

The Association of the UK School of Professional Toastmasters

Second Annual General Meeting on Saturday 24th February 2007 at 2.00pm At the 'Park Farm Hotel' Hethersett, Norfolk

Minutes

Present:

Glen Mayes. Alan Feeney. Alan Hodge. Alan Riddick. Anthony Green. Berty Bowes. Bob Westecott
Christopher Upham. David Wharton. George Lambeth. Graham Hunt. Greg Fenner. Ian Low.
Jim Macleod. John Shade. Les Hizzett. Maurice Smith. Nicholas Funnell. Nicholas Pascoe.
Paul Mitchell. Peter Thompson. Philip Shorthouse. Sandra Pilgrim. Susan Hall. Terence Summers.
Timothy Lee. Vic Llewellyn. David Wylie.

Apologies:

Brad Parks. David McCleod. Kevin Perkins. Sybil Cox. Wilfried Boisson, Tony Booth.
David Davies. Patrick Lethby. Alamn Cockayne. Mark Shaw-Brookman, Micheal Fenech..
Graham Jickellls. Richard Sams. Mickael Bick. David Stanley. Helen Spencer-Watkins. Eric Porter.
Nickki Henderson. Roger Whitfield. John Yarrow. David Luker. Jane Burridge. Neil Batchelor.

Matters Arising:

There was a lengthy discussion regarding succession planning, assumption being made that the Senior Vice President would follow on automatically
It was agreed that an amendment to the Constitution should be tabled at the next AGM. To amend in favour of the SVP would be indorsed as President and others would be elected to office for ensuing year.

Presidents Report:

Once again a very special welcome to you all for this our second AGM. The first was a very heart-warming and constructive meeting and I am quite sure that this will be equally so.
You have made your special and, in many cases, long journeys to be here and your efforts are to be commended. It shows a commitment on your part and this amplifies the key to my report. If you want to run a book to see how many times I use this word, be my guests but be assured that I am placing it carefully.
We have much work to go through so I will not keep you too long.

Membership numbers

These are up still more and we are very close to breaking the seventy mark. This is all very encouraging for now and for the future. I am also committed to building up the strength of these numbers.

Attendance at AGM and Dinner

For those who are staying for the Dinner and dance, well done and I am sure we are going to have a great evening. We have some local high profile guests who give us a little more credence and acceptability as a professional organisation. Very possibly their position in the County and the City may occasionally prove be positive to local toastmasters. It is something to think about for the organisers of next year's function. John Alston CBE DL is representing the L LT. of Norfolk while the Sheriff of Norwich and his lady are representing the City.

I spoke to Mr Alston on Thursday and he is attending at very short notice due to some serious bouts of illness of Lord Somerleyton. Mr Alston knows Lord Somerleyton well and his attending this dinner shows his commitment to Lord Somerleyton and to us in his very busy schedule.

Venue for next year

We will be discussing next year's venue and I would ask you to think carefully and positively about this, as we want an even better turnout next year. Chris Upham may well want to say a few words about this. May I remind you, once the date is fixed, that you are asked to keep this clear in your diaries rather than accepting jobs. It is a factor that when we formed the Association we all agreed to do this but it does seem to slip the mind. It is about your commitment to each other. The Venue is all-important. You may think that a more central link would be fairer. You may think that London is easier to travel to. Whatever your ideas please bring them forward.

My plea goes out to All members to support your President.

Web page. Content, Design, Webmaster, Updating info.

The web page this year has caused some debate, some of it strong but views were certainly expressed. Jane Burridge worked very hard on the project and was keen to change the format of the Forum page way of communicating. This showed enthusiasm and commitment to the Association. As it happened I felt, after thorough consultation with some IT and web-designer specialists and members of the committee that the concepts in the form it was presented could have caused problems of security and abuse. I know that this was a disappointment for those working on it. I will say more a little later. There was vociferous objection by one member to the Forum page stating categorically that he would never use the forum page. To me that is not the qualities of a team player. That proved to be a catalyst and what happens now is that emails are sent to each other via a group email. Although unlikely this method can be made to be very selective so that all members do not see/hear the same message. That is a shame and could be divisive; not something that any organisation wants. The Forum page was successful in the quiz I sent out and many of you were committed in doing your homework and the pass rate was an average of nearly 90%. Excellent! Kevin Perkins is to be congratulated for winning the gavel. If others want to submit a prize I am quite willing to put one on to the forum page again but I can't afford another £50 a time for prizes.

