTMENTS:**

**Newsletter:** Paul Dodd

**Technical Support:** Richard Crisp/ John Franklin

**Assistant Treasurer:** Mike Warburton

**Raffle Organiser:** Brian Parker

**9. AOB:** None

**10. Date of next meeting:** 27.04.2021