Jobs and fees. Networking, Wedding Fairs, Internet Wedding pages.

Many of you are being very successful in getting toastmaster employment and these people are those who go out and look for work. It will not just happen until you are well established and even then you have to keep yourself to the fore. Do keep in contact with each other. Keep a professional approach and if you want to charge a finder's fee that ought not be a problem. Go to Wedding Fairs but do have a bit of personality and for heaven's sake go dressed as if you are going to attend a wedding. I have had reports of at least one member not looking the best that he could. The negative commitment there is not good. There are now hundreds of weddings web sites some for free some expensive but most are happy to negotiate to get you on their books.

Chris Upham Social Secretary

Tonight's dinner and entertainment have been co-ordinated by Chris Upham who has worked extremely hard and been in constant touch with the Hotel and myself. All this while he has been travelling far and wide showing a strong commitment to you all.

Treasurer Timothy Lee

Tim is doing a great job as treasurer, taking over a job that is not to everyone's liking. Another example of the key word.

Incoming President

I have been in touch with our secretary and vice president Glenn throughout this year and despite the demands of his police work he has still managed to devote his time on behalf of us all. Again commitment is very much in evidence in the time spent and the quality of his work for us. He has made a number of recommendations and positive changes and always been ready to offer advice and common sense when I

have contacted him. He also shows firm leadership. It says much for the Association should, assuming the ballot proves favourable to him, he becomes your President.

Work of committee.

I would like to make a recommendation starting from the end of this meeting. That is, that the President, all officers of the committee including social secretaries should communicate regularly through the year to discuss events/procedures as they occur, send their views and followed by recommendations to the members. If a vote is then necessary it could be done via the secretary. These are merely suggestions. I need not repeat myself as the very name committee speaks volumes.

Just a word about the Website that is presently monitored through me; I would like this to be taken on by another member. My thoughts are that it should be the secretary but this is something for you to decide. So far the amount of money spent on the site has not been extensive but if you want to add, improve or whatever, it could be worth spending more on it. The Name of the Association features regularly on the front pages of the major search engines without the need to go to those people on the Internet who say that they can guarantee that you are featured on the first page.

The Future.

Some time ago I contacted Glenn in suggesting that the ethos of the Association might be improved and our image enhanced if Senior Officers and Past Presidents had medallions to denote their office. It is also a step into strengthening the identity of the Association as well as extending its publicity.

Glenn has been researching this and will be presenting these ideas visually later so I will not say more for the moment except to say that I believe that all such medallions should always stay the property of the Association.

I believe the future of the Association is assured, particularly when I see the quality of nominated members for office.

I implore you to keep up professional standards in your work and particularly at our annual showcase event. It is here that we shall be judged not only by each other but also by high profile guests who frequently are in the presence of toastmasters at work. At all times we are under supervision and examination by our clients, our peers and our guests and we blot our copybooks at our cost. Our social event should do, to use a TV ad. 'what it says on the tin'. We should be endeavouring to present the highest standards at our own event that we see as toastmasters at high profile functions – a men's drinking club it isn't!

The Association is now independently in your own hands. You have flexed and your trimmed your feathers and are now beginning to soar but you must be careful in your judgements so that you do not lose the wind beneath your wings. I fervently wish you well in your future endeavours and promise to commit my support at all times.

Secretary's Report:

I do not have much to report. We now have 68 members of the Association.
My I take this opportunity to thank you for your continued support over the past year.

Treasures report:

Current cash held £5523.03

Net income for year after expenses for running costs, 2006 AGM and expenses paid so far for 2007 AGM £3196.77

The association is new and needs to send some money to raise profile and hence current proposal for President Jewels etc. It was therefore agreed to raise 2007 /2008 subscription to £60
2007/8 subs are due and treasurer would send out invoices shortly

Election of Officers 2007 / 2008:

Nominations

President:

Glen Mayes Proposed by Graham Hunt. Seconded by Timothy Lee.
Proposition carried by all members present.

Vice President:

Alan Cockayne Proposed by Berty Bowes seconded by Ian Lowe.
Christopher Upham Proposed by Graham Hunt. Seconded by Terry Summers.
Vote proved in favour of Christopher Upham 18 votes to 8.

Junior Vice President:

Ian Lowe Proposed by David Wharton. Seconded by David Wylie
Proposition carried by all members present.

Secretary:

David Wylie Proposed by George Lambert. Seconded by Ian Lowe
Proposition carried by all members present.

Treasure:

Timothy Lee Proposed by David Wharton. Seconded by Tony Green.
Proposition carried by all members present.

Social Secretaries (Two):

Alan Feeney Proposed by Ian Lowe. Seconded by Vic Llewellyn.

Philip Shorthouse Proposed by Graham Hunt. Seconded by Christopher Upham.
Proposition carried by all members present.

Committee Members (Three):

Berty Bowes Proposed by Ian Lowe Seconded by Vic Luker (Votes 14)

Sheridan Bowes Proposed by Maurice Smith. Seconded by Timothy Lee (Votes 23)

Sandra Pilgrim Proposed by Susan Hall. Seconded by Graham Hunt. (Votes 26)

Alan Hodge. Proposed by Alan Ridick. Seconded by David Wharton. (Votes 18)

Vote proved in favour of Sheridan Bowes, Sandra Pilgrim and Alan Hodge.

It was agreed that as Sandra had knowledge of the web, she would take on the collation of contents for our website.

Timothy Lee Proposed. Seconded by Philip Shorthouse. That the Committee should be made up of 3 members but no more than a maximum of 10% of the membership.

Proposition carried by all members present.

Public Liability Insurance Cover 2007 / 2008

Glen Mayes gave an update on the insurance obtained through the TGC. Information from Glen and the members stated that some hotels / organisations required £5,000,000 for public liability.

Glen Mayes proposed and David Wylie seconded that the secretary should pursue cover for the £5,000,000. Proposition carried by all members present.

Officers Collaret Badges

Glen Mayes produced a detailed drawing of the officers collarets which was passed around amongst the members, Christopher Upham commented that as an Association we need to be professional and move forward. The cost for the three officers is a one off.

It was proposed by Timothy Lee. Seconded by Christopher Upham that these be purchased.

Proposition carried by all members present.

Discussion took place regarding the colour of the ribbon. It was proposed by Timothy Lee. Seconded by Christopher Upham the ribbon remained the same colour.

Proposition carried by all members present.

Publicity Strategy for AUKSPT

There are a number of ways this can be achieved. Local wedding fairs and large events such as the Excel Centre on London Docklands.

Toastmaster Partnerships where a number of toastmaster pool their talents and share the costs at large events.

An Association Corporate Banner was mentioned, but this would be difficult arranging transport from one part of the country to the other.

Notes on the Associations' website, informing the public where the association members will be through the year i.e. Wedding Fares.

We could have a corporate leaflet explaining the role of a toastmaster at functions. Sandra Pilgrim offered to look at this idea. Members with any thoughts on the leaflets should send them direct to her.

To be re-entered on the minutes for next year.

Joining & Membership Fees 2007 /2008

As the Joining Fee remains at £50.00 and annual fees have risen to £60.00, should we have in place a system whereby the annual fee increases by a set percentage each year i.e. 5%.

The feeling of some members were that an increase should not take place for the sake of it. It should be reviewed each year and increases on merit.

This item to be placed on the agenda for a vote next year.

Any Other Business

- a) Ceremony of the Quaiche clarification: Phil Shorthouse.
This seems to be up to the individual who pays. For the benefit of those who are not Scottish. Give a short expiation at the Wedding Breakfast.
Gavel Tie Pins. Phil Shorthouse:
Would anyone be interested in purchasing these tie pins. The cost is \$1.24 available on the web.
Interest was shown. Phil to purchase and inform members when available.
- b) Working group to identify fixed AGM venue central to all members.
Alan Feeney and Phil Shorthouse to pursue this item and keep the members updated.
Proposed by Ian Lowe . Seconded by Phil Shorthouse. The outgoing President be Master of Ceremonies at the AGM.
Proposition carried by all members present.
- c) Institute Presidents Charity for the year. Proposed by Christopher Upham
This years charity is BRAKE based in Norwich.
Seconded by Ian Lowe
Proposition carried by all members present.

d) TGC Meeting

As neither Glen Mayes or David Wylie were able to attend due to the lateness in calling this meeting. The Secretary asked if any members would be able to attend. Terry Summers offered his services.

The Secretary thanked Terry and would send him the details of the venue.

e) Date and time of the next Annual General Meeting

Saturday 23rd February 2008